

Dear Fellow Members of the Guild:

As I write this we have just returned from a wonderful Annual Requiem at St Paul's Church, K Street, in Washington. Our host, Father Andrew Sloane, a long-time member of the Guild's Council, showed his legendary hospitality both to the Council the night before with one of his fabulous dinner parties, and on Saturday morning by making every resource of that wonderful church available to us. I am grateful for Father Sloane's very kind invitation to me to sing the Solemn Requiem, and in this church with its very exacting liturgy, I hope I embarrassed neither myself nor the Guild! A traditional Requiem in black vestments was offered (although I might add that the Guild does not require this – it is the mass that matters not the rite!) I am told that every man serving that morning was a member of the Guild, and this was a fact of which we were very proud, a fact which testified both to the Guild's popularity and to the faithfulness of St Paul's Guild of Servers. I am particularly grateful to Dr David Chase, a long-time friend, for his assistance as Master of Ceremonies in this regard. Mr Mark Dwyer, another personal friend, provided a wonderful offering of Duruflé's Requiem with the full choir of St Paul's. Father Sloane organised a wonderful luncheon and its convivial hospitality, both to gluttons and wine bibbers, sent many home happy and well-filled! The lovely unusually warm weather (almost 70°F) made the day even more enjoyable, and made travel easy. I am especially grateful to the Reverend Fathers Davenport, Martin, and McClean for their presence at the Council Meeting and especially to Fathers Trent Fraser and Jonathan Ostman who made long journeys to be present. Father Douglas Anderson also made the long journey from Texarkana, Texas, to preach to the Guild, and did so splendidly for which we are most grateful. Our continuing thanks to Father John Lancaster, our faithful Secretary-Treasurer, who does so much good work for us.

Our Annual Meeting next year will take place at my own Church of the Resurrection, 119 East 74th Street, in New York. Our special guest will be the President of the English Guild, The Rt Rev'd Keith Newton, SSC, the Bishop of Richborough. I am particularly looking forward to continuing our link with the "Mother Guild" and as we remember our many visits from Bishop Klyberg and his predecessors, we look forward to this visit. I am also grateful to The Bishop of New York for granting his permission so readily for this visit. The day will be Saturday, 11 November 2006; please mark it in your diaries now! I am told by my Organist and Choir Master, David Enlow, that he will be preparing John Rutter's Requiem with a small orchestra, which will be the first modern music used at the Guild's Requiems in living memory.

The Guild's Council has made an important grant pledge over the next three years to the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham for its current appeal to build a new welcome centre on the site of the former Refectory. This very important cause will be launched in this country with the American Friends of Walsingham

Appeal in Washington in February 2006. Father Andrew Sloane, a member of the Guild's Council, is heading this appeal and has received with the gratitude of the Shrine the Guild of All Souls' recent pledge of \$30,000 over the next three years to the new welcome centre. The Guild in America are pleased to make this pledge particularly because of the Guild's long association with Walsingham (going back to Father Hope Patten), which resulted in the Guild's Chantry Chapel being built on the grounds. I have myself had the pleasure of saying mass there several times. Whatever its artistic and architectural merits, the Guild's Chantry Chapel is an important reminder at the Shrine of the Communion of Saints and the Life Everlasting, and also a very quiet refuge of prayer when the Shrine Church may be at its busiest! The Shrine is particularly dear to my own heart, as it was there that I took the decision to offer myself for ordination to the priesthood, and it is in that sense that I owe to the Shrine the recollection, inspiration and quiet place to come to that resolve. As a result, I am particularly happy to be a member of the US Friends Appeal Board. Although, as we have noted, the Guild in America have already made this pledge, you yourself may wish to contribute to the cause, and you may do so by sending your cheques for the American Walsingham Appeal to Father Andrew Sloane, St Paul's Church, 2430 K Street NW, Washington, DC 20037. As the US Friends is now a 501 (c) (3) corporation, these donations are tax deductible for IRS purposes. Please draw your cheques to US Friends of Our Lady of Walsingham, and say that you are a member of the Guild.

Finally, I should like to note the various ministries offered by the Guild to its members. You all know, first of all, that you will be prayed for in perpetuity after your own death by members of the Guild. Beyond that, while still in this life, you may enrol posthumously any members of your family or friends for an alms of \$20 per person, sent with the names, to the Secretary-Treasurer. These names will be enrolled in the Guild's prayers yearly (for a period in the Intercession Paper and permanently in the Chantry List). You may also request the prayers of the Guild at its national shrine for those dying by sending these names to the Secretary-Treasurer with any offering you regard as suitable. Likewise, you may request a Requiem Mass to be said at the Guild's National Shrine at the Church of the Resurrection by sending your alms of \$10 to the Secretary-Treasurer with the name and instructions for the sending of a mass card (if any) to next of kin or others concerned. And what are your responsibilities in exchange for such great benefits? Simply continuing your prayers for the dead of the Guild, who now need them. This keeps the golden chain of prayer together, the chain which binds the Church in Heaven, Purgatory and on Earth together.

Affectionately, yours in the Holy Souls,

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

