

Winter 2015

# MOUNT *Angel Letter*



*Whatever your work is, put your heart into it ... It is Christ the Lord that you are serving.*

— COLOSSIANS 3:23-24



## DIRECTORY

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WWW.MOUNTANGELABBEY.ORG

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circulation@mtangel.edu

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503-845-3112  
piusx.harding@mtangel.edu

MOUNT ANGEL SEMINARY  
503-845-3951  
seminaryinfo@mtangel.edu

VOCATIONS  
Fr. Odo Recker, OSB  
503-845-3123  
vocation@mtangel.edu

VOLUNTEER PROGRAM  
503-407-8175  
volunteer@mtangel.edu

**On the Cover:** Fr. Augustine DeNoble, OSB, tends plants along the Stations of the Cross path. "The Lord gave me hands to plant flowers and trees," says the 89-year-old.

**Special Thanks** to the Monastic Advisory Council for the Mount Angel Letter: Fr. Paschal Cheline, Abbot Peter Eberle, Fr. Augustine DeNoble, Fr. Pius X Harding, Br. Andre Love, Fr. Odo Recker and Fr. Ralph Recker



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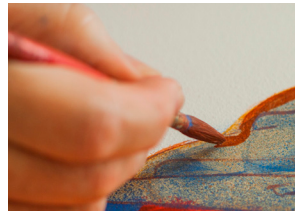
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Please note our new mailing address: Abbey Foundation of Oregon, PO Box 497, Saint Benedict, OR 97373-0497. All other Abbey mail should be addressed to 1 Abbey Drive, Saint Benedict, OR 97373.

Would you like to receive our publications, invitations and news via email? Simply send your email address to [news@mtangel.edu](mailto:news@mtangel.edu).

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.

CONTRIBUTORS to this issue include Abbot Gregory Duerr and Kathy Bean, Msgr. Joseph Betschart, Rev. Stephen Clovis, Br. Lorenzo Conocido, Abbot Peter Eberle, Delbert Haener, Jeanne Hobson, Jodi Kilcup, Suzanne McKenzie, Frank Miller (photographer), Jose Morales, Chris Noud (designer), Phillip Shifflet, Jim Thompson and Richard Yates.

Editor: Nadene LeCheminant

## Dear Friends



In case you've ever wondered what monks do all day, I think I can say – as our Benedictine motto also says – that we “pray and work”! It's the “work” part of our life that this issue of the *Mount Angel Letter* is devoted to, and in my letter to you I thought I would focus on a very special work, a work that St. Benedict says we should prefer above all, namely the Work of God. That term, “Work of God,” refers to the Divine Office, or Liturgy of the Hours, which takes up a substantial part of each day, beginning with Vigils at 5:25 in the morning and – like spokes radiating out from the “hub” of the daily Eucharist – continuing with the community's gathering again for Lauds at 6:30 a.m., for Noon Prayer at midday, for Vespers in the later afternoon, and finally, in the evening, for Compline.

A very pragmatic society might wonder why so much time is devoted to chanting the Divine Office, when there is so much other work that needs to be done! Well, society may rest assured that monks do engage in “other” work too, but it's just that they're convinced of St. Benedict's statement that “NOTHING IS TO BE PREFERRED TO THE WORK OF GOD” (*Rule of St. Benedict* 43:3). And there is good reason for that preference! There is good reason for the Lord to be given his due of grateful praise from the people who have been so blessed – indeed saved – by him!

In chapter 16 of the *Holy Rule*, St. Benedict wrote that it is “our obligation of service” that we fulfill day and night in the Hours of the Divine Office, which he organized with such care. It is in these Hours, he wrote, quoting from Psalm 119, that “we should praise our Creator for his just judgments.” And what are his just judgments? Well, from our New Testament perspective, what greater “just judgments” can be found than in the Father's saving “plan” that he offered in our behalf through his Son, Jesus Christ? Year after year, in *lectio* and liturgy we have contemplated and celebrated the saving mysteries of Christ, and we have more than ample reason – indeed, compelling desire – to “praise our Creator for his just judgments”! With what enthusiasm of praise and thanksgiving should we not sing, for example, that wonderful Psalm 111, as we do at Sunday Vespers: *I will thank the Lord with all my heart ... Great are the works of the Lord! They should be studied by all who delight in them. All he does is splendid and glorious; his generosity stands firm forever!*

*Abbot Gregory Duerr, OSB*  
Abbot Gregory Duerr, OSB



Many seminarians played instruments and sang at the Mass of the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe in December.

