

Spring 2009

# MOUNT *Angel Letter*





## 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.

BOOKSTORE  
503-845-3345  
abbeystore@mtangel.edu

OFFICE OF DEVELOPMENT  
Steve Beard  
503-845-3181  
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503-845-3025  
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503-845-3303  
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## ON THE COVER

Father Jeremy meets Pope Benedict XVI on December 3, 2008. He met the Pope together with the Vox Clara Committee. Vox Clara is an ad hoc committee serving the Congregation for Divine Worship in questions concerning the translation of the Roman Missal into English. The committee is made up of senior prelates from around the English speaking world. For example, the cardinal-archbishops of Sydney, Mumbai, Westminster, Chicago, Philadelphia are some of the members. Father Jeremy is a theological advisor to these and the other bishop members of the committee. This is the third time Father Jeremy has met Pope Benedict as part of Vox Clara. In the interchange pictured here, Father Jeremy is telling the Pope how fruitful the Year of St. Paul has been at Mount Angel. Father Jeremy has given several retreats in the Abbey Retreat House on St. Paul this year and conferences to the seminarians. He has written several articles on St. Paul and the liturgy, scheduled for publication later in the year.

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:  
Sandra Chiodo, Mount Angel Abbey, Development Office,  
One Abbey Drive, St. Benedict, Oregon 97373  
or Sandra.Chiodo@mtangel.edu.  
website: [www.mountangelabbey.org](http://www.mountangelabbey.org)





## *Dear Friends*

In Chapter 49 of the Holy Rule St. Benedict says that the life of a monk ought to have the character of a continuous Lent. He urges “the entire community during these days of Lent to keep its manner of life most pure and to wash away in this holy season the negligence of other times.” At first blush this may sound a little gloomy. However, I believe that this admonition reflects St. Benedict’s keen understanding of human nature and the spiritual journey we all share.

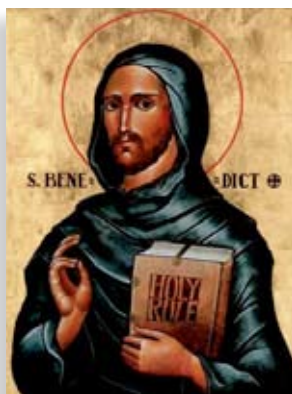
St. Benedict observes that monks and, in fact, most people of Faith, need help from time to time to refocus their attention on Christ. Our daily lives – even the lives of monks - are filled with many distracting demands and enticements. It can be difficult to avoid getting caught up in the very distracting world around us.

Nevertheless, St. Benedict does not linger too long on this point alone. He quickly adds that all Lenten practices should be done with the Resurrection of the Lord in mind. He wants the monk to “look forward to holy Easter with joy and spiritual longing.” We long to be transformed by the cross of Christ and his ultimate triumph over sin and death. In the Resurrection we come to know the great love God has for each of us.

In this issue of the Mount Angel Letter we are pleased to share with you the abundant new life springing up on our hilltop. God continues to bless us with friends like you who believe in our mission and support us in prayer and through your time and talent. Without you we could not continue. Thank you!

As we prepare to celebrate the Liturgies of Holy Week, please join with all of us at Mount Angel in praying for a deepening of faith, hope and love in our individual lives, in the lives of our families and friends, and in our world.

May the grace of Easter enlighten and console you!



+ *Nathan Zodrow*  
Abbot Nathan Zodrow OSB



“  
*God continues to bless us with friends like you who believe in our mission and support us in prayer and through your time and talent. Without you we could not continue. Thank you!*  
”



# Mount Angel *Seminary*

## DEAR FRIENDS

As you are aware from the last issue of the Mount Angel Abbey Letter I have been on sabbatical for the past six months. What a wonderful opportunity to rest, pray, read and enjoy life.

During my time away I was able to travel to Mexico City where I was permitted to celebrate Mass at the main altar at the Basilica of Nuestra Senora de Guadalupe. After that I toured Morelia where for the first time I tasted majarra frita and charalez.

