

MOUNT ANGEL | Letter

SPRING 2020



50
YEARS

MOUNT ANGEL
ABBAY LIBRARY

LEARNING LIGHT WISDOM PEACE BEAUTY



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Spring 2020 | Volume 73, Number 1

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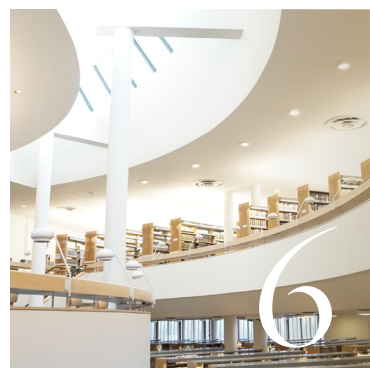
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In Memoriam
Fr. Augustine



Young Adult
Ministry



Library's 50th
Anniversary

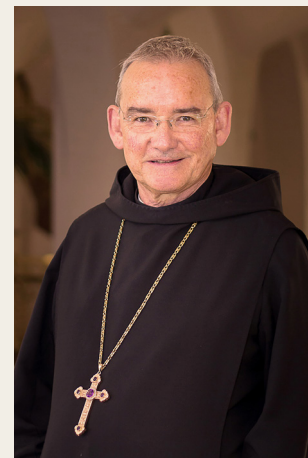


Ministry of
Presence

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DEAR FRIENDS,

Spring came early this year to our Hilltop home. In the first week of February, we rejoiced to see daffodils and crocus blooming, and soon after, the quince and camellias. They brought joy, but that joy was colored by memories of our dear Fr. Augustine DeNoble, OSB, who died last November at the age of 94, after having lived 70 years as a monk of Mount Angel.

Fr. Augustine was exemplary in his ability to live spaciously, with and for others. Whether he was in boots and mittens planting spring bulbs or tending spent blooms in the late summer heat, he always had time to stop and visit with anyone who happened along. In his ministry of the sacrament of reconciliation, as Mount Angel alumnus Fr. Dean Marshall recalls, Fr. Augustine taught, “there is always time for God’s mercy.”

The trait of having time for others is a conscious practice here at Mount Angel. Whether it’s visiting over a meal in the guesthouse or enjoying a beer at the Benedictine Brewery, people find this is a good place to spend a few hours and get to know one another in Christ. A person may come initially to the brewery for the beer, but they return to continue a good conversation with a monk.

Something else that leads to thoughts of Fr. Augustine this spring is the 50th anniversary of our beautiful Mount Angel Library. Fr. Augustine was one of a few monks who worked tirelessly to obtain and preserve fine collections of books for its shelves. To enter our library is to encounter light, spaciousness, and a sense of time graciously unfolding. Mount Angel’s library holds for all who come the wisdom of the ages and inspiration for the future.

This issue of Mount Angel Letter contains many beautiful images and stories of life here at Mount Angel. It is a place of beauty that we hold in readiness and welcome for all who come. I hope you have time to read through the stories, savor the photos, and plan to visit in person to encounter Christ in the enjoyment of good company, prayer, and conversation.

Peace in Christ,

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





Fr. Augustine DeNoble, OSB

BORN: OCT 25, 1925
 PROFESSED: SEPT 8, 1950
 ORDAINED: MAY 19, 1955
 DIED: NOV 9, 2019

IN MEMORIAM

Fr. Augustine Bridged Generations at Mount Angel

Upon his death, last November at the age of 94, Fr. Augustine DeNoble, OSB, was the eldest member of the community. He entered the monastery upon completion of his college studies at Mount Angel Seminary and made his profession in 1950. Ordained a priest five years later, Fr. Augustine continued his monastic journey at Mount Angel for a total of 70 years.

worked tirelessly to raise the level of the collection and study that occurred therein." He also helped establish the libraries of Mount Angel's daughter houses in Idaho and Mexico.

