

Fall 2016

# MOUNT Angel *Letter*



*"I have died, and my life is hidden with  
Christ in God. I shall not die but live, and  
proclaim the works of the Lord."*

*(Mass of Solemn Profession)*





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INSIDE

# This Issue

Fall 2016 | Volume 69, Number 3

- 
- 2 Monks' Corner
  - 4 Solemn and Simple Vows at Mount Angel Abbey
  - 7 He Who Sings Prays Twice
  - 8 Forming Men for Priesthood of Jesus Christ
  - 10 Summer Trip to Kenya Shows Theology at Work
- 



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MOUNT ANGEL LETTER

## Dear Friends



As you know, our life at Mount Angel Abbey is grounded in prayer. We come together six times a day for a program of prayer outlined 1,500 years ago by our Holy Founder St. Benedict. Beginning early each morning with Vigils and ending in the evening with Compline, these hours form the heart of our monastic life. And St. Benedict says that nothing is to be preferred to it.

It's a way of life increasingly attractive to young people. In our community of 57 monks, about one-third of the members are men in their first five years of monastic life. They are in various stages of formation, including postulants, novices, and monks in their simple vows. It is a sign of God's blessings upon us, and it is also an immense responsibility upon us "elder" members to care for these generous young brothers of ours.

This past summer, at the end of August, we welcomed one of these young monks, Br. John Vianney Le, into the community with Solemn Vows. Another four monks completed their year of novitiate and made their first (simple) vows. And six men began their novitiate.

We were also pleased to welcome 194 students, including 160 seminarians, to Mount Angel Seminary to study for the 2016-2017 scholastic year. They represent 23 dioceses and four religious communities. This year, the seminary is proud to say that in addition to undergraduate, master's and pontifical degrees, we also offer a new Doctor of Ministry program.

But of all these works, none compares to the importance of our life of prayer. Of all the works we strive to do here in some humble fashion, prayer is the most important. Your generous support enables us to live this way, to set our minds on the things above and not on what is on earth. To review just how much we depend upon the generosity of our friends and benefactors, take a look at the 2016 Annual Report included in this issue of Mount Angel Letter.

It seems that God is blessing us, and all who come to share in some way this life, hidden in Christ. I know that you, too, will be blessed for your part in this work of prayer. And I pray that each of you will know the peace of Christ and experience the joy and grace that comes when we choose to 'Seek the things that are above' (Col. 3:1).

God bless you,

+ Jeremy Driscoll, OSB

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



# MONKS' CORNER



*The monastic community of Our Lady of the Angels in Cuernavaca, Mexico, celebrates the liturgy for Holy Thursday 2015 with friends and neighbors.*



*Excerpted from a letter to Abbey monks, written by Abbot Peter Eberle, O.S.B., a former Abbot of Mount Angel Abbey.*

The big news at Mount Angel Abbey this fall is the solemn profession of Br. John Vianney and the simple profession of four of our brothers. Also, the Seminary has a large class coming in with 61 new students and 194 enrolled in the seminary altogether. But since these stories are told elsewhere in the issue, I will share these tidbits of monastery news here:

- I have good news about our daughter house, Our Lady of the Angels, in Cuernavaca, Mexico. In July, Abbot Jeremy Driscoll, O.S.B., asked Prior Vincent Trujillo, O.S.B., and Fr. Paul Thomas, O.S.B., to make an official visit to the priory. They were there for a week and determined that the community is at a point where it must consider independence from Mount Angel Abbey. In addition to the ordination of one of their monks in August, H. Pablo Soza Álvarez, O.S.B., they have had quite a steady growth in vocations. This year, six men entered the novitiate, and they welcomed five postulants. This summer the community also celebrated the 50th anniversary of its founding. Congratulations to our Cuernavaca confreres!

- Fr. William Hamelman, O.S.B., returned to Mount Angel Abbey in July. He has been pastor at St. Paul's parish in Silverton in recent years. He already has three assignments. In addition to overseeing landscaping on the Hilltop (those areas not tended by a professional crew), he will assist with pastoral formation in the Seminary and be a spiritual director for some of the students.



