

Summer 2016

MOUNT Angel Letter



"I know well the plans I have in mind for you" (Jer. 29:11)



INSIDE *This Issue*

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-
- 2 Monks' Corner
 - 6 Vocations bring joy and hope
 - 8 God's abundance is found in Abbey garden
 - 9 Pilgrimage to Holy Land
 - 11 Mount Angel Seminary 2016 graduating classes
-



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Dear Friends



The election of an abbot is a major event in a monastic community. St. Benedict arranges our way of life in such a way that the abbot plays a key role in every dimension of the monastic day and the monastic way.

On March 12, the solemnly professed monks of Mount Angel Abbey elected me as their 12th abbot. To call the selection process an election can be misleading in our culture, especially in an election year. In politics, people work hard to be elected. They seek the office. It does not work that way in the election of an abbot.

Our community prepared by weeks of meetings and prayer – our community prayers and those of our friends who care deeply about the life of Mount Angel Abbey and Seminary.

On the morning of March 12, the monks gathered in the Abbey church to celebrate a solemn Mass invoking the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Abbot Vincent Bataille, O.S.B., the Abbot President of the Swiss-American Benedictine Congregation, presided at the Mass and the election that followed.

The election procedure is itself a kind of liturgy. Each monk swears, with two senior monks placing his hands on the Gospel, to vote for the person whom his conscience persuades him, in the sight of God, should be abbot.

If two-thirds of the votes converge on the same name within three ballots, or if 51 percent converge in up to nine possible subsequent ballots, an abbot is elected. The number of ballots is not shared, only the name of the one who has been chosen and has accepted election. Monks believe this election process manifests the one whom God has chosen to be abbot.

After I had accepted my election, we processed into the Abbey church, where Abbot Vincent installed me in the abbot's chair. Each member of the community came forward to offer his obedience. My word as abbot to each monk, according to the instruction of St. Benedict, was "Peace." This is Christ's peace given to each monk in response to his obedience.

In a short address, I told the monks that I choose these words from Colossians 3:1 as my motto: "Seek the things that are above."

On April 28, Archbishop Sample, of the Archdiocese of Portland, celebrated the solemn rite of the Abbatial Blessing. Many bishops, abbots, priests, alumni, oblates, benefactors and other friends joined us in this great expression of love and communion between Mount Angel Abbey and its many supporters and friends, among whom I consider the readers of this Letter.

Joined to the monks of Mount Angel, seek with us the things that are above!

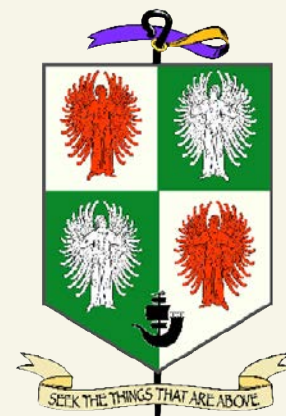
+ Jeremy Driscoll, O.S.B.

Abbot Jeremy Driscoll, O.S.B.

MONKS' CORNER



At the end of the Abbatial Blessing liturgy, Abbot Jeremy blesses the congregation. During the ceremony, he received from Archbishop Sample the symbols of his office as Abbot: The Rule of St. Benedict, a ring, the mitre and the crozier.



Abbot Jeremy's coat of arms shows four angels, positioned on the four corners of the Abbey property to protect the Abbey from all evil forces and carrying the praises of the Hilltop before the throne of God. The green represents Oregon's lush Willamette Valley; the white and red recall the colors of the Swiss Flag and the Abbey's motherhouse, Engelberg. The ship is from the Driscoll clan coat of arms from Ireland. Here it represents the Abbey and the Church as a ship afloat on seas both calm and turbulent, but always safe in the hands of God and the protecting angels. The angels repeat Abbot Jeremy's motto: "Seek the things that are above."

THE ELECTION



As is sometimes the case, the biggest news at the Abbey is no longer "hot news" because many of you reading this already know about it. Still, for the record, I want to give an account of the election of our new abbot, Fr. Jeremy Driscoll, O.S.B.

The election took place Saturday morning, March 12. Preparations, however, began in January when the members of the Mount Angel monastic community began to meet and discuss the direction the Abbey should take in the coming years. From those discussions, we began to form an idea of the type of person needed in the role of abbot.

