

Cowley

SOCIETY OF SAINT JOHN THE EVANGELIST

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Advent 2004

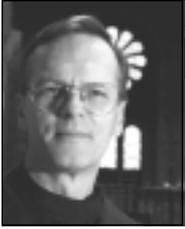




Cover photo:

With **Thomas Shaw, SSJE** and **Geoffrey Tristram, SSJE**, we celebrated very significant milestones this past autumn. Br. Geoffrey, formerly an educator and parish priest in the Church of England, made his Profession in Life Vows on September 19th. Br. Thomas, formerly our Superior and now the Bishop of Massachusetts, marked his tenth anniversary of Consecration as Bishop on September 24th.

It costs SSJE \$20.00 annually per subscription to produce and mail four issues of *Cowley*. We would welcome a tax-deductible contribution to our community's ministry, which would help defray this expense and ensure continued delivery of our newsletter. Checks should be made payable to "SSJE" and sent to the monastery at 980 Memorial Drive, Cambridge, MA 02138 USA.



A Letter from the Superior

*Dear Members of the Fellowship
of Saint John and Other Friends,*

Curtis Almquist, SSJE

This is a season of thanksgiving for our community. On September 19th our brother **Geoffrey Tristram** made his Profession in Life Vows in the monastery chapel, full of friends and the SSJE brothers. In our *Rule of Life* we say that a life profession inspires us with awe as well as joy. The awe comes from our awareness that years and years of formation have gone on in a brother's life to bring him this point of desire and freedom to make a life commitment. A brother's family and friends, teachers and pastors, and various life experiences will have been agents of God's direction and conversion in his life, oftentimes recognized most clearly in retrospect. Our joy comes through the enlargement of our life and love through the gift of a brother's self-offering. This is very true with Geoffrey. He brings to us and others his years of training and experience as a pastor, teacher, and linguist, his cross-cultural heritage, his keenness of mind and contagious zeal for life. Br. Geoffrey has just been appointed as Novice Guardian, succeeding our brother **David Vryhof** who served so faithfully and effectively in this role for the past five years. We now have four brothers in our novitiate, and by February, three new men as postulants. Our life together is a very rich fare.

We also give thanks this season for our brother **Thomas Shaw**, Bishop of Massachusetts, whose tenth consecration anniversary we celebrated Septem-



Brs. Curtis Almquist and Geoffrey Tristram. Photo credit: Doug DeMark

ber 24th. Our brother Tom served as the Superior of our community from 1983 to 1992. During his tenure as Superior the community underwent a resurrection experience where both our numbers and the impact of our ministry grew considerably. In the year immediately following his final term, he was approached by individuals, asking whether his name could be presented as a candidate for Bishop in the forthcoming diocesan election. This prompted earnest, sometimes difficult, conversation within the community, and much prayer for God's guidance. We anticipated the extraordinary opportunities and challenges that this would bring to Tom and to our brotherhood, and yet this seemed an occasion for us to be "men in the moment," as our founder envisioned. Tom's subsequent election and tenure as Bishop has drawn on his deep well of disciplined prayer, his courage to make the Gospel of Jesus



Brs. Kevin Hackett and Thomas Shaw, Bishop of Massachusetts, at a festival on the Boston Common. Photo credit: Beverly Hall

Christ accessible to the widest diversity of people, his wisdom to draw out of the treasury things new and things old, his charisma, his love of life, and his mischievous humor. Not long ago someone asked me how it could be that the Bishop lives under a vow of obedience to his Superior, and that the Superior and the other ordained brothers live under a vow of obedience to their Bishop. Without a moment's pause I said, "Because we're friends, and we work at it and pray for it every day." Quite true. We are very proud of our brother Tom, and we join with so many others in giving thanks for his ministry as Bishop.

The name of this Church season, "Advent," is derived from a Latin root which means 'coming' or 'arrival,' anticipating the coming of Christ in his birth as a child of Bethlehem, and then, in his coming to us again from the future. In the scriptures appointed for

this season, we are reminded how the Messiah comes "to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners...." For so many in our world, those near to us and those far off, we know that these words of promise come with an urgency this season. We pray that through our presence and our work, we may offer the sanctuary of Christ's peace and his words of help and hope and deliverance. We cherish our ties with you who are companions with us along the way, and we depend on your support. We give special thanks to God for you this season.

Faithfully yours,

Curtis G. Almquist, SSJE
Superior

Christ is My Life and My Joy

Professional Life Vows



Geoffrey Tristram, SSJE

Christ is my life and my joy! These words spoken as I placed a ring on my finger were for me the climax of my 'Profession in Life Vows', which took place in the monastery chapel on Sunday September 19. Since my late teens, I have known that my deepest source of joy would always be found in my relationship with Christ, and since the age of twenty, when I first experienced the monastic life—a community of Carmelite monks in the Sologne region of France— I have known that I was



(Seated L-R) Brs. Geoffrey Tristram and Rufus Van Horn, and standing, Charles La Fond, Roy Cockrum, and James Knutsen.

made to be a monk. But I could never have imagined that God would lead me “to a city where I might dwell” thousands of miles from home, in the New World!

It took a very long time though before I was to discover the Society of St. John the Evangelist. For most of my life I worked as a parish priest in England, and would often deliberately try to put thoughts of monasticism out of my mind. The whole idea often seemed hopelessly romantic and idealistic. And yet the longing did not entirely go away. Thomas Merton describes it wonderfully; how coming across a book on monasticism by chance opens up this longing within him: “In an instant the desire of those solitudes was wide open within me like a wound. The thought of those monasteries, the men who had become nothing, shattered my heart. I went out of the library, trying to stamp out the embers that had broken into flame, there, for an instant, within me.” Whenever God broke through my defenses, I would go and visit a monastery! Over the years I have come to know many Benedictine monasteries in England, France and Belgium, and I had the wonderful experience of spending a year in the Monastery of the Holy Cross in Chevetogne, Belgium.

