

Let There Be Light!

There was light! And it was good, very good!

brother Mark

OUR EASTER FAITH RAISES UP THE splendid view of a world renewed. Where chaotic darkness and death existed, it has been banished by the ever-burning light of that faith which opens up and guides us into fuller life. This renewal has been powerfully enacted in our monastic life at many times and in many ways. This is a story of one such time:

In recent years it became obvious that our problem with diminishing fruit from our various trees and plants was due to the absence of traditional pollinators. Two longtime friends, Gus and Mike, who are avid beekeepers, advised us to start keeping our own bees. With their help, two brothers entered into that work and have become dedicated beekeepers. As a result of brother Placid's and brother Daniel's efforts in providing the special care needed during our long, cold Vermont winters, our sister bees and their queen mothers have been able to maintain themselves in strong healthy hives. Then, during the spring blossoming time, the air is filled with the delightful sound of their buzzing as they make their laborious visits to each blossom, ultimately bringing forth abundant fruit. In their harmonious efforts, our brothers, Mother Earth, twin brothers sun and rain, and the dedicated work of our sister bees have collaborated in producing not only abundant fruit but renewed life and color in our orchards and gardens.

As if all this gifting were not enough, new directions for our own life have opened with the gathering of honey and the making of 100% beeswax candles. While this entire process is an expression of the marvelous light of God's presence among us, there is yet another wonderful gifting experience of Light. This occurs after the melting wax produced in the bee hives is molded in diverse shapes to form our light giving candles. In the presence of that Light our community gathers for prayer united around the flame that invites us to see again what/who is at the heart of everything we see and feel. Once again, we are invited to collaborate in the great harmonious song of the buzzing bees that is meant to fill and nurture the whole of our earth. ■

