

Fall 2013

# MOUNT *Angel Letter*



INSIDE

*Abbey Foundation of Oregon  
Annual Report*





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**On the Cover:** The Immaculate Heart of Mary is one of four stained glass windows that grace the chapel in Anselm Hall at Mount Angel Abbey. The windows, originally designed in 1903, were a gift from Fr. Damien Schill and were incorporated into a renovation of the chapel. See the enclosed Annual Report for more art from the Hilltop.

MOUNT ANGEL LETTER, the official publication of Mount Angel Abbey, is a magazine for friends of the Abbey, monastery, guest house, seminary, library and Our Lady of the Angels Priory, in Cuernavaca, Mexico.

*Produced using ecologically  
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## INSIDE

# This Issue

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### Annual Report Insert

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Please note our new mailing address: Mount Angel Abbey, PO Box 497, Saint Benedict, OR 97373-0497.

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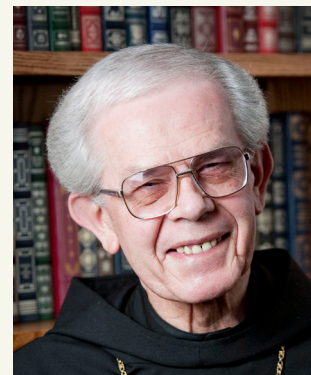


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## Dear Friends



I begin writing this letter way beyond the deadline given to me by our patient communications manager, and in fact, I should at this very moment be up in my room packing to leave in the morning for Anchorage, Alaska, to preach at the annual retreat for the priests of the Archdiocese of Anchorage and the Dioceses of Fairbanks and Juneau! But my recent preparation for the retreat conferences actually serves me well for the writing of this message, since we are so pleased to share with you in the pages of our *Annual Report* (included in this *Letter*) the sacred art that has become Mount Angel Abbey’s treasured heritage over the years. This is also what I will be sharing in Alaska. I’ve gathered many iconographic and painted images of Jesus to share with the priests, in order to further arouse their faith as they come away from their labors and spend some days together. They are responding to Jesus’ invitation: “*Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart, and you will find rest for yourselves.*” (Matthew 11:28–29).

To the contemplative soul, sacred images arouse faith and renew love. They inspire the heart and remind their beholders of the transcendence and vision that must guide them as they make their journey through what is earthly and transitory. Those sacred images surround us here in the monastery, on almost every wall, in the church, in the dining room and along the corridors. Many are gifts from gracious friends and benefactors; others are created by artists within the monastic community itself. We are so pleased to share these images with you. As you look at them, may you treasure all the more the precious gift of your faith in Jesus the Lord!

Our *Annual Report* is also an important opportunity for us to express our profound gratitude to the many generous friends who have supported and enabled our lives of prayer and work. Much of that support has gone toward our external mission of preparing men for priestly life and ministry, but in the last year or so the monks of Mount Angel have also turned their attention to an inside need, namely, improved accommodations for our elderly and infirm monks.

In the Holy Rule, St. Benedict says that “care of the sick must rank *above and before all else*, so that they may truly be served as Christ,” and that “the abbot should be *extremely careful* that they suffer no neglect.” While I am often greatly edified by the tender care that our monks extend to our elderly and infirm, the truth remains that their accommodations can be much improved! The Americans with Disabilities Act upgrades that we are presently planning can only be realized because of the financial and professional assistance we have received from you! We are so grateful, to the Lord and to the gracious people who bless our lives, but I want to say a very focused *THANK YOU* to those who have enabled us to provide facilities for these special members of our community, members who give us their daily witness of patient suffering out of love for Christ! Yes, dear and gracious friends, we thank you!

*Abbot Gregory Duerr, OSB*  
Abbot Gregory Duerr, OSB



# Community

NEWS ABOUT MOUNT ANGEL ABBEY



- Fr. Konrad Schaefer, prior of Our Lady of the Angels Priory in Cuernavaca, Mexico, led the community retreat in May.
- This summer, four novices of the Western Province of the Order of Preachers (Dominicans) made their pre-profession retreat with Fr. Emmerich Vogt, OP, inside the cloister.
- In August, Abbot Gregory Duerr received the solemn vows of Hildebrando Castro Espinoza at Our Lady of the Angels Monastery in Cuernavaca, Mexico.
- Vocations visitors have been coming and going through the summer. The Monastic Discernment Retreat in July hosted 14 men, and the next retreat is scheduled for October.
- On Sept. 7 at Vespers, three postulants, Br. Joseph Long, Br.

Huan Tran and Br. Cory Cook, began their year of novitiate.



