

MOUNT Angel Letter



ē: qui ex patre

procedit. **Q**ui

et filii o simul

et cōglorifi

utū ē per

prophetas. **E**t vna scē

tā catholicā, et aposto

licā ecclesiā. **C**ōfiteor

vnū baptisma in remi

ssionē peccatorū. **E**t ex

*“Listen readily to holy
reading and devote yourself
often to prayer.”*

— RULE OF ST. BENEDICT



DIRECTORY

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

BOOKSTORE
503-845-3345
abbeystore@mountangelabbey.org

OFFICE OF DEVELOPMENT
503-845-3064 or 800-845-8272
development@mtangel.edu

ALUMNI RELATIONS
503-845-3057
alumni@mtangel.edu

GUEST HOUSE
503-845-3025
retreat@mountangelabbey.org

ABBAY LIBRARY
503-845-3303
circulation@mountangelabbey.org

OBLATE PROGRAM
Fr. Pius X Harding, OSB
503-845-3112
piusx@mountangelabbey.org

MOUNT ANGEL SEMINARY
503-845-3951
seminaryinfo@mtangel.edu

VOCATIONS
Fr. Odo Recker, OSB
503-845-3123
vocation@mountangelabbey.org

VOLUNTEER PROGRAM
503-407-8175
volunteer@mountangelabbey.org

On the Cover: This Spanish missal can be found in Mount Angel Abbey Library. The liturgical book, printed in Latin, dates to 1634 and contains instructions for the celebration of Mass.

Special Thanks to the Monastic Advisory Council for the Mount Angel Letter: Fr. Paschal Cheline, Abbot Peter Eberle, Fr. Augustine DeNoble, Fr. Pius X Harding, Br. Andre Love, Fr. Odo Recker and Fr. Ralph Recker



INSIDE

This Issue

Fall 2014 | Volume 67, Number 3

- 2 Monks' Corner
- 4 'If you want to be good priests, then continue to be good monks'
- 5 Benedictines find God within books

Annual Report Insert

- 7 A monk reflects on contemplative reading
- 9 Making music for the Lord
- 10 'The Word becomes flesh' in study of theology
- 13 Pedaling for the Priesthood



Please note our new 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.

Do you have special requests regarding the mail you receive from the Abbey? Give us a call at 503-845-3064. Please send address changes or comments, along with your mailing label, to the Development Office at the above address.

CONTRIBUTORS to this issue include Abbot Gregory Duerr and Kathy Bean, Msgr. Joseph Betschart, Fr. Paschal Cheline, Rev. Stephen Clovis, Br. Lorenzo Conocido, Fr. Augustine DeNoble, Fr. Bryan Dolejsi, Fr. Jeremy Driscoll, Abbot Peter Eberle, Victoria Ertelt, Ivan Garcia, Jeanne Hobson, Jodi Kilcup, Fr. Theodore Lange, Frank Miller (photographer), Chris Noud (creative director), Jim Thompson (writer), Frankie Villanueva, Micheal Wallace and Richard Yates.

Editor: Nadene LeCheminant



Dear Friends



The Rule of St. Benedict begins with these words:

Listen carefully, my son, to the master's instructions, and attend to them with the ear of your heart. This is advice from a father who loves you; welcome it, and faithfully put it into practice.

With these tender opening words of the Prologue, our holy father Benedict begins to lay out the spiritual wisdom that has endured these past 15 centuries as a sure guide to holiness and wholeness for monastics and non-monastics alike! Fortunately for us, Benedict expanded upon his wisdom in the following 73 chapters of the *Rule*, but in a sense he said it all in those two opening sentences. How wonderfully they capture the spirit of Benedict – and the spirit of any true disciple of his!

LISTEN ... The monk, indeed any Christian, needs to be a careful listener. It makes sense, doesn't it? If it is the monk's profession to seek God, as St. Benedict would have it, he must in loving obedience open his mind and heart to the God of his seeking, more and more attentive to the desire of his Beloved. Wonderfully, we have a God who speaks – and the Word that he has spoken to the world is no less than Jesus, who in turn, in the Spirit of his Father, has spoken a saving Word to the world, the Gospel of peace.

Now, what else should one do before the God who speaks a Word of love than to *listen* to him, *attending* to his Word *with the ears of our heart*, welcoming his Word, *responding* in prayer with our own word of love, and then *faithfully putting it into practice!* What a great plan for the Christian life!

In these latter times, a new appreciation of the Word of God has risen, especially on the grassroots level of the Church. The people of God have come to a deeper veneration and love for the sacred Scripture. Such listening to God's Word often takes the form of *lectio divina*, which is the prayerful reading of Holy Scripture. This practice has become a treasured approach to prayer both within and outside of monastic circles. The idea of practicing *lectio divina* is so right, so good, so simple and yet so profound. Basically it comes down to this: Ours is a God who speaks, and when God speaks, we ought to listen ... and respond!

Lectio divina calls us to attentively read or listen to God's Word of love, to ponder its meaning, and then to draw it into our hearts for loving response. In contemplative and loving silence before the Lord, the practice allows his Spirit to etch upon our hearts the truth of his Word; the Advocate teaches us, and so we believe!