*In a ceremony before Vespers on September 7, Br. Benedict, Br. Matthew, Br. Ryan, Br. Junipero, Br. Pio and Br. Johnathan were received into the novitiate. During the service, they received a copy of the Holy Rule of St. Benedict and the scapular. During the year of novitiate, the brothers will continue to discern their call to religious life and study the customs and traditions of Mount Angel Abbey.*

# Hospitality

NEWS ABOUT HILLTOP EVENTS



## Summer festivals bring hundreds to Hilltop

Two annual events brought people in record numbers to mingle with the monks, enjoy farm-fresh meals, and classical music.

The first was the Saint Benedict Festival on July 9. Last year, the inaugural festival was sold out at 500 tickets. This year, the number of tickets was capped at 700 and again sold out a few days before the event.

Several new attractions proved popular, including a farm-to-fork picnic lunch prepared by the Abbey's Bon Appétit kitchen crew and served with Benedictine Brewery beer and Willamette Valley wines. The monks also introduced a popular new booth, "The Abbot's Attic Sale." The booth was filled with glassware and mementos taken from the monastery attics.

Next year's festival is scheduled for July 8, 2017.

About three weeks after the Saint Benedict Festival, the Abbey lawns again were filled with hundreds of people attending the 45th annual Mount Angel Abbey Bach Festival. All three evenings, July 27, 28 and 29, our guests braved the unusually warm weather and filled the church



*Fr. Philip Waibel, O.S.B., and his calligraphy station was a popular new addition to the 2016 Saint Benedict Festival.*

to join the monks for Vespers before enjoying a farm-fresh buffet dinner on the green. Musical performances were held in the church and the Damian Performance Center.

The Bach Festival for 2017 is scheduled for July 26, 27 and 28.

Find information for both 2017 festivals on the Abbey website at [www.mountangelabbey.org](http://www.mountangelabbey.org).



# Community

NEWS ABOUT MOUNT ANGEL ABBEY

## A PATH TRAVELED ACROSS LAND AND SEA

Brother John Vianney Le's path to life as a Benedictine monk has been anything but smooth. Yet in spite of missteps and obstacles, someone or something has always been present to guide him.

His journey reached an apex on August 30 when he made his solemn profession at Mount Angel Abbey.

"[To be a monk] is what God wants of me," he says. "I know that."

Br. John Vianney was born in Vietnam and his parents named him Tuan. When he was six years old, his father fled the southeast Asian nation, escaping on a refugee boat.

"He couldn't take us," he says, "because it was such a dangerous trip. People died on the boats all the time."

His father left behind a wife and family, who survived thanks to hard work and the help of relatives and friends.

Six years after his father left, the family joined him in a Chicago suburb.

"I was really looking forward to being reunited with my father," Br. John Vianney says. But for 12-year-old Tuan, arriving in the promised land of America in 1992 was not everything his family thought it would be.

"For the first two years I was bullied by classmates," he says, "because I wasn't like everyone else."

But he conformed. He finished high school and started college, "always trying to please my father and everyone else."

Then it dawned on him that he wasn't pleasing himself. Something was missing.

He completed his courses at St. Joseph College Seminary in Chicago, and even began courses at Mundelein Seminary. "But I was really too immature at that time to make a commitment," he says.

So he dropped out of the seminary and moved to California to find a job.



"But the call to priesthood was still in my heart," he says.

The defining moment came when he was invited to witness the final vows of a cousin who had joined a religious order of sisters.

"We were invited to dinner after the ceremony and one of the sisters, who knew I had spent time in the seminary, asked me if I would help in their religious education program.

"I knew that if I said 'yes,' my life would change. And if I said 'no,' nothing would change."

He said 'yes,' and following a retreat and several months of discernment, Br. John Vianney learned of the Benedictine community above the small town of Mt. Angel in Oregon. The rest, as they say, is history.

"This is what God wants for me," he says. "Making my final vows is like getting married. It is saying I want to commit my life to God and to this community."

"It is the commitment I couldn't make years ago," he says. "But now I am sure."

