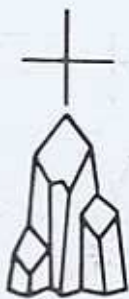


Summer 1981

No. 60

Mount Saviour Pine City, N.Y. 14871

Chronicle



Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Pine City, N.Y.
Permit No. 5

MR. GEORGE TANNER
ODESSA, NY 14269

Dear Friend of Mt. Saviour,

On Tuesday of Holy Week we finalized the decision to move the farm from dairy cows to sheep. A segment of our lives came to an end in a very real way. It was not merely 'like a death', but since it involved putting our perspective into the wider reality of what the Lord seemed to be asking of us, it was a death of our way and will and a uniting of our wills with that of the Lord. We came to an end, we endured a period of prayerful meditative waiting, and made a new beginning. It was a very real paradigm of the Paschal Mystery, the dying and rising of Christ, that we were about to celebrate. It can never be emphasized enough that by reason of the Paschal Mystery — the Pass-over of Jesus Christ, we who are living today have Eternal Life now as a gift of God through Christ. And this new life (Acts 5,20) permeates the universe through our actions

and intentions here and now. It is not only a question of great deeds or martyrdom. It is not merely a matter of avoiding great sins. We do not need to wait until after our death. Anytime we put an end to (i.e. die to) living only from our own perspective without regard for God and neighbor, we allow God to act through our humanity — as God acted through the humanity of Jesus, the Christ, while he was on earth and continues to do so through his glorified humanity now in heaven. That action of God we call salvation. Expressed in another way, it is the New Creation, the Kingdom of God entering into and changing the structure of the universe. And we become co-agents or co-creators of the new creation. The "news" about this New Creation is precisely The Good News or Gospel. It is through our often infinitesimal and seemingly insignificant actions and efforts that the Kingdom of God, the



New Creation is brought about. Our least efforts, involving courage or patience or perseverance or goodness, have this enormous effect. We know how difficult these infinitesimal efforts can be for us, but I don't think we appreciate how much they also mean to God and to the salvation of the world.

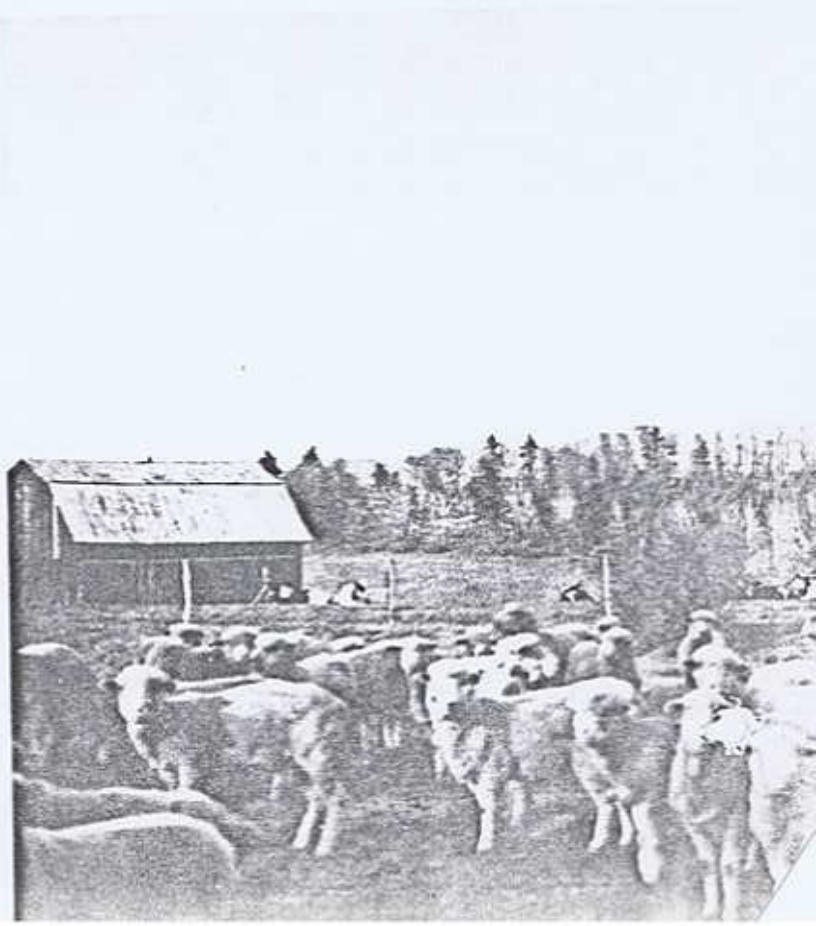
This simple truth that all of us by our Baptism, have Passed-over with Jesus Christ and in his Spirit, from a merely mortal life to the Eternal Life how lives, seems to be unknown to Christians or thought to have no significance for our present life. We have access through him and in his Spirit to the power of his Resurrection, or that quality of Being which we call Eternal Life.

At any rate, one of the many ways that we have set aside "our will" that the Lord's will might be done in and through us, was the re-orientation of the farm. What we have not changed is our determination to live through Christ and in his Spirit towards God: to live in relationship with our environment and in a way that is not competitive with our neighbors: not to seek a soft or easy life.

