



GOD GIVEN, GOD RECEIVED

The brothers and sisters of The Order of Julian of Norwich send you warm holiday greetings and prayers for a Holy Christmas and Epiphany. Please see our community picture on page three of *JuliaNews*.

Sometimes guests are surprised, happily, to see a fully decked-out Christmas tree in our parlor. Underneath the tree in bright wrappers are the gifts that friends of the community have sent to us, smelling often of chocolate and oranges or shaped promisingly like a book.

In the chapel, our reredos curtain is framed in garlands, and wreaths with gold and white ribbons are hung on the walls. Outside, garlands with lights on the post lamp greet the visitors who drive up for the first Mass of Christmas.

All this celebration is for our Lord. Will we ever be able to receive this mysterious gift completely? Blessed Mother Julian goes deeper than most when, meditating on the Incarnation, she says, "I saw most certainly that our essence is in God, and also I saw that God is in our fleshliness... The honorable City that our Lord Jesus sits in, it is our fleshliness in which He is enclosed; and our natural essence is enclosed in Jesus with the blessed soul of Christ sitting in repose in the Godhead."

The feast of Christ's Nativity asks us to remember the presence of God as seated enthroned within our bodily being and the feeling we have of ourselves as bodies. No matter how frail, how pained, how limited we feel, seated inside us is the presence of God, royally and joyfully reigning in peace. Entering into his Real Presence we find more than we could ever desire or deserve: our Alpha and our Omega, our Love and our Life. The lights, the fudge, and the presents are all a celebration of this tremendous gift.

PEACE AND GRACE TO YOU THIS CHRISTMAS.

HOUSE NOTES

CONSTRUCTION NEWS

Although our planned construction start-date of this past July was put on hold, we are now finalizing conversations with the State Review Board. Midwinter construction is not uncommon in Wisconsin—it is said here that ‘there is no such thing as bad weather, only bad clothing’—but we are looking at a start-date for construction that will be both cost-effective and best for the community. We have also received grants for the solar energy installation and this work is to begin as we go to press.

EXPANSION FUND

Thanks to the gifts of hundreds of affiliates and friends of the Order, our special fund to pay for the expansion of the monastery is doing very well in gifts already received and in pledges for the next three years. As we have added a wheelchair lift and fire-sprinkling to the construction plans, your gifts have been received with special gratitude. Pitching in together, we are creating buildings for the next generation in the Order’s life — buildings for monks and nuns and guests, and from which we will support our growing affiliate community and aim for the spiritual revitalization of the Church. The sisters and brothers of the Order send you their warmest thanks.



- After the floods of June it was a dry summer in the Midwest. Our autumnal yard has been wildly golden-yellow, not, as hoped, with large construction machines, but with gorgeous fall color and a good deal of clear weather in which to enjoy it. Meanwhile, we have watched the DOT crew install a new signal light at the corner of University Avenue and Summit, and in the other direction, another construction crew raise a new fire station less than a mile from us.



- As part of plans to become more self-sustaining the monastery vegetable garden is being expanded to one and a half times its present size, which has meant lots of stripping sod, tilling, and planting fence posts. Though it was not a banner year for quantity of produce we have had a glorious variety, including carrots, chard, melons (unexpectedly in the rose garden), daikon, several quarts of mulberries, a bushel of apples, and additional variety pictured below. August and September saw much industry in the kitchen with the production of mulberry preserves and pear marmalades.

- If expansion of our monastery space is not yet realized, community building of another sort was in evidence this fall. OJN Associates and Ob-



Pictured: our sole harvested hazelnut, a few of the multitudinous pears, hen-of-the-woods mushroom, and leeks

lates have organized three regional gatherings and in December Fr. Gregory and Sr. Monica will be at opposite ends of the country at two of them. The ever-growing group of Milwaukee area affiliates had a Quiet Day in the beginning of November at the cathedral Church of All Saints', led by Associate Karen Beaumont and assisted by Sr. Cornelia. And in October a few members regular also spent two days at the Milwaukee Diocesan Convention in Racine.

- Meanwhile, in November Mthr. Hilary and Sr. Mary Jude, along with Sr. Margaretta of the Sisterhood of the Holy Nativity, joined representatives of several other mid-North American religious orders gathering at St. Gregory's Abbey in Michigan, continuing the discussion of inter-community collaboration begun at the spring meeting of the Conference of Anglican Religious Orders in the Americas in West Park NY.

- After Annual Chapter at the end of January, Fr. Gregory travels to Norwich, England for a two-month sabbatical—both a mid-term rest and preparation for the last four years of his term as Guardian of the Order.

FR. JOHN-JULIAN

- Fr. John-Julian has received good news about his much-labored-over book: Paraclete Press plans to publish it as *The Complete Julian* in the spring of 2009. The editors at Paraclete are about half through with the editing process, and to Fr. John-Julian's relief and delight, it is 'simply excellent'. Having seen his book off to its adoptive parents, he is very content, so much so that he will be traveling to Philadelphia for a friend's ordination. Fr. John-Julian also plans to travel to NYC to spend Thanksgiving with his niece at General Seminary and to visit with friends, including a chance to see "Billy Elliot: The Musical" (with a ticket generously funded by a dear friend).



JULIAN SHOP NEWS

Fr Gregory's book of Chapter talks *Words for Silence* is now in the shop. Arranged according to the liturgical year, these meditations on spiritual issues in monastic and contemplative life have been rewritten for a non-monastic audience and aim to help everyone live more deeply into the union with God that Julian says is already ours 'from without beginning. Preface by Archbishop Desmond Tutu. Paraclete Press. \$21.95



*JulianShop is now online at
orderofjulian.org*

FOR ANY AND ALL SHOP INQUIRIES PLEASE EMAIL
JULIANSHOP@ORDEROFJULIAN.ORG.



JuliaNews

is a quarterly newsletter published by
The Order of Julian of Norwich

Julian House Monastery

2812 Summit Ave • Waukesha WI 53188

Phone: 262.549.0452

Email: ojn@orderofjulian.org

Fr. John-Julian OJN

450 Sunnyslope Drive #305

Hartland WI 53209

Phone: 262-367-2675

Email: johnjulian@orderofjulian.org

Web Site: orderofjulian.org

Subscription is free.

Permission to reprint anything is automatic
as long as the Order is mentioned.



The Order of Julian of Norwich
2812 Summit Avenue
Waukesha WI 53188-2781

Return Service Requested

Non-profit
Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Waukesha WI
53186
Permit No. 25