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March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2013

*Dear Friends and Fellow-members of Saint Gregory the Great,*

Our first year has brought us many Blessings, perhaps none greater than the most recent: that, during three weeks in which the affairs of the entire Church required attention and during which the Vatican was in an unprecedented uproar, good Pope Benedict signed the Rescript by which we are at last certain our beloved shepherd will become our Priest. May God be praised!

We are thereby finally assured Saint Gregory the Great will be able to reach its goal of becoming a full Eucharistic community of the Ordinariate. Another Blessing has been our planting in the rich soil of Saint Margaret's parish under Father Barnes' care: one of the many advantages thereby procured is that it will not be necessary to immediately procure the vessels, vestments, and other physical requirements for celebrating Mass, as we are very generously being allowed use of Saint Margaret's appointments. However — with a view both to our own future (which, pray God, will be in our own church), and as a suitable memorial to our establishment and particularly to Jürgen's Ordination and installation as our first pastor — I am writing to suggest we begin to collect our own set of appointments. These would be objects our successors will be able to look back on as treasured relics of the first year of their parish's existence.

I propose these appointments be representative of those in use at the time of Saint Gregory the Great and typical of those brought into England by the Gregorian Mission or already in use in the British Church at that time. This is a fascinating period of church history but one to which modern designers have almost never turned for inspiration. If this idea were to be accepted, the scheme could be expanded to include other appointments such as

a processional cross; thurible; situla and aspergillum; vestments; and sanctuary furniture — beautiful prototypes for all of which exist. But whether (or how far) one went beyond, I am proposing we raise the funds necessary to create a chalice and paten now.

Attached you will find a preliminary drawing of the chalice: it is based on various sixth-century models, altered to conform to canonical requirements. The decorative scheme incorporates four cast medallions, two of which show the earliest portrait of Saint Gregory (which is also the first British illuminated manuscript initial) and a slightly later portrait of Christ from another English manuscript chosen to harmonize with it stylistically; the other two will contain early forms of the Chi-Rho cross. Three inscriptions are contemplated: the most prominent (on the band immediately below the mouth) will be biblical and Eucharistic; around the foot of the chalice (visible from above) will be a dedicatory inscription to Saint Gregory; the least prominent (on the base of the chalice and not visible except from below) will state that the chalice was made and given to the greater Glory of God and in thanksgiving for the ordination and institution of Jürgen Liias as first Rector of Saint Gregory the Great Church.

A picture of the model proposed for our paten is attached as well. Amazingly enough, it is the oldest paten known to survive and was discovered only in 1975: it probably dates from the fourth century and was part of a hoard buried at Water Newton, Cambridgeshire. The engraving on the original appears to have been unfinished when it was hidden; ours would deepen the engraving (which seems to be only the lay-out tracing) and complete the Alpha and Omega design. It will also be reduced from the original's large size to a more manageable seven or eight inch diameter, the walls standing an inch or so high. The bottom would have the same dedicatory inscription found on the base of the chalice.

Both pieces would be hand-raised from sheet silver by hammering; would be hand engraved; and (in the case of the chalice) partially gilded. We are fortunate in having a faithful professional silversmith in Vincent Hawley, son of Barbara and Steve Hawley. You can see some of Vincent's work and read about his training on his website: <http://www.vwhjewelry.com/index.html>. Vincent is willing to donate a very large portion of the labor involved in creating these pieces for us and will make the chalice and paten for \$22,500. Of this, \$10,000 needs to be provided before he starts work to purchase materials; the remainder would be paid in two halves, mid-way and at completion of the project. We hope that date could be our first Feast of Title and Dedication (September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2013) so the vessels could be used for the first time in that festive liturgy.

To meet this significant and very appropriate desired completion date — less than six months in the future — Vincent would need to start work promptly. In point of fact, he has already begun: thanks to a donation already received he is in the process of modeling the portrait medallion of Saint Gregory. Please prayerfully consider whether you are called to participate in this aspect of the establishment of Saint Gregory the Great as a Eucharistic community and, if so, send your check (made out to *Saint Gregory the Great Church* and marked "*Sacred Vessel Fund*") to:

*Peter F. Carpentier, Treasurer,  
Saint Gregory the Great Church,  
27 Wethersfield Street, PO Box 59,  
Rowley MA 01969*

as soon as possible. If you would like to make a donation now to defray the cost of materials purchase and commit to a later donation or donations to complete the project, that would be most appreciated. A list of the donations will be made and preserved; requests for anonymity will of course be honored.

It is my sincere hope that everyone who has been part of this Pilgrimage of Grace during our first year will be moved by the Spirit to participate in this project. While large donations will be most gratefully received (because — even with Vincent’s faithful and generous contribution of so much of his labor — the current cost of precious metals means the sum to be raised is large, and the ideal time to do so is short), donations of any size will be gratefully and joyfully received, all the more because I feel so deeply it is more important that each and every one of us give something, than what the size of that “something” might be. I am praying that in the future, as each of us looks toward the Altar at the Elevation, we see in these sacred vessels an apt and true symbol of the “one Cup; one Bread; and one Body” which is (in one form) ourselves, the Church.

Sincerely your Brother in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kevin McDermott', written in a cursive style.

Kevin McDermott

*Clerk and Member, Parish Council  
Saint Gregory the Great Church*

*Encl: Chalice Prospectus Drawing*

*Bede St. Gregory & Athelstan Christ MS Illustrations*

*Water Newton Paten Photograph and Drawing*



*Preliminary Drawing of our Proposed Chalice by Vincent Hawley*



*The sources on which the two portrait medallions on the chalice would be based: the earliest portrait of Saint Gregory (made at the Venerable Bede's own Monastery of Jarrow, possibly from his own copy of the Ecclesiastical History) and an image of Christ in Glory chosen to harmonize with it (from the Athelstan Psalter, painted at Winchester).*



*The Water Newton Paten, the earliest surviving paten currently known.  
Paten similar to this were used throughout Christendom until the eighth century.*