On Thursday evening, March 10, Abbot Vincent Bataille, O.S.B., Abbot President of the Swiss-American Benedictine Congregation, arrived. He led the entire community in final meetings on Friday, helping us take

a closer look at the monks qualified to be abbot. On the day before the election, he presided at a meeting of the chapter, that is the perpetually professed monks who would be voting the next day, to consider several potential candidates for the office.

Saturday began with a Mass of the Holy Spirit, celebrated in the Abbey church. After Mass, the chapter monks gathered in the monastic refectory (the only room large enough to accommodate all the electors) to start voting. By 11 a.m., the Abbey bells were ringing loudly, signaling to all to return to the church for the presentation of the new abbot.

For most, the highlight of the day was the procession of monks returning to the church after the election. The junior monks filed in first, followed by the senior monks. Abbot President Vincent and Abbot Jeremy came in last. The church was full as everyone had come running from all directions when the bells rang. As Abbot Jeremy



Upon obtaining a majority of votes during the election process March 12, Abbot Vincent calls upon Fr. Jeremy to accept the office of Abbot of Mount Angel Abbey.

emerged through the doors, a big cheer and applause arose.

In a brief ceremony, Abbot Vincent presented Abbot Jeremy to the congregation. Each monk then came forward and promised his obedience to the new abbot. Abbot Jeremy concluded the service with a short talk in which he shared with us his abbatial motto: "Seek the things that are above" (Col. 3:1).

THE BLESSING

According to Benedictine tradition, the person elected by the community is abbot immediately upon his acceptance. According to the tradition of the Church, dating back to at least the 8th century and mentioned in the Rule of St. Benedict as early as the 6th century, the church conveys acceptance of the new abbot with a blessing bestowed by the local bishop. The Abbatial Blessing service for Abbot Jeremy took place April 28.

Archbishop Alexander K. Sample, of the Archdiocese of Portland in Oregon, presided at the solemn High



As part of the Abbatial Blessing liturgy, Abbot Jeremy prostrates in the sanctuary while the monastic community sings the Litany of the Saints.



Close to ninety priests, including nine bishops and abbots, assembled to concelebrate Mass for the Abbatial Blessing of Abbot Jeremy on April 28.



As a symbol of his office, Abbot Jeremy receives the Rule of St. Benedict from Archbishop Sample during the Abbatial Blessing liturgy.

Mass, concelebrated by nine fellow bishops and abbots, and close to ninety priests. The Abbey church was filled with seminarians, Abbey staff, Oblate members of the community, and close family and friends of Abbot Jeremy.

The liturgy was beautiful in every way. The entrance procession wound around from the north monastery door, along the walkway and into the main doors of the church before processing to the altar. The most difficult logistical challenge was finding space for all the monks and concelebrants. In the end, the choir and first rows of pews were filled with the bishops, abbots, and priests who had come for the celebration.

At the beginning of the Mass, Archbishop Sample paid tribute to Abbot Gregory, calling him “a true spiritual father” to whom “we all owe our deep gratitude and esteem.”

At the end of the liturgy, Abbot Jeremy addressed the congregation, thanking everyone and giving us a few words upon which to reflect. With that, there was a grand exit, as people went outside to greet Abbot Jeremy and find their way to a reception at the Damian Center.

Pray for us and for our new abbot, as we do for you.

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

Community

NEWS ABOUT MOUNT ANGEL ABBEY

PIETA STATUE RESTORED

Recently, I had the privilege of restoring the Pieta statue as part of an ongoing renovation of the Abbey cemetery's outdoor chapel.

The statue was in a state of decay due to years of exposure to the heat of summer and damp cold of Oregon winters. The paint and plaster were worn, faded, cracked and broken from endless caresses of venerating

and toes were re-attached, and an automotive grade primer was applied. Two base coats of acrylic color were then applied. To create a more dramatic effect in the folds of the garments, an airbrush was used for the shadows and highlights.

I had to modify a few of my favorite brushes to get into all the awkward places, and before I painted the details



The effects of weather and age had damaged the Pieta statue that had graced the Abbey cemetery's outdoor chapel for decades. The skilled hands of Br. Andre Love, O.S.B., have repaired and restored it, so it may inspire the devotion of generations to come.

hands. Mold had found its home in the folds and creases of the sculpture that also provided shelter for generations of insects.

Despite confidence in my skills as an artist, this project was stressful as the Pieta has been with the community since the late 1800s. For the monks, it's a much-loved symbol of devotion to Our Lady of Sorrows. After studying many possible colors and materials, it was decided to use those suitable for an outdoor statue. An eviction notice was served to all the insects before I cleaned the surface and applied chemicals to kill the mold.

