Mount Angel Abbey
A place of peace and community
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,

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

Abbey Bach Festival
Wednesday, Thursday, Friday evening | July 26, 25, 28

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.

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.

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.
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!

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!
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 claustri, 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 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. 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. 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.”

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.”

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. 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. 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. 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. 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.”

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. 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. Timmothy 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. 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. 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. 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. 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.”

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. 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. Timmothy 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. 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. 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.”

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.”
Mount Angel Abbey & Seminary  
Box 497, Saint Benedict, OR 97373-0497

**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 *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 MOUNTANGELABBEDY.ORG/CITW

**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.

**Fr. Thien Dang, OSB**

1963 – 2015

For information, contact Susan Gallagher at 503.845.3030 or 503.312.5425
plannedgiving@mtangel.edu
mtangel.giftlegacy.com

Please note, when writing your will, please leave bequests and other estate gifts to:

The Abbey Foundation of Oregon
Box 497, Saint Benedict, OR 97373-0497
(Tax ID number: 04-3703021)

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Weekdays</th>
<th>Sundays &amp; Solemnities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vigils: 5:25 am</td>
<td>Vigils: 7:30 pm (Saturday)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lauds: 6:35 am</td>
<td>Lauds: 6:40 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holy Eucharist: 8:00 am</td>
<td>Holy Eucharist: 9:00 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midday Prayer: Noon</td>
<td>Midday Prayer: Noon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vespers: 5:20 pm</td>
<td>Vespers: 5:20 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Compline: 7:30 pm</td>
<td>Compline: 8:05 pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

See mountangelabbey.org/live-stream schedule.