

Winter 2011/2012

MOUNT Angel Letter



*123rd Class Graduates from
Mount Angel Seminary*



INSIDE

This Issue

Winter 2011/2012 | Volume 63, Number 4

DIRECTORY

MOUNT ANGEL ABBEY
503-845-3030
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ABBAY LITURGY SCHEDULE
Weekdays and Sundays
Vigils (Office of Reading) 5:25 a.m.
Saturdays (for Sunday) 7:30 p.m.
Lauds (Morning Prayer) 6:35 a.m.
Sundays 6:40 a.m.
Community Mass 8:05 a.m.
Sundays 9:00 a.m.
Vespers (Evening Prayer) 5:20 p.m.
Sundays 5:20 p.m.
Compline (Evening Prayer) 7:30 p.m.
Sundays 8:05 p.m.

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503-845-3025
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Fr. Pius Harding, O.S.B.
503-845-3112
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503.845.3123
vocation@mountangelabbey.org

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volunteer@mountangelabbey.org

On the Cover: (Left to right) Br. Basil Lawrence and Br. Jonah Wright make their solemn vows.

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Would you like to receive Mount Angel Abbey publications, invitations, news and information via email? Send your email address to: development@mountangelabbey.org

Do you have any special requests regarding the mail you receive from Mount Angel Abbey? Simply call us at 503.845.3068 or toll free 800.845.8272.

Best of all, send the mailing label in question to the Development Office Mount Angel Abbey, One Abbey Drive, St. Benedict, Oregon 97373.

The MOUNT ANGEL LETTER, the official publication of Mount Angel Abbey, is a newsletter for the friends of Mount Angel Abbey, Monastery, Retreat House, Library, Seminary and Our Lady of the Angels Priory, Cuernavaca, Mexico.

Please send comments and address changes to:
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PO Box 501, St. Benedict, Oregon 97373-0501
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Dear Friends

I have a saying that “*Lectio divina* is the answer to everything!” Now, that sounds sort of simplistic (if not ridiculous), doesn’t it? One tends to look askance at things that are advertised as panaceas or cure-alls, but while I admittedly quote my saying somewhat facetiously and with tongue in cheek, allow me to unpack it and note what may be true about it!

No doubt many of you are already familiar with *lectio divina*, which is a way of praying with Scripture. The Latin term can be found in chapter 48 of the Rule of St. Benedict, on the daily manual labor: “The brothers should have specified periods for manual labor as well as for prayerful reading [*in lectione divina*]” (RB 48:1).

When St. Benedict used that term 1,500 years ago he wouldn’t have had in mind how it has become defined and systematized and even identified as “Benedictine prayer,” but both within and outside of monastic circles *lectio divina* has become a treasured approach to prayer. The very idea of it is so right, so good, so simple and yet so profound.

Basically it comes down to this: Ours is a God who speaks, and when God speaks, we ought to listen... and respond! And that comes down to saying that we ought to do *lectio divina*! So, is it the answer to everything? Well, of course it’s not magic, but it is formative of our Christian attitude toward “everything” that comes into our life. It depends in great measure upon how openly, sincerely, intelligently and responsively we devote ourselves to such an important thing as listening to God speak to us, as he does whenever we take up the Scriptures in quiet, or when the word of God is proclaimed in the liturgy.

To attentively read or listen to his word of love, to ponder its meaning and let its truth be released in our minds, and then to draw it into our hearts for loving response to God’s word in prayer – and finally in contemplative and loving silence before the Lord to allow his Spirit to etch upon our hearts the truth of God’s word to us... this is doing *lectio divina*!

Dear friends of Mount Angel, all of the above about *lectio divina* allows me to express the Advent hope that through this way of prayer with the wonderfully rich Advent readings you may enter ever more deeply into the mystery and grace of the Lord’s coming... and into the joy and peace of a most Blessed Christmas!

Abbot Gregory Duerr, OSB



“
The brothers should have specified periods for manual labor as well as for prayerful reading in lectione divina.
”

– Holy Rule 48:1

Monastery

NEW PROFESSIONS

By Br. Basil Lawrence, OSB

Mount Angel Abbey is happy to share with you the progression of several of our monks to new stages in their monastic formation. On Monday, September 12, Br. Jonah Wright and Br. Basil Lawrence both professed solemn vows, permanently binding themselves to Mount Angel Abbey in their commitments to conversion, stability and obedience. This was our first profession of solemn vows in four years! We are also pleased to report that two monks professed simple vows on September 8: Br. Jesus Leijá, who took the name of Br. Jesús María, and Br. Robert Love, who took the name Br. André Bessette. Finally, the Abbey was blessed to have five monks begin their novitiate on September 7: Br. Israel Hernandez, Br. Jackson Conocido, Br. Juan Manjares, Br. Aage Nielsen and Br. Duy Nguyen. We are very proud of all of our monks in formation and we ask your continued prayers for their growth and perseverance!