Hundreds of students at Mount Angel Seminary benefited from his kindness and wit as he assisted them in research projects. His mind was a trap when it came to remembering the location of a



It's impossible to visit the Hilltop and not see the imprint of his life. Fr. Augustine's love for nature remains visible along Abbey Drive as the spring daffodils and crocuses he planted are in bloom. No walk with Fr. Augustine was without some shared bits of knowledge and history of the trees, plants, and shrubbery that adorn the home he loved.

His respect for the land on which Mount Angel sits is consistent with the Benedictine values that ran deep in his being. He learned these from reading the Rule of St. Benedict, but especially from the example and spirit of the pioneer monks of Mount Angel. In the homily for his funeral Mass, Abbot Jeremy said Fr. Augustine had "caught the spirit" of Mount Angel, "and embodied it very deeply. He had, after all, lived just over half of the history of this 138-year-old monastery."

Fr. Augustine was deeply connected with the Abbey's library. He had a Master of Library Science and served as an assistant librarian for many years. Abbot Jeremy remembered Fr. Augustine as "recognizing the excellence of the Aalto library from the moment it opened. He

book, as well as where relevant points of theology, history, or philosophy were in a volume.

It is in his role as confessor, however, that so many remember – and miss – Fr. Augustine. He loved the ministry of the sacrament of reconciliation. Not only his fellow monks but seminarians, diocesan priests, and hundreds of laity knew him as a wise and compassionate confessor. Mount Angel alumnus Fr. Dean Marshall, from the Diocese of Sacramento, recalls Fr. Augustine as "a faithful confessor to many of us seminarians. It was from him I learned there is always time for God's mercy."

The death of Fr. Augustine, said Abbot Jeremy, was "the tail end of an era." With his passing went one of the last living connections to the earliest days of Mount Angel Abbey. In the symmetry of life here, just two months before Fr. Augustine's coffin lay in the sanctuary of the Abbey church, Br. Israel Sanchez lay prostrate there for his solemn vow ceremony. He made the same vows to follow Christ, according to the Rule of St. Benedict, that Fr. Augustine had professed so many decades before.



– THERESA MYERS



FACILITATING AN *Encounter* WITH CHRIST



In a world saturated with media and streaming entertainment, a monastery is perhaps the last place one would expect to find young adults on a Friday evening. Nevertheless, the continued success of the monthly Encounter: Young Adult Ministry program at Mount Angel proves otherwise. There is a real hunger for God and a fervent desire among young people to understand Christianity, and the monks are helping answer this need by providing a space for prayer, faith formation, and fellowship.

“We want to open the door and allow young people to have the opportunity to encounter God,” says Br. Louis de Montfort Nguyen, OSB, who initiated the Encounter ministry with the Willamette University Newman Club in August 2019. The ministry has since broadened to a growing audience which includes Catholic young adults from all parts of the Willamette Valley.

MEET A *Monk* OVER A PINT

Rainy days can be slow at Benedictine Brewery’s taproom. But, according to head brewer Fr. Martin Grassel, OSB, just let the sun come out for the afternoon, and the taproom fills up as if by magic.

“One recent Sunday, I stepped into the taproom and was happy to see that we needed to open the doors for outside seating. It was sunny and just warm enough. As I walked through and greeted people, I met couples from Portland and Eugene, and a group from Belgium. They had all made Benedictine Brewery their destination for the day. There was a professor, grading exams, and familiar patrons from Mt. Angel and Silverton.”

After a full year of operation, and with publicity from numerous media articles and interviews, the taproom has been steadily busy. So much so that, not only have the bills been paid, but Fr. Martin has recently increased the brewing capacity from about 120 to 400 barrels annually

in order to meet demand. At the same time, he is entertaining a proposal for an outdoor pavilion that would expand seating and provide a space that groups could reserve. Taproom features like a merchandise display and rotating artwork are almost done, and the online sale of brewery merchandise is being explored.

