



Ocean of Grace

Brother Parker Reflects on Making His Perpetual Vows

BY BR. PARKER JORDAN, BH

It was seven years ago this summer. I was standing at the foot of a 50 foot cliff, overlooking South Branch Pond in Baxter State Park, Maine. I wasn't planning on jumping in. But after watching two other brothers jump in, I felt the gauntlet had been thrown and the challenge laid before me. So I decided to climb up and check things out. Once I got up there, I realized that there's really only one way down. So as I stood there, knees shaking, I prayed, "Lord, help me to dive into you." And I jumped in.

The Lord has been answering that prayer ever since, culminating in a very deep way this past July 5th as I took the plunge and made vows to God of chastity, poverty and obedience in the Brotherhood of Hope for the rest of my life. It was in the moments leading up to making these vows that the Lord gave me a very particular grace.

There is a very powerful point of prayer before a religious brother makes his final vows where he lays prostrate before the altar. The entire congregation unites with him in prayer as they kneel and ask for the intercession of those

"As I lay prostrate before the altar, I felt as if I had just dove into an ocean of God's grace and love for me."

who've gone before us, the Saints in Heaven. As I lay prostrate before the altar, I could feel the very foundations of the Church shake as the entire congregation knelt in prayer. It was at this moment that the Lord spoke to me and gave me an image.

Sometimes in our relationship with the Lord, there can be seasons of both trials and grace. During certain seasons, it may feel like we're walking through a shallow brook of God's grace, other times a moving river. As I lay prostrate before the altar, I felt as if I had

just dove into an ocean of God's grace and love for me. I knew He was assuring me through this grace that He would always be there with me

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A R O U N D T H E B R O T H E R H O O D



CONGRATULATIONS ALL AROUND

Not only are we celebrating the 50th anniversary of Fr. Philip's ordination this year, we are also celebrating the 25-year jubilee of consecration of Brs. Gary Davis and Allen Marquez. As the Church begins a year honoring consecrated life, we rejoice in the faithfulness of our two brothers over the many years.

Fr. Paul Helfrich has recently been assigned as a Spiritual Director for Pope Saint John XXIII National Seminary in Weston. Founded 50 years ago, this national seminary trains "delayed" vocations. Fr. Paul will continue to serve as the Northeastern University-HUB chaplain.

On the other side of the globe, our brother Fr. Bob Oliver was recently named a monsignor by Pope Francis. Msgr. Oliver was also recently appointed the Secretary for the newly established Pontifical

ADVENTURE TOGETHER. Men from Rutgers and FSU joined together for a summer of spiritual adventure.



Commission for the Protection of Minors.

FRATERNAL TRAINING GROUNDS

This past June in New Jersey, 14 college men from Rutgers and FSU embarked on a radical adventure: to live with each other in community! Modeled on the daily life of the Brothers but led and run by the young men themselves, these men lived, prayed, worked, ate, camped and had a blast together. The ultimate training grounds for Christian Brotherhood! Household leader, Jose Lim, said the following about his experience: *I was originally apprehensive to be the leader of the house, saying to myself 'how am I supposed to lead such a large group of men?'*

However, these men were the ones who made this house what it was--they were open, teachable,



CAMPUS MINISTER OF THE YEAR

Br. Sam Gunn was named Campus Minister of the Year for the Archdiocese of Boston. Br. Sam has served for twenty years as a campus minister at four different universities, serving in leadership at three of these campuses. Using his background in commercial design, he has also developed much of our community's evangelistic training materials for our younger brothers, Mission Leaders and Staff, as well as many of the programs we use on our campuses to form young people into radical disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Mission Destitute

Calcutta Service Stretches Associates

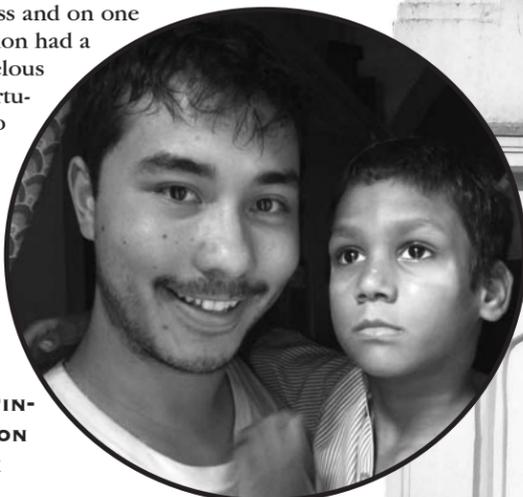
I BY BR. ADAM NERI, BH
In May of this past year Brothers Patrick Reilly and Adam Neri accompanied six men from the various outreaches where the Brotherhood serves on a two week adventure. Our aim was to place ourselves in a challenging environment where reliance on what is familiar falls away, fostering a radical reliance on God.