Following my time in Mexico, I went to Chicago for a visit with good friends. After that it was on to New York City for four months of reading novels, studying Italian, seeing Broadway plays and some good old-fashioned exercise. The exercise helped the aches and pains that come with age. Physically, I feel very good right now. I will need to find ways to continue my routine of exercise.

In New York City I lived at Notre Dame Parish on the upper west side with four Polish Dominican Priests. They are fine fellows who made me

feel most at home with wonderful food and fine wine. The parish is located near Columbia University where two of the Dominicans serve as campus ministers. They do excellent work there with a few hundred-university students attending Mass on Sunday evening, quite an impressive sight. I was honored that they asked me to give the Advent retreat to the students.

From New York I went to London for a few days of site seeing. I had never been to England before and it was wonderful to see the changing of the guard at Buckingham Palace, Big Ben, Parliament, Westminster Abbey, Trafalgar Square, London Bridge and the Tower of London - all most impressive and exciting for this first time viewer.

After London it was on to Rome where I stayed with 10 of our former Mount Angel seminarians



at the North American College. Together we went to Midnight Mass at the Vatican. I have never had this opportunity before and it is a liturgy I'll never forget.

It is good to be back at the Seminary and to do the work of forming priests for the Church.

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Very Reverend Richard Paperini  
President-Rector

### Seminary Alumni Priests: Continuing Education Program

Don't miss the opportunity to join with priest alumni, faculty and today's seminary students April 15-16 at the first annual Continuing Education Program. Keynote speaker will be Reverend Leslie Hoppe, OFM. To learn more please see the website: [www.mountangel.abbey/seminary](http://www.mountangel.abbey/seminary) or contact Susan Gibby (Susan.Gibby@mtangel.edu or 503.845.3580)

# Monastery News

## VISITORS IN THE MONASTERY

This year the monastery is host to eight, resident visitors studying in the Seminary.

**Br. Pachomius Meade** was ordained to the diaconate this past summer and is currently in his fourth and final year of theological studies.

Br. Pachomius comes to us from Conception Abbey in Missouri, the sister house of Mount Angel Abbey. Br. Pachomius assists in the recitation of the Divine Office as a member of the monastic schola and is a talented iconographer. Br. Pachomius hopes to be ordained to the priesthood this summer.

**Brs. Paul Farrelly, OSB and Michel Pham, OSB** are visiting from Prince of Peace Abbey, located in Oceanside, California. Brs. Paul and Michel are in their third year of theology and hope to be ordained to the diaconate this summer. Br. Paul enjoys playing the recorder and Br. Michel is an avid horticulturalist.

**Br. Benoit Trieu Van Vu, OSB** is visiting Mount Angel Abbey from his home at Thien Phuoc Abbey, near Saigon, Vietnam. Br. Benoit is currently enrolled in the English program at the seminary and, once completed, hopes to finish his MA degree here as well.

**Br. Peter Tynan, OSB** is entering his second year of theological studies at Mount Angel. Br. Peter's home monastery is St. Martin's Abbey in Olympia, Washington. Formerly of the Society of Jesus, Br. Peter made solemn profession almost one year ago and brings his talents in academia to his theological pursuits at the seminary.

**Br. Leo Tien Nguyen, O.Cist.** is a Cistercian monk currently studying English in the seminary school. Br. Leo is a member of the relatively new Chau Son Monastery in Walnut Grove, California. Upon his mastery of the English language, Br.

Leo hopes to continue his studies in Mount Angel Seminary's theologate.

**Fr. Joseph Vu, CSsR,** a Redemptorist priest, is currently studying English in the seminary school. Recently, Fr. Joseph was assigned to serve at Our Lady of Lavang parish in the Archdiocese of Portland.

**Br. Paul Rowe, OCSO** is currently in his third year of theology at Mount Angel Seminary. Br. Paul, a Trappist monk, is visiting from Our Lady of Guadalupe Abbey, near Lafayette, Oregon. God willing, Br. Paul will be ordained to the priesthood in the summer of 2010.



