

Summer 2010

MOUNT *Angel Letter*



*122nd Class Graduates from
Mount Angel Seminary*



INSIDE *This Issue*

Summer 2010 | Volume 62, Number 2

DIRECTORY

MOUNT ANGEL ABBEY
503-845-3030
WWW.MOUNTANGELABBEY.ORG

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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503.845.3123
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800.845.8272 or 503.845.3066
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On the Cover: Undergraduates (left) Eduardo Lalo Barragan, Diocese of Yakima, and Manolito Sabado Jaldon, Jr., Archdiocese of San Francisco.

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2010 ABBAY CHRISTMAS ORNAMENT

The 3rd in the series of Abbey ornaments, it will feature the Engelberg cross in honor of our new abbot.

Price: \$15.95 (*plus shipping*).

To order contact the Abbey Store
abbeystore@mountangelabbey.org
or 503.845.3345 or order online:
www.mountangelabbey.org

The MOUNT ANGEL LETTER is the official publication of Mount Angel Abbey & Seminary. A Newsletter for the friends and family of Mount Angel Abbey, Monastery, Guest 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
MAL@mountangelabbey.org or 503.845.3066 or 800.845.8272

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Dear Friends

In a book that I used when I taught the seminary course on spiritual direction, I keep a card that I received years ago from a friend who is a monk of the Austrian monastery of Kremsmünster. The front of this card is covered with striking red flames, and over the flames are these equally striking words in German: *Wer die Welt erwärmen will, muss ein grosses Feuer in sich tragen* – One who wishes to enkindle the world must bear within himself a great fire.

This was the heart of the message that I left with the seminary graduates of 2010 when I presided at the baccalaureate Mass on the 7th of May. Especially for the graduates who had just completed their theological studies and will be ordained to the priesthood this summer, those flaming words stand out as a clarion call to holiness – the holiness that is in reality the abiding Spirit of Jesus whose flame they had been stoking within their hearts through prayer and study during their years of seminary formation, and that must now empower their priestly presence and ministry among the people of God.

It is just such holiness that the people of God desire, and need, in their shepherds to whom they long to turn, as to living sacraments of that flame of divine love that first burned in the heart of Jesus the Priest! “I have come to set the earth on fire,” said Jesus, “and how I wish it were already blazing” (Luke 12:49). That burning desire in the heart of Jesus does not give rise to any false megalomania in the newly ordained, no grandiose sense of being called to “convert the world”! No, the “world” to whom he will be a channel of divine love will be brought to him; it will be the countless people whom the Lord will direct to his humble and loving service, and it will only be after many years of shepherding that the priest will know the extent of the “world” that he was meant to shepherd into the kingdom!

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

Abbot Gregory Duerr, OSB



“
*It is just such holiness
that the people of God
desire, and need, in
their shepherds to whom
they long to turn...*
”

Monastery & Priory update

ANNUAL MONASTIC RETREAT

By Br. Cyril Drnjevic, OSB

Since the 19th century, Catholic religious orders have each held an annual community retreat for spiritual renewal; thus, the Abbey community retreat in May is an important part of our Benedictine tradition.

Our annual community retreat customs are similar to other religious orders, and to Benedictine communities across the globe. Held shortly after Seminary graduation, it is a good time for us to reflect on the blessings of the past school year and to prepare for the future with hope. Retreat masters are usually priests who know Benedictine life well. Generally the retreat master presents two to three conferences per day on spiritual topics of his choosing. Some choose monastic themes (humility, conversion, etc.), others a scripture theme or a contemporary

spiritual challenge in the Church.

Monks remain silent in the Monastery during the entire five days of

the Retreat. It is remarkable how different our monastic home seems during a retreat - the place is the same, but due to the silence and the clear spiritual focus, we experience God differently during a retreat than we do during the rest of the year. Each annual community retreat is a blessed time of spiritual renewal.



A new community photo is taken each year at the end of the annual retreat.