Abbot Gregory Duerr, OSB
Abbot Gregory Duerr, OSB

Community

NEWS ABOUT MOUNT ANGEL ABBEY



Each August 6, the Feast of the Lord's Transfiguration, the monks of Mount Angel are blessed with a wonderful display of glory – the sun rising over Mount Hood. Photo by Abbot Gregory Duerr, OSB

MONKS' CORNER

Excerpted from a letter to Abbey monks, written by Abbot Peter Eberle, OSB, a former abbot at Mount Angel Abbey

- The annual monastic retreat went off well I think. This year, partly by design, we didn't have any retreat master save for the Holy Spirit. I think many, perhaps most, would agree that the Holy Spirit did a great job. Many people used the opportunity to pray and read quietly in the presence of the Lord, and Compline at 7:00 closed the day.
- The chapter [all professed monks] met to consider the petitions of four of our junior monks. Brothers Gregory Benavidez, Jesus Maria Leija and Andre Love petitioned for solemn vows, and Novice Hoan Tran petitioned to make first vows. All were happily accepted. ... A raft of recent appointments that Abbot Gregory posted demonstrates how much we rely on younger members of the community.
- On July 13 we hosted the annual oblate picnic. Sunday dawned cloudy and ominous. By afternoon, lightning flashes and the rumble of thunder were directly overhead. In fact, this oblate retreat was full of surprises. On Saturday evening, just as everyone was coming out of church after Vigils, a loud CR-R-R-R-A-A-ACK was heard. Then, right before our eyes, one of the big oak trees fell over right across the main walkway, exactly in the direction it had been listing for years to an ever-greater degree. The tree snapped probably out of sheer exhaustion.
- Three of the junior monks, Brothers Lorenzo, Niels and Louis were away for two weeks at Saint Vincent Archabbey, attending the annual junior monks conference. The conference is hosted by a different monastery each year. Surely part of the educational benefit is the experience of living in another monastery with different customs and lifestyles.
- There have been some noteworthy projects taking place this summer, including reconstruction of the playing field. Over the years gophers have made the playing field their happy home and have busily been making tunnels. It had become so bumpy that just running full tilt on it was hazardous. Soccer is one of the great sports of the seminary, so improving the field was high on the Seminary's (and especially the seminarians') wish list.

Bill Coleman plowed it up, and trenches were dug and drainage pipes buried. The next thing on the agenda is to reseed the field. The team was pretty good last year and ended up with a winning season. Everyone has hopes for this year, so we will be peering out over the field watching anxiously as the new grass grows.

- A new floor has been laid on top of the old one in the Damian Center, but of course, the biggest project at the moment is the infirmary renovation on the second floor of the

MONASTIC COMMUNITY LOSES BELOVED CONFRERES



Fr. Bede Partridge, OSB, was anointed by Abbot Gregory and surrounded by his confreres as he passed peacefully to the Lord in July.

The Abbey bells tolled 93 times, one for each year of his life. Fr. Bede was raised in his beloved, small coastal town of Garibaldi, Ore. He served as chaplain for the Benedictine Sisters at Queen of Angels Monastery, taught chemistry and mathematics at the seminary high school at Mount Angel, and served as a long-time librarian at Mount Angel Abbey Library. Fr. Bede was a voracious reader, especially of spiritual classics. He loved listening to music, cutting firewood, taking walks, feeding the squirrels and eating fresh tomatoes.



Br. Stephen Cox, a postulant who had just turned 22, came to the Abbey from Concord, Calif. In September, he died suddenly

due to health complications. Br. Stephen had a degree in art, played the trumpet and French horn, and sang in choirs at school and church. He had awakened to a religious vocation at age 14, and arrived with the zeal and romantic idealism that are typical of the young. Br. Stephen had a refreshing simplicity about him, a ready smile and a sense of humor. He was a humble, good monk.

These two confreres will be dearly missed.

monastery. Demolition began, and there is a lot of clanking and banging going on throughout the day, but the monastic prayer schedule has not been too seriously disrupted.

As promised, some 70 new windows are in the process of being installed. When I first heard that 70 windows were being installed, I naively thought to myself that that should about take care of the whole monastery. Have you ever counted how many windows there are in the monastery? ... I can imagine that when the project is completed global warming will be forestalled a bit in northern Marion County. Mount

Angel Abbey is no longer contributing most of the heat our boilers generate to the surrounding atmosphere.

- In July, Father Odo hosted a Vocations Retreat, one of about three or four he organizes each year. This time some 20 fellows showed up, ranging in age from 18 to 50 or so. Father Odo said there were some real "keepers" in the group. Several had come early to spend a few days as observers in the monastery and several stayed a few days afterwards for the same purpose. Pray for vocations!

Well, that's it. Take care and keep us in your prayers, as we do you for you.

