

Winter 2017

MOUNT Angel Letter



*If there be skilled workmen in the monastery, let them work at
their art in all humility, if the abbot giveth his permission.
(Rule of St. Benedict 57:1)*



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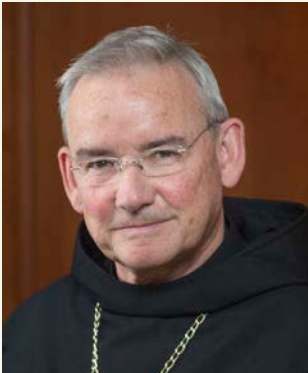
On the Cover: Br. Andre Love, O.S.B., works on a sculpture of St. Benedict.

Editor: Theresa Myers





Dear Friends



As it has been for many of you, our winter here at Mount Angel Abbey has been harsher than in recent years. In fact, we've had to close our offices more than once because of inclement weather and poor road conditions.

For our employees (and seminary students), weather closures can be welcome news and seen as an unexpected holiday. The same can be said for us monks. Although, some may wonder, "Don't the monks get claustrophobic in the winter, stuck in the same place all the time?" It's a fair question. Especially since we not only live in a somewhat remote location but we also take a vow of stability to stay in this place throughout our lives.

When monks decide to stay in a place their whole lives and dedicate themselves to building up that place into a monastery, they give glory and honor to God. And when those monks know that others will carry on after them, there arises a desire to create a place of beauty that will last. This desire has been given expression in thousands of monasteries through the centuries. Within this stream of monastic tradition, love of beauty and its expression as a path to God is also part of the monastic life here at Mount Angel.

In addition to the beauty of the buildings and landscape on the Hilltop, the arts in so many forms contribute to the beauty of this place. Music, for example, renders our worship beautiful. Likewise, the fine arts are important in the liturgy, but they also adorn every other living space and activity on the Hilltop. Even the furnishings and vessels we use daily are beautiful and made to last.

Beauty in a place can create a momentum to refine things even more, just as lack of it can impede that momentum. Thus, in all that is undertaken and planned at Mount Angel, the conditions for creating beautiful things is considered a necessary ingredient of the project.

That's why it seems fitting now and then to take a look at the way a few of the monks at this Abbey practice art. While it wasn't possible to fit in a mention of all of the monks who "do" art, those highlighted in this issue may speak for the rest. And as the stories and photos convey so well, there is a connection between the prayer and spirituality of the individual monk and the art he is inspired to create.

For all of my fellow monks who are sensitive to beauty as a path to God, I am grateful. When I look at them and see what God is doing in them, I see something marvelous, and I give thanks for them. And, as always, I remain thankful to God for each of you. Without your prayerful support and friendship, none of what we endeavor to do here at the Abbey would be possible. With a heart full of gratitude, I say to each of you: Thank you.

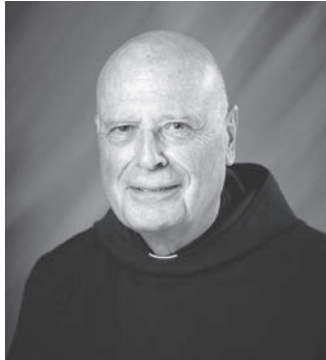
God bless you,

+ Jeremy Driscoll, OSB

The Right Reverend Jeremy Driscoll, O.S.B.
Abbot and Chancellor
Mount Angel Abbey and Seminary

MONKS' CORNER

COMMUNITY LAYS TO REST MONK AND MILITARY CHAPLAIN



*Rev. Leo Rimmele, O.S.B.
October 22, 1929 – October 5, 2016*

Fr. Leo Rimmele, O.S.B., was known by his brothers at Mount Angel Abbey as a man of wide horizons. Described as a “handy man,” he was often called upon during his early years in the community to perform a variety of tasks, especially those requiring some skill with electricity. He’s remembered for having set up a phone

system across the Hilltop. He also installed a second elevator in the monastery and new refrigerator units in the kitchen. But as he was laid to rest October 11, he was remembered best as a fellow monk who had generously answered the call from the Catholic Military Ordinariate in the 1960’s to dedicate himself as a military chaplain.

Born October 22, 1929, in Los Angeles, he attended Catholic elementary school before starting as a freshman at Mount Angel Seminary High School. He joined the Mount Angel Abbey community as a novice two years into his college seminary studies and made his first vows September 8, 1950. He was ordained a priest May 19, 1955.

In 1966, Fr. Leo began his career as a military chaplain, spending many years overseas in Vietnam, France, Germany, Korea and Turkey. In Vietnam in the late 1960s,

it was not unusual for Fr. Leo to celebrate up to seven Masses on any given Sunday for military personnel. In 1969, he was awarded the bronze star for “exceptionally meritorious achievement” for his service in Vietnam.