— Jerry Boone



*After Br. John Vianney has read his vows, he stands before Abbot Jeremy with arms outstretched (above, and cover photo) and prays: "Accept me O Lord, as you have promised, accept me and I shall live. Do not disappoint my hope."*

*During the profession ceremony, Br. John Vianney receives the kiss of peace (left) from Fr. Liem Nguyen, his formation director prior to making his solemn vows.*



## FOUR DIVERSE BACKGROUNDS, ONE COMMON LOVE

Having completed a year of novitiate, four men took their first ('simple') vows as monks of Mount Angel Abbey on August 24. Abbot Jeremy Driscoll, O.S.B., presided at the concelebrated Mass, attended by members of the new monks' families and friends of the community. The four newly professed monks will remain in simple vows for a period of three years, continuing to learn and live the Benedictine life. After that time, they will be eligible to apply for their final, Solemn Vows at the Abbey.



**Br. Columba Porter, O.S.B.**

I was born in San Diego, California to an Irish-American family. I graduated from Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff where I earned a bachelor's degree in social work. I used this degree to work with the homeless and the less fortunate. As a monk

my assignments include working at the front desk in the library. The act of welcoming our visitors with warmth and sincerity is a prayer of welcoming Jesus in that person. This is also apparent to me when a guest may appear to be in some kind of distress, which can happen. People from all walks of life come to the Hilltop and we welcome them as the Rule tells us: "Let all kindness be shown [to guests]." (Rule of St. Benedict, Chapter 53)



**Br. Toribio Orozco, O.S.B.**

My parents are both Mexican emigrants from the state of Jalisco. I was born and raised near Santa Maria, California, experiencing a typical Mexican household with an American education and social life, so my personal culture is very integrated.

After completing my studies at the University of San Diego, I moved back to Santa Maria and worked as a sales representative for Nabisco for almost five years before coming to Mount Angel. Being a monk is like a full time job, except that it is *really* full-time, you never stop being

a monk. Everything I have learned and experienced in my life before coming here seems to have been affirmed — my love of my Catholic faith, including the Liturgy, chant, good order, beautiful scenery, and family.



**Br. Israel Sanchez, O.S.B.**

I grew up in Yuma, Arizona, the second of two children. My early life was immersed in the values and practices of my parents, who were born and raised in Mexico. Because I've lived my whole life in the U.S., to that strong Mexican identity of

my family life (of which Catholicism is a strong part) was added the exposure to American mentality, media, entertainment, and language. My later life was immersed in the values and practices of being a seminarian at Mount Angel Seminary, where I lived for four years before entering the monastery in the summer of 2015. Right after my profession ceremony, my one thought was, "Lord, what have I done?" Not in the sense of anxiety or regret, but rather marveling at what the Lord is doing in my life.



**Br. Alcuin Walch, O.S.B.**

Medford, Oregon, was my home. Though my family moved around a little, I was born there and returned there as a young adult. Shortly after my eighteenth birthday, I came down with meningitis. The doctor, during my recovery, left me with the

pressing need to do something with the life that I had. I was working the graveyard shift at a little 7-Eleven in the middle of nowhere-near-Medford and would spend long nights simply reading. I read the Gospels, and there encountered Christ, and was given the beginning of the gift to love Him. God continued to coax me along until I fell in love with the Catholic Church. I was baptized in 2009, and a number of years later found my way to Mount Angel, where I am now trying to live that life given to me as a monk. Among various responsibilities, I have the great joy of working with our rare book collection in the library; it is a work, like all else that we do here, richly ordered as a continuation of our time in Choir — work continuing the prayer.



*The Abbey Schola currently includes, from left to right, Br. Lorenzo (monastic choirmaster), Br. Timothy, Br. Toribio, Br. Jesus Maria, Br. Louis de Montfort, Br. Israel, Br. Columba, Br. Ephrem. (Not shown, Br. John Vianney Le and Fr. Pius X Harding.) At the organ is Fr. Teresio Caldwell.*

## WHEN WE SING, WE PRAY TWICE

"Singing helps me to transcend the physical or material realm and bring it to a spiritual level, to connect with God through the Divine Liturgy," says Br. Louis de Montfort, O.S.B., a monk of Mount Angel Abbey and a member of its choir, or Schola. "Music touches the very core of who we are. As love is universal among human beings, so is music." Br. Louis is an adjunct professor of science at Mount Angel Seminary and, as a medical doctor, is director of the Abbey's infirmary, where half a dozen monks reside due to age or illness.