As many cracks and chips as possible were filled and sanded. Fingers

of the faces, several studies were done using photos modified on my iPad. Multiple layers of semi-transparent acrylic paint were painted and sprayed to get the skin tones just right.

After the gold details had been added, five coats of satin acrylic polyurethane were applied to seal and protect the paint. All the extra time and effort proved to be worth it. The results speak for themselves, and the community members seem pleased.

The statue is in a side altar of the Abbey church until the renovation of the cemetery chapel is complete.

— Br. Andre Love, O.S.B.



SAINT BENEDICT FESTIVAL '16

MOUNT ANGEL ABBEY

The monks of Mount Angel Abbey invite you to join them for a summer afternoon for communal prayer, picnic and fun at the 2016 Saint Benedict Festival. The event begins with Noon Prayer in the Abbey church and ends with Vespers at 4 pm.

In between, enjoy local farm-to-fork picnic fare prepared by Bon Appetit chefs. Savor craft beer from the Abbey's Benedictine Brewery, and Willamette Valley wines.

Challenge young monks to bocce ball or croquet; join the monks for Hilltop tours; and visit the Abbot's Attic, Abbey Experience, and Abbey Marketplace booths.

The \$50 ticket price (adults only, please) includes the picnic, beer, wine, and all activities. Proceeds support the Abbey's library, retreat center and monastery. Space is limited!

For tickets, call 503-845-3064 or email stbenedictfestival@mtangel.edu.

VOCATIONS

Bring joy and hope

“This is a new chapter in our history – a new abbot, new monks, all in a new century,” says Fr. Odo Recker, O.S.B., on the number of men now in formation at Mount Angel Abbey. The number of postulants, novices, and junior-professed monks preparing for a life in the monastery is one of the largest in many years at the Abbey.

The number of fully professed monks in the Abbey community is 44, with a few serving in parishes and others no longer active due to illness or age. The twenty-one monks in various stages of formation represent over 40 percent of the total community.

“I know well the plans I have in mind for you. Plans for your welfare, not for woe. Plans to give you a future full of hope.” (Jer. 29:11)

In speaking of the young monks-in-training, Fr. Odo, director of vocations at the Abbey, says, “These men are a diverse group. They have quite differing interests; they are multicultural and span a range of ages. What they have in common is they want to be monks; not necessarily priests, but members of a community – specifically, a Benedictine community.”

Fr. Martin Grassel, O.S.B., who serves as the Abbey’s Procurator, is especially conscious of the challenge this situation presents. “Seeing many new vocations is wonderful, but with them come the expenses of food, clothing, and health insurance. Of particular concern is that traditions and standards be maintained. Imagine this was your business, and 40 percent of your workforce was new. The need to absorb the rhythm and character of monastic life, and to form identity requires the careful supervision of the senior monks.”

Br. Timothy, O.S.B., one of the young monks who has taken first vows, is pleased to be part of a growing community. He notices the increased numbers, especially when in choir practice or when the community meets with

the abbot – a gathering that had to be moved to a larger room this year. He realizes the addition of new members requires work on everyone’s part.

“Every time somebody enters or leaves (the community), it is a time of disruption. When living in a community, each brother’s uniqueness becomes apparent. You can recognize someone by a laugh or sneeze or by the way he walks. We become part of one another.”

Br. Bede, O.S.B., another of the young monks in first vows, is aware of the need for continuity. He was especially close to his namesake, the late Fr. Bede Partridge, O.S.B. “We both loved tomatoes. And we were both neat freaks,” he adds with a grin. “When I visited him in the infirmary in 2014, I took him blackberries and whispered to him, ‘I want your name.’ I am glad to see the new brothers. By the grace of God this community will remain. I sense joy in the community, for the Work of God will continue for years to come,” referring to the Opus Dei, the daily offering of prayer by the monks.

Fr. Odo sees the challenges of growth as being like those of a large family. “[These men] are our brothers. We will all pitch in and make this work. There is excitement, esprit de corps, and we want to harness that.”

Many of the monks believe, as does Fr. Odo, that the increase in vocations is the result of prayer. Each evening after supper the community prays the Litany of Saint Joseph, which includes a petition for vocations. Also, many believe the intercession of the late Br. Stephen Cox, a postulant who died in 2014 at the age of 22, is also drawing God’s grace upon the community.

