

N.A.P.P.



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President's column:

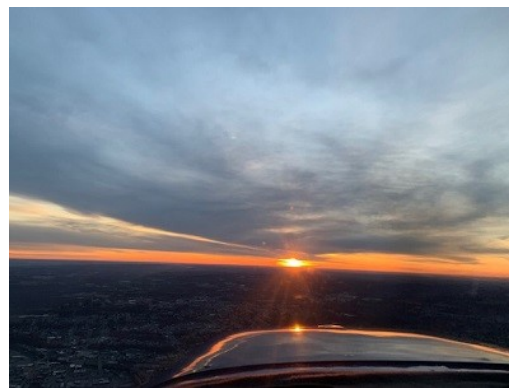
Let's work to keep NAPP on course for years to come

By Fr. Joe McCaffrey
NAPP President

With this December newsletter, we begin a new liturgical year in the life of the Church. Several of our members, all very dear to us, begin a new life in the kingdom of God. Our sincerest sympathy and gratitude to the families and friends of Msgr. John Hemann and Fr. Merlin Kieffer. Both of these fine men enriched the lives of so many and were an integral part of NAPP. We will be forever grateful for their service, laughter and love!

Please notice the notes of remembrance in this newsletter. I have many memories of my own that I hope to share with you sometime when we are together in person, perhaps at our convention in September.

Our dear friend Fr. Mel Hemann turned 93 on October 15 (the same day as John's funeral) and has been battling cancer and a recent stroke. I was blessed to visit with Mel in Florida a few days after his stroke and he is



doing amazingly well! I extended our sympathy to him regarding the passing of his dear brother John, our treasurer and "General"!

We also discussed the position of treasurer for NAPP, since General John was our longtime treasurer. Mel made the superb suggestion of asking Tom Enwright to embrace this major task in addition to his amazing work on this newsletter. I thought this was an excellent idea.

So I called the other officers of NAPP to get their approval. I'm happy to say it was unanimous!

I called Tom and explained our request to appoint him our new treasurer. We all owe him a huge debt of gratitude for accepting this additional workload.

The reason it's important to have a permanent treasurer is because of all the banking that needs to be done. It would be complete chaos to have to switch banks every time we were switching treasurers, especially if we were also switching states throughout the country!

At this point, Tom is working with John's nephew who is caring for John's estate to acquire all the NAPP paperwork. He established a bank account at his local bank and will take care of the treasury for NAPP moving forward. I cannot thank Tom enough for his willingness to take on this position at this critical time. So please join me in thanking him.

This is a very important time for us as NAPP. The

Continued on Page 2

A note from the new treasurer

Thank you to Fr. Joe McCaffrey, NAPP president, for appointing me to succeed Msgr. John Hemann as treasurer. I will do my best to serve the organization. A new NAPP checking account has been established and the PayPal account has been updated. John's nephew Kurt has been very helpful in collecting NAPP records from John's residence.

If you paid your dues and didn't receive a card from John or a recent acknowledgement from me, please email me at napp.editor@gmail.com.

Thanks to the 52 current members who have paid their 2022 dues. We don't send annual invoices, but instead rely on these newsletter reminders. If you're not sure whether you have paid, please check the membership directory. (Go to priestpilots.org, use the drop-down

menu under "NAPP Members Only," and enter the password provided with the email announcing this edition of the newsletter. You also can email me at the address above.)

All members are encouraged to renew their membership. Please consider an additional donation for the Missionary Gift Fund. You can use the form on this page or use the PayPal buttons on the priestpilots.org homepage.

Please note that PayPal deducts a fee of \$1.36 from the \$25 dues payment, so NAPP nets \$23.64. There also is a sliding fee for donations via PayPal.

Your support enables NAPP to issue aviation-related grants. Members at the July 2021 annual meeting voted to send \$1,500 each to the Diocese of Fairbanks, Alaska, and Flying Medical Service in Tanzania, East Africa. Checks will be issued in January 2022.

Tom Enwright
NAPP Treasurer and Newsletter Editor

Continued from Page 1

founders of this amazing organization are being called home and they are looking to us to carry on this organization! We owe it not only to future priest pilots but also to the memory of the Hemann brothers and many others who formed this group over 50 years ago. Yes, these are challenging times, and we have fewer priests and fewer pilots. But NAPP is too important an opportunity for us to just let it die! We all should step up and do our part.

These fine men who established and held NAPP together for all this time are looking to you and me to commit ourselves to persevere. I promised Mel that I would do what I can. Will you? Please join me.







