

The Navigator



The Newsletter of Saint Brendan's Monastic Fellowship

Volume XIX — Fall 2020

EDITOR'S NOTE: This will be a much shorter edition of "The Navigator". Fr. Alan is preparing for a spinal fusion surgery on October 26th. That means the last several weeks have been spent in an exhausting preparation of the Saint Brendan's homestead for the months that follow—especially in large projects and getting things ready for winter—so that Sue can better tackle the physical demands of the property while Fr. Alan recovers and awaits the doctor's go-ahead for physical therapy. Unfortunately, we didn't have a lot time for our usual articles, so this will be a short reflection on our current election season, some pictures and quotes, and other little things so that we don't miss our opportunity to continue walking with you in the faith of Jesus Christ.

"In God We Trust"—Or Do We?

Fr. Alan Andraeas, Prior

"Election Stress Disorder"—that's what the American Psychological Association (APA) is calling it as over 80% of all Americans feel very or somewhat stressed by the total saturation of our current election season into every facet, aspect, and waking moment of our lives. Praise God, the race for the White House only happens once every four years. As we navigate through these last few days, I want you to remember these two things:

REALIZE THAT LEADERSHIP IS PLACED INTO OFFICE BY GOD. Even if we don't like it, every person in a place of authority, particularly political authority, is there because that's exactly who God needs in that office. Please take a few moments to read Romans 13:1-5 and John 19:10-11. What these verses boil down to is the realization that "Not My President" is not a valid stand for a Christian. When God fills the office, that's exactly who God intended us to have.

RECOGNIZE OUR ROLE AS TEMPORAL CITIZENS OF EARTH. We might be pilgrims passing through earth on our way to heaven, but there are things God asks us to do while we're here on earth. One of those roles is to bless those in authority over us and to pray for lives of peace while under their authority. Are your Bibles still out? Open them to Jeremiah 29:4-7 and 1 Timothy 2:1-12. Read

these passages and underline them. If your frustration with the candidate who wins the election causes you to speak bitter words about them, then you are guilty of cursing them rather than blessing them. It doesn't matter whether we like them or approve of their political platform—if God has placed them in office, we are required by God to pray for them and bless them. Anything else puts you and me at odds with the throne of heaven.

What do these two things mean? It's rather simple: No political election in the history of the world has ever compromised the

purpose of God! No candidate has ever gained a public office that God Himself did not allow. Sometimes the Lord installs a leader who will strengthen the nation as a sign of His blessing. Sometimes God gives us a leader that our national sins and stubbornness deserve. The outcome, however, remains the same—that either through our thankfulness for a good administration or through our repentance and prayer for a challenging administration, our hearts should always be fo-

cused on heaven...and to honor our leaders whether we personally cast ballots for them or not. They are servants of God who are preparing the Church for the return of Jesus Christ, our true King of Kings and Lord of Lords!



IN THIS ISSUE OF "THE NAVIGATOR"

"In God We Trust"—Or Do We?	1
Housekeeping / Holy Hymnody / Monastic Muse	2
The Final Word: Tertullian	3
Life at the Priory House	3

HOUSEKEEPING



Saint Brendan's has a new website: www.saintbrendans-online.com. Take note, we are now a .com rather than a .org. We're also testing new download options under its own dropdown menu on the main page where you can find sermons, Bible studies, and The Navigator. It will get better with time.



Did you know that Fr. Alan's recent book, *Sacred House*, is available online at Amazon and Barnes & Noble? In fact, there has been a price drop at Amazon from \$17.95 to \$13.76. The book examines the history of worship, the underpinnings of liturgical and sacramental worship, house churches across the centuries, and the choice place given to house churches in the heart of God. Get a copy for yourself. Give a copy to someone you know.

Praise to the Lord, Who o're all things so wondrously reigneth!
Shelters thee under His wings, yea, so gently sustaineth!
Hast thou not seen how all thy longings have been
Granted in what He ordaineth?

"Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"
Lyrics: Joachim Neander (1650-1680);
Music: Strasland Gesanbuch (1665)

Saint Brendan's Fellowship

38 Cemetary Road
Dennysville, ME 04628-4326
207-726-5129

st.brendans@myfairpoint.net
www.saintbrendans-online.com
www.facebook.com/st.brendansfellowship
www.facebook.com/holytrinitychapel.maine

WE COVET YOUR PRAYERS!!!

Please continue to pray for the needs of Saint Brendan's:

- For necessary remodeling of the Priory House so that we can host more retreatants and guests.
- For the continuing interior construction Holy Trinity Chapel.
- For Fr. Alan's healing from spinal fusion surgery.
- For discernment as we continue to define and refine Saint Brendan's role in the Body of Christ and this local community.

MONASTIC MUSE

muse \ 'myüz \ 1: *vb* to turn something over in the mind meditatively,
2: to think reflectively, 3: *n* a state of deep thought...

"It is impossible to rightly govern the world without God and the Bible. Do not ever let anyone claim to be a true American patriot if they ever attempt to separate religion from politics."

—George Washington (1732-1799), Military general, statesman, and first President of the United States.

The Final Word: Tertullian of Carthage (150-225 AD) — Considered as the “Father of Latin Christianity” and the “Founder of Western Theology”, Tertullian was a prolific writer and apologist for the Christian faith. He was of Berber and Phoenician origin, and lived in North Africa.

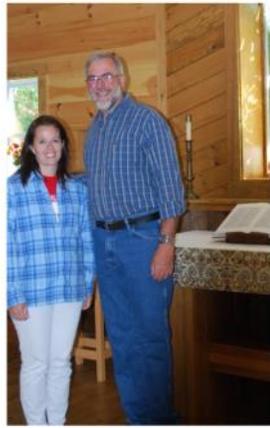
[Note: When we think that the government has set limitations on the Church, consider this early description of how the Early Church overwhelmed the Roman Empire.]

We [Christians] are but of yesterday, and yet we have filled every place among you—cities, islands, fortresses, towns, market places, camps, tribes, companies, palace, senate, forum. We have left nothing to you but the temples of your gods.

In whom have all the nations believed but in Christ who is already come? In whom have they believed—the Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and those who inhabit Mesopotamia, Armenia, Phrygia, Cappadocia; those who live in Pontus, Asia, and Pamphylia, in Egypt, in Africa beyond Cyrene; those born here and those who come here from Rome; also the Jews in Jerusalem and other national groups, as now the various tribes of the Gaetulians and of the wide regions of the Moors, and the Spaniards to their remotest boundaries; the different nations of Gaul; the haunts of the Britons, inaccessible to the Romans; the lands of the Samaritans, Dacians, Germans, Scythians; and many remote nations, provinces, and islands, which are unknown to us and which we cannot enumerate?



Life at the Priory House



TOP LEFT: With cooler weather setting in, it's time to crank up the woodstove. **TOP MIDDLE:** We were privileged to have a visit from our District Representative to the State House in Augusta, Rep. Kathy Javner, who was also a missionary to Africa for ten years!. **TOP RIGHT:** Fr. Alan and Sue spent several days helping a local farmer build a new hay barn; 40' wide, 80' long, and 23' tall. **BOTTOM LEFT:** Holy Trinity Chapel now boasts a new wrap-around deck with access ramps. The temporary steps shown below have since been replaced with new steps and handrails. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** The end of summer also means gathering in the produce from the garden. Sue has been busy pickling, freezing, saucing, and dehydrating all the wonderful things God allowed to grow during our very dry summer.



The Navigator

Monastic Fellowship of Saint Brendan's
38 Cemetery Road
Dennysville, ME 04628-4326