More important than the number of visitors or quantity of beer consumed in the taproom, however, are the relationships and connections formed between guests and the monks. “Sharing a beer,” said Fr. Martin, “is just a good way to enjoy an afternoon and get to know people. Perhaps someone has initially come in for the beer, but they return to continue a good conversation with a monk. To see the amount of traffic that goes between the taproom and the monastery up the hill is very encouraging.”

– THERESA MYERS



The young adults join the monks for Vespers followed by time for Eucharistic Adoration and the sacrament of reconciliation. The evening continues with dinner in the guesthouse followed by a spiritual conference and concludes with fellowship time in the Benedictine Brewery. “It’s basically a Friday outing with the Lord,” says Br. Louis.

Ramon Camacho, a regular attendee, enjoys “the opportunity to learn, contemplate, refresh, connect and journey with others in the walk of faith. Every month, the Encounter allows me to answer the question: what am I really busy with?”

– ETHAN ALANO

UPCOMING DATES:

- Mar. 27** The Lectionary of Holy Week and Easter Triduum
- Apr. 24** The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd: An Innovative and Effective Model to Teach and Bring People of All Ages to God
- May 22** Spiritual Warfare and Understanding the Dangers of Occult Practices

To register, email louis.nguyen@mtangel.edu

Fourth Friday of the month | 5 pm – 9:30 pm
Ages 18 – 35 welcome | \$10 suggested donation



50
YEARS

MOUNT ANGEL LIBRARY

A place to seek and find God

The library at Mount Angel has been described in many ways over its 50-year history. It's known worldwide as a masterpiece of Alvar Aalto's architecture. The dedication of the library in May of 1970 was a 3-day event that drew distinguished guests from the fields of architecture and academia from around the world. The story of how this great work came to be here, in this very rural, agricultural center of the Willamette Valley in Oregon, is indicative of the courage and vision of the Benedictine monks who dwell here.

Books are revered by Benedictines. They are containers and purveyors of culture, faith, history, and adventure. As Br. Anselm Flores, OSB, a junior monk at Mount Angel, says: "When I read, my 'world' meets the 'world of the book' and I am challenged and inspired to bring both worlds together into a synthesis and I am transformed and converted."

This power of a book takes on a deeper layer of meaning if you understand that Benedictine monks take a vow of conversion of life. This vow continually calls them to change, growth, and renewal in Christ. The Aalto library is truly an integral part of this monastic work of conversion. It is the center of learning and knowledge at Mount Angel. While it exists primarily to support the work of monks and the seminarians and students who study here, it is open to all who come and seek the knowledge it holds within.

"I try to get light which spreads in the room so that no matter at which angle you hold the book there will never be hard reflection in your eyes."

— ALVAR AALTO

Read more about the library, its architecture, rare books, illustrated manuscripts, and vast theology collection at mountangelabbey.org/library.



In May of 1970, the music of Duke Ellington reverberated throughout the open space, to the delight of the hundreds of guests attending the library's dedication.



Under the direction of Abbot Damian Jentges, OSB, the monastic community agreed in 1964 to move ahead with the library project with Alvar Aalto, working with him and his office in Helsinki, Finland.



"Mount Angel Library gives every one of us the opportunity to learn and to grow, a place in which we can inform and form ourselves. In this way, we can become good stewards of the past, good caretakers of the future, and good deckhands on the ark of history." — BR. LUKE HAMILTON, OSB

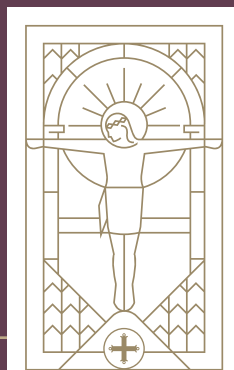


All reading is part of the search for God, the desire to know him everywhere, in everyone and in all of creation.