# Surprised by the Lord

The Most Reverend Carlo Maria Viganò, Apostolic Nuncio to the United States, recently made a visit to Mount Angel Seminary. In offering praise for what he called the “beautiful institution” that is the Seminary – and borrowing a word he said Pope Francis uses often – he said Mount Angel was one of the “surprises” the Lord puts in our lives.

“When we set out on a journey, when we are on our path, we always encounter new things, things we did not know,” the Holy Father said. This is also true of our seminarians. Here are some of the new experiences and insights that surprised them.

## WAS MY CALLING TO THE PRIESTHOOD UNEXPECTED?



I never expected this to happen. What surprised me most was that it was profoundly connected to who I am, my deepest desires and my gifts.

Santiago Feu, *St. John Society*



It was not a surprise, but I can’t say that it was entirely expected. I grew up with the desire and hope to become a priest. As my understanding of the priestly vocation matured, this desire and gratefulness for this vocation was only strengthened.

Mark Uhlenkott, *Diocese of Boise*

It was the last thing I ever wanted for my life! But God spoke to me throughout high school and beyond, until I couldn’t resist his call. What surprised me was that I thought seminary life would not make me happy, but I feel alive and content beyond words as I think about being a priest for the rest of my life.

Ben Bray, *Archdiocese of Seattle*

## WHAT SURPRISED ME ABOUT FINDING MYSELF HERE ON THE HILLTOP PREPARING TO BE A PRIEST?



That the Seminary wasn’t a place I thought it would be, with nothing but prayer and quiet and studies all day. Instead, it’s a place of formation and fraternity, in a way that helps us not only to become men of God, but down-to-earth men as well.

Stephen Cieslak, *Archdiocese of Portland in Oregon*

That this place is on the opposite side of the world from where I was born, with a different culture and language. Jesus wanted to make me a New Man.

Santiago Feu, *St. John Society*



I sold my house, and gave up a nice job and dating, but every day here I’m filled with more joy, and find that I’m more certain this is exactly where God wants me to be.

Kurt Ziehlke, *Archdiocese of Portland in Oregon*



What surprised me was the community, and knowing that all of us here are really working for the same purpose.

Conor Baer, *Archdiocese of Seattle*

## WHAT SURPRISED ME ABOUT PRAYER?



That meditating on the Gospel has healing powers and that daily prayer can enter deeply into my heart.

Santiago Feu, *St. John Society*

What has been my constant surprise is what God says to me! Sometimes nothing is said, but sometimes when I bring a worry, I find peace in my prayer when I least expect it. Whenever I go into prayer, I leave all expectations at the door; everything is on God’s time and everything unfolds when I am ready to receive it.

Ben Bray, *Archdiocese of Seattle*

## WHAT IS SOMETHING UNEXPECTED I LEARNED IN CLASS?

In my pastoral ministry class, “Cultivating the Priestly Heart of Jesus,” I learned how the priest is a true spiritual father. I had heard this many times before, but it took on real meaning as we discussed it in class. Prior to coming to the Seminary, I had wanted to be a husband and father, which contributed to my hesitancy about becoming a priest. This class taught me that I am not losing my fatherhood, but that I will be a father in a different, yet amazing, way.

Ben Bray

## AND READERS MAY BE SURPRISED TO KNOW THAT:

- Deacon Tim Ferguson was trained in canon law and has served as a judge, defender and canonist.
- John Mosier worked as an executive for Sony and is a Marines combat veteran.
- Alex Woelkers spent a year in Guatemala volunteering at a mission working with the poor.
- Matthew Lontz is a licensed private pilot and flies Cessna 172’s and Piper Archer III’s.
- Joseph Paddock was the controller for the Nevada operations of Amazon.com before coming to the Seminary.
- Kurt Ziehlke is a registered nurse and combat veteran.
- Nathan Dail has written screenplays and edited films.
- Rodrigo Llorente has a degree in architecture.
- Andres Guerra played professional soccer for the MLS reserve team for Chivas USA.

