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## The Brothers of the Good Shepherd vocation brochure

The Brothers of the Good Shepherd

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# THE BROTHERS



## THE BROTHERS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

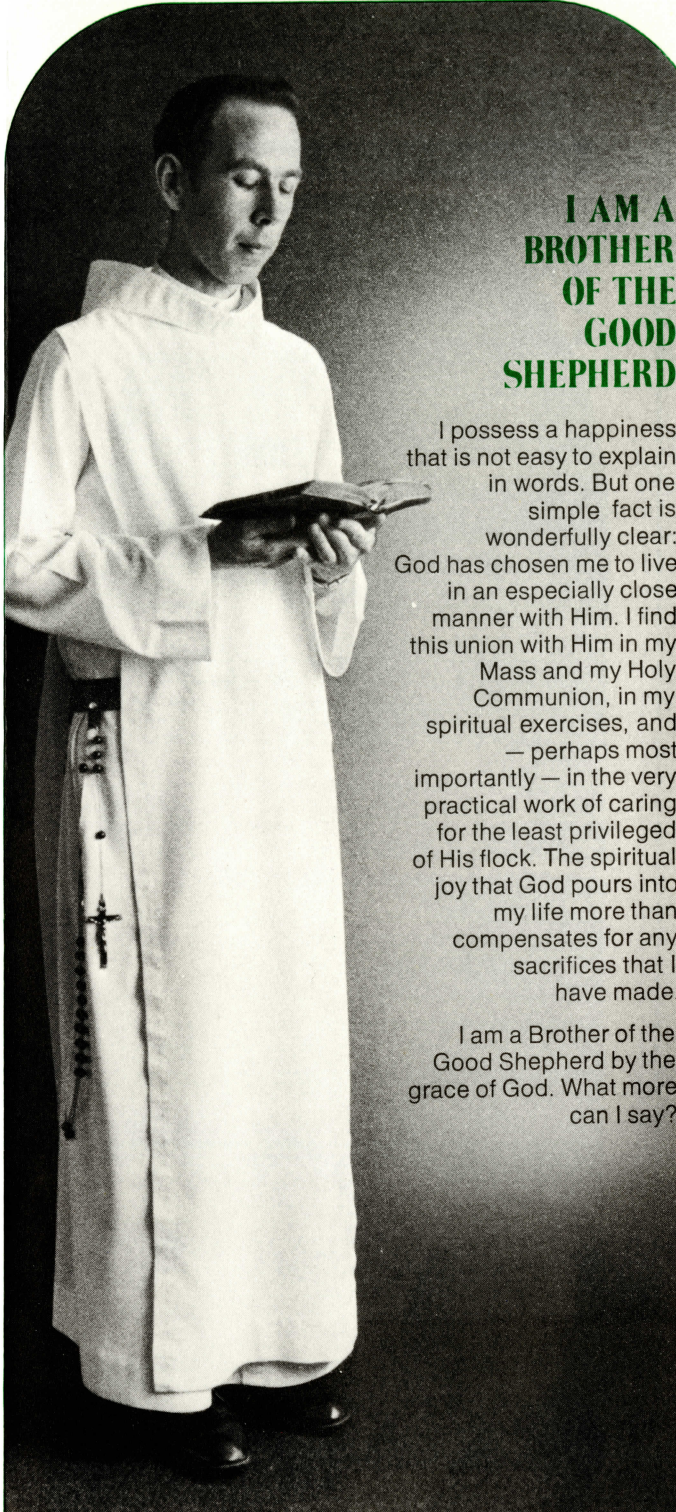
## **THE FEELING, THE SATISFACTION OF BEING CHOSEN TO GUIDE AND GIVE REFUGE TO MANY IS ALLOWED TO ONLY A FEW**

The Brothers of the Good Shepherd have chosen as their motto the phrase "Charity Unlimited." These two simple words, perhaps better than any others, describe both the quality and the scope of the life's work chosen by these very special men. They have left behind the impersonal ways of the secular world to dedicate themselves, in the spirit of the Good Shepherd, to loving, perpetual service to those unfortunates — the retarded, the aged and the destitute — who would otherwise be lost.

Bound by vows of poverty, chastity and obedience, they work in whatever capacity their superiors consider them to be best qualified to further the aims of the community.

The order of the Brothers of the Good Shepherd is an active one. The work is not easy, and the hours are long. But there is reflected in the lives of these men an inner peace and joy of fulfillment that is realized by only a few in today's changing world and changing Church. Their ministry in the great apostolate of charity gives daily testimony to the living presence of Christ among his people. Can there be any deeper or lasting satisfaction?

