

# MOUNT ANGEL | Letter

FALL 2019

SEEK CHRIST  
FIND JOY





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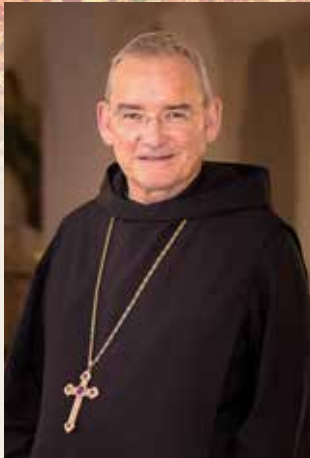
A Time To  
Give Back

*Please note our mailing address:* Abbey Foundation of Oregon, PO Box 497, Saint Benedict, OR 97373-0497.

All other Abbey mail should be addressed to 1 Abbey Drive, Saint Benedict, OR 97373.

*Would you like to receive* our publications, invitations and news via email? Simply send your email address to [news@mtangel.edu](mailto:news@mtangel.edu).

*Do you have special requests* regarding the mail you receive from the Abbey? Give us a call at 503.845.3030. Please send address changes or comments, along with your mailing label, to the Development Office at PO Box 497, Saint Benedict, OR 97373-0497.



## DEAR FRIENDS,

Earlier this month, on November 3, we hosted our annual Seminary Benefit Dinner. It is the seminary's largest fundraiser and the goal each year is to close the gap between what students pay and what it actually costs each year. For the past few years the dinner has raised \$1 million or more, which testifies to the generosity of our friends. (Don't miss the enclosed Abbey Foundation of Oregon Annual Report and its listing of all our benefactors during the 2018-19 fiscal year.)

The theme for the Seminary Benefit Dinner was *Seek Christ, Find Joy*. I find great joy in my monastic community and in the eyes of our seminarians as together we seek Christ. It isn't always easy. At times our own brokenness or the brokenness of our world seems overwhelming. But if we remember that Christ has come, we have been redeemed, how can we not be joyful?

A theologian I admire greatly, Fr. Alexander Schmemmann, wrote: "I think God will forgive everything except lack of joy." Joy, he continued, "is not one of the components of Christianity, it is the tonality of Christianity that penetrates everything."

Something is happening here at Mount Angel. Christ is here, and his coming brings us joy—great joy. We see it in the men who are asking to join us! Two monks of Mount Angel—Br. Ephrem Martinez and Br. Timothy Kalange—were ordained deacons in August. Br. Israel Sanchez professed his solemn vows in September. Two others, Br. Luke Hamilton and Br. La Vang Nguyen, finished their year of novitiate and made their first vows. And four men have just begun their year of novitiate: Br. David Hernandez, Br. Luke Klotz, Br. Zachary Norstedt, and Br. Trent Sislow.

Similar commitments are seen among our seminarians. We had nine graduates last spring go on to priestly ordination this summer. Seven others were ordained transitional deacons and have returned for their final year of theology and preparation for ordination next summer.

And so, we continue. In the midst of great turmoil in our culture and the Church, this level of commitment is nothing short of pure grace. But it is a grace received and acted on by generous, courageous, joyful men who seek Christ above all.

Read their stories; see what is happening here at Mount Angel and rejoice with us. Pray for us. And come, whenever you are able, to see for yourself.

God bless you,

+ Jeremy Driscoll, OSB

The Right Reverend Jeremy Driscoll, O.S.B.  
Abbot and Chancellor  
Mount Angel Abbey and Seminary







Br. Israel stands with Abbot Jeremy after making his solemn vows .

## TO BELONG ENTIRELY TO GOD

*“You are no longer mine.” My mother whispered these words into my ear after the Mass. My parents and my sister had led me to the altar during the Offertory Procession, and left me there to take their seats. I was no longer theirs. I belonged entirely to God. “I only ask God to strengthen you,” my mother told me, “and I look to Mary standing by her Son on the cross. I hold on to her.”*



## Reflections on my Solemn Vows

Late in August of 2011, after a few days driving north on I-5, I saw the bell tower of Mount Angel Abbey for the first time, rising up above the pine trees and hop fields of the Willamette Valley. A surprising thought came to me: “I’m never going to leave this place.”

I’ve thought about that moment often. I remembered it as I stood in the Abbey church on September 12, during the Mass of my Solemn Profession. Abbot Jeremy asked, “What is your request?”

I responded, “I desire to share the sufferings of Christ in this monastery until death, that I may also share his Kingdom.”

