

## GAS Letter for January 2019 Intercession Paper

Dear Fellow Members of the Guild:

My letter in the January Intercession Paper always begins with my thanks, usually fulsome and deserved, to our hosts in November. Our Annual Requiem at St Paul's Church, Clinton & Carroll Streets, Brooklyn, New York, on Saturday, 10 November 2018 was a splendid occasion. I can certainly without fear of reproach thank the professional Church of the Resurrection choir under the direction of Maestro David Enlow, who is also a Guild Council member, and Resurrection's Organist and Choir Master, who offered Duruflé's Requiem. We had a wonderful sermon from our Father Michael J. Godderz, the Rector of All Saints Church, Ashmont in Boston since 1997, and Master of the SSC in the Americas, and a member of our Council for many years, whose sermons are always thoughtful and sincere. We were able to repair afterwards to the Guild Hall for a luncheon, and thence many wended their way home, most returning to the City, some for other points. (I am reminded of a conversation many years ago in the New York Catholic Clerical Union luncheon, when someone asked, "What became of Father X? Did he become a Roman Catholic or did he die?", receiving the answer, receiving the answer from the redoubtable Father Leslie J. A. Lang, "Oh worse – he moved out of the city...") In any case, we were very happy to welcome our visitors from far and wide, and this year our usual *Palme d'Or* winner for the farthest journey of a pilgrim Father Fraser from Denver (as his predecessor the much lamented Father Walker usually was), was in fact bested by Daniel Lula, Esq., who came all the way from Irvine, in Southern California, a notable and no doubt harrowing journey. We were very glad indeed that our Father Warden, Father Richard H. Lutz SSC, was present this year to read the Necrology, returning to his home Diocese of Long Island, where he was the beloved and successful Rector of St Matthew's Woodhaven in Queens then St George's Hempstead. Our heartfelt thanks go to Father Sean Wallace, interim parish priest there, for his kind invitation, his indulgence and patience, and for the splendid welcome they gave us. We hope perhaps there may be some new members of the Guild from that congregation in the future as a result. The Church, one of the most extraordinary of the Catholic Revival in the Episcopal Church, and on a par with any in the Church of England, looked beautiful and very well-kept and of a most holy and prayed-in atmosphere.

Father Wallace was kind enough to act as Deacon and Father Fraser as Subdeacon, and I myself celebrated as Superior-General. It was a moving and poignant occasion for me, as I was sponsored by that church for ordination (fortunately none of the people there then are still there for anyone to complain to, as well they might). After I was ordered Deacon at Garden City Cathedral by Bishop Witcher on the Ember Wednesday in Advent 1987, I returned on the Sunday after Christmas to be deacon of the Mass and a few other times too. My ordination as a priest, in Philadelphia on 29 June 1988, followed not only a change of Rector but a very serious fire in the church, and naturally a return to sing High Mass and celebrate with them had to be deferred. We made plans to do this when it was easier and more convenient, and in the way it always does, time rushes on, and it never happened. So it was that 31 years later, I had my return to St Paul's celebrating Mass for the first time! It was a very meaningful occasion for me, and I am most grateful to Father Wallace for his invitation.

It was our first visit to St Paul's Carroll Street since November 1992, when I was still the Warden of the Guild, and Father Peter Cullen was Rector of that church. Father Gaylord Hitchcock, now living in retirement in Southern California, was the preacher on that occasion. St Paul's has a very long and intimate association with the Guild going back almost to the Guild's beginnings in this country. Just in the last hundred years, the Guild has met at St Paul's in 1927, 1933, 1942, 1950, 1959, and 1992. For many years, the Secretary-General of the Guild was Mr T. E. Smith, at first a communicant of Holy Cross, Kingston, New York, in this diocese; then for many more years, a resident of Brooklyn and a communicant of St Paul's, Carroll Street. Mr Smith's inspiring life is discussed later in this number of the *Intercession Paper*. Father Andrew Chalmers Wilson, his successor Father Granville Mercer Williams SSJE, and his successor Father Gregory Mabry, were all Rectors of St Paul's who were also officers and members of the Council of the Guild, all three for many years – Father Wilson long into his retirement living in Newport, Rhode Island and assisting at St John's until his death in 1952, Father Williams after his four years at St Paul's when he went on to become Rector of the Church of St Mary the Virgin in New York (1926-1939) and later in his long service as Superior of the Cowley Fathers in Cambridge, and Father Mabry both as Rector of St Paul's for 23 years, and subsequently in retirement as Chaplain to the Sisters of the Holy Nativity at Bayshore, Long Island, until his death in 1970.

At its Annual Meeting the night before the Mass, the Guild's Council re-elected Fathers Michael Godderz SSC and Charles King SSC, and Messrs Adam Barner and David Enlow, to new three year terms. Father Richard H. Lutz SSC was re-elected Warden, and your humble servant was re-elected Superior-General, both of us for one-year terms as is specified in the By-Laws. Father Lutz has now been Warden for these six years since Father Walker's death, and I have been a member of the Council since 1988, and Superior-General since 1997. That means that this concludes my twenty-first year as Superior-General, an honour which I have cherished and hope that I have discharged to the best of my ability, God being my helper!