*Left to Right: Br. Pachomius Meade, OSB, Br. Paul Farrelly, OSB, Br. Benoit Trieu Van Vu, OSB, Br. Peter Tynan, OSB, Br. Michel Pham, OSB and Br. Leo Tien Nguyen, O.Cist.*

# In the Library

## PERIODICALS REPORT

By Joseph Sprug, Library Volunteer

About a decade ago one of the deacons in the Seminary asked me to browse through the periodical room with him. He wanted to select a few periodicals that would best serve him as a parish priest: 1) to keep up with Catholic teaching on the most urgent problems of the day; 2) to provide reading for continued formation and spiritual life; 3) to supply material for sermons and homilies; and 4) to provide leads to significant further reading for more intense study. Mount Angel Abbey Library has approximately 300 current subscriptions and selecting the best among them is a daunting task.

We picked out the initial four titles: *Osservatore Romano* (the English weekly that selects the best from the Vatican daily; *Homiletic and Pastoral Review* (now in its 109th year); *Pastoral Review* (which for 50+ years was published under the title *Clergy Review*); and *Worship* (a Benedictine pioneer in the liturgical movement; initially called *Orate Fratres*). Other highly regarded periodicals are: *Adoremus*; *First Things*; *Horizons*; *Review for Religious*; *Second Spring*; *Spiritual Life*; and some that are more specialized: *Catholic Biblical Quarterly*; *Catholic Historical Review*; *Cistercian Studies*; the *Jurist*.

Ten years later, these remain my first recommendations when asked to assist seminarians in selecting periodicals to help sustain them after they graduate.

Over the last two centuries Catholic journalism has mirrored the journey of American Catholics through many phases of growth. A new phase emerging in recent decades is the self-education of Catholic adults, most of whom have not had the formative experience of Catholic schools. Jacques Maritain, author of *True Humanism*, suggests that self-education should follow two tracks: 1) inform, explain and comment on recently emerging Catholic documents or traditional Church documents; and 2) focus on the application of the content of these documents to contemporary conditions or problems. A major

tool for reaching that goal is the existence and use of Catholic periodicals.

A number of Catholic colleges now have programs, even majors, under the title “Catholic Studies;” and a growing number of secular universities have “Catholic Studies” programs. For many years, Mount Angel Seminary has accepted lay students who wish to further their knowledge of their faith. The Abbey Library is open to everyone seeking to extend their knowledge, and the periodicals we subscribe to help support that goal. We invite you to visit our periodical room.



Thanks to the generous work of Professor Steve Delamarte of George Fox University, all of the library's beautifully illustrated Books of Hours are now photographed and will soon be available from the Abbey website. Please watch the Library website [www.mountangelabbey.org/library](http://www.mountangelabbey.org/library) for updates or to learn more call: 503.845.3360.

# Priory

## NEWS FROM OUR LADY OF THE ANGELS PRIORY

*Cuernavaca, Mexico*

### In October we hosted 26 Benedictine and Cistercian monks and nuns, to study texts of medieval spirituality.

Attention was paid to the metaphors and allegories of redemption in the writings of Hildegard of Bingen, Hedwig of Ambers, Beatriz of Nazareth, Gertrude the Great and Mechtilde of Magdeburg. To uncover these women's genius, creativity, theology and beautiful spiritual depth was a marvelous experience.

Fall arrived and revealed the eternal Cuernavaca spring with flowers sprouting everywhere. As the seeds hidden in the soil sprouted with the arrival of the intense summer

rains, the bee fever increased as the little creatures busied themselves with processing all that flowery sweetness. Our honey harvest this year amounted to more than 800 quarts, for which we can chant with the sacred author that "our hillside flowed with rich honey".

An antiphon from the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe is taken from the Song of Songs: "Flowers have sprouted in our land". The antiphon remembers the bouquet of roses that Saint Juan Diego presented to the bishop as proof of

God's love and the Our Lady's desire to build a church on the Tepeyac hill. During the first December days we pray a novena in honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe for the intentions and needs of our friends and benefactors, who are proof positive of God's love for us and for the Church.

In January we were pleased to receive two pilgrim groups from Oregon. Are you interested in a pilgrimage to Our Lady of Guadalupe and a retreat in our monastery? One is coming up, June 26 – July 5, which includes 4 days of retreat at the monastery. Please contact Barb Anderson to learn more. Email: [banderson@smcatholic.com](mailto:banderson@smcatholic.com). You will always be welcome and at home here.

