



# Holy Cross Priory

An Anglican Benedictine Community  
In Canada

*The Brothers wish you  
God's blessings at this  
holy festival of the  
Nativity of our Lord.*



CHRISTMAS 2018



# Dear Friends,



DAVID BRYAN  
HOOPES OHC, PRIOR

As I walk through our neighbourhood and travel throughout the city of Toronto, where our Canadian Priory is located, my delight in this holy season is rekindled. I enjoy the lights of Christmas, Christmas trees, Christmas wreaths, and the carols, hymns and songs of Christmas. Having read a book written by Fr. Albert Holtz OSB, a Benedictine monk of Newark Abbey (New Jersey), entitled *From Holidays to Holy Days: a Benedictine walk through Advent*, my senses are heightened when I see and hear the familiar things of this season.

For example: a Christmas wreath - symbol of Christ, victor over sin and death. The lights of Christmas - Christ the light of the world whose light of truth and grace cannot be extinguished by humankind. The Christmas Tree/Paradise Tree - symbol of Christ's welcome to Christ's Reign of grace and beauty. Music - an appropriate way to honour the Sovereign of Love.

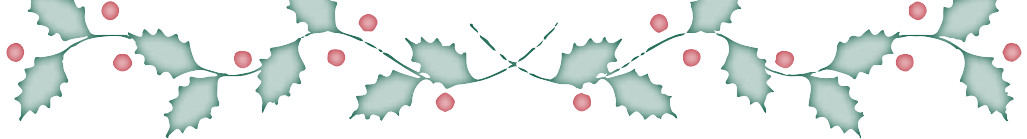
Fr. Holtz suggests that gift giving, card writing, cooking and hospitality are also ways to welcome and honour our Saviour. It is good to celebrate Christ's holy birth and to anticipate his Second Coming. As the late Br. Roger Schütz, Founder and Prior of the Taizé Community wrote, "we need to have many small celebrations to prepare for the really big one."

We honour Christ by celebration and we honour him by generous acts of compassion.

The beloved bidding prayer for the Cambridge Advent Festival of Lessons and Carols says:

"...and because this of all things would rejoice his heart, let us at this time remember in his name the poor, the helpless, the hungry and the oppressed, the sick and those who mourn, the lonely and the unloved, the aged and the little children; and all those who know not the Lord Jesus, or who love him not, or by sins have grieved his heart of love."

May we allow ourselves to encounter God's grace during this hallowed time. The encounter might come as we hear the majestic words of holy scripture or the



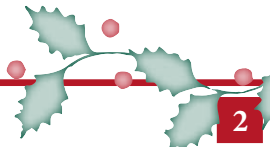
beauty of music; perhaps in the solemnity of ritual, colour and forms of decoration or in loving acts and generous care for others, and in places and times of quiet prayer.

Let us expect to enjoy God’s presence and God’s love as we rejoice in the Word made Flesh, and bow in love and wonder before God’s grace in the Eternal Christ.

Faithfully yours,

David Bryan Hoopes OHC

**PHOTOS (COUNTER-CLOCKWISE FROM TOP):** A GATHERING OF FRIENDS AT THE ANNUAL HOLY CROSS CELEBRATION ON SEPTEMBER 15 AT ST JOHN’S CHURCH WEST TORONTO: CANON DAVID BRINTON OGS, EMILE RHINELANDER, GILBERT SALAAM, PAT BRYAN, WENDY PAPPAS, ALLAN SPENCER; FR. JAMES LIU, BR. CHARLES, FR. PAUL GEORGE EKANEM, REDEMPTORIST PRIEST FROM NIGERIA, AND THE REV’D PHILIP STONHOUSE ON THE OCCASION OF THE CONSECRATION OF BISHOP ANDREW ASBIL, SEPTEMBER 29; SR. SUZANNE MARIE LOVE ON HER CLOTHING AS A NOVICE AT SSJD, PICTURED WITH BR. CHARLES.





# Community Notes

## THE ORDER

**BR. JOSEF** was life professed on November 20 at Holy Cross Monastery, West Park, New York. Brothers David Bryan, Brian, Reginald and Charles attended and stayed on to join the community for U.S. Thanksgiving.

**THE REV'D. JOSEPH WALLACE-WILLIAMS (BR. JOSEPH)** was granted release from his temporary vows. He is now an assistant at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Manchester, Missouri. Our love and prayers are with him in his new ministry.