To learn more about our seminarians, visit the student blog at [masjournalism.blogspot.com](http://masjournalism.blogspot.com).

# Formation

NEWS ABOUT MOUNT ANGEL SEMINARY

## SIX SEMINARIANS ORDAINED AS DEACONS

In October, six seminarians were ordained to the diaconate by the Most Reverend Alexander K. Sample, Archbishop of Portland in Oregon. Newly ordained deacons included Pio Afu of the Diocese of Samoa-Pago Pago; Jose Victor Gutierrez and Michael Ritter of the Diocese of Sacramento; Br. John Paul Le, OSB, of Mount Angel Abbey; and Br. Charles Nawodylo, OCD, and Br. Peter Mary Vecellio, OCD, of the Discalced Carmelite Province of St. Joseph. The newly ordained deacons will serve at Mass and preach in local parishes, and may assist with baptisms, marriages and funerals.

- Story by seminarian Phillip Shifflet



Photo: Seminarian Jose Morales

Jose Victor Gutierrez is ordained by Archbishop Alexander Sample of the Archdiocese of Portland in Oregon.

## New candidates take step toward priestly ordination

The Seminary and monastic community joined together to offer prayers and congratulations to 13 men admitted as candidates for Holy Orders. This summer these men will, God willing, be ordained as deacons. Next year they will return to Mount Angel Seminary for their final year of theological studies before their ordination to the priesthood in 2016.

New candidates include John Becerra Oviedo and Arjie Garcia of the Archdiocese of Portland in Oregon; Alexander Estrella of the Diocese of Sacramento; Juan Maldonado and Cesar Solorio Maldonado of the Diocese of Fresno; Joseph Nguyen of the Diocese of Orange; Cody Ross of the Archdiocese of Seattle; Derek Twilliger of the Diocese of San Diego; Mark Uhlenkott of the Diocese of Boise; Leon Vigil of the Archdiocese of Santa Fe; and George Watson III, Cody Williams and Alex Woelkers of the Diocese of Helena.

- Seminarian Phillip Shifflet

## HOLY FATHER NAMES MOUNT ANGEL ALUMNUS NEW BISHOP OF FAIRBANKS

We offer prayers and congratulations to the Most Reverend Chad W. Zielinski '89. Pope Francis named the military chaplain the new Bishop of the Diocese of Fairbanks, in Alaska. The northernmost diocese in the country is spread over several hundred thousand square miles and encompasses people from many cultures.

Bishop Zielinski has not only served in parishes; he has ministered to Air Force personnel in Afghanistan and Iraq, working with people from diverse backgrounds in highly stressful situations. The Mount Angel alumnus is noted as a humble, prayerful servant of the Lord.



Photo: Delbert Haener '63

## Autumn harvests bring friendship and outreach

Pastoral formation takes many forms. In the fall, College 2 seminarians harvested the last vegetables of the season for families at St. Joseph Shelter in Mt. Angel. The transitional shelter, a ministry of the Benedictine Sisters of Queen of Angels Monastery, supports families as they work toward self-sufficiency and a home of their own.

When Deacon Scott Baier and his pastoral supervisor, Rev. Jim Coleman, noticed that local grower and Seminary benefactor Delbert Haener '63 had an abundance of unpicked cauliflower in his fields, they asked if they could harvest it for the Abbey dining hall. Dr. Katy Leamy, who teaches moral theology at the Seminary, and members of her course on Stewardship and Simplicity also helped fill a truckload.



## SEMINARY BENEFIT DREW HUNDREDS FOR LIVELY EVENING

More than 840 guests gathered in Portland for the 11th annual Seminary Benefit Dinner. The evening opened with seminarians entering the darkened room carrying candles and singing "Be Thou My Light." Special guest, the Most Reverend Carlo Maria Viganò, the Apostolic Nuncio who serves as Pope Francis' ambassador to the United States, offered high praise for the Seminary. He read and presented a letter on behalf of the Holy Father, offering his congratulations to the Seminary on its 125th anniversary and imparting his apostolic blessing to the monastic and Seminary community and its benefactors. More than \$920,000 was raised to support priestly formation at Mount Angel.



