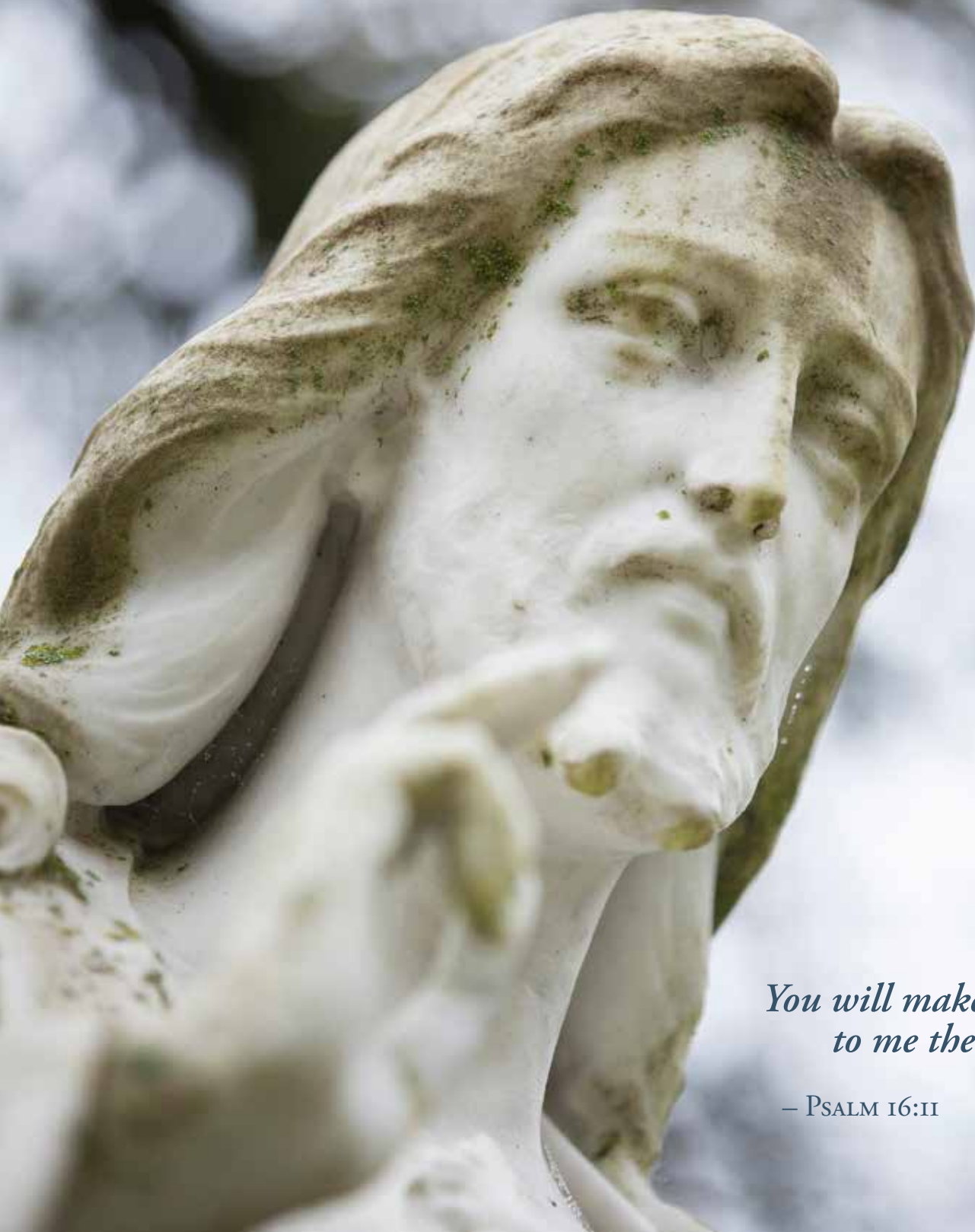


Autumn 2015

MOUNT Angel Letter



*You will make known
to me the path of life.*

– PSALM 16:11



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DIRECTORY

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

BOOKSTORE
503-845-3345
abbeystore@mountangelabbay.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
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ABBAY LIBRARY
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circulation@mountangelabbay.org

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

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

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

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

On the Cover: The Sacred Heart statue survived the 1926 fire on the Hilltop, guarding over desolate ruins. The statue was carved from pure white Carrara marble, quarried in Italy.