'AS STARS SHINE, SO THE BROTHERS WILL SING TO THE LORD'

Excerpts from a letter sent by Micheal Wallace after the Monastic Discernment Retreat

"Fr. Odo, I am wondering what the Brothers of Mount Angel are doing now. I know that the blessed silence has started. I know that in the morning, the world renewed, the bell will toll. As rivers run, as candles burn, as stars shine, so the brothers will sing to the Lord. They have given their wills to him. I felt a belonging there. I settled into a chamber of joy that was undiscovered, until I came to Mount Angel. I will pray every day that I will be given the grace to return."



MUSIC DRAWS A CROWD

The Tudor Choir performs in the Abbey Church at the 43rd Annual Abbey Bach Festival. Held in July, the Bach Festival welcomes guests to Vespers, a church recital and picnic supper, and classical music performances. Join us next summer on July 29–31.

We're online at mountangelabbey.org/bach.



‘If you want to be good priests, then continue to be good monks’

In June, three Mount Angel monks were ordained to the priesthood by Archbishop Alexander K. Sample, from the Archdiocese of Portland in Oregon. Our blessings and congratulations go to Fr. Andrew Schwencke, OSB, Fr. Teresio Caldwell, OSB, and Fr. Basil Lawrence, OSB.

For a reception following the ceremony, the Samoan community, which claims Fr. Andrew as one of its own, roasted an entire pig in the traditional island manner – underground.

Abbot Gregory Duerr, OSB, counseled the three men, “Being both a monk and priest is a blend of the contemplative life and the active life. In ministry, a monk can share the fruits of his life of prayer. If you want to be good priests, then continue to be good monks.”

You may meet Fr. Andrew at the Abbey Guest House, where he serves as Assistant Guestmaster, and you can hear Fr. Teresio, the community’s Choirmaster and organist, play at services. Fr. Basil works in the Development Office as an Abbey Relations Officer, focused especially on parish appeals. The new priests also have been assigned to parish ministry.

—Jim Thompson



The very first batch of Benedictine Brewery beer, named Black Habit Dark Ale, was received with enthusiasm at the Bach Festival and the Festival of Arts & Wine. Plans are underway to sell beer produced under contract in the bookstore. Fr. Martin Grassel, OSB, serves Black Habit at the Bach Festival.



The monks arrived *en masse* to set up for the 8th annual Festival of Arts & Wine. The festival drew more than 400 old and new friends to the Hilltop in June, and raised \$116,000 in support of the Guest House, library and monastery.

BENEDICTINES FIND GOD WITHIN BOOKS

More than 700 years ago, an Italian monk sat in a drafty room and painstakingly transcribed a Bible. His hands were often cold as they dipped his quill into the inkwell, his eyes ached from following the lines of miniature print and ornate gilt ornamentation, and his back grew tired from bending over a hard desk. The fragile Bible was read and reread, copied and recopied, and when its leather cover tore, it was carefully stitched back together with a needle and thread.

Centuries later, the monks at Mount Angel Abbey are taking the same care with that same 13th-century Bible, preserving the work of their long-departed brother. The ancient Bible is part of a 225,000-volume collection at Mount Angel Abbey Library that has grown into one of the most significant theological libraries in the Pacific Northwest. It covers the breadth of human knowledge, but specializes in philosophy, theology and the humanities, and includes hundreds of ancient books.

The Benedictine love of learning and libraries can be traced to the sixth century, when St. Benedict himself encountered monks who couldn’t read the psalms or take part in the Divine Office; he set about teaching them to read. But literacy wasn’t his only concern. Before the invention of the printing press, books were scarce, and so even though transcription was a laborious process, manuscript writing became a common occupation in monasteries.



Biblical characters David and Goliath are featured in a Book of Hours from the 15th century. One of the library’s most recent acquisitions, a Book of Hours from an anonymous donor, was created in the workshop of the most successful French illuminator of the 1490s.

During the Middle Ages, Benedictine monks nurtured a love of reading, writing and contemplative study, and their monasteries became beacons of learning. As time went on, monasteries established schools for children and accumulated illuminated manuscripts and works of sacred art. While some monastic libraries

were small enough to fit in a sacristy cupboard, others held more than a thousand volumes.

That love of learning continues at Mount Angel Abbey. Five years after the first monks arrived in 1882, they followed the example of their motherhouse in Switzerland,

whose school traced its roots to the 12th century, and founded Mount Angel College. Two years later, they founded the Seminary, and they soon established a press and a German-language newspaper that was distributed to readers across the U.S. And the books they had brought from their motherland became the nucleus of a small library.

After their library went up in flames during the 1926 fire on the Hilltop, Abbey monks bought thousands of volumes from a German bookseller who was declaring bankruptcy, and shipped them home to Oregon.

In 1970, a sleek, new modernist-style library, designed by renowned Finnish architect Alvar Aalto and made possible through a significant gift from Howard and Jean Vollum, was dedicated. Students carried thousands of books to the new building from Aquinas Hall. “The students were proud of their new library, and glad to help move everything,” said former Assistant Librarian Fr. Augustine DeNoble, OSB.

“Love of learning and the search for God are almost synonymous,” says Fr. Odo Recker, OSB, Subprior of Mount Angel Abbey.

