

Dear Fellow Members of the Guild:

With this number of the *Intercession Paper* you will notice a change. Not so long ago, I was re-arranging the tract table in my church during the times for confession (it was one of those summer Saturdays when it was too stifling to sit in the confessional unless someone was actually making his confession!), and I noticed that of all the tracts, booklets, leaflets and postcards on our tract table, the only item that had neither a colour cover or photograph was the Guild's *Intercession Paper*. While most of you who know me will know I am no great advocate for changing the appearance of things, it did strike me that the Guild's materials all look very Victorian, and look like something that has been sitting around for ages. While we must certainly treasure the best things from our past, and certainly we do that both in my parish church and at Guild functions, it must be said that in the age of television, the internet and lavish colour magazines, the Guild's materials look extremely dated. Even *The New York Times* has colour photographs on the front page now! I doubt there would be much to induce someone to pick up the Guild's printed materials if one knew nothing of it. The English Guild has for many years had attractive cover colour photographs either of devotional subjects or of the Guild's Chantry Chapel at Walsingham. Our Guild materials, on the other hand, feature only a drawing of the Guild's medal which, after all, you already possess! Following the Guild's Council meeting last November with the President of the English Guild, The Rt Rev'd Keith Newton, we came to the conclusion that an attractive colour photograph on the *Intercession Paper* would be a good idea. We therefore feature on this number a photograph of the Guild's National Shrine here at the Church of the Resurrection in New York, and on the back cover a photograph of the high altar of St Paul's, K Street, Washington, one of the Guild's strongholds. I hope this will make our materials more attractive to potential new members, and also will show to the current members some of the churches and places where the Guild is already established.

Writing this, we have just returned from the Guild's Easter Fiesta at St Stephen's Providence, Rhode Island. I must first thank Father John Alexander for his prodigal hospitality and his kindness in inviting the Guild to meet in his lovely church. The campus of Brown University was looking particularly attractive in its spring finery, and being at St Stephen's is always a delight. I myself preached (for the first time ever at a Guild function, despite having been an officer since 1989!), and since I was already preaching, asked Father Alexander to celebrate the Mass. As older members recall, we used to have the Guild's Annual Meeting in late April or early May, often near the spring feast of our patron, St Michael, on 8 May. The Requiem Mass which we offered in November was formerly offered in conjunction with the Confraternity of the Blessed Sacrament. When we began to offer the Requiem Mass on our own, it was felt that an Easter Fiesta was probably no longer necessary. This year, some members of the American Guild's Council have been invited to the English Requiem at St Stephen's, Gloucester Road, in London, and it seemed a good year to revive, temporarily, the Easter Fiesta tradition. Revive it we did, with Zoltan Kodaly's lovely mass, offered to perfection by Mr James Busby's choir. The Council met the evening before, and several matters were discussed to great profit. The Guild's Council re-elected the Superior-General and Warden, and Fathers Lutz and Sloane were re-elected to new three year terms on the Council.

The Guild's dead are prayed for every day at the National Shrine, both at mass and in prayers at the Shrine. Guild members have visited during the week occasionally, either just to pray or specifically to visit the Shrine. It is a great pleasure for me to welcome them. You should all know that the Guild's shrine is at your disposal. If there are specific concerns you wish to have prayed for here, simply drop me a postcard or e-mail and I shall be happy to do so (either the dead or the seriously ill). Likewise, if you wish to have a mass offered for one of the Holy Souls

dear to your hearts, a note to that effect with any small contribution to the Guild will guarantee that it is done. Names of baptised Christians may be submitted to the Guild's Secretary, Father Lancaster, for posthumous enrollment which guarantees prayers every year on the anniversary (a \$20 alms to the Guild is asked for this).

The Guild continues to keep in stock black low mass sets for loan to parishes or priests which do not have them and cannot afford to acquire them. They are lent for indefinite periods, though always with the understanding that they are to be returned to the Guild if no longer in use. In certain circumstances also, the Guild's Council has made grants to help parishes purchase funeral palls, bier lights and once even to have a catafalque constructed! This is in accord with one of the Guild's major objectives at its foundation (1873 in England and very shortly thereafter in the US) of providing the requisites necessary for proper celebration of funeral masses.

A question was asked me recently about the Guild's membership. The statutes provide that potential members of the Guild must belong to a church in communion with the See of Canterbury. There are many cases in which members of the Guild have left the Episcopal Church either for other Anglican type churches or for the Roman Catholic Church. In all these cases, the Council has invited members to remain in the Guild no matter what religious jurisdiction they have moved on to. The requirement of belonging to a church in communion with Canterbury may be, and has often been, waived by the Council for new members also. As a result, we have a membership now which includes members of the Episcopal Church, the Anglican Church of Canada, several "Continuing" jurisdictions and the Roman Catholic Church. We are, however, united in our beliefs about the Communion of Saints, the Resurrection of the Dead and the life of the world to come. Perhaps this is a small advance towards the proper reunion of believing Catholics for which Our Lord himself hoped and prayed while on earth, and undoubtedly still does pray for now in heaven.

You will see on another page in this paper an advertisement for the DVD which was professionally made at the Guild's Mass in November 2006. The Bishop of Richborough, English President of the Guild, was the preacher and presided from the throne. The High Mass was a beautiful occasion, and Resurrection's were shown to great advantage. These are available now at a very reasonable price. I hope many of you will purchase one and be able to participate in the Mass we offered, albeit vicariously. Photographs of several of the Guild's masses in past years are posted at www.resurrectionnyc.org under Pictures. The Guild's own website is at <http://guildofallsouls.net/>

The 2008 Annual Requiem Mass of the Guild will be held at the National Shrine at the Church of the Resurrection, 119 East 74th Street, in New York, on Saturday, 8 November. Further details will be made available closer to the day.

In the meantime, please bring the Guild to the attention of your friends and fellow parishioners. I feel certain that many of them do not know of the Guild's existence or of its charitable work of prayer for the dead. Sample Intercession Papers and applications for membership may be had from the Secretary-Treasurer. In the fevered atmosphere of the Anglican Communion these days, there is much to be said for a group which simply prays for others, both the ill and the departed, and witnesses to the Truth that the Church in Heaven, Purgatory and Earth is One.

Yours in the Holy Souls,

The Rev'd Canon Barry E. B. Swain, SSC
Superior-General