

SOCIETY of OUR LADY  
of the Most Holy Trinity

# gray robes

FALL 2024





*Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, "You are lacking in one thing. Go, sell what you have, and give to the poor...then come, follow me."*

*Mk. 10:21*

# GRAY ROBES FORMATION PROGRAM

## SACRED HEART MAJOR SEMINARY IN DETROIT, MI

### Configuration II

Br. Gregory Rice (PA)

### Configuration I

Br. Andrew Rowedder (MD)

### Configuration I

Br. Andrew Collart (GA)

### Discipleship II

Br. Nicholas Judge (MD)

## PERMANENT CONSECRATED BROTHERHOOD IN MISSION

### Year I

Br. Rocky Garcia (TX) - Detroit, MI

## NOVIATE IN CORPUS CHRISTI, TX

Cole Hamilton (FL)

## ASPIRANCY IN BELIZE

Blake Ducharme (MN)

Ethan Deters (KY)

Ethan Wersland (WA)

Jack Harber (IN)

John Tabuntschikow (GA)

Nikita Glebov (WY)

Stephen Kurt (MI)



Blessings from Detroit!

This is Fr. Jeremy Davis, SOLT writing to you. I was appointed as the new Juniorate Servant as of August 2024. These past months have been a bit of a rollercoaster but the Lord has been generous with me; the brothers in the house

have been patient with me.

I would like to thank Fr. Mark Wendling, SOLT for his eleven years of dedicated service in this position; he has been a close friend, mentor, spiritual father and older brother to me since I met him upon my graduation from college when I served as a SOLT Missionary Volunteer in our Benque Viejo del Carmen Mission.

It is humbling to follow such a talented priest and to be entrusted with such an important mission. Asking for wisdom in this role seems like the appropriate default position. However, I've done that before and it turned out differently than I expected.

During my own formation, I asked the Lord for wisdom, for the words to reach one of my brothers. I was given no words and no wisdom. However, I did feel the Lord working in my heart. He had given me an authentic concern for and interest in my brother.

In this role, I am like all other mentors and spiritual fathers, beset with frailties and weaknesses. But this human condition offers opportunities for forgiveness and joy. In this house, with these brothers, these qualities come easily and as often as necessary. Please pray that we become true brothers, capable of forgiving seventy-seven times (cf. Mt. 18:22) and being faithful to the One who looks at us in love and asks to leave everything for him (cf. Mk. 10:21).

We are so grateful for your friendship and generosity and we look forward to inviting you into our lives! You remain in our prayers.

In Christ,

Fr. Jeremy Davis, SOLT

## Contact

### SOLT JUNIORATE HOUSE OF FORMATION

1721 Junction St. Detroit, MI 48209

### JUNIORATE SERVANT

Fr. Jeremy Davis, SOLT

### FORMATION DIRECTOR

Fr. Jerry Drolshagen, SOLT

### VOCATIONS DIRECTOR

Fr. Dave Brokke, SOLT

vocations@solt.net • 361-288-3016

### SOLT DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

Maurício Romero

PO Box 4116 Corpus Christi, TX 78469

361.654.0054 Ext. 101

mauricio@solt.net





# On Pilgrimage

BR. GREGORY RICE, SOLT

The pilgrimage really began for me on the second day. My friend Paul and I stood on top of an old monastery looking out at a view of green fields, a passing river, and small cottages all huddled together. This monastery was built in the 1400's, somewhere in Portugal, and it appeared as though everything around it was just as old. It gave the impression that time had stood still there just so that we could step into it. We soaked it in and felt as though we were catching a glimpse of civilizations gone before us. As we looked out, the site seemed to have been preserved so that it might knock at our small modern bubbles, hinting to us that we are being carried on the back of something oceanic.

Down the road, we would experience this more profoundly in encounters with incorrupt saints, laying still in perfect rest as time continues to flow around them. For instance, at the heart of a small, cobblestoned village in France there rests the calm, intact body of the community's spiritual jewel: their pastor of 200 years ago, St. John Vianney. Our Lord said a good shepherd does not leave his sheep, and here God continues to give

a sign to His flock that His servants will never die. Or take another instance, the incorrupt heart of St. Teresa of Avila in Spain. God speaks eloquently in what He chooses to preserve. We got to pray a holy hour in the chapel where she spent countless hours, the place where God slowly gave her a heart which is ever young, asking that ours might be like hers.

It was fitting that the final stop of the pilgrimage was in Rome, affectionately regarded as the Eternal City. The four major Basilicas put everything we had seen before in their shadows, each having a unique character, speaking elegantly and joyfully of God's majesty. "The very stones would cry out," our Lord said, and these stones speak zealously of Him who made them. Beyond these, in every crack, crevice and nook of the city there is some treasure of the faith, whether it is a relic of a saint or a timeless work of Christian art. To encounter them is to be touched by the faith of millions who have gone before, to hear a knock at my small, personal bubble, asking if I also would like to be made new.

