



# BROTHERHOOD of HOPE™

PRIMUM DEUS • DEUS SOLUM

NEWSLETTER

FALL 2010

**I** had never thought that consecrated life was for me. While in college I simply planned to be a Spanish teacher.

However, my experiences in the summer of 1999 left a lasting impression on me.

That summer I had my first extended exposure to men radically consecrated to the Lord. They were the Servants of the Word, an international ecumenical brotherhood based in Michigan. While I was living in their summer household they trained me in evangelization and prepared me for a brief time of mission work in Mexico.

When I returned home in the fall, something had changed. The life and

BY BR. ADAM NERI, BH

career I had planned for myself no longer seemed to promise fulfillment. Two years later, while serving as a missionary in Costa Rica, I finally discovered what God had been saying to me all along: "I want

you exclusively for me."

*"It's possible to live a life on earth that's impelled, motivated, and consumed by the love of Christ."*



After wrestling with God about this, eventually I was convinced it was for real. Upon returning to the U.S., I began to look seriously into the Brotherhood of Hope, the community I had known for years from my family's involvement with the People of Hope. These brothers seemed to be men who were manly, hard-working, holy (and yet funny), and fully dedicated to the Church. As I pondered God's invitation, I

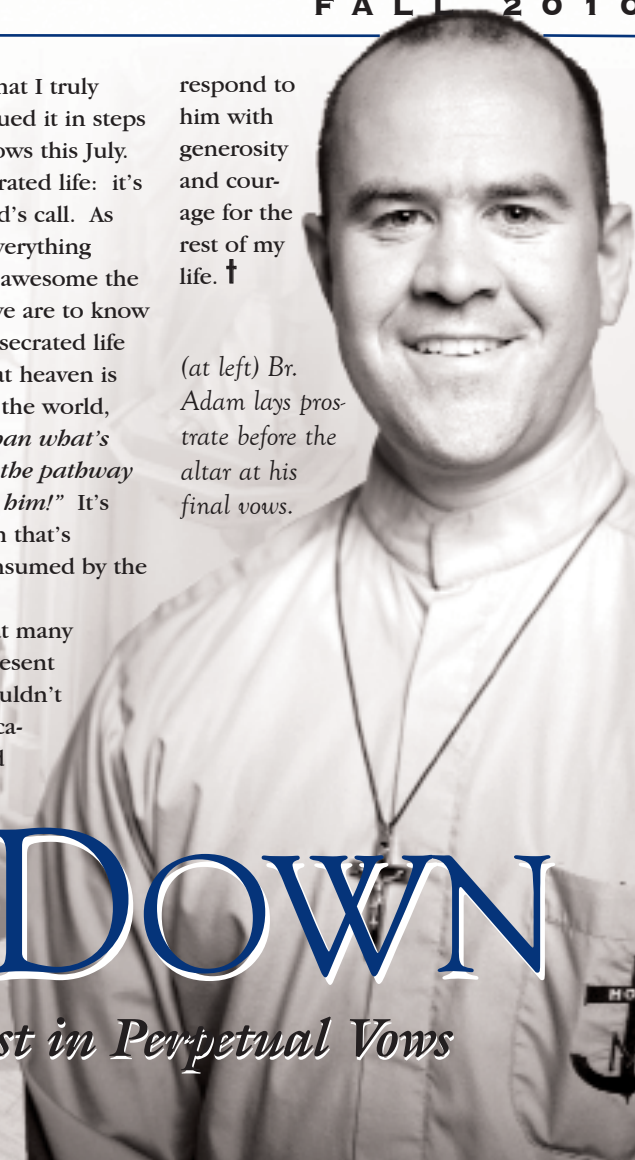
came to realize that this is what I truly wanted for my life. So I pursued it in steps which led to my perpetual vows this July.

I love the heart of consecrated life: it's a radical response to the Lord's call. As brothers we gladly give up everything because we have tasted how awesome the Lord is and how privileged we are to know him. But there's more. Consecrated life bears witness to the truth that heaven is real! It's a signpost saying to the world, "Look! There's more to life than what's simply happening here, and the pathway to that 'more' is Jesus. Go to him!" It's possible to live a life on earth that's impelled, motivated, and consumed by the love of Christ.

So looking back, I see that many signs of my vocation were present throughout my life - I just couldn't see them at the time. My vocation is a grace from God, and by that same grace may I

respond to him with generosity and courage for the rest of my life. †

(at left) Br. Adam lays prostrate before the altar at his final vows.



## TO LAY IT ALL DOWN

*Br. Adam Neri Reflects on Giving His All to Christ in Perpetual Vows*



AROUND THE BROTHERHOOD



**NEW MAN IN GRAY**

After completing his year of Novitiate training, Br. Parker Jordan made his first profession of the counsels of chastity, poverty and obedience.

With this profession



**NEW THREADS.** Br. Parker receives the Brotherhood's habit during a Mass celebrating his profession of first vows.

Br. Parker becomes a full member of the community and now wears the Brotherhood's distinctive habit-shirt as a sign of his consecration. This summer Brs. Clinton Reed and Brandon Frank also renewed their temporary vows for one more year. Please

pray for these younger brothers as they continue to pursue their vocation in our community.

**ANNIVERSARY BLESSINGS**

This month marks the 30th anniversary of the Brotherhood's founding on



**FOUNDING FATHERS.** Steve Clark (left) and Fr. Philip meet at our summer conference.

greatly blessed to have Steve Clark as our retreat master during our annual summer conferences. Steve's example of founding the Servants of the Word in Ann Arbor, MI helped inspire Fr. Philip to begin the Brotherhood of Hope in Newark, NJ thirty years ago.

September 14th, 1980: the Feast of the Triumph of the Cross. It also marks the 25th anniversary of the perpetual vows of our three founding brothers, Fr. Philip Merdinger, Fr. Paul Helfrich and Br. Stephen Quense.

We also were

SHARING OUR VISION



*Our TV Show is Airing!*

BY BR. RAHL BUNSA, BH

Check out the enclosed magazine article on our 13-part TV series, *Hope on Campus*. We've made our fall newsletter briefer than usual to accommodate this exciting story.

The Brotherhood is grateful to many friends who assisted us in this big project. The entire staff at CatholicTV deserves praise, especially Brian Swift, our creative producer. The show's host and BU alum Sara Fernandes was (to use college jargon) totally awesome! We're also proud of Br. Brandon Frank who supervised the student assistants and the overall project. Finally, thank you for all your prayers during the many months of filming and editing.

Starting September 7th the series airs four times a week: Tues. 8:30 pm, Fri. 6 pm, Sat. 11:30 am and 10:30 pm (for station information visit [www.CatholicTV.org](http://www.CatholicTV.org) "where to watch"). It's also available anytime online at [www.brotherhoodofhope.org](http://www.brotherhoodofhope.org) or via our new Facebook page. Enjoy the show! †

THANK YOU FOR JOINING US...

*in our mission of bringing the transforming love of Jesus to others, especially the young. Know that we pray for you and your intentions in our daily community prayer. Please continue to remember us in your prayers and support.*

**BROTHERHOOD OF HOPE**

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