RETREAT: READING GOD

By Fr. Konrad Schaeffer, prior

St. Ambrose rallies us to *Lectio Divina*: "A transfusion of the Eternal Word is infused into the person's veins of the interior life." On April 23-25 more than thirty participants, including students and priests from the Pontifical University, settled in the guest-house to grow in the practice of *Lectio*. "Reading and prayer anchor the vagabond soul" (Evagrius). This is our third such retreat, as we respond to the ferment around *Lectio* in the Latin American Church.

On Friday we reflected on "Time" and "Timeless *Lectio*" and the symbiosis of the Word of God in the life of prayerful reader. Our journey was charted by the *Lectio* Notebook (published privately by the priory); a harvest of analogies and maxims on *Lectio* from the early and medieval Church tradition; the Constitution *Dei Verbum*; as well as an appreciation of the esteemed friendship between Liturgy and *Lectio*. On Sunday we reflected on the Mother of God



as the model of *Lectio Divina* and the sad experience of incomplete maternity, when our reading does not bear fruit.

"What page, what passage of the inspired books of the Old and New Testaments is not the truest of guide for life?" (St. Benedict, Rule 73.3)

Library & Retreat House news

ABBEY LIBRARY BOOK 'MENDERY'

By Victoria Ertelt, Library administrator

For the past 21 years, the Abbey Library has been blessed with the work of Br. Simon Hepner. Through the dedication to his work, as well as to his prayer life, Br. Simon is a shining manifestation of *Ora et Labora* (Prayer and Work).

Born in 1950, Br. Simon attended parochial schools in Eugene, graduating from high school as a member of the National Honor Society. He felt a religious calling from an early age and after meeting Mount Angel's Abbot Damian, decided to attend the Seminary. During his sophomore year in college

he took a class in monastic studies and realized that the monastic life was his calling. He professed simple vows in September 1972.

In 1973, Br. Simon's first work assignment was in the Saint Benedict Post Office. He was appointed Postmaster in 1979, a post he held until 1989. Since that time, he has worked in the library 'mendery' – a word created by Br. Simon to reflect the true nature of his work. He regularly inspects books in the library with an eye to mending those with loose bindings, torn pages, water damage, etc. In addition, he binds



Br. Simon mends library books and has also contributed to the collection with his college senior paper: *Hardships on the Oregon Trail*.

the Seminary master's theses and undergraduate capstone projects.

In his work in the library and on the hilltop, Br. Simon is a modern exemplar of the value the Benedictine Rule places on books and the wisdom they contain.

Thank You Fr. Edmund!

Abbot Gregory Duerr announced that Fr. Edmund Smith has received a new appointment to work in pastoral formation and as a spiritual director in the Seminary graduate program. He has served as director of the Abbey Retreat House since 2007. Management of the Retreat House is now under the direction of the guest master Fr. Pius X Harding, who also serves as director of Oblates.

During Fr. Edmund's tenure as Retreat House director, major renovations were undertaken. To be more effective in the hospitality and retreat ministry for guests, the lower level of the Retreat House was renovated with a beautiful new chapel and meditation room as well as a new Visitors Center on the Lobby Level. The next step will be to remodel the Engelberg Conference Room where most meetings and presentations take place. Abbot Gregory commended Fr. Edmund for his contribution to the Abbey's hospitality ministry.

Men and women of all faiths are welcome to spend time in prayer and reflection in the peaceful atmosphere of Benedictine monastic life and the unique natural environment of our hilltop. The monks of Mount Angel Abbey and the Retreat House staff look forward to your visit. Reservations can be made at www.mountangelabbey.org or 503.845.3025.



A guest enjoys the view from the Retreat House terrace.

Seminary SPECIAL ISSUE

THEOLOGICAL REFLECTION IN PASTORAL FORMATION

By Linda Showman, associate director of Pastoral Formation

One of the most important aspects in the formation of seminarians, indeed of all the baptized in the quest for discipleship, is the development of the skill of theological reflection. Through it one finds, as Raymond Collins has said, “the point where theory and practice come into contact, mutually permeating one another. On the basis of this understanding and judgment, one is enabled to take responsibility for the Church in its becoming.”

