... we shall run on the path of God’s commandments, our hearts overflowing with the inexpressible delight of love.

– Prologue 49-50, Rule of St. Benedict
Recently we welcomed five new postulants to Mount Angel Abbey, with several more to arrive soon. We’ve gone through a process of discernment with them, asking each one that important question etched above the portal of a monastery door: “Amice, ad quid venisti? Friend, why have you come?” They discerned the holy desire deep within their hearts and arrived at the answer to that question about their monastic vocation: They’ve come to seek God. But that is easier said than done, as indicated in chapter 58 of the Rule of St. Benedict: “A senior chosen for his skill in winning souls should be appointed to look after them with careful attention. The concern must be whether the novice truly seeks God and whether he shows eagerness for the Work of God, for obedience and for trials.”

But the monastic life to which Mount Angel’s postulants have felt called is only one of many religious institutes and charisms within the Church, wherein men and women, led by the Spirit, have vowed their lives to Christ and to the service of the Church. In the present Year of Consecrated Life, therefore, we are profoundly grateful to God for the many who continue to consecrate their hearts and their lives to Christ as their Pearl of great price. Their very lives of holiness make them prophets of Jesus and of Jesus’ way of life; their very witness is at the heart of “the new evangelization!”

Not to be overlooked, however, are the horizons of the consecrated life. In his Apostolic Letter “To All Consecrated People,” Pope Francis wrote: “I wish to speak not only to consecrated persons, but also to the laity, who share with them the same ideals, spirit and mission” (III.1). Yes, the appreciation of “having a vocation” has thankfully broadened in these post-Vatican II times, such that the call to holiness is now better understood as embracing all of the various ways of living out the commandment of Christian love. Indeed, the Spirit of God’s love that is poured into our hearts at baptism leads all of the baptized into “the way” of Christ, that way of living that has the Spirit as its Inner Master and the Gospel of Jesus as its primary law. Such is the fundamental call to holiness, whether in marriage or in the single life, whether in priesthood or in religious or monastic life. To use a phrase from the Rule, we are all called to walk “with the Gospel for our guide” (Prol 21).

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.


Editor: Nadene LeCheminant
**Community**

**News about Mount Angel Abbey**

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**Monks’ Corner**

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

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**Three monks mark Jubilees**

Congratulations to Fr. Augustine DeNoble, OSB, and Fr. Leo Rimmele, OSB, who are celebrating the 60th anniversary of their ordination as priests. Fr. Edmund Smith, OSB, celebrates his 50th anniversary. We honor their example and lifelong dedication.

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**Saint Benedict Festival**

**Mount Angel Abbey**

**MEET THE MONKS** at the new Saint Benedict Festival, to be held on the Hilltop Saturday, July 11, from noon to 5 p.m. A friendly cook-off among five Bon Appétit chefs will feature cuisine inspired by Benedictine kitchens around the world, including India, Italy, Mexico, Switzerland and Japan. Savor local wines and a new pale ale brewed by the Abbey’s own Benedictine Brewery. Enjoy lively lawn games with the monks, quirky “behind the scenes” monk-led Hilltop tours, booths selling monastery crafts, and more. The day begins and ends with prayer in the Abbey Church. For ticket information, call 503-845-3064 or email stbenedictfestival@mtangel.edu.

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**We offer a warm Hilltop greeting to new postulants**


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**Fr. Augustine DeNoble, OSB**

“The first time I walked into the Abbey Church, the monks were singing Vespers,” said Fr. Augustine; he has loved the Divine Office since that moment. “I have celebrated Mass almost every day since my ordination,” he said. “Those are the most meaningful moments of each day.” Fr. Augustine has served as guest master, confessor, research librarian, Abbey chronicler and seminary teacher.

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**Fr. Edmund Smith, OSB**

After Fr. Edmund Smith was ordained in 1965, the Abbot asked him to go over to the seminary and volunteer for whatever was needed. The farm kid was soon flying across the country for the first time, with a $200 check in his pocket and an acceptance letter from Fordham University for its master’s degree program in applied theology.