Br. André Bessette



Br. Jesús María

Also, two of our monks - Br. Jacob Stronach and Br. Jonah Wright - were ordained to the transitional diaconate on Wednesday, October 26 in the Abbey Church. Br. Jacob will spend his diaconate year at St. Mary's Parish in Gervais, Oregon and Br. Jonah is assigned as a deacon at St. Agatha's Parish in Portland, Oregon. Both men hope to petition Abbot Gregory and Archbishop Vlazny to be ordained to the priesthood in the summer of 2012.

CELEBRATING MONASTERY GROWTH

By Prior Konrad Schaefer, OSB

Priory



Abbot Gregory with the newly professed monks - Brothers Pacomio, Benedict, Patricio and Basilio.

We marvel at the signs of growth in the monastery. On May 24, Cuernavaca Bishop Alfonso Cortéz ordained Padre Juan Casiano to the priesthood in a festive Mass with religious women and men, oblates and families in attendance. On Saturday the monks and friends travelled to Izucar in the neighboring state of Puebla for the first sung Mass in Padre's home parish. After an exuberant reception at the entrance to the village, the huge assembly processed with the Blessed Sacrament to the basilica of Santo Domingo through streets strewn with flowers, accompanied by mariachi music. After the Eucharist, the main street was closed and everyone enjoyed dinner and music, dancing, a fireworks display and a bullfight. In August, Padre Casiano began his studies

in Canon Law at the Pontifical University of Mexico.

On the 45th anniversary of our monastic foundation, Abbot Gregory Duerr presided at the abbatial Eucharist. During the liturgy Brs. Patricio, Pacomio and Benedict professed triennial vows, and Br. Basil solemn vows. Also in August Br. Benedict began his theological studies in the Cuernavaca seminary and Br. Basil returns to Sant' Anselmo, Rome, to complete his licentiate in Monastic Studies. This academic year several monks are studying philosophy and theology or a specialization. This is a generous investment for the viability and leadership of the community. We sure appreciate your prayers and friendly support.

Retreat House

A MORE SUSTAINABLE RETREAT HOUSE

By Fr. Pius X Harding, OSB, guest master

One of the characteristic marks of Benedictines is their “stability.” We typically think of this in reference to community life. But, the monastic value of stability also impacts how we relate to the whole of our environment: the pilgrims who visit us, the friends, businesses and professional community with whom we relate, and extends all the way to our physical environment, including our buildings and the very land we inhabit.

With this particular monastic value in mind, things are getting a bit “greener” at the Abbey’s Retreat House. The kitchen recently replaced its plastic supply containers with glass, and is in the process of replacing all aluminum cooking pots with stainless

steel in order to avoid the possible transfer of container materials into the food we serve.

Guests will also now encounter a quaint little trash can in the dining room marked “Plant & Paper Compost.” This one, along with another from the kitchen is deposited into our new compost tumbler. Materials such as coffee grounds, dining room paper products, kitchen trimmings, etc., will now become a rich soil to be added back into the Retreat House garden.

There are of course bigger plans, such as new thermal pane windows and a new heating system that could cut our energy consumption by half. These significant projects are, however, still in the “hoped for” category at the



Volunteer Douglas Loftus assists Fr. Pius X in assembling the new compost tumbler.

moment, so in the meantime the Retreat House staff hopes to reduce the amount of refuse produced in Benet Hall by 60% as part of an on-going effort to do more while consuming less.

Our ultimate hope is that by being good stewards of God’s gifts, we and our guests will be able to encounter our Father and Creator a little more deeply in this place.

AÄLTO’S LEGACY IN AMERICA

By Victoria Ertelt, library administrator

On October 22 David Fixler FAIA, LEED EP, gave a presentation titled: The Wave and the Mountain: Understanding and Sustaining Aälto’s Legacy in America. Beginning architecture students, long-established architects and Abbey friends heard a talk that beautifully expressed the reverence with which the world holds Aälto’s works, especially the Abbey Library.

David Fixler is a Principal at EYP specializing in the study and rehabilitation of 20th century buildings. His projects include the restoration of Alvar Aälto’s Baker House, Building 7 and other work on the Main Group at MIT, the Widener, Lamont and Hilles Libraries at Harvard, and work on the renovation of the United Nations Headquarters. He currently serves as co-chair of the Association for Preservation Technology’s Technical Committee on Modern Heritage, Preservation Officer of the Society of Architectural Historians, and President of the International working party for the documentation and conservation of buildings, sites, and neighborhoods of the modern movement - New England.

Library

WORKSHOPS

This September the Library began a series of workshops called Scientia Rerum Novarum, i.e., Knowledge of New Things. (Yes, it is a play on the words of the encyclical!). The library staff offers workshops every Friday in the Aquinas lounge to help students (and faculty) understand how best to use information and academic resources found in the library.

