

From an introductory note from Brother Thomas to the Brotherhood:

The retreat program portion will be brought by Dzieci, a theater troop which offers a "Ministry to Ministers" program. Many many (many!) thanks to Blane Frederik for both the initial idea that they would be splendid for us. They are a diverse group...in age and in gender...and I think we will be much enriched by what they have to offer.

From the online journal of Brother Karekin Madteos Yarian:

Monday

Dzieci. Fascinating!

Tuesday

*Just experienced one of the most profound things ever in my life. There are no words.
Well, maybe one - Dzieci.*

Wednesday

*Fools Mass tonight! In a couple of hours. Eager to experience Dzieci in their moment.
It has been profound so far.*

Late Wednesday

*I am left burst wide open from the experience of the Fool's Mass.
Raw, grateful, and breathless from the inbursting of the Holy barely covers it.*

Thursday

Priceless.

And the following Sunday!

*As an added blessing, I joined Dzieci in the park today to process our time together last week.
What indescribable joy to have expanded my family in the world!*

Please all stay in touch! I feel like your brother in truth. And I am transformed.

In one workshop, most of the group formed a gauntlet / birth canal, offering resistance to one person trying to make it through while focusing on the "mantra" holy text verse each had chosen earlier in the day. At the end of the "birth canal" other members, including those already "born" served as Mothers to welcome and comfort the newborn / reborn. Very powerful to see / participate in.
The Dzieci group later performed their brilliant 'Fools Mass' -- a profoundly moving work.
They are doing great things!
Brother Tobias Stanislas Haller

Anyone who has been involved in congregational leadership or more than darkened the door of their local parish MUST see Fools Mass at least once in their lives. An in-the-aisles-rolling-with-laughter study of the personalities and pieties that haunt all of us at work in the Church, Fools Mass reminds us what unspeakably profound things can happen when tragedy strikes but the Mass must go on...

You are extraordinary...thank you!
Brother Richard Edward Helmer

The Fools Mass:
an experience of humanity and the divine that is transformative and grace filled.
Brother Aelred Bernard Dean

I wept through the whole performance.
Brother Joseph Basil Gauss

I look into others eyes – to catch a glimpse of their soul. For a lifetime, I have practiced and honed this craft – this gift of seeing. And yet – you have shocked me and caught me completely off guard.
In your eyes there is more than I know to see.

Thank you!
Anonymous Brother

You have no idea how much I love and treasure the group!

Much love,
Brother Millard Cook

Another brother who graced us during Dzieci's processing session afterwards:

mass = eucharist
eucharist = thanksgiving
thank you thank you thank you thank you thank you

enjoys giddy excitement
sheathes sword
sits calmly
breathes deeply
waits
breathes deeply again
waits some more
writes short poem

Too much summer heat
Children drift in on the wind
Soft rain in the park

returns to center

Please do stay in touch.

wanders off in a haze

Brother Thomas Bushnell

*Bless you Matt. I am yet vibrating with energy, and hope soon to share more
of what I have heard and witnessed as the work you began with us takes on life.
Suddenly missing you all deeply at this moment.*

In love and service bound,
Brother Blane Frederik BSG