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

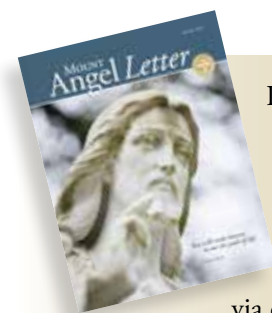


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Please note our new mailing address: Abbey Foundation of Oregon, PO Box 497, Saint Benedict, OR 97373-0497. All other Abbey mail should be addressed to 1 Abbey Drive, Saint Benedict, OR 97373.

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, Rev. Stephen Clovis, Fr. Augustine DeNoble, Fr. Jeremy Driscoll, Abbot Peter Eberle, Jeanne Hobson, Jodi Kilcup, Debra King, Fr. Konrad Schaefer, Frank Miller (photographer), Jose Morales, Antoine Nguyen, Chris Noud (designer), Zani Pacanza, Fr. Paul Thomas, Jim Thompson, Fr. Vincent Trujillo, Jeff Yandle and Richard Yates.

Editor: Nadene LeCheminant



Dear Friends



In the very hour in which I begin to write these lines to you, a group of monks is meeting in the Guest House to finalize a project begun by our community last summer. We are formulating a so-called vision statement for Mount Angel Abbey. Of course, we have the *Holy Rule* as our fundamental vision of the monastic life by which St. Benedict would have his followers live, but for purposes of talking about that vision with our many friends and supporters, we wanted to boil it down to just a few insightful words that attract the mind and capture the heart. Not an easy task, to be sure! But the above-mentioned group of monks, who are our talented wordsmiths, is quite up to the task of honing our vision statement closer and closer to its final expression.

Now, it may well be that our final vision statement will incorporate those two significantly Benedictine themes of “seeking God” and “pursuing and sharing his peace,” as the community has already discussed. If so, I might suggest that such a vision statement about “seeking” and “pursuing” could insightfully be understood also in terms of making a *journey* or *pilgrimage* through life – and this with the one great and overarching goal of finding GOD! Thankfully, in our present earthly pilgrimage this goal already can be partially fulfilled – in the search for God that is possible in the Church’s sacramental and liturgical life (with special reference to the Eucharistic encounter with Christ), in the welcoming of God’s Word as it is proclaimed and contemplated, in the loving service and relationship one has with one’s brothers and sisters in whom the Lord lives, and in that personal growth in the spiritual life and in Christian virtue that “happens” as one opens his or her life to Jesus in faith and in love! In fact, this pilgrimage through life is not made alone; paradoxically, *the one whom we seek in pilgrimage is on the journey with us*. He is within, comforting, inspiring, enlightening: “*You will make known to me the path of life*” (Psalms 16:11).

Yes, to make of this earthly life a beautiful pilgrimage toward deepening Godliness is indeed to walk “the path of life” *to journey’s end*. The great door that leads from the here – the present pilgrimage – to the glorious beyond where we’ll be pilgrims no longer – is no less than JESUS himself! For those who on the present journey have preferred nothing else to Christ, it is St. Benedict’s prayer that “he bring us all together to everlasting life” (*Rule of St. Benedict* 72:12). Every night I look into the face of a much loved icon of Jesus called *Holy Silence*, and in the words of a Vesper antiphon, my prayer is this: *When in glory I see your face, O Lord, I shall know the fullness of joy!*

Abbot Gregory Duerr, OSB
Abbot Gregory Duerr, OSB

Community

NEWS ABOUT MOUNT ANGEL ABBEY

Seminarist Jose Morales



Fr. John Paul Le, OSB, prays his part of the Eucharistic Prayer during his Mass of ordination to the priesthood.

