

WESTON PRIORY

FALL/WINTER 2008

Set Free to Say our “Yes”

*Set me as a seal upon your heart;
receive the gift of all I am.
In Jesus’ Spirit hope has come to flower;
stronger than death our love and free....!*

AS THE BRILLIANCE OF AUTUMN’S FOLIAGE FADES AND FALLS TO nourish a seedbed of hope for a future season; and as the earth gently rests beneath the crust of winter snow, our hearts reflect in gratitude for life’s gift of a rich harvest with a promise of tomorrow’s blessing.

Awaiting the Christmas feast, we are continually astonished by the depth of God’s desire to be one with us—with all creation—in joy and sorrow, in laughter and tears. We are so deeply loved and are set free to love in response. The Scriptures, particularly the Song of Songs and the Psalms, speak so passionately of God desiring the beauty of our persons, longing to embrace each of us with the loving touch of eternity. In Philippians 2: 6-7, Paul echoes a hymn that the early Christian com-



munity sings of God’s self-emptying love in Jesus, entering into our humanity, sharing our flesh, so that we might recognize our dignity and integrity as sons and daughters of God, brothers and sisters to one another.

These times of global/societal instability and growing insecurity can easily allure and distract us from the deepest longing of the human spirit: the gift of our relationships with one another, which is the source of our joy and peace.

BULLETIN

In this season of hope and promise, we are grateful for the gift of life and hope that our brother Alvaro offered in his solemn monastic profession (the celebration of life-long commitment); and for the faithful gift of a creative and searching heart in our brother John as he marked fifty years of monastic profession among us. To both of our brothers we can only respond with our “yes” in humble gratitude.

When we celebrate the anniversaries of monastic profession we always sing the song quoted above: “Set me as a seal upon your heart...” The text was inspired by the scriptural Song of Songs and reflects so beautifully the lover’s longing pursuit and gifting of the beloved in freedom and joy.

We hope that, in this Christmas season, we will never forget the gift we are for one another. Joyfully, this issue of the bulletin celebrates the gift of memory as brother John reflects upon his experience in monastic life with its unceasing call to become truly brothers to one another, to all of you, and to all creation. We are grateful that he continues to lead a way that is by no means theoretical or ideal, but is truly a movement of the heart in our humble daily response to God’s self-giving love. ❧

¹ from the Song “Gift Song”, ©1975 The Benedictine Foundation of the State of Vermont, Inc.