As I write this, I have been a solemnly professed monk for three whole days. Family and friends who came for the Mass of Profession have gone, leaving the Hilltop community to settle back into its rhythm of prayer, work, and study. For me, it means I begin to ask, “Lord, show me the meaning of these vows.”

Please pray for me, that the vows I have made of stability, obedience, and conversion of life will bear fruit in me and in this monastery. By the grace of God, I hope to wake up every morning and give myself completely to him, and to repeat with joy, “I’m never going to leave this place,” until I see him face to face.

– BR. ISRAEL SANCHEZ, O.S.B.

## TWO MONKS ORDAINED TO DIACONATE

Last August in the Abbey church, in a powerful moment during their ordination to diaconate, celebrant Archbishop Alexander Sample of Portland, Oregon, silently laid his hands on the heads of Br. Ephrem Martinez, O.S.B., and Br. Timothy Kalange, O.S.B. He prayed that God might give in abundance to these monks, “every Gospel virtue: unfeigned love, concern for the sick and poor, unassuming authority, the purity of innocence, and the observance of spiritual discipline.” As deacons, Br. Ephrem and Br. Timothy will assist at the altar and preach during Mass at the Abbey and in the local parish in the town of Mt. Angel.



Above, Br. Ephrem, Archbishop Sample, and Br. Timothy enter the church for the ordination of deacons at Mount Angel on August 17, 2019.

Below, Br. Timothy is assisted by Deacon Dominic Sternhagen, and Br. Ephrem is assisted by Br. James Sartos, O.S.B., in putting on the dalmatic during their ordination to diaconate.







## RARE BOOKS BROUGHT TO NEW LIFE

During the first week of August, an intense project filled the library auditorium. Dr. Steve Delamarter of George Fox University brought a team of manuscript-digitizing graduate students to work on items in the Abbey library's collection. Dr. Delamarter is head of the Textual History of the Ethiopic Old Testament Project at George Fox. His group accomplished two objectives: first, they gained experience with the equipment they will use in the field in Ethiopia, digitizing the religious texts of that country. And second, more of the Abbey library's rare manuscripts will be available online to a worldwide audience. Watch as the newly digitized manuscripts appear on the Abbey's website in the coming months!



## MONKS IN DISCERNMENT MOVE FORWARD



On September 7, **Br. Luke Hamilton** and **Br. La Vang Faustina Nguyen** completed their novitiate year and professed their first vows as Benedictine monks of Mount Angel.

Four others, who have completed their six months of postulancy, have now begun their novitiate year. Reflecting on why they desire to continue their journey into monastic life at Mount Angel, Br. David Hernandez summed it up: “The thing that convinced me to continue as a novice at Mount Angel is the emphasis placed on the work of God, which is prayer—stopping whatever we are doing during daily activities to follow the call of God, to do the work of God.”



*The process of discerning a vocation at Mount Angel Abbey begins with a personal visit or discernment retreat with the monks. Retreat participants live with the monks and follow their schedule for a few days, spending time in prayer, conferences, and conversation about vocation discernment. The next retreat is March 6-8, 2020. For information, email Fr. Odo Recker, O.S.B., at [vocation@mtangel.edu](mailto:vocation@mtangel.edu).*

## RETURN TO THE ROOTS: A BENEDICTINE PILGRIMAGE WITH FR. RALPH RECKER, O.S.B.

In 1882, monks from the Abbey of Engelberg, in Switzerland, arrived in the Willamette Valley of Oregon to begin what is now Mount Angel Abbey. In April 2020, Engelberg celebrates its 900th anniversary. To honor the anniversary of their mother house, the monks of Mount Angel are organizing a pilgrimage to Italy and Switzerland, led by Fr. Ralph Recker and Benedictine Oblate, LaVern Hayworth.

The pilgrimage is scheduled for June 1-12, 2020, and includes an audience with Pope Francis, visits to Benedictine monasteries in Montecassino, Norcia and Subiaco, and concludes with a stay at Engelberg Abbey in Switzerland.

*For information, contact LaVern Hayworth at [zernyh@charter.net](mailto:zernyh@charter.net) or call 541.567.9708.*







## *A Place of Welcome and Spiritual Growth*

As the finishing touches continue at the Saint Benedict Guesthouse and Retreat Center, guests and retreatants have filled the rooms and conference spaces steadily since June. Groups and individuals who had known and loved the Abbey's retreat center before the renovation have returned with joy. New retreats offered and directed by the monks are drawing new guests. One retreatant attended a week-long retreat and immediately reserved space at the next!