Deacon Raymond Philip Napuli

BEING & RECEIVING *the Presence of Christ*



One of the gifts of Christian faith is a belief in a personal God who desires to be with his people. God's longing to be among his people comes to a crescendo in the Incarnation of the Word, who "was made flesh and dwelt among us" (John 1:14). Being intentionally present to another is not a passive matter but an act of love.

Transitional deacons have the privileged opportunity to practice this "ministry of presence" in their weekend parish assignments. They express Christ's presence in a particular way through their service in the liturgy, but it continues in their personal interactions with parishioners before and after Mass and in their service to the community. Deacon Dominic Sternhagen (Diocese of Salt Lake City), assigned to St. Rose of Lima in northeast Portland, comments that "the fact that you're there; it makes all the difference. Because we're there, people have confidence that there is someone present whom they can trust, someone who cares."

While deacons have the opportunity to be present to the people in the parish, they also receive the gift of God being present to them through those people. "It's a humbling reminder for us that we are also to draw Christ's presence in the other, that they have as much of Christ's presence that they may or may not fully recognize," says Deacon Raymond Philip Napuli (Diocese of San Diego). "We are indeed the Body of Christ, to not only gift that presence to the other but recognize and honor that in them."

- ETHAN ALANO



ADORATION TO KNOW AND BE KNOWN BY THE LORD



At Mount Angel, the seminarians experience many opportunities to encounter Jesus Christ in the Blessed Sacrament. Every weekday there is Eucharistic Exposition and Adoration, and Christ's Presence in the multiple tabernacles on the Hilltop allows for ample opportunity for personal prayer.

Deacon Joseph Baltz (Archdiocese of Santa Fe) considers his personal, morning Holy Hour to be essential for his life and ministry. By reading the book *In Sinu Jesu*, he became even more convinced of "the importance of presenting to Our Lord, in the Eucharist, souls, whom we have encountered and whom the Spirit prompts us to intercede for."



DR. THOMAS GREENE HONORED

Integral to the success of Mount Angel Seminary is its very active Board of Directors, chaired since May 2018 by Dr. Thomas Greene. Having taught and held multiple administrative positions at the University of Portland for more than 35 years, Dr. Greene brings many talents and the wisdom of experience to his work at Mount Angel.

Recently, Dr. Greene announced his retirement as Provost at the University of Portland. In honor of his service, the Congregation of the Holy Cross honored him with the Spirit of Holy Cross Award. In receiving the award, Dr. Greene was described as “a fierce supporter of the Catholic mission... . A brilliant and dedicated teacher who ... has taught courses every fall and spring semester since 1983 in addition to his significant administrative leadership duties.”

We join the many students, co-workers, friends and family of Dr. Greene in congratulating him on his life of service. We pray with gratitude for his many contributions shared with us at Mount Angel Seminary. May we benefit from Dr. Greene’s kind service for years to come.



SEMINARIANS STAND UP FOR LIFE

On January 25, 2020, thirty-five seminarians from Mount Angel joined thousands of peaceful activists in San Francisco for the annual Walk for Life. Following a Mass in the Cathedral of St. Mary of the Assumption, celebrated by Archbishop Alexander Sample of the Archdiocese of Portland, the seminarians gathered in front of San Francisco City Hall to listen to pro-life speakers before embarking on a “pilgrimage for life” through downtown with an enthusiastic, massive crowd.

The Apostle James exhorts us that “faith without works is dead” (2:17). Seminarian James Tasy (Diocese of Fresno), who has been a long-time participant in the San Francisco Walk, echoes the same sentiment as his saintly namesake. “It’s important to go on a walk for life with other people in peaceful protest, because you just never know who you are influencing,” says Tasy. “Prayer, combined with action, is very impactful.”

The annual March for Life trip is partly funded by the Knights of Columbus. It is one of several activities the seminarians participate in as part of their their Life, Justice and Peace Day observance.



IN MEMORIAM Dr. John Galindo

With sadness, the Mount Angel Abbey and Seminary community mourned the loss of Dr. John Galindo this past November. Dr. Galindo served as psychologist and counselor at the seminary

since 1993 and touched the lives of hundreds at the Abbey through his professional care and guidance. He is remembered in our prayers with fondness and gratitude.