Yours in the Holy Souls,

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

T. E. Smith, Secretary-General of the Guild of All Souls 1898-1941

*(This first is an extract from Dr Mark Wuonola's 1991 history of the Guild of All Souls' American Branch, which is still available.)*

“Father Franklin Joiner (Rector of S. Clement’s Philadelphia 1920-1955, and Superior-General of the Guild of All Souls 1925-1958) wrote, ‘My earthly ideal of the priesthood has always been the late Father Larrabee, sometime Rector of the Church of the Ascension in Chicago, and Dean of Nashotah House during my residence there from the Autumn of 1915 until the early summer of 1918. When Father Larrabee died, I was chosen to be the Superior-General of the Guild of All Souls in this country, an office which he had held with distinction for many years. To me it was a greater honour to be Father Larrabee’s successor than it was to head the Guild. At this time, T. E. Smith was Secretary of the Guild, and during his lifetime my office was purely nominal, but since Mr Smith’s death the full responsibility of the Guild of All Souls has rested upon me, and its work has now come to be associated with ‘2013 Apple Tree Street’ (S. Clement’s Clergy House). In the work of the Guild, I have the able assistance of Miss Marian Thompson, a member of the parish, and I am pleased to say that the Guild continues to grow and flourish.’ ”

“It was noted in the chapter on the Foundation of the Guild in England that the foundation and work of the Guild there has been very much an achievement of the laity. Many examples of this same lay dedication abound in the work of the Guild in America, but none is so great as the example of T. E. Smith. He was truly one of the stalwarts of the Catholic Movement as well as of the Guild’s particular work during his life. Father Joiner referred to him as “the Guild’s most notable member”.

“The Rev’d Leslie J. A. Lang, writing in 1988, recalled T. E. Smith, whom he first met in about 1926. Mr Smith had motored over to Bard College in a chauffeur-driven car, from his home on the west bank of the Hudson, near Kingston, where he was a member of Holy Cross Church, of

which Father Mabry was Rector. Although “T. E.” was well-to-do at that time, he apparently lost everything in the Depression and moved to Brooklyn, living in an apartment in a large old house and holding a modest job in a law office. Mr Smith had a son, T. E. Junior, from his first marriage. After his first wife’s death he married her niece, Lillian, by whom he had another son, Duane, named after his ancestor for whom Duane Street in New York is named. Oddly, Father Mabry came to St Paul’s, Brooklyn, about the time T. E. Smith moved there. Father Lang knew him during the years 1931-1934, while he was at General Seminary, and then as Deacon, at St Paul’s. He wrote, ‘T.E. knew by name and reputation, or had met, almost everybody connected with the Catholic Movement of his time. He never forgot anything and also knew everything, in every detail, especially in the American Church. In that sense, he never grew old, mentally. He was pleasant, kind, gentlemanly, talkative, inquisitive, and sometimes just a little boring, if you weren’t a keen Anglo-Catholic of the St Paul’s Brooklyn – Saint Clement’s Philadelphia – St Mary the Virgin company. In those days, we fresh seminarians had names for all the eccentrics – “Hail Mary Drysdale”, “Pray for us Morris”, and “Purgatory Smith”. T. E. was one of those who made the movement exciting and colourful...’ ”(Father Lang died in 1990, having been Rector of St Edward the Martyr and of Intercession in New York, and St Peter’s Westchester Square in the Bronx, and a long-time honorary assistant at the end of his life at St Thomas’ Fifth Avenue.)

“T. E. Smith can rightly be regarded as the model of the Catholic layman, for he was in the world but not of the world. Although he held a secular job, and was no stranger to adversity – the Depression and the Death of his first wife of Spanish Influenza in the epidemic of 1918 – he always continued his work for the church and the Guild.”

*What follows is from Father Mabry’s article of 1942 regarding T. E. Smith’s death, which is truly moving:*

“As was his unflinching custom, Mr Smith made his monthly confession on the Eve of All Saints. He then went home to help prepare a special Hallowe’en party for poor children with his neighbours. The next morning he received the Blessed Sacrament, which was to be his Viaticum, at Solemn Mass at seven o’clock. That evening, I spoke with him over the telephone about some arrangements for All Souls Day, and found him looking forward to it with great enthusiasm which, because it fell on Sunday this year (1941) was to be transferred as always to Monday. He arrived on Sunday morning to make his usual semi-weekly Communion. As he was prostrating himself before the Eucharistic Presence of Him whom he had so long and lovingly adored and for whom he had so faithfully labored, his soul took flight from the body. He died instantly. You see he had made his Confession, he had received his Viaticum the day before, he was prepared to receive Holy Communion that morning and he was genuflecting, which certainly meant that his last thought was of Our Lord. He died as he had lived! What a glorious death! Who could wish for more? (He died on Sunday, 2 November 1941; on 5 November Father Joiner sang the Burial Requiem for Mr Smith, with Father Mabry as Deacon of the Mass.)”

“His body was immediately laid in St Michael’s Chapel at St Paul’s, and there it remained through the remaining Sunday Masses and the many Masses on All Souls’ Day. After the last Mass that day, we had it placed on the Catafalque before the High Altar, to rest there during the Low Masses the next morning. I am happy to say that his family and I maintained the same dignity for him in his death that he had always cultivated during his life. There were no sentimental flowers, nor corpse-gazing, and finally the burial that Holy Church intends for her own, the offering of the

Holy Sacrifice of the Mass and the Absolution at the Catafalque. A life of great fidelity and a glorious death! I thank God I have been privileged to witness both.”