Since then, Fr. Edmund has filled numerous roles on the Hilltop, serving as theology teacher and spiritual director in the seminary, guest house director, prior of the Abbey, and procurator of finance and facilities. And he’s had many roles off the Hilltop, serving as hospital chaplain, and pastor of parishes in Oregon, Washington and Montana.

“Fifty years goes by quickly,” said Fr. Edmund. “I’m still finding my way, but I feel blessed. I want to grow old gracefully and gratefully.”

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**Fr. Leo Rimmele, OSB**

Fr. Leo served as a chaplain at Queen of Angels, in army hospitals, and at military bases around the country — and around the world, including France, Germany, Korea and Turkey. He served troops in Vietnam during the war as well, reflecting, “It’s the same ministry, wherever you are.” Fr. Leo also managed the Abbey Bookstore, taught in the seminary, served as Abbey librarian, and managed the Benedictine Press.
FOR ME, THE CONSECRATED LIFE is just my ordinary life as a monk, and nothing more,” says Fr. Vincent Trujillo, OSB, who serves as prior at the monastery. “One doesn’t necessarily have to take vows or enter a monastery to live a consecrated life. One is consecrated, not by extraordinary devotion or understanding complex theology, but through ordinary life experiences. It’s about striving to do the best you can with what you’ve got, trying to nurture community and self-worth in people.”

Fr. Vincent believes his parents lived consecrated lives through their marriage and their example. “They taught their children the art of kindness and trust,” he said. “In a way, their lives are still being lived through their children, including one monk!”

Humor also is important to the holy life, said Fr. Vincent, who once served as a parish priest, and an art teacher and administrator in the seminary. “Holiness is not just keeping your hands folded and looking upward. It’s about being authentic.”

EVERYTHING I DO, I try to do as prayer, whether it’s walking or sitting or carving wood,” says Br. Mariano Alva-Ramirez, OSB. As an apprentice carpenter and wood carver, he crafts prayer benches with wood taken from bookshelves in the monastery attic and downed trees on the Hilltop. “There are different types of wood – hard wood, soft wood, or wood with a distinctive fragrance such as pine or cedar – just like God’s children,” he said. “Some, like myself, are hard wood. We take a long time for God to carve. I’m stubborn, but God still keeps working, putting his chisel to me. I trust I will be a work of his own hands.

Much of the religious life takes place in community, but at the end of the day, I can enter into an intimate relationship with God, come into his presence in silence, and respond to his love. Consecration is an action, a daily giving of my whole being to him without reserve. He loves me unconditionally, no matter who I was, who I am, or who I will be.”

CONSECRATION

W e live in an age of uncertainty, an age of frenzy when what we need is rest, an era of ever-present noise when what our souls cry for is healing silence. It’s easy to surrender to the voices of doubt and dismay and cynicism, but God calls us to surrender to a higher calling, to leave behind our old self and take on a new self. Because of his grace, we don’t have to remain in a broken state.

When we offer our life to Christ – with our actions, with our thoughts, through receiving the Eucharist – we find our life. When we discover God, we discover ourselves; we become what God meant us to be. Fr. Martin Grassel, OSB, says the contemplative life is “like staring at the truth.”

Pope Francis has declared this the Year of Consecrated Life, calling religious men and women, monks and clergy to a deeper embrace of living and sharing the Gospel. But everyone can embark on a life dedicated to Christ. Wait upon him – in peace, with joy, with desire for no other life – for he has given his own life for you. He waits, always present, always loving, for your inward “yes.”
Holy Father urges faithful to consecrate lives, reach out

Pope Francis declared 2015 the Year of Consecrated Life, calling religious women and men, monks and clergy to live the Gospel “radically and sincerely,” radiating the joy and beauty of following Christ fully.

Mount Angel marked the year with special studies for seminarians, a film series, and a daylong conference at the Abbey led by the Most Rev. Alexander K. Sample, Archbishop of Portland in Oregon.