This past year our library has been enriched by two collections which arrived from friends of the monastery.

At present, the monastic library has more than 14 thousand books classified, the principle subject headings being philosophy, Sacred Scripture, dogmatic theology, art, literature and history. The growth of our library has been of great help for the monks in formation and for those teaching in the seminary.

*Fr. Konrad and St. Juan Diego Parish retreatants Roberta Wachholtz and Deacon Dennis Desmarais sample coffee beans.*





## THE YEAR OF SAINT PAUL: IN CELEBRATION OF THE 2000TH ANNIVERSARY OF ST. PAUL'S BIRTH.

*By Elaine Park, Professor of Religious and Biblical studies*

Pope Benedict XVI has designated the year from June 2008 to June 2009 as the Year of Saint Paul. Throughout the year, people around the world will try to come to know more about this “apostle to the Gentiles,” about his letters, theology, pastoral activity and spirituality, and in so doing deepen their understanding of how Paul’s writings still have power and importance today.

Each of us is encouraged to spend some extra time with the letters of Paul, studying, praying and engaging in conversation with others.

Among the New Testament writers, Paul is the only one who has written quite extensively about himself. In his Letters to the Galatians and Philippians, (see especially Galatians 1: 11-17 and Philippians 3: 4-11) Paul writes about his life before his conversion, about the conversion itself, and about the consequences of this dramatic encounter on the Damascus Road. Prior to his conversion, Paul had taken great pride in his zealotry for the Law, for his righteous life as a Pharisee, and for the intense persecution he mounted against those who believed in Jesus as the messiah. In a totally unexpected way, Paul’s life was turned around when he had a call and a revelation from the very one whose followers he had worked so zealously to destroy.

The revelation, literally an

“apocalypse,” involved more than new intellectual awareness; it also entailed a personal experience of grace and divine presence. Christ was revealed in Paul, (not just to Paul) creating a life-long, intimate relationship. The revelation of Paul included a call much like that of his prophetic ancestors Isaiah and Jeremiah. Each of them was set apart by God, even before they were born, to announce God’s word to the people. For Paul, this meant bringing the good news of Christ’s salvific death and resurrection to the Gentiles. He would remain zealous, but he would no longer direct his zeal at persecuting the Jewish followers of Jesus. He would now channel that dynamic energy to bringing the gospel to the Gentiles. Paul would no longer look to his own righteousness under the Law as reason to feel confident and proud, for from then on he would rely on Christ’s life within him, “who loved me and gave himself for me”. (Gal 2: 20)

After his conversion, Paul was a tireless apostle, making numerous journeys and writing extensively to the communities he had founded, worked with or planned to visit. His own communities, as well as people who did not believe in Jesus, often misunderstood and misinterpreted Paul’s writing and preaching. As we read in 2 Peter 3: 16 regarding Paul’s letters: “Some things in them are hard to understand, which the ignorant and unstable twist to their own destruction.”

It’s not surprising that so much of what Paul says is difficult to comprehend, for he is often presenting multi-faceted aspects of the good news. Sometimes, it appears that the misinterpretation arose from the challenge and necessary change of behaviors and attitudes that would have to follow if people were to accept what Paul was saying. Moreover, the gospel that Paul proclaims is paradoxical. For example, Christ is present here and now and yet we still await his coming; there is power in weakness; and the cross of Christ, the symbol of degradation and shame, is the instrument of salvation. All of these are part of the great mystery of salvation that Paul preached. A salvation that invites, challenges, often puzzles, and inspires both awe and gratitude.