“The Lord has plans for us of which we are unaware,” notes Fr. Odo, who came to the Abbey 25 years ago. “The new men will aid in the work of our community, and in the Seminary as well. We must trust in God to lead the way.”

– *Jim Thompson*



In addition to their classes in monastic life and Benedictine tradition, and attending daily prayers with the community, the postulants share in the manual labor of keeping the Abbey going. This includes simple tasks such as setting the table, or heavier labor like weed whipping the wooded landscape of the Hilltop.



The new group of postulants gathered at the end of March for a photo with Abbot Jeremy and Fr. Odo. In the front row, left to right, Fr. Odo, Br. Matthew, Abbot Jeremy, and Br. Celestine. In the back row, left to right, Br. Ryan, Br. Jonathan, Br. Aaron, Br. Pio, and Br. Benedict.



Chef Paul Lieggi proudly shows off some of the hundreds of greens planted in the Abbey's kitchen garden.



Three postulants, above, prepare rows for planting in the Abbey garden.

God's abundance is found in Abbey garden

Last summer, in a shady patch of land just outside the monastery's kitchen, Fr. Basil Lawrence, O.S.B., put in a plot of tomatoes. The sun-loving plants struggled a bit, but the idea of a kitchen garden thrived. This summer, the Abbey's chef, Paul Lieggi, is making sure the garden is both growing and producing in abundance.

Chef Paul, executive chef for Bon Appétit's food service at Mount Angel Abbey, has worked in the monastery's garden for the past few years. This year, however, is the largest garden yet.

"We have this wonderful food; we need to be good stewards of what has been given us," Chef Paul remarks, gesturing to the newly enlarged garden growing alongside the monastery walls.

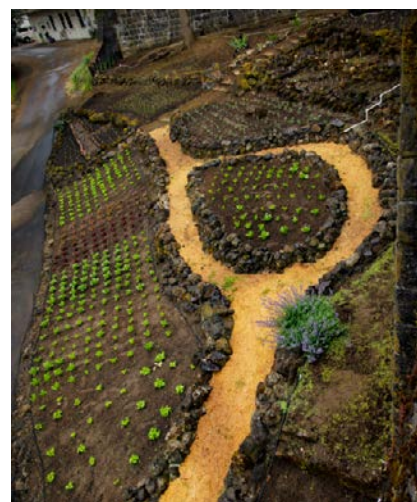
The tomatoes have been relocated to a sunnier space, and the original plot is planted with salad greens, including 375 lettuce plants, and over 500 broadleaf greens. Specialty greens include mesclun, Swiss chard and Italian kale and basil. The garden will supplement the 500-plus meals served daily to the monks, seminarians, staff, and retreat center visitors.

In the early days, all the food consumed by the monks and seminarians was produced on Abbey land. The kitchen garden represents a modest but important return to local production. Chef Paul notes that the garden "not only gives us an opportunity to grow our own food, but also to have a glimpse of what it was like to have fresh produce grown on the property."

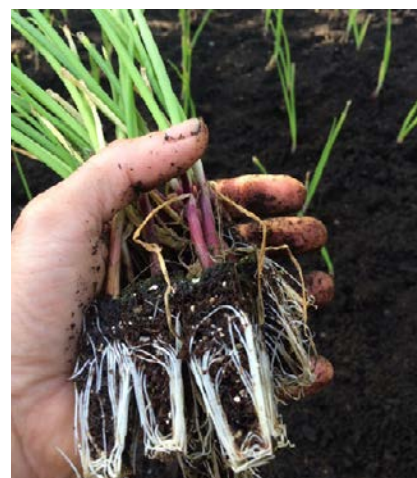
As much as possible, the Abbey purchases food from local producers, including farms in Scio, Lake Labish, and Junction City. "Our growers," says Chef Paul, "have been loyal supporters [of the Abbey], and have provided many of the plants for our own kitchen garden."

The garden is largely cultivated by the younger monks. "The novices are excited about re-connecting with the agricultural history of the Abbey," remarks Chef Paul. "I think it's important for us to get our hands into the dirt. It gives us an unmatched level of appreciation for our food."

— Jim Thompson



The Abbey garden has grown over the past few years, now sloping down from the Abbey walls and planted with salad greens, herbs, and onions.



Hundreds of red onion starts were salvaged and planted in the Abbey's kitchen garden.