Remember the story of the chicken and the pig? When it came to breakfast, the chicken contributed but the pig was all in!

Let all of us be "all in" and make NAPP strong and healthy for many years to come!

UPDATE ON MEL

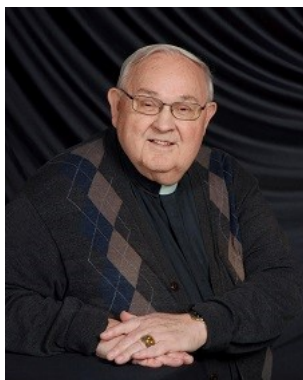
Fr. Gene Murray shared this report on November 24:

I got a call from George Gratton in Florida, and he just visited Mel Hemann in a rehab center there. He said that Mel is in a different rehab center at this point and appears to be recovering. However, a return to flying seems to be only a remote wish. He is taking solid food and his mind is clear. He has someone there to advocate for him and appreciates all the prayers and cards that he's gotten from the NAPP members. His new address is **Mel Hemann, Grand Oaks Rehabilitation Center, 3001 Palm Coast Pkwy SE, Palm Coast, FL 32137**. Cards and letters are appreciated.

<p style="text-align: center;">NAPP Dues – U.S. \$25.00 2022 fiscal year began July 1, 2021</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Use this form to send your dues or use PayPal (go to priestpilots.org and click on Pay Now).</i></p> <p>NAME: _____</p> <p>ADDRESS: _____</p> <p>CITY: _____</p> <p>STATE: _____ ZIP: _____</p> <p>EMAIL: _____</p> <p>PHONE: _____</p> <p>Member: ___ Charter ___ Regular ___ Associate</p> <p>Mail to: Tom Enwright, NAPP Treasurer, 419 Chestnut St., Sauk City, WI 53583</p> <p>In addition to the \$25 annual dues, we encourage members to make a separate donation to the NAPP Missionary Gift Fund, which will be used to support the organization's charitable grants. Donations can be sent to the same address or you can use PayPal. Go to priestpilots.org and click on the Donate button.</p> <div style="text-align: center;"> </div>
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Msgr. John Hemann, NAPP charter member and officer, dies at 86

Msgr. John Hemann, 86, a charter member and treasurer of the National Association of Priest Pilots, died October 9 in Mason City, Iowa, from complications of COVID-19, despite being vaccinated.



Msgr. John was one of three brothers in his family to become priests. As part of their ministries, the Hemanns — John, Everett and Melvin — distinguished themselves flying airplanes, the Archdiocese of Dubuque noted in a Facebook post.

Most recently, during his retirement, he served at Sacred Heart Parish in Osage and Visitation Parish in Stacyville.

Archbishop Michael Jackels celebrated the funeral Mass on October 15 at Sacred Heart in Osage.

John was born November 22, 1934, to Bernard and Olive (Halbach) Hemann in Stacyville. He attended 12 years of school at Visitation in Stacyville; then attended and graduated from Loras College in Dubuque. Following graduation, he began his studies at Mt. St. Bernard Seminary in Dubuque and was ordained a priest at St. Raphael's Cathedral on January 30, 1960. In April 2003, Pope John Paul II named him a "Prelate of Honor" (Monsignor).

In April 1966, John joined the Iowa Army National Guard as a chaplain and served for 28 years, retiring in 1994 as a Brigadier General. He served two active-duty assignments in Germany and one at the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. He received numerous medals and ribbons including the Legion of Merit Award (the highest award the U.S. Army gives to an individual who has served a full career in a reserve status).

John obtained his private pilot's license in 1963. He was a founding member of the National Association of Priest Pilots in 1964, served as president from 1977 to 1981 and was the treasurer at the time of his death.

He was a lover of life and enjoyed being with friends. He also enjoyed writing friendly cards and letters for various occasions. In his retirement, his love was being available to cover in any parish in need of a priest — especially on weekends.

Msgr. John is survived by three brothers: Fr. Melvin, James and Mathew; and by three sisters: Kathleen Full, Sister Camilla Hemann and Lucille Mueller.

He was preceded in death by his parents and brother, Fr. Everett Hemann.

[Link to full obituary](#)

[Link to video of the funeral Mass](#)

In the [June 2021](#) newsletter, Mel Hemann writes about the famous picture of the three Hemann brothers who became priest pilots.