Here is what some of our guests have shared with us about their experience while on retreat:

*"Last evening I sat on the balcony of my room and experienced God in nature: cows lowing in the distance, birds in the trees below, and the exquisite sunset. Peace enveloped me. Such moments may not be planned, but I know that creating the space and making it available takes much time and planning. Thank you."*

*"To stay in this beautiful structure was a huge treat. It's a holy space and you're gracious for sharing it."*

*"The guesthouse was so anticipatory in offering the most lovely accommodations. My [young adult] daughter slept through the night for the first time in almost a year."*

*"Thanks for making us feel welcome in the Body of Christ. We look forward to visiting again and telling our families and community about Mount Angel and the guesthouse."*

*"The quiet, peaceful atmosphere and comfortable room ... let me just say, it's been a long time since I slept 10 hours straight through. Note to self: Book more than one night next time!"*

For information on the directed retreats offered or to come for a private retreat, see [mountangelabbey.org/retreat](http://mountangelabbey.org/retreat).







## THE SCHOOL YEAR BEGINS WITH SPIRIT!

When the students arrive at Mount Angel in mid to late August to begin the new school year, they bring full hearts and minds. At the Mass of the Holy Spirit, the Abbey church resounds with voices raised in song and fills with palpable moments of silence as heads bow in prayer.

Most of the seminarians return from a summer filled with pastoral experiences in parish, hospital, and other settings; immersion weeks in Mexico for Spanish language and culture; visiting refugee camps with Catholic Relief Services; and so much more. That's because discerning and preparing for priestly ordination involves learning, personal growth, and experiences that go beyond the classroom setting. This year was no exception. Preaching at the opening Mass,

Abbot Jeremy Driscoll, O.S.B., chancellor of the seminary, reflected on the reading from 1 Corinthians: "There are different kinds of spiritual gifts but the same Spirit; there are different forms of service but the same Lord; there are different workings but the same God who produces all of them in everyone."



"What does this Spirit look like?" he asked. "How will we know if it has been given?"

"These gifts are all found at Mount Angel," he said. "Both in the monastery and in the seminary."

There are different gifts, "but one and the same Spirit produces all of these. It is because of this Spirit that one can visit Mount Angel and say, 'Something is happening here!'"

– THERESA MYERS



## THE ROME EXPERIENCE

Imagine five days of retreat in Ars, France, the village of St. John Vianney, patron saint of parish priests. Then five weeks of study, prayer, and immersion in the Church of Rome—ever ancient, ever new.



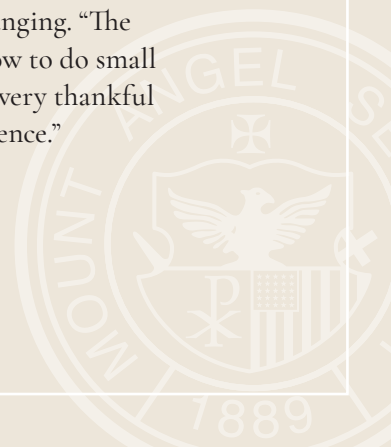
This is what Ian Gaston and Anthony Hoangphan, seminarians for the Diocese of Orange and the Archdiocese of Portland respectively, participated in this summer. The Rome Experience is a program open to seminarians from across the United States and includes classes and spiritual

formation designed to enhance their seminary studies. The focus is on identifying key traits of priestly identity, developing a personal plan of life, and deepening a passion and love for pastoral ministry. In between, there are opportunities to visit the Vatican, attend Mass and audiences with the Holy Father, and explore the beautiful churches and holy sites of Rome.

“In many ways,” said Anthony, “the opening retreat in Ars, the village of St. John Vianney, was the highlight of the trip. Walking the last distance to the church of Ars before the retreat was really a pilgrimage. It prepared me to focus and take advantage of the rest of the experience, and it reminded me of why I am in the seminary to begin with.”

For Ian, the experience was life changing. “The Rome Experience has taught me how to do small things with a little more zeal. I am very thankful for having been sent on this experience.”

– THERESA MYERS







## *The study of theology begins* **WITH PRAYER**

Preparing for priesthood involves years dedicated to intense spiritual and human formation, academics, pastoral experience, and vocational discernment. The years in seminary can easily be nine for those who begin as a college freshman, and at least four to seven for those who start after college, and perhaps after several years in a career.