SAINT BERNARD OF THE ALPS CHAPEL

By Sandra Chiodo, communications officer

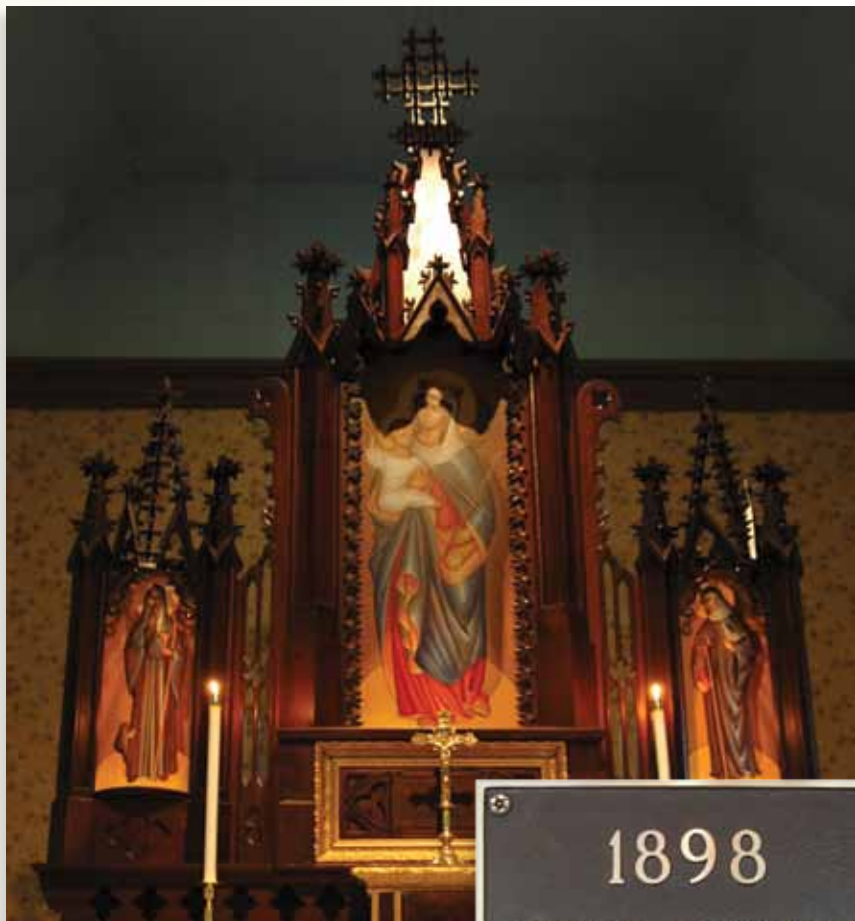
Early in the history of the Abbey the monks homesteaded property in an area in the foothills of the Cascades called Grassy Flats. In 1896, the monks moved from Grassy Flats to the Milk Ranch. Originally a working dairy, the Milk Ranch currently serves as the monks' Retreat House.

In 1898, Joseph Speldrich completed the building of a small chapel at the Milk Ranch. He carved the ornate altar, the communion rail, the choir loft railing, the side altar niches and the organ. The chapel housed statues of The Sacred Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary and child Jesus, St. Joseph, St. Benedict and St. Scholastica. Prior Adelhelm Odermatt, one of the founding monks who had come to Oregon from Engelberg, dedicated the chapel on August 15, 1900 at a Solemn High Mass. In 1916, the golden jubilee of his profession, he was named titular Abbot.

Over the years, the small chapel has suffered degradation from mountain storms and, being in a remote location, was a victim of theft. The organ was moved to the Abbey in 1937. The statues disappeared.

For several years, Fr. Alexander Plasker and Br. Claude Lane have joined forces to work on the restoration of the chapel. Working with a team of volunteers and employees, the chapel building was completely renovated. Among the many tasks were structural and interior renovation, reroofing and construction of a porch.

Br. Claude painted images of the Blessed Virgin Mary and child Jesus, St. Benedict and St. Scholastica in the



same style as the original statues. The statues of the Sacred Heart and St. Joseph were replaced.

On a warm July day this summer, monks, volunteers and employees gathered to celebrate the work with a picnic lunch and to rededicate the chapel. Abbot Gregory Duerr presided, rededicating it in honor of St. Bernard of Montjoux, who evangelized in the Swiss Alps in the eleventh century. The early Swiss monks of Mount Angel Abbey called the homestead land in the hills 'Mount St. Bernard' perhaps because the area reminded them of their home. In their memory, the chapel has been named "St. Bernard of the Alps."

SAINT BERNARD

St. Bernard of Montjoux (ca. 923-1008) was a priest in the diocese of Aosta at the foot of the Italian Alps. He spent more than four decades doing missionary work in the Swiss Alps. He is especially remembered for two alpine hospices he built to aid lost travelers in the mountain passes: Great and Little St. Bernard. Pope Pius XI proclaimed him the patron saint of alpinists and mountain climbers in 1923.

