

## Book Corner:

We have recently read *Praying with Benedict* by Korneel Vermeiren, which we were happy to discover in the Glastonbury bookstore. Our latest acquisition is *Secret of the Heart* by Jean-Marie Howe, a Cistercian abbess from Canada whose depth of writing has truly impressed us.



### BEESWAX CANDLES

*We are offering 100% beeswax, honeycomb-style hand-rolled candles, in the following colors:*

*natural; white; spring green, pink.*

*We are happy to send out any combination of colors, or to special order other colors or sizes.*

*Donations requested:*

*6 8-inch candles: \$20*

*12 8-inch candles: \$35*

*(We will cover postage.)*

*To request candles, contact us by phone, fax, or email.*



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Newsletter  
Lent / Easter 2006

Hermitage  
Of the Advent



"I would like to do with you  
What spring does with a cherry tree."

Pablo Neruda

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## HERMITAGE NEWS

It seems only days since our Advent/Christmas newsletter. January brought a home visit to California for Sr. Mary and renewed attempts from Sr. Sarah to get a tutoring practice started. Failing this, she works in an already-established practice near here, but we continue to center our efforts on finding work that can be done from home. In February Sarah took her annual retreat, grateful that once again the peace and stillness of the *poustinia* at Mary House near Spencer were available for her.

It had been a rather slow year for vocations when at Christmas a Cistercian friend wrote that he was offering a week of Masses for vocations to our community. Almost immediately after receiving his letter, inquiries began to come in. At present we are in serious dialogue with four women who are reflecting on the possibility of coming here. One has already visited, and two more will have been here by late April. We are grateful for your prayers that all this will bear much fruit.

For some time we have been holding a monthly class on Orthodox spirituality, studying the works of Simeon the New Theologian with the guidance of Fr. John Maheris of Panagia Greek Orthodox Church in Cohasset. We are happy to have now been joined by Fr. Anthony Gori of St. Mark's Greek Orthodox Church in Kingston.

This comes with our wishes and prayer for a blessed and radiant Easter. We continue to count on your prayer as well.

“The will of God  
is the salvation of every soul.”



From Evagrius of Pontus, *Catena on the Gospels*, Coptic Documents:

*Our Father who art in heaven:* these are the words of those who enjoy intimacy with God, like a son in the bosom of his father.

*Hallowed be thy name:* that is to say, may it, being glorified through our witness, be hallowed among us, by people who will say: these are true servants of God.

*Thy Kingdom come:* the Kingdom of God is the Holy Spirit. We pray that the Spirit may be sent down upon us.

*Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven:* the will of God is the salvation of every soul. What is accomplished among the powers of heaven we pray may come about for us on earth.

*Our bread for tomorrow* is what we shall inherit from God. We pray that we may have an earnest of it today, that is, that God's sweetness may make itself felt in us in this world, causing a burning thirst.



❖ “The biblical notion of the Will of God bears very little resemblance to ... something capricious and menacing,” but carries “an ambience that is quite different: longing, desire, love, joy. ... *My delight* stands for the same Hebrew word that the Vulgate persistently renders by *voluntas* — *Will*. So the *Will of God* here signifies the pleasure the Lord takes in His people, the great love that He feels for His chosen ones.

“Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.”

“In total surrender and utter defencelessness, without seeing, without knowing, in spite of the sense of going to destruction and being devoured by death, Jesus lets himself go — into the hands of His Father.

“For His end is not in death but in Love. And He proffers to His Father His own spirit.”

Andre Louf, OCSO



*In His will is our peace.*

*Dante*

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