Editor's note: Msgr. John Hemann was known for his sense of humor, endless capacity to tell stories and a jolly laugh. He wasn't one to take himself too seriously, yet he was among the first to offer compassion to those who were grieving. Now, we can do the same.

One of my favorite memories is sitting with him at a Midwest Regional gathering. When it came time to schedule the next gathering (which traditionally is held in spring and fall), someone would suggest a date and John would flip six months ahead in his pocket calendar and announce: "Oh, that won't work. I have a funeral that day!"

He was fond of reusing that joke, including at least one time after the COVID-19 pandemic struck in 2020. I think it was during a Zoom call that year when someone sadly noted that's not so strange anymore. With families postponing funerals because of the pandemic, some were being scheduled months after the death.

Isn't it something that Msgr. John died from complications of a breakthrough COVID-19 infection? He was so cautious, especially early in the pandemic, and was among the first to get his vaccinations. For many months, he would celebrate Mass in the safety of his residence. "The sermons are great, but the collections aren't worth a darn," he would say.

Because this newsletter only comes out every other month, word of Msgr. John's hospitalization and death was shared by email to our members. There were numerous responses; so many were keeping him in prayer and hoping for the best.

This reply from Fr. Mike Kerin was so appropriate as we mourned the death of a good friend, priest and aviation legend in our own hearts:

"Thanks for keeping us updated and for sending the obituary. I am sending my prayers as John makes his flight home to God. May it be VFR all the way."

Pilots fly in for funeral of Msgr. John Hemann in Iowa

Editor's note: Fr. Gene Murray shared this story about flying his RV-8 to Msgr. John Hemann's funeral in Osage, Iowa, on October 15.

By Fr. Gene Murray

I departed from Cherokee ([CKP](#)) for Osage ([D02](#)) at 8:25 a.m., arriving at 9:20. It was a short flight with 25-knot tailwinds at 5,500 feet.

All the way there, I could hear radio traffic arriving at Osage. There were several airplanes, perhaps a dozen, that flew in for the funeral.

As you know, Fr. John was a faithful member of the flying community at the Mason City airport and never missed a "[Burger Burn.](#)" So many of the pilots of that community were there, including Doug Rozendaal flying Fr. John's former Cherokee Warrior. Bill and Todd Kyle, managers of the Charles City and Mason City airports, joined Doug in flying the missing-man formation.

The parking ramp at the airport isn't that large and I was wondering if I would have a place to park when I arrived. I landed in time to catch the end of Doug's briefing for the missing-man flyover at the cemetery.

Fr. Nick Radloff, NAPP vice president, was at the airport to transport me to the church for the funeral celebrated by Archbishop Michael Jackels, with about 30 priests concelebrating.

The funeral homily was delivered by Fr. Jerry Kopecek, a friend and member of Fr. John's support group. In his homily, much was made of Fr. John's verbal profundity at their meetings, a quality of Fr. John's that all who knew him appreciated.

The funeral was held at Osage, 15 miles from Stacyville, because the Stacyville church interior was being repainted. However, the burial was in the Stacyville parish cemetery. Burial ceremonies were concluded with full military honors as befitting the General's rank, followed by the missing-man flyover, followed by several planes in trail doing a flying farewell. A roast beef lunch was served in the Stacyville parish hall.

NAPP members in attendance, besides me, were Fathers Phil Gibbs, Jack Paisley and Nick Radloff, along with Mr. Jeff Bryant and his wife. I was saddened to note that due to health concerns, Fr. Mel Hemann was unable to make the trip from Florida. I extend my sympathies to Mel and the Hemann family members. May John rest in peace.



P.S. The return flight home at 4,000 to 5,000 feet, with strong headwinds and heavy turbulence, was punctuated by a dicey direct crosswind landing on Runway 36 at Cherokee. With winds out of the west at 12 gusting to 24 mph, I approached carrying an extra 10 mph knowing there would be turbulence coming off the trees and railroad tracks that parallel the west side of the runway. Off the end of the runway at about 20 feet of altitude, the expected turbulence occurred. Had I not been expecting it and prepared for it, there may have been serious consequences.

As I got over the runway, the crosswind was sufficiently blocked by the trees so I could land the airplane. Safely on the ground, I said a prayer of thanks and put the plane away.

