



Footsteps

February 1, 2005 Collectors 1st Issue!!!

Volume 1, Number 1

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What is Footsteps?

Our “Footsteps” newsletter is a culmination of an old, already working idea fused with the technology of today. Our Province II President Bob Dennis wanted a way to bring our Chapters closer and more informed in the happenings of each others Chapters as well as an easy means of communicating. Let’s face it we are physically miles apart, and who wants to spend hours on end on the phone. So on one of our many phone meetings planning the Training Day, he told me of his idea. I saw the opportunity to flex my knowledge muscles in the area of Information Technology, an occasion that does not happen often.

Bob mentioned “The Cross” Magazine put we receive quarterly an also appears on the Brotherhood official web site. I mentioned how easy it would be to do one of our own and offered my services. So came the birth of “Footsteps”, as members of the Brotherhood we are disciples of Christ and followers of Andrew. As we walk in the “Footsteps” of Jesus and Andrew we are bringing people in a closer relationship with our Lord and Savior, hence the title of our newsletter. Now there is no set deadline or release date on this newsletter; as stated at our Training Day, a newsletter will come out when we have enough information to put into one. The point of this newsletter is to report as members of the Brotherhood, about our service to Our Lord Jesus Christ.

Would you like to contribute? Contributing an article or to have a link appear on the left-hand border is easy. Just email Angelo Berardi at angeloberardi@comcast.net. These submissions don’t have to be masterpieces; they could be a comment on a book you read, or about spiritual experience you would like to share. You can report that your chapter had done, that could be of interest to everyone. Any and everything counts, there is no minimum article length. Special thanks to my Rector, Father Bob, for the Adobe assistance.

Our First Training Day Recap

Brothers’ Andrew, sharing my faith is something that is new to me. I wanted to take this opportunity to thank you for making it an easy transition. To share my views with my own chapter is one thing. I’ve known some of these guys for years, but when it comes to strangers, I’m not a very trusting soul. To pray and study the scriptures with my friends comes easy, doing it with others, well not so easy. But there was something different about this day, something in the air.

Contact Us

Angelo Berardi

angeloberardi@comcast.net

Robert Dennis

rdennis4@nyc.rr.com

Our First Training Day Recap (continued)

January 8th's Training Day was a resounding success on many levels. First and foremost; the attendance, those who made the trip made the day. Without you it would have been just another day. Once we got past the awkward introduction stage, we had some free flowing conversations on every topic and second, the ideas and views were shared by all. With the free flowing conversations came fresh thoughts for some of us and some new approaches to our commitment to the Discipline of Prayer, Study, and Service. Third, and probably the coolest is the forming of the first assembly. Did you catch that? I'll throw it again; the FIRST ever Assembly of the Brotherhood of St. Andrew in the Diocese of New Jersey! Sure there are other Assemblies, but they exist in other states, this is happening here, and we are the witnesses. Why shouldn't we be excited, this is a kind of historical moment for us. I was truly honored to be apart of the decision to form an Assembly with Interim Leadership to be decided on February 12th at Trinity Church in Woodbridge, NJ at 9 AM. Each chapter will be sending an officer and member, this doesn't mean more are not welcome, but we need the minimum requirement filled. This meeting will put in place temporary officers until an official election months from now on or around the Feast of St. Andrew.

Another good thing that came out of our meeting is to create Training Materials to be used by each of the Chapters. These materials are currently being developed and will be available on CD's for distribution soon. The idea is to have all the forms a chapter would need, as well as training or informative slide shows, when available. The CD's will be updated accordingly when new materials are ready.

In closing I would like to leave you with an image, one that warmed my heart. During our closing Mass, I was serving on the alter with Father Robert Counselman, my Rector. I cheated a little and looked up in the middle of a prayer and looked out at you. What a site to see the New Jersey Chapters together in prayer. I leave you in the grace of our Lord. God bless and I will see you February 12th.

Submitted by:
Angelo Berardi
Chapter Director Trinity Church, Woodbridge, NJ

Disciples Making Disciples.

The Province II Theme is "Disciples Making Disciples", and my note to you is meant to be a reminder that we are all Disciples of Christ. When we celebrate All Saints Day, we remember all the Saints who have gone before us, the Christians who like us are followers of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. I'm sure there was a saint in your life who influenced you about church, whether it was a parent, relative, friend or a priest.

We all have fond memories about those individuals who have influenced, and shaped our lives, and we thank God for them. They truly were a Disciple making you a Disciple! Now what have we done to pass this on? Are we living

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the life of a Disciple? Are we bringing people to Christ? We say that we believe in the three Brotherhood principles, but are we practicing the one regarding service? Have we brought anyone lately into a deeper personal relationship with Jesus Christ? I do realize that many say that they have, and I know that sometimes it is not easy to do it. We all believe in the power of prayer! How often have we prayed about bringing someone closer to Christ? We have heard the popular phrase, “make a friend, pray for that friend, be a friend, and bring a friend to Christ”! It works.

Have we recently invited any men to our chapter meetings for study, not business? Have we explored our spirituality together, and been able to witness our faith to men and youth in our parishes? It requires little preparation, only talking from the heart, and what could be easier?

From 1st Corinthians: “The manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all”. Are you using your gifts for the Church? Are we teaching, encouraging, or helping others? The gifts from the Holy Spirit are God-given abilities to help us function in His church. When we don’t use them, the church suffers, and so does the Brotherhood.

I believe we should be more like Andrew, especially because he is our patronal saint. He brought people to Christ, and so must we. We have ushers and greeters in our parishes. Part of their ministry is to welcome parishioners and visitors to our services, and so must we.

Shake a hand, lend a hand, be a hand for Christ. Pray daily for it, study regularly about it, and bring people closer because of it, to Jesus Christ! Please continue to pray about our men’s ministry in the Episcopal Church, and for the future of the Brotherhood of St. Andrew.

Robert J. Dennis
Province II President

Gift of God

From Ephesian’s, “For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith-and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God-not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.” NIV translation.

We practice the discipline of service as a member of the Brotherhood of St. Andrew. We sometimes hesitate when a new form of service is made known to us; because we feel we are too busy to be part of it, and yes we are. There are many demands placed upon us as responsible men of prayer, in our chapters and parishes.

Most of us are members of the Vestry, Building and Grounds, and so on. We have work and family concerns that keep us more than busy each day. We have

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bills to pay, and dreams to fulfill. Our “plates” keep getting bigger and bigger, one might say.

Yet, God’s love for us knows no bounds, and He has given us His greatest gift, in Jesus Christ His Son. Can we surrender ourselves to Him and accept His love? Are we afraid there are strings attached? God’s commandment to us is to “love one another as He has loved us”. That is a tall order!

Pray today about reaching out to someone who needs your love, Christ’s love. You are a disciple of Jesus and a follower of Andrew. As a Brother Andrew, pray to our Savior for guidance. Then, answer the call to pursue that service project, which God has planned for you. Andrew brought people to Christ, can we do anything less!

Heavenly Father, I praise your Holy name. Please be with me as I begin a new service project ministry. Help me to understand what you would have me do. Show me the way to be cheerful and obedient to your call. Teach me to set my priorities and listen to your message. All this I ask through the love of your Son Jesus Christ. Amen.

Share the Gift of God with those you love, and those you will soon meet, as God has prepared for each of us to do.

Submitted by,
Bob Dennis, Province II President