The herd average was over 18,000 lbs for the year and the highest in the county for the month when we closed our dairy operation. That means each 1200 lb critter was producing over 18,000 lbs or more in a 10 month period. We want to acknowledge publicly our thanks and appreciation for the help and encouragement we received from the beginning of our dairy on January 8 1952 to the present. A number of you were "2nd milkers" who prepared things for the abundant flow of milk. We want to thank in particular Bill Menzie and Joe Leat of the Chemung Co. Agriculture Cooperative Extension; Sam Slack and a host of others of Cornell University; Carl Hill, Charles Collins and Ed

Fry of Marshall's Feed Mills; the Veterinarians; and the staff of S.C. Hansen Equipment and Charlie Owen & Sons. We are eternally grateful to the area farmers who sold us hay and corn and freely gave advice throughout the years. Above all we thank Clem, John, and Owen Hoffbauer and Jack and Mark Watts who have been so close to us and this land of ours. We are grateful to God, proud of our helpers, our herd, and ourselves. It was the thing to do, the time to do it, so we did it trusting in God. It is the end of a chapter in our book of life and we have already begun the next chapter entitled *The Sheep Years*.

I do not want to pass over in silence nor make light of the fact that our milk was a surplus product on the market of a starving world. It doesn't make sense anymore than sin makes sense. In fact the two are related. Our Government buys over a billion surplus dairy products each year and stores them at an additional cost. The same Government intends to spend 1.5 trillion dollars in the next five years for weapons of war and "defense", and spend more again to store them in silos! We hold onto a product we should release and threaten to release a product that is a dangerous glut or "surplus" on the market. It is not too difficult to recognize that a food-filled and peaceful world is an option that has been rejected like the Incarnation and Grace as the Spirit of God continue to be rejected. The victo-



ry of Christ in which we share: "I have overcome the world" and "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven" (Lk 10,18) are not just pious plauds: they are clarion calls to our courage, the assurance that our efforts and patience and suffering — and dying are the necessary preparation for our own Resurrection and that of all humankind. These words evidence the glory of God in the face of Christ bringing Eternal Life and the Spirit into our world.

We are happy to have supplied milk, cheese, and meat for food and leather for clothing and shoes. We are happy to be supplying wool for clothes and meat for food in cooperation with the God who clothes the naked and feeds the hungry. We are glad to have a part in meeting what Walter Burghardt SJ describes as the Seven Hungers of the Human Family — the hunger for food, for liberty and justice, for peace, for truth, for understanding, for God, and for Jesus Christ who became bread for the life of the world. There are many difficulties connected with being human, but the only real problem is sin.

So we ask your prayers and continued support and offer you our welcoming presence. If anyone knows of a buyer for lambs or mutton we'd be happy they contacted us. This year when the lambs reach market weight, we'd be willing to sell them individually or in small lots. It is our hope and con-



viction that as we prove successful, many others in our area will be able to raise sheep and keep the land and farms that are now being abandoned in NY State. Monks brought sheep and wool to York and England. We just might do the same for New York and New England. The First Fourhundred are here!

In Xto,

Fr Martin



Many of you wondered what happened to the second page of the Raffle Letter. Its weight would have jumped postage to 36 cents and have been a very expensive postage. Besides as the letter was about to be mailed, the people who were heading up the Auction were forced to change their plans. The 2nd page said: "We are having an auction ----- and we need your help!". That is still the situation — an Auction and the help needed.

There will be two categories of items and two methods of Auction. (1) Tangible items & Intangible items (2) an open Auction, vocal bidding; and a Silent Auction in which items and services will be described on posters and people *write* their name and auction number and bid along side the poster.

TANGIBLE ITEMS: We need just about anything: furniture, (we would like to gather some good antiques), garden tools, kitchen ware, appliances, toys, collectibles such as bottles, jewelry, records, books.

In the past we asked for small items for the street of shops. Now we could use larger items and encourage you to contact us if you have something suitable. Drop us a note if you have any questions. They should be in saleable condition.

INTANGIBLE ITEMS: This is especially the area that needs your imagination and humor. St. Benedict writes that we serve God with the gifts God has given us; the Bible says the same thing and that is where St. Benedict got it. Everyone has something others would help by or need. It could also be an item or service that could be used for a limited time. For example (but

don't be limited by these): A custom knit Aran sweater. A French (or Chinese, or Italian . . .) dinner for eight — cooked and served at the home of the party giver. Desserts or hors d'oeuvres for a party. Use of a rototiller, sail boat, pick up truck, log splitter, camper, cottage, tennis court. The service of a plumber, handy man, carpenter, wine maker, or wall paperer. Or what about piano players, violinists, guitarists, for parties? Clowns or magicians for children's parties. If you are an artist or have craft skills, could you take a custom order, i.e. Br. Luke would do a water color of a home.

As you see, this can be fun. There are many ways in which you can be a source of joy and benefit for Mt. Saviour's Auction. Money isn't *always* the best gift. Sometimes it is and we are eternally grateful to those of you who contribute a little or a lot. Sometimes the gift of yourself is best done through some 'tangible item' and sometimes you can render a service which is a sort of 'intangible item'.

Send us the portion below describing your offering. Estimate the market value if there is one. List any restrictions if a time is involved. In order to catalogue items, we need to receive firm commitment of the gifts by August 23, 1981.

✠ MGRY — May God Reward You

Send all correspondence to:

AUCTION COMMITTEE
MT. SAVIOUR MONASTERY
PINE CITY, N.Y. 14871

.....

PLEASE CUT OUT AND SEND TO US!

I have something for the Auction:

Name: _____

Describe: _____

Address: _____

_____ (Zip Code _____)

Phone: _____

Market Value: _____