BLESSED BY ANGELS AND SAINTS

Last summer Fr. John Paul Le, OSB, was ordained to the priesthood by Bishop Peter Smith '01, from the Archdiocese of Portland in Oregon. "I'm so grateful that our Lord has called me to this way of life," Fr. John Paul said. As he lay prostrate on the Abbey Church floor, he especially was moved when he heard the Litany of Saints, which invokes the intercession of the Virgin Mary and saints and angels. The new priest is studying for a Master of Arts in Theology and serves as junior master in the monastery.

DAUGHTER HOUSES PART OF ABBEY LEGACY

A Benedictine monastery usually begins its existence as the daughter house of an established monastery. Mount Angel Abbey was established as a priory of Engelberg Abbey in the Swiss Alps. In turn, the Abbey has established daughter houses in British Columbia, Idaho and Cuernavaca, Mexico, sending monks to help start monasteries.

Westminster Abbey in Mission, British Columbia, was established in 1931 and has a community of 30 monks. The Monastery of the Ascension in small-town Jerome, Idaho, was founded in 1965 and has 14 monks. Our Lady of the Angels was founded in 1966 on the outskirts of Cuernavaca by a small group of monks, with Fr. Konrad Schaefer, OSB, serving as the first prior. It is now home to 23 monks.



Abbot Gregory Duerr, OSB, visits the monks of Our Lady of the Angels in Cuernavaca, Mexico

MONKS' CORNER

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



- All summer the postulants and novices have been making quite a contribution. They are working in the monastery garden with Br. Jesus Maria, and the postulants have been chopping down weeds all over the hill as well as doing some power washing over at the library. It's too bad we no longer have an orchard.

- Fr. Konrad reports that the Cuernavaca community is doing very well under Prior Evagrio's able leadership. The monks work hard to support themselves, teaching in the seminary, producing coffee crops and baking bread for the monastery gift shop. Fr. Evagrio has initiated the restoration of the monastery orchard, and works alongside the monks in the orchard one day a week. The community has been blessed with vocations: five junior monks and six novices. Br. Pablo Soza Álvarez was ordained a deacon in July, and will be returning to Sant' Anselmo in Rome to continue his studies.

- There have been a lot of projects in the works, including replacing the monastery windows. And thanks to our generous benefactor Larry Tokarski, work is being done on the interior of the monastery. The monks' rooms are receiving fresh paint, new linoleum and overhead fans.

Pray for us as we do for you. As always, Abbot Peter



Seminarist Jose Morales

In September, Br. Louis de Montfort Nguyen, OSB, and Br. Lorenzo Conocido, OSB, (above) made their Solemn Professions. These vows bind monks to Christ and to their monastic community for their lifetimes.



In September, Br. Marvin Ramos and Br. Joseph Kalange took Simple Vows and were given the names Br. Bede, OSB, and Br. Timothy, OSB. Please pray for joy in their vocation and for fidelity to their vows.

LIVES OF THE MONKS FEATURED IN OREGONIAN

The Oregonian newspaper published a front-page story about the monks of Mount Angel Abbey. The in-depth feature included stories, photos and videos that explored life at the Abbey, including things that might surprise people about the monks, whether monks ever get bored or lonely, and why they change their names. The reporter also shadowed Fr. Martin Grassel, OSB, from dawn to dusk, and wrote about a day in the life of a modern monk. Oregon Public Broadcasting radio followed up with an interview about the monks.

oregonlive.com/mount-angel-monks

Hospitality

NEWS ABOUT HILLTOP EVENTS

BACH FESTIVAL DELIGHTS AUDIENCES

The 44th Annual Abbey Bach Festival drew hundreds of music lovers to the Hilltop for three concerts, three recitals, and picnic dinners on the green served by the monks. The program featured

Bach music on the Abbey Church pipe organ, ancient choral music, a violin-cello duet, Bach's "Goldberg Variations," and the Boulder Brass. Mark your calendar for next year's festival, July 27, 28 and 29.