***"We would experience this more profoundly in encounters with incorrupt saints, laying still in perfect rest as time continues to flow around them."***

*Above: Br. Greg visits the cathedral of Santiago de Compostela in Spain, a traditionally renowned place of pilgrimage in Christendom since the 9th century.*



# Another Jump on the Journey

BR. ANDREW ROWEDDER, SOLT

The path our Lord leads us on often requires us to jump. Currently, I am taking a leap of faith by returning into seminary studies after stepping away for three years. This past semester with the help of my previous Juniorate Priest Servant Fr. Mark Wendling, I went to our mission in Colón, Mexico. I served the mission in various ways with the priests, sisters, and volunteers. I hoped to improve my Spanish, but more importantly to learn to let God reveal His plan for me. Memories flooded my mind as I was picked up from the bus station by Dan and Allison—memories of when, some years back now, Br. Tim had picked me up from the same station when I was an Aspirant. I knew it would be different this time, but it was more than I expected. There were fewer children, new teachers, and I was a Brother at 33, not a layman at 26. This time God had a bodega of different memories in store for me.

One episode from May helped me to conceptualize leaps of faith in discernment. On Teacher Appreciation Day, the teachers gave up their free waterpark tickets to the boys. We watched “Greñas,” an 8th grader, standing on

a 15-foot high platform nervously looking out over the roughly 10-foot deep pool. He stood there as friends jumped off, while others walked down. Five minutes went by and still he had yet to jump. Here, fear was taking root. I ran up to him and said, “Let’s start here from the first platform. Will you do it if I do it?” (There were a series of platforms that lead up to the tallest one.) It took him a minute or so and then he threw himself off after me. We kept going up higher until eventually we jumped off the highest one. What a moment to be a part of!

David had to start at the smaller platform first. Like in our plan of life, we have little platforms we jump from until we meet the bigger, more important ones. I myself am approaching bigger platforms and with trust in God, I continue to jump. On our journey through life Jesus helps us by putting certain people on the path who help us to take that first leap. For me, Fr. Mark was the one who helped me with that first jump into the pool of SOLT formation from the lay world. I am grateful for this jump and may the Lord bless this jump into priestly formation.

***“We watched “Greñas,” an 8th grader, standing on a 15-foot high platform nervously looking out over the roughly 10-foot deep pool.”***

*Br. Andrew Rowedder and Sr. Scholastica help children from the Santa Maria mission to ford across a flooded road.*





# The Visitation

BR. ANDREW COLLART, SOLT

Hours had elapsed since setting out and I had broken a sweat. I plodded stolidly along an arid, rocky trail somewhere in Mexico in the mountains between Querétaro and Guanajuato. We made quite a caravan... Fr. John, Br. Nick, and I hiked along with two teenage boys from our mission. Added to this number were our guides Jose and Pablo as well as a couple of their relatives. We left our truck when the road had ended some distance back. Señor Jose was the father of a young lady who was to celebrate her Quinceañera and he and his wife Paula had requested that a priest at our SOLT mission come to their remote village to celebrate a Mass for this occasion!

Clambering up into the Mexican hill country, I prayed the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary. Fr. Flanagan our founder always emphasized living the daily liturgy—being aware that God often works His Providence in our lives according to the heavenly realities at hand in the liturgical calendar and the Word of God given to us each day in Mass. Only just the day before had been May 31st, the Feast of the Visitation!

We would soon make our own Visitation. Descending into a forested valley we came across a humble one-room schoolhouse, a dusty fútbol cancha, and a tiny outdoor shrine. I was startled amidst the tranquility when Señor Jose set-off a firecracker, signaling to the surrounding environs that the priest had come! Within minutes, the local residents came through the surrounding pines via various tracks. Riding a magnificent horse sidesaddle, the young lady of fifteen years arrived in style! She was

arrayed in a fantastic black-and-scarlet dress with a beautiful black sombrero. Not long after, Fr. John had set two chairs apart from the gathering crowd and begun hearing confessions as a line of people prepared for Mass.

The community there in the mountains does not have regular access to the sacraments. Yet at that simple Mass I beheld Jesus in the Eucharist come to be with them. I was struck by the beauty and necessity of the sacramental priesthood. The Lord loves to be near His beloved people, especially at these important times in their lives. In Mexico, I also encountered the Lord visiting me—sacramentally, but also through many good people: my teachers at the Spanish language school, the priests and seminarians at the seminary in Querétaro, our SOLT ecclesial team at our mission, the children we care for there...and this little flock pastured deep in the mountains of Mexico.