As many as a dozen monks compose the Schola; they are chosen primarily to lead the rest of the community in chanting the Divine Office, five times each day. The members of the Schola are seated among the rest of the community in the choir stalls to help set the pace and pitch of the prayers. Such chanting of the Psalms has been part of Benedictine life since the sixth century and has been heard at the Abbey every day since 1882.

It is a "purity ... a unity of voices," says Br. Lorenzo Conocido, O.S.B., who is the monastic choirmaster for the Abbey. He says the Schola is not the voices of a dozen individual singers, "but 12 voices sounding as one."

Some monks aspire to belong to the Schola; others are chosen because of their voices. All are appointed to the group by the Abbot. "[Schola members] are chosen not according to their rank but due to their ability to benefit their peers," says Fr. Teresio Caldwell, O.S.B., who serves as an Abbey organist. Some people view music as entertainment or a way to fill time, he notes. But at the Abbey, the music serves and follows the liturgical action. It is selected to match the liturgy closely, not just in its tone or melody, but even more importantly in its text.

The music, Fr. Teresio says, "is to aid worshippers with their prayers." The music also can help balance life in the community, he says. "For Benedictine monks, our life is about prayer and

work, the soul and the body. It's about harmony between the physical and the spiritual, the different facets of life. Music brings these together and is very holistic."

Sometimes the pressures and obligations of daily life make it difficult to concentrate on the singing. "But what we are on the inside is what we offer on the outside. By our singing, we hope to reflect that prayer," says Br. Lorenzo. "Our voices will be a reflection of our internal disposition. If we have had a rough day, we either show it or abandon it to God and do what we are called to do and pray."

"When we sing," Br. Louis adds, quoting St. Augustine, "we pray twice."

— Jerry Boone

*All are welcome to join the monks for Mass or the Liturgy of the Hours. See the schedule for prayers on the back cover or on the Abbey website: [www.mountangelabbey.org](http://www.mountangelabbey.org)*



# Formation

NEWS ABOUT MOUNT ANGEL SEMINARY



## Forming Men for the Priesthood of Jesus Christ

### Mount Angel Seminary Begins Its 128th Year

In the opening verses of his Holy Rule, St. Benedict urges monks to pray to Christ the Lord most earnestly to bring every good work they begin to completion. Faithful to his exhortation, the monks, seminarians, faculty, staff, and friends of Mount Angel Abbey and Seminary gathered on Monday, August 29, to celebrate the Mass of the Holy Spirit, thereby opening the seminary's 128th academic year.

Abbot Jeremy Driscoll, O.S.B., celebrated the Mass in the Abbey church, invoking the Holy Spirit upon the endeavors of the coming year. Abbot Jeremy said the help of the Holy Spirit is a gift that is



*Seminarians Ethan Alano and Luke Stager serve as cantors at the Mass of the Holy Spirit at Mount Angel Seminary.*



*Several hundred people attend the Mass of the Holy Spirit at Mount Angel Seminary to open the new scholastic year. Abbot Jeremy Driscoll, O.S.B., abbot of Mount Angel Abbey and chancellor of the seminary, presided at the concelebrated liturgy.*

always given when asked for in faith. "What does the Spirit look like?" he asked. "How will we know if it has been given? There will be all sorts of ways ... many different gifts and manifestations. That is Mount Angel! Mount Angel Abbey and Seminary are hard at work on any given day. It is a place full of gifts that differ, but says St. Paul, one and the same Spirit produces all of these. This is the Holy Spirit, for whom we are praying at the opening of this school year."

Following the Mass, Dr. Seymour B. House, Associate Dean for the Graduate School of Theology and professor of church history and literature, delivered the Inaugural Address. Entitled "The Trouble with Facts," Dr. House presented a comically brilliant reflection on the nature and pitfalls of historical narrative.