“...it is the real work,” said Mount Angel’s subprior, Father Odo Recker, OSB. “There’s a little eye rolling here and there, but their overarching charity is remarkable. The monks persevere in community and in kindness with each other. Their example gives me hope and inspires me in my own relationships.

“It’s a gift to be surrounded by their love and prayers,” said Wells, who was diagnosed with cancer this year. She hopes others can experience the peace of the Hilltop. “There’s a little eye rolling here and there, but their overarching charity is remarkable. The monks persevere in community and in kindness with each other. Their example gives me hope and inspires me in my own relationships.”

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“A FIRST VISITED the Hilltop one spring afternoon in 2004 to buy a rosary for my goddaughter,” said Beth Wells. A friendly monk asked her if she needed a job, and before she knew it, she was managing the Abbey Bookstore and Coffee Shop.

“The Abbey is a dynamic place. Monks come, some go, and some pass on. They face times of crisis and times of peace, but through it all, prayer is central to the life of the community. Their example has inspired me to integrate prayer more deeply into my own life.

“It must be a challenge for the monks to live side by side with such diverse people their entire adult lives,” Wells said. “There’s a little eye rolling here and there, but their overarching charity is remarkable. The monks persevere in community and in kindness with each other. Their example gives me hope and inspires me in my own relationships.

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Formation
News about Mount Angel Seminary

Congratulations!

Congratulations to the 15 undergraduates and 22 students from the graduate theology school who marched in the commencement procession on May 9. Most Rev. Joseph Tyson, Bishop of Yakima, offered the commencement address.

Academic work for degrees showcases the spiritual and intellectual abilities of our graduates. Some of the Master of Divinity candidates demonstrate their theological knowledge and pastoral skills by developing a written project and a formal oral presentation. Br. Manuel Rosiles, MSpS, looked at how pastoral ministers can rescue youth by meeting them where they are. Rev. Mr. Scott Baier of the Archdiocese of Portland in Oregon reflected on how Hispanic ministry is changing him.

The Master of Arts degree requires the completion of an extensively researched thesis. Rev. Mt. Juan Seria of the St. John Society presented a study of Pope Francis’ first encyclical, Lumen Fidei. Lay student Margaret Echevezt, with a concentration in Scripture, examined St. Paul’s use of the Old Testament in Galatians and Romans to explain his message of God-centered salvation.

College capstone projects included Honolulu seminarian Dario Rinaldi’s reflections on how the gift of silence can nurture spiritual and human growth, Phillip Shiffer’s (Diocese of Orange) discussion of the role of social media in cultivating friendships, and Frank Villanueva’s (Diocese of Honolulu) look at how the Aloha spirit can create harmony across diverse cultures.

Seminarians move forward in their formation

This year, 24 seminarians took an important step in their formation process. Thirteen men were instituted as lectors to serve the Church as ministers of the Word, while 11 new acolytes will assist priests and deacons at the altar. The seminarians represented dioceses across the West, including Baker, Boise, Helena, Las Vegas, Portland, Reno, Sacramento, San Diego and Seattle, along with the Discalced Carmelites of St. Joseph and the Saint John Society. The Most Rev. Armando X. Ochoa, Bishop of Fresno, celebrated the Ministers Mass.

Seminary teacher brings unique credentials to role

Parishioners say one of the most important needs in their parishes is for priests who can preach – with sincerity, eloquence and conviction. The seminary is responding to this need; during each of their four years of theological study, seminarians receive courses that focus directly on preaching. One of their primary teachers carries unique credentials.

Fr. Jeremy Driscoll, OSB, who introduces seminarians to the art of preaching, served as a consultor to the Congregation of Divine Worship, where he was involved in the Vatican’s newly published Directory on Homiletics. He also worked with the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops as they developed their newly released document on preaching. Both documents form the core of the seminary program, providing inspiration and guidance to students as they prepare themselves to offer homilies in pastoral settings.

