



Priestly People

SERVANTS OF THE PARACLETE

February 2017 - Vol. 33 No. 2

70
Years

SERVING CHRIST'S PRIESTS

1947-2017

“providing prudent and possible care for priests and brothers in need”

— Servants of the Paraclete Vision Statement

Spirit of God, come. Spend this year with us, your servants.

Enlighten us with your light,

Enliven us with your hope,

Envigor us with your grace.

We pledge anew our very lives. We give them to your priests and brothers, especially those most broken by human frailty, those most in need of your mercy and a second chance to receive your gifts.

Give us your generous blessings,

Heal our divisions and discouragements,

Help us in our weakness and worry,

That we may better celebrate your presence in our hearts, in our community and in our church.

Come to us in this year of grace, O divine Creator and Healer, O divine Son and Redeemer, O divine Paraclete of God's Love.

The journey begins...

FOUNDATION DAY, JANUARY 5, 1947

“I think it will interest you if perhaps we reminisce a little bit.

I left the East the day after Christmas 1946 in a snowstorm, the feast of St. John the Beloved.

The party consisted of my good and faithful friend John A. Lill and his wife, Wilfred Savard, now Fr. Savard of our community. We headed for New London, CT, where we picked up our first guest padre.

7 days later we arrived in New Mexico – Tucumcari NM. We celebrated Mass there. We arrived in Santa Fe on January 4th and headed onto Jemez Springs where we celebrated our first mass in the canyon – January 5th, 1947.

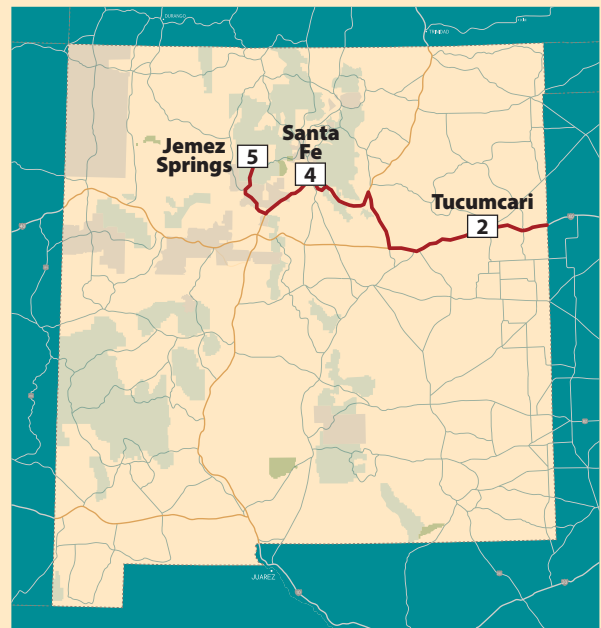
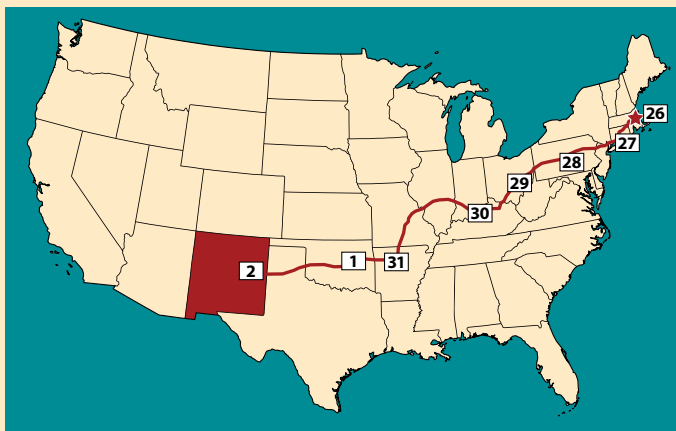
The first mass offered at Via Coeli was celebrated on Sunday, January 5th. We were consoled by the fact that it was the feast of the Holy Name of Jesus.