This continuous complementary exchange of coming to understanding of faith through lived experience and of coming to understanding of lived experience through faith engenders conversion of heart. It is this transformation that St. Paul tells us must be accomplished “by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God.” Once transformed, the mature Christian goes beyond personal satisfaction and spiritual growth toward the moral imperative for Christians to live in communion and to participate in Christ’s mission of proclaiming the Kingdom of God and serving one another.

What then are the ramifications of theological reflection for seminarians and their pastoral formation? The ordained priest is a disciple, with a uniquely public character, who leads the community and prays in its name. However, as Christopher Ruddy has pointed out, “discipleship means ‘learning’ or ‘following,’ and the priest like any other Christian, is called to follow Christ. All are called ... to let themselves be formed by their ongoing encounter with him.”



Bishops of the United States concur that those who are ordained ministers continue to live out their Baptism, and that “the ordained priesthood and the common priesthood of the faithful are ordered to one another and thus are intimately related.” Recognizing this profoundly relational nature of ministry returns us to encounter with Christ; through theological reflection about their relationships, seminarians learn to encounter Christ in others. By engaging in theological reflection on these encounters, a seminarian furthers his pastoral formation so that, through discovery of his unique self and calling in the Christian community, he may exercise leadership with confidence and compassion.

One of the ways seminarians enter into theological reflection is to ask the question, “Who in my interactions, whether here in the seminary community or in my pastoral formation assignment, has revealed God to me?” A five-step method can then be applied: relate the situation; describe the experience; link it to the faith tradition or Scripture; discern the new action – large or small – that follows from this insight; and, commit to prayer for this action. Through this discipline, the seminarian begins the lifelong practice of continuous self-discovery and formation as it is connected to others and contributes to his ministerial leadership in the Church in its process of transformation.

MEET TWO OF OUR NEW PRIESTS

REV. JOSÉ RAMIREZ,
DIOCESE OF BOISE, *Master of
Divinity and Baccalaureate of
Sacred Theology*

As I enter into a new phase in my life, the help I received during my years at the Seminary has made a lasting impression. I would not be able to carry on the ministry I will soon undertake without the formation offered by the Seminary.

As a student who has done most of his training under the wing of Benedictine spirituality, I am grateful to all to the monks who helped me throughout the years. They have been close companions in my journey to the priesthood. They are men striving to do God's will.

I learned their charism (gift of grace) of hospitality. It will help me in parish life. I learned the discipline of prayer from the monks. It is inspirational to see the monks faithfully praying the Liturgy of the Hours each day. I value my prayer life as result of their example.

One of the many beauties of Mount Angel Seminary is the diversity of *charismata* and the diversity of cultures, all built upon the firm foundation of Jesus Christ. I thank God for the many blessings He has given me. It is with a grateful heart I leave the seminary, with fond memories, great experiences and many friends. As one of the monks said to me: "when you came you were just a young man, now you leave a man." A man



José Ramirez receives congratulations from Abbot Gregory at graduation on May 8.

of prayer, hospitality and diversity is my hope. Rev. José Ramirez was ordained on June 10, 2010.

REV. ROBERT JAMES WOLF,
ARCHDIOCESE OF
PORTLAND, *Master of Arts, Master of Divinity and Baccalaureate in Sacred Theology*

When I first came to Mount Angel Seminary, I was introverted and shy. Learning to have the confidence to lead people in prayer has changed my life.

I thank all who have walked with me on this journey, especially those who have directed my spiritual formation – priests, professors, staff and monks. And, I want to thank my fellow seminarians for their witness to Christ and their willingness to offer their lives for the love of the master our Lord Jesus Christ.

My time at the Seminary has taught me that Catholics are a people of the Eucharist and as such we are a people of thanks. I cannot write any-



Robert Wolf gives the seminarian farewell address at graduation on May 8.

thing personal without a deep sense of gratitude toward all those who have participated in this journey to the priesthood. As Fr. Peri said: "ministry is all about relationships."