Formation

NEWS ABOUT MOUNT ANGEL SEMINARY

PILGRIMAGE TO HOLY LAND

For the past three years, the Deacons of Mount Angel Seminary have had the opportunity to make a pilgrimage to the Holy Land in their final semester. For many, the trip included time for their 5-day Canonical Retreat required prior to ordination.

The trip itself is partially underwritten by a generous benefactor of the seminary, Marilee Thacker, with the remaining expenses covered by the individual seminarian or his diocese.

Seven deacons from Mount Angel made the trip during Holy Week and Easter Week, March 22 through April 3. Fr. Ralph Recker, O.S.B., led the pilgrimage and retreat.

Deacon Leon Vigil, Archdiocese of Santa Fe, and Deacon Arjie Garcia, Archdiocese of Portland, agreed to share some highlights of the trip with the readers of *Mount Angel Letter*. Both men completed their education at Mount Angel Seminary this spring and were preparing for their ordination during the pilgrimage.

The two men experienced moments of spiritual depth during the trip, affirming they now read the Scriptures and preach the Word of God with a new fervor. "It all makes sense now," said Deacon Leon.

The most extraordinary moment for him came during the night while praying at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. He and two other deacons opted to spend the night alone in the church that enshrines the Tomb of Christ. Deacon Leon said he prayed for God "to conquer my stony heart"

as he had conquered the tomb. His prayer was heard in the solitary midnight hours. He was overcome with tears, he recalled, followed by a sense of profound peace.

"Christ is not here (in this tomb)," said Deacon Leon. "Truly, he is Risen. He is alive."

That realization and experience of the risen Christ, he said, has been life changing. His approach to ministry has also changed. "Because Christ continues to live, in him we live and move and have our being."

For Deacon Arjie, it was not just a single moment of transformation. One occurred at the Church of Dominus Flevit, situated on the slope of the Mount of Olives. "There," he said, "the Scriptures made sense: Jesus wept for Jerusalem. Before that moment, it was hypothetical. There, it made sense and became real."

The most profound moment, however, came at the Sea of Galilee, as the group of pilgrims sat on the Mount of Beatitudes and listened as Fr. Ralph read from the Gospel of Matthew (Mt. 5:1-2).

"I could feel the sea breeze and hear the leaves rustling in the trees. I could imagine the original scene. It was a profound, powerful sense of peace."

Moments of transformation came to each of the deacon-pilgrims at various points along the way: at Calvary, in the Upper Room, along the Via Dolorosa. The Holy Spirit worked in each person in a unique way.



Fr. Ralph Recker, O.S.B., celebrates Mass for the deacons from Mount Angel Seminary at the Tomb of Jesus in the Church of the Holy Sepulchre on the morning of Easter Tuesday.

"It was the perfect preparation for ordination," said Deacon Leon. "Just as Mary accepted God's will for her life and said, 'yes,' so we each had the opportunity to renew our yes. We had time to pray and reflect on the life of priestly ministry we are about to undertake. The Lord spoke to me in that place and I came back renewed and refreshed, ready to bring people to Jesus Christ."

— Theresa Myers

Congratulations!

Mount Angel Seminary 2016 Graduating Classes



Bachelor of Arts

Oscar Luis Anaya Cuevas
Diocese of Fresno

Huong Dinh
Diocese of Oakland

Ryan Paul Dixon
Diocese of Fresno

Gerson Alfonso Espinosa Velasco
Archdiocese of Portland in Oregon

Emilio Gonzalez
Diocese of Fresno

Jesús Gonzalez
Diocese of Reno

Neil Giancarlo Frivaldo Guan
Diocese of Las Vegas

Br. Timothy Kalange, O.S.B.
Mount Angel Abbey

Randy Hoàng
Archdiocese of Portland in Oregon

Brian Kim
Diocese of Orange

Br. Rodolfo Martínez Guevara, M.Sp.S.
Missionaries of the Holy Spirit

Walter Martinez
Diocese of Fresno

Peter Joseph Murphy
Diocese of Boise

Luis Alejandro Núñez Lara
Diocese of Monterey

Nicholas Lee Paige-Schneider
Diocese of Baker

Eseese Filipo Tui
Diocese of Honolulu

James Wallace
Diocese of Juneau

Pre-Theology Certificate of Completion

Joshua Daniel Falce
Diocese of Boise

Junghoon Park
Archdiocese of Seattle

Br. Benjamin Dinh Tran, O.S.B.
Mount Angel Abbey

Master of Arts (Philosophy)

