



THE TOVER OF ST. CASSIAN

Si Quid Bene Factum Velis, Tempore Trade.

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Volume Three, Number One.....Summer/Autumn, 1994

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Correction: in both the Autumn'93 & Winter'93/94 numbers a poem, "St. George Icon," was reprinted on the Ad Page. The author's name was inadvertently omitted; he is Fr. David Wansbrough, an Australian who was guest professor of poetry at Moscow University. The poem comes from his collection, entitled, "Moscow, Journey Into the Heart."

2. Change of Address: as of this Fall Number, our mailing address will be "The Tover Newsletter, 80-46 234 St., Queens NY, 11427-2116." Our phone at the Extension Academy will be [718] 740-4134 from 9AM to 5PM daily including weekends.

3. AD Policy: we do have ads as our readers can readily see but these ads do not necessarily reflect the belief or ideas of the Tover Staff. Recently the Tover has been criticized for accepting New Age and Holistic ads; all we can say is that the newsletter is distributed free, and printing and mailing cost money which doesn't grow on trees.

4. In Memoriam: this number of the newsletter is dedicated to the Memory Eternal of Bro. Juan B. Arribáizaga who was a seminarian at St. Vladimir's and had also been the first secretary of the Vilatte Guild. After leaving the Guild, Bro. Juan was chrismated in the AOCA on Easter Eve, April 5, '80 at St. Stephen Protomartyr in N.J. His work for the Guild was indispensable, and he was present at the founding meeting in June 1976 at Rufus King Memorial House in Jamaica, Queens.

5. Apologia Pro Vita Sua: much is being made of the fact that The Vicariate of NYC & Hudson Valley uses the name "The Western Rite Vicariate." First, what does "Western Rite" signify? Yes, it refers to the use of the Communion Service of the BCP or the former Roman Missal within the context of an Orthodox Christian Community. The Province of the East of the Apostolic Episcopal Church (Holy Eastern Catholic & Apostolic Orthodox Church) is in communion with The Ethiopian Orthodox Coptic Church of N. & S. America (10/13/90). The Declaration was signed by both Archbishop Philip and Dr. B. Persson. Enough said!

6. Order of Corporate Reunion: established in 1874 by the Rev. Frederick George Lee to preserve and restore Apostolic Unity among Reformation Churches; for more info send SASE to The Tover. On June 12, '94 Rev. F.C. Spataro became Rector Provincial of the OCR for New York State. αἰῶς ! αἰῶς !



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THE CROSS WAS HIS OWN

Poet Unknown

They borrowed a bed to lay his head
 When Christ the Lord came down;
They borrowed the ass in the mountain pass
 For him to ride to town;
But the crown that he wore and the cross that he
 bore
Were his own -
The cross was his own.

He borrowed the bread when the crowd he fed
 On the grassy mountainside;
He borrowed the dish of broken fish
 With which he satisfied;
But the crown that he wore and the cross that he
 bore
Were his own -
The cross was his own.

He borrowed the ship in which to sit
 To teach the multitude;
He borrowed a nest in which to rest -
 He had never a home so rude;
But the crown that he wore and the cross that he
 bore
Were his own -
The cross was his own.

He borrowed a room on his way to the tomb
 The Passover Lamb to eat;
They borrowed a cave for him a grave,
 They borrowed a winding sheet;
But the crown that he wore and the cross that he
 bore
Were his own -
The cross was his own.

[from The Christ Of Every Road by E. Stanley Jones, Abingdon,
1930, pp 78-79.]

Dr. E. Stanley Jones of Sat Tal, India, was the author of over a score of devotional books on Christianity. His first The Christ Of The Indian Road, 1925, is today used as a text at the Gregorian Institute in Rome. For him Christianity fulfilled two great human needs: "Light on the mystery of Life and Light for the mastery of Life." He wrote: "...that if you belong to Christ all belongs to you." And "The Cross is the groundplan of the Universe."

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Lettergram From Francis C. Spataro:

*NICHOLAS ROERICH (1874-1947) - The Spiritual Journey**

Joan Baez, the internationally famous folk singer from Southern California, popularized a ballad called "We are the Warriors of the Sun." The theme is taken from one of Prof. Roerich's Himalayan portraits, "The Warrior of Light." This is, indeed, a fitting sobriquet for Nicholas Roerich who designed the Banner of Peace and championed the Roerich Pact among nations.