HUMAN FORMATION PROGRAM: THE FIRST IN A SERIES ON THE FOUR PILLARS OF PRIESTLY FORMATION

By Fr. Terry Tompkins, director of human formation

As a Human Formation Director, I am frequently asked, “So exactly what is this thing that goes by the name of Human Formation anyway?” Having accomplished twenty-five years of parish ministry prior to joining the faculty here, former parishioners are especially intrigued by what it is that has me so captivated that I’m willing to temporarily stray from my home diocese in California for the sake of this type of service.

The short answer is that I am absolutely convinced of the essential importance of Human Formation in preparing men for priesthood and thoroughly appreciate how heavily Mount Angel Seminary invests in this process. Formation was certainly taking place back in the day during my tenure as a seminarian here (1978-1982) but it wasn’t nearly as developed and comprehensive as is today’s program. The fact that it has been expanded and fine-tuned over the years speaks well for Mount Angel Seminary as well as for other seminaries that have stepped up to the plate in this regard.

The *Rule of Life* which every seminarian receives upon his entrance to the seminary speaks to the importance of the Human Formation component when it states, “The priest, who is called to be a ‘living image’ of Jesus Christ, Head and Shepherd of the Church, should seek to reflect in himself, as far as possible, the human perfection which shines forth in the Incarnate Son of God.” Priests, along with all of the faithful, are indeed called to reflect and celebrate the inherent beauty of humanity lovingly fashioned in God’s divine image and likeness.

There are actually four pillars that support the overarching process

of Priestly Formation. These are identified as Human Formation, Academic Formation, Spiritual Formation, and Pastoral Formation. Returning to the *Rule of Life*, it is helpful to hear it stated that “Human Formation provides opportunities for personal growth and character development” so that the seminarian is enabled to grow in “virtue and affective maturity” as he identifies and transforms areas that might constitute

personal weaknesses. In the end, the goal is that these priests-to-be will be able to serve as viable bridges rather than impediments, as they engage in the all-important work of leading the faithful to Christ Jesus.

We find that there is already much goodness, fervor, eagerness, and thirst for service within the seminarians when they arrive each year at the Hilltop. These qualities, coupled with God’s grace and a dedicated faculty, allow for great strides to be made as these future priests entrusted to our care experience growth and refinement under the four-pillared portico of Human Formation. What a distinct honor and privilege it is to play such a unique role in bringing these candidates to ordination and ultimate service in the Vineyard of the Lord!



CHRISTIAN IN THE WORLD

By Abbot Peter Eberle, OSB

“Flight from the world” has traditionally been associated with the monastic way. The monk flees the world and goes out into the desert to be alone with the Alone. And yet even from the time of the desert fathers, monasticism has always been engaged with the world in some way or other, usually through the ministry of receiving guests. Being firmly rooted in this monastic tradition, Saint Benedict made hospitality, receiving as Christ all who come to the monastery, a hallmark of his Rule.

Monastic hospitality can take many forms. At Mount Angel Abbey the Christian in the World Program has been one small but unique way that it has been exercised. It may come as a surprise to many (even to its participants) to see Christian in the World categorized as “hospitality” rather than “adult education” (which it hopefully is). However, one has only to recall its origins to realize its original inspiration.

The program is the product of a collaborative effort of two monks, the late Father Bernard Sander and Father Hugh Feiss, who is now a member of Mount Angel’s daughter house, the Monastery of the Ascension in Jerome, Idaho. At the time, Father Bernard was director of the abbey’s retreat house where he had become a living legend because of the marvelous way he welcomed and cared for guests. Meanwhile with his breath-taking knowledge of books in general and theology in particular Father Hugh was creating a legend of his own as director of the abbey library. Both men had an abiding interest in “outreach,” and were always on the lookout for finding ways to welcome and serve people from the surrounding community.

They decided to present an adult education series that would be co-sponsored by the library and retreat

house. The program was aimed at ordinary people living in the world. Thus its name: Christian in the World. Moreover, it would not be a purely academic program. A speaker would present a lecture or two, but

participants would also be given time to reflect and pray, to discuss, and to integrate the information they received into their lives. Hence, as originally conceived and executed, the meetings were all day affairs,



starting at about 9 and not ending at until 3 or 4 PM. In addition Christian in the World programs were designed as a series. The presentations were devoted to one theme throughout the course of a semester or an academic year.

Over time changes inevitably occurred. Frs. Hugh and Bernard and their collaborators continued to adapt and modify the program. Fr. Hugh left his post as director of the library and moved to the Monastery of the Ascension in Idaho. Age crept up on Fr. Bernard and he relinquished his position as director of the retreat house.

Nevertheless Fr. Bernard continued the link between Christian in the World of those early days and Christian in the World as it exists today. He remained an active committee member until well into the twenty-first century. Moreover, he organized a Steering Committee, composed of capable and generous laymen and women, who took over most of the organizational details.

Over the years the Committee has lost a few members, and a few have been added, but there has always been a basic continuity of both membership and vision. The format has evolved somewhat but the basic vision has not changed. Thanks to the generosity and hard work of the men and women serving on the Steering Committee, the Christian in the World program keeps alive the vision of Frs. Bernard and Hugh – a continuing and significant way of showing Benedictine hospitality on the Hilltop.