Fr. Jeremy's initial words to us as we entered theology: "I am not you and you are not me but I am not me without you and you are not you without me." This beautiful sense of communion is what I am truly thankful for because it pulls me out of myself in order to be for others. Thank you all and thank you Mount Angel Seminary for the abundant gifts you share. Rev. Robert James Wolf was ordained on June 5, 2010.

Seminary SPECIAL ISSUE

SEMINARY GRADUATION

By: *Kathryn J. Akiyama, associate professor and director of English Communications*

The 121st or the 122nd graduation took place on Saturday, May 8. (In his speech, Very Reverend Richard Paperini, president-rector, challenged us to remember which one.) With the ringing of the Abbey bells the grand procession of monks, graduates and faculty, led by marshal Rev. Paul Peri, began at Damian Center and proceeded up the walkway to the Abbey Church with all in full regalia.

Sunshine poured down from clear blue skies as a light wind rustled the spring blossoms. Proud parents, friends and family members filled the church with seminarians crowding second floor balconies.

One of the highlights of the ceremony was the awarding of the honorary degree to longtime Abbey friend and supporter Archbishop John G. Vlazny. After receiving the degree from Fr. Paperini and Abbot Gregory Duerr, OSB, the Archbishop focused his commencement address on the skill of recognizing priorities both in personal life and pastoral care, commenting that personal preferences may sometimes take a back seat to pastoral duties. Of special meaning to the students was the ovation given to three individuals who are retiring this year: Sister Virginia Schroeder, SNJM, Dr. Jerry Farley and Rev. Ezekiel Lotz, OSB.

As graduates were awarded degrees, something anew came into view: graduation caps decorated with

images and creative expressions: a smiley face, “Outta Here,” “It is done,” and “Starbucks.” During his closing comments, Fr. Paperini noted the innovation and commented, “I noticed them and the thing is, I can’t do a thing about it!” He then asked graduates to hold their heads high, which was greeted with smiles and chuckles.

The commencement event was accompanied by music from Sister Teresa Gould, FH at the grand organ and the accomplished seminary choir with seminarian Grant Boggs providing a clarinet solo.

With the closing hymn, the graduates filed out of the Abbey Church shouting for joy as all applauded. As people dispersed into the afternoon sunshine while pink petals drifted from trees, the phrase “It is finished” brought to mind the vision of new beginnings.





Seminary SPECIAL ISSUE

CONGRATULATIONS 2010 GRADUATES!