Now readers will find Bibles in dozens of languages – every tongue from Nez Perce to Ethiopian to Hawaiian – along with eclectic collections for bird lovers or Civil War buffs. “Many of the books are not only extremely beautiful, they are rare and valuable,” said Library Administrator Victoria Ertelt of the more than 5,000 titles published before 1900.



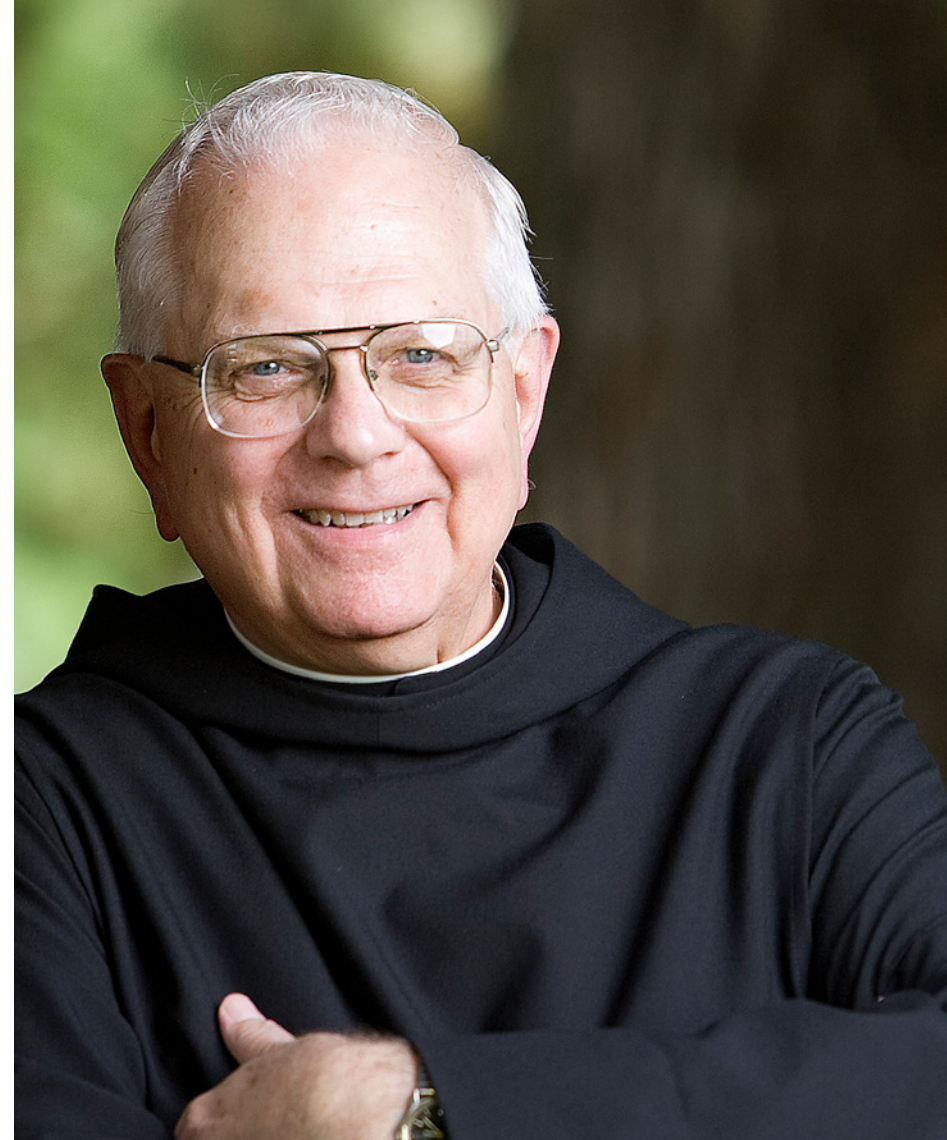
“Many seminaries and religious houses closed and sold off their collections, and most libraries no longer have these rare books,” said Fr. Augustine. “We bought many of these books, which added valuable titles that had been out of print, for years or for centuries.” Now, staff members regularly track down out-of-print books and conduct research for Catholic and non-Catholic scholars from around the country.

“We are blessed with this library, with the breadth and depth of the collection,” said Fr. Paschal Cheline, OSB. “Benedictines have always valued books and art for their power to uplift the spirit.”

The monks at Mount Angel have created a place where God can be encountered, not only in the Abbey Church and on serene walkways, but also in spiritual retreats, arts and music events, and theological lectures. And they offer an opportunity for visitors to find God within the pages of books that inspire faith and tell the human story – books that include a tattered volume recorded by a 13th-century monk who sat down with a quill and began copying, “In the beginning ...”

– Nadene LeCheminant

“In the Middle Ages, monks would lend their books to other monasteries so they could be read and copied,” Fr. Augustine said. “Now digital technology helps us make books available to others. What once took years now takes minutes. Some people think all of our information will go digital, but books will continue to be precious.”



A MONK REFLECTS ON BOOKS AND CONTEMPLATIVE READING

Reading is an essential feature of the monastic life. At 7:30 every night, life becomes very quiet in the monastery. We don’t watch television. We read. Our monastic silence makes reading and reflection possible.