I have made several thousand landings at this airport and have about 800 hours on the RV, so I am aware of my capability with this airplane. Nevertheless, I was also aware that I was close to my limits and if things didn't look right, I was prepared to fly to Storm Lake and land there on a runway into the wind. Thankfully, things worked out. *Deo Gratias.*



Msgr. John Hemann is shown with his former Piper Warrior while on tour at the Mason City airport during the Midwest Regional gathering on September 30, 2019. N41619, which John flew for 24 years, was getting a new engine. This turned out to be the last Midwest meeting that John would attend. None were held in 2020 because of COVID-19. John was taken to the hospital on September 27, 2021, the day of the Midwest gathering in Boone, Iowa.

Fr. Merlin Kieffer, NAPP member, dies at 87

Fr. Merlin Kieffer, a longtime member of the National Association of Priest Pilots, died in Topeka, Kansas, on September 26 at the age of 87.



The funeral Mass was celebrated by Bishop Gerald Vincke at Seven Dolors Church in Manhattan, Kansas, on September 29. A nephew, Fr. Joseph Kieffer, was the homilist. Interment was at St. Mary's Cemetery in Clifton, Kansas.

Merlin Kieffer was born on a farm near Clifton on March 5, 1934. He was the second youngest of six children born to Peter and Anna Kieffer. He attended a country school until 1945 when his family moved to a farm near Hanover. On May 26, 1960, he was ordained a priest for the Diocese of Salina in his home parish of St. John the Baptist in Hanover.

Following ordination, he did graduate work in counseling psychology for four summers at Catholic University in Washington, D.C., and was the guidance counselor and instructor in Latin and Church History at the Catholic high school in Concordia and Manhat-

tan. While teaching at Luckey High School in Manhattan, he served as the associate pastor at Seven Dolors.

In addition to a long history of parish assignments, Fr. Merlin once served as diocesan director of education and superintendent of Catholic schools. He also served for one year as the rector of Sacred Heart Cathedral before taking a one-year sabbatical.

During his sabbatical, he spent the fall semester as a graduate student at Notre Dame in a special renewal program of theology, scripture and spirituality. He then traveled to Israel with theology students from St. John's University, Collegeville, Minnesota.

Due to health complications, he retired in July 2005 and took up residence in Manhattan while providing pastoral assistance to Seven Dolors Parish.

One of Fr. Merlin's close friends was Fr. John Wolessky, who recalled that the two of them and Fr. Al Werth flew together for more than 20 years, mostly to the NAPP conventions. Merlin would help navigate from the back seat while John and Al were up front. Merlin and John drove to the last two conventions. They were among the concelebrants at the annual Mass this past July in Dubuque, Iowa.

[Link to obituary](#)

Fr. Alex Carandang shares news about the death of his father in the Philippines and gives an update on his flight training

Fr. Alex is parochial vicar at [Sacred Heart Parish](#) in Jacksonville, Florida. His father, Felipe Neri Carandang, 83, died August 9 in Batangas.



“He was a very pious man, served as lector in the parish. I didn't make it to celebrate the funeral Mass because I would have to quarantine for 10 days upon arrival. Yes, the Philippine government is very strict about that. So I asked my priest friends there to celebrate the Mass on my behalf. I celebrated Mass at home (in the Philippines) with my Dad's ashes when I finally made it home.

“This pandemic really made it more difficult still. So I spent some time with Mom while I was there, tried to console her and uplift her spirit. Now she's doing fine, although she's all by herself at home. I FaceTime her every day to check on her. I have three other brothers,

but they are also abroad and couldn't yet come home due to restrictions.

“Regarding my flying, as I was thinking of how to get current and updated, I will just work on something worthwhile rather than just flying around. So I decided to work on my commercial and was also thinking of getting a CFI someday, and Mel (Hemann) suggested that I take them both together to save time and money. But right now I am thinking of finishing my commercial first before I focus on becoming a Certified Flight Instructor. Because of the work demands in the parish, it can get really busy.

“I am really very blessed to have Mel as an aviation mentor and as a good friend. He taught me a lot about flying and also about being a priest. It is such an honor to have learned flying from somebody who is really experienced. Everything he taught me is golden and I still am learning a lot from him. He is such a blessing.”

Editor's note: In the [December 2018](#) newsletter, Fr. Alex writes about his flight training with Fr. Mel Hemann.

Hemann influence comes alive in this essay on contemplative marriage

By Patrick J. McDonald

Tom Enwright invited NAPP members to share some thoughts about the death of John Hemann. Indeed I will, but I also want to share some thoughts about Mel, in the aftermath of his stroke, and to recall memories of their brother Ev, who died of cancer not so long ago.