A special thank you goes to Volunteer Coordinator Tina Leber, who is a volunteer herself. The Catholic convert and oblate has served

the Abbey community for six years, working at festivals and other events, and providing support for numerous volunteers as they help in the Guest House and at festivals, tend the grounds, and fill indispensable roles around the Hilltop.

Grade school teachers turn to Abbot for advice

Teachers at a Catholic grade school in North Carolina learned about *The Rule of St. Benedict* from no other than Abbot Gregory Duerr, OSB, via a Skype video conference. First-grade teacher Kelly Hudspeth, whom he had baptized as a child, asked him to share ideas about how *The Rule* might guide the teachers' efforts.

"It's interesting that they would turn to a 1,500-year-old document written for monks, to discern ideas that would be relevant for their lives as teachers in the 21st century," said the Abbot. Fr. John Paul Le, OSB, assisted with the conference.



Mr. Midnight, the Abbey cat adopted by Fr. Vincent Trujillo, OSB, shares his dinner with three friendly skunks, willingly or unwillingly.

FIRST SAINT BENEDICT FESTIVAL DRAWS LIVELY CROWD

Beautiful July weather greeted Hilltop visitors at the first Saint Benedict Festival. In true Benedictine tradition, the monks welcomed their guests with warm hospitality. Visitors prayed with the monks and enjoyed dishes from Benedictine monasteries around the world, prepared by Bon Appétit chefs. They also sampled ales from the Benedictine Brewery test kitchen. Younger monks challenged visitors to badminton, bocce ball and croquet, but not before warning them that the Abbey version of croquet goes by its own rules, which change depending on which monk is playing!

Br. Christopher Walch, OSB, teams up with guest Dolores Emmenegger for a game of badminton at the Saint Benedict Festival.



Formation

NEWS ABOUT MOUNT ANGEL SEMINARY



MOUNT ANGEL WELCOMES NEW AND RETURNING STUDENTS

In July, first-year theology students at Mount Angel Seminary began the new academic year with a half-month retreat that included getting to know each other at the Oregon coast, Hilltop presentations on the spiritual life, and abundant time for personal and communal prayer.

In August, the seminary welcomed all 170 students. Many quickly learned they don't need alarm clocks; the Abbey bells wake them at dawn. Now they are studying the intricacies of philosophy and theology. Some have begun pounding the basketball court or kicking soccer balls up and down the field. They are making friends in the dining hall, and soon some will begin practicing their first homilies. Most importantly, they will continue their walk with Christ, coming to know him deeply, and seeking to form themselves in his image for service to his people.

Our new seminarians come from many different backgrounds. Thomas Tran was a Cistercian monk in Vietnam. Some individuals have just graduated from high school; others, like former lawyer Mike Rizzo, have long careers behind them. This year's class comes from 23 dioceses and five religious communities.

LAY STUDENTS PLAY IMPORTANT ROLE

Seminarians aren't the only ones studying on the Hilltop. This year the seminary will serve 23 lay students. Many feel a call to better understand the Catholic faith, and desire to study theology in an atmosphere of Benedictine spirituality. Some graduates have discerned a call to the permanent diaconate, and others, both women and men, will continue with advanced studies in theology, go on to serve as lay ecclesiastical ministers, or pursue other pathways to participate in the New Evangelization.

SEMINARY TEACHERS: TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

- A) Which professor once worked as a stunt man in the movies?
- B) Who started working on the family farm from the time he could walk?
- C) Who toured the world with his own blues band?

.....

A) Dr. Seymour House once rappelled down and fell off cliffs as a professional stuntman in movies. He survived to serve at Mount Angel as associate dean of the Graduate School and professor of literature and Church history.

B) Fr. Ralph Recker, OSB, grew up shucking corn and driving tractor in New Cleveland, Ohio. The town, he says, was located in the middle of a cornfield, and boasted a total population of 17 people; 12 were his immediate family members. Fr. Ralph is a formation director and admissions officer.