Ethan Kevin Alano
Archdiocese of Portland in Oregon

Br. John Cannon III, O.C.D.
Order of Discalced Carmelites

Cheeyoon Timothy Chun
Diocese of Orange

Joshua Thomas Keatley
Archdiocese of Portland in Oregon

Master of Divinity

Anthony Chijioke Ahametule
Archdiocese of Portland in Oregon

John Janer Becerra
Archdiocese of Portland in Oregon

Alexander A. Estrella
Diocese of Sacramento

Arjie Dacua Garcia
Archdiocese of Portland in Oregon

Edgardo Josué García Velázquez
Diocese of Sacramento

Br. John Vianney Lê, O.S.B.
Mount Angel Abbey

Juan Jesús Maldonado
Diocese of Fresno

Joseph Huân Nguyen
Diocese of Orange

Cody Lane Ross
Archdiocese of Seattle

César Solorio Maldonado
Diocese of Fresno

Derek Wayne Twilliger
Diocese of San Diego

Mark W. Uhlenkott
Diocese of Boise

Tetzel Ballogan Umingli
Archdiocese of Portland in Oregon

Leon J. Vigil
Archdiocese of Santa Fe

Deacon Cody J. Williams
Diocese of Helena

Master of Arts (Theology)

Anthony Chijioke Ahamefule
Archdiocese of Portland in Oregon

Andrés M. Emmanuelli Pérez
Diocese of Sacramento

William Bradley Hall

John Kucera
Diocese of Boise

Zani Muyani Pacanza
Archdiocese of Portland in Oregon

Mark W. Uhlenkott
Diocese of Boise

Deacon Cody J. Williams
Diocese of Helena

Baccalaureate in Sacred Theology

Anthony Chijioke Ahamefule
Archdiocese of Portland in Oregon

Mark W. Uhlenkott
Diocese of Boise

Deacon Cody J. Williams
Diocese of Helena

Student and Faculty Awards

Saint Benedict Award: Outstanding progress in human formation.

Deacon Leon Vigil, Theology IV
Archdiocese of Santa Fe

Ryan Dixon, College IV
Diocese of Fresno

Eseese Filipo Tui, College IV
Diocese of Honolulu

Saint Thomas Aquinas Award:

Outstanding academic achievement from a graduate seminarian.

Deacon Mark Uhlenkott, Theology IV
Diocese of Boise

Deacon Cody Williams, Theology IV
Diocese of Helena

Saint Anselm Award: Outstanding academic achievement from an undergraduate seminarian.

Randy Hoàng, College IV
Archdiocese of Portland in Oregon

Saint Michael the Archangel Award:

Creation of a new program or special contribution to an existing program.

Kurt Ziehlke, Theology II
Archdiocese of Portland in Oregon

Saint Paul Award: Outstanding progress in developing preaching skills.

Deacon Anthony Ahamefule, Theology IV
Archdiocese of Portland in Oregon

Saint Bonaventure Award: Outstanding contribution from a faculty member.

Nancy Holt
Associate Director of Pastoral Formation

Bishop Connolly Prize: Submitted project that best represents the Seminary's annual Theological Symposium.

Santiago Henderson
Archdiocese of Santa Fe

Mount Angel Seminary Celebrates 127th Commencement Exercises

By Phillip J. Shifflet

"The fields are ripe! O bless the Lord, our God!" (Psalm 103) echoed through the Abbey Church on Friday, May 13, as Mount Angel Seminary celebrated the annual Baccalaureate Mass concluding its 127th year of forming men for the priesthood.

The Reverend Stephen Clovis, Vice-President for Administration and Director of Pastoral Formation, served as the principal celebrant and delivered the homily. Myrna Keough, Coordinator of Liturgy and Music, and the Seminary Liturgical Choir provided music for the Mass, which included Kevin Allen's polyphonic composition of "Domine Non Sum Dignus."

The Commencement Exercises were held the next day at 10 a.m.

The Most Reverend J. Peter Sartain, Archbishop of Seattle, delivered the commencement address. He began with the question: "Who's wise?"

From where, he asked, does true wisdom come? Archbishop Sartain offered an answer: "True wisdom comes from a relationship with Jesus, one fed by prayer and humble, ongoing conversion."