*Fr. John celebrates the Quinceañera Mass.*

*Above: Br. Nick hikes ahead of Br. Andrew Collart in the mountains of Queretaro, Mexico.*



# Doña Jean

BR. NICK JUDGE, SOLT

With much care I lifted the Consecrated Host out of the pyx and held our Lord up for Doña Jean to adore. “Este es El Cordero de Dios que quita el pecado del mundo,” I said.

This summer I was assigned to Benque Viejo. For years and years, Benque has been blessed by the service of a woman named Jean Santos. She has served as sacristan, helped with cleaning the church, been quasi housekeeper at the rectory, etc. In addition she has been at nearly every Mass, Holy Hour and rosary for as long as anyone can remember. In June, a few weeks before I arrived, Doña Jean suffered a stroke. She was hospitalized for a little while and then bedridden at home afterwards, unable to speak. This obviously was taxing to the mission, but perhaps even more taxing to Doña Jean's spirits.

When I arrived, I immediately began filling in as sacristan, which is quite a job with as many Masses as there are in Benque. I quickly gained a newfound respect for what Doña Jean had done for the parish. For her, it was difficult to be at home knowing that she had left a void at the mission but also that the parish life was going on without her. During the nine days leading up to July 16th which is the feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, the patroness of the parish, there are events at the church every day—none of which she was able to attend, much less assist with. This was a heavy cross for her.

Several times throughout the summer I was able to go see her. It was really quite a gift to be able to visit with her and try to make her laugh and bring a little bit of levity to her difficult situation. She had been serving the Church for years and now it was the Church's turn to serve her. Some of those times I brought Our Lord with me in the Holy Eucharist. It was beautiful to be able to hold Jesus in my hands and offer him to someone who has served Him so often.

In reflecting on those experiences I have thought often of Our Lady, at the Visitation. My walk from the rectory for a few blocks to Doña Jean's house was nothing compared with the journey Our Lady made haste on, but it had the same result. A faithful person met their Lord—Elizabeth through Mary the mother of Jesus, and Doña Jean in the Eucharist.



*Br. Nick brings Holy Communion to Doña Jean.*

***"It was really quite a gift to be able to visit with her and try to make her laugh and bring a little bit of levity to her difficult situation. She had been serving the Church for years and now it was the Church's turn to serve her."***



*Br. Nick assists with the investiture of scapulars in Benque Viejo, Belize on the parochial feast day of Our Lady of Mount Carmel.*

# SOLT

BROTHERS IN FORMATION



**BR. GREGORY RICE, SOLT**  
Configuration II (PA)



**BR. ANDREW ROWEDDER, SOLT**  
Configuration I (MD)



**BR. ANDREW COLLART, SOLT**  
Configuration I (GA)



**BR. NICHOLAS JUDGE, SOLT**  
Discipleship II (MD)



**BR. ROCKY GARCIA, SOLT**  
Year I (TX)



**COLE HAMILTON (FL)**  
Novitiate - Corpus Christi, TX



**BLAKE DUCHARME (MN)**  
Aspirancy - Belize



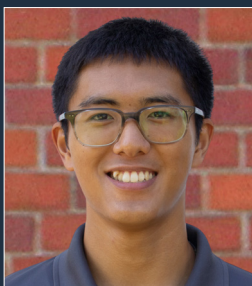
**ETHAN DETERS (KY)**  
Aspirancy - Belize



**ETHAN WERSLAND (WA)**  
Aspirancy - Belize



**JACK HARBER (IN)**  
Aspirancy - Belize



**JOHN TABUNTSCHIKOW (GA)**  
Aspirancy - Belize



**NIKITA GLEBOV (WY)**  
Aspirancy - Belize



**STEPHEN KURT (MI)**  
Aspirancy - Belize



**FR. JEREMY DAVIS, SOLT**  
Juniorate Servant



**FR. DAVE BROKKE, SOLT**  
Vocations Servant  
vocations@solt.net

Cut-out page here for your refrigerator, and please keep us in prayer!



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*Br. Greg and Br. Andrew Collart renew their profession as SOLT brothers at St. Ann's Mission in Belcourt, North Dakota in the presence of the children they served at the summer camp.*



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### 2024-2025 MEN IN FORMATION



*Br. Andrew Collart, Br. Nick, Br. Greg, Br. Rocky, and Br. Andrew Rowedder assist in serving at Sunday Mass with the altar servers at one of the SOLT Detroit parishes. The newly ordained Fr. Joseph [not pictured], who celebrated the Mass, mentors a group of altar servers at the parish. The brothers join them for liturgies, socials, or to play fútbol while accompanying and encouraging them to consider vocations to serve the Lord as priests or consecrated brothers!*



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FALL 2024

*On the front cover:  
Br. Rocky and Fr. Sam following  
Br. Rocky's first profession on July 15th*