

MOUNT ANGEL | Letter

SUMMER 2023



Mount Angel Abbey
A place of peace and community



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Summer 2023 | Volume 76, Number 1

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Special Thanks to the Monastic Advisory Council for *Mount Angel Letter*: Abbot Jeremy Driscoll, Abbot Peter Eberle, Fr. Pius X Harding, Fr. Odo Recker, Fr. Ralph Recker and Fr. Vincent Trujillo

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Editor: Theresa Myers
Design: Karen Jacoby

Mount Angel Letter is printed using paper milled from responsible FSC approved sources and agri-based inks.



Christus
Magister Medal



Summer
Festivals



Benedictine Peace
and Community

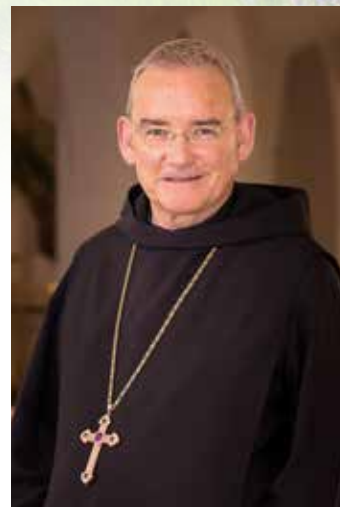


2023
Commencement

Please note our mailing address: Mount Angel Abbey & Seminary, 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 503.845.3030. Please send address changes or comments, along with your mailing label, to Mount Angel Abbey & Seminary at PO Box 497, Saint Benedict, OR 97373-0497.



DEAR FRIENDS,

Last month I received the Christus Magister Medal from the University of Portland, operated by the Congregation of Holy Cross. The honor rightfully belongs to the entire community of monks to which I am privileged to belong, for my fellow monks and the spirit of this Hilltop we call home are what have most profoundly formed and shaped me.

Being formed and shaped by those around us is a theme in this *Mount Angel Letter*. At the Seminary's commencement in May, now Fr. Marc Gandolfo of the Diocese of San Diego delivered the Farewell Address. He noted the graduates' lives have been "forever changed" by their time at Mount Angel.

In a mysterious way, living in a community is often an experience of Christ dwelling among us. We must remain open to receive that grace and allow it to form us as members of his Body.

The formation and personal growth that comes from the influence of those around us is a theme of a new video we have prepared about life at Mount Angel. People come here and find a community of monks, and we are ready to receive all who come as Christ. They also find a sacred silence, the sounds of nature, prayer, and scripture. Here, there is the space needed to hear the voice of God speaking in our hearts, inviting each soul to come, seek things above.

The thought I want to leave with you is the importance of allowing Christ to work in us and form us through the community to which we belong. We Benedictines strive to receive all who come as Christ. What an impact that can have when we truly strive to do that with all those with whom we live and work.

In Christ,

+ Jeremy Driscoll, OSB

The Right Reverend Jeremy Driscoll, OSB
Abbot and Chancellor
Mount Angel Abbey and Seminary





Photo Courtesy of University of Portland. Photographed by Bob Kerns.

Abbot Jeremy awarded the

CHRISTUS MAGISTER MEDAL

At the 2023 commencement ceremony at the University of Portland, Abbot Jeremy Driscoll, OSB, received the university's highest honor, the Christus Magister Medal. Reflecting on the award, Abbot Jeremy said it was "a wonderful experience to be honored in this way ... I received the medal in the context of hundreds of promising graduating students passing by me to receive their diplomas. The honor, of course, heartens me as a recognition of my own work of teaching and writing; but *the honor redounds to my whole monastic community, which has so profoundly formed and shaped me.*"

At the ceremony, it was noted that the medal "reflects the University's deep admiration for Abbot Jeremy's extraordinary ministry, scholarship, and leadership." Special mention was made of the Abbot's work as an author, his scholarly work in the field of Patristics, consultant to the Congregation for Divine Worship, and his 20 years teaching at the Sant'Anselmo in Rome as well as at Mount Angel Seminary.



Satisfying a spiritually hungry world



Our 1,500-year tradition of Benedictine hospitality is at the heart of who we are and what we do at the Saint Benedict Guesthouse and Retreat Center. St. Benedict says in the Holy Rule: Receive all guests as Christ. In 2022, we received more than 2,600 guests who stayed with us for one night or more, as well as many others who came as day visitors.