It was almost seven years ago that I first sat in the beautiful Cram chapel on

Memorial Drive for the first time, and sang Evening Prayer with the brothers. The strong and unmistakable sense of ‘having come home’ that I experienced then has never left me. After several more visits, I arrived at the monastery in Cambridge on St. Patrick’s Day (March 17) 1999 to begin my six months as a postulant. This was followed by two years as a novice. I was then professed in initial vows on October 7, 2001. These were years during which I was “testing my vocation” before making initial and then life profession. These years of formation are marked by what our Rule calls a gradual “inner change and conversion of life”, and certainly for me, included what the Rule predicts will be times of “emotional and spiritual trials”. To leave a previous life and work and culture, and to embrace a new life lived in community can be a considerable challenge. During the years of ‘testing’ I several times felt tempted to leave, and at one stage kept the return leg of an air ticket to Heathrow nearby, just in case! Discernment is very hard. If I am feeling fed up or unhappy does this mean I don’t have a vocation? If I don’t like living in this country, or don’t get on with certain of my brothers, is this a sign that I’m in the wrong place? In *The Religious Vocation* our founder, Richard Benson writes, “We came into the Society not because it suits us, because it takes our fancy, or agrees with our judgments, because our tastes are satisfied, or because it enables us to get on well or happily – none of these, but simply because God calls us.” That seems to me very wise advice.

The work of discerning a vocation



Brs. David Vryhof and Geoffrey Tristram

is not, mercifully, left to the individual alone. We are supported and encouraged by our brothers. After I had made life vows, I was asked to take a very active role in the work of discernment and formation by becoming Novice Guardian. We are very blessed in having four novices and two postulants at present, and we are hoping for a third postulant in February. They are all very fine men, and it is a pleasure and a privilege to live and work alongside them. We also have a large number of men who are inquiring into our life, and are taking seriously the possibility that they may have a vocation to this life. God is certainly blessing us in a remarkable way, and we are full of gratitude. For me it is a sign of the importance of the monastic life and witness within the church today. Monasticism has always, rightly, been on the margins of the church, so that it has been free to speak out boldly and at times prophetically; free to follow Christ radically and whole-heartedly. I recently received a letter from a guest who had been staying with us at the monastery. He writes, “I believe that religious communities are the place

where faith will be kept burning bright in the testing years ahead. You are like a bee-hive. People fly in and out, bringing in pollen, and taking out energy. You have a beautiful way of life."

When I placed that ring on my finger and said, "Christ is my life and my joy", I knew that I had truly discovered my vocation. I am still daunted by what it might mean, and what God might ask of me and of our community, but I am grateful to God for having brought me thus far, and I

am looking forward with my brothers, to fulfilling those words of St. Benedict, "As we progress in this way of life and in faith, we shall run on the path of God's commandments, our hearts overflowing with the inexpressible delight of love." (RB Prologue 49)

The next "Come and See" weekends for those who might be interested in the religious life are scheduled for December 16-19, 2004 and June 2-5, 2005. For information contact Brother Geoffrey Tristram at noviceguardian@ssje.org or call or write to him at the monastery. 🇺🇸



Emery House brothers Charles LaFond, David Vryhof, John Goldring, Thomas Shaw, and Rufus Van Horn.

The doors of the **monastery chapel in Cambridge** open before Morning Prayer and most days remain open until after Compline. This sanctuary is available to you for your prayers. You are always welcome to join us as we pray the Daily Office and celebrate the Eucharist. For a service schedule, please visit our website at www.ssje.org or call the guesthouse office at 617-876-3037.

Perfect Freedom

... to know you is eternal life and to serve you is perfect freedom ...

from A Collect for Peace, *The Book of Common Prayer*, p.99



David Vryhof, SSJE

One of my favorite images from the New Testament is found in the book of Acts. Paul and Silas are in prison, accused of “disturbing [the] city” because they have cast out a “spirit of divination” from a slave girl and thereby angered her owners, who can no longer profit from her skills. Follow-



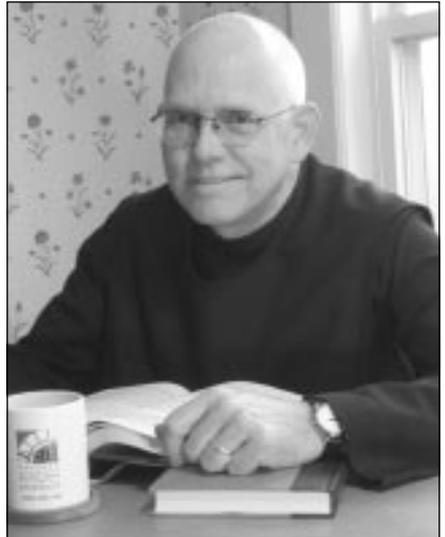
An original 18th century door latch at Emery House.

ing this accusation, “the crowd joined in attacking them, and the magistrates had them stripped of their clothing and ordered them to be beaten with rods. After they had given them a severe flogging, they threw them into prison and ordered the jailer to keep them securely. Following these instructions, he put them in the innermost cell and fastened their feet in the stocks.” (Acts 16:22-24, NRSV)

Then follows this remarkable image: “About midnight,” the author tells us, “Paul and Silas were *praying and singing hymns to God*, and the prisoners were listening to them.” (v.25) Locked in the innermost cell with their feet

fastened in stocks, bruised and broken and bleeding, Paul and Silas were found praying and singing hymns to God.

What enabled these two men to pray and sing to God in such unspeakable circumstances? What kept them from being utterly forlorn and discouraged by the humiliations and sufferings they had just endured? I suspect it was the grace of an *interior freedom*, a freedom that was rooted in their relationship to *God* rather than in their immediate surroundings, a freedom that looked to *God* for security and hope and joy rather than to any outward condition, any person, or any thing. Worldly success, reputation, social standing, and



Br. David Vryhof

all the rest had ceased to hold them captive. They had abandoned themselves to God. They now lived for God alone, and as a result, knew *perfect* freedom.

Paul reveals as much in his letter to the Philippians. He tells the Christians at Phillippi that even though he had a most proper upbringing, the finest of educations, a family tree of which he could be proud, and the respect of the most zealous and righteous people in his city, he had “come to regard [these things] as loss because of Christ” (cf. Phil.3:4-7). He had let them go. His passion now was simply and solely for Jesus Christ.