People enjoyed reflecting more when the world was quieter. That’s how poetry came into existence. Now the world is a noisy place, we have become a fast-paced people, and it sometimes seems that contemplative reading might be in danger of becoming a lost art. We have so many ways of gaining information – films, the Internet, YouTube – but a lot of information on the screen goes by quickly, making it more difficult to reflect. Reading a book lends itself to contemplation – books are the record, the wonder, the way we come to know ourselves, our history and the great mystery of God.

Today, people have to intentionally look to find places of quiet, and they come to the monastery to rest in silence for a while – to read, to walk, and to practice the kind of reflection that comes from the deepest part of our being.

Fr. Paschal Cheline, OSB, is a much-loved monk who has taught art history and liturgy at the Seminary. He served as Vice-Rector of the Seminary College and as a Spiritual Director in the monastery and Seminary, and currently serves as Junior Master in the monastery. He is the Executive Director of the Abbey Bach Festival.

FAVORITE BOOKS OF THE MONKS



Fr. Aelred Yockey, OSB

My favorite book is *Leisure: the Basis of Culture*. The author said we need to remember that we are human *beings*, not simply human *doings*. We need to get away from our feverish, frenetic activities and nurture the contemplative side of our nature.

Br. Claude Lane, OSB

I like Shakespeare. He explores both the depths and the heights of the human heart and human motivations, and expresses eternal truths in a fresh, beautiful way.



Br. Lorenzo Conocido, OSB

I like *The Alchemist* because it’s an adventure book with a lot of wisdom. It makes me want to cross the Sahara Desert someday.

Fr. Odo Recker, OSB

I’ve read the entire collection of Louis L’Amour novels. Zane Grey is a better cowboy writer, but L’Amour is more fun.

Br. John Paul Le, OSB

The *Story of a Soul* speaks to my heart. The book is a written prayer about what God has done in St. Therese’s life. I can see how powerful her faith is; I desire to have that same faith.



Fr. Vincent Trujillo, OSB

I love to read about archeological digs in Biblical lands. Ancient history takes me back to the beginning and helps me appreciate how little people had and yet how much they accomplished.

Br. Stephen Cox, OSB

Story of a Soul is part of the reason I came to the Abbey. St. Therese was my age when she wrote it, so I relate to her. Even after she became a nun, she was trying to figure out what kind of nun she was going to be. She didn’t have big ecstasies or powerful writing skills, but it was revealed to her that she should do small things with great love. (Br. Stephen passed away in September, at age 22. St. Therese died at age 24.)

Formation

NEWS ABOUT MOUNT ANGEL SEMINARY

PARISH PRIEST NAMED VICE PRESIDENT FOR ADMINISTRATION

Rev. Stephen Clovis, a priest of the Archdiocese of Portland in Oregon who has served parishes in Scappoose, Eugene and Corvallis, has been named Vice President for Administration for the Seminary. Fr. Clovis will also bring his energy and passion to the position of Director of Pastoral Formation and to the classroom, teaching courses in pastoral ministry and Scripture.

“I really believe that Mount Angel is the place where I am called to be,” says Fr. Clovis. “I love coming up the hill each morning knowing I will spend the day with the community here.”

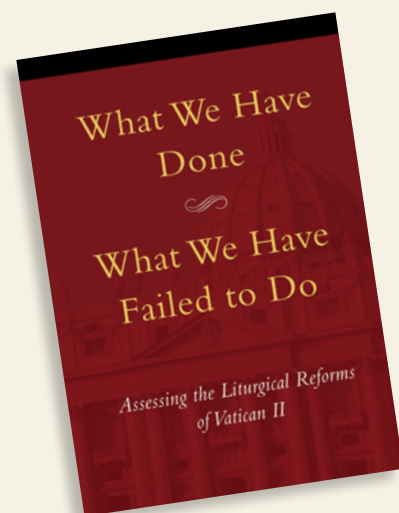


Fr. Clovis grew up in Portland and attended Central Catholic High School, the University of Portland, and Lewis and Clark College. He was a seminarian at the North American College while attending the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome, earning a License in Biblical Theology in 1989. In addition to parish ministry, he previously taught at Central Catholic High School and served as an Adjunct Teacher at Mount Angel.

Other new appointments include Br. Ansgar Santogrossi, OSB, who will teach philosophy, Br. Louis de Montfort Nguyen, OSB, who will teach science, Dr. Jerome Farley, who will teach mathematics, Fr. Jeff Eirvin, who will help seminarians hone their preaching skills in his homiletics course, Fr. Peter Arteaga, MSPS, who will serve as a Formation Director while also helping with teaching duties, and Fr. John Boyle, who will teach Canon Law.

NEW MASTER OF ARTS IN PHILOSOPHY PROGRAM OFFERED

A new fully accredited graduate program in philosophy will deepen the intellectual formation of students and offer opportunities for philosophical research. The two-year program, offered solely to seminarians in the pre-theology program, will examine the dialogue between faith and reason in a prayerful environment, and students will supplement their philosophical coursework with religious studies. The program is headed by Dr. Andrew Cummings.