BACHELOR OF ARTS

Pio Gamig Afu
Diocese of Samoa-Pago Pago

Eduardo Barragan
Diocese of Yakima

Marco Antonio Carrasco
Diocese of Tucson

Joo Won Gabriel Kang
Archdiocese of Los Angeles

David John McCormick
Archdiocese of Portland

Kenneth Nguyen
Archdiocese of Seattle

Brother José Ortiz Casillas, M.Sp.S.
Missionary of the Holy Spirit

Gabriel R. Romero Jimenez
Diocese of Tucson

Manolito Sabado Jaldon, Jr.
Archdiocese of San Francisco

Jeremy Angeles Santos
Diocese of Sacramento

MASTER OF ARTS

Ysrael Caldino Bien
Archdiocese of Portland

Brother Paul Farrelly, O.S.B.
Prince of Peace Abbey

Lorraine K. Gardner

Brother Mark Kissner, O.C.D.
Discalced Carmelite

Sister Hilda Kleiman, O.S.B.
Queen of Angels Monastery

Tai Trong Nguyen
Diocese of Salt Lake City

Matthew Joseph Ramsay
Diocese of Saskatoon

James Brent Thurman

Robert J. Wolf
Archdiocese of Portland

BACCALAUREATE IN SACRED THEOLOGY

Ysrael Caldino Bien
Archdiocese of Portland

José T. Ramírez
Diocese of Boise

Robert J. Wolf
Archdiocese of Portland

MASTER OF DIVINITY

Ysrael Caldino Bien
Archdiocese of Portland

Brother Paul Farrelly, O.S.B.
Prince of Peace Abbey

Joseph Savellano Frez
Diocese of Salt Lake City

Francisco Humberto Godinez-Torres
Diocese of Boise

Fredhelito Gucor
Diocese of Sacramento

Brother Mark Kissner, O.C.D.
Discalced Carmelite

Richard Anthony Kluk
Diocese of Helena

Tai Trong Nguyen
Diocese of Salt Lake City

Brother Michel-Steven Pham, O.S.B.
Prince of Peace Abbey

José T. Ramírez
Diocese of Boise

Adám Törös
Diocese of Debrecen-Nyiregyháza, Hungary

Robert J. Wolf
Archdiocese of Portland

ARCHBISHOP VLAZNY RECEIVES HONORARY DEGREE

By Linda L. Weigel, adjunct instructor in Canon Law, director of Canonical Services/Tribunal

Archbishop John G. Vlazny, the 10th Archbishop of Portland in Oregon, known for his warm and friendly manner was awarded an honorary doctorate of divinity at the 122nd annual Mount Angel Seminary graduation ceremony held on May 8. Upon receiving the degree, he commented: "This tribute is a reflection of the good relationship I have with Mount Angel Seminary and I am grateful for the honor."

Archbishop Vlazny brought his congenial style to Oregon from his Chicago roots, by way of Rome and Winona, Minnesota. He earned his STB and STL degrees from the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome and was ordained at St. Peter's Basilica in 1961. Within a few years, he was a member of the faculty of Quigley Preparatory seminary and later served as dean of Studies. He served in later years as rector of Niles College Seminary. Prior to his appointment as pastor of St. Aloysius Church in Chicago in 1979, he earned an MA in Classics and M. Ed. in Education.

Archbishop Vlazny was appointed Bishop of Winona, Minnesota in 1987 and in 1997 he was appointed the tenth archbishop of Portland. Throughout the Archdiocese, those who are fortunate to work with him or who have met him appreciate his welcoming and friendly manner; his laughter is a familiar sound to many. One of Archbishop Vlazny's many duties and appointments in-



clude his service as a member of the Board of Directors of Mount Angel Seminary. He has much to reflect on regarding the place of seminary formation and education.

When asked how seminaries today focus their preparation for future priests, Archbishop Vlazny noted the importance of the four pillars of formation. He noted how valuable human formation is in preparing priests to serve God's people and to act with charity. He remarked that the pastoral year is a significant opportunity for a seminarian to grow in pastoral knowledge and ability.

Regarding special challenges that seminaries face today, the Archbishop noted that having a stable faculty is key. The presence of a large population of multi-cultural seminarians is a challenge but also a gift within seminaries.

When discussing the unique gifts that Mount Angel Seminary brings to the Church, the Archbishop referenced a number of contributions. He mentioned the fact that the Seminary provides a pastoral and academic presence in the Archdiocese and that the willingness of faculty to speak and give retreats is valued. He emphasized that the Seminary is a quiet reminder of vocation for ordained ministry; it is a special place for alumni priests to return for study or reflection.

Many are aware that Archbishop Vlazny's motto is "Go and Make Disciples." He noted: "Evangelization is our Church's essential mission, and our people have embraced it. Because the work of all the Christian faithful is to build Christ's kingdom, faith is not private."

Development News

WILL YOU....

... help prepare the next generation of priest leaders attending Mount Angel Seminary?

...make it possible for young monks to become the next great Seminary teachers?

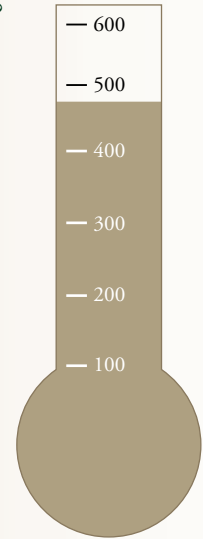
MOUNT ANGEL ABBEY WILL...

...if you will support our annual Abbot's Circle membership drive.