My memory easily carries me to back to 1966, when John invited me to join him as a passenger to my first NAPP meeting, carried aloft in a tired but trustworthy Comanche 180, to Oklahoma City. Once safely on the ground, John belly-laughed with his passengers about his request for progressive taxi instructions to the FFA ramp.

My memories effortlessly expand into the era of the 1960s and 1970s: flight instruction from Mel toward my instrument and flight instructor ratings, summer workshops at St. John's University in Colledgeville — for the developing agenda of family life education programs. Animated discussions about the relative merits of a celibate and/or a married priesthood. A myth that change was imminent animated a false sense of optimism, but with a clouded optimism, we each took our intuitive path to fulfillment.

Refined awareness of our proper place in an expansive world view, several books later for me, and the changing context of ministry found me, my wife, and each of the Hemann brothers in joint workshops about marriage. We explored the contemplative foundations for both the celibate and marriage callings. We all shared stories about the hazards and the rewards for each state in life.

At the moment, all this memory-jogging brings me to a dilemma: I can't say enough about the influence, the qualities of the Hemann brothers and their ways of doing things.

Tom offered a way out to me when he said, "Why not share that article you wrote on the contemplative marriage? It's concise and brief and will fit in with our newsletter format."

I originally wrote the article for *Spiritual Life Magazine*, then the printed version and its electronic iteration went out of business. I thus offer the article for my readers' consideration.

The Hemann influence is embedded within the article, since it examines the foundations of the contemplative spirit. The spirit can be readily applied to marriage, the solitary life, or a rich moment at altitude when everything is working correctly. Like being with one or all of the Hemann brothers, the tone of the article is enjoyable and optimistic.

Thoughts about the contemplative marriage

By Patrick J. McDonald, LISW, LMFT

What I identify as the contemplative experience often begins with a moment. The moment can be an experience of the hidden beauty of life, an immersion in the majesty of creation, or an encounter with a personal God within a life-changing event.

The moment usually opens up an ache to enter more deeply into the yet-to-be-explored dimensions of the experience. The ache to understand invites more quiet time. In the quiet of this individual and personal interior state, a sense of awe, wonder and a real transformation of the heart become the identified ground of existence.

I suggest that there is another form of the contemplative experience and I name it the contemplative marriage. This article is an effort to explore some of the aspects of the contemplative marriage and what might be the implications for the couple who feel attracted to this level of marital intimacy.

The sources of my efforts to explore flow from several dimensions: I'm blessed with a good marriage of 47 years. I am schooled in the long history of the mystical tradition — mostly the Western and Eastern Christian traditions. I also affirm an affinity with Buddhism and foster the practice of mindfulness with clients.

My spouse and I are both professional therapists. We work with troubled marriages as a facet of our profession. Thus, we talk in depth with conflicted married couples each day about what marriage can be. We also conduct marriage enrichment programs. No matter what the context, we can recount stories of couples

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Continued on Page 7

Continued from Page 6

who experience the shared contemplative moment and talk freely about its impact on their lives. I offer three examples.

A moment at the summit

“We were not yet married, and we were hiking in the backcountry. The summit where we camped offered a vista that was spellbinding at sunrise. The early morning was totally quiet. The atmosphere invited us to remain quiet, not even commenting on the moment — just respectful. I felt an incredible oneness with creation. I didn’t share my tears, as they kept swelling up inside of me. Sarah has an easier time talking about deep feelings and she movingly described her experience. We were both shaken, awed, moved and lifted into a sacred domain of some sort, then we just sat in shared silence, holding hands. When we came down from the summit, a couple of days later, we knew we were different, and we agreed to make other experiences like this the foundation for our marriage.”

Shattered by loss

“I had always been able to deal with losses; just took them in stride, accepting the fact that God is in charge. I suppose that this position made me a little matter-of-fact about the big events in life. People leaned on me a lot because they saw me as steady and resourceful.

“Then we lost our son at age 21. He committed suicide. I found myself shattered, speechless, angered and internally devastated. All Samantha and I could do was hold on tightly to each other and cry. There was no solace. We talked and we talked and we talked about what we might have done differently to save our son from suicide, yet peace never came. What we knew as the familiar presence of God in our life shifted away from both of us. Our differences became more apparent. The experience was dark, yet a moment of realization that our lifetime belief about God being in charge was still real, but it was a deeper and more vague kind of knowing.”

Alienation

“From the beginning, we talked freely that we were destined to be with one another, but five years into our marriage, we had a real struggle to get onto the same page. The conflicts seemed endless and the rewards were very few. Arguments often ended in tears and mutual accusations of immaturity. It was miserable.