I once visited a Jesuit retreat center where a number of older Jesuits were in residence. One in particular stood out from the rest. He seemed to radiate happiness and peace. There was something about him to which all of us were instantly drawn. One of the retreatants asked him if there was a



A statue of the Sacred Heart of Jesus at Emery House.



Brothers David Vryhof and Rufus Van Horn on Emery Lane.

secret to his happiness. He paused for a moment and said, *I've given it all away*. He had found the freedom that comes with abandonment to God, the joy and peace that is the result of living for God alone. Worldly success, reputation, wealth, honor, and recognition had ceased to matter to him. His joy was God. This, I believe, is the same inner freedom that Paul and Silas enjoyed. This freedom is rooted in a deep security in God, a profound sense that one is loved by God and that *nothing* – no circumstance, no person, no series of events – can ever alter that love. “Who will separate us from the love of Christ?” asks Paul in his letter to the Christians at Rome, “Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or the sword?” (Romans 8:35, NRSV). No, he answers, *none* of these things “nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord” (v.39).

I am convinced that we too can learn to live in this great freedom. It comes from *knowing* ourselves to be

loved by God, *trusting* that we are forever secure in that love, and *letting go* of our attempts to find our security and fulfillment in circumstances, people or things. Only in God will we find perfect freedom. 🏡



At Emery House, the Canopy Room, the original 18th century stairwell from the old kitchen to the second floor, and a view from the meadow to the main house.





A Kingdom Divided

A Meditation for Advent based on Luke 11:14-23

Robert L'Esperance, SSJE

I remember once playing a game of charades. Someone removed his glasses and placing them across the side of his head struck a profile. We were supposed to guess that he was a Picasso portrait. Sometimes when I look in the mirror I feel like one of those Picasso portraits where the perspective is skewed in such a way that I am not sure exactly who it is that I am looking at or which side I am seeing. When we seek to know ourselves as Jesus continually

urges to do, the same kind of thing might happen. I imagine that Jesus must have thought, *What is going on here?* and *Who am I anyway?* when having made people whole again, he was accused of doing evil in the name of God.

When I hear Jesus' words about a kingdom divided against itself I immediately think about the kingdom within each of us – those deep and secret places where many of us experi-



The chapel tower, rising above the monastery chapel.



Br. Robert L'Esperance

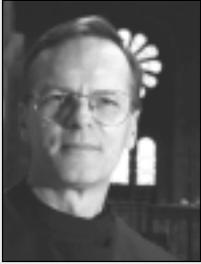
ence what Saint Paul and Father Benson, our community's founder, spoke of as *spiritual warfare*. More and more I find myself thinking about those divisions within that literally make us wonder who we are. We look inward from one perspective, and we see someone that we think we know, and we look again from another vantage point, and there seems to be someone else peering at us from the shadows. Sometimes we like very much whom we see, and at other times we can't believe who is staring back at us. And so we carve out parts of ourselves or divert our looking focusing our gaze on something or someone outside ourselves; we let it rest there instead of on that divided kingdom that is the human heart which our Savior came to heal. This, of course, is only my experience, but I wonder if your experience is something like this too? I don't think that I am unique this way.

While my perspective shifts back

and forth something else is also going on, something very strong and innate. For me, it feels like a memory, a profound and abiding sense of a time before that sense of division ever existed; before my kingdom-within was ever divided. This is a little startling because frankly I can't really remember a time when I haven't been at war inside myself. Yet, there it is, an almost intuitive sense of my wholeness. A powerful intuition of a seeming memory that is, I believe, no memory at all, but the very image of the self that is the perfect image of our Creator, the perfection of Christ abiding in us. From one perspective we might see all those places that contain the rubble of our own histories. And almost simultaneously, we may sense the gleaming, beautiful being created for the wholeness and integrity that became our birthright at our baptism, when we became children of God.

Maybe you are gazing into some of those places and wondering how they will ever fit together; running your memory over the series of fault lines that run through your own history and divides you into plates that rub up and down against one another. Our egos work hard to keep us in the illusion that somehow we have become separated from our true selves. This illusion is the literal cost of our sinfulness that causes us to live life as a series of compartments that we keep hidden from ourselves, from each other, and most tragically from God.

Could there be a better time than this season of Advent to invite Jesus into our illusions, our compartmentalized selves, so that he might shatter them with the power of his healing love? Come, Lord Jesus! 🙏



Just Cause for Celebration

***Curtis Almquist, SSJE is honored with
a doctorate***

On October 13, at the annual convocation of Berkeley Divinity School at Yale, our Superior, Curtis Almquist SSJE, was awarded the degree of Doctor of Divinity, *honoris causa*. Present for this joyous occasion were seven other brothers of the Society and Curtis' parents, Don and Bea Almquist who came from Moline, Illinois. The reasons Berkeley chose to honor Curtis are many, detailed in the testimonial which follows, read by the Dean of Berkeley, the Very Reverend Joseph Britton:

Curtis Gustav Almquist, you are the Superior of the Society of Saint John the Evangelist, a monastic order that through the integrity and openness of its community life has inspired the spiritual life of not only the Diocese Massachusetts, but the whole Episcopal Church. In this capacity, you succeed a line of leaders in the Cowley community who have led a dramatic renewal based on a commitment to making the religious life meaningful in the twenty-first century. In honoring you, we honor by implication the wider fellowship of brothers that has supported you and shaped your own vision of the spiritual life.



SSJE brothers with Br. Curtis at Berkeley Divinity School, Yale, on October 13th.



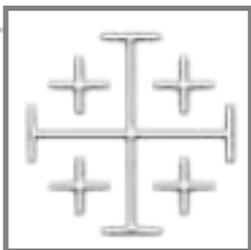
The Very Rev. Joseph Britton and Br. Curtis Almquist, SSJE

Your preparation for this important ministry began in Moline, Illinois, where you were born in 1952. Coming from an evangelical background, you studied at Wheaton College and Michigan State University. From there, you went to do mission and social work in many of the neediest places in the world: Haiti, and Eastern Europe, as well as in the urban center of Chicago. Upon your graduation from Nashotah House in 1984, you served as Curate of St. Simon's Church in Arlington Heights, Illinois, before entering the Society in Cambridge, Massachusetts in 1987. There you have served as Novice Guardian, Assistant Superior, and as the Senior Brother at Emery House, the Society's retreat center in West Newbury, as well as a Chaplain to the House of Bishops, before being elected Superior by your community in 2001.