Fr. Philip Waibel, OSB, guest master, says that he and Stephanie Stoneking, guesthouse manager, prioritize weekend accommodations for groups who come annually for spiritual retreats and workshops. Other groups and individual retreatants are encouraged to come mid-week or whenever space is available.

Mount Angel Abbey sponsors and co-sponsors several retreats throughout the year. Some are for oblates and cover various spiritual topics. Other groups come to host retreats and often reserve space months or years in advance.

Fr. Philip says it is satisfying to watch the transformation people experience during their time at Mount Angel. "People are often spiritually filled and healed by God," he says, "as they take advantage of this place which is so conducive to prayer, rest, reflection, and renewal."

For retreat calendar, see mountangelabbey.org/retreat-calendar



Three men begin
POSTULANCY

On March 20, 2023, Abbot Jeremy and the monks of Mount Angel welcomed three new postulants into the community: (above, left to right) Br. Maliko Madden, Br. Sherif Kamal, and Br. Brandon Contreras. In the Rite of Reception, Abbot Jeremy greeted the men at the monastery entrance, where they received their black tunics of postulancy. In the Abbey church,



they received a special blessing before greeting the other members of the community.

Please pray for our new postulants as they continue their discernment and formation.



BARREL-AGED BEER *brewed to perfection*

In preparation for the 2023 Saint Benedict Festival in July, Fr. Martin Grassel, OSB, head brewer at the Benedictine Brewery, has been cultivating the craft of barrel-aged beer. As the name suggests, an already fermented beer is stored in a wooden barrel for a time, absorbing the flavors of the wood and the previous contents – often wine, scotch, or bourbon. At the festival, the brewery will debut four beers aged in bourbon barrels: Dark Night, St. Raphael, St. Gabriel, and Black Habit.

Fr. Martin says that he would like to have beer barrel-aging regularly at the brewery. For him, it's a way of constantly improving the beer with elegance and finesse. *"God gave us the gifts to serve him; let's use those gifts the best we can, in his service, to glorify him,"* reflects Fr. Martin.



Mount Angel Institute updates

The Mount Angel Institute sponsors a variety of speakers, programs, and events throughout the year to share the rich ways of arts and culture associated with Mount Angel's monastic life with all who come.

For more information about upcoming events, visit mountangelabbey.org/mai.



JUNE 26, 2023

*Scott Kritzer &
Mario Diaz in Concert*

8 pm | Library auditorium



JUNE 30, 2023

Michael Hermes in Concert

8 pm | Library auditorium



JULY 31 – AUGUST 4, 2023

*Beginning Intensive
Iconography Retreat*

8 am – 4:30 pm | Saint Benedict
Guesthouse & Retreat Center

The Classical Iconography Institute returns to Mount Angel with class sessions organized around the Liturgy of the Hours and monastic mealtimes.



In April, Br. Albert Klotz, OSB, presented on the Abbey library's collection of Books of Hours, rare illuminated manuscripts that express the faith and devotion of past centuries.



Summer Festivals at Mount Angel

Each summer, we monks welcome thousands of visitors to enjoy the peace and serenity of our Hilltop. Some come on retreat, others to peruse the library or pray in the Abbey church. Others make their way up the hill after visiting the Benedictine Brewery. But two signature events mark the summer at Mount Angel. The Saint Benedict Festival has become an opportunity for several hundred guests to "feast, pray, and meet the monks" for a full Saturday afternoon. The second, held annually for more than 50 years, is our Abbey Bach Festival, including classical music performed by world-renowned musicians and a picnic dinner on the Abbey lawn. A highlight of this year's festival is the Friday night main concert, *Charlie Chaplin's Smile*, a multimedia presentation by violinist Philippe Quint.

For more information and tickets, visit mountangelabbey.org/events.



SAINT BENEDICT FESTIVAL

Saturday afternoon | July 8



ABBAY BACH FESTIVAL

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday evening | July 26, 27, 28



Walking IN THE LORD'S FOOTSTEPS

"Ever since I was a child, I've wanted to visit the Holy Land, inspired by the stories of my grandparents from their visit," says David Hoang, a seminarian for the Diocese of Orange. Hoang was one of five Mount Angel seminarians who participated in a recent Holy Land pilgrimage led by Fr. Odo Recker, OSB, and Fr. Timothy Kalange, OSB. Juanpablo Macias, a seminarian for the Diocese of Las Vegas, also joined the pilgrimage. He found an unexpected grace in getting to know his fellow pilgrims and "becoming great friends along the way."