“I really can’t say for sure what happened, but only an agreement about the value of loyalty kept us in the marriage. Then our therapist mentioned that we might

try prayer instead of conflict management. So we did. The prayers were mostly a plea for help at first, but they did bring us to a moment of truth: that we’re not alone; that God is there with us. Efforts at prayer began to change our attitudes about one another. We found peace for the first time in five years.”

Common ground in the moments

While the contemplative moment came in distinct forms in these marital experiences, all three examples share some common elements. The opening up to new awareness was jointly welcomed. The couples felt relieved of their current life burdens. The moment created an awakening to a new appreciation of the sacred and the presence of the sacred invited a fresh exploration of marriage. A new groundwork in their marriages began to unfold and its impact deepened with reflection. If they were open to a personal God, this God became more accessible. I often digest these experiences for couples into a description they find refreshing: they discovered the hidden ground of love.

Inviting continuing moments

The discovery of the hidden ground of love invites change in personal awareness as well as in ways that the couple interacts with one another. The personal and interpersonal dimensions intertwine. Positive energy invites positive energy in return. The experience of a personal God is reflected in countless ways in moments of rich dialogue and the personal nuancing of the transforming power of love. I usually refer to these efforts to understand the marital experience as the thoughtful cultivation of the hidden ground of love.

The couple who discovered one another in the backcountry morning sunrise continue to discover one another as they introduce their three young children to the beauty of God’s creation with frequent family camping trips. The hidden ground of love remains clear, bright, and beautiful for all of them as nature becomes even more transparent and is explored as the trustworthy grounding of their family life. Standing in continuing moments of awe grounds the entire family in love, sensitivity and respect for one another and for mother earth.

The couple who lost their 21-year-old son through suicide learned to pray together and still do, in the presence of early family photos. Shared prayer has led them to be supportive friends to other couples who also experience family tragedy. They express that they have moved from a state of emptiness, anger and bitterness to a new appreciation of their son’s continued presence in their lives. The hidden ground of love is

Continued on Page 8

Continued from Page 7

experienced as a deepening of their trust of God's care and concern for their son and for surviving family members.

The couple who became alienated from one another broke the constraints of alienation through a desperate turning to prayers. They now see this as the moment that brought about a change of heart. God is experienced as a close and personal God, who takes a vital interest in every one of their interactions. They call upon God in their daily prayers to join them as a very close partner in all decisions.

Keeping the contemplative dream alive

The unfathomable richness of the contemplative experience unfolds slowly over time. There is no such thing as "getting there" and then resting that the marriage is in a final fullness. Life keeps changing. Marriage continues to be demanding. In continuing moments, a couple becomes more comfortable with the ebb and flow of emotions and a sense of the divine presence. If the contemplative dream invites a couple to explore deep intimate encounters, God becomes visible as passionately loyal to their dream. They know a God who takes great delight in seeing that two of his children remain loyal to one another under all the unpredictable turns of life. God becomes their ground and the ground becomes constant as life changes.

The specter of human loneliness eases. A marital partner is addressed as "beloved," reflecting the language of the contemplative movement within. A special satisfaction unfolds as each takes delight in the personal development of the other — and personal freedom textures every interaction.

When all goes well in the marriage, the presence of God is tangible, becoming a marker that God works with us in the efforts to love well. Sometimes the clarity of God's presence is grounding and deeply redeeming. The contemplative experience is also fluid at times of intense disagreement and hard negotiating. The lasting impression of God's loyalty to a couple invites a reminder that it is important to concede, support and forgive when these virtues do not flow easily.

Some say that a contemplative marriage is impossible to attain. It is viewed as too idealistic. I suggest that it is possible only with prayer and reflection. Prayers mediate and invite the more authentic presence of di-

There is a sense of eternity about these moments and their development. God clearly becomes the gardener who works in the depths of the couple experience to cultivate and bring their life to a new fruition.

vine love. Shared prayers reveal a depth of spirit that is grounding for the self and the other.

For some rare couples, the cultivated art of praying together is an entry into new and fresh dimensions of the hidden ground of love. Prayer brings forth new vulnerability. This level of vulnerability offers new opportunities to inflict pain on a bad day, so trust evolves slowly with refinement in prayer and comfort with emerging intimacy.