FALL 2011: *Translating the New Roman Missal*

Although three of the fall presentations have already taken place please feel free to attend the December presentation by Fr. Paschal Cheline, OSB, “The New Roman Missal: Much Ado About Nothing, Much Ado About Something.” Saturday, December 10, 2011. Earlier fall speakers were Frs. Rory Pitstick and Jeremy Driscoll, OSB.

SCHEDULE

8-8:45	Mass (Optional)
8:45-9	Registration
9-9:15	Opening prayers/Introduction
9:15-10:15	First presentation
10:15-10:30	Break
10:30-11:30	Second presentation
11:30-12	Private meditation
12-12:15	Noon prayer
12:15-1:15	Dialogue with speaker
1:15-2:00	Lunch

Participants are welcome to stay through Vespers (beginning at 5:15 p.m.)

Cost is \$50 for the series (four Saturdays) or \$15 a session. Student cost is \$20 for the series or \$5 a session. Books and other optional reading materials are not included in the cost. Presentations take place in the Mount Angel Abbey Library Auditorium. Bring a brown bag lunch or order a box lunch at check-in. Beverages and morning snacks are provided.

For further information or to preregister, please call Cecile Beckerman, Salem, OR (503) 393-5041.

MEET SEMINARIAN JOHN HESLA

By Dean Marshall, College 4 – Diocese of Sacramento

John Hesla, of St. Cecilia's parish in Beaverton and a first-year seminarian at Mount Angel Seminary, relates a vocational call that is filled with unexpected turns.

Hesla converted to the Catholic faith in 2004 with the rest of his family when he was in the sixth grade.

He grew to love the "sacraments, tradition, and universality" of the Church. Little did he realize that his journey would eventually bring him to Mount Angel Seminary.

In middle school, Hesla began altar serving, getting to know the priests and Mass. During this time one of his parish priests, Fr. Peter Fernandez, told him, "John, I think you'd be a good priest." Several of Hesla's friends and another priest agreed, and so he began to consider the priesthood. It would still be several years, however, before he would actively pursue the call.

Hesla went on to Jesuit High School in Beaverton, where he was involved

at St. Joseph's Parish in Salem. Hesla relates that these experiences "made for a good foundation" in his discernment. He decided that music was not the path for him, and while he enjoyed studying philosophy and history, he felt out of place at Willamette.

The answer to this longing finally came through talking with his mentor and Mount Angel Alumnus,



things he enjoys about seminary is the brotherhood. "Everyone is here for the same reason. [They are] looking to become better men in Christ," he relates with joy. Hesla enjoys the structure of the environment and is excited about diving into the program.

Hesla looks forward to working in the parish and serving the faithful in the Archdiocese of Portland, particularly in Mass and confession. He smiles as he notes that he is most anticipating "working with God's people and learning with them along the way."

"Everyone is here for the same reason. [They are] looking to become better men in Christ;"

in music and was "focused on the next step: college." From Jesuit High he applied to Willamette University with the plan to earn a degree in music.

At Willamette, Hesla continued to grow in his faith and discovered that perhaps God had something else in store for him. He discovered the rosary at Willamette's Newman Center and began attending adoration

Fr. Ysrael Bien (parochial vicar at St. Cecilia Parish), who suggested he read *To Save A Thousand Souls*. Hesla devoured the work and identified with many of the ideas presented. He made the decision to pursue seminary and applied to the Archdiocese of Portland.

Hesla has found seminary life to be extremely rewarding. One of the

NEWS

NEW FACULTY

ELIZABETH FARLEY

Adjunct in Theology

BS, in Nursing, California State University
MS, Health Care Management, California State University
MBA, Pepperdine University
MA, (Theology) Mount Angel Seminary
STL, The Marianum, Rome

SISTER GERTRUDE FEICK, OSB

Asst. Professor of Religious Studies and Theology

BS, Indiana University
MS, Eastern Illinois University
MA, (Theology) Mount Angel Seminary

MYRNA KEOUGH

Coordinator of Liturgy and Music, Asst. Professor of Music

AA, Mus.Dip., Ambrose University College
B. Mus.Ed., Luther College, University of Regina

SHAWN KEOUGH

Associate Professor of Church History and Systematic Theology

BTh, Ambrose University College
MAR, Ambrose University College
PhD, University of St. Michael's College in the
University of Toronto
PhD, Candidate, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven

KATY LEAMY

Associate Professor of Moral Theology

BA, Wheaton College
MDiv, Duke University
PhD, Candidate, Marquette University

ANNA LESIUK

Asst. Professor of Spanish and Latin

MA, University of Warsaw
Adv. MA, Catholic University of Leuven
PhD, Candidate, University of Oregon

ETSUKO SISLEY

Asst. Professor of English Communications

BA, Keio University, Tokyo
EdM, Oregon State University
MA, Ohio State University