C) Dr. Creighton Lindsay, literature professor and associate dean of the College of Liberal Arts, once played electric, acoustic and slide guitar. He played with the great Delta blues masters and with his own band, performing throughout Europe, Canada and the United States.

PROCESS OF FORMATION CONTINUES IN SUMMER



Mount Angel seminarians had a busy summer as they returned to their home dioceses and religious communities. Some refined their skills in language immersion programs, and many served in parishes or other ministries.

“This was like no other summer of my life,” said Deacon Joseph Nguyen (left), a seminarian from the Diocese of Orange. The newly ordained deacon was assigned to St. Timothy’s parish in Laguna Niguel, Calif., where he preached, assisted at Mass, and presided at baptisms, marriages and funerals. Nguyen worked under the direction of Msgr. John Urell, the parish’s pastor.

“I loved the pastoral work,” said Nguyen, who is back on the Hilltop for his final year of formation. “I was able to let my time, knowledge and experience be put to work for the community of faith.”



Zani Pacanza in front of the centuries-old Church of Santiago Apostol

Antoine Nguyen

STUDENTS LEARN ART OF VISUAL AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

If you walk into the art history class of Sr. Hilda Kleiman, OSB, this fall, you may hear students discussing the Annunciation mosaic created by Br. Claude Lane, OSB, or see them carefully working with the gold leaf used on icons.



“Icons are the visual language of the Church, and the process of ‘writing’ them is seen as prayer,” said Sr. Hilda, who wrote her doctoral thesis on the iconographic tradition. She hopes to instill a love of the ancient art in her 21st-century students.

The Benedictine sister not only teaches visual communications, but written communications as well. Her journalism students interview people, write essays and press releases, and shoot photos. Their work has been published in the *Catholic Sentinel* newspaper, on MAS Journalism, an online seminary blog edited by Sr. Hilda, and in the *Mount Angel Letter* (see page 7). She recently established Incarnate Beauty, a blog where students can contribute essays about art.

“All priests are communicators,” Sr. Hilda said. “This coursework feeds into our seminarians’ future ministry, where they’ll be writing homilies, newsletters and reports.”

Read stories by Sr. Hilda’s students at masjournalism.blogspot.com.



The Pantocrator icon was “written through the hand” of Sr. Hilda Kleiman, OSB, a seminary professor who is training as an iconographer at the Iconographic Arts Institute. The institute is based at Queen of Angels Monastery, her Benedictine community just down the hill from the Abbey.

God Looks at Our Heart

When I came to the seminary, I was both excited and anxious. Everything was new to me and I was not sure how to behave. I come from the Philippines and I am here now to pursue priesthood and eventually serve for the rest of my life. I’m glad to say that I felt the welcoming attitude of native-born Americans. In the supermarket or on the street, people smile and greet me.

People from many nations and ethnicities have migrated to the U.S., and brought with them the gifts of their culture and tradition. At the seminary, some of my brothers were born rich; some of us started out with nothing. But all of us had to strive hard to be here in the seminary in this faraway land, where everything seems beautiful and hazy at the same time.

In the Bible, we read that Jesus welcomed and healed all people, regardless of their tribal, racial or ethnic background. Here at Mount Angel, we are one community; we are all brothers. Because we are different in terms of personalities and cultures, our viewpoints sometimes differ. Nevertheless, one thing is sure: people respect whoever you are. They respect your background, your views and your person.

I am moved by the beautiful truth of enculturation: people from different parts of the world coming together to build the Church and strengthen its community. I have always believed there can be unity in diversity. It really doesn’t matter if we come from different origins. God does not care if we have dark skin or curly hair or narrow eyes. What really matters is that we welcome and love one another as Christ loves us. Together, we form the One Body of the Church. It all comes down to our faith. The beautiful truth is ... he looks at our heart.

Zani Pacanza, a former broadcast journalist, was born and raised in the Philippines, where he grew up “playing priest” with his brothers. He is now a Theology III seminarian from the Archdiocese of Portland. He wrote this essay for Professor Kathy Akiyama’s course, *Ministry in a Multicultural Church*.