## SEMINARIANS CELEBRATE VIETNAMESE FESTIVAL

Carrying on an ancient tradition celebrated in Southeast Asia, seminarians, monks and priests gathered under a moonlit sky in reminiscence of the Mid-Autumn Moon Festival. The Vietnamese festival marks the end of the harvest season. Seminarians drank tea and ate moon cakes, perhaps contemplating their own harvest to come – the harvest of the Lord's people.



## ANNUAL THEOLOGY SYMPOSIUM WELCOMED VISITING SCHOLAR

At the end of the fall semester, the Seminary held its annual theological symposium with guest speaker Msgr. Kevin Irwin, a prolific writer and speaker, and one of the most renowned liturgical theologians in the country. His address was entitled "The Benedictine Charism and Liturgical Formation in Seminaries." The annual symposia provide opportunities for seminarians to explore some aspect of theology or ministry under the leadership of recognized experts in the field.

# WORK AS PRAYER

*Whatever your work is, put your heart into it ... It is Christ the Lord that you are serving.*

— Colossians 3:23-24

More than 1,500 years ago, St. Benedict set forth guidelines that still have relevance in our contemporary world, not only for monks, but also for lay people. A monk's central mission, St. Benedict said, is to praise God through the Liturgy of the Hours. But monks, he said, must balance their life of prayer with the dignity of work.

Mount Angel monks care for the sick, minister in parishes, teach at the Seminary and offer spiritual direction at Guest House retreats. They also mop hallways, wash church windows and pull weeds. Monks come by their work skills in a variety of ways. For example, Br. Mariano Alva-Ramirez, who works in the barbershop, learned to cut hair by watching YouTube videos.

Our own search for happiness can be informed by the monks, who have discovered that a life grounded in prayer and contemplation can bring meaning and purpose to work. In serving others with our hands and hearts, we are serving the Lord.



## BR. MARVIN RAMOS, OSB, AND BR. JOSEPH KALANGE, OSB

"Life in the monastery is like that of a family," says Br. Marvin. "We share possessions and care for one another." The novice monk assists elderly monks in the infirmary, which gives him a sense of joy. "I consider them my fathers, my elder brothers," he says. Br. Marvin also provides hospitality to visiting clergy and monks as Assistant to the Monastery Guest Master. He serves at meals and in the laundry, cares for monastery plants, and provides decorations for the church. "These are all opportunities to seek God in humility and obedience," he says.

"As a novice, I'm given a year to study what it means to be a monk," says Br. Joseph. "It's a time to experience the traditional tasks that novices do – a time of discernment." Br. Joseph, who helped produce videos before he came to the monastery, serves at the altar, assists with housekeeping and laundry, does yard work and serves as Assistant Wine Cellarer. "These mundane tasks lend themselves to prayer and help us grow closer to God," he says. "Our work is generous, loving service to the monastic community. We're all in this together."

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## FR. PHILIP WAIBEL, OSB

Fr. Philip came to the Hilltop at age 14. Formed by the Abbey schools and monastery, he has filled many roles, including 16 years in the Seminary. He now serves more than 1,300 households as pastor of St. Mary's in Mt. Angel, offering Sacraments in English and Spanish and providing practicum experiences for Seminary students. "The parish reflects Benedictine spirituality and hospitality," Fr. Philip says. "Everything I am as a person, a monk and a priest I bring to this work each day." As time permits, he enjoys calligraphy and beekeeping. Follow Fr. Philip at [www.stmarymtangel.org](http://www.stmarymtangel.org) or @stmarypastor.

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## FR. AUGUSTINE DENOBLE, OSB

Fr. Augustine (left) tends the plants along the Stations of the Cross path. "The Lord gave me hands to plant flowers and trees," he says. The 89-year-old extends the same care to people; he is loved as a confessor, and for many years he has served as a research librarian at Mount Angel Abbey Library. "I love to help students," he says. "If I can help them get an 'A' or prepare for advanced studies in Rome, I feel awfully good." The research librarian also assists Catholic and non-Catholic scholars from around the world.