As Superior, you have exemplified Father Richard Meux Benson's visions that Cowley brothers should be "men of the moment," keeping the wall of the monastic house porous to the world by engaging in many ministries, especially with students, and by exploring the possibility of a ministry for the Society in the Holy Land. As a testimony of your understanding of the priestly life, you are sought after as a spiritual director by priests and bishops of the Church, and you are known as a pastor of keen psychological insight. Your infectious Christian faith touches many people in profound ways, enlivening their own sense of Christ's presence with them.

Curtis Gustav Almquist, for your witness to the importance of the spiritual life in the Church, for your steadfast leadership of a flourishing monastic community, for your care and concern for all of God's people, and for your engagement in the cares and concerns of the world around you, the Board of Trustees of the Berkeley Divinity School is proud to confer on you the degree of Doctor of Divinity, *honoris causa*. 🎓

Join the SSJE Brothers in Jerusalem



The Palestine of Jesus 14-day Pilgrimages to the Holy Land

hosted by St. George's College, Jerusalem



October/November 2004

March/April 2005

June 2005

August 2005



An overview of Jerusalem.

THE PALESTINE OF JESUS course combines study with spiritual pilgrimage, an occasion to learn and pray amidst the sacred landscape where the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ unfolded. Course members visit major sites connected with the Gospel accounts: Bethlehem, Nazareth, the Jordan River, the Sea of Galilee, Mount Tabor, the Judean Desert, and others. After focusing on the Galilean ministry of Jesus, the course traces the Passion narratives through visits to Bethany, the Mount of Olives, the Garden of Gethsemane, the Church of the Resurrection (Holy Sepulchre), and on the devotional Way of the Cross. The final day of the course celebrates the resurrection and the challenge of discipleship with a journey to Emmaus and a festive celebration of the Holy Eucharist.



SSJE

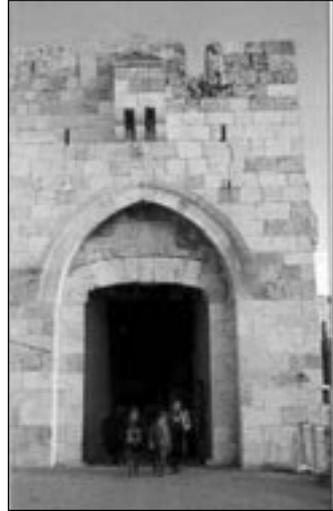
SOCIETY
OF
SAINT JOHN
THE
EVANGELIST

Attention is also paid to the urgent social and religious issues of our own time. Course members visit the Western Wall (Wailing Wall) and the Dome of the Rock, paying attention to the interfaith issues with Judaism, Islam, and Christianity. Opportunities are made to hear the voices of Palestinians and Israelis as they struggle for justice and peace in their land.

The SSJE brothers serve as course chaplains. They lead in the daily prayer and worship, offer meditations and spiritual reflections, and give guidance to the pilgrims on how to “pray their own lives” in the light and life of Jesus today.



**Courtyard of the Church of the Resurrection,
Jerusalem.**



**Jaffa Gate in the Old City of
Jerusalem.**



SSJE

SOCIETY
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Join US!

PALESTINE OF JESUS courses with SSJE chaplains

October 26 – November 8, 2004

Brs. Mark Brown & Timothy Solverson

March 30 – April 12, 2005

Brs. James Koester & Robert L'Esperance

June 17 – June 30, 2005

Brs. Geoffrey Tristram & Roy Cockrum

August 2 – August 15, 2005

Brs. David Vryhof & Rufus Van Horn

Outstanding faculty, gracious accommodations, and delicious meals are provided through St. George's College, a continuing education center for the entire Anglican Communion. Course fees plus room and board are \$2,075. Church leaders are eligible for a \$1,000 scholarship; seminarians may attend for \$500.

For more information
and to register for a course, contact:
St. George's College, Jerusalem
www.stgeorgescollegejerusalem.org
email: registrar@stgeorges.org.il
telephone: 011 972 2 626 4704



Who's Who in the Community

It's been awhile since every brother in the community appeared in the same issue of COWLEY, so here are snapshots of each of us and what we do (most brothers hold several more jobs as well as a full complement of outside ministry, so this is just a sampling of our roles within the community).



David Allen

Life-stage:
life-professed (1961)
Responsibilities:
*bursar; assistant
guest brother*



Curtis Almquist

Life-stage:
life-professed (1992)
Responsibilities:
*superior; Cowley
Publications' publisher*



Mark Brown

Life-stage:
life-professed (2003)
Responsibilities:
*monastery facilities;
director of music*



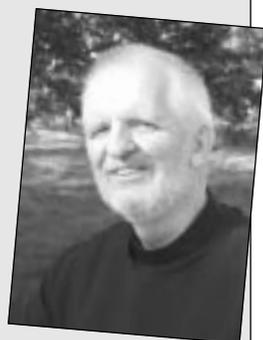
Roy Cockrum

Life-stage:
novice (2003)
Responsibilities:
*information systems
and publicity*



Giovanni Figueredo

Life-stage:
initially-professed (2003)
Responsibilities:
*assistant infirmarian;
domestic duties*



John Goldring

Life-stage:
life-professed (1989)
Responsibilities:
Emery House sacristan



Kevin Hackett

Life-stage:
initially-professed (2000)
Responsibilities:
monastery liturgy; Cowley Publications' acquisitions