About 25 pilgrims made the pilgrimage from May 7 to 20, which included stops in Israel and Palestine.

For more information about pilgrimages sponsored by the Mount Angel Institute, please email mai@mtangel.edu.





MOUNT ANGEL IS A PLACE REMOVED ...

People who come to Mount Angel sense that it is a place removed from the world while still being in it. It's a place of stillness, a place that feels different because it has been shaped by generations of monks who have lived and prayed here. By leaving the world and seeking the things above, we can truly find ourselves in the presence of God. In turn, we are able to share with others the blessings we receive.

These themes run throughout a new video we have produced at Mount Angel, *Portraits of Benedictine Peace and Community*. The video is an artistic and poetic portrait of what happens at this remote Benedictine monastery. Through images and music, the video presents this place and the monastic community that lives, prays, and works here. Viewers will understand how the peaceful Christ-filled spirit of our life is shared with all who come.

When I was invited to work on the video, I understood it was meant to be a reflective, cinematic, and contemplative presentation of our life and work. I loved the idea. This approach can be a powerful means to convey the underlying spiritual and human realities of our monastic life. It is a way of stepping back and seeing things from a different angle, as an artist or an architect might do. It was an opportunity for me to reflect on the essence of what happens on this Hilltop, as well as an opportunity to share our values in a creative way. Words and explanations are good, but visual and musical beauty can sometimes lift the soul in ways words can't.

— BR. ISAIAH VARGAS, OSB

We hope you will mark your calendar for the launch date of *Portraits of Benedictine Peace and Community*, July 8, when we will livestream the video at 7 pm, followed by Vigils, livestreamed from the Abbey church at 7:30 pm. Stay tuned for more details!





Paradisus claustrī MOUNT ANGEL ABBEY

The portrait of the cloister garden behind the monastery at Mount Angel is an acrylic painting I did in the spring of 2022. I wanted to capture the beauty of the place, with the monastery in the background. It serves as bookends to the video, *Portraits of Benedictine Peace and Community*, with the intention of symbolizing that the video is a “portrait” of the monastery and the community which dwells here.

For information about how to purchase a giclée print of *Paradisus claustrī*, please watch for information at mountangelabbey.org/video. The original painting hangs inside the cloister of Mount Angel.

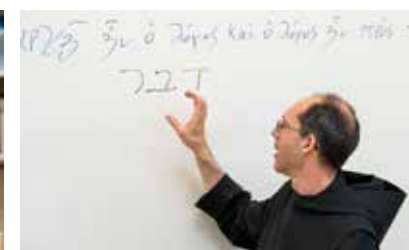
– BR. ISAIAH VARGAS, OSB



Our Benedictine life is a steady rhythm of prayer and work. Whether we are working silently in the cloister, praying the Hours in the Abbey church, or meeting those who visit the Hilltop, the Benedictine Brewery, or St. Mary’s parish, our lives intersect through God’s grace with all who come.



In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. This text from the Gospel of John can be understood as Jesus reaching out and saying, “My Heavenly Father has a place for you. Come, seek him out.” Here at Mount Angel Abbey, all who seek are welcome. In our new video, *Portraits of Benedictine Peace and Community*, we want to share with you what it is like to seek things above as we do here, as Benedictine monks of Mount Angel. It was a beautiful, fun, and creative experience for us to put this video together. On these pages, we want to share some photos of what that process was like and some previews of scenes in the video itself.



Learning that life is a gift

MOUNT ANGEL SEMINARY COMMENCEMENT 2023

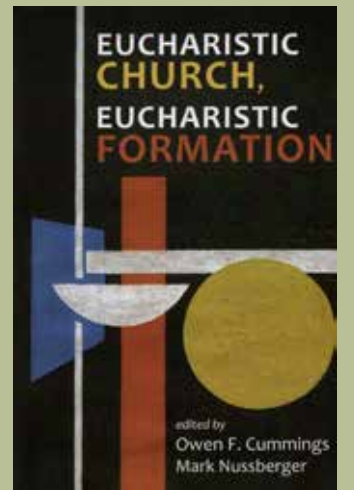
In a sacristy at the pastoral center in Redmond, Oregon, an image from the James Webb Space Telescope shows vast galaxies from far, far away. Back on Earth, Bishop Liam Cary of the Diocese of Baker pauses in front of this image before celebrating Mass each morning to remind himself that “the same creative force that brought this to be, this astounding miracle of creation, is about to work through me to make an even greater miracle at the altar.”