The Reverend Mister Anthony Ahamefule, a graduate of the Seminary Theology program for the Archdiocese of Portland in Oregon, delivered the annual senior farewell. Reverend Monsignor Joseph Betschart, President-Rector of Mount Angel Seminary, gave the final remarks, and the Right Reverend Jeremy Driscoll, O.S.B., Abbot of Mount Angel Abbey and Chancellor of the Seminary, imparted the final blessing upon the graduates and congregants.

Mount Angel Seminary was established by pioneer monks and began forming men for the priesthood in 1889. The school that came from a humble beginning 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.

The Seminary provides human formation, spiritual direction, rigorous academic instruction, and hands-on pastoral experience, and has educated and formed thousands of priests for service in parishes, dioceses and religious communities throughout the United States and around the world.

There has never been a greater need for spiritual leadership, a need that Mount Angel answers. Forming priests with the mind and heart of Jesus Christ for service to his people is still the primary mission of the monks of Mount Angel Abbey.

For more about Mount Angel Seminary, visit our website at www.mountangelabbey.org/seminary

Fellowship

NEWS FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS

STABILITY, FAITH, AND JOY

Looking north from Mount Angel Abbey, a farm of Polled Hereford beef cattle lies close to the gentle lower slope of the Hilltop. Its co-owner and manager, Joe Kloft, is a 1961 graduate of Mount Angel Preparatory School. The school has since closed, but the alumni remain in touch and have occasional reunions at the Abbey.



Joe's family is the fifth generation to till the fertile soil and raise cattle in the Willamette Valley. His great-grandfather, Casper Kloft, was a stonemason who came from Germany in 1885 and settled to the north of the Abbey. In 1939, Joe's father, John Kloft, bought the family farm that Joe, his son and grandson still work.

Other Willamette Valley farm operations are also under Joe's guidance, as well as a meat processing plant. The Kloft family business specializes in natural, vegetarian-fed meats, raised in a sustainable manner. The quality of the meat delights Chef Paul Lieggi, of Bon Appétit catering service, who oversees preparing meals for the Abbey's monastery, Seminary and retreat center dining halls.

Joe is an enthusiastic and joyful Catholic. For 33 years he has served the RCIA program for St. Mary Catholic Church in the town of Mount Angel, and has led it for the past 18 years. He loves to take those studying the faith up to the Abbey. "I want them to understand what is there," he said. He also invites two seminarians from Mount Angel Seminary to serve as RCIA co-leaders each year.

"This is a real blessing for me," he explains, "seeing people who are looking for peace and happiness finding it in the church."

"Mount Angel was an excellent school experience for me," Joe says. As a young student, his connections to the Abbey already ran deep. In addition to the family's proximity to the Abbey, his great-grandfather Casper was the stonemason for the second monastery (destroyed in the fire of 1926).

Continuity is a hallmark of Joe's life. "I inherited the farm from my father, and will pass it on to my son. It's a happy life."

Commenting on the longevity of the family's farm, he recalled that Father Bernard Sander, O.S.B. (d. 2008), longtime director of the Abbey's retreat center, once remarked to him, "You should be a monk – you've got stability!"

– Jim Thompson

New faces in Mount Angel Abbey's Development Office



Maurissa Fisher
Abbey Relations
Officer
maurissa.fisher@
mtangel.edu.



Connie Tapp, Event
Manager, replaces
Lee Ann Reed, who
has retired.
connie.tapp@
mtangel.edu.



Theresa Myers,
Communications
Manager,
replaces Nadene
Lecheminant, who
has retired.
theresa.myers@
mtangel.edu.

Generosity

NEWS FOR BENEFACTORS AND VOLUNTEERS

A RETREAT, A FRIENDSHIP, A PRIESTLY VOCATION

Judge Malcolm Marsh is a senior federal district court judge for the U.S. District Court of Oregon. His professional career includes having presided over trials concerning fishing rights, election procedures for the Oregon Senate, and school drug-testing policies. He is also a longtime friend and regular visitor to Mount Angel Abbey.

Brian attributes his faith and interest in spirituality to his grandparents. "Grandpa Malcolm has had a huge impact on my life. Grandpa and Grandma were great role models in their faith. Grandma Shari had this tangible, deep relationship with Christ while Grandpa has an incredible philosophical and theological brain."

considered being a seminarian," he said. "So now, it's a beautiful experience for me to spend time with Grandpa while he comes down to visit both Abbot Jeremy and me."

As a native Oregonian of pioneer stock, Judge Marsh has a deep love for his state. As a Mount Angel Abbey benefactor, he believes the Abbey holds great importance for Oregon.