**BR. ADRIAN GILL** is in hospice care as a result of suffering a heart attack and a stroke. Please keep Br. Adrian and his medical workers in your prayers.

## THE TORONTO COMMUNITY

**BR. CHRISTIAN** continues to be a faithful presence at the Priory. He welcomes our guests and fully participates in our community life.

**BR. DAVID BRYAN** serves as Prior, Guest Master and Sacristan. He continues his pastoral work at St. Hilda's Church, St. James Cathedral, and St. Barnabas Church. As Chaplain to the Canadian Community of the Sisters of the Church, he attended the Blessing of the new Provincial, Sr. Heather, on September 20. With Br. Reginald he also attended the blessing of the new Rev'd Mother of the Order, Marguerite Mae Eamon on December 1. Both services were held in the Diocese of Niagara at Christ's Church Cathedral, Hamilton. Br. David attended a conference of CAROA/NAECC at the Community of Celebration in Aliquippa, Pennsylvania December





4-6. He led an Advent Quiet Day at the Church of St. Martin-in-the-Fields, Toronto, on December 8. This is an annual event co-sponsored by the Priory, St. John's, West Toronto, and St. Martin-in-the-Fields.

**BR. LEONARD** is enjoying his work in Ghana assisting the Bishop of Cape Coast with catechesis in the parishes of the diocese. He also helps at St. Nicholas Seminary and does Sunday supply ministry as needed. He will return to Toronto in early April.

**BR. REGINALD** serves as Bursar at the Priory. He has a ministry of spiritual direction and serves in the Diocese as a mentor in the Momentum Program for newly ordained persons. He is a volunteer with the Congregational Development team of the Diocese of Toronto. Br. Reginald facilitated a workshop on December 14 at Christ Church, Deer Park, Toronto. He continues to serve on the Council of the Order and is Novice Guardian for the Priory.

**BR. CHARLES** has been named Director of Associates for Canada, and is eager to get to know all of our Associates across the country. Associates - and anyone who might be curious about the relationship of Associates with the Order - please note his email address - [cmcmulkin@gmail.com](mailto:cmcmulkin@gmail.com). He is also Communications Co-ordinator for the Priory. He continues as an Honourary Assistant at Church of the Redeemer, Bloor St. Toronto. On September 29, Br. Charles was a Clergy Presenter at the Consecration of The Rt. Rev. Andrew Asbil as Coadjutor Bishop of Toronto. On October 14, at the invitation of Fr. Nico Montelbetti, a Holy Cross Priory Associate, Br. Charles presided at the Sunday services at St Luke's Church, East Toronto, and spoke about his experience of Religious Life and the Order of the Holy Cross.

**PHOTOS (LEFT TO RIGHT):** BRs FROM THE TORONTO PRIORY WITH THE NEWLY LIFE PROFESSED BR. JOSEF; FATHER SUPERIOR ROBERT JAMES MAGLIULA OHC RECEIVING THE VOW OF LIFE PROFESSION OF BR. JOSEP, NOVEMBER 20; THE LAST SUNDAY OF BR REGINALD'S MINISTRY AS HEAD OF THE INTERIM MINISTRY TEAM FOR ST. JAMES THE APOSTLE IN BRAMPTON, SEPTEMBER 30, WITH BR. REGINALD IS FR. RONALD DUNCAN, COLEADER OF THE INTERIM MINISTRY TEAM.



# Come to Bethlehem

The word Advent is derived from the Latin *adventus* meaning the arrival of a notable person or thing. The verb *advenio* means “I come to”. Advent is a season in the Church Year when we recall the coming to Bethlehem of Joseph and Mary, and seek to travel there in our hearts and minds and make our own offering of worship to the Word made flesh; knowing that the crucified and risen Christ will come again.

Joseph, according to the account in Luke’s Gospel was traveling to Bethlehem, his ancestral home, in order to be counted in a Roman census. He had no choice in the matter and had to obey the occupying force in his native land. Mary went with him although she was pregnant and would well have been more comfortable at home. It was as they arrived in Bethlehem that she went into labor and her son, the Christ-child was born.