*Christ Appears in the Temple to Saint Paul: an icon written by Br. Claude Lane, OSB – Mount Angel Abbey.*

In his book *The Testimony of St. Paul*, Cardinal Carlo Martini looks at the conversion and life of St. Paul as a catalyst for examining our own journey through life and our own conversion. He suggests that we ask ourselves some basic questions: “When was I converted? Is there a specific moment of conversion in my life to which I can refer as to an historic event? Even if there is not such a specific moment, there have certainly been moments of change, of turning round, of crisis that have brought us a fresh understanding of the mystery of God. If we have never really experienced this fundamental change of mind, which is essential to the Christian life, we have not yet grasped the meaning of the essential

newness of the Christian way which involves turning around and going in the opposite direction.” (Carlo Martini, *The Testimony of St. Paul*. Translated by Susan Leslie. New York: Crossroad, 1989, pages 15-16)

The prayer that we say on January 25, the Feast of the Conversion of Saint Paul, reminds us that like Paul we too are called to conversion of life and participation in the same mission of bringing the good news to all people: *God our Father, you taught the gospel to all the world through the preaching of Paul your apostle. May we who celebrate his conversion to the faith follow him in bearing witness to your truth.*



## FR. ODO APPOINTED DIRECTOR OF MONASTIC VOCATIONS

Fr. Odo Recker, OSB will be responsible for promoting the vocation to the monastic life at Mount Angel Abbey, recruiting potential candidates, organizing and presenting Monastic Vocations Discernment Retreats three or four times per year and assisting men in making application to become monks or seminary affiliates of Mount Angel Abbey.

The Abbey is open to inquiry by men from 16-40 years of age. To learn more, please contact Fr. Odo Recker at [odo.recker@mtangel.edu](mailto:odo.recker@mtangel.edu) or telephone: 503.845.3242.



# Development News

## MAKING MORE ROOMS FOR SEMINARIANS

During the past 16 years, Mount Angel Seminary's enrollment has grown from 97 to 150 seminarians. Mount Angel is the largest seminary in the western United States and wants to make sure it has enough rooms for dioceses and religious orders to send their seminarians.

First year seminarians have stayed in modular units that are sound transparent and disconnected from other parts of the seminary.

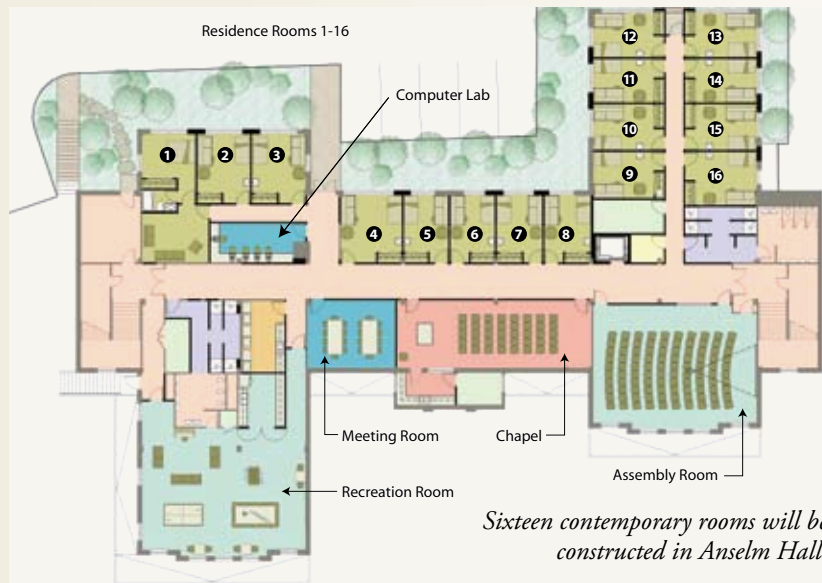
To address this challenge, Mount Angel plans to renovate Anselm Hall

which was originally constructed in 1954 as a residence and classroom facility. The lower level of Anselm Hall will be converted into 16 seminarian residence rooms and also include a new chapel, meeting rooms and recreation area for seminarians. The project cost is \$1.8 million and is being designed by Soderstrom Architects of Portland.

In addition to saving millions of dollars in construction costs for a separate residence hall, the Anselm Hall Project will foster a greater

sense of unity among seminarians according to Father Richard Paperini, president-rector.

To date, \$1.2 million has been received in gifts and pledges toward the project goal. Help us meet the need for more seminarian rooms at Mount Angel Seminary by sending your donation to: The Abbey Foundation of Oregon, One Abbey Drive, St. Benedict, Oregon 97373. Contact: Mr. Steve Beard, Executive Director for Development, 503-845-3181 or [steve.beard@mtangel.edu](mailto:steve.beard@mtangel.edu).