Seminarians at Mount Angel are preparing for multicultural ministry. In the U.S., people of color make up 37 percent of the population, with Hispanics being the largest minority group. Most parishes in Oregon now offer Masses in Spanish, and many seminarians, including Zani Pacanza, are learning Spanish or traveling to Latin America for immersion experiences. Pacanza spent the summer in Mexico City with 22 other seminarians. When not in their Spanish language classroom, they climbed Aztec pyramids, knelt and prayed in ornate Catholic churches, and worshipped with the locals.



PILGRIMAGE

*You will make
known to me the
path of life.*

– Psalm 16:11

For millenia, pilgrims have made arduous journeys to visit holy places. And more than 100 years ago, a small band of monks traveled from Switzerland to Oregon on their own pilgrimage, seeking a sacred place. Now, as Abbot Peter Eberle, OSB, says, “Our pilgrimage is not going to the Holy Land. It’s getting up in the morning and putting on our habit. We don’t get too far on our journey each day, but after 50 or 60 years, we look back. We are coming home.”

Benedictines are testimony to the value of staying in place, the value of an ordinary life. Not all of us visit the Holy Lands, but all of us have a sacred purpose, that of making the journey back to our heavenly home.

ASCENT OF THE HILL

My monastery is on a hill. This makes quite a difference. The first time this upward climb is made, you are filled with a dizzying range of emotions, for a person comes to live on this hill in order to seek God. He is inevitably, and all at once, excited by the adventure, ready for dedication, and afraid that his strength may not match the hope.

To turn the corner at the bottom of the hill and start the ascent is to turn a corner in life. As you climb upward and enter into the tall bank of trees, you feel a separation from a life left behind. The trees are splendid, beautiful, tall. They are like a word from God that whispers: “You are in a new place, and life will be different here.” The climb is a passage, a space you must come through in order to reach what you have come for in the first place: the monastic wisdom that points a way toward God.

The actual physical ascent is an indistinct combination of both steep and gentle. And so also is the way toward God. Although this is not the climb of a rugged mountain, it nonetheless requires some effort, but an effort that is paced and ultimately modest. At the top you suddenly come into the open and its beyond: the church, the monastery, the other buildings gathered round the green, and the views in every direction to the valley and the mountains close and far behind. An inexpressible fullness fills the heart. A place has clearly been established here; something is definitely going on. For the passage I have made, for my ascent, I am invited in; I am bid to share in it. I feel peace, and I want to be a part.

A place and the lives that unfold in a place interpenetrate. Affection grows. Monks love their place, and the place loves its monks. As the years of my searching for God in this place pass, I love the place more and more because its features are gathered progressively into my story. This love stirs in me with every ascent or descent of the hill.

If I go down the hill, I am on my way elsewhere and I feel the difference as I descend. If my absence is to be a long one, the emotion of leaving what I love is more sharply borne. On returning from afar, however far, it is in the start of the ascent that I know I am returned home. In the short time it takes to mount upward to the top, all the complicated emotions of what it means to live in this place rise in me, and resolve themselves in the climb.

– *Essay from A Monk’s Alphabet, written by Fr. Jeremy Driscoll, OSB*

*“To turn the corner at the
bottom of the hill and start the
ascent is to turn a corner in life.”*





WALKING WITH GOD

Late one night in 1985, hidden by darkness, the family of Br. Louis de Montfort Nguyen, OSB, slipped onto an overcrowded fishing boat. His mother hushed her frightened, young children; even a small whimper could bring the authorities. His parents had sold all their belongings to pay for the trip, joining an exodus of Vietnamese fleeing the country after the Vietnam War ended. As they journeyed across the ocean, he heard his mother singing hymns to Mary, Star of the Sea, to protect them from sea pirates, storms, hunger and thirst. Many refugees didn't survive the first leg of their journey.



The family, now illegal aliens, trekked through a jungle, across Cambodia, relying on the kindness of strangers for rice, fish and vegetables. They reached a refugee camp in Thailand, and although many refugees languished in the camp for years or were sent back home, Br. Louis' family made it to the United States – empty-handed but alive – when he was five years old.