"I see the importance of [Mount Angel] Seminary, but my attention goes to the monks and their prayers. This monastery is an important institution in the state of Oregon. The integrity and consistency of the monks serve us all."

— *Jim Thompson*

"... it's a beautiful experience for me to spend time with Grandpa while he comes down to visit both Abbot Jeremy and me."

The relationship between Judge Marsh and the Abbey began 30 years ago, when he attended a retreat led by Fr. Jeremy Driscoll, O.S.B. In the years that followed, Judge Marsh, a Presbyterian, returned for all but two of the annual retreats. His late wife, Shari, often made the trip with him.

The retreats, said Judge Marsh, "have been a real influence on me – the teaching, the strengthening of my faith, and the friendships." One of the lasting friendships is with Fr. Jeremy, now abbot of Mount Angel Abbey.

"I have had many occasions to spend time with him, including a stay at the beach during which he wrote his book, 'What Happens at Mass,' " Judge Marsh recalls.

The judge now has a new tie to the Hilltop. His grandson, Brian Lorenz, is a seminarian at Mount Angel Seminary.

Retreats at the Abbey have also influenced Brian's path to the priesthood. "The retreats my Grandpa and I would go on with Abbot Jeremy were where I first really



Judge Malcolm Marsh and his grandson, Brian Lorenz, on a fishing trip.



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ABBEY BACH FESTIVAL

The monks of Mount Angel Abbey invite you to join them for the 45th annual Abbey Bach Festival, July 27-28-29

The festival features national and international performers in the beautiful Abbey setting. Evenings begin with Vespers, followed by two musical performances and a picnic supper on the lawn.

Featured performers include pianist Alon Goldstein, Bach's Trio Sonatas with Les Boréades, the St. Paul's Episcopal Church Octet, and the Cavatina Duo.

Come early and visit our renowned library designed by Alvar Aalto. Relax on the Hilltop lawn or visit the Abbey's retreat center.

FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

5:20 PM – Vespers (optional) in the Abbey church

6:00 PM – Musical performance in the Abbey church

6:30 PM – Picnic supper

8:00 PM – Feature performance in the Damian Center

Learn more and listen to musicians' recordings or purchase tickets on the Abbey Bach Festival website: mountangelabbey.org/bach and Facebook: AbbeyBachFestival

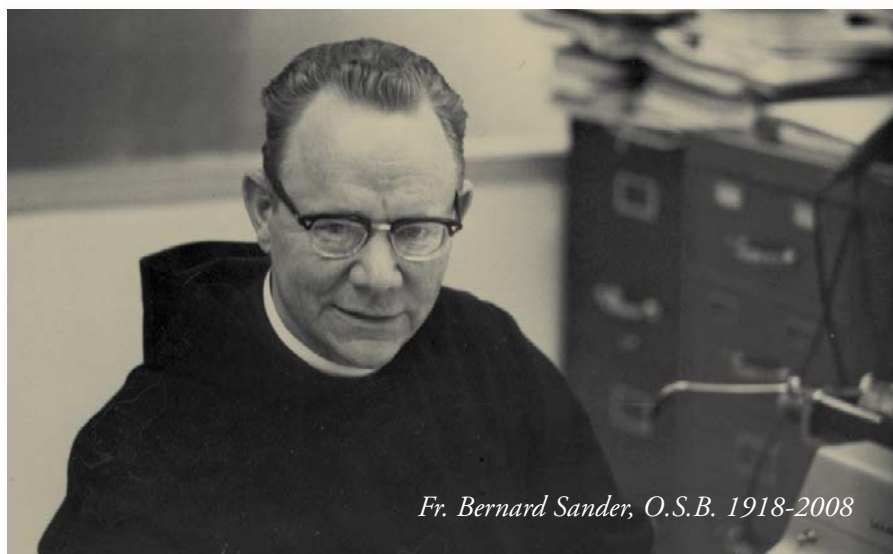
Join the monks of Mount Angel Abbey for the Liturgy of the Hours

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.



Fr. Bernard Sander, O.S.B. 1918-2008

Has your life been inspired by a monk, spiritual director or teacher?

If a mentor at Mount Angel Abbey and Seminary has challenged you to grow in new ways or opened doors to God in your life, please consider planning a gift or bequest to honor them. By doing so, others will have the same life-changing opportunity.

For information, contact Jodi Kilcup at 503-928-0173 or jodi.kilcup@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)