So began Bishop Cary’s commencement address on May 6 for the Mount Angel Seminary Class of 2023. In his remarks on God’s creation of the universe he reflected, “To be human is to know that life is a gift, and the deeper that perception enters into our being, the more human we are.”

The Mount Angel Seminary graduating class gathered in the Abbey church with their fellow students, faculty, monks, family and friends for the celebration of the Baccalaureate Mass and Commencement Ceremony. The full church signified the outpouring of support for all the students and gratitude to God for the completion of the seminary’s 134th academic year.

During the Senior Farewell address, Deacon Marc Gandolfo of the Diocese of San Diego reflected on the centrality of the Eucharist in his seminary formation experience. He shared, “in the same way that in the Mass the gifts are transformed into the Body and Blood of Christ, so we have been forever changed by our time spent here at Mount Angel.”

– ETHAN ALANO



The Eucharist Is Central at Mount Angel Seminary

Upon completing their theological studies at Mount Angel Seminary, graduates often reflect on how their academic years on the Hilltop have deepened their love for and understanding of the Eucharist. That isn’t surprising as the entire study of theology at Mount Angel flows from the Eucharistic celebration and returns to it for deeper reflection.

Recently, the seminary faculty reviewed the program’s effectiveness and reflected on its value for students today. The result is a series of nine essays in the book *Eucharistic Church, Eucharistic Formation*, published by Wipf and Stock Publishers. The book is edited by Deacon Owen F. Cummings, Distinguished Regents’ Professor of Theology, and Dr. Mark Nussberger, Associate Professor of Sacred Scripture. Among the essays contributed by Abbot Jeremy Driscoll, OSB, is “The Benedictine Charism and Communion Ecclesiology.”

Eucharistic Church, Eucharistic Formation can be found in the Mount Angel Abbey Library or purchased from the Abbey bookstore.

THE LORD HAS SWORN AND WILL NOT CHANGE HIS MIND,
'you are a priest forever' ...

— PSALM 110:4

Among the graduates in the class of 2023, ten were deacons who were ordained priests in their home dioceses in the weeks after commencement. Another was a monk of Mount Angel, to be ordained in November. They share some reflections on the priesthood and their time at Mount Angel Seminary.



FR. TIMOTHY SEGERT

Diocese of Boise
 Ordained June 8, 2023

"I'm excited about a number of different priestly activities, *ministering to patients with the Anointing of the Sick and Reconciliation, celebrating Mass*, and being back among the people of Idaho. I feel very blessed."



FR. IAN GASTON

Diocese of Orange
 Ordained June 10, 2023

"I am looking forward to experiencing spiritual fatherhood – *being a father who blesses and gives life* through the administration of the sacraments, in preaching, and in all my daily interactions."



FR. CALEB CUNNINGHAM

Diocese of Baker
 Ordained June 15, 2023

"I have been anticipating this day for many years, and it is hard to pinpoint just one thing to look forward to. *I'm excited to be a priest and do priestly things, especially celebrating Mass...*"



FR. JAMES TASY

Diocese of Fresno
 Ordained May 27, 2023

"I look forward to *preaching the love of God in our joys and sufferings* and ministering to his people in the sacraments. Also, to helping families create a Catholic culture in their homes and to bring more vocations to the priesthood and the religious life!"



FR. ARTURO CISNEROS

Diocese of Fresno
 Ordained May 27, 2023

"With great joy, I look forward to *serving our Lord Jesus and being a conduit of his endless love and mercy to the world* ... to make him present on the altar is one of the most important things I will do as his priest."



FR. MARC GANDOLFO

Diocese of San Diego
 Ordained June 2, 2023

"I am looking forward to hearing confessions and all the firsts that will occur, *continuing to see how my love of the Lord will deepen* and how the Lord will use my gifts to serve the Diocese of San Diego."



FR. EFRAÍN RAZO

Archdiocese of Portland in Oregon
 Ordained June 3, 2023

"In my first year as a priest, I look forward to learning how to be *a good shepherd for the people of God*. I want to have the heart of Jesus Christ the high priest, full of mercy and compassion for all."



