

A postcard from the Gregorian Convocation

Dear Friends,

Greetings from the Summer Convocation of the Brotherhood of St. Gregory! The week of July 17-23 our community gathered at Mt. Alvernia Retreat House in upstate New York for our semi-annual "monastery experience." As friars, we live in the world (cf. monks, who are cloistered in monasteries year-round), so this week in the summer and one in the winter are our chance to live in physical community, as opposed to the dispersed community we are most of the year.

As vowed religious, one of our responsibilities is to pray the Daily Office from the BCP, but this week we get the great joy of praying together—and the added joy of chanting the Psalms and singing canticles and hymns.



The five current novices with the Minister General



Br. Scott Michael lighting candles before morning prayer

Here's a link to a recording of us at evening prayer on the first night: bit.ly/2aruru7

Besides the four offices and a Eucharist each day, we spend some of our time in workshops led by various Brothers in their areas of expertise, designed to enhance our ministries. This year's offerings included "To Schlep Or Not To Schlep", "Lectio Divina With Hymns", and "Violence And Religious Life" (which was co-led by my Denver Brother James Patrick Hall BSG and myself).

My favorite workshop was "Science As A Holy Icon" led by three Brothers who are medical professionals, about how the wonders of science and medicine are windows to God. We expected it to be intellectually stimulating, but were surprised at how emotionally engaging it was: we were all moved to tears as they shared their experiences of seeing holiness in the workings of the human anatomy and the gifts of surgical skill, medical research, and scientific exploration.

The balance of our time together is spent enjoying one another's company, catching up with those we

haven't seen in months, and getting to know new members. In the evenings we get to enjoy the delightful homemade beer of a Brother who has taken on the monastic tradition of brewing! We go from solemnity in the chapel to be boisterous conversation and laughter in the refectory, and both places are full of joy.

You are connected to the Brothers, and they are holding St. Thomas in prayer. They are praying for our rector search, and on occasion pray for individual parishioners as I bring your prayer concerns to them. We invite your prayers for us. And as always, if you have any questions about Gregorian religious life, please feel free to ask me!

In God's love and peace,

Br. Scott Michael



The official 2016 picture of the Brotherhood