### BR. JESUS MARIA LEIJA, OSB

The confreres of Br. Jesus Maria have dubbed him “the Wrench.” He prays the Divine Office, studies at the Seminary, and works in the Abbey garage, repairing cars and even wheelchairs. “I am first and foremost a monk, and I am studying for the priesthood,” he says. “But after hours of study, it’s a breath of fresh air to do something different. I get tremendous gratification from working with my hands and fixing things, and I’m able to save the community a lot of money and keep them safe.”

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### FR. TERESIO CALDWELL, OSB

Fr. Teresio accompanies monastic choral singing and congregational hymns on the Abbey’s pipe organ. The organist and Abbey choirmaster also is editing a new Mass book. “I put my heart and soul into what I do, whether it’s organ practice or editing,” he says. “I begin by asking God for help, and often am surprised by the musical treasures he puts in front of me.” Fr. Teresio, a priest, also ministers to nearby parishes. “I love to serve people,” he says. “Often, when meeting visitors, I am giving them their first encounter with a monk.”

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### BR. GREGORY BENAVIDEZ, OSB

Br. Gregory pays attention to small details as he prepares the church for the daily Divine Office. He tends sacred vessels used for Mass and lays out priestly vestments in the sacristy, and then puts the church back in order after everyone has left. “It is a graceful job,” he says. “It is humbling. I’m inspired by saints who were sacristans, such as St. Theresa of the Little Flower.” Br. Gregory also welcomes visitors and leads tours at the Guest House. There, he brings the same gentle attention to details, planting flowers in the back garden.

### BR. CLAUDE LANE, OSB

When Br. Claude was a boy, he looked at picture books of icons with his German-Russian grandmother, and later copied them onto scraps of wood with a pen. Since that time, he has created hundreds of vivid icons in a small studio in back of the monastery; they hang in sacred spaces around the country. Br. Claude, who helped found the Mount Angel Abbey Iconography Institute, tells his students, “White paint is our enemy, until it is our friend.” Before he “writes” an icon, he prepares himself with prayer and meditation, hoping to create a gift from God.

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### FR. LIEM NGUYEN, OSB

“Formation is the process by which our seminarians become priests, instruments of God,” says Fr. Liem, who has served as a Seminary Formation Director for 20 years. “I like this work because I work best one by one,” he says. “Students give me a sense of wonder. We come together with our different gifts and the grace of God works in our lives.” Fr. Liem also cares for the monastery’s telephone system. “It’s my hobby,” says Fr. Liem, who was given the job two decades ago because he is good at math.

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### FR. PIUS X HARDING, OSB

As Guest Master for the Abbey Guest House and Retreat Center, Fr. Pius welcomes people of all faiths to spend time in prayer and quiet reflection. “We want to provide a place for those who seek God in a personal and intimate way,” says Fr. Pius, who offers spiritual direction to visitors – and even sometimes bakes pastries and cakes for them. “In the Benedictine tradition, all guests are received as Christ.” Fr. Pius also conducts retreats around the country, especially for Benedictine Oblates. “Retreats allow us to rest, both physically and spiritually,” he says.

– Jim Thompson and Nadene LeCheminant



# Community

NEWS ABOUT MOUNT ANGEL ABBEY



Photo: Seminarian Jose Morales

Monks accompany seminarians to their diaconate ordination in October.

## MONKS' CORNER

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



☀ The sun is out again after a few cool, cloudy and (praise the Lord!) rainy days. Fickle beings that we are, most of us had enough of the warmth and sun after the hot and dry summer. Naturally, by midwinter we will all be on the verge of despair, wondering if the sun will ever shine again.

☀ Father Basil harvested over fifty pounds of beans from the monastery garden, and the tomato plants are loaded. However, we may settle for green fried tomatoes because he got them in a little late, and only now are they starting to turn red. Oh well, there is always next year.

☀ The alumni reunion for former Seminary students was quite successful, with 30 people present. We were all invited to introduce ourselves. Some said more, some said less, some said a whole lot. It was heartening to hear people speak of their love of and loyalty to the hill.

☀ The brewery business is moving forward. Six cases were available in the Abbey gift shop on October 17, and by the next morning, they were all gone. The recipe for pale ale is almost ready to go. (Father Martin told me not to call it "light" beer. It's *pale* ale.)

