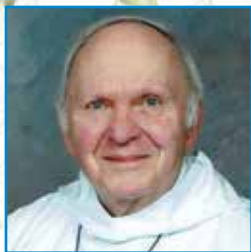


*The Brothers wish
you God's blessings
at this holy festival
of the Resurrection
of our Lord*



Holy Cross Priory

An Anglican Benedictine Community
In Canada



The Resurrection: The Feast of Victory for our God

Dear Friends,

Throughout Lent and Holy Week Christians have walked with Jesus in the events of his life and ministry – all that would lead him to the cross and to burial in the tomb of Joseph of Arimathea.

Easter is a season of new life, a proclamation of resurrection from the dead, Jesus' resurrection, and hope for those who will accept God's gracious invitation to live in abundant love.

Unpredictable and surprising things will turn life around. The Jesus movement did not disappear with the events of Good Friday. Easter and Pentecost occurred and the movement grew beyond Jerusalem, Judea, the Mediterranean, and into all parts of the known world. Jesus' death was not a final reality. After his resurrection Jesus appeared to his disciples, ate with them, and taught them how to be a holy community. All this mitigated against rational, ordered predictability.

The Jesus movement would become the Christian Church. From a small religious sect of Judaism, it evolved into a world religion and power. Sadly, with a rise in status came abuse, exclusivity, arrogance, and injustice. Yet that is not the whole story. Faithful followers of Jesus showed God's grace in loving acts of healing,

COMMUNITY NOTES

THE ORDER

Br. Robert James Magliula, OHC Superior, made official visits to Mt. Calvary Monastery, Santa Barbara in January and to Mariya uMama weThemba Monastery in Grahamstown, South Africa in March. He also presided at a meeting of Council in January.

Br. Aidan, OHC made his life profession on February 12 at West Park.

Maximillian (Max) Esmus was received as a postulant in February at West Park.

Br. Roger Stewart, OHC is participating in a Benedictine Formators Conference in Rome. The conference lasts for three months.

education, art, and care for the poor and the marginalized. The Jesus movement continues despite human sin and failures. The Lord comes in wonderful and unpredictable ways. Lives are changed from brokenness to wholeness and the good news of God's love is carried out in every age.

God's victory is love, compassion, and integrity. These shall not be annihilated by our sin and folly.

A lovely poem entitled "Easter," written by the sometime poet laureate of England, John Masefield, includes an imaginary conversation between Pilate's wife and a centurion. Pilate's wife asks if Jesus were dead. The centurion answers, "No Madam, he is alive and set free into the world where no one can stop him."

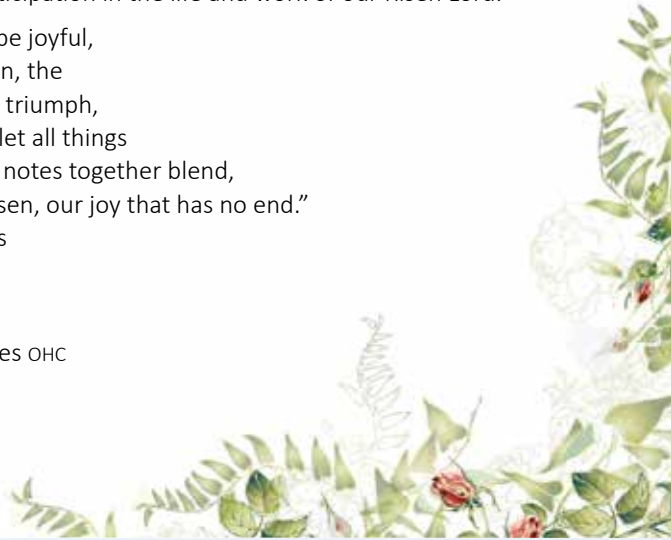
God's victory over death and sin continues to be celebrated and made real by intentional and faithful participation in the life and work of our Risen Lord.

"Now let the heavens be joyful,
let earth her song begin, the
round world keep high triumph,
and all that is therein; let all things
seen and unseen their notes together blend,
for Christ the Lord is risen, our joy that has no end."

-John of Damascus

Faithfully yours,

David Bryan Hoopes OHC
PRIOR




Interment of the remains of OHC companion **The Rev'd Canon Anthony Cayless** was done at West Park on January 25. Br. David Bryan took part in the funeral liturgy.