In the afternoon, Msgr. Betschart gave the first Rector's Conference of the year. In the evening, gathering after Vespers, the entire Hilltop community enjoyed a barbeque on the lawn in front of the Abbey church.

Mount Angel Seminary began forming men for the priesthood

in 1889 and is now the oldest and largest seminary in the western United States, and the only seminary in the West that offers both a college and a graduate school of theology. Since its inception in 1889, MAS has educated and formed thousands of priests, and many qualified religious

and lay men and women as well, for service to the people of God in nearly 100 dioceses and religious communities across the country and around the world.

– Phillip J. Shifflet, seminarian

Since 1889, Mount Angel Seminary has sent thousands of priests to serve more than 11 million Catholics in nearly 100 dioceses and religious communities throughout the United States and around the world. The school is the oldest seminary in the Western United States, and the only seminary in the west that offers both a college and a graduate school of theology.

Here's how the make-up of the student body looks as they begin the academic year for 2016-2017:

21  
Religious community seminarians:  
5 communities represented

139  
Diocesan seminarians:  
23 dioceses represented

61  
New students this fall:  
55 seminarians  
6 non-seminarians

194  
Total students:  
160 seminarians  
34 non-seminarians





*A delegation of seminarians, priests and professors from around the U.S. approach a village in Kenya where Catholic Relief Services is working to help establish a stable economy.*

## Summer Trip to Kenya Shows Theology at Work

**W**hat can happen in a week? Ask Deacon Joseph Paddock, a fourth-year theology student at Mount Angel Seminary, preparing for the priesthood for the Diocese of Helena, Montana.

In early June, just a few weeks prior to his diaconate ordination, Deacon Paddock accompanied Fr. Ralph Recker, O.S.B., and Dr. Katy Leamy, Associate Professor of Moral Theology at Mount Angel Seminary, for a week in rural Kenya. The trip was sponsored by the international humanitarian agency, Catholic Relief Services.

In November of 2015, Mount Angel Seminary began a partnership with CRS. “The goal for the students is not to do work, but to listen, and understand how patience is required in formulating actions,” Deacon Paddock explained. “The experience permeated all four ‘pillars’ of my

formation – spiritual, academic, pastoral and human. I was able to see the Body of Christ coming together and bridging very large gaps. This is what we are supposed to do. This is Communion Ecclesiology at work.”

Although the trip was short, the impressions ran deep and Deacon Paddock’s appreciation of the trip is immense. “We often see television images of people suffering, but this experience allowed me to get beyond



*Deacon Joseph Paddock of Mount Angel Seminary (back row, right) joined a delegation of seminarians, priests and professors from around the U.S. on a trip to Kenya in early June as part of a partnership program with Catholic Relief Services.*

that 30 seconds of compassion. I was able to enter into the situation of the people and see what they really need. But first and foremost, I tried to see who they are and what they seek to become.”

During the week, the group was able to experience first-hand how CRS helps impoverished people develop new forms of agriculture, in this case by moving beyond their semi-nomadic pastoral economy, now threatened by drought, into sustainable agriculture.

A particularly memorable experience was participation in a Sunday Mass at the remote wilderness compound where the group was staying. When the local Catholic community learned that a Mass would be celebrated, a jubilant congregation assembled. “I was moved by the joy of the people, by how carefully they dressed and prepared for the liturgy. The room and the circumstances were simple, but the appreciation of the people was amazing. This was a beautiful gift for them and for me.”

Deacon Paddock is resolved to allow this trip to inform his future priesthood: “I don’t want to lose the power of this experience; I need to pray and digest all I have seen. I am eager to tell the stories.”

– Jim Thompson



*Rev. Msgr. Paul McPartlan of The Catholic University of America teaches Communion Ecclesiology Today during the first summer session of Mount Angel Seminary's new Doctor of Ministry program.*

## FIRST DOCTORAL PROGRAM AT MOUNT ANGEL IS UNDERWAY

The new Doctor of Ministry program initiated this summer at Mount Angel Seminary builds on the already impressive list of undergraduate and graduate degrees offered at the largest seminary in the western United States.