- Br. Emmanuel Alva and Br. Tuan Le (above) made their simple vows on Sept. 9 and received new names. Br. Emmanuel is now Br. Mariano, and Br. Tuan is now Br. John Vianney.
- Br. John Paul Le (next column) made his solemn profession on Sept. 12.



Angel Abbey. Prior Vincent Trujillo celebrated his Golden Jubilee and Frs. Aelred Yockey, Thomas Thiên Dang and Pius X Harding celebrated Silver Jubilees at an Abbey reception.

- Four jubilarians were honored at the conventual Mass on Sept. 29, the Titular Feast Day of Mount Angel Abbey.
- Br. Teresio Caldwell and Br. Andrew Schwenke will be ordained transitional deacons by Archbishop Alexander Sample on Oct. 30.
- Fr. Paschal Cheline has been named Junior Master and continues to teach in the seminary this fall. Please pray for his improved health, as the leukemia he lives with tires him easily.



## DONORS ENABLE ABBEY TO PROVIDE BETTER CARE FOR SENIOR MONKS

St. Benedict, who established the Benedictine Order, emphasized the utmost importance of caring for brothers who are elderly or suffering from ill health, and the monks at Mount Angel have taken his counsel to heart. Younger monks serve meals and even provide overnight support, medical assistants provide healthcare, and the community works together to provide for their brothers who have served faithfully for so many years, and are now in need.

But their efforts have been hindered by lack of an adequate assisted living space. Thanks to openhearted donors, the Abbey soon will be able to make much-needed renovations that comply with Americans with Disabilities Act standards. Two new patient rooms will allow for 24-hour care, and nine current cells near the infirmary will be reconfigured to create six larger rooms that are more comfortable, each with individual heating controls. A parlor space for guests will be added, along with better sleeping arrangements for monks assigned to night shifts, and space for medical staff and consultations will be improved.

Among those who will move into the new quarters are two delightful monks, Fr. Bede and Fr. Cosmas. Read about them on page 4.

- Fr. Joseph Nguyen has returned to Rome to continue his studies.
- Br. Ansgar Santogrossi has returned to his teaching position at Our Lady of Guadalupe Seminary in Nebraska.
- Fr. Jonah Wright has returned to Oxford University to continue his studies.
- Fr. Paul Farrelly, of Prince of Peace Abbey in Oceanside, Calif., was appointed chaplain of Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Community at

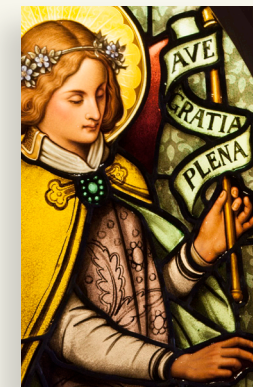
- Mount Angel Towers. He resides in the monastery.
- We pray Br. Lorenzo Conocido, who spent several weeks with his family in the Philippines upon the death of his father.
- The monastic community welcomes George Wolcott of Moscow, Idaho, a seminary student sponsored by the Abbey who intends to enter the monastery.

## ANNUAL REPORT PAYS TRIBUTE TO DONORS OF SACRED ART

In the enclosed *Annual Report* (middle insert), we celebrate some of the gifts of art that have found their way to the Hilltop. For millennia, Christian artists and architects have created some of the world's most beautiful art, leaving a legacy of sacred art that glorifies God and inspires worship. Icons and paintings breathe life into scriptural history, and soaring cathedrals and intimate chapels refresh our spirits and provide refuge from a noisy world.

Sacred art has long been a part of Abbey culture. The early monks at Mount Angel possessed a love of artistry, not only building a humble dairy, but also a graceful chapel where they could gather in thanksgiving. They understood the importance of beauty in spiritual life and habitats.

We hope you enjoy the art images in our *Annual Report*. Better yet, come visit the Hilltop and savor the exquisite paintings, icons and sculptures. We are deeply grateful for the artistry, creativity and faith these gifts represent.



## We've moved!

When you're on the Hilltop, stop by the Mount Angel Abbey Bookstore for an espresso. Our bookstore friends have moved from the Guest House to the Press Building, where they offer books, gifts and even new Wi-Fi service, so guests can catch up on emails.



# Contemplation

REFLECTIONS FROM THE HILLTOP

## “I SIMPLY DECIDED TO STAY, AND I STOOD”

We can overlook the fact that Fr. Bede Partridge, OSB, can't remember what year he came to the Abbey. After all, he's 92. "Was it 1953 or '54? I don't remember," he says, "but I do remember our car had broken down on the way in from the coast. It was August, and oh, was it hot! They put me into a *wool* cassock – we used to always have wool. And I remember how beautiful the Latin chant was. I had never heard anything so lovely."

