

KEVIN McDERMOTT

*137 Seven Star Road
Groveland, Massachusetts 01834*

August 29th, 2013

Dear Members and Friends of Saint Gregory the Great,

This will be my last letter to you before the reason for them — the project to commission and create a Chalice and Paten for our parish — reaches its completion. I am happy to be able to announce the work will be finished by our first Feast of Title and Dedication which we will celebrate on Sunday September Eighth; I hope many of you will be able to be present at Mass that day to see them consecrated and receive the Blessed Sacrament from them for the first time.

Many thanks to those who are remembering Vincent Hawley in their prayers, that the Holy Spirit would direct him and bless the work of his hands. I asked Vincent if he would put down his tools for just a few moments — harder to do than you might think! — and write about his unique experience of this endeavor. Here's the result: "As we come to these last few weeks I look back and see how so many amazing things have happened: literally every step of the way the Holy Spirit's Hand has been on this project. I feel I personally have also been watched over during the whole process, even in simple things like staying in good physical and mental health: for this project has truly been a physical, mental, and spiritual challenge and — to persevere through its toughest parts — I have been given a strength I didn't know I had. It is always amazing to see a concept come to life, especially over such an extensive period (now almost six months); when you see a piece of work every day it can be difficult to really comprehend the amount of change — even the amount of time! — the object you are working on represents. It is an honor to create these vessels which not only will be blessed but which will also serve such a special community (hopefully) for centuries to come."

This project, now so close to completion, has been a gesture of faith from its inception, in all its aspects. Vincent accepted the project, drew up the draft design, and the first monies changed hands when there was no guarantee Jürgen would ever be ordained and therefore

no assurance these vessels would ever be needed. Immediately after his Ordination became a certainty the initiative was made public; but even then it was most audacious for such a small community to undertake a commission of this magnitude. That is the financial side of the project, one everyone has been able to appreciate. The artistic side (although more private) has been similarly faith-based. The design for the Paten was able to be very historical; except for reducing its size little change from the original on which it is based was required. The Chalice, however, was a different matter: it was clear both to satisfy canon law and from purely practical reasons it would be necessary to create a new design with elements drawn from models of Saint Gregory's period. Vincent and I were in complete agreement in believing there was a third Party to the project, by far the most important: the Holy Spirit. When I approved Vincent's draft drawing of the Chalice in January we parted with the understanding it represented an idea and a direction. We shared a faithful willingness to see — by actively seeking the Spirit's guidance during the whole process — where we ended up in September. We all saw some of the results of the process in July; I have seen a bit more since then. Although I will be just as surprised as any of us to see the finished work on September Eighth everything I have seen and heard so far convinces me this approach was a good one, has been Blessed, and that our Chalice will truly be a work of more than human hands.

The project — and our community — received national and international notice when David Clayton, Editor for Sacred Art at the popular and well-thought-of *New Liturgical Movement* site wrote a piece on it: <http://www.newliturgicalmovement.org/2013/07/new-anglican-ordinariate-parish.html>. This was subsequently picked up by EWTN's *National Catholic Register* for their *Best of Blogging* column: [http://www.ncregister.com/daily-news/the-bishops-dice-game-tarot-series-josquin-what-greatness-and-beauty-sound?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed:+NCRegisterDailyBlog+National+Catholic+Register#When:2013-07-17 06:01:01](http://www.ncregister.com/daily-news/the-bishops-dice-game-tarot-series-josquin-what-greatness-and-beauty-sound?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed:+NCRegisterDailyBlog+National+Catholic+Register#When:2013-07-17%2006:01:01). David's article links to the page devoted to this effort on our website, <http://www.saintgregoryordinariate.org/worship/sacred-vessels-project/> where you can see a selection of photographs showing the progress of the project, including some fairly recent ones.

About a week ago Vincent was able to give me the final dimensions of the areas available for the three inscriptions on the pieces (Eucharistic; a Dedication to St. Gregory; and a memorialization of the objects' creation), allowing them to be selected. The primary inscription (on a band around the body of the Chalice) will read THIS IS MY BLOOD SHED FOR YOU AND FOR MANY. The secondary inscription will run around the base of the Chalice and read HOLY GREGORY PRAY THAT ALL MAY DRINK OF THIS CUP. The third inscription will run around the base of the Paten: THESE VESSELS WERE GIVEN TO THE GREATER GLORY OF GOD IN THANKFULNESS FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF S. GREGORY THE GREAT PARISH AND THE ORDINATION OF ITS FIRST PASTOR, JÜRGEN LIAS, THROUGH THE GENEROSITY OF ITS PEOPLE IN SEPTEMBER MMXIII·EXODVS XXV:1-IX· The Scripture cited is: *The LORD said to Moses, 'Speak to the people of Israel, that they take for me an offering; from every man whose heart makes him willing you shall receive from them...let them make me a sanctuary, that I may dwell in their midst. According to all that I show you concerning the pattern of the tabernacle, and of all its furniture, so you shall make it.'*

If you find “your heart makes you willing” please send your check (made out to *Saint Gregory the Great Church* and marked “*Sacred Vessel Fund*”) to:

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

A list of donations will be made and preserved; requests for anonymity will of course be respected. If you wish to make your donation as a memorial please mention this in a covering note. Those so honored will be memorialized in the parish records and remembered during Mass on September Eighth. As that date is very near (particularly if you wish to make your gift as a memorial) please do act quickly, and may God bless you richly.

An essential part of the vision for this project has been a hope that all who have been part of the journey leading to the foundation of Saint Gregory the Great — especially those of our community, but most warmly including the many who have prayed for us and wished

us and the entire Ordinariate well — would be part of creating this Eucharistic memorial of its establishment. If you have not yet joined this effort I wish to stress again it is not the size of the contribution but your *participation* which is significant.

By the Grace of God; the generosity which the Spirit is stirring up amongst us; and the faithfulness of Vincent Hawley, we will see these new creations consecrated to the Glory of God and the honor of Saint Gregory in thankfulness for the Ordination of our beloved Pastor and the establishment of our parish on September Eighth. We do not know how long these sacred objects we have created together will be swept along the Stream of Time; but I pray one of our joys in Heaven will be worshipping in the Cloud of Witnesses as our successors use them in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass for many, many years to come.

May our Lord Jesus Christ be glorified in this work, and all things.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kevin McDermott". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "K" and "M".

Kevin McDermott