Br. Adrian Gill, OHC continues to be in care at the Hudson Valley Rehab Centre in Highland, New York. Please keep Br. Adrian in your prayers as well as Brothers Raphael and Lary who are in the same facility.

THE TORONTO COMMUNITY

The brothers hosted a Robbie Burns celebration at the Priory on February 2. Bagpipe music and haggis marked the event. On March 15 another gala was kept in honour of St. Patrick. Friends from St. John's, West Toronto assisted in both the Burns dinner and the St. Patrick's celebration.

The community enjoyed being with St. John's on Shrove Tuesday. 



I learned about The Order of the Holy Cross around the year 2000. Brother Christian Swayne was visiting Newfoundland and attended the service in one of the churches where I was the parish priest. He shared what the order was about and the work that it strived to do. A couple of years later Brother Christian returned to lead an ecumenical mission in the area. A loose association was formed and in 2013 my relationship with the Order was formalized.

That summer we visited Toronto and arranged to stay with the Brothers. It was my first introduction to the house and all of the Brothers who were living there. The welcome was such that I immediately felt at home. It was like being with your family, where at the end of the day everyone came together and shared their day and caught up with each other. Brother David soon found out I cooked and kindly added me to the cooking roster! I was delighted and felt that I was completely a part of the rhythm of the house and a full participant from the prayer offices to the meals and everything in between.

During that first visit I mentioned to Brother David that I was interested in becoming an associate. No sooner was it mentioned than it was done, and there with the community at Eucharist my association was formalized. It has been a wonderful association and whenever I go back to the priory to spend time in quiet retreat I feel as if I am coming home. The warm welcome when I walk through the doors, my times of personal prayer and community prayer, the gentle rhythm of the way of life at the Priory in it's fullness brings me great comfort not just when I'm with the community but also when I am caught up in the busy life of the parish.

– THE REV'D KAREN LALDEN

On March 30 the Priory, St. Martin-in-the-Fields, and St. John's, West Toronto sponsored a Lenten Quiet Day at St. John's. Our guest speaker was The Rev'd Lucy Reid, incumbent of St. Aidan's Church, Toronto (see photo at right). Her topic was "Every Breath is Holy."



Br. Christian will celebrate his 60th anniversary of priesthood on May 24. He is being honoured at the Chrism Mass at St. James Cathedral on Holy Tuesday, April 16.

Br. Charles has been appointed as interim priest-in-charge of St. Leonards Church, Toronto, effective May 1. He continues to assist at Church of the Redeemer, Bloor St. Br. Charles conducted a pre-ordination retreat for a curate of the diocese and serves as Spiritual Director for a priest in a neighbouring diocese. He hosted at the Priory both the Indigenous Solidarity



e Stories




After many years in the East, I had turned around only to see the presence of God illuminating my cultural tradition, a tradition I had left years before. The Incarnation, the Eucharist had been illuminated for me, holy encounters that pulled at my deepest yearning. I was again so thirsty. Straying into St. James' Episcopal Church in Lewisburg, West Virginia, my eyes landed on a crumpled up something, lost behind a narthex welcoming table. I reached down and unraveled "Journey to Sabbath: Silent Retreat with Brother Douglas Brown, OHC." The rest is history, as they say.


My experience at that retreat with Brother Douglas, and my subsequent visits to Holy Cross Monastery led me to reside for several years at Holy Cross Priory in Toronto as I discerned a vocation, a long tenure as an inquirer! My mother and I will never forget our frantic drive across Toronto with three vested Brothers, Leonard, Christian, and Richard, late for my reaffirmation of faith at St. Mary Magdalene's! I was grasped, and my new family at Holy Cross Priory were nurturing me along the way, shaped by the offices, and the tender nourishing of the priory community where I was ultimately directed to seminary and ordained ministry.

I now serve as a Presbyter, happily married and a dad. The relationship that shaped my return to the Body is still an integral part of my identity as I embrace my communion as an Associate. Every time I return to the Priory or West Park, it is with a heart overflowing with the blessings of home.

– THE REV'D GREGOR SNEDDON



Working Group of Church of the Redeemer on January 12 (see photo at left), and the Redeemer Catechesis group on April 13. Br. Charles continues to build up our relationships with Associates. He has installed our new soft-ware program and, with the help of a volunteer, written a manual for it. Charles and his siblings have together settled their mother in a senior's residence and sold the family home.