Fr. Bede is one of several monks whose long lives have been connected with Mount Angel Abbey. Some now live in the infirmary, but like Fr. Bede continue to participate in the daily prayers of the community. They embody faithfulness to the Benedictine vow of stability – remaining attached to one monastery for life.

Asked how he felt about spending more than 60 years at Mount Angel, Fr. Bede replied, "I never really thought about it. I simply decided to stay, and I stood!" He pointed to the ceiling over the reception room and said, "Most of it right up *there!*"

During his decades as a monk and priest, Fr. Bede taught chemistry, mathematics and Latin. He also shouldered weekend duty in local parishes, and once served as chaplain for the nearby convent.

"I'm full of happy memories," he said. "I was never tempted to leave. It was hard at first, but I never wanted anything different."

Fr. Cosmas White, OSB, took a different path, but has also remained



Fr. Cosmas (sitting) and Fr. Bede (standing)

faithful to his Benedictine vows for more than six decades. His education at Fordham University prepared him for teaching assignments in Tillamook, Ore., and Twin Falls, Idaho, as well as parish assignments in Portland and Silverton. "My mistake," he quipped. "The Abbot wanted to send me to the print shop, and I said I would be better at teaching."

"I'm proud to be a Benedictine," Fr. Cosmas said. "These are good people. It really helps to be supported by people of good humor. This is what makes you want to stay." And humble blessings are not to be overlooked.

"This may seem like a small thing," he smiled, "but we have a really fine habit. The hood fits. Not all of them do."

Having suffered a stroke, Fr. Cosmas, now 84, uses a wheelchair, a limitation that causes him some frustration after a physically active life. Asked about Benedictine stability, he jokes, "Stability? I can't even stand!"

Stability at the Abbey provides the foundation for the daily rhythms of work and prayer. We celebrate these two monks for their faithfulness.

— Jim Thompson, Staff Writer

### Monastery continues parish outreach

Four monks are continuing their service as pastors in parishes, including Fr. William Hammelman (St. Paul's parish in Silverton), Fr. Philip Waibel (St. Mary's parish in Mt. Angel), Fr. Nathan Zodrow (St. Agatha's parish in Portland) and Fr. Michael Mee (St. Peter's parish in Spokane, Wash.)

# Hospitality

NEWS ABOUT HILLTOP EVENTS

## LIBRARY EXHIBIT TO SHOWCASE RARE ABBEY GIFTS

Mount Angel Abbey Library will host a reception for the December opening of the exhibit, "Every Good and Perfect Gift: Treasures Given to Mount Angel Abbey Library." The reception and presentation, held Saturday, Dec. 7, at 2 p.m., will feature rare books, Civil War documents, artwork, furniture designed by the library's architect, Alvar Aalto, and more. Meet our generous donors as we celebrate the season of giving.

## FRIENDS, MUSIC AND GOURMET PICNIC MARK BACH FESTIVAL

This summer's Abbey Bach Festival saw perfect weather, as guests gathered on the Abbey lawn to visit and relax before joining the monks for vespers and a church recital, picnic supper and feature concert.

The picnic menu now reflects the influence of Abbey Chef Paul Lieggi and his Bon Appétit staff. Monks greeted guests and popped wine corks while diners enjoyed local fare, including Lonely Lane Farms Oktoberfest sausage, Traeger barbeque chicken and Abbey smoked salmon salad. Church performances included the wonderful Martin Ott pipe organ, and a double choir and orchestra performing Bach Cantatas.

Plan now to attend the 2014 Abbey Bach Festival on July 23–25. Learn more at [www.mountangelabbey.org/bach-home.htm](http://www.mountangelabbey.org/bach-home.htm).



15th-century illuminated manuscript from France, on display at the library exhibit opening in December



## FESTIVAL OF ARTS AND WINE DRAWS CROWD

At the Festival of Arts and Wine in June, the monks were delighted to welcome new visitors to the Abbey, along with longtime friends and supporters. Nearly 500 guests enjoyed hearty hors d'oeuvres, artisanal foods, and local wines and brews, along with artwork, live music and tours of the Abbey. Thanks to everyone who helped make the event a success! Mark your calendars for next year's festival, on June 28.



# Formation

NEWS ABOUT MOUNT ANGEL SEMINARY

## NEW CHAIR OF SEMINARY PASTORAL COUNCIL HOPES TO BUILD BRIDGES

The seminary's new Pastoral Council chair journeyed from the Philippines to America as a teenager, and now his journey has brought him to Mount Angel.

