

GAS Letter for January 2005

Dear Friends and Fellow Members of the Guild:

As I write this, we have just finished our Annual Requiem & Council Meeting, which took place 13 November 2004 at my own Church of the Resurrection in New York. We have had a lovely day, and those of you who were with us agreed heartily. Many members of the Guild from Boston, Philadelphia, Washington and all around the New York area came out on a beautiful sunny day to pray for our beloved dead, to witness to the truths of the Communion of Saints and the Resurrection of the Dead, to pray at our new National Shrine and to share the fellowship of the luncheon. Father Richard Lutz gave us a wonderful sermon which is reprinted in this number of the Intercession Paper. David Enlow and the Resurrection Choir offered a wonderful Duruflé *Requiem*. We had quite a nice crowd from near and far, and a large portion of them stayed to luncheon in the Guild Hall afterwards. Present from the Council were Father Ralph Walker of St Michael & All Angels, Denver; Father Andrew Sloane of St Paul's K Street Washington; Father Lane Davenport of the Church of the Ascension & St Agnes Washington; Canon Jonathan Ostman of St John's, Newport, R.I.; Father Richard Lutz; Father Trent Fraser of Redeemer, Southfield, Mich., and our Secretary-Treasurer Fr John Lancaster came from Raleigh, N.C. All of these Council members serve without remuneration and gladly give of their own funds to travel to and attend Council meetings.

The new National Shrine of the Guild was complete in time for the Mass. The statue itself is of the Sacred Heart and was carved in Spain. The Granda Studio, one of the very last to work with artisans to create original works of art, were retained as agents. An obviously very talented carver in Avilà completed the carving, then used the Spanish *estofado* technique of applying gold leaf to the entire statue, then polychroming on top of the leaf. The warm antique appearance is the outcome. The serious but compassionate attitude of Our Lord is memorable. The practice of Granda Studios is that the name of the artists are never revealed, as founder Felix Granda held that all religious art was created *solì Deo Gloria (to the glory of God alone)* as he put it. Names of artists are therefore never made known by their firm. A hanging lamp and standard candlesticks of Toledo silver add to the Shrine, and a candle stand of pricket votive candles completes it. The neo-classical wood and gilded surround is the work of Brooklyn master carpenter Phil Forbes. The entire ensemble comes alive in a very pleasing and inspirational way, and looks as though it had always been there. The shrine was blessed by Father Ralph Walker, our faithful Warden, as I wanted a representative of the Guild's official establishment who was not connected with the Resurrection to bless the Shrine. The shrine and all its components are the property of the Guild of All Souls, and are lent to the Resurrection on the proviso that the daily prayers of the Guild will always be

said there. If at any time the prayers cease to be offered, the Shrine is to be returned to the Guild for re-erection at another location where it will be used.

The English branch of the Guild has long had its Chantry Chapel at Walsingham, a natural gathering place for Catholics in the Church of England. There is no comparable location in America, and the erection of a building has long been obviously beyond our reach financially. Over the years various other suggestions were entertained, including assisting with a curate's stipend in a church where the prayers would be said, assisting with a Rector's stipend in a struggling church where the prayers would be said, endowing a chapel in an existing church, and so on. Most of these are financially impossible, involving large annual expenses. We have finally decided, therefore, that the Guild's shrine will best allow us to keep faith with the dead. In addition to providing a place for the daily prayers, we ensure that the **entire list from the beginning of the Guild in America in 1889** will be remembered daily. As you all know, we decided when Father Kunkel was still Superior-General that we would retain only those names dead for less than twenty-five years in the Intercession Paper, as printing and postage costs were soaring. This shrine also provides a place where the Guild has its spiritual heart, and in Catholic Christianity, with its understanding of the Incarnation, having a place set apart is very important.

The Guild will meet next year on Saturday, 12 November 2005 at 11:00 a.m. at St Paul's Church, K Street, Washington. I am most grateful to Council member Father Andrew Sloane for his gracious invitation to his church, one of the most important parishes in the American Church, and one we always like to visit. Our preacher for the day will be Father Douglas Anderson, Rector of St James' Church, Texarkana, Texas, in the Diocese of Dallas. Father Anderson has been a member of the Guild's Council for several years.

Several of you remarked on the difficulties with the current Chantry Book. These are being corrected now, and we expect to print a new version of the Chantry Book which will be available gratis to Chantry priests and lay people, and to anyone else who wishes to order a copy. The quantities will be limited owing to cost, but we should have one for everyone who prays the full list. Our thanks to those who brought corrections to our attention. Intercession Papers will, of course, continue to be published twice a year. Please be aware that if you enrol a person dead for more than twenty-five years, the name will appear in the Intercession Paper **once only** and will then be added to the Chantry Book. That name will then be remembered by each of the Chantry workers and of course daily at the Shrine in New York.

I close with special thanks to the dedicated members of the Council and to our Secretary-Treasurer Father Lancaster.

Yours in the Holy Souls,

Canon Barry E. B. Swain, SSC
Superior-General