

COMPANIONS OF CHRIST

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FEBRUARY 1993 NEWSLETTER

Praised Be Jesus Christ!

I hope you all enjoyed The Companion that you received in December. We indeed are enjoying our new home and studies toward the priesthood.

LIFE'S BEEN BUSY! Since our last newsletter, much has happened to keep us busy. After our Fall semester of classes, the Companions enjoyed a relaxed and spirit-filled week-long Christmas retreat at lovely Entheo Retreat Center near Waconia, MN from December 26th through January 2nd. ("Entheo" is Greek for near/towards God). The six Companions were joined by three men from Detroit, MI who are forming an association very much like the Companions of Christ. It was a wonderful and refreshing time.

JANUARY: On January 4th, classes began at the St. Paul Seminary for a short, but packed January Interim Semester (i.e. 3 1/2 weeks of class). I took Canon Law and Councelling. Both were very inspiring classes for me. One of the most enlightening things for me that I have taken away from my Canon Law class is that "canon law" can best be looked at as "structural theology." That is, the law of the Catholic Church is not dictatorial regulations imposed upon us to make us "good Catholics." Rather, the law acts as a boundary whereby our rights and obligations as Christian Faithful (christifideles) are outlined and are a reflection of Sacred Scripture, our Tradition, and the teachings of the Second Vatican Council. The implementation of law, therefore, requires the greatest of prudence and pastoral concern for the rights of individuals and the overall welfare of the Church.

CHAPEL: Besides taking classes in January, life was excitingly busy in our house as we began construction on our new chapel. We have been greatly blessed by the prayers, contributions, and manual labour of others ever since our endeavors to build the new chapel began. At this moment, the finishing touches are being made!

Major donors to our project include: Southside Lumber of Rogers, MN; Knox Lumber, Muska Lighting, and Abbott Paints all of St. Paul who donated a considerable amount of materials (I encourage you to patronize these places if you can). Several manual labourers need be thanked for their generous contribution of time and talent: Christopher Margevicius of Cleveland, Ohio (brother to Brother Tom and very talented carpenter); Bill Nichols, carpenter (along with co-worker Bob); Christopher Vance, blueprints draftsman; Ken Seaborg, electrician (Ken tithed many hours of his time to us and has done a beautiful job!); and of course our own Brother Tom Margevicius, talented carpenter and THE driving force behind this project.

There are many others who need be thanked for their time and talent, especially for the more meticulous tasks: Dad and Mom Pelant (who have been over several times to clean, plumb, and stain and to babysit workers' children) Kevin Donohue, painter and stainer; Randy Lehnan (dug out window wells for egress windows); and Bryan and GERALYN Vita (helped run errands and babysit worker's kids). Along with this extensive list of beneficiaries are those who contributed financially to this project. THANKS!

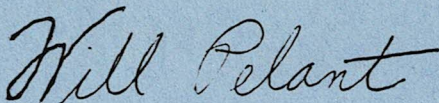
In the next couple of weeks, we shall have our chapel blessed. It will be wonderful to praise and worship the Lord in a very special place in our home. Your intentions will certainly be remembered each time we gather there.

The Spring Semester began on February 1st at the St. Paul Seminary. I am taking the following: The Psalter (an Old Testament course on the Psalms); The History of Religion In America; Liturgical Structures (a Sacramental Theology course on time and space in the Liturgy); and Spiritual Direction. In addition to these courses, I will have my "MDIV Assessment" this Spring to complete my "Masters of Divinity Degree." This is the normal course of action for all Third Year Theologate students; i.e. to receive the Master's Degree at the end of Third Year. This frees up the seminary student in the Fourth Year to attend to more pastoral obligations.

Ash Wednesday begins soon whereby we Christians take a Forty Day journey of Lent to reflect on and commemorate that one aspect of the Paschal Mystery of Christ: His Life, Sufferings, and Death. If I may, I offer this reflection for you: As we take on this time, we remember our own shortcomings and rejoice in an All-Loving God Who alone can, has, and does embrace us and lift us up out of our weaknesses through His forgiveness, strength for the continued journey and hope for Life everlasting. What will our response be? Do we have the humility to face our weaknesses, acknowledge them, and offer them over to the Lord, asking His forgiveness. Or does pride, self-indulgence, and self-preoccupation block and discourage us? Humble yourself in the sight of the Lord and He will lift you up. These Forty Days are a wonderful time for this sort of reflection. And remember, at the end is Easter, which is FIFTY days of celebration!

God Bless you all. Please continue to keep the Companions in your prayers. You are most certainly in ours.

Your Companion In Christ

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Will Pelant".

William G. Pelant