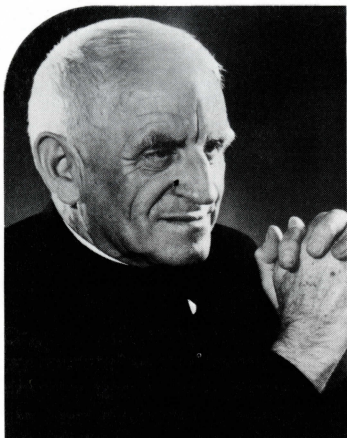




## **I AM A BROTHER OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD**

I possess a happiness that is not easy to explain in words. But one simple fact is wonderfully clear: God has chosen me to live in an especially close manner with Him. I find this union with Him in my Mass and my Holy Communion, in my spiritual exercises, and — perhaps most importantly — in the very practical work of caring for the least privileged of His flock. The spiritual joy that God pours into my life more than compensates for any sacrifices that I have made.

I am a Brother of the Good Shepherd by the grace of God. What more can I say?



*Very Reverend  
Brother Mathias  
Barrett, B.G.S.,  
Founder and  
Superior General of  
the Brothers of the  
Good Shepherd.*

## THE HISTORY OF THE ORDER

The Brothers of the Good Shepherd was founded in Albuquerque, New Mexico in 1951 by Brother Mathias Barrett, formerly of the Brothers Hospitallers of St. John of God. In establishing the order, Brother Mathias promised the late Edwin V. Byrne, Archbishop of Santa Fe, who cleared the way for the creation of the new congregation, that he would "do the work that nobody else wants." This promise has defined the mission of the Brothers ever since.

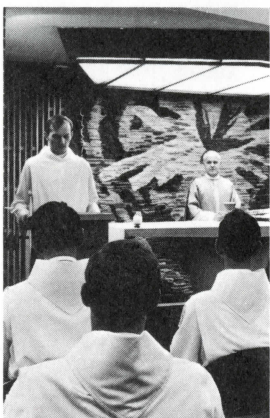
Originally devoted to the service of the "down and outers" — the derelicts, alcoholics, the very dregs of humanity — Brother Mathias soon developed a special love for the retarded, the crippled and handicapped. Of the more than twenty shelters established by the order in the United States, Canada and the United Kingdom, a third care for physically and mentally handicapped children and adults.

Current membership in the Brothers of the Good Shepherd society is just over ninety. Their simple rule is that of the active religious: rising at six; meditation, Mass, rosary and Little Office distributed throughout the day; Holy Hour from eight to nine every night. The traditional white habit — with scapular, cowl and rosary — in the words of Brother Mathias, is "a forceful reminder, both to the Brothers and those they meet, that they are men set apart and dedicated for life to the special service of Almighty God."

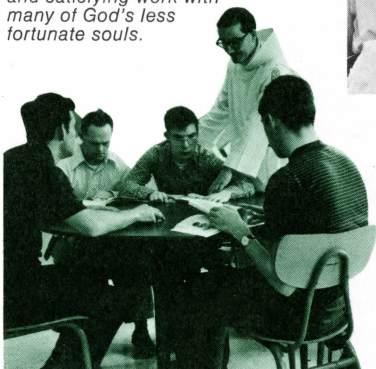




*Office of the Blessed Mother is recited in common in all houses of the community.*



*The Brother's busy day involves him in important and satisfying work with many of God's less fortunate souls.*



*Each day begins with Holy Mass, during which relatives, friends and benefactors are remembered by the Brothers.*



*There are regular meetings in each house to discuss future plans and to share news of the community.*



*Evenings often provide time for friendly card games, music or other recreational pursuits.*

The works of the Brothers of the Good Shepherd include all of the following:

- Homes for Mentally Retarded Boys
- Homes for Mentally Retarded Men
- Homes for the Physically Handicapped
- Youth Rehabilitation
- Homes for Elderly Men and Women
- Alcoholic Rehabilitation
- Assistance to the Transient Poor

**FOR MORE INFORMATION,  
WRITE TO DIRECTOR  
OF VOCATIONS:**

Motherhouse and General Administration  
Post Office Box 1303  
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87103

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Eastern Regional Administration  
Post Office Box 260  
Mokena, Illinois 60954

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Canadian Regional Administration  
2338 St. Antoine Street  
Montreal, Quebec, Canada