SYMPOSIUM HONORS THE CONSECRATED LIFE

Rev. Msgr. Kevin Irwin will conduct a theological symposium on November 24 and 25. Because the Holy Father has asked that 2015 be dedicated to the consecrated life, Msgr. Irwin has chosen to speak on “Benedictine Liturgy, Theology and Life.”

Msgr. Irwin formerly served as Dean of the School of Theology and Religious Studies at the Catholic University of America (CUA), where he continues to teach. His most recent book, *What We Have Done, What We Have Failed To Do: Assessing the Liturgical Reforms of Vatican II*, won an award from the Catholic Press Association. Msgr. Irwin now serves as an associate editor of *Ecclesia Orans*, the journal on the study of the liturgy published at Sant’Anselmo in Rome, where he will be a visiting scholar in the spring.



SEMINARY WELCOMES 34 NEW STUDENTS

Mount Angel Seminary came alive as new and returning students arrived for orientation, some from as far away as Argentina, Alaska and Hawaii. The youngest is 18 and the oldest is 58. Five seminarians are enrolled in the Seminary’s new Master of Arts in Philosophy program.

The Most Rev. Smith ’01, recently ordained an Auxiliary Bishop for the Archdiocese of Portland in Oregon, was the principal celebrant of the Mass of the Holy Spirit on August 25. In his homily, he thanked the Seminary for the excellent formation and education he received as a student here and – noting how well it prepared him for his priestly life and ministry – encouraged the seminarians to take full advantage of everything available to them during their seminary years. Later in the morning, Professor Mark Woolman, head of the Philosophy Department, offered the inaugural address on “Taking Humor Seriously,” proposing that good humor can open us to the transcendent, enable us to be more compassionate, and provide a point of re-adjustment of our view of the world.

A reception followed the Mass, allowing students to congratulate Bishop Smith, who was also a well-loved teacher at Mount Angel.



Left to right, Stephen Cieslak, Greg Snyder, Frankie Villanueva, Phillip Shifflet, John Hesla

MAKING MUSIC FOR THE LORD

A diverse group of Mount Angel seminarians has joined talents to spread the good Word, performing at Seminary and community events since 2012. *Voces Fidei* features five seminarians who share their love of music – and God – through a *cappella* singing.

Frankie Villanueva, from the Diocese of Honolulu, established the group, which includes Stephen Cieslak and John Hesla of the Archdiocese of Portland, Phillip Shifflet of the Diocese of Orange, and Greg Snyder from the Archdiocese of Seattle. They all got their start in choirs and parish ministries, and Villanueva was a former member of the Hawaiian band, the Fab 4.

“Singing and glorifying God with voice is a unique and loving form of prayer,” says Cieslak. “This experience will carry over into our formal ministry, drawing people closer to him who loves us.”

VISITING SCHOLAR HELPS INAUGURATE NEW MASTER OF ARTS IN PHILOSOPHY

A visiting philosopher helped inaugurate the Seminary’s new Master of Arts in Philosophy program in September, giving addresses to students and professors. In “Witness and Being Truthful,” Dr. William Desmond addressed the importance of being truthful in both a philosophical and religious sense. He also spoke to philosophy students about “Soul Music and Soul-Less Serving.”

Dr. Desmond serves as professor of philosophy at the Higher Institute of Philosophy at the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven in Belgium. He has written on ontology, metaphysics, ethics and religion, and is past-President of the American Catholic Philosophical Association.

‘THE WORD BECOMES FLESH’ IN THE STUDY OF THEOLOGY

By Fr. Jeremy Driscoll, OSB



When students of Mount Angel Seminary enter their classroom building, they can read in large letters etched over the portal the words “Verbum caro factum est” – *the Word was made flesh* – a phrase taken from the opening chapter of John’s Gospel. They enter a building we call “Annunciation” and see immediately a large mosaic depicting the Angel Gabriel’s Annunciation to Mary – the moment when the Eternal Word first took flesh. These words and this image describe the process of theology study within this building and on this Hilltop. The Word is meant to take flesh in the minds and hearts of the students. Something is conceived there and grows slowly, just as does the child in Mary’s womb.

For more than 20 years now, the graduate theology faculty has worked diligently to create a program of study that integrates the dozens of classes of the four-year curriculum. Academic theology today is characterized by specialization

“Here, the Scriptures become living Word.”

into different fields, and without a synthesizing vision that holds the specializations together in a single whole, students can find themselves faced with a bewildering range of topics, all called “theology.”

At Mount Angel Seminary, we call our synthesizing vision “communion ecclesiology.” It is grounded in the sacramental experience of our existence as members of the Church. Having been initiated through baptism and confirmation into the communion of Father, Son and Holy Spirit, we are deepened in that communion every time we celebrate the Eucharist. The “shape” of the eucharistic celebration gives us a vision of who God is and who we are as Church: God is the communion of Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and we are all together caught up into this communion, and thus constituted as Church.

A theological curriculum based on communion ecclesiology begins by showing how all the master themes of the Catholic theological tradition have their roots in the eucharistic celebration. Students are shown how the master themes unfold from the Eucharist into specific disciplines, all under the force and direction of *faith seeking understanding*.