ACOLYTE & LECTOR: MINISTRIES OF SERVICE TO THE CHURCH

At a Mass celebrated February 11 at Mount Angel, fourteen seminarians from Mount Angel Seminary took a step forward in their journey to ordained priesthood.

The Most Rev. Joseph V. Brennan, Bishop of Fresno, (above, center), was the principal celebrant and instituted five men in the ministry of lector and nine in the ministry of acolyte. The seminarians represent eight dioceses.

In his homily, Bishop Brennan told the congregation that titles receive lots of attention in our society, whether corporate, political or ecclesial. “But,” he said, “we can’t take any of those titles to heaven.” Instead, he reflected on the First Letter of John, chapter 3: “See what love the Father has bestowed on us that we may be called the children of God.

“That,” he continued, “is the title we must cling to, the title we can take to heaven: ‘Child of God.’” Bishop Brennan continued, “Acolytes, serve well with the strength God gives you. Lectors, proclaim God’s word well with the speech God has given you. And never forget, the best ministry is often done without words.”



Seminarian Anthony Shumway (middle right), studying for the Diocese of Salt Lake City, received the Holy Bible from Bishop Brennan as he was instituted into the ministry of lector. The lectors will serve as ministers of the Word of God, teaching catechism, preaching, and proclaiming the word of God during the liturgy. Seminarian James Tasy, (bottom right), studying for the Diocese of Fresno, received a paten as he was instituted into the ministry of acolyte. The acolytes will serve at the altar during the Eucharistic Liturgy.

The Pastor, the Clouds, and the Rule of St. Benedict



Having lived on the north Oregon coast for the past 26 years, Pastor David Robinson has come to appreciate the beauty of clouds. “I live in a land of clouds,” he says. “I live on the edge, always looking out

into the wideness of the sea and the clouds that rise up from the sea. It reminds me of a line from *The Cloud of Unknowing*, ‘With a sharp dart of love, pierce through to the cloud of unknowing and just rest there.’”

Robinson became acquainted with *The Cloud of Unknowing* as a Protestant seminary student in the early 1980s. He resonated with the anonymous text from 14th century Europe, with its focus on knowing God “from the heart” rather than strictly through the intellect. Soon after graduating and beginning active ministry as a youth pastor, however, Robinson found himself close to burn out. In the ways of Divine Providence, he found himself in Oregon, making a retreat at the Trappist Abbey of Our Lady of Guadalupe. There he was introduced to Centering Prayer.

It was the beginning of a spiritual journey for Robinson and his wife, Trina, that would lead him eventually to Mount Angel and the Abbey’s oblate program. Before that, however, the couple, along with their children, would spend a number of years in the South, where Robinson continued to work

in college ministry. In 1993, the family returned to Oregon and Robinson became pastor of an active church in a small coastal town.

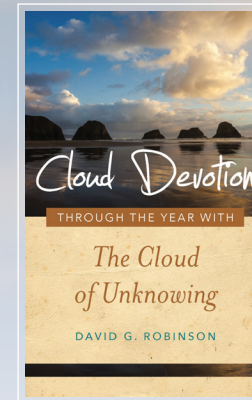
Although Robinson continued to make retreats at Our Lady of Guadalupe, he realized he wanted an intentional connection with a monastic community. He was directed to Mount Angel Abbey, which has a thriving group of Benedictine oblates. “I made a couple of initial retreats at Mount Angel, and between 2003 and 2005 I made retreats designed for oblates and those considering becoming an oblate. On Ash Wednesday in 2006, I made my oblation.”

He resonated with the anonymous text from 14th century Europe, with its focus on knowing God “from the heart” rather than strictly through the intellect.