The first cohort of the fully accredited program came together in June and consists of one lay woman, two permanent deacons, and four priests, all currently active in various forms of pastoral ministry. By design, the program is intended to deepen and develop the participants’ grasp of Scripture and theology as related to their ministry in a specifically Catholic context.

This Catholic context, according to Deacon Owen Cummings, Academic Vice-President and Academic Dean of Mount Angel Seminary, provides a unique opportunity for people who are looking for greater enrichment and a more in-depth understanding of Catholic practice in pastoral ministry.

The coursework is built on a 3-year summer program, with weeklong intensive courses offered in three areas: Scripture, Liturgical/Systematic Theology, and Pastoral Theology. Students may complete the 9-course program in the 3-year period, or take only a course or two each summer and extend the amount of time for completion. Candidates for the program are required to have a master’s degree and a minimum of three years full-time service in pastoral ministry.

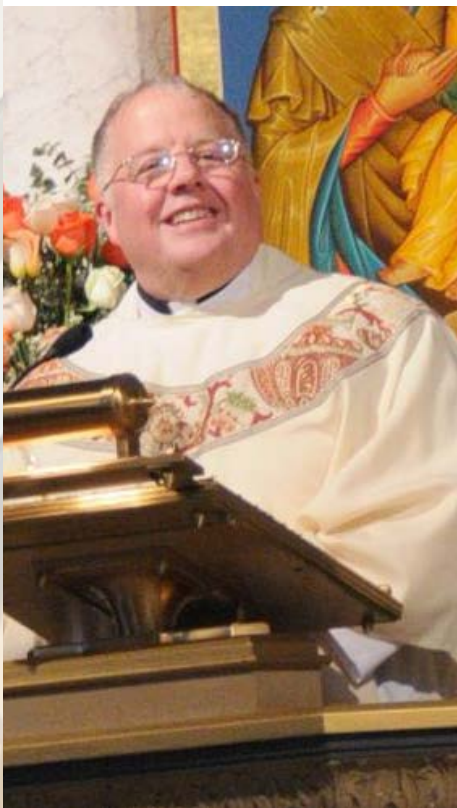
For more information about the Doctor of Ministry program at Mount Angel Seminary, contact Dr. Owen F. Cummings, [owen.cummings@mtangel.edu](mailto:owen.cummings@mtangel.edu).



# Fellowship

NEWS FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS

## PARISH LIFE USES SKILLS DEVELOPED AT SEMINARY



"I'm as busy as I was in seminary – and I get even less sleep now," quips Fr. Joe Fleming, Mount Angel Seminary class of 2013. Fr. Joe looks back on his seminary experience with gratitude, even though there were challenges for the late-vocation seminarian. Fleming had arrived at Mount Angel as a 52-year-old, the father of two adult sons, and holding degrees in computer science and business.

"At first, the most challenging part [of seminary] for me was [living with] the younger men," he recalled. "We were all involved in the process of formation, which I would describe as parenting on steroids."

With time, Fleming learned that living with the younger men was an opportunity to help him accomplish his own growth. During his six years of seminary, he even developed a genuine appreciation for the younger generation.

Now, Fr. Joe (as he prefers to be called) is back in his home diocese of Helena, Montana. Pastor of Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Deer Lodge, and St. Theodore Mission in Avon, he is very much at ease with life in these small communities.

**The Liturgy of the Hours allows me to know the Lord better and I hold onto that now that I am by myself.**

"In a town of 3,000, everybody knows everybody," he said. "And I like that."

In addition to his work in the parish and mission, Fr. Joe celebrates Mass in the nearby Montana State Prison and does pastoral care work in the Montana State Mental Hospital. His experience as a father of two sons with mental challenges gives him a deep sense of compassion for those at the hospital. His weekend routine has him serving multiple masses in the parish, one in the mission, and three at the prison, in addition to a weekly Mass at the hospital.

Asked how he sees his seminary experience from the distance of three years of parish experience, he is quick to answer: "The structure – that's what I got: The routine of prayer and liturgy set by the Benedictines. I am very thankful for all that I learned during those six years. The structure, including the Liturgy of the Hours, allows me to know the Lord better, and I hold onto that now that I am by myself. These things are staying with me, and I depend on them."