James Koester

Life-stage:
life-professed (1995)
Responsibilities:
deputy superior; treasurer



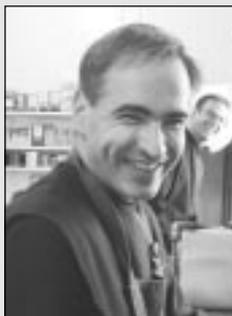
James Knutsen

Life-stage:
novice (2004)
Responsibilities:
monastery assistant sacristan



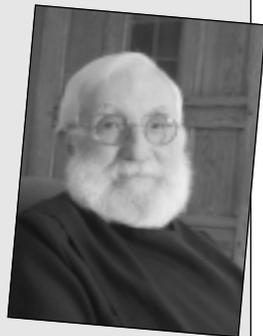
Charles LaFond

Life-stage:
novice (2004)
Responsibilities:
Emery House cellarer; grounds



Robert L'Esperance

Life-stage:
initially-professed (2002)
Responsibilities:
monastery guest-brother; grounds



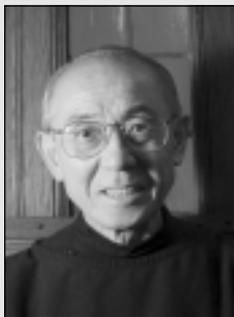
John Mathis

Life-stage:
life-professed (1996)
Responsibilities:
domestic duties



Jonathan Maury

Life-stage:
life-professed (1989)
Responsibilities:
infirmarian; FSJ director



John Oyama

Life-stage:
life-professed (1964)
Responsibilities:
monastery sacristan



Rusty Page

Life-stage:
life-professed (1984)
Responsibilities:
librarian



Eldridge Pendleton

Life-stage:
life-professed (1990)
Responsibilities:
archivist



Bernard Russell

Life-stage:
life-professed (1968)
Responsibilities:
domestic duties



Tom Shaw

Life-stage:
life-professed (1981)
Responsibilities:
bishop, Diocese of Massachusetts



Timothy Solverson

Life-stage:
initially-professed (2004)
Responsibilities:
monastery cellarer; Cowley Publications' sales; grounds



Geoffrey Tristram

Life-stage:
life-professed (2004)
Responsibilities:
novice guardian



Rufus Van Horn

Life-stage:
novice (2002)
Responsibilities:
Emery House guest brother



David Vryhof

Life-stage:
life-professed (1997)
Responsibilities:
Emery House senior brother



Paul Wessinger

Life-stage:
life-professed (1945)
Responsibilities:
pastoral care

FELLOWSHIP OF SAINT JOHN

October 17, 2004

I was in my mid-20s when the idea of becoming a monk first entered my head. I learned that a professor at university would be entering a Trappist monastery at the end of the term. Never mind that I was not Catholic and did not know what a Trappist was...I was completely enthralled by the idea of a quiet life utterly devoted to God.



Harry Gunkel, MD

But despite the fascination, I quickly learned that God was not leading me to that life, so I set about the business that was in store for the next few decades. Then a couple of years ago I learned of the Society of St. John the Evangelist. Somehow, mysteriously, I was led back to encounter the monastic life, but this time, through visits to the guesthouse and the reports of this newsletter, I came to see monasticism in a completely different way.

I think being a monk must be a terrible beauty. In the faces and gentle movements of the brothers – these brave and good men – I see the moments of Glory and ecstasy they have experienced. But I also see traces of the awesome responsibility they have taken on: offering their “whole selves...to live for the praise and glory of God and for the well-being of God’s people everywhere.” That is “hard stuff,” and I wanted very much to try to help and support that mission somehow. Joining the Fellowship seemed the right way to do that, and I was fortunate to be able to do so. But although accepting the cross of the Fellowship was a great joy, the “somehow” of supporting the Society still felt a little vague and undefined. Then the day after being installed, one of the brothers told me that the Fellowship is a great gift to them, that in the members of the Fellowship they see Christ. The very notion took my breath away! Finally, I think I understood the real reason for joining the Fellowship.

The Fellowship of Saint John (FSJ) is comprised of nearly 1,000 men and women throughout the world who desire to live their Christian life in special association with the Society of Saint John the Evangelist. They have a vital interest in the life and work of the community and support our life and ministries with their prayers, encouragement and financial gifts. The brothers of the Society welcome members of the Fellowship as partners in the gospel life, and pray for them by name during the Daily office, following a regular cycle. Together with us they form an extended family, a company of friends abiding in Christ and seeking to bear a united witness to him as “the Way, the Truth and the Life,” following the example of the Beloved Disciple. For more information, please contact Br. Jonathan Maury, the Director of the FSJ, at the monastery.



I believe that God issues a call to each and every one of us. Sometimes we hear that call and do our best to heed. And it seems to me that those calls are not distinct or isolated or particular, but woven together somehow in a pattern directed by God's infinite wisdom. I am imagining sitting in the Chapel at the Cambridge monastery: in the chants we do together, each of our voices is necessary but none alone is sufficient. I listen to our voices – the brothers and the guests and retreatants they have invited and welcomed there – and hear the beautiful convergence. It reverberates and echoes back and forth across the Chapel and out into a world in sore need of harmony.

One of our obligations as members of the Fellowship is to adopt a Rule of Life to follow, just as the brothers follow theirs. Mine has several components, and one is an evening prayer that includes these lines:

*“Lord, Bless my brothers-in-fellowship.
Guide them with light and love,
And keep them safe and strong.
Amen”*



Brs. Eldridge Pendleton and Kevin Hackett
Photo credit: Doug DeMark



Consider Becoming an SSJE Brother! **“COME AND SEE”**

June 2-5, 2005 (Thurs. 5 pm - Sun. 2 pm)

A weekend program for men interested in exploring religious life at SSJE. Men between the ages of 21 and 45 who are interested in learning more about a vocation with SSJE are encouraged to join us for this program. Participants share in the monastic rhythm of worship, work and meals; receive instruction on the history and mission of SSJE; and meet with brothers individually and in groups to talk about our life. There is no charge for this program beyond the costs of traveling to the monastery.