The Abbot Circle is for Mount Angel friends who lead in the support of The Abbey Foundation of Oregon and its efforts to fund the Monastery, Seminary, Retreat House and Library. Abbot's Circle members contribute \$1,000 or more annually.

We are close to our goal of 600 Abbot's Circle members with 486 participants. Experience the joy of making a gift that will last for generations in the men who become our future priests and faculty members at Mount Angel Seminary.

Sign up today! For more information about the Abbot's Circle, contact:
Mr. Steve Beard, Executive Director for Development. Telephone: 503.845.3181
Email: steve.beard@mountangelabbey.org.



39th Abbey Bach Festival

WEDNESDAY-FRIDAY, JULY 28-30

ABBAY CHURCH CONCERTS 6PM

Wednesday – Paul Klemme, organ

Thursday – Paul Klemme, organ
Gerald Webster, trumpet

Friday – Willamette Master Chorus

DAMIAN CENTER CONCERTS 8PM

Wednesday – Luc Beauséjour, harpsichordist
Marie-Josée Lord, soprano

Thursday – Heidi Krutzen, harp
Lorna McGhee, flute

Friday – Boulder Brass

General Admission Ticket. \$45/night

General Admission Subscription. \$120
[\$15 off general admission ticket]

www.mountangelabbey.org/bach-home.htm

All tickets include both concerts and a picnic supper.
Telephone: 800.845.8272

4TH ANNUAL MOUNT ANGEL ABBEY FESTIVAL OF ARTS & WINE '10

SATURDAY, JUNE 26, 1-5 PM

Abbot Gregory Duerr, OSB and the monks of Mount Angel Abbey invite you to join them for the 4th Annual Festival of Arts and Wine: a fundraising event in support of the Library, Monastery and Retreat House.

Ticket: \$50/pp includes silent and oral auction, jazz music on the lawn and classical music in the Library, a wine wall, art displays and sales, discounted wine and beer sales, heavy hors d'oeuvres and wine and beer tasting.

Patron Ticket: \$125/pp includes all of above plus listing in the event program and a tax-deductible donation of \$75.

www.mountangelabbey.org/festival-arts-wine.htm

Telephone: 800.845.8272

NEWS

ALUMNI



Fr. Eric M. Andersen
*Parochial vicar,
St. Cecelia Parish,
Portland*

Fr. Andersen's 2009 Master of Divinity project, "Sunday Vespers in the Parish Church", was published in the Winter 2009 issue of *Sacred Music*, the quarterly journal of the Church Music Association in America.

Parish in Bellevue, WA; Psalms for All Seasons for Holy Trinity Monastery in St. David, AZ; Liturgy of the Word for the Easter Vigil at Bethany Center in Beaverton, OR.



Fr. Paul Peri
*Director of Formation,
associate professor of
Pastoral Theology*

An Introduction to Catholic Parish Administration will be published by Paulist Press.

Cardinal Levada, Archbishop Vlazny and Charles Zech of the Church Management Institute at Villanova endorsed the book saying it will help bring a new level of understanding to those engaged in the "ministry" of administration. Fr. Peri teaches a fall semester course on parish administration to the Theology IV students.

FACULTY



Owen Cummings
*Regents Chair of
Theology*

Conducted the annual retreats for permanent deacons in the Dioceses of Monterey (CA) and Seattle (WA).

Published 2 articles in the journal "Emmanuel," vol. 116, 2010: "Eucharistic Absence," and "Praying the Rosary." Also, published with John Galindo the book "Under a Common Blessing" (New York-Mahwah, NJ: Paulist Press, 2010).

GEZA HAVASS SCHOLARSHIP

Dr. Bela Janko presented a lecture to Mount Angel seminarians and guests on the life of Rev. Geza Havass, a Hungarian priest who endured Cold War imprisonment and was an inspiration to seminarians and laity. A scholarship in Rev. Havass' name has been established at the Seminary to make possible the education of a seminarian from Hungary each year. Having international seminarians broadens the cultural diversity at the Seminary and creates understanding of the Church in other parts of the world.