The first year lays a crucial foundation. If students begin to see a variety of theological subjects – Scripture, the emergence of doctrinal questions, moral dilemmas, saints growing in holiness – they are likewise learning methodically to relate these to the Church celebrating Eucharist. Here, the Scriptures become living Word. Here, doctrine is an expression of the deepest sense of that Word. Here, the Word becomes sacrament, becomes the Body and Blood of Christ. Here, through communion in the Body and Blood, divine energy to live according to love is bequeathed to the Church. Here, the saints grow in holiness.



Fr. Jeremy Driscoll, OSB, teaches theology at Mount Angel Seminary and at Sant’Anselmo in Rome. He has published six theology books, including What Happens at Mass, numerous articles, three books of poetry, and a collection of essays titled A Monk’s Alphabet, Moments of Stillness in a Turning World. In 2005 he was appointed by Pope John Paul II as Consultor to the Congregation for Divine Worship, an appointment renewed by Pope Benedict XVI in 2010. In 2012 Pope Benedict also appointed him as Consultor to the Pontifical Council for Promoting the New Evangelization.

In the second year the curriculum moves to understanding the nature of the human person, created in the image and likeness of divine communion, with all the moral and spiritual implications of this. Students then explore Christology and Trinity: Jesus Christ reveals the trinitarian communion as well as the divine intention of bringing us into that communion. Christ brings humanity to fulfillment through sharing in the divine life.

In the third year students move to a synthesis of the entire theological exploration in courses called Eucharistic Ecclesiology – that is, a study of the Eucharist in such a way as to see that its very celebration brings the Church into being, and that the Church exists to celebrate the Eucharist continually and to call more and more people into its communion.

In the fourth year the pastoral implications of this vision are explored. Those students destined for ordination as priests see now in a forceful way that the celebration of the Eucharist will be the center of their priestly ministry. They will celebrate it well and with understanding, nourishing their people by preaching the Word and sound doctrine, feeding them with the Word become flesh in the Eucharist.

From this, all the rest of life in the Church flows, and so they will lead their people in an evangelizing mission in our troubled world, in works of charity, in upright living, in facing trials and difficulties, in celebrating life’s joys. The community that lives this way will be sustained in this life of communion by its regular return to the eucharistic celebration, by its communion in the communion of Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

At Mount Angel, the Word becomes flesh in Annunciation.

Generosity

NEWS FOR BENEFACTORS AND VOLUNTEERS

HILLTOP BLESSED BY TALENTS OF LOCAL COUPLE

"I saw my right hand go up." That's how Marge Doleac described the beginning of her extensive volunteer activity at Mount Angel Abbey. "I had prayed for two years for something meaningful to do. It was by just getting started that my prayer was answered," said Marge, who was recruited as a volunteer by monks at a gathering of Abbey friends. She soon received a formal invitation from Abbot Nathan Zodrow, OSB, to serve as coordinator of volunteer services.

Dr. Phil and Marge Doleac (at right) first came to the Hilltop in 1993, bringing their children to a summer conference. They came to love the Abbey, and in 2000 Marge became an Oblate of St. Benedict. Marge would go on to volunteer countless hours for many events, usually taking on an invaluable leadership role. She has stepped in as Secretary to the Abbot and volunteered for two years as Administrative Assistant to the President-Rector of the

"I had prayed for two years for something meaningful to do. It was by just getting started that my prayer was answered..."

Seminary, easily a full-time position. With just as much enthusiasm, she saw the need for improvements in the grounds, enlisted the help of others, and helped create a beautiful garden outside the Guest House. Another of Marge's projects was caring for the Daily Office books used by visitors, under the watchful eye of Fr. Augustine DeNoble, OSB.

For the past 10 years, Phil Doleac, an orthodontist, along with a colleague, Dr. Doug Ainslie, has provided his professional care to monks and seminarians, entirely free of charge. "They come from all over the world, and some have never had access to orthodontic services," he said. The outcome often includes not only a healthy smile, but a growth in self-confidence.

The Doleacs' gifts of time, funds and resources have abundantly blessed the Abbey, but Marge affirms, "We get so much in return. One has to jump in and experience it. Raising my hand did it."

The Doleacs have come to regard the Abbey as their spiritual home. Marge said, "When I turn onto Abbey Drive, the world falls away, and I enter into the ancient tradition of St. Benedict."

— Jim Thompson



"All of us stand on the foundations of those who have invested in our lives, whether they be family, friends or teachers. Mount Angel is a place where lives can be formed and faith in God deepened."

— Bishop Peter Smith '01, JCL, Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Portland in Oregon.

Fellowship

NEWS FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS

ALUMNI PEDAL 200 MILES FOR THE PRIESTHOOD

In July, Mount Angel alumnus Keefe Piper and graduates Jonathan Cheever '13 and the Very Rev. Gary Zender '80 put some sweat equity into their love of the Lord, biking more than 200 miles in Washington to promote vocations to the priesthood.

They joined Fr. Bryan Dolejsi, Director of Vocations for the Archdiocese of Seattle, for the annual "Pedaling the Priesthood" ride. The foursome pedalled up challenging hills, along the Columbia River, past Mount Hood, and through rural countryside in southern Washington State. Along the way, they visited local parishes, where they celebrated Mass and shared their vocation stories.