FR. NELSON CINTRA

Diocese of Boise
 Ordained June 8, 2023

"As a priest, I look forward to *celebrating Mass and hearing confessions*. I am grateful for the many friends the Lord blessed me with during my time at Mount Angel Seminary and experiencing that I am a beloved son of the Father, with whom he is well pleased."



FR. SYLVESTER CHANDA

Archdiocese of Seattle
 Ordained June 3, 2023

"Mount Angel helped me *fall in love with the Eucharist*. I don't know how I can ever think with the mind of the Church without the Eucharist. I look forward to *celebrating the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass*, breaking open the scriptures, and leading God's people to a deeper union with the mysteries celebrated."



BR. CHARLES BORROMEO GONZALEZ, OSB

Mount Angel Abbey
 To be Ordained November 4, 2023

"From my time at Mount Angel Seminary, I am most grateful for *learning about the person of Jesus Christ and how he is present to all of us* through prayer, community, and the sacramental life of the Church."

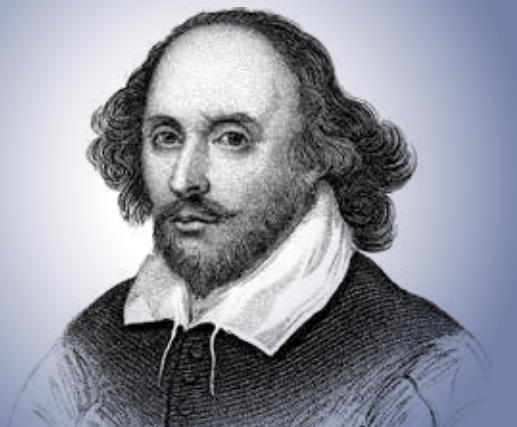


FR. ANTHONY HOANGPHAN

Archdiocese of Portland in Oregon
 Ordained June 3, 2023

"I am grateful for the formation program at Mount Angel Seminary and the environment which allowed me to *focus on my formation: being able to pray with the monks* and creating long-lasting friendships with fellow seminarians."





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CHRISTIAN IN THE WORLD

FALL 2023 SERIES

On Politics and Love: Learning from Shakespeare

Shakespeare's plays have held the stage over time because people have found they speak to the heart about topics that concern them deeply.

In *Richard III*, Shakespeare shows how a deeply flawed man becomes a tyrant and how his conscience – and the consciences of an aroused people – takes him down.

In *As You Like It*, Shakespeare looks beyond clichés to examine how love can avoid the extremes of sentimentality and cynicism to survive over time.

In the fall 2023 CITW series, Fr. Stephen Rowan, PhD, professor of literature at Mount Angel Seminary, will focus on what the wisdom of Shakespeare offers to everyone, but especially to people who are Christians in the world.

SEPT 9, OCT 14, NOV 11, & DEC 9
Mount Angel library

*The Mount Angel Institute sponsors the
Christian in the World lecture series.
For more information, visit*

MOUNTANGELABBAY.ORG/CITW



JOIN THE MONKS OF MOUNT ANGEL ABBEY for MASS AND THE LITURGY OF THE HOURS

WEEKDAYS

Vigils: 5:25 am
Lauds: 6:35 am
Holy Eucharist: 8:00 am
Midday Prayer: Noon
Vespers: 5:20 pm
Compline: 7:30 pm

SUNDAYS & SOLEMNITIES

Vigils: 7:30 pm (Saturday)
Lauds: 6:40 am
Holy Eucharist: 9:00 am
Midday Prayer: Noon
Vespers: 5:20 pm
Compline: 8:05 pm

[SEE MOUNTANGELABBAY.ORG/LIVE-STREAM](https://MOUNTANGELABBAY.ORG/LIVE-STREAM) SCHEDULE.

WAS THERE A MOMENT AT MOUNT ANGEL THAT CHANGED YOUR LIFE?



Many recall particular monks, spiritual directors or teachers whose words and presence made all the difference.

If mentors at Mount Angel have helped you or a loved one to grow in new ways and 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 Susan Gallagher
at 503.845.3030 or 503.312.5425
plannedgiving@mtangel.edu
mtangel.giftlegacy.com

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(Tax ID number: 04-3703021)

Fr. Thien Dang, OSB
1963 – 2015