For more information about the Havass Scholarship Fund, contact Steve Beaird in the Development Office. Telephone: 503.845.3181 or Email: Steve.Beaird@mountangelabbey.org.



Elaine Park
*Professor of Religious
and Biblical Studies*

Taught classes on the Synoptic Gospels to permanent deacon candidates in the dioceses of Springfield IL, Owensboro, KY, and Indianapolis IN. during the 2009 -2010 Academic Year.

Consultant for the Catholic Family and Faith Bible.

Lenten retreats or days of reflection: What is Passover? for St. Louise

Called Home

THIS PAST YEAR, OUR COMMUNITY BADE FAREWELL TO SEVERAL FRIENDS AS THEY WERE CALLED HOME TO THE HOUSE OF THE LORD.

MR. MICHAEL PALMER PRP'61

LOIS SCHAEFFER, mother of Fr. Konrad Schaeffer, OSB, prior of Our Lady of the Angels, Cuernava, Mexico.

CHARLES LEONARD, Theology III Seminarian, Archdiocese of Seattle.

REV. WAYNE FORBES '61, pastor of St. John Parish, Portland.

Monastic Journal

SAINT BENEDICT

By Abbot Peter Eberle

There are many spiritually uplifting stories in the history of our Church. For me, the upcoming celebration of the feast of Saint Benedict on July 11 is one such story that takes me down nostalgia lane.

In the Benedictine liturgical calendar there are two annual observances of Saint Benedict: March 21 and July 11. In the old Benedictine calendar the feast of Saint Benedict was always observed March 21, celebrated as “The Passing of Saint Benedict.” It had the rank of “Double of the First Class without an Octave.”

“Without an Octave”: therein lay the rub. The Passing of Saint Benedict always fell in the season of Lent, so like any feast occurring in Lent - even a major one, it had to endure a muted celebration. Admittedly it was an upscale celebration, but it wasn't quite grand enough to satisfy the Benedictine heart. So, as was customary with feasts during Lent in the old calendar, a more solemn observance was deferred until outside of Lent. A celebration in all its grandeur was moved to July 11. Not only was it ranked as a Double of the First Class, but with an Octave. My goodness!

Then along came the liturgical reforms, including reform of the calendar. A general principle stipulated that a feast can be

celebrated only once a year, and generally speaking it should not be celebrated during Lent. Hence the Feast of Saint Benedict was to be celebrated on July 11. For the Universal Church it was as a mere Memorial but Benedictines could observe the day as a Solemnity, which is as grand a celebration as there can be in the revised calendar.

However, observing Saint Benedict on July 11 was not entirely satisfying to many Benedictines. After all, March 21 was the traditional day. So they petitioned the Holy See, asking if March 21 could still be observed as the Passing of Saint Benedict.

Even though Pope Leo XIII, who famously grumbled about “the Benedictine order with no order,” was probably rolling over in his grave, the petition was granted. However, only one of the two could be observed as a Solemnity. Here at Mount Angel we have chosen July 11 as the annual solemnity, while March 21 is observed in a lesser manner.

Nostalgia remains because our present March 21st observance is nowhere near what it once was. For one thing then it was a free day;



no classes were taught. Moreover, the Mass and Divine Office were high celebrations. But the biggest feature of all was the annual Clergy Day noon dinner. All the clergy of the Archdiocese were invited for dinner in the monastic refectory. We always had a great turnout. The monastic refectory was a sea of black clerical suits. It was one of the few times when talking at table was allowed, and the meal was a lot better than the usual Lenten fare as well. Unfortunately nostalgia doesn't jog every fading memory, but as one associated with the Clergy Day I will always cherish it.

Whether St. Benedict's day is celebrated in March or July it remains an important day to all Benedictines and brings up happy memories for me.

VATICAN APPROVES ENGLISH TRANSLATION OF THE ROMAN MISSAL

The English translation of the Roman Missal has been completed and will soon be published. Established in 2001, the Vox Clara Committee was formed by the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments to advise the Holy See concerning English-language liturgical books and to strengthen effective cooperation with the Conferences of Bishops. Mount Angel monk Rev. Jeremy Driscoll, OSB served as a member of the Committee.