### TAX-SAVINGS TIP

If you are 70 ½ or older, you may benefit from making a gift from your IRA or other retirement plan to The Abbey Foundation of Oregon. The 2008 Emergency Economic Stabilization Act allows individuals 70 ½ and older to transfer tax-free up to \$100,000 to qualified charities in 2009. Eligible distributions from an IRA to a qualifying charity are excluded from the income of the IRA owner; however, the IRA owner does not additionally receive a charitable contribution deduction. If a tax-free IRA distribution applies to your situation, please consult your tax advisor before making such gifts and to obtain maximum tax benefit.



Mount Angel Abbey Development Department has hired James Randles as a development associate. Randles, a native Oregonian, graduated from Jesuit High School and Santa Clara University. He also served as a Jesuit novice for two years. He will focus on outreach to existing donors and assist with fundraising events.

# Upcoming Events

## SUMMER EVENTS AT MOUNT ANGEL ABBEY



### FESTIVAL OF ARTS & WINE JUNE 20 2:00-5:00 PM

The 3rd Annual Festival of Arts and Wine, a fundraising event in support of the Abbey Library, will be held on Saturday, June 20. This event has grown in interest and impact each year – last year with the addition of restaurants and this year with the addition of artists from the Watercolor Society of Oregon.

Held outdoors in front of the Library, the hilltop will be filled with canopies where wineries and restaurants plus our chef Hans d'Alessio will present wine and hors d'oeuvres. The auction will also be expanded and presented outdoors under the huge trees in front of the library. There will be tours of the library archives, an exposition of the 15c-illustrated manuscripts, a special bird books collection on display and classical music.

Don't miss this opportunity to gather with friends of the Abbey for a relaxing afternoon in celebration of the Abbey Library and its treasured collection.

If you have any questions about the event please contact us. FAWT@mtangel.edu or telephone: 503.845.3066, toll free: 800.845.8272.

*Tickets are for sale online or by telephone.  
www.mountangelabbey.edu/festival-arts-wine.htm  
or 503.845.3066 or 800.845.8272.*

*General Admission: \$50/pp*

*Patron Admission: \$125/pp (\$75 tax-deductible)*

### 38TH ANNUAL BACH FESTIVAL JULY 29, 30 AND 31

July again brings the beauty of classical music to the hilltop with the 38th Annual Bach Festival. Each evening begins with vespers in the church at 5:15 pm for those who wish to join the monks followed by a brief organ concert by Dana Robinson. A picnic supper is served at 6:30 pm on the lawn in front of the church. The main performance begins at 8 pm in the Damian Center. If you have any questions about the event please contact us. BACH@mtangel.edu or telephone: 503.845.3066, toll free: 800.845.8272.

### 2009 FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

#### WEDNESDAY

Duo Affinité, *trumpet and bassoon*

#### THURSDAY

Infinitus Trio, *strings*

#### FRIDAY

Lucille Chung, *piano*

*Tickets are for sale online or by telephone.  
www.mountangelabbey.org/2009-bach-tickets.htm or  
503.845.3066 or 800.845.8272.*

*General Subscription – 3 concerts/3 suppers: \$120/pp*

*Patron Subscription – 3 concerts/3 suppers: \$375/pp  
(\$255 tax-deductible)*

*General Admission – 1 concert/supper: \$45/pp*

*Patron Admission – 1 concert/supper: \$125/pp  
(\$75 tax-deductible)*



# NEWS

## ALUMNI

### **Fr. Vincentius Do MAC'02**

*Archdiocese of New York  
St. Rosalia-Regina Pacis Catholic  
Church, Brooklyn, New York*

After finishing my studies at Mount Angel Seminary, I went to Rome for theological studies and then on to Holy Apostles Seminary in Connecticut. I graduated from there in May 2005 and joined the Diocese of Brooklyn in New York City that summer. I was ordained a deacon on December 8, 2006 and a priest at the Cathedral Basilica of St. James in Brooklyn on June 2, 2007. After ordination, I was assigned to

St. Rosalia-Regina Pacis parish in Brooklyn as a parochial vicar.