MARK VAN NESS

Asst. Professor of English Communications

BS, Liberty University
MA, Georgian Court University
PhD, Biola University - to be completed in December 2011

Additional faculty news may be found at:
www.mountangelabbey.org/newsletter.htm



CLASS OF 1971 REUNION

Ken Roberts SHS '71 SCG '75

The class of '71 held its 40th class reunion this August at the Abbey Retreat House. There were 17 of us in attendance and many we had not seen in the last 40 years so it was a joyous occasion to return to the Hilltop, many of us accompanied by our wives. Our first year as freshmen was also Fr. Edmund's first year as Vice-Rector so he was very gracious in spending as much time as he could with us. A tour of the old haunts revealed many wonderful changes and a visit to the cemetery reminded us all of the good fortune we had to be taught by so many great monks. Stories abounded, memories jogged and wives were amazed by the fact that all was not study and prayer!

Two priests came from our graduating class – Ken Nielson, now an Army chaplain and Rick Leisy (Christian), a monk at Christ in the Desert. Neither was able to attend but Rick did manage to send us some of their monastic brew to help us celebrate! Fr. Alexander hosted a social for us so that we might visit with some of the monks that we were longing to see. We all promised that we would not wait another 40 years before gathering again. In fact a few of us gathered a month later to hear Kurt Dugan's band. We enjoyed ourselves immensely and the Benedictine hospitality reminded us of the many reasons we have such fond memories of our years on the Hill. We'll be back!

Follow Fr. Jeremy Driscoll, OSB and Owen Cummings in the online journal "Oblation: Liturgy and Evangelization." The journal is a project of the Notre Dame Center for Liturgy. <http://blogs.nd.edu/oblation/>

Development Update

MINDING THE ABBEY'S BUSINESS

By Jodi Kilcup, director of development



When you enter the old Abbey Press Building, you may be greeted by Cecilia, a glossy black and white cat who waits patiently for the appearance of her favorite person: Fr. Martin Grassel. Monk and cat may be visited in his office (where she purrs in an empty paper box) or be seen walking companionably on the Hilltop.

Fr. Martin covers a lot of ground in his role as the Abbey's Procurator (Chief Financial Officer), a position he has held since 2008. He oversees finances, facilities, human resources, the bookstores, food services, IT, and custodial and grounds services. He also teaches a novitiate course on classic texts of the monastic tradition and meets weekly with novices and seminarians seeking spiritual direction. With his community, he prays the Divine Office and celebrates Mass.

Anyone looking for Fr. Martin around 4 pm will likely find him in his mosaic studio, where he creates painstaking icons out of "smalti," iridescent shards and pebbles of glass. In his spare time, he experiments in brewing homemade beer, which receives rave reviews on the Hilltop.

As Treasurer of the Abbey Foundation of Oregon, Fr. Martin works closely with the Development Office to ensure, as he says, that the staff "brush their teeth and comb their hair." He enjoys being in touch with people "off the hill who support us," and counts his work with the Foundation as a "privilege."

Fr. Martin has high hopes for the Abbey and Seminary. First, he wants to see the monastery flourish, attracting monks who are "sincere in their pursuit of God and their desire to be holy and a light to the world." Second, he wants to ensure the Seminary continues as a "vibrant institution that contributes to the life of God's people."

Looking ahead, he is concerned about the Abbey's aging facilities. The Monastery is 80 years old and the church needs renovation to bring it to life as "a beautiful space to glorify God." It should be no surprise that he hopes to see the monks produce a tangible product, as a source of sustainable revenue. His favorite idea? A monastic brewery, of course.



MONASTIC PROFILE:

FR. MARTIN GRASSEL

Fr. Martin entered the monastery after earning a degree in computer science at the University of North Dakota and working as a software engineer. He began thinking about the priesthood in the early 1990s, or "it was thinking about me," he says. His diocese sent him to Mount Angel in 1995 as a Pre-Theology student, and he felt an "instant attraction" to the monastic life.

Fr. Martin made his solemn vows in 2003, then earned his Master's of Divinity degree and was ordained a priest. His next stop was Italy, where he studied at the Gregorian University and lived at Sant' Anselmo. Back at the Abbey in 2006, he served as formation director in the Seminary for two years before assuming the role of Procurator.

PROCURATOR'S WISH LIST

In this issue, we are pleased to introduce both Fr. Martin Grassel and a new feature in the Mount Angel Letter: the "Procurator's Wish List," which will note urgent projects in need of funding.

Replace 13 monastery grave markers	\$350 each
Annual expenses for Abbey Mass guests:	
Mass hosts.....	\$800
Mass wine	\$2,650
Candles	\$2,500
Hilltop voicemail server.....	\$7,000
Technology for six Seminary classrooms	\$20,000 each
Marian Grotto repairs.....	\$23,000

SERRA CLUB ADOPT-A-SEMINARIAN PROGRAM

The Portland Serra Club has for a long time provided a program of support for Portland Archdiocese seminarians. Each year, a Serran coordinates the connections between seminarians and Serran members. Once a tie is created, Serrans stay in contact and support 'their' seminarian throughout his formation.