*No matter when one starts, the beginning of the four years of theology is nothing less than momentous.* The program for theology at Mount Angel is especially robust. Before they begin theology, the seminarians come in early August for a three-week silent retreat. In addition to daily conferences, each man is assigned a spiritual director, with whom he meets every day or two. It's no wonder the retreat is called ISP: Intensive Spirituality Program.

For seminarian James Ladd, from the Archdiocese of Portland, the retreat was a watershed moment. Once he is through seminary, he reflected, with its built-in supports and daily schedule, "all I'm going to have is my relationship with Christ, maintained through a deep prayer life. I realized that I need to start running towards this reality. This is the reality of the priesthood."

## MASS OF CANDIDACY

Nine seminarians of Mount Angel Seminary were recently accepted into candidacy for Holy Orders. In this rite, the seminarian declares his desire to be ordained to Holy Orders. Through the bishop, the Church publicly affirms the candidate's commitment to continue his path toward ordination.

Admitted to candidacy, were (pictured below, left to right) Caleb Cunningham, Diocese of Baker, Joshua Falce, Diocese of Boise, and Oscar Medina Zermeno, Diocese of Fresno. Not pictured, were Cheeyoon Chun, Diocese of Orange, Anthony Ezeaputa and Jordan Sanchez, Archdiocese of Santa Fe, Anthony Galati, Archdiocese of Portland, Bonaventure Okoro, Diocese of Fresno, and Junghoon (Val) Park, Archdiocese of Seattle. The candidates will now prepare for ordination to the diaconate.



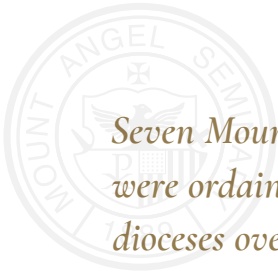




## FOR NEWLY ORDAINED DEACONS

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# LIFE GETS REAL



*Seven Mount Angel theology students were ordained as deacons in their home dioceses over the summer months. And most spent the summer ministering in parishes and missions.*

For **Deacon Dominic Sternhagen**, of the Diocese of Salt Lake City, the ordination had a tremendous impact. He had only lived in Salt Lake for a few years when he entered seminary. But during the ordination rite, he said, “I had a feeling of belonging with my diocese. I really felt like [Salt Lake] is my home, this is where I am supposed to be. It all felt right.”

**Deacon Ryan Mahar**, of the Diocese of Sacramento, compared his experience to the birthing process: “The mother delivers the child and the doctor takes the child and slaps the baby’s behind and the baby starts crying. I don’t know if that is what really happens or is just out of the movies, but I had that same experience. I had been in the formation stage for so many years, and it seemed like the words I said didn’t have weight. After ordination I got a slap from God and started to proclaim his Word, almost like an infant, for the first time. The words had weight and I was breathing the new air of the Holy Spirit.”

During the school year all of the new deacons are assigned to parishes where they will help on weekends with liturgy, faith formation, baptisms, and preaching. **Deacon Mike Rizzo**, from the Diocese of Orange, said, “I want to [preach] in a meaningful and accessible way that touches people’s hearts. Preaching has been fantastic.”

Weekend parish ministry, said **Deacon Raymond Philip Napuli**, from the Diocese of San Diego, “allows me to be immersed in the life of the parish... There’s a special joy in getting to preach the Gospel and to think that through this little voice of mine the Gospel is proclaimed and becomes real in the liturgy.”

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THE LIST OF NEWLY ORDAINED DEACONS ALSO INCLUDES **JOSEPH BALTZ**, ARCHDIOCESE OF SANTA FE; **ROGELIO MOLINA CARRILLO**, DIOCESE OF LAS VEGAS; AND **THOMAS TRAN**, ARCHDIOCESE OF SEATTLE. THEIR ORDINATIONS TO THE PRIESTHOOD, GOD WILLING, WILL TAKE PLACE IN THE SUMMER OF 2020.

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– STEVE RITCHIE

## *Father John Mosier*

THE JOY OF OUR PRIESTHOOD IS THANKS TO YOUR KINDNESS



From the Diocese of Boise, from left to right, seminarian Tim Segert, newly ordained Fr. John Mosier, and seminarians Darrell Falconburg and Joshua Falce. Photo: Courtesy of the Diocese of Boise.

Each seminarian comes to Mount Angel as a unique individual, but none come alone. They carry in their hearts and prayers a multitude of souls who have helped them hear and respond to the voice of God. They pray with special gratitude for those who helped them through their seminary years with spiritual and, often, financial support.