The chapel at Via Coeli was in the front corner of the monastery. The chapel was later moved.

Those first years were rugged. Laughter and tears were common as men tried to make the old monastery into their new home. Such common needs of water, heat and light... scarce and physically demanding to find and get!

A new foundation, especially in comparatively primitive surroundings, will always face these challenges and perhaps in solving these challenges, us and our guests will achieve the triumph over self which is inherent in our apostolate and, as matter of fact, in any achievement of the Christian spirit. We must not look back.”

From the writings of Fr. Gerald Fitzgerald sP



- Dec. 26 Day after Christmas: Boston
- 27 St. John, beloved dis: Conn.
- 30 Sunday - Louisville
- Jan. '47 1 New Year Mass: Tulsa
- 2 Mass in Tucumcari, NM
- 4 Mass in Santa Fe, ar. In JS
- 5 1st Mass in Jemez Springs

Fr. Gerald's diary of important dates

April 26, 1947 – *“Things going wonderfully... we are now 11 priests and soon will be 15. We have not lost a single guest yet!” “As neither of my two priest colleagues were able to be free at the time, I made the foundation here with one priest off-duty and an ex-seminarian. Subsequently an ex-brother joined me so that as it seems to me symbolically, God brought it to be that from the very first day of its existence, VIA COELI was accomplishing its mission of sheltering priests in need.” “As I write on this feast of Our Lady of Good Counsel, a little more than four months after arriving in the canyon, we are eleven priests in residence, two brothers and a seminarian.”*

“By mid-August 1947 there were nearly 30 priests under the wings of the Dove”

This is significant – the logo for the Congregation is the Dove in a circle – the Holy Spirit depicted with a dove within a circle – encircled offering care and concern.

September 1947 – *Rome had been asked to sanction the opening of two novitiates – the Paracletes and the Handmaids.*

November 1947 – *adoration is an integral part of daily life with Fr. Gerald praying from 2:00 a.m. until he celebrated daily mass at 4:30 a.m. The first holy hour was held on February 8th, 1947.*

Chronicle of Seminarian Wilfred Savard – a glimpse of those first months in the canyon!

- 1/4/47 first day in Jemez Springs
- 1/10/47 Archbishop visits Jemez Springs
- 1/11/47 Erected Stations of the Cross
- 1/14/47 got tabernacle for the chapel
- 1/15/47 tried to push Mr. Lill's car
- 1/16/47 almost pushed '39 Buick through a fence
- 1/31/47 Reservoir dry – no water; no lights, explosion of butane stove oven
- 2/3/47 Fr. Paul on his way to Pasadena buys a \$25.00 organ. We sing in honor of Our Lady
- 2/8/47 Our first Holy Hour: distracts us from draining water out of the car
- 2/9/47 Our water turbine fails after one night of light
- 2/10/47 Bessie, the cow, miscarries
- 2/11/47 First Hour of Adoration 3-4 p.m.
- 2/25/47 Priests from New York do not arrive

The founding of the Servants of the Paraclete as seen by Fr. Gerald Fitzgerald sP
“... there is a necessity and timeliness to this work. It only remains to go forward with prudence and that means humble obedience, with confidence in God and fear of nothing, not even the devil, but only self.”



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 Newsletter

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MASS STIPENDS

We appreciate the many mass stipends that we receive. We thank you for supporting that part of our ministry. The Servants of the Paraclete receive mass stipends from our donors and they look forward to celebrating liturgy with those who offer masses for loved ones, friends and family members.

Thank you for supporting our Mass Stipend Ministry!

Name of the person to be remembered in a mass celebrated by a Servant of the Paraclete

living deceased

Please send an acknowledgement card on my behalf to:

Name:

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City, State, Zip:

You will receive acknowledgement of the mass stipend donation in your donor thank you letter. No need to send an acknowledgement card to yourself if you are the donor.

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