The first and most important responsibility is to pray for vocations and for their seminarian's journey – for the continued growth of men who turn toward the priesthood as their calling. All Serra Club members participate in this important work. With the Adopt-a-Seminarian program Serra Club members take a more active role in supporting the growth of vocations with their personal support for 'their' seminarian. Their commitment is to stay in contact and continue to pray for them until they are ordained.

Serran Lynn Jones, incoming President of the Abbey Foundation of Oregon Board of Trustees, has



participated for many years and has found that this program has been a gift to her and her husband Dan. They have adopted and prayed for the vocation journey of two seminarians in particular – David Brown who is now an ordained priest at Our Lady of the Dunes Parish in Florence, Oregon and David Shaw who is now an ordained priest at St. Anne Parish in Portland, Oregon.

Adopt-a-Seminarian is a bit like sending your child off to college for the first time. Serra Club members stay in contact, send a card or gift for their birthday or other

holidays, provide stamps or phone cards to keep in contact with their families, bake cookies or take their seminarians to dinner or invite them for holiday celebrations.

If you would like to learn more about the Serra Club in your area please contact the USA Council of Serra International at www.serraus.org. To learn more about participating in the Archdiocese of Portland Serra Club and the Adopt-a-Seminarian program please contact club president: Ken Harris at 503.645.5589 or www.serraportland.org.

NEW IN DEVELOPMENT



Lee Ann Reed, special events coordinator, joined the Development staff in August 2011. With 21 years of experience managing local, regional and national nonprofit organizations, which included planning special events and conferences, Lee Ann brings her exceptional organizational skills to the Hilltop. Mount Angel Abbey and Seminary events currently under her purview are the Arts and Wine Festival, the Abbot's Appreciation Brunch, and the Seminary Benefit Dinner. Lee Ann serves on the State Fair Foundation Board and is vice chair of the North Gate Way Urban Renewal Advisory Board in Salem.



In June 2011, Tina Kramer began volunteering 8-10 hours per week as the Volunteer Coordinator. For the past 15 years, she has built a career in law enforcement. Currently, she is an investigator in the Domestic Violence and Vulnerable Adults Unit for the Clackamas County District Attorney's Office. She earned her bachelor's degree at Warner Pacific College in Human Development, and a master's degree with a concentration in Organizational Communications from Marylhurst University. Previously, she worked as a graphic artist for regional newspapers. Mount Angel Abbey played an important role in Tina's conversion to Catholicism. She has been an oblate since 2007.

SEMINARY BENEFIT DINNER HONORS ARCHBISHOP JOHN G. VLAZNY



Archbishop John G. Vlazny accepted an etched glass award in honor of his support of the Abbey and Seminary.

The Eighth Annual Mount Angel Seminary Benefit Dinner was held on Sunday, October 30, at the Oregon Convention Center. The Honorary Chair, Most Rev. John G. Vlazny, has attended the dinner every year. Msgr. Richard Paperini, President/Rector of the Seminary, presented the Archbishop with an etched glass representation of St. Peter, a detail from an icon written by Br. Claude Lane, OSB.

The event attracted 118 table sponsorships and more than 700 guests. Two foundations offered a total of \$115,000 in challenge grants, announced Chris Corrado, Event Chair. Dinner guests rose to the challenge by contributing \$112,000. Overall, the Seminary Benefit Dinner surpassed its goal by raising a total of \$565,743, which significantly helps bridge the Seminary's annual \$1.3 million funding gap between tuition revenue and the actual cost to educate each seminarian.

Seminarians, dressed in native garb, serenaded their benefactors. Rev. Mr. Santiago Iriarte, from the Diocese of Fresno recounted a moving and humorous story of his call to the priesthood. This year's video featured the Seminary's Pastoral Formation Program and showed seminarians working in parishes, food banks, schools and shelters. To see the video and photos from the dinner, visit www.mountangelabbey.org.

ABBOT'S APPRECIATION BRUNCH

By Lee Ann Reed, event coordinator

Nearly 150 members of the Abbot's Circle and the Legacy Society gathered at the Abbey in September for the Abbot's Annual Appreciation Mass and Brunch. Monks and visiting vocation discerners greeted the attendees with mimosas before the brunch buffet.

In his homily during Mass, Abbot Gregory thanked his guests for their generous support of the Abbey and Seminary, "This is the day of the Abbot's Appreciation Mass and Brunch, a very special day when the Abbot takes the opportunity to express profound and sincerest thanksgiving and praise for the support that the monks of Mount Angel Abbey have received from the wonderful Christians who have so very generously donated their time, their talent, their prayer and their dollars to assist us in the important mission of seminary education and in the offering of Benedictine hospitality in which Mount Angel is engaged."