### **Monsignor Harvey Fonseca, VF THG'92**

*Diocese of Fresno  
Saint Jude Thaddeus Catholic  
Church, Livingston, California*

Fr. Harvey Fonseca, VF THG'92 has been appointed as *Chaplain of Honor to His Holiness* and will receive the title of Monsignor. This appointment is in honor of his faithful dedicated work and ministry for the good of God's people. Quoting from the press release from the Diocese of Fresno:

This recognition is especially for the good of the people of God whom he serves and is a sign to them of their unity with the Holy Father in forming the Body of Christ.

### **Monsignor Lambert Joseph Luna THG'78**

*Archdiocese of Santa Fe  
St. Joseph on the Rio Grande,  
Albuquerque, New Mexico*

Fr. Lambert Luna, THG '78 has been appointed as *Prelate of Honor* to Pope Benedict XVI and will receive the title of Monsignor. Luna has served 30 years in New Mexico since his ordination in 1978.

## FACULTY



**Kathryn J. Akiyama-Kim**  
*Professor and  
Director of  
the English  
Communications Program*

Professor Akiyama will be presenting a workshop at the National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA) Annual Convention in April 14-16. Entitled the *Seven Ways to Promote Intercultural Communication with International Priests and Seminarians*, the workshop will provide practical information for school and parish staff in developing positive working relationships with foreign priests. Recently published articles in the *Seminary Journal* include: "Diversity in Unity: Cultural Perspectives in a Global Community" and an article on the Mount Angel Seminary English Program.



**Fr. John Cihak, STD**  
*Associate Professor of  
Sacred Theology*

Father John Cihak's latest article, "The

Blessed Virgin Mary's Role in the Celibate Priest's Spousal and Paternal Love," will be published in the spring edition of *Sacrum Ministerium*, the journal of the Congregation for the Clergy. The paper was delivered originally at the Marian Symposium for the bicentennial celebration of Mount St. Mary Seminary in October, 2008.



**Seymour House**  
*Professor of English  
and Church History*

Professor House served as a keynote speaker at the

annual Thomas More Society conference in November at the University of Dallas. He presented and analyzed More's trial and defense before a panel of judges including a High Court justice from England and several notable federal judges from the US. House has been appointed senior adviser to the Thomas More Center at the University of Dallas. Recently he published an article in *Moreana* on Thomas More's "The Sadness of Christ" and his prison letters.

Please send Alumni updates, comments, activities, news of note, great stories, recent travels... to [MAL@mtangel.edu](mailto:MAL@mtangel.edu) or Telephone: 503.845.3066 or Mount Angel Abbey, Development Office, One Abbey Drive, St. Benedict, Oregon 97373

# Monastic Journal

These first few days of February have been exceptionally bright and sunny with the days becoming noticeably longer. Weather like this makes the winter fade into a distant memory which only proves how short the human memory can be.

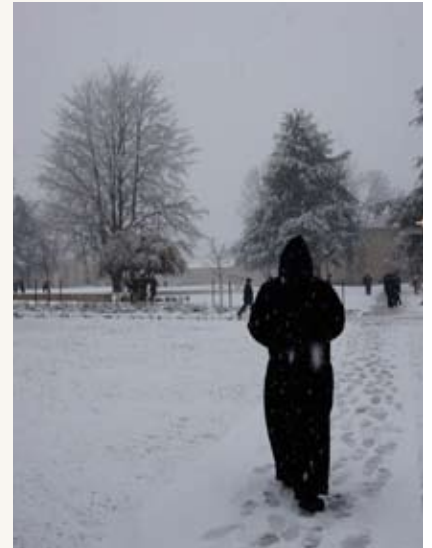
It was barely six weeks ago that we were wondering if a new Ice Age had suddenly descended upon us. We had enjoyed a dry fall with not much rain in November or December.

Shortly before Christmas that all changed. On Sunday, December 14 a big Arctic storm blew into the area and “dumped” more than a foot of snow on the northern Willamette Valley. The snow, wind and ice brought much of Portland and the surrounding area to a standstill. Local TV stations cancelled all regular programming to report on the developing crisis. Several of our seminarians, eager to get home for Christmas, were either stranded or spent several days making a trip that would normally take no more than a half a day.