Robinson also returned to the reading of *The Cloud of Unknowing*. “I went back to an edition in Middle English and actually spent a few years with it. Eventually, I had translated the text into modern English in ways that made sense to me. After about five years, I realized I had a nice manuscript!”

An already published author, with a number of books that apply the Rule of St. Benedict to daily life, Robinson’s modern rendition of *The Cloud of Unknowing* was recently published by Paraclete Press. “*Cloud Devotion*,” he says, “is a practical way for anyone to begin to live deeply a more spiritual life!”

— THERESA MYERS



Cloud Devotion provides a Scripture verse and passage from *The Cloud of Unknowing* in modern English for each day of the year. “If you who currently live an active and external way of life, but also experience inner longings for God’s Spirit, begin to follow these teachings; then, although Christ’s ways are mostly hidden and secret, you will be given grace upon grace.” (*Cloud Devotion*, January 4)

AVAILABLE ON AMAZON AND AT THE ABBEY BOOKSTORE.

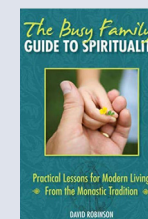
Other Books

BY BENEDICTINE OBLATE, DAVID ROBINSON



Ancient Paths: Discover Christian Formation the Benedictine Way

This guide to Christian formation is ideal for a small group or community to discover the depth of wisdom from the Rule of St. Benedict.



The Busy Family's Guide to Spirituality

“This book adopts the great principles of the Rule of St. Benedict for parents. I wrote it as I was working with the Rule as a guide to be a better parent in my own family.” - David Robinson



The Sacred Art of Marriage: 52 Creative Ways to Grow Your Married Life

Whether newlywed, or married and ready for a renewal, this book provides 52 weeks of spiritual practices to deepen one’s marriage based upon chapter 4 of the Rule of St. Benedict.

LENTEN READING

with Abbot Jeremy Driscoll, OSB

AWESOME GLORY

By Abbot Jeremy Driscoll, OSB

Prepare to celebrate the Easter Triduum liturgies with eyes open to the wonder of God’s grace and redemptive action in your life. This is a profound read for all who want to better understand, teach, and live the good news of Christ’s Resurrection.

WHAT HAPPENS AT MASS

By Abbot Jeremy Driscoll, OSB

The Mass is the gift of and an encounter with Jesus Christ. *What Happens at Mass* is about God acting in our lives through tangible human actions and words. This book draws us closer to the ritual form of that Mass that is nothing less than the very event of our salvation.

OBLATES

of Mount Angel Abbey

Are you seeking a spiritual path that provides structure, beauty and Christian formation? Formed in the Benedictine monastic tradition, the oblates of Mount Angel Abbey seek God in Christian discipleship in the world. By obedience to Catholic teaching, faithfulness to liturgical prayer, and continual conversion of life according to the Rule of St. Benedict, oblates seek union with God and growth in charity toward one’s neighbor. They undertake this work in spiritual communion with the monks of Mount Angel Abbey and with the desire that in all things God may be glorified, and that together we may come to life everlasting.

For more information,
see mountangelabbey.org/oblates
or email info@mtangel.edu.



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SAINT BENEDICT FESTIVAL SATURDAY, JULY 11

Each summer, the monks look forward to sharing their love and joy during a gracious afternoon with all who come. Plan to experience great liturgy, a summer picnic, good music and conversation.

Tickets On Sale Now
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ABBEY BACH FESTIVAL JULY 29, 30 & 31

Since 1971, guests at the Abbey Bach Festival have enjoyed vespers with the monks, an organ or choir performance followed by an outdoor picnic supper, and a featured performance in the Damian Center. This year's festival celebrates strings and Bach, with violin, cello, and harp classics. Find the full schedule of performances at this year's festival at mountangelabbey.org/bach.

Tickets On Sale Now
mountangelabbey.org/bach

503.845.3064 | bach@mtangel.edu

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

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?



Fr. Augustine DeNoble, OSB
1925 – 2019

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.

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our legal title and address is:
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