After brunch Ann Henry, former Abbey composer in residence, her accompanist, Daryl Kaufmann, and the Scola, comprised of former seminarians, their brothers and sons, and the People's Choir presented a program of Catholic liturgical music. Next year's brunch will be held on September 23, 2012.



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JULY 25-27

- 5:15 PM Sing vespers w/the monks
- 6 PM Church Performance
- 6:30 PM Picnic Supper
- 8 PM Feature Performance

WEDNESDAY, JULY 25

- 6 PM To be determined
- 8 PM Quatuor Alcan

THURSDAY, JULY 26

- 6 PM Cappella Romana
- 8 PM Richard Stoltzman, clarinet
Yehudi Wyner, piano

FRIDAY, JULY 27

- 6 PM Cappella Romana
- 8 PM Laurence Kayaleh, violin
Paul Stewart, piano

Gen. Admission \$45/night General Subscription \$120/3 nights
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Monastic Journal

GOD'S CLOUD OF PEACE

By Br. Jonah Wright, OSB

The rain and cold have arrived. Sometimes the fog is so dense it seems as though we have floated out to sea. The steam radiators are groaning, moaning, and barking into life. The radiators in some of our cells have so much personality that they have been named, "Iron Beast," "Screaming Banshee," etc.

Some of our radiators are tolerable, some are beastly loud, some are as quiet as a whisper. However, all of them work together to radiate warmth in the monastery.

As monks, we try to be radiators of the warmth of the spirit of Christ. Some of us groan and moan, some sputter, but we are all individuals who are transformed and augmented by Christ. We each have our weak spots that make us creak and groan when we expand with the spirit. It is this growth and expansion in Christ that is at the core of monastic life. One can see evidence of this dynamic in choir. Br. Teresio corrals our diverse and sometimes disparate voices into one continual prayer to God.

Coming together as fallible humans creates tensions, tensions that can only be transcended by the grace of God. We come together to face each other, the Church, and the world at a level that we could not face without the assistance of divine grace. It is by the assistance of divine grace that we transcend our differences. Sometimes we all get along harmoniously, sometimes we feel the need to defend a particular stance; the miracle of it all is not our strength of will and discipline, it is that we persevere in a life that is unimaginable without the grace of God.

While some monks are quite clean and tidy, I am not. Some are hirsute, some ... not so much. Some are great fasters, some struggle with food. It is only when we recognize the differences between us, and when we feel the differences that these tensions create, that we can appreciate the power of God's grace to keep us united and on the path of salvation.

Under Fr. Pius X and Br. Andrew our retreat house has been a source of great solace and spiritual growth for our guests. Rooms are in high demand. I have to stop and ask myself what brings such numbers of people to our little Hilltop. Aside from the comfortable and tasteful accommodations, people speak to me about the "peace" they find here. It is as if there were an invisible cloud that settles upon the Hilltop and insulates our visitors from preoccupation with daily concerns.

As a member of the monastic community

I suppose I am so used to this peace that I take it for granted, but I think that the source of the peace is the hundreds of monks who have offered up their lives for the love of God on this blessed Hilltop. Though we may not always feel personally peaceful, there is a deeper peace that abides in the hearts of those who truly commit themselves to God and who help keep others on the right track. St. Augustine refers to this as the "peace" of the City of God. It is not a peace without struggle and tribulation, but rather a peace that results from persistence in the struggles and trials of growth in Christ. In a word, and in spite of our foibles, the peace of Mount Angel Abbey is the peace of God.



Br. Teresio Caldwell leads the schola - voices lifted together in song.



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Events

CALENDAR



DECEMBER	2-4	Advent Retreat. The Beatitudes of Peace & Purity of Heart. Br. Cyril Drnjevic, OSB
	8	Feast of the Immaculate Conception
	10	Christian in the World Program: The New Roman Missal: Much Ado About Nothing, Much Ado About Something. Father Paschal Cheline, OSB
	9-11	Advent Retreat. Fr. Jeremy Driscoll, OSB. Booked – waiting list available
	12	Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe
	24	Christmas Vigil Service 11:15 PM followed by Midnight Mass, Abbey Church
	25	Solemnity of the Birth of the Lord. Christmas Mass 10:00 AM Abbey Church
JANUARY	1	Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God
	13-15	Women's Silent Retreat
	14	Christian in the World Program: The Kingdom of God in the Old Testament. Sister Jeanette von Herrmann, OSB
	28	Santo Nino Celebration
FEBRUARY	2	Feast of the Presentation of the Lord. Candlelight Procession. Mass 7:00 PM
	3	Tet Celebration
	3-5	Benedictine Oblate Retreat
	11	Christian in the World Program: The Kingdom of God in the New Testament. Sister Jeanette van Herrmann, OSB
	22	Ash Wednesday
MARCH	10	Christian in the World Program: The Kingdom of God in Saint Augustine. Brother Jonah Wright, OSB
APRIL	1	Oblate Monastic Living Retreat

The Mount Angel Letter is also available on the Web:
www.mountangelabbey.org/newsletter.html

WWW.MOUNTANGELABBAY.ORG