Except for a few assignments at the Abbey, Fr. Leo spent his senior years as a military hospital chaplain. He retired from his post at Madigan Army Medical Center and the American Lake Veterans Hospital, both in Tacoma, Wash.

He died at the Edward C. Allworth Veterans’ Care Center in Lebanon, Ore., on Oct. 5, 2016, at the age of 86.



Following a Pontifical Mass of Christian Burial, Fr. Leo was laid to rest in the Abbey cemetery in a wooden coffin constructed by his brother monks.

ABBHEY’S DAUGHTERHOUSE IN CUERNAVACA GAINS INDEPENDENCE

As the bells at Mount Angel Abbey rang out on January 1, calling the community to prayer for the Solemnity of the Mother of God, the monks had a special reason to celebrate. Their daughterhouse in Cuernavaca, Mexico, the Monasterio Benedictino de Nuestra Señora de los Angeles (Benedictine Monastery of Our Lady of the Angels) had just received notice of its independence.

The community in Cuernavaca was founded in 1965 at the request of Bishop Sergio Méndez Arceo of the diocese of Cuernavaca. Mount Angel Abbey’s Fr. Ambrose Zenner,

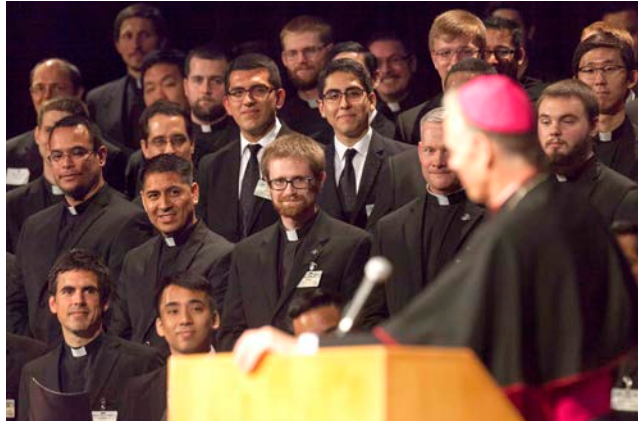
O.S.B., and Br. Boniface Arechederra, O.S.B., were initially sent to Mexico to begin the foundation. Now, more than 50 years later, the community was declared an independent Conventual Priory of the Swiss-American Congregation.

Abbot Jeremy Driscoll, O.S.B., was in Cuernavaca for a week in December finalizing the petition for the community’s independence. He will return toward the end of February for the community’s election of the their first prior as an independent house.

HOPE MARKS 2016 SEMINARY BENEFIT DINNER

More than 1,000 guests gathered at the 13th annual Seminary Benefit Dinner on November 6, in support of Mount Angel Abbey and Seminary. That was a 25 percent increase in attendance above past years. The evening celebration, held at the Oregon Convention Center, raised a record-breaking \$1 million through table sponsorships and donations, which goes a long way toward covering the monks' \$1.3 million annual subsidy to keep the seminary affordable for dioceses.

Throughout the evening, more than 150 seminarians shared vocation stories and joined their guests for dinner. They also provided musical entertainment and mingled with the large crowd during the pre-dinner reception.



In his opening remarks at the 2017 Seminary Benefit Dinner, Archbishop Alexander Sample, of the Archdiocese of Portland in Oregon, asks attendees to consider the many seminarians standing behind him as the hope and future of the church.

In his remarks, Archbishop Alexander Sample commented that one of his greatest joys in leading the Archdiocese of Portland is the presence of the Benedictine community of Mount Angel Abbey and the seminary they operate.

Abbot Jeremy continued the theme of hope in his address, saying that the formation of priests "devoted to the liturgy, prayer, study, and gracious hospitality is what Mount Angel Seminary is about."



Seminarian Dominic Sternhagen welcomes guests to the 2017 Seminary Benefit Dinner.



LOVE FOR READING LEADS TO LIBRARY CAREER



Josef Sprug began his work at Mount Angel Abbey in 1988, employed in the Alvar Aalto library as a cataloger

and indexer of the library's rapidly growing collection. It was a job he was well qualified for, having earned a B.S. in Library Science and an M.A. in Philosophy from the Catholic University of America.

The son of an immigrant from what was then the Austro-Hungarian Empire, Sprug grew up in Fort Smith, Arkansas, during the Great Depression. Poverty kept him at home as a child, where he filled his hours with reading. It was his love of reading that led him to a career as a professional librarian.

Over his many years of employment, and later as a volunteer at the Abbey library, Sprug's special interest was the rare book collection.