“Our Lady protected us,” said the monk who adopted St. Louis de Montfort as his patron saint. The 18th-century French missionary wrote a spiritual classic about devotion to Mary. “That book softened my heart and opened me to God’s grace,” Br. Louis said.

“God is my primary vocation, but medicine complements my monastic life.”

There were no priests around as he grew up in Orange County, Calif., but he and his siblings sat on rice bags in the garage and prayed the rosary to Mary. Because his family was impoverished, he was passionate about doing well in school, and he excelled, especially in science and math.

Br. Louis eventually earned his medical degree at UC Davis School of Medicine, balancing studies with medical missions to impoverished, indigenous people in Guatemala. But even as he completed his medical residency, as his colleagues applied for jobs or prepared to become specialists, he surprised them by confiding that he was headed to a monastery.

“I knew God had other plans,” said Br. Louis, who had balanced his demanding medical training with daily Mass, working weekends as an altar server, and personal retreats. “Doctors aspire to help patients in a holistic way, but true medicine heals not only the body, but also the soul. Christ is the true physician. I wanted to go on this journey to seek him. He called me to a different vocation.”

Br. Louis completed his medical residency in June 2011, and by July he was knocking at the door of the Abbey, carrying a box of medical books and clothing, arriving – like the child long ago – in a new place empty-handed.

He taught biology in the seminary last year and works in the Abbey’s infirmary, caring for mostly elderly and infirm monks. “Medicine is not my primary vocation,” he said. “God is my primary vocation, but medicine complements my monastic life. I have become a caretaker in an informal way, and I’m able to provide my skills to those in need.”

Like his mother, he consecrates himself daily to Our Lady. “I am very content with this life,” said Br. Louis, who prays four hours each day. “Where will my journey take me? I don’t know and I’m not anxious about where I’m heading. God has profound love for us, and he will slowly show us the true mission of our lives.”

Br. Louis de Montfort’s spiritual journey began long ago, on a fishing boat riding the crest of dangerous waves. “But the true exodus,” he said, “is the journey through the sea of life to the eternal port of heaven. Everyone has their own pilgrimage they have to undertake. Despite our difficulties, our worries and troubles, God is always present for us. If we turn to him and give him a chance, he will answer us. He will walk with us.”

– Nadene LeCheminant

EMBARK ON YOUR OWN PILGRIMAGE, AT THE ABBEY



Thousands of pilgrims have walked the Stations of the Cross path at the Abbey. The path begins at the foot of the hill, winds along the road through groves of Douglas fir, and ends near the grotto statue of Mary. Visitors often stop at each small station and kneel to pray.

The “Way of the Cross” has graced the hillside since 1883, a year after the first monks arrived. Six years later, bas-relief sculptures arrived from Munich, Germany, and were placed inside each station.

The carved figures in the 14 stations portray Christ’s condemnation, suffering

and death. In the first station, he is condemned to death by his enemies. As he walks to his crucifixion, he falls under the weight of the heavy wooden cross. A weeping Mary is by his side as he is stripped of his garments and nailed to the cross, and she watches as he enters his greatest loneliness and dies. She still waits, as his body is taken down from the cross and laid to rest in a stranger’s tomb.

You are invited to join the pilgrims who have walked the path, in the shade of the tall trees – honoring Christ’s journey, and your own.

Generosity

NEWS FOR BENEFACTORS AND VOLUNTEERS



A GIFT GIVEN, LIVES CHANGED

Marilee Thacker is used to adventure. She and her four children once lived in the barn of a 500-year-old castle in Belgium. Now she lives in the Wenatchee Mountains in Washington State. Her community is so small that the post office is housed with the local Baptist Church, and so wild that birds fly in her cabin door; last summer a deer wandered in.

But when Thacker took her first trip to the Holy Lands in 2008, she experienced a more profound kind of adventure, akin to a walk with God. “You can’t help but feel the presence of God in these sacred places,” Thacker said. “You find yourself opening to his grace, and you also have a sense that you are walking with pilgrims from centuries past.”