"It was late enough in my youth that I am both Filipino and American," said Deacon Lauro Minimo (pictured at right). His mixed nationality makes him a good bridge builder.

"I want to foster understanding between students coming from different backgrounds," said Deacon Minimo. Even his planned thesis reflects his desire to span gaps in understanding. He'll focus on the doctrine of Filoque – Latin for "and (from) the Son," referring to the procession of the Holy Spirit – one of the major

differences in theological understanding between the Catholic and Orthodox Churches.

Deacon Minimo is a seminarian of the Diocese of San Diego, Calif. He graduated from the University of California at Irvine and worked in the biotech industry for 10 years before entering the seminary.

Some significant life events brought him to a renewed Catholic faith, and ultimately, a call to the priesthood.

Deacon Minimo looks forward to the coming year, and especially the "how-to" classes that will prepare him for ordination to the priesthood. He also looks forward to assisting Msgr. Betschart in his second year

as president-rector of Mount Angel Seminary. "Msgr. Betschart has done much to foster brotherhood on the Hilltop," Minimo says, "and I want to align myself with his vision."

As he embarks on his leadership responsibilities this year, Deacon Minimo recognizes the importance of obedience to God. Obedience, he says, is about daily prayer and living with joy.

You can meet Deacon Minimo at this year's Seminary Benefit Dinner, where he will serve as master of ceremonies.

— Jim Thompson, Staff Writer



## *We say goodbye to poet, teacher and friend*

Sr. Jeanne Concannon, SNJM, who taught English at Mount Angel Seminary from 1986-93, passed away in July. In Sr. Jeanne's poems, she calls God the "poet of the world," saying he "smiles toward hungry eyes I had not known were mine." Her poem "Breathe in Peace" ends with words that echo our own thoughts as we say farewell and prayerfully commend her to our loving God:

*Together God is ours  
and we are God's . . .  
and every gentle breeze and hue  
heart's ease  
sleeps in peace.*

*Sleep in peace, my weary-wonder-one!*



Deacon Lauro Minimo





Seminarians William Zondler and Phoung Nguyen

## WELCOME, SEMINARIANS AND LAY STUDENTS!

On Aug. 26, new and returning seminarians and lay students began the academic year with the Mass of the Holy Spirit, celebrated by the Most Reverend Alexander Sample, Archbishop of Portland. In the inaugural address, “Sacred Learning and Devotion to Heaven, from Alexandria to Monte Cassino,” Dr. Shawn Keough encouraged students to consider academic work as an opportunity to grow in their love for learning and desire for God. The Mount Angel professor of church history and systematic theology commended the Holy Rule of St. Benedict to his listeners, urging them to dedicate this year to making Mount Angel Seminary a school for the service of the Lord, so that God might be glorified in all things (RB 1 and 57).

This year’s class of 181 students includes 153 seminarians from 26 dioceses and six religious communities. The majority came from across the Western United States, including Alaska and the Pacific Islands, but one seminarian traveled all the way from Hungary. One incoming seminarian played professional soccer, one is licensed in canon law, and another is finishing a master’s degree in counseling. Nationally, the average age of prospective candidates for ordination is 35. At Mount Angel, our youngest seminarian just turned 18, and our oldest is 57.

We welcome our seminarians and lay students back to the Hilltop, and ask you to pray for them as they begin the new year.



• Dr. Elizabeth Farley, adjunct professor of theology (pictured), successfully defended her dissertation this summer and received her Doctorate in Sacred Theology from the Roman Pontifical Theology Faculty Marianum.

• Dr. Jared Goff (alumni), Fr. Martin Grassel, OSB, and Fr. Theodore Lange have joined the faculty as adjunct professors.

# Fellowship

## NEWS FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS

### TASTE AND BELIEVE:

### *Monks to produce handcrafted beer at Abbey*

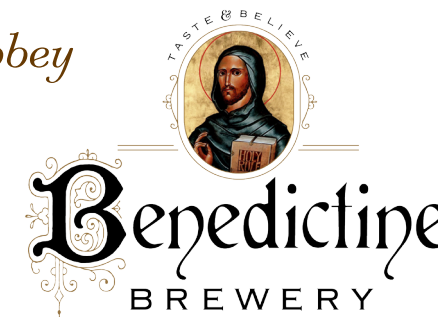
When the recession caused a dip in revenues from the Abbey’s sustainable tree farm, the monks at Mount Angel began casting about for other sources of support. The Benedictine tradition emphasizes prayer first and foremost, but monks also must be self-sustaining. The Swiss monks who established the monastery grew vegetables, raised dairy cows and opened a school, before founding Mount Angel Seminary and the Benedictine Press in 1889.