"Working with the old books here have been the best years of my life. Making rare books known and available to people is something I love to do," he recalled upon retirement. It is estimated that he cataloged more than 24,000 books during his years of service. Beyond his work at the Abbey library, he is known more broadly for indexing the works of G.K. Chesterton, in what is now a standard reference.

At his recent retirement, library administrator Victoria Ertelt said that, "over the past twenty-five years, Josef devoted thousands of hours to the Abbey library. His vast knowledge, as well as his wicked sense of humor have made him an esteemed co-worker for library staff and an invaluable source of wisdom for the Hilltop community."

Library employee Bruce Flath contributed to this story.

— Jim Thompson



The world-renowned library at Mount Angel includes a vault holding ancient and rare manuscripts dating back to the thirteenth century.



SMOKED SALMON NETS AWARD FOR CHEF PAUL

It's not unusual for Chef Paul Lieggi of Bon Appetit and head chef at Mount Angel Abbey and Seminary to win high praise from the 300-plus people he feeds daily on the Hilltop. Providing fresh, sustainable meals for monks, seminarians, employees and visitors is both his job and his passion.

A favorite dish he served this past year was aromatic hardwood smoked salmon, sourced from the Nez Perce, Umatilla, Yakima and Warm Springs tribes of the Northwest. He also entered it in the prestigious 2016 Good Food Awards competition. Among a total of 2,059 entries in 14 categories from 38 states, Chef Paul's hoop-caught salmon was one of 291 finalists selected in a blind taste testing process.

But tasting good was not the only criterion for the award. Fish entries must be: caught or farmed in U.S. waters; processed and handcrafted in the U.S.; sustainably sourced; traceable; free of GMOs; and caught and served with respect and fair compensation for everyone working on the vessel, farm and in the kitchen.

When the Good Food Award winners were announced January 20 in San Francisco, Chef Paul was there to receive his first place medal in the preserved seafood category. The salmon also received the 2017 good food seal.

Community

NEWS ABOUT MOUNT ANGEL ABBEY

THE ARTIST'S EYE

If there be skilled workmen in the monastery, let them work at their art in all humility, if the abbot giveth his permission. (Rule of St. Benedict 57:1)

This passage in the Rule of Benedict led to one of the more important questions I was to answer during the discernment period prior to my entry into the monastery. The abbot asked me how would I feel if I was not asked to work as an artist for the community. The question was truly a test of the spirit.

My initial reaction was to balk. Ever since my youth, I have identified as an artist. This identity has completely shaped how I perceive and interact with the world. The abbot might as well have asked me to stop being a man. Impossible; it is who I am. After some reflection it occurred to me, this must be how the rich man felt when Jesus told him to sell all he had, give to the poor, and follow him. (Luke 18:22)

My answer to the abbot was that I came to the monastery to be a monk not an artist. I gave that response in trusting obedience to God. He knows my heart and my deepest desires. He alone knows where I will find fulfillment.



vocabulary of symbols or through mindfully arranged exhibits in the museum, I am participating in a silent dialog with the many visitors of Mount Angel Abbey. My hope is that I can convey with integrity the relevance and connectedness of all God's universe.

"... no matter what task I am assigned it will be accomplished in an artistic manner. It will be brought to fruition with a mind and heart sensitive to form and design, beauty and order."

I did, however, add one little caveat. Namely, that no matter what task I am assigned it will be accomplished in an artistic manner. It will be brought to fruition with a mind and heart sensitive to form and design, beauty and order.

Upon entry to Mount Angel Abbey, I was blessed with the opportunity to share my talents as an artist, as a means of contributing to the community. For this, I am extremely grateful. I see in my role, as artist and curator of art for the Abbey, the ability to share the Gospel message in a unique way that seems tailored for my personality. By using a

Of course, the monastery is a busy place and art is not all I am assigned to do. But even when I am scrubbing toilets, it is done with an artistic eye for detail. I find myself trying to add just the right measure of cleanser to the bowl to achieve a perfect shade of blue, similar to the sky on a cloudless summer day. In this way, I am expressing my appreciation for the beauty of creation. This humble endeavor most likely will go unnoticed, but it is still done that God may be glorified in all things.

– Brother Andre Love, O.S.B.