Students open hearts to homeless in Portland

During the school year, first-year college seminarians shared Benedictine hospitality with the homeless in downtown Portland. They cheerfully served breakfast, chatted with drop-by guests, and helped in the clothes closet and art ministry at St. André Bessette parish. “It was an opportunity to encounter God in those who are in great need,” said Br. William Perry, MSpS. The parish makes special efforts to reach out to people struggling with homelessness, poverty, mental illness or addiction.

We will sing out loud, we will sing out strong … Guardians unite!

The Guardians took second in the Rose City Classic this year, the third year in a row for the school’s basketball team. The small team may have done even better, says seminarian Stephen Cieslak, if they had time for daily practice. “Prayer is a higher priority,” he admitted. “We’re not exactly in it to win.” In a do-it-yourself spirit, seminarians also serve as game announcers, scorekeepers, DJs and photographers throughout the season. This year the team was cheered on by a newly formed pep band; its banner song, “Guardians Unite,” was written by seminarians Ethan Alano, Peter Murphy and George Watson. For the Guardians, whose exploits were recently covered in Sports Illustrated, the game of hoops serves as a way to build community. Go Guardians!

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-- With seminarian Matthew Knight

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Canon lawyer turned priest

Once a lay canon lawyer, now a new priest from the Diocese of Marquette, Fr. Tim Ferguson ’15 is a little nervous, but very excited to begin his ministry. The Michigan diocese serves small parishes over a vast geographical area. “The mining boom towns have shrunk,” he said, “and now some people are struggling economically, wondering from month to month if they’ll be able to hold on to their jobs, family businesses or farms. In some towns, the Church is the only institution left. There are a lot of good people, and faith is central to their lives.”

Fr. Tim, now 47, likes the small town life in Michigan. “You get to know people,” he said, “and as a parish priest, I’ll be able to be present to people in all the touchstone moments of their lives, the joys and the dark times. I want to help people see that Christ is there for them in those moments.”

Fr. Tim, who felt a call to the priesthood as a boy, thought preaching would be a challenge, but he has grown to love it. “Homilies require public speaking skills, but preaching also has to come out of prayer,” he said. “If you open yourself up to God, he gives you words. He gives you grace. Speaking skills, but preaching also has to come out of prayer.”

Seminarian Peter Murphy was only seven years old when he felt a call to religious life. As he grew older, other plans took precedence, he says, “but God has a funny habit of not giving up on people.” Murphy felt a great peace from the first moment he came to the seminary, and he wants to share that peace as a future priest for the Diocese of Boise.

He plans on driving a lot. The primarily rural state of Idaho is dotted with small mission parishes in remote areas, and many priests drive 200 miles each weekend to visit multiple parishes. “I want to go out and help people wherever they are,” Murphy says. “The priesthood is a profound way of giving yourself to God.”

“… I’ll be able to be present to people in all the touchstone moments of their lives, the joys and the dark times. I want to help people see that Christ is there for them in those moments.”

INVITATION FROM GOD BRINGS BLESSINGS

For a year, Fr. David Brown ’07 noticed the older man who slipped into Mass in his parish at St. Paul Catholic Church in Eugene, Ore. “I was dying of cancer and wanted to find peace. Just before Easter, Fr. David baptized him and gave him Communion, while tears rolled down the man’s grizzled cheeks. “As a priest, I am invited into the deepest moments of people’s lives,” said the Mount Angel alumnus.

Fr. David is a latecomer to the priesthood. As an insurance company investigator, he had it all — the house, the garage full of “toys,” and the ability to travel the globe. “But I was living for myself,” he said. “People are meant to take care of one another. There is something innate in all of us that wants to give and receive love.”

Fr. David is not a risk taker, but he sensed he needed a change, and one night as he knelt in prayer, God startled him with an invitation. Five months later, the 41-year-old embarked on the priestly formation program at Mount Angel Seminary. He graduated in 2007, at age 48.

“You do not leave the seminary with all the answers,” Fr. David said. “Parish life is messy, and life does not always have easy answers. But my formation at Mount Angel taught me how to find resolutions through perseverance in prayer. Faith is hard work; it is not meant to be easy. Deep reflection in prayer is how we grow.”