It was not unusual for people to travel at that period in history. Wayne A. Meeks in his book *The First Urban Christians*, writes: “... the people of the Roman Empire traveled more extensively and more easily than had anyone before them - or would again until the nineteenth century”. This surprising fact is because the Roman government built roads throughout the Empire to facilitate the movement of troops and also trade. Residents of the wide-flung Empire made use of these roads because they were safer since patrolled by soldiers. It is likely that at least part of the journey taken by Mary and Joseph would have been on one of the Roman roads.

They were not the only travelers in the Nativity story. The shepherds had a shorter journey as they left the sheep and walked to Bethlehem in response to the angels’ message. This was a surprising thing for shepherds to do. They would not easily abandon the sheep, their livelihood, to the mercy of wild animals at night, to seek an unknown new born baby. But they went quickly after hearing the instruction of the heavenly host!

During this time the magi set out on their long trek, following the natal star, and arrived later to worship the new-born King and bring him gifts. After the magi had left to return home, Joseph had a dream warning him to take Mary and the baby and escape to Egypt to avoid the slaughter of infants being planned by Herod. The terror of that journey can be imagined. As I think of it, I recall the countless political refugees in our own time, especially those in the long caravan trudging from South America, northwards, seeking asylum in a foreign land.

As we reflect on these journeys we might well take a look at our own journeying through life. We are all traveling, journeying to God's Kingdom.

On this pilgrimage we are challenged, in seasons like Advent, to take note where we are presently, to take our bearings and check that we are headed in the correct direction. Joseph and Mary had no choice but to travel to Bethlehem. The shepherds followed the voices of angels; the magi followed the star. What is it that we follow in life? Is it the often contentious voices of our politicians? Does society present us with challenges that we find hard to face and so we often retreat from them and build walls around ourselves that prevent our own journeying?

At this holy season let us listen for the quiet inner voice of the Holy Spirit and seek the direction in which God calls us to travel, facing up to our own challenges and issues, knowing that we are in a great company of others on this way. Let us use the gift of our imagination to make our own journey to Bethlehem, to greet our Lord and Savior.

As J. Barrie Shepherd wrote in his book *Faces at the Manger*:

The hour is at hand. The time is all fulfilled.

*Venite adoremus.*

If you miss him, then nothing else  
in all this wide creation now can take its place.

*Venite adoremus.*

The time is now - that time when we must be there,  
simply be there, and adore.



SUZETTE L. CAYLESS,  
COMPANION, OHC

**WELCOME TO HOLY CROSS PRIORY:** During the year (2018) our guest rooms have usually been occupied. Guests have come from across Canada and some "from away". We have had the pleasure of welcoming people from Australia, Nigeria, Ireland, Ghana and The United States. Guests have been with us for several days, overnight and for extended study times. They have worshipped with us, shared meals and conversation, had spiritual direction as well as the private times they so needed and desired. The Priory is home to us Holy Cross Monks and it is also a Maison Dieu, the ancient name for a monastic guest house or inn for Pilgrims. Come and enjoy a pleasant old house in the High Park area of Toronto. Please know that you will be welcomed.

**THANK YOU:** Thank you to those who faithfully support the ministry of the Order of the Holy Cross in Canada. You enable the work of God to be sustained. God bless you all. Pray for us as we pray for you.

**Love must act  
as light must shine  
and fire must burn.**

- Fr. Huntington OHC



## **Worship Times**

**7:00am Matins**

**8:00am Eucharist**

(TUESDAY-SATURDAY AT 8:00AM)

**11:30am Diurnum  
(Midday Prayer)**

**5:00pm Vespers**

**7:30pm Compline**

\* MONDAY IS THE BROTHERS' "GRACE DAY"  
(DAY OF REST)



### **Holy Cross Priory**

204 High Park Avenue, Toronto, Ontario, M6P 2S6

416-767-9081 | [info@ohcpriory.com](mailto:info@ohcpriory.com) | [www.ohcpriory.com](http://www.ohcpriory.com)

Holy Cross Priory is a monastery of the Order of the Holy Cross, a community founded in 1884 by The Reverend James Otis Sargent Huntington to provide a specifically North American expression of monasticism for Anglicans. The Order has had a ministry in Canada since the 1890s. The Priory was founded in 1973.

HOLY CROSS PRIORY IS A REGISTERED CHARITY #119248946RR0001  
DONATIONS MAY BE MADE THROUGH CANADAHELPS.ORG TO "HOLY CROSS PRIORY, CANADA"