Well, that's it. Pray for us as we do for you. As always, Abbot Peter

## SOLEMN-VOWS

Br. Gregory Benavidez, OSB, Br. Jesús Maria Leija, OSB, and Br. Andre Love, OSB, made their final and solemn vows in what is one of the most powerful and moving of all monastic ceremonies. Br. Novitiate Hoan Tran, OSB, professed simple vows. Please pray for them.



Photo: Br. Lorenzo Conocido, OSB



Photo: Br. Lorenzo Conocido, OSB

## MONKS STAGE WHEELS PARADE IN MONASTERY GARDEN

In the fall the monks staged a Wheels Parade to inaugurate new pavement in the monastery cloister garden. The parade was led by Br. Marvin Ramos, OSB, carrying the Abbey banner, and monks joined in with scooters, a garbage can, a mop bucket and a bike. But the main event was a wheelchair race that pitted Fr. Jeremy, OSB, "The Intimidator," against Fr. Paschal, OSB, "Angel Wings." Abbot Gregory, OSB, relates that the two monks "roared around the track in their electric wheelchairs at breakneck speeds that must have approached five miles an hour!" Fans off the Hilltop weighed in on the Abbey's Facebook page: "Father Paschal, your scooter needs a tune-up!" and "Fr. Paschal would have won it all if they were racing for chocolate."

Check the online video at [mountangelabbey.org/media](http://mountangelabbey.org/media) to find out who won the race!

## CONSECRATED LIFE CONFERENCE HELD AT ABBEY

In December, the Archdiocese of Portland collaborated with and joined the monks in sponsoring a daylong conference at the Abbey. The conference was dedicated to the Year of Consecrated Life, a year that honors the lifelong devotion of men and women who dedicate their lives to God as members of religious orders, living as nuns, monks, clergy or hermits.

## SAINT BENEDICT FESTIVAL '15

Join the monks for our new Saint Benedict Festival on Saturday, July 11, from noon to 5 p.m. You'll be treated to a delicious catered picnic, live music and a recital, lawn games with the monks, arts and crafts from monasteries around the world, "behind the scene" tours of the Abbey, brews from our own Benedictine Brewery, and more. Visit [mountangelabbey.org/saint-benedict-festival](http://mountangelabbey.org/saint-benedict-festival) for more information.

# Fellowship

NEWS FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS



## ALASKAN PRIEST REACHES FLOCK BY PLANE, KAYAK AND TWITTER

Fr. Thomas Weise '02 commutes to celebrate Mass with his two parishes, by four-seater plane on Sunday mornings, and at midweek, by ferry. In nice weather, he kayaks. He ministers to about 200 families on two islands in Southeast Alaska, in the remote cities of Petersburg and Wrangell. "Instead of people island-hopping to go to church, the priest goes to them," he says.

He serves people at the first and oldest church in Alaska, Saint Rose of Lima, established in 1879, and his only lament about Mount Angel Seminary is that the curriculum didn't include church repair.

"These are small communities," Fr. Thomas said. "People take care of each other." They help him repair the church and keep him stocked in bear, moose and salmon. On his walks around town, he stops and visits with people of all faiths, or no faith at all, and each spring, he joins other pastors to bless the local fishing fleet. "I consider myself a priest to all the people on the islands, not just Catholics," he said. "Ministry in Alaska is very different from ministry in the lower 48. I often feel like a missionary proclaiming the Gospel to people for the first time.

"Mount Angel Seminary prepared me well," said Fr. Thomas, who served as a deacon at St. Mary's in Mt. Angel, where he established a scripture reflection circle that is ongoing. "I loved learning and being on the Hilltop," he said.

Now Fr. Thomas reaches his far-flung flock, including many Native Alaskans, through blog posts and Twitter feeds – when the Internet works. You can hear a podcast of his weekly homily at [sempergumbyinalaska.blogspot.com](http://sempergumbyinalaska.blogspot.com). But he'll also continue his weekly commute, through snow, sleet and sunshine. "My ministry is a ministry of presence," he said.



TOP Fr. Thomas Weise commutes to Mass by four-seater plane, kayak and ferry. ABOVE Fr. Thomas and his parishioners do their own church repairs.