We divided our time into four major areas: prayer, fellowship, service to the poor and evangelization. Each day we began early with morning prayer at 5:20 followed by mass with the Missionaries of Charity and the other volunteers. Breakfast opened up many opportunities for the men to meet the 40 to 70 volunteers who came and went throughout the days we were there. These morning mealtimes were blessed opportunities for building friendships that blossomed into opportunities to share the Gospel with our fellow volunteers. We met people from all over the world; however, almost all spoke English, which was a great help to us! Among them were Catholics and other

Christians, Hindus, Buddhists, and those who had never heard of God. We spoke about the Lord Jesus to them all, respecting their level of interest and openness. At least five times a day, I gave my personal witness and on one occasion had a marvelous opportunity to share the basic Gospel message with

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DISTRESSING DISGUISE. Phillip Quiza with one of the many children served during his two weeks of service.



SHARING OUR VISION



The Newness God Brings

BY BR. KEN APUZZO, BH

"See I make all things new!" This is a promise made by Jesus in the Book of Revelation. He promises that ultimately there will be a New Heaven, a New Earth and a New Jerusalem. As we await the ultimate fulfillment of this promise, we brothers are experiencing a season of "newness" that God is pouring out upon us. This is not a man-made newness (as good as that can be) but a divinely initiated newness.

After 20 years of making attempts to secure and praying frequently for a residence closer to our mission in Boston, the Lord has provided two houses for us a mere one mile away from the heart of the HUB campuses. Our hope is that one of the houses will become a home dedicated to the spiritual formation for young men and the other house will serve as our residence, allowing the nearby students to easily share in our life together as brothers.

Meanwhile, venturing into the Midwest for the first time, the Lord has opened up new opportunities for Fr. Philip, Br. Stephen and me to serve with St. Paul's Outreach and the Newman Center at the University of Minnesota.



Br. Ken accepts **RAY MORRIS** and **LOGAN MURRAY** into the novitiate.

(We also have experienced "new" levels of cold for the first time: 50 days straight of below zero weather!)

We are privileged to have two new novices, Brs. Logan Murray and Ray Morris, now being trained in our Florida household; and just a few months ago Br. Patrick and Br. Adam began a new men's service trip to Calcutta. The brothers in Florida have also just begun a series of presentations aimed at starting a new Catholic family covenant community for our alumni and friends in the Tallahassee area.

As you can see, this is a "whole lot of newness" and we wanted to share these new developments with you so that you might share in our joy and excitement. Together, let us be grateful to God for his abundant goodness to us! †



CALCUTTA

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two men from China who had no religion whatsoever. These interactions eventually culminated with an evangelistic prayer meeting with some of these volunteers.

Our usual service to the poor included going to two orphanages and Mother Teresa's famous Home for the Dying, Nirmal Hriday. Occasionally, we all came together, going to a hospital and to a leper colony. One man wrote of his experience, "so many people needed so much that we were incapable of doing for them. But one thing that we could do was be a brother to them. To be with them when no one else was. To the 'untouchable' lepers we could reach out and touch them. As patients were undergoing surgery without any pain medicine, I could sit next to them and smile. I could encourage them with my presence and sing songs of praise while they were suffering. I could listen to them as they spoke to me in a language I did not understand. I could feed them if they could not feed themselves. I could pray for them as I looked into their eyes. I could love them if they could not love themselves. I could bring hope to them by being Christ to them, while they showed me the face of God and the gift of being in the presence of God."

One brother had the opportunity to feed a man on the brink of death from starvation and see how he progressed in health over the course of our time there. For him, this experience was a profound metaphor for the life and mission of the Brotherhood. When we meet students, they are often spiritually starving. Like a physically starving man, we must feed them spiritual nourishment: the love of



POWERFUL PRAYERS. Throughout the trip the men relied on the intercession of Blessed Mother Teresa. Here, they kneel at her tomb.

God, the Word of God, slowly and carefully over time. With time and proper nourishment, as the man grows stronger and his body recovers in health, so too, do our students grow spiritually stronger and capable of bearing more spiritual weight. Eventually they are able to stand on their own.

face to face with our own selves, fears, and limitations. In those we had the honor of serving, we saw the face of Christ and were able to serve Christ. It was a privilege none of us will soon forget. As one of the men stated, "Calcutta wrote on my heart that the biggest and most joyful adventure is a life in the Lord." †

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.

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and that I had nothing to fear in giving my life over to Him. And I experienced Him say this to me, "Try and plumb the depths of my love for you. See if you can."

It is with this boundless confidence in the Lord that I believe He wants me to live the rest of my life. His love continually "blows my categories," revealing to me again and again that He really is trustworthy. So if the Lord is calling you to dive into Him, know that He'll never leave you and that He's always going to back up your decision to follow Him with unbounded grace. As Brothers, we strive to proclaim that Christ is All-Sufficient, that He alone can satisfy the deepest desires of the human heart. Trusting in His All-Sufficiency, I count it a total privilege to take this plunge and place my life in the hands of my Beloved Master and Most Dear Friend. †



PROUD PARENTS. Thom and Heather Jordan with Br. Parker after profession of his perpetual vows. Photo courtesy of Paul Tomasello.