The Roerich Pact, signed by President Franklin D. Roosevelt on April 15, 1935 along with twenty other nations, provided that the Banner of Peace fly over all historic monuments and educational, artistic and scientific institutions. This would indicate in times of war and civil strife that special protection and respect were due those institutions and monuments. This effort on Prof. Roerich's part earned him a nomination for the Nobel Peace Prize.

When Nicholas Roerich died in India on Dec. 13, 1947, Prime Minister Nehru eulogized him as ... "a great artist, a great scholar and writer, archaeologist and explorer, he touched and lighted up so many aspects of human endeavour." Not the least of those aspects of human creativity which Prof. Roerich illuminated was the Spiritual Journey.

Richard Barnes of Unity defines spirituality as the sum of one's thoughts, feelings, actions, beliefs and their outcomes. Spirituality is an inner experience of a reality far greater than and yet including the whole world as we see it and experience it.

Nicholas Roerich sought to discover the source of humankind's spirituality in the Garden of the Beautiful. He believed that it is the Beautiful which weaves the radiant wings and unites the human souls in their striving towards the One Light. He would often say, "The best roses of the East and the West have the same fragrance." And from 1924 to 1928 he journeyed through India, Sikhim, Tibet and Mongolia seeking out the One Light and the One Fragrance. In the Orient Baha'is quote a saying of their Founder, Baha'u'llah: "In the garden of the heart, plant naught but the rose of love."

Nicholas Roerich at times reminds me of Marco Polo and at times recalls Gurdjieff. For thirty-five years he went up and down the length and breadth of the world, absorbing the auras of diverse peoples, making pilgrimages to remote places, and always and everywhere he scattered wisdom and planted the seeds of beauty and love. He wrote, "Teach the

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Joy of Beauty. Teach the Happiness of Wisdom. Teach the Bliss of Love. Teach the Glory and Unity in God." And it is in his paintings, above all else, that one finds beauty, wisdom, love and unity in God.

Whether one beholds his paintings of the Himalayas or of solitary holy men, you can't help being struck by the sheer awesomeness of the Universe and of humanity's joy at being a witness to God's glory and oneness. One God, One World, One Humankind! My favorite canvas, and he made 3,000 in his lifetime, is "Remember." The blue of the Himalayas with snow capped peaks can almost be a reflection of the ocean with its white caps. In the foreground is a little sand, a house and two women bidding farewell to a lone horseman....a husband, perhaps, or a father, a brother or simply everyman departing on his own spiritual journey toward the One Light.

* My thanks to the Nicholas Roerich Museum, 319 West 107 St., NY, NY 10025 for providing me with the opportunity and time to quietly view their collection of Roerich's works.

a paid advertisement

MERCIAN ORTHODOX CATHOLIC CHURCH

Archdiocese of Ss Peter & Paul

Post Office Box 460418

Aurora Colorado 80046

(303)671-7845

THE CHURCH

The Mercian Orthodox Catholic Church has orders which are traced back to both the Church of Antioch of Syria, and the Russian Orthodox Church in America. Its proto-archbishop was Archbishop Joseph Rene Vilatte. The Church has a total membership of approximately 50,000 throughout the world. In the United States, the Church has parishes, schools, and counseling centers. There is one convent in Seaside California. Headquarters are currently located in Aurora Colorado, but will be relocated to Minnesota in 1995. Although Western in rite, the Church is Orthodox Catholic in faith and doctrine.

American Society of Pastoral Care Practitioners

The Mercian Church has always taught a holistic philosophy with regard to health. In the United States, a licensing program is available to those who practice a theocentric and Christ-oriented healing and wellness counseling service. Information can be obtained by writing to: Commission on Pastoral Care and Counseling, American Society of Pastoral Care Practitioners, PO Box 66, Parker CO 80134.

Notre Dame de Lafayette University/Holy Ghost Seminary

The Church has a very nice institution of higher education located in Colorado. The University offers programs in theology, pastoral care, wellness and nutrition, Church history, interdisciplinary studies, and more. Undergraduate programs in Christian Liberal Education are available. Holy Ghost Seminary is located within the University and trains clergy - especially for the Mercian Church. Notre Dame de Lafayette University, 2600 South Parker Road #6-360, Aurora CO 80014; (303)671-5556.