For more information, please contact our Novice Guardian,
Br. Geoffrey Tristram, at the monastery. Email: noviceguardian@ssje.org



Come be with us at Emery House, in the beautiful countryside of West Newbury, Massachusetts this upcoming winter, spring, or summer. We warmly invite you to make a retreat with us. Contact the Emery House Guestbrother at (978) 462-7940 or email emeryhouse@ssje.org

COMMUNITY NEWS



(Left to right) **Br. Roy Cockrum; Paul Dominiak, Lilly Summer Intern with SSJE in 2003; Jim Goodmann, Director, The Lilly Summer Discernment Institute; Will Harvard, Lilly Summer Intern with SSJE in 2004; Br. Rufus Van Horn.**

In late July **Brs. Rufus Van Horn and Roy Cockrum** served as chaplains to the students and staff of The Lilly Summer Discernment Institute at the University of the South, Sewanee, Tennessee. Funded by the Lilly Foundation, the program provides college-age students the opportunity to reflect on concepts of vocation and service from a variety of theological perspectives as a natural part of exploration of a possible life path. In early October the brothers led a retreat at the Barbara C. Harris Conference Center in Greenfield, NH, for Christ Church, Harwichport, MA.



Michael Rodriguez

Michael Angelo Rodriguez is living with the SSJE community while working on an M.T.S. degree at

Harvard's Divinity School while writing his dissertation, through Florida State University, for the completion of the Ph.D. Michael's dissertation topic is on Samuel Beckett and Romanticism with an emphasis on the mystical implications of the creative imagination. Earlier he earned an M. Phil. in Anglo-Irish Literature from Trinity College Dublin. In his "free time," he teaches writing and literature at Boston University.

This past autumn **Brs. Giovanni Figueredo, Rufus VanHorn, Roy Cockrum, and Charles LaFond** made visits to St. Paul's School in Concord, NH, to speak with students in their chapel services, classrooms, and elsewhere on campus. St. Paul students make visits to the monastery and Emery House on regular intervals, which delights us.



Br. David Vryhof

In August **Br. David Vryhof** served as chaplain for the annual convention of the Episcopal Conference of the Deaf (ECD), held this year at the Bon Secours Retreat Center in Marriottsville, Maryland. October 9 he led a workshop at the Berkeley Center at Yale University for spiritual directors.

Continued

He spoke at Trinity-Pauling School in Pauling, NY, October 10-11, and on October 23rd led a one-day workshop, on “Discernment in Prayer” for spiritual directors from Vermont, New Hampshire and Maine, a project sponsored by the Episcopal Divinity School and funded by the Lilly foundation and Trinity Church, Wall Street.



Donald Follansbee

Donald G. Follansbee, SSJE’s new Director of Business Affairs, comes to us with an undergraduate degree in international relations and economics from Boston University, post graduate work from The London School of Economics, as well as an MBA from Northeastern University. Don has over 20 years of extensive international business development experience working within the high technology, industrial and service sectors for companies based in the United States and abroad. Don began his work with us in June 2004 to direct the operations of *Cowley Publications*, a role in which he continues. We have asked Don to leverage his past professional experience and general business acumen to assist us as we plan and work for the future.

Brothers Mark Brown and Timothy Solverson served as chaplains to the



Brs. Mark Brown and Timothy Solverson

“Palestine of Jesus” course offered at St. George’s College, Jerusalem, October 26 – November 8. This course combines study with spiritual pilgrimage, an occasion to learn and pray amidst the sacred landscape where the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ unfolded. In 2005, teams of SSJE brothers will serve as chaplains in courses offered March 30 – April 12, June 17 – June 30, and August 2 – August 15. More information is available from SSJE at www.ssje.org and from St. George’s College at www.stgeorgescollegejerusalem.org. Join us!



SSJE brothers Sunday and Feast Day sermons are now available on the web. Visit the site at www.ssje.org

Continued



A new roof for Emery House

Structural repairs on Emery House, built in 1745, were completed this fall. The foundation has been reinforced and the roof and support beams, with its original timber, has been supplemented with new structural engineering. Many friends joined the brothers – **“Monks in Blue Jeans”** – for the fall work weekend October 29-31. The upcoming work weekend is April 22-24, 2005. Join us for the weekend or just for Saturday. Information from: emeryhouse@ssje.org

Brs. Geoffrey Tristram and Mark Brown are serving as spiritual directors to students of Berkeley Divinity School at Yale during this academic year.

We are very happy to welcome **Gerald**



Gerald Beauchamp

Beauchamp, who was received as a postulant in our community on November 2nd. Gerald is English, and has been a parish priest for many years. Until recently he was Vicar of the Parish of St. Mary the Boltons, in south London.



Novitiate Brs. Charles, Jamie, Rufus, Roy ... and the great whale.

We invite you to join the brothers and other friends for **Br. Paul Wessinger's 90th birthday celebration on Saturday, January 8th.** We shall celebrate the Holy Eucharist at 11:00 a.m. with the Rt. Rev. Frank Griswold, Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church and long-time member of the Fellowship of Saint John, as our presider and preacher. A festive reception follows. If you plan to be with us, please leave word with our guesthouse office prior to December 31st. Contact us by email at: guesthouse@ssje.org or by telephone: (617) 876-3037.

Br. Eldridge Pendleton and Leith Speiden, who works on our staff and is a member of the FSJ, participated in a French national healing pilgrimage to

Lourdes, France October 4-9. During their time in France they were also guests of Sr. Sheila Long, OSB and the Benedictine nuns of the Abbaye Ste. Marie du Maumont in Burgundy. Sr. Sheila is a longtime friend of SSJE and an annual guest of the community. 🇫🇷



Retreat Programs and Workshops:



The Society of Saint John the Evangelist
Monastery Guesthouse, Cambridge, Massachusetts
Emery House, West Newbury, Massachusetts

Winter 2004

The brothers of the Society of Saint John the Evangelist have for years offered hospitality to those seeking a place of quiet and renewal. At the monastery in Cambridge, Massachusetts and at Emery House in West Newbury, Massachusetts, we invite you to find space to pray and renew your spirit. We are pleased to welcome you to these sanctuaries of beauty and reflective stillness.

Generous gifts of land and money from Isabella Stewart Gardner, Elbridge Gerry, and the family of then-SSJE member and later superior Spence Burton enabled the Society to begin developing the property along Memorial Drive.