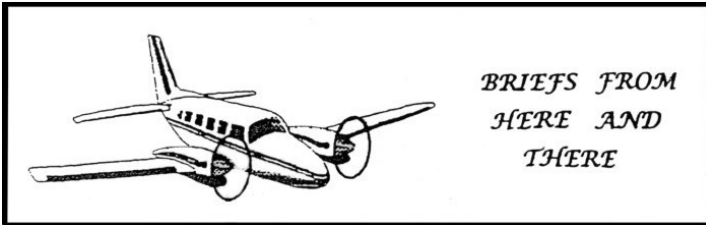
As the experience of moving into the hidden ground of love matures, prayer becomes simpler and more honest. Sometimes, just being quiet in the presence of unconditional love is rich and grounding. Nothing more needs to be said. All is quiet, serene, with a shared awareness of living in the divine embrace. Prayer invites a couple to trust their experiences and offer thanks for the sheer beauty of being together.

There is a sense of eternity about these moments and their development. God clearly becomes the gardener who works in the depths of the couple experience to cultivate and bring their life to a new fruition. Isolated moments become consistent experiences that structure, fill, nourish, temper, refine every marital experience.

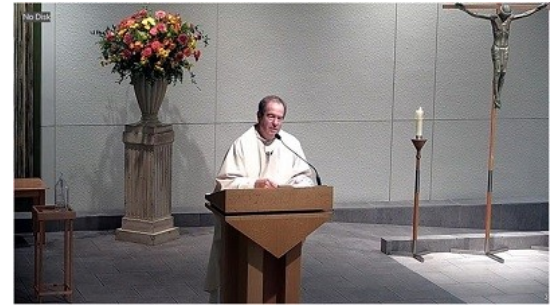
They also know in their depths that they'll enjoy one another in eternity.

Postscript from PJ: *Claudette and I are still in practice in Des Moines. With the COVID pressures, we are extremely busy. We are associate members of NAPP, have been married for 47 years, practice together, live the liturgy together, and are convinced that our sacred bond was and is constructed by Divine design. Claudette can take or leave flying, but I enjoy this stubborn addiction. So far, so good, after 53 years.*





great-uncle, Fr. Joseph Piskura. The Mass was celebrated on October 22 at St. Ladislav Church in Westlake, Ohio.



Fr. Piskura, a priest of the Diocese of Cleveland, died November 26, 2020, at the age of 90. He was a chaplain in the U.S. Army, serving two tours in Vietnam. He retired from the Army twice, having returned to service as a contractor after age-required formal retirement. In February 2015, Fr. Piskura was named the Veteran of the Year by the Joint Veterans Council of Cuyahoga County.

Save the dates: The 2022 NAPP Convention is being planned for Branson, Missouri. Arrive on Monday, September 19; convention activities Tuesday-Wednesday; depart on Thursday, September 22. Stay tuned for details from our host, Fr. John Schmitz.

Memorial donations: Christine and Dave Roberts of Cedar Falls, Iowa, and Douglas Rozendaal of Clear Lake, Iowa, sent donations to NAPP to honor their friend, Msgr. John Hemann. Their donations will be placed in the Missionary Gift Fund.

Recent moves:

- Fr. Al Ruschman, an NAPP charter member, recently moved to an assisted-living residence in Alexandria, Kentucky.
- Fr. Peter Etzel moved to Minneapolis, Minnesota.
- Nick Patterson moved to Nevada, Iowa, which is a few miles east of Ames.

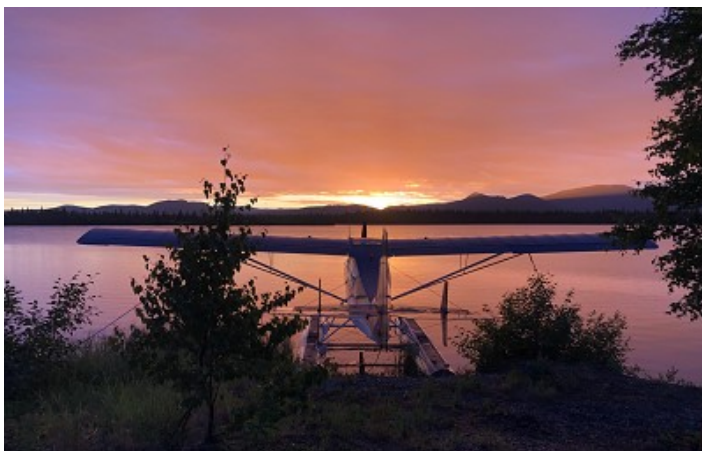
(See the membership directory for specific addresses. Go to priestpilots.org, use the drop-down menu under “NAPP Members Only,” and enter the password.)

