



Fr. Gregory OJN

Dear Friends,

The Order of Julian met in Annual Chapter on January 29th and made two decisions that will define the next generation of the Order's life. First, we decided to expand Julian House. Second, we decided to sell Llewelyn House Monastery, the small branch house we first opened in November 1999.

Expanding Julian House is critical for the growth and vibrancy of monastic life in the Order. It is a strength and core value of the community to have our older members, most experienced in contemplative life, at Julian House for as long as possible. To do this, we need intelligently designed, accessible space to care for less able-bodied and ill members. At the same time, we also need space to receive new vocations and to provide solid, life-long formation. When expanded, Julian House will be large enough to sustain a critical mass of members, old and young, to carry the mission of the Order forward into the next generation. The new addition will be wheelchair accessible and will provide desperately needed library, office, and conference space. The new monastic cells will be convertible to semi-attached hermitages or as rooms for long-term guests.

The decision to sell Llewelyn House, arrived at by consensus, was more difficult to make. Since its founding in 1999, Llewelyn House has been a remarkable experiment in a 'desert' style of monastic life. The isolation of the house and the rugged beauty of the surrounding terrain were its greatest assets, providing solitude and real contemplative challenge. But these very assets were also its liabilities. They made it hard to get to Llewelyn House and, once there, made the buildings and property inaccessible for all but the most physically able. I myself was a founding member of Llewelyn House and came of age there as a leader in the Order. The memories I and others have of the House are priceless, sometimes dazzling in their beauty. But after much conversation we made a courageous decision to put the property up for sale. We remain committed to exploring a simple, 'desert' monasticism and trust that an opportunity for this will be given when the time is right.

The Order of Julian of Norwich has the task of renewing the contemplative monastic tradition in the Church. We are also called to extend this tradition into parish life through an engaged community of oblates, associates, and friends. A clear and balanced monastic practice and a life-long journey into contemplative union are what we are about. Blessed Julian's teachings guide us every step of the way. Having made two striking decisions in Chapter this year, we have charted out what the Order will look like for years to come. As many people have asked me how they might assist the Order in a building project, initial information on our 'Expansion Fund' is included inside this JuliaNews. More news about the building plans and a timetable will be arriving in coming weeks. For the moment, I invite you to share our joy at the new life we are embarking on and I ask for your prayers.

Faithfully,

Fr. Gregory OJN

## House Notes

### *The OJN Expansion Fund*

*In order to proceed with the planned expansion of Julian House Monastery, the Order needs to raise \$300,000. The remainder of the cost will be picked up by the sale of Llewelyn House and monies from the Order's cash reserves. As we do not have an endowment, we come to you directly with our need. Over the past year we have set aside \$20,000 in special gifts in expectation of a building project and we are confident that the rest will come as God wills. Detailed plans and information about the expansion will be sent to every person on the JuliaNews mailing list in the weeks to come.*

*Can I make a gift for a memorial? Yes. The brothers and sisters welcome your desire to memorialize a loved-one permanently in the monastery building. Gifts of \$200 or more will be remembered on a permanent display of Benefactors of the Order to be created in the new, central walkway between the house and chapel. Similarly, donors will be able to sponsor a monastic cell, conference room, outside patio or garden for gifts of over \$15,000.*

*All donations are tax-deductible, and a mechanism is in place to receive gifts of appreciated securities.*

*If you have any questions, please call me at 262-549-0452. You can also send an email directly to me at [guardian@orderofjulian.org](mailto:guardian@orderofjulian.org).*

*Fr. Gregory OJN*

### **Julian House Monastery**

- As Lent begins, we are in the midst of a thorough Wisconsin winter: while the sky alternates between cloudy and dazzling bright, the snow we always have with us. Consequently Sr. Therese and Br. Barnabas have been kept busy almost daily with snow rearrangement and removal. Rapid changes of air temperature turn the wet storm panes into iced privacy glass, mystifying the cats who paw against the inside windows in hopes of seeing out.
- Below zero it may be outside, but spring has come to the Julian House common room. A new standing light-table is ready to take on the seeds that have a long germination time before spring planting.



- Whitby, the erstwhile Llewelyn House cat suffered a serious hepatic illness earlier in the fall and against all prediction continues to recover nicely. The vet calls her a medical anomaly and, with the possible exception of the other cats, all are thankful that she is once again up and running.
- Postulant Laura Ellen Truelove from South Carolina arrived on the Feast of St. Thomas to begin her Intern Postulancy, and all the snow

and ice has given her plenty of chances to wear her newly bought winter clothing.

- Weeks of preparation resulted in an excellent Annual General Chapter in the last week of January (under the amiable patronage of St. Francis de Sales) where many far-reaching decisions were made.
- Just ahead of Chapter in January, both Julian House and its situation on the property were looked-at up and down, inside and out to gauge the possibility of installing wind or solar energy technology to power the house and proposed extension.
- And further in the looking-at inside and out, up and down department, in the first week of Lent the monks and nuns were happy to welcome OJN Bishop Visitor and Associate, Bp. Edwin Leidel, Jr. for the Order's annual visitation.
- The community is glad to announce that on the Feast of St. Matthias, Novice Sister Deborah will profess her First Vows, taking the name



*Sr. Monica with special guests on the Feast of the Presentation*

of Sr. Mary Jude. Please join us in thanksgiving and keep her in your prayers.

- As this issue of JuliaNews was being prepared, we received word that Fr. Robert Llewelyn of Norwich England and onetime chaplain of the Julian Shrine had fallen and broken his hip. He died in hospital a week later on February 6th in the early morning of Ash Wednesday. Carrying to Norwich all our thanksgiving for Fr. Robert's life and joy and labors, Fr. Gregory will attend the funeral to be held on February 15th.
- Because that is also the weekend Fr. Gregory was to lead the long-planned Northeast Affiliates' Retreat, Mthr. Hilary will represent him there, and Fr. Gregory will return from Norwich in time to speak on Julian to Associate Fred Roden's university class.
- 'Tis the season for Quiet Days, and Sr. Monica will be leading one and a half of them on the 22nd and 23rd of February for the local parish of St. Anskar, whose rector is OJN Associate and the Order's Confessor, Fr. David Drebert. On March 1st Mthr. Hilary and Sr. Mary Jude will offer a Quiet Day for the parish of Holy Cross in Wisconsin Dells.

## ***Fr. John-Julian***

- Fr. John Julian's *Stars In A Dark World*, the comprehensive volume of the biographies of saints appearing in Lesser Feasts and Fasts and in our own liturgical calendar will be published this year, cause for much celebration. A publisher is actively being sought to publish his *Annotated Julian* as well.

## Julian Shop News

Julian Shop is open for business!

We have back in stock Abbot Andrew Marr's book *Tools for Peace, the Spiritual Craft of St. Benedict and Rene Girard*. An excellent read.

We just read in the refectory (and highly recommend) a new Shop offering: Cynthia Bourgeault's new book, *Centering Prayer and Inner Awakening*. This book deals fully with the technique, history and psychology of the practice of centering prayer.

We have more of Fr. John Julian's *A Lesson of Love* and have restocked several titles from Fr. Robert Llewelyn.

Two new Lenten offerings are *Blessed Is She, Living Lent with Mary* by Tim Perry; and *By way of the Desert*, 365 Daily Readings compiled by Bernard Bangley. This book of readings is one of a new collection of Desert Spirituality offerings in stock.

For any and all shop inquiries please email [julianshop@orderofjulian.org](mailto:julianshop@orderofjulian.org).

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### Julian House Monastery

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