Since then, Thacker has made many pilgrimages. She has stood on the Mount of Beatitudes, where Jesus delivered the Sermon on the Mount, and prayed in the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem, where he was buried and resurrected.

“In a sense, we are all on pilgrimage,” said the Catholic convert, “and priests are the ones who guide us. When you walk in the footsteps of Christ and the saints, the scriptures become more than stories in a book. My hope is to increase the talents and faith of seminarians, so they can be who God wants them to be and support us on our spiritual journeys.”

That’s why Thacker established a fund that enables seminarians to travel to the Holy Lands. Last May, they traveled to Galilee, Calgary,

“In a sense, we are all on pilgrimage, and priests are the ones who guide us.”

Nazareth, Bethlehem and Jerusalem with Fr. Ralph Recker, OSB, an Abbey monk who serves as a formation director and admissions officer of the seminary.

Thacker’s fund will keep on giving. Even though the gift stretched her resources, it makes perfect sense to her. “After all,” she says, “everything belongs to the Lord.”

Friends of the seminary are invited to donate to the Mount Angel Seminary Holy Land Pilgrimage Fund. Please contact Jodi Kilcup at 503-928-0173 or jodi.kilcup@mtangel.edu.

Fellowship

NEWS FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS

PRIEST BALANCES OUTREACH AND SOLITUDE



Fr. Todd Unger '82 is at home in the high country of Eastern Oregon. “I love the rural parishes where you can get to know the people on a deeper level, not just on Sunday,” he says.

After graduating from Mount Angel Seminary in 1982, Fr. Todd returned to the Diocese of Baker to serve parishes in Pendleton, John Day, Madras and The Dalles. For the past six years, he has served at St. Thomas Catholic Church in his hometown of Redmond.

When Fr. Todd served in Madras and The Dalles, he volunteered with the local fire department, eventually becoming an emergency medical technician. “As a volunteer,” he said, “I didn’t have to be in charge, which was a nice change, although sometimes people wondered when a guy in a collar showed up to drive the ambulance.”

Fr. Todd, who is a member of the Abbey’s Legacy Society, recalls his time at Mount Angel Seminary as a meaningful chapter of his life. “I could find solitude there, like I would find in the open country of Eastern Oregon,” he said. “This allowed me space for reflection. The classes were small, and you could establish a relationship with the teachers. The monks invited us into their home and set an example of prayer – a good foundation for those of us who would serve in busy parish ministry.”

When not engaged in his pastoral duties, Fr. Todd complements his love of people with solitude. He can be found riding a motorcycle on the back roads of the high desert, but these days, he avoids the bumpy dirt roads of his teen years, and sticks to the safer pavement. After all, his parishioners need him.

– *Jim Thompson*



DEAR ALUMNI,

We are doing a little fall cleaning of our alumni database and noticed we are missing a few email addresses. Our goal is to improve our communication and decrease our paper footprint by sending emails and posting more information on the alumni web pages. Please send your email address to jeanne.hobson@mtangel.edu, and stay connected with Mount Angel Abbey and Seminary and your fellow alumni.

Blessings and peace,
Jeanne Hobson
Alumni Relations Coordinator



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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: Noon
Vespers: 5:20 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: Noon
Vespers: 5:20 p.m.
Compline: 8:00 p.m.



Fr. Jerome Young, OSB, 1958–2012

If a monk, spiritual director or teacher has changed your life ...

If a mentor at Mount Angel has challenged you to grow in new ways or 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 Jeanne Hobson at **503-845-3057** or jeanne.hobson@mtangel.edu.

*Please note, when writing your will, our legal title and address is:
The Abbey Foundation of Oregon, 1 Abbey Drive, Saint Benedict, OR 97373.
(Tax ID number: 04-3703021)*

We invite you . . .

... to continue your journey of faith with us by praying and worshipping on our holy mountain. We hope your visit here will be a source of peace and blessing. In the words of St. Benedict, "All guests are to be received as Christ."