Keefe Piper, Very Rev. Gary Zender, Jonathan Cheever and Fr. Bryan Dolejsi



SEMINARIANS HAIL FROM FAR-FLUNG PLACES

This year Mount Angel is once again blessed to have seminarians from numerous dioceses and archdioceses, and religious communities from the West and beyond. The group includes four from Baker, seven from Boise, nine from Fresno, four from Helena, five from Honolulu, two from Juneau, two from Las Vegas, one from Marquette, five from the Missionaries of the Holy Spirit, two from Monterey, five from Mount Angel Abbey, four from Oakland, seven from Orange, five from the Order of Discalced Carmelites, 22 from Portland, three from Reno, six from Sacramento, six from the Saint John Society, three from Salt Lake City, two from Samoa-Pago Pago, six from San Diego, two from Santa Fe, 13 from Seattle, four from Tucson, three from Yakima, and one from Hajdúdorog, Hungary. Twenty-six non-seminarian students are also enrolled in Mount Angel's classes and programs.

May God bless them! Seventeen newly ordained priest-alumni from Mount Angel have been called to serve parishes in California, Montana, New Mexico, Oregon and Washington.

FIND FRIENDS AND INFORMATION AT NEW ALUMNI WEBSITE

Visit your new alumni website! You can find news and updates by going to the home page at www.mountangelabbey.org and clicking on "Alumni." In the news and information section, you'll find "Alumni on the Move," which lists the 2014 priest assignments for Oregon, Washington, California and New Mexico. There is even a link to a transcript request form if you happen to need one.

We would love to fill the pages with your pictures and stories! **Please send updates to Jeanne Hobson at jeanne.hobson@mtangel.edu, 503-845-3057 or 800-845-8272.**

We look forward to hearing from you!

— Jeanne Hobson, Alumni Relations Coordinator



THE ABBEY FOUNDATION
OF OREGON
PO Box 497
Saint Benedict, OR
97373-0497

NON PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
ST. BENEDICT
OREGON
PERMIT NO. 3

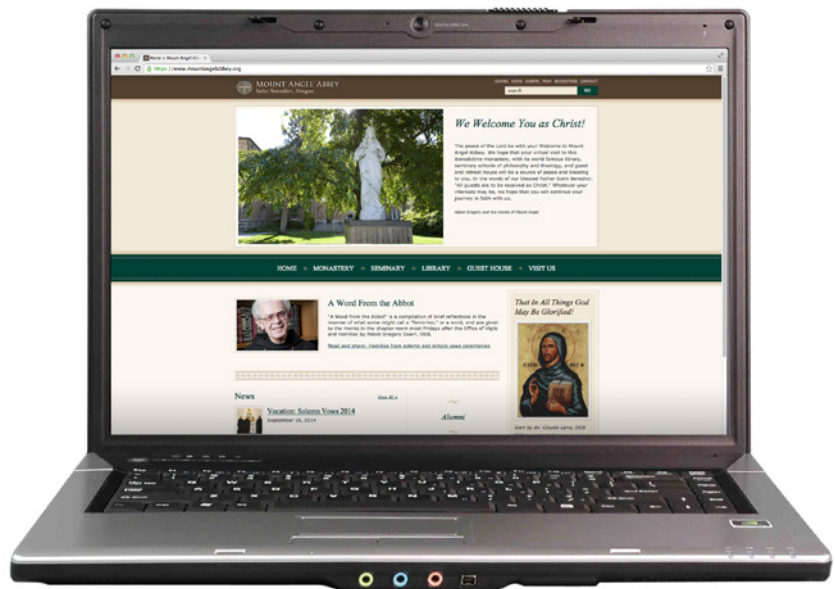
Join the monks of Mount Angel Abbey for the Liturgy of the Hours

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.
Holy Eucharist: 9:00 a.m.
Midday Prayer: 12 noon
Vespers: 5:15 p.m.
Compline: 8:00 p.m.



Celebrate with us!

Join us in celebrating the 125th anniversary of Mount Angel Seminary at the Seminary Benefit Dinner in Portland on November 2, 2014, or the Seminary Benefit Dinner in Eugene on March 15, 2015. The Most Rev. Carlo Maria Viganó, the Papal Nuncio to the United States, will be the guest of honor at the Portland event.

For information, call 503-845-3064
or 800-845-8272

VISIT THE NEW ABBEY WEBSITE!

The new and improved Mount Angel Abbey and Seminary website went live in August. With a few clicks on a keyboard and a huge sigh of relief on the Hilltop, the new website, home to more than 200 pages of information, was launched.

Be sure to check out the "Visit Us" pages, which help guests plan ahead. Visitors can enjoy quiet time in the Abbey Church, join the monks for prayer, stay at the Guest House, check out the museum and library, or enjoy an espresso in the Bookstore and Coffeehouse. We hope your visit to our beautiful Hilltop, whether virtual or in person, will be a source of peace and blessing.

www.mountangelabbey.org