Today's guesthouse, designed by the famous twentieth-century American architect, Ralph Adams Cram, and built in 1924-1928, was the original monastery building. In the mid-1930's, Cram designed the chapel and monastery buildings. Built at the height of the Great Depression, the buildings, completed in 1936, are another legacy of the Burton family's philanthropy. The renowned American landscape designer, Fletcher Steele, designed the guesthouse garden in 1934.

The monastery is located along the Charles River, near Harvard University and the Episcopal Divinity School. Guesthouse facilities include large and small meeting rooms, chapels for private and corporate prayer, a library, garden, and single bedrooms, each with its own sink; showers and toilets are nearby. Linens and towels are provided. Guests join the brothers for three meals daily, eaten communally and normally taken in silence, accompanied either by a brother reading aloud or recorded music.

Emery House and its 120 acres of undeveloped meadow and woodland were gifts to the Society from the Emery family, who homesteaded the property in 1641. Over the past two decades, we have been joined by generous benefactors and friends in our efforts to conserve the house, woodlands, and meadows as a beautiful sanctuary for retreat.

Emery House is located in West Newbury, Massachusetts, about forty-five miles north of Boston and is adjacent to the 480-acre Maudsley State Park. Emery House features spacious and fully-equipped "hermitages," period guest rooms in the 1745 main house, two rustic wood cabins, and three meals daily, taken communally in the main house. Guests are welcome to join the brothers in daily monastic worship. Emery House is easily accessible by public transportation. Out-of-town guests may board regularly scheduled buses leaving from Logan Airport and South Station, Boston for Newburyport.

If you would like to visit us or attend one of our retreats or workshops:

Please contact the appropriate guesthouse brother:

The Guesthouse Brother
Monastery Guesthouse
980 Memorial Drive
Cambridge, MA 02138-5717
Email: guesthouse@ssje.org
(617)876-3037 x10

The Guesthouse Brother
Emery House
21 Emery Lane
West Newbury, MA 01985-1333
Email: emeryhouse@ssje.org
(978)462-7940 x10

The monastery guesthouse and Emery House are open to guests seven nights a week. Guests may arrive from Monday afternoon through Saturday morning. Resident guests may choose to stay in the guesthouse on Sunday night. Public worship is not offered, nor are any meals served from Sunday Evening Prayer until Monday Evening Prayer (the community's Sabbath time).

Parking at the monastery:

Parking at the monastery is extremely limited; we encourage guests to use public transportation if at all possible. Space cannot be guaranteed, and guests requiring parking must call ahead to check availability.

Please note:

The Society reserves the right to decline applications for retreats or place applicants who have made a number of retreats with us in the past on a waiting list. Brothers may also exercise discretion over admissions based on other priorities. Deposit checks are returned to applicants in the event they are wait-listed or declined.

We depend on your help to make this ministry possible.

The brothers of the SSJE offer hospitality to guests regardless of their ability to pay. We offer reduced fees to full-time students. But fees cover only about 50% of actual costs. We depend on guesthouse income to support our life and ministries. Published fees are suggested amounts. Individuals with limited resources are asked to give as they are able; those with ample resources help us continue to offer reduced rates to those who cannot afford to pay by increasing their giving beyond the suggested fee. Your additional gift may be wholly or partially tax deductible.

COWLEY PUBLICATIONS is a ministry of the brothers of the Society of Saint John the Evangelist, a monastic order in the Episcopal Church. Our mission is to provide books and resources for those seeking spiritual and theological formation. COWLEY PUBLICATIONS is committed to developing a new generation of writers and teachers who will encourage people to think and pray in new ways about spirituality, reconciliation, and the future. Please see our website: www.cowley.org

■ GROUP PROGRAM RETREATS

Group program retreats are generally conducted from Thursday or Friday evening through Sunday midday. In addition to joining the brothers for worship and meals, guests attend a series of addresses or meditations offered by the retreat leader, which alternate with time for prayer, reflection, and recreation. It is customary for those on retreat to observe silence.

Suggested fees for group program retreats:

Monastery Guesthouse:

\$90.00 per person per night
\$45.00 for full-time students

Emery House:

\$90.00 per person per night
\$45.00 for full-time students

Reservations are confirmed upon receipt of a non-transferable/non-refundable deposit equal to 50% of your total fee.

■ COMPANIONED FIVE-DAY RETREATS

Companioned five-day directed retreats provide guests with more ample time to receive the gift of renewed intimacy with God in Christ through silence and sustained prayer. Guests meet individually, once each day, with a director who offers them help in recognizing God's will and touch in their lives and who gives suggestions for how they might respond to the invitations of the Spirit disclosed in prayer. A team of leaders conducts companioned retreats; leaders include SSJE brothers and, occasionally, other ordained and lay spiritual directors. Companioned retreats are suggested for persons with previous retreat experience. Companioned retreats focus on worship and spending time with God. With their registration, applicants should include a brief (one or two page) spiritual autobiography.

Suggested fees for companioned five-day retreats:

Monastery Guesthouse:

\$90.00 per person per night
\$45.00 for full-time students

Emery House:

\$90.00 per person per night
\$45.00 for full-time students

Reservations are confirmed upon receipt of a non-transferable/non-refundable deposit equal to 50% of your total fee.

■ NOURISHING YOUR SOUL: INDIVIDUAL RETREATS

Individuals may not wish to attend a program retreat, yet desire a time of quiet and the opportunity to join the brothers in worship and silence. Most weekdays and some weekends are available for individual retreats. If you would like to meet with a brother during your individual retreat, please be certain to make that request when you book your reservation.