## MOUNT ANGEL ALUMNI RECONNECT AT HOMECOMING REUNION

In the fall alumni returned to the Hilltop to celebrate 125 years as a school of the Lord's service. They came from around the United States, including Alaska, Florida, California, Minnesota, Montana, Idaho, Washington and Oregon, and represented the class years 1949–2010. To see online photos, visit [mountangelabbey.org/homecoming-2014](http://mountangelabbey.org/homecoming-2014).



## ABBOT JOSEPH WOOD (1923–2014)

**1923** Born in San Francisco, California

**1941** Graduated from Chehalis High School in Chehalis, Washington

**1940s** Served in the Army during and after World War II

**1949** Bachelor's degree in Sociology, University of Portland

**1949** Entered Mount Angel Seminary

**1952** Made solemn vows

**1956** Ordained as a priest

**1959** Master's degree in Sociology, Fordham University

**1960s** Prefect of the Minor Seminary, teacher in the Seminary high school and college, Subprior and Procurator in the Abbey

**1973** Director of Continuing Education and Director of Seminary Summer Program

**1976** Pastor of Sacred Heart Parish in Tillamook, Oregon

**1979** Director of Ministries, Archdiocese of Portland in Oregon

**1981** Director of Clergy Personnel, Archdiocese of Portland

**1985** Pastor of St. Paul parish in Eugene, Oregon

**1991** Assigned to the Monastery of the Ascension in Jerome, Idaho (Mount Angel's daughter house)

**1997** Elected Abbot of Mount Angel Abbey, resigned in 2001

**2014** Passed away December 17

## Rest in Peace, Abbot Joseph

Abbot Joseph Wood, OSB, a much-loved monk and Abbot with many friends from near and far, passed away in December at age 91.

His election as Abbot surprised him more than anyone. He was 74 years old and living at Mount Angel's daughter house, the Monastery of the Ascension in southern Idaho. When he came to Oregon for an abbatial election and a vacation, he assumed he would vote, greet the new Abbot, and be on his way. But God had other plans. He voted, and so did his confreres – and he ended up spending the next four years as Abbot of Mount Angel Abbey.

During his long and fruitful life as a monk, priest, pastor, teacher and administrator in the Abbey and Seminary, and with the Archdiocese of Portland in Oregon, Abbot Joseph held many important and responsible positions. Most of his callings were unsolicited and many were difficult, but he always left each place a little better than he found it.

Abbot Joseph had a passion for social justice, which he imparted to his students. During his tenure as Abbot (1997–2001), he improved development outreach and management of Hilltop departments. He also established the Seminary board of directors and traded two Abbey-run Portland parishes for parishes closer to the monastery.

Abbot Joseph genuinely loved people, loved to tell stories, and loved to make others laugh, often at his own expense. "I'm a people person," he once said. "I like to go around and touch bases. Every environment has its wounds. I'd like to bring healing."

Shortly before Christmas, Abbot Joseph went with joy to meet his Lord. He will be dearly missed.



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*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.



*Abbey  
Bach  
Festival*

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ABBAY BACH FESTIVAL  
JULY 29-31

The Abbey's unique music festival, now in its 44th year, features national and international performers. Evenings in the beautiful Abbey setting begin with Vespers, followed by two musical performances and a picnic supper on the lawn, served by the monks. Purchase tickets online!

503-845-3064

Bach@mountangelabbey.org



## LONG-AGO MONKS WARMED MONASTERY DURING WARTIME

*Ora et Labora* ... pray and work. Prayer as work, work as prayer. The two become inseparably entwined in a soul given to God.

Fr. Patrick Meagher, OSB, and Fr. Stephen Hofmann, OSB, showed the beauty of this Benedictine practice during the World War II oil shortage. They sawed wood to heat the monastery, allowing Mass and the Liturgy of the Hours to be prayed in a place warmed by their labor. Fr. Stephen also dug ditches, shopped for "deals" as procurator, and taught philosophy – in Latin. In his advanced years, he drove a hopped-up golf cart to visit the sick at the Towers and the Benedictine Nursing Center, visiting the Stations of the Cross on his way back up the hill.

– Suzanne McKenzie '01