Br. David Bryan continues his pastoral work at St. Hilda's Church, St. James Cathedral, and St. Barnabas' Church. He led a parish retreat at St. John's, Willowdale on March 2. He and Br. Reginald attended the annual Black Heritage Celebration on February 24 at St. Paul's, Bloor Street. Br. David participated in a meeting with the House of Bishops' Committee on Religious Life on March 25. He also attended a Diocesan pre-Lenten Retreat on February 26 and a York Credit Valley Lenten Quiet Day





Religious Orders: Anachronisms or Mustard Seeds?

To many people the thought of living in a monastic community sounds like a left-over of the Middle Ages, a curiosity of history that no one would choose today. Poverty, chastity and obedience are hardly high on a modern list of honoured values. Yet, in a large 19th century house in the heart of Toronto a branch house of men live life in the rhythms of monastic community as part of the Order of the Holy Cross.

Here the brothers of OHC live the pattern of the daily offices, Eucharist, prayer and service under the vows of community life inherited from ancient monastic traditions. To some this ordered life requires unimaginable limits! Yet, every life is lived within the limits of vocation, context and call and this life is no different. The brothers are called into this community to demonstrate a life of service to God, of love for one another and love and service to God's world. And unlike dour stereotypes of monastic life this life is lived with much laughter and joy. Culinary gifts are exercised in the preparation of meals; teasing and laughter are heard in the house; and thoughtful conversations wrestle with both theology and modern politics in the course of daily life. The community



on April 4. Br. David and Br. Reginald will be at the annual CAROA/NAECC conference at the Sienna Centre, Racine, Wisconsin from April 29 until May 4.

Br. Leonard will conclude his work in Cape Coast, Ghana where he has been assisting the Bishop with Catechesis in the Diocese and teaching at St. Nicholas Seminary. He will return to Toronto on May 4.

Br. Reginald led the Diocesan Deacons' Programme this year. The topic was "Dismantling Racism." He preached at St. Margaret's, New Toronto for their Black History Celebration. As part of the celebration he participated in a panel along with community, city, and church representatives in the area on the changing racial demographics of the area and its impact on community relationships. Br. Reginald continues to be a part of the leadership body of newly formed Black Anglicans of Canada. He is a member of the Reconfiguration Group in the Diocese of Toronto

embraces each member and honours the life stages of each, particularly so, as brothers age and capacities change yet the call to community and a place within it does not.

As Assistant Episcopal Visitor to the community I have been welcomed into worship, meals and community fellowship. I have seen how this community, rooted in prayer, is an anchoring place for others seeking refuge or retreat or rest as the brothers welcome guests into the rhythms of prayers and meals. Their life offers a grounding to those needing to reorient their lives, renew their faith or simply rest as they embrace their own vocation once again.

The brothers serve the wider Church as their gifts are needed – as priests to assist parishes in need; as facilitators in congregational life and development; as teachers in theological education. The presence of their white habits in the midst of diocesan gatherings is a visible sign of the vocation of a particular vowed community life to support and call the Church to its vocation as another kind of community life in Christ.

To some the small size of the community, and its fragility, may lead both to dismissing its importance and the assumption that it is the last vestige of a dying practice of faith. However, my experience of OHC, alongside other religious communities in Canada, leads me to ponder the power of mustard seeds in our midst. As our Church loses its former privileged place in society and, too, is smaller and more fragile we, like religious orders in our midst, are called to be a sign of a grounding place for refuge, reorientation of life and rest that is still needed and sought.

– THE RT. REV'D LINDA NICHOLLS



and has rejoined the Parish Selection Coaches Group. He continues his ministry as a spiritual director with several persons. Br. Reginald also serves as a member of the Order's Council.

The Guest House continues to welcome people from many places in Canada and the USA. Our friend Fr. Philip Bewley from Melbourne, Australia spent two weeks with us in February. He and his partner plan to visit us at the end of May. A working group from Ottawa Liturgy Canada plan to be with us in early May.

Thanks to a generous gift the Priory's property will be re-landscaped when the weather permits. Lovely garden spaces will complement the fine old house which is home to the Holy Cross Brothers and a *Maison Dieu* for our guests.

**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

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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.

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Front Cover: "Resurrection of Christ," Mikhail Nesterov (c. 1892)