The Committee celebrated the completion of the Missal translation by hosting a luncheon with His Holiness, Pope Benedict XVI. Thanking the committee for its work Pope Benedict said: "Soon



Vox Clara Committee (Fr. Jeremy Driscoll, OSB back row) with Pope Benedict XVI.

the fruits of your labors will be made available to English-speaking congregations everywhere. As the prayers of God's people rise before him like incense (Psalm 140:2), may the Lord's blessing come down upon all who have contributed their time and expertise to crafting the texts in which those prayers are expressed."



This year's Theology class presented the Seminary with a gift of a statue of St. John Vianny. Shown with the statue are theology class president Jose Ramirez (right), Diocese of Boise, and Tai Trong Nguyen, Diocese of Salt Lake.

ALUMNI PRIESTS RETURN TO THE HILLTOP

By Fr. Paul Peri, director of Formation, associate professor of Pastoral Theology

April 28-29th saw 16 Alumni Priests of Mount Angel Seminary attend a continuing education program that featured Msgr. Arturo Bañuelas,

pastor of St. Pius X parish in El Paso, Texas, describing a theology of ministry that highlights the role of the baptized in parish ministries.

"The people have to come to understand that they have been consecrated to be priest, prophet and servant-king and so share in the very ministry of Jesus in the world," Msgr. Bañuelas said.

In his own parish, which was named one of the ten best in the United States in a book in 2000, there are over 50 ministries. "We do not need volunteers," Bañuelas said: "we need disciples who will affect the community they live in."

Priest Alumni days next year will be March 29 and 30th. To learn more please contact Fr. Peri at: 503-845-3570 or email: paul.peri@mountangelabbey.org





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Events

CALENDAR



JUNE	26	4th Annual Festival of Art & Wine.
JULY	9-11	Annual Oblate Get Together and Picnic (Oblates only please)
	11	Solemnity of St. Benedict
	16-18	Retreat: Women's Silent retreat. Abbot Peter Eberle, OSB Retreat: Monastic Discernment. Fr. Odo Recker, OSB <i>(To learn more please call: 503.845.3123 or email: vocation@mountangelabbey.org)</i>
	23-25	Retreat: Graces of State Workshop. Fr. Pius X Harding, OSB and Jack Sharpe
	28-30	39th Annual Abbey Bach Festival.
AUGUST	15	Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary
	20-22	Retreat: Vocation the Meaning of Life! Fr. Rory Pitstick
SEPTEMBER	11	Christian in the World Program: The Priesthood in Scripture. Fr. Rory Pitstick
	21-23	Retreat: Benedictine Spirituality. Br. Cyril Drnjevic, OSB
	24-26	Retreat: Benedictine Spirituality. Abbot Gregory Duerr, OSB (Fully booked – waiting list only)
	29	Solemnity of Saints Michael, Gabriel and Raphael, Archangels and All the Angels. Titular Patrons of Mount Angel Abbey
OCTOBER	3	2nd Annual Seminary Benefit Dinner - Eugene
	9	Christian in the World Program: What is a Priest? Br. Jonah Wright, OSB
	22-24	Retreat: Monastic Discernment. Fr. Odo Recker, OSB <i>(To learn more please call: 503.845.3123 or email: vocation@mountangelabbey.org)</i>
	22-24	Retreat: The Three Prophets of Mary. Fr. Jerome Young, OSB and Elizabeth Farley
	30	Mount Angel Abbey Foundation Day (1882)
NOVEMBER	1	Solemnity of All Saints
	2	All Soul's Day
	5-7	Retreat: Benedictine Spirituality. Fr. Pius X Harding, OSB (Fully booked – waiting list only)
	7	7th Annual Seminary Benefit Dinner - Portland
	13	Christian in the World Program: The Order and Service of Deacon in the Church. Deacon Owen Cummings