Greetings from Barry and Nancy (Johnson) Brown in Cedar Rapids, Iowa: Barry writes: “Photos from a recent trip to Hastings, Nebraska, in the nice Cessna 172P that I regularly teach in out of [MXO](#) (Monticello, Iowa).”



Check out the passengers in the back seat!

The [December 2020](#) newsletter had a story about Nancy Johnson, who designed the NAPP masthead while she was a student at Iowa State University in Ames and Fr. Mel Hemann, longtime newsletter editor for NAPP, was associate pastor at the St. Thomas Aquinas Newman Center. Mel taught Nancy how to fly and encouraged her to become an air traffic controller. Nancy and Barry, who was a corporate pilot for Collins, were married in 1977. “I give Mel credit for helping me find my husband,” she says. (The [February 2021](#) newsletter includes a photo of Nancy in the Cedar Rapids control tower.)



Greetings from Alaska: [Fr. Leo Walsh](#), pastor of St. Patrick Parish in Anchorage and judicial vicar for the Archdiocese of Anchorage-Juneau, sent a note and photo in October. “There are two of us still flying up here, Fr. Scott Garrett and me. He is the only one using it for ministry. Mine is just an expensive toy that gets me to fishing and hunting camps. Here is a recent pic of 79V at Pike Lake in Iliamna.”

Memorial Mass: Fr. Allen Corrigan, NAPP secretary, delivered the homily at the [Memorial Mass](#) for his

CFI Corner: Deep in the heart of Texas

By Fr. Ed Moran, CFI, CFII, AGI, AGII

My hiatus in writing had to do with my full retirement from the Diocese of Richmond and move to Tyler, Texas, to work with Bishop Joseph Strickland whom I had met during my administrative days at Divine Mercy University.

The move has been life changing as most total moves into an unknown area tend to be. But as a retired military chaplain with many such moves, life changing is a good thing and helps keep a lot of rust from accumulating.

The nice thing about Texas, besides its lack of any state income tax, is that due to its size, like Alaska, it is very aviation friendly. Having become active in the main downtown cathedral as well as at Johnson's, the local FBO, the number of pilots whom I have met is considerable.

June saw my Flight Instructor's Refresher Course in Fort Worth given by Aviation Seminars. It was a daunting two days of intense study and testing, which really gave a great update on what the FAA is up to as well as meet more of the local "color" regarding aged aviators like me wanting to keep current their instructor's certificate.

The classes focused on new teaching methods with ACAs emphasizing proficiency at maneuvers, knowledge of flight as well as focus on risk-management objectives. It's three times what I remembered having to learn as a new pilot.

There is a new drone license the FAA is making available to all Part 61 pilots who can find their way into the FAA Safety Team (FAASTeam) website, download and take the three-hour class on drone operations under the new Part 107 (April 2021) and pass 100% of the 43 questions.

The test is unfinished until you pass 100%. This means you need to remember the right answers in addition to the corrected answers. Once you get your certificate of achievement, you can show it to a CFI who can get your FAA Tracking Number (FTN) and then enter it into the FAA's IACRA. The FAA then sends the license in three weeks.

This area of drone use has expanded beyond what the FAA can keep pace with, in terms of technology.



The nice thing about Texas, besides its lack of any state income tax, is that due to its size, like Alaska, it is very aviation friendly.

Many companies are trying to get their employees certified, meaning there is much work for a licensed drone pilot to teach, if that kind of income is attractive.

Besides my orientation to the local flying area, night qualification and work to update my instrument proficiency, retirement seems busier than when I was still working full time. There are many corporate operations that need qualified left-seat pilots, which might be an attraction later on, especially in wanting to see lots of the West from the air.

I have bitten the bullet and gone all Apple in an attempt to learn ForeFlight and use it during my flights.

There is a great organization called PilotSafety.org run by a Texan named Gary Reeves who does amazing training. From single-pilot IFR to mastery classes on ForeFlight and a number of new-generation flight control instruments, check out his operation if you are interested in some great training. His best prices are found at the air shows he frequently attends. Take a look and see what you think.

There will be more to these columns now that I am back to active flying instead of just updating you on rules and regs, new products and the like.

If you have a particular subject needing clarification, let me know. I love to research and get back to you here in our NAPP newsletter. Stay safe and be sure to always get the preflight briefing!

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