Their modern-day heirs considered numerous options – blueberries, wine grapes, a columbarium, even conservation easements. And then Divine Providence stepped in. Fr. Martin Grassel, OSB, the Abbey procurator, received some used brewing equipment and began crafting his own beer. Shortly after, the monks received suggestions to establish a brewery. Despite an earlier brewing venture that failed to bear fruit, the monks gave the idea an enthusiastic reception. In January 2013, the Benedictine Brewery was born.

Since then, the Abbey has developed branding, ordered fermentation tanks and other equipment, and cleared out the Fort on the Hilltop, built of sturdy rock in 1903 to store – fittingly – grapes or wine. The monks have also made inroads into the local craft beer community. Dozens of brewers, beer writers and judging experts have volunteered their time, along with trustees of

the Abbey Foundation of Oregon, all offering brewing suggestions and business advice. Portland brewers and fermentation scientists at Oregon State University are currently developing recipes and soon will have the first prototypes ready for tasting.

Benedictine Brewery beer initially will be sold only on the Hilltop. “Our



want it, cheap, we want to offer something authentic, an artisanal brew that is thoughtfully prepared,” Fr. Pius said. The monks will even



The Benedictine Brewery will be located in the old Fort building on the hilltop.

Benedictine tradition emphasizes hospitality,” said Fr. Pius X Harding, OSB, guest master. “As monks, we don’t leave the monastery as often. Instead, we invite people to the Hilltop to experience the peace here. With our handcrafted beer, we can welcome others into another aspect of our life. Benedictine hospitality is not just about getting together with the people you know and love, but encountering Christ in everyone you meet.

“At a time when our culture is about getting what you want, when you

use locally-sourced hops, grown on Abbey and nearby lands, and water from their own well.

If all goes well, the first case of Benedictine Brewery beer will be sold to a lucky customer this summer. And then labels bearing the cross and image of St. Benedict will travel to homes across the valley, and friends who gather together can experience a little part of the Abbey with every sip.





## THE ABBEY FOUNDATION OF OREGON

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### *Join the monks of Mount Angel Abbey for the Liturgy of the Hours*

#### WEEK DAYS

Vigils: 5:20 a.m.  
Lauds: 6:30 a.m.  
Holy Eucharist: 8:00 a.m.  
Midday Prayer: 12 noon  
Vespers: 5:15 p.m.  
Compline: 7:30 p.m.

#### SUNDAYS AND SOLEMNITIES

Vigils: 7:30 p.m. (Saturday)  
Lauds: 6:40 a.m.  
The Holy Eucharist: 9:00 a.m.  
Midday Prayer: 12 noon  
Vespers: 5:15 p.m.  
Compline: 8:00 p.m.

# Calendar

OCTOBER	24	Episcopal Council Meeting
	26	Mass of Candidacy
	30	Mount Angel Abbey Foundation Day (1882)
NOVEMBER	1	Solemnity of All Saints
	1-3	Benedictine Oblate Retreat
	3	Seminary Benefit Dinner, Portland
	9	Christian in the World Program, Catholic Charismatic Movement, Fr. Odo Recker, OSB
	15-17	Our Lady, Evangelizer of Peoples, retreat with Dr. Elizabeth Farley
	22	Vietnamese Martyrs Mass
DECEMBER	6-8	Advent Retreat led by Br. Cyril Drnjevic, OSB
	9	Feast of the Immaculate Conception
	12	Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe
	12-14	Christian in the World Program, The Holy Spirit and the Pentecostal Movement, Dr. Owen Cummings
	13-15	Advent Retreat
	24	Christmas Vigil Service at 11:15 p.m. followed by Midnight Mass, Abbey Church
	25	Solemnity of the Birth of the Lord, Christmas Mass at 10 a.m., Abbey Church
JANUARY	1	Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God
	10-12	Monastic Spirituality Retreat with Fr. Pius X Harding, OSB
	17-19	Women's Silent Retreat
	18	Santo Nino Celebration, Abbey Church
	31-Feb 2	Benedictine Oblate Retreat
FEBRUARY	2	Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, Candlelight Procession, Mass at 7 p.m.
	8	Tet Celebration

## *Leave a lasting legacy*

After providing for your family and loved ones, you may want to include the Abbey Foundation of Oregon in your estate plans, assuring the long-term future of our work. Your financial adviser can provide information about a charitable bequest, or a beneficiary designation on your life insurance, IRA or bank account. Donor Relations Coordinator Kate Van Ummersen would be happy to provide information. You may reach her at 503-845-3069 or [legacy@mtangel.edu](mailto:legacy@mtangel.edu).

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