Fr. David finds joy in his calling, and is grateful for both the spiritual and financial support he received as a seminarian. “When people donate to the seminary, their gifts help form men for the priesthood. As priests, we become the legacy of the donor. Their faith continues in our pastoral ministry, and that ministry in the name of Jesus Christ is a beautiful thing.”

Sign up for email updates about alumni events and news! Just send your email to jeanne.hobson@mtangel.edu.
The ties that bind

Sue Corrado has ties to Mount Angel Abbey that go back to its founding. In 1881, her great-great-grandparents, Louis and Josephine, migrated from Iowa to Oregon and put down roots in the small town that would become Mt. Angel. A year later, after Louis’ untimely death, Josephine sold 215 acres of land to the Abbey’s first prior for $6,000. The family has been entwined with the Abbey ever since.

“Louis and Josephine left a wonderful legacy through their seven children,” Corrado says. Two became Sisters of Providence, and the Schwab clan still meets for regular reunions in Mt. Angel. The multitude of their descendants has carried on the legacy of faith in their own lives.

“The Abbey is in my blood,” said Corrado, who serves as vice president of the Abbey Foundation of Oregon. “Mount Angel is a jewel in our backyard, where well-educated, well-formed priests are prepared for ministry,” he says. “The Abbey has always had a special place in our hearts.”

What began as a simple sale of land 132 years ago has generated decades of goodwill and devotion.

The Corrado family has been entwined with Mount Angel Abbey since its founding.

The compassionate, visionary monk became a dear family friend. “When we were children, we used to go up to the Hilltop and visit Fr. Alcuin and walk around the grounds together,” Corrado said. “It was very different in those days, but like today, it was beautiful.”

Corrado was a longtime member of the Seminary Tea Committee for the Archdiocese of Portland in Oregon, and has sponsored a table at the Seminary Benefit Dinner in Portland since its inception. “I can remember when there were very few seminarians,” she says. “It’s been amazing, in recent years, to see all the seminarians walking into the seminary dinner.”

Corrado has been a part of many changes on the Hilltop since she first became involved. “I’m thrilled with the way the Abbey has developed over the years,” says Corrado, who loves the drive up the hill past the Stations of the Cross. “The Abbey is a place of peace and quiet.”

She and her husband Al have contributed generously to the Hilltop haven for Benedictine spirituality and learning. Their steadfast support includes the creation of the endowed Edwin E. Mayer Scholarship Fund for Mount Angel seminarians.

The family’s philanthropic legacy extends to their son, Christopher Alcuin Heibel, who graduated in 1923 and was named rector two years later. The compassionate, visionary monk became a dear family friend. “When we were children, we used to go up to the Hilltop and visit Fr. Alcuin and walk around the grounds together,” Corrado said. “It was very different in those days, but like today, it was beautiful.”

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The Abbey Foundation of Oregon
PO Box 497
Saint Benedict, OR
97373-0497

Join Psalms of Music at Abbey Bach Festival

The Abbey Bach Festival, now in its 44th year, will be held July 29, 30 and 31. The event offers sublime music, picnic suppers on the green, and a taste of Hilltop serenity.

Featured musicians include violinist Antoine Bareil and cellist Sébastien Lépine, the Boulder Brass, pianist David Jalbert, female vocal ensemble In Mulieribus, and organist Gail Archer. Each evening of the three-day celebration will begin with Vespers in the Abbey Church.

The Benedictine tradition honors beauty as a pathway to God; monasteries have nurtured and preserved the arts, including music, for centuries. 503-845-3064

www.mountangelabbey.org/bach

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.

Has a monk, spiritual director or teacher changed your life?

If a mentor at Mount Angel has challenged you to grow in new ways or opened doors to God, please consider a one-time or endowed memorial gift to honor them. That way, others will have life-changing opportunities as well.

For information, contact Jeanne Hobson at 503-845-3069 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)