Continued

Suggested fees for Individual Self-directed Retreats:

Monastery Guesthouse:

\$60.00 per person per night

\$30.00 for full-time students

Emery House:

\$75.00 per person per night

\$40.00 for full-time students

Suggested fees for Individual Directed Retreats:

Monastery Guesthouse:

\$95.00 per person per night

\$45.00 for full-time students

Emery House:

\$95.00 per person per night

\$45.00 for full-time students

Reservations are confirmed upon receipt of a non-transferable/non-refundable deposit equal to 50% of your total fee. ❏



GUEST HOUSE PROGRAMS

Cambridge

DECEMBER 2004 - JUNE 2005

For program descriptions and costs of retreats and workshops at the Monastery, Cambridge, please visit our website at www.ssje.org or call 617-876-3037

■ **NOURISHING THE SOUL** – individual retreats at the monastery in the winter and spring

December 17-19, 2004// January 21-23, 2005 // February 4-6, 2005 //

March 4-6, 2005// March 18-20, 2005, April 29-May 1, 2005 // May 13-15, 2005 // May 27-29, 2005 and all weekends in the month of June, 2005

■ **COME AND SEE** – a program for men interested in exploring religious life at SSJE

December 16-19, 2004 (Thursday 5 pm – Sunday 2 pm)

■ **JOY TO THE WORLD!** – Christmas at the monastery

December 20-26, 2004 (Monday 5 pm – Sunday 2 pm)

■ **DRINKING FROM THE WELLS OF SALVATION** – a retreat for clergy

January 24-29, 2005 (Monday 5 pm – Saturday 2 pm)

Continued

■ **DRINKING FROM THE WELLS OF SALVATION** –

a retreat for clergy

April 4-9, 2005 (Monday 5 pm – Saturday 2 pm)

■ **A COMPANIONED RETREAT** – five days for quiet reflection

May 16-21, 2005 (Monday 5 pm – Saturday 2 pm)

■ **COME AND SEE** – a program for men interested in exploring religious life at SSJE

June 9-12, 2005 (Thursday 5 pm – Sunday 2 pm)



RETREATS AT EMERY HOUSE

West Newbury

For program descriptions and costs of retreats at Emery House, please visit our website at www.ssje.org or call 978-462-7940

■ **NOURISHING THE SOUL** – individual retreats at Emery House in the fall and winter

■ **NOURISHING THE SOUL** – individual retreats at Emery House in the winter and spring

December 10-12, 2004 // December 17-19, 2004//January 28-30, 2005 // March 18-20, 2005// May 27-29, 2005 and all weekends in the month of June, 2005

■ **A COMPANIONED RETREAT** – five days for quiet reflection

January 17-22, 2005 (Monday 5 pm – Saturday 2 pm)

■ **HEARTY WINTER FARE**

February 4-6, 2005 (Friday 5 pm – Sunday 2 pm)

■ **COME, LET US SING TO THE LORD** – worship for small congregations

February 14-19, 2005 (Monday 5 pm – Saturday 2 pm)

Continued

■ **HOLY WEEK AT EMERY HOUSE**

March 21-27, 2005 (Monday 5 pm – Sunday 11 am)

■ **A COMPANIONED RETREAT** – five days for quiet reflection

April 4-9, 2005 (Monday 5 pm – Saturday 2 pm)

■ **WRITTEN THAT YOU MAY BELIEVE** – Praying with the Gospel of John

May 9-15, 2005 (Monday 5 pm through Saturday 2 pm)

■ **HIS GARMENT'S HEM: THE CHRISTIAN ART OF HEALING TOUCH**

May 19-22, 2005 (Thursday 5 pm through Sunday 2 pm)

■ **ICON WRITING WORKSHOP AND RETREAT**

June 13-19, 2005 (Monday 5 pm through Sunday 2 pm)

■ **FIRST TIME IN PRAYER AND QUIET** – a weekend retreat for beginners

June 24-26, 2005 (Friday 5 pm – Sunday 2 pm)



SATURDAY WORKSHOPS AT THE MONASTERY

For program descriptions please visit our website at www.ssje.org or call 617-876-3037

■ **PRAYING FOR OTHERS** – a one-day workshop on the mystery and practice of intercession

March 5, 2005 (Saturday, 10 am – 3 pm)

■ **BEGINNING TO MEDITATE** – a one-day workshop on meditative prayer

March 13, 2005 (Saturday, 10 am – 3 pm)

Gifts of Stock and other Securities

We are dependent on friends and benefactors for the financial support of the life and ministry of SSJE. Please remember SSJE in your estate planning, and share our life and needs with others who may have interest. The brothers are deeply grateful.

Agent Bank: Investors Bank & Trust Company

Agent Bank Number: 22319

Agent Bank Clearing Number: 2132 (DTC participant number)

Agent Bank Account Number: 45-23072

Agent Bank Account: Society of St. John the Evangelist

We need certain information to properly process the stock transfer. This information can either come directly from you or from your broker, but must be done before the actual transfer is made. Please call the Monastery Treasurer's Office with the following information:

- | | |
|---|--|
| a. Your name | d. CUSIP number of the stock |
| b. Name of stock | e. Company name and DTC number of the broker |
| c. Exact number of shares being transferred | f. Intended purpose of the gift |

For tax purposes, you will be sent an official acknowledgment stating the mean value of your gift.



James Koester, SSJE, Treasurer
Society of Saint John the Evangelist
980 Memorial Drive, Cambridge, MA 02138 U.S.A.
617 876-3037 ext. 16



Members of the Fellowship of Saint John and friends in CANADA who would like to make a financial contribution may send cheques payable to "SSJE" to SCOTIA TRUST CO., ATTN: CHARITABLE TRUST SERVICES, 4TH FLOOR, ONE FINANCIAL PLAZA, ONE ADELAIDE STREET EAST, TORONTO, ONTARIO M5C 2W8. The Scotia Trust will issue a receipt and inform us here in the States so that we may personally thank you.

SSJE Retreat Registration Form

Please return completed form to the appropriate Guesthouse Brother
(either the Monastery Guesthouse or Emery House)

Name _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Telephone (Home) _____ (Work) _____

E-mail _____

Retreat dates: From _____ to: _____

Name of Retreat _____

Location: Monastery Guesthouse Emery House

Arrival time: _____ Deposit enclosed: \$ _____

Visa MasterCard # _____

Signature _____ Exp. Date _____

In case of emergency, please contact: (Name) _____

Telephone (Home) _____ (Work) _____

Fellowship of Saint John member? Yes No

Please tell us about how you heard about retreats at SSJE.



S O C I E T Y
— OF —
S A I N T J O H N
— THE —
E V A N G E L I S T

980 Memorial Drive
Cambridge, MA 02138
U.S.A.

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