Ordained June 6, 2019, and now serving as parochial vicar at St. Thomas the Apostle in Coeur D'Alene, Idaho, Fr. John Mosier said, "All those who invest in us as seminarians at Mount Angel are investing in the workers of the vineyard who get to go out and tell the Master's story and be his presence in a very tangible way in the communities in which we serve."

*Now, as a priest, Fr. Mosier said, "This is what's so exciting. As a pastor, I now get to live the fruits of our benefactors' investment every day."*

"I get to see it when couples bring their child to be baptized; when people come forward to unite their lives in matrimony; when families say their final goodbye to a loved one. And the joy that I get to experience is the fruition of our benefactors' prayer and their investment in this mission of Christ."

– THERESA MYERS



*“We Wanted to Use the Skills We Have”*

“We had been very successful in our careers, and we wanted to retire somewhere we could give back,” said Elizabeth Farley. “We settled on Oregon, very close to Mount Angel Abbey and Seminary.”

The “we” was Elizabeth, and her husband, Jerome (Jerry) Farley. It was 2002 when they decided to retire—he from a successful career in law, business and education; she from an equally successful career in hospital administration. Two things they agreed upon: retirement was not going to be in Los Angeles, where they had lived and worked for many years. And, it needed to be someplace with a strong Catholic presence. After searching around the country, they settled a short ten miles from Mount Angel Abbey and Seminary.

Elizabeth soon enrolled in the theology program at the Seminary and acquired a Master of Arts (Theology) degree—her third master’s degree. She went on to complete a doctorate and a licentiate in Sacred Theology, specializing in Marian Studies, through The International Marian Research



*Dr. Elizabeth and Jerry Farley*

Institute, an American Branch of the Marianum, in affiliation with the University of Dayton. She then taught Mariology at Mount Angel Seminary, a pursuit she continues today.

Jerry dove into volunteer work at the Seminary, offering his many professional skills. Respected and appreciated for his keen administrative ability, he was soon a beloved colleague among faculty and staff, known for his quick wit and gentle spirit. After his sudden death in June 2019, one of those who knew and worked with him

commented that Jerry “always took time to say hello and to ask how the day was going. And he always sincerely was interested in the answer!”

To be of service was the ultimate desire of both. With characteristic humility, the Farleys sought simply to be of service, even in death. In lieu of flowers at his Funeral Mass, the family invited memorial donations to aid the Seminary, where Elizabeth continues to contribute her expert and prayerful presence.

– THERESA MYERS





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## JOIN THE MONKS OF MOUNT ANGEL ABBEY *for the LITURGY OF THE HOURS*

### CHRISTIAN IN THE WORLD

*Mount Angel's community of friends is invited to participate in the annual Christian in the World Lecture Series. The series of presentations, accompanied by study, prayer and discussion, was designed for those who want a more profound understanding of the Scriptures and the Church. The series has been ongoing for more than 20 years and all are encouraged to register and attend.*

**The final session for 2019** is December 14. Br. Louis Nguyen, O.S.B., will speak about evolution in the light of Catholic and Christian belief in creation.

**The spring 2020 series** will offer four presentations on Dante's Divine Comedy, beginning at 9 am on January 11, February 15, March 14, and April 4.

*The schedule allows participants to attend Mass and Midday Prayer with the monks. Cost: \$50 for the series; \$15 a session. Student cost: \$5 a session.*

#### FOR INFORMATION

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visit us online at  
[mountangelabbey.org/citw](http://mountangelabbey.org/citw)

#### WEEKDAYS

Vigils: 5:20 am  
Lauds: 6:30 am  
Holy Eucharist: 8:00 am  
Midday Prayer: Noon  
Vespers: 5:20 pm  
Compline: 7:30 pm

#### SUNDAYS AND SOLEMNITIES

Vigils: 7:30 pm (Saturday)  
Lauds: 6:40 am  
Holy Eucharist: 9:00 am  
Midday Prayer: Noon  
Vespers: 5:20 pm  
Compline: 8:00 pm

## WAS THERE A MOMENT AT MOUNT ANGEL THAT CHANGED YOUR LIFE?



**Many recall particular monks, spiritual directors or teachers whose words and presence made all the difference.**

If mentors at Mount Angel have helped you or a loved one to grow in new ways and opened doors to God, please consider planning a gift or bequest to honor them. That way, others will have life-changing opportunities as well.

For information,  
contact Susan Gallagher  
at 503.845.3030 or  
[development@mtangel.edu](mailto:development@mtangel.edu).

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*Abbot Damian Jentges, O.S.B.  
1902 – 1974*