We had a rare Oregon white Christmas. Bing Crosby notwithstanding, I will never dream of one again. Happily after several days the temperatures began rising and major highways were passable again. We’ve had some freezing fog and a touch of snow in January, but the daffodils are already pushing up. Soon the winter of 2008 will become an even dimmer memory than it is now.

The December storm was a big story

but the biggest December story for the hilltop was Abbot Nathan’s surgery. Some time ago, quite by chance apparently, Abbot Nathan was found to have an aortal aneurism. It went right down into the heart valve so it was a serious condition indeed. By mid-November it was evident



that he would need surgery soon, so D-Day was set for December 8 – Day of the Immaculate Conception.

Mary must surely have been with Abbot Nathan that day because the surgery went very well. Although

the aneurism was already interfering with the valve’s normal functioning, the projected seven hour surgery lasted only four. They had him up and walking the next day – of course who isn’t up and walking the day after surgery these days? He spent

a couple of weeks in the monastery infirmary, but is gradually regaining his strength. At present he keeps a lighter schedule than usual, thanks in no small part to the vigilance of his efficient and wonderfully caring secretary, Mona Jaeger. On February 5 he celebrated his names day. This one was special because it was shot through with gratitude for the gift of life and the wonders of the surgeons' skills and modern medicine's miracles.

Usually the seminarians return from Christmas break and go right into the annual retreat and then classes. This year they returned on January 4 and classes began immediately. The Winter retreat was delayed until January 18 to accommodate the busy schedule of this year's retreat master Father Jack Stoeger of the Los Angeles Archdiocese. He served as an associate pastor in six very diverse parishes throughout the archdiocese of Los Angeles. After parish ministry, he was involved for 18 years in the spiritual and human formation of seminarians at St. John's Seminary in Camarillo. Since 2005, Jack has been the director of the Cardinal Manning House of Prayer for Priests in Los Angeles. His diverse experiences provided for a meaningful week of retreat for seminarians and faculty.

Well, that's it for this time around. May all of you have a fruitful Lent and a glorious Easter.

## *Called Home*

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



Fr. Placidus Zach, OSB passed away on December 1, 2008 while he received the anointing of the sick. He was 88 years-old, 57 years professed a monk and 52 years a priest. Because of his excellent mechanical skill and engineering skills, his principal assignment for a number of years was as electrical maintenance engineer at the Abbey. During those years he also taught physics and algebra at the Prep School.

Fr. Placidus spent long periods in Cuernavaca, Mexico helping to establish the Abbey's daughter house Our Lady of Angels Monastery.

# Events

## CALENDAR



**MARCH** 14 Christian in the World Program: Fr. Rory Pitstick  
The Pearls of Paul an Overview of His Letters  
17 Mount Angel Seminary Ministries Mass: Presiding - Bishop John C. Wester,  
Diocese of Salt Lake City  
21 Feast of the Passing of St. Benedict

**APRIL** 2-5 Oblates Monastic Living Retreat  
4 Christian in the World Program: Sr. Jeanette von Herrmann, O.S.B.  
Paul's Use of Scripture  
5 Palm Sunday  
9 Holy Thursday  
10 Good Friday  
12 Easter Sunday  
15-16 Mount Angel Seminary Alumni Priests Continuing Education Workshop  
28 Mount Angel Seminary Samoan Mass  
Feast of St. Peter Chanel

**MAY** 1-31 Valley Calligraphy Guild Exhibit  
2 Valley Calligraphy Guild Reception  
7-9 Women's Retreat: Dr. Elaine Park  
15 Mount Angel Seminary Baccalaureate Mass  
16 Mount Angel Seminary Graduation  
24 Solemnity of the Ascension  
31 Solemnity of Pentecost

**JUNE** 14 Solemnity of Corpus Christi  
20 Festival of Arts & Wine: a fundraising event for the Abbey Library  
27 Ordination of Br. Ralph Recker  
29 Solemnity of Sts. Peter and Paul

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