– Jim Thompson

# Generosity

NEWS FOR BENEFACTORS AND VOLUNTEERS

## DON AND GLORIA AMORT: LIVES SPENT IN LOVE AND SERVICE

Don Amort, an alumnus of Oregon State University, spent his career as a professor of Electrical Engineering at OSU. During his 39-year tenure, he taught, advised and encouraged thousands of students, many of whom are now highly successful engineers. Three times selected for the "Carter Award for Outstanding and Inspirational Teaching," Don was a noted expert in electronic circuits.

If asked what his greatest achievement has been, however, Don would point with pride to his family. Married in 1954 to Gloria, then a recent graduate herself of OSU, the couple raised four sons – men who are now two engineers, a chemist, and a horticulturist. Don could also point to the couple's legacy of giving back: To their parish, community, and Mount Angel Abbey.

Don was raised Catholic and, following the examples of his father and uncle, completed his high school education at Mount Angel Abbey. Although the school has since closed, a possession of the Mount Angel Library today is the Louis Amort Diary, a record of the impressions and experiences of Don's uncle while attending the Abbey's high school. A highlight describes removing blasting wire from the monk's rock quarry to build a telegraph system for the students.

Gloria, a convert to Catholicism, has been active in Catholic Daughters of the Americas and various community organizations in Corvallis. Both she

and Don also volunteer at St. Mary Catholic Church in Corvallis where they are members.

For several years, Gloria also served on the Abbey Development Committee, helping with the beginnings of the Abbey's seminary fundraising dinners in Portland and Eugene, the Wine and Arts Festival (now the Saint Benedict Festival), and the building of Annunciation Hall for Mount Angel Seminary.

over the years. "I have come to appreciate the Psalms, which had been difficult for me. Hearing the monks singing them opens the understanding. We love the monks and the other people we 'rub elbows' with on the hill. The prayers the monks offer for us mean a great deal in our lives."

– Jim Thompson



More recently, Gloria has participated in the planning process for the restoration of the Abbey's retreat center and guesthouse. The retreat center is a favorite place for the Amorts, who join friends there each year for Holy Week and Easter.

"Everyone says this, but the Abbey really is so peaceful," Gloria said, reflecting on her many visits there





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## Mount Angel Abbey's Christmas Ornaments

This coming Christmas Abbot Jeremy will give the Abbey employees and volunteers a specially designed Christmas ornament as a sign of our esteem and appreciation. This will be the ninth year we've presented these unique ornaments. Some were designed by Abbot Nathan Zodrow, O.S.B., who preceded me as abbot, and I designed several -- including the ornament for 2016.

The ornament made for Christmas of 2011 featured the icon "He Shall Be Peace," written by Br. Claude Lane, O.S.B. This was in honor of my own abbatial motto and was given out the second Christmas after my election as abbot of Mount Angel Abbey.

The Christmas ornaments are small, measuring about 2 by 3 inches. They make a beautiful Christmas tree decoration, but they often find a permanent spot in the home where they bear witness year-round to the faith of those who dwell there.

These being Christmas ornaments, it's only fitting that Mary and her Child should more than once be represented in the series. This has been the case several times and it will again be the case this coming Christmas.

The 2016 ornament is available now at the Abbey gift shop, along with a selection of past ornaments. Find more information on the Abbey's webpage: [www.mountangelabbey.org](http://www.mountangelabbey.org) and click on the link for Bookstore.

– Abbot Gregory Duerr, O.S.B. (retired)

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

### WEEKDAYS

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.



## Come and See

Discerning a vocation to the monastic life is best done by personal experience and an encounter with the monks within the cloister. At Mount Angel Abbey, we open our door to men at least 18 years old, and discerning a vocation, to come and join us for a three-day monastic discernment experience.

Our next discernment retreat dates are:

**October 21-23, 2016 and January 6-8, 2017**

- Pray with the monks
- Join them for meals
- Tour the monastery
- Spend time in quiet prayer
- Listen to conferences and vocation discernment stories
- Discern your vocation with monks and other retreatants

**For more information, contact Fr. Odo Recker, O.S.B.**

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