CREATING ART *at the* ABBEY

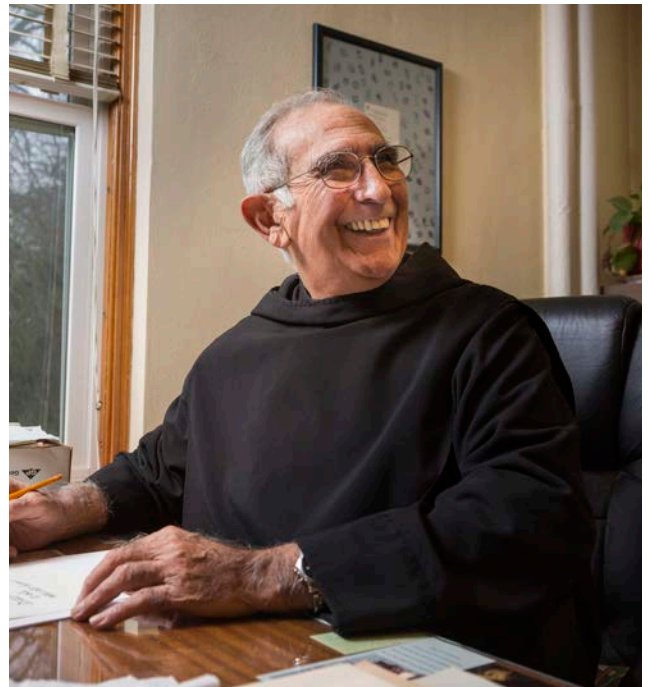
Given the natural beauty that surrounds Mount Angel Abbey, it's no surprise that the community tends to attract men with an artistic eye. While some monks over the years have become acclaimed artists, they don't do art to be recognized. They do it because that is who they are. Whether creating beautiful, functional items from reclaimed wood, composing music for a new Mass, or taking photographs in an effort to capture and share emotions beyond words, the monks strive to give glory to God. Through their art, they find themselves guiding others to God.



BR. CLAUDE LANE, O.S.B.

One of the best-known artists currently at Mount Angel Abbey is Br. Claude Lane, O.S.B. At the invitation of then-Abbot Bonaventure, O.S.B., Br. Claude has written icons since 1985. It has been his primary work since 1992. In the luminosity of his icons, he depicts “heavenly light shining down on this (earthly) reality.”

Br. Claude has also described the writing of icons as a struggle. The conditions to take up the struggle are found in the daily Benedictine routine of prayer five times a day. It's in that prayer, he says, that an icon begins to take shape. “As the monks pray the Psalms,” he says, “it's almost as if the Lord permits the act of creation. I can actually feel myself getting His help.”



PRIOR VINCENT TRUJILLO, O.S.B.

I studied calligraphy at Reed College for two summers with the great Lloyd Reynolds. He used to say that what is needed in order to write well is *ruah*. A Hebrew word meaning breath, or spirit, *ruah* appears often in the Old Testament. It's a dynamic force. It's what gives life to whatever it is that you're doing. You have to exhale to get the word out. Then you have no breath left. You give life out, only to receive life back. It's a continuum. If you don't have something of that spirit in what you're doing, your work may be beautiful, but in some way, it will lack life.



FR. TERESIO CALDWELL, O.S.B.

Composing music can take on a life of its own. When I start, it's not always clear what the end will be. Each work is a learning process that will help the next project. It's a rewarding process and something for which I give glory to God. I'm very grateful to be able to do it. It brings much peace that can be shared with others. The Mass that I am working on now has been influenced by the daily chanting of the psalms that we are so immersed in here at the Abbey. I found that in the composition, there is a hint of some of the chant styles and melodies we use. The Kyrie, for example, has a chant feel and utilizes cantors and a choir. This contrast provides variety and interest as each line resolves harmonically. The Mass will be sung for the first time in concert by the Willamette Master Chorus at the Abbey in May. (See the back cover for details.)



BR. LORENZO CONOCIDO, O.S.B.

As a photographer, I have learned to pay close attention to my surroundings. With frequent prayer, especially daily *Lectio Divina*, I find myself becoming more receptive to what each moment presents. As a photographer, as much as I can, I don't try to interpret the moment. I try simply to capture it. It is the element of surprise that makes photography exciting and enjoyable. The best pictures aren't the ones I put a story to or attempt to interpret. It's always what the situation is giving to me and I try to capture the emotion, the experience of it. Through photography, I share that moment and that emotion with those who view the photo.



WOODWORK PROVIDES TIME FOR REFLECTION

Brother Alfredo Miranda, O.S.B., looks around the carpenter shop at Mount Angel Abbey and a smile of contentment washes over his face. He is at home here.

“Jesus was a carpenter for far longer than he was a prophet,” says Br. Alfredo. “I think I know the reason. He would take pieces of wood, remove the bad spots, work with what was left, and create something beautiful.”

It is what God does with souls.

And it is what Br. Alfredo does with wood, taking pieces that had been used for things such as furniture or bookcases and transforming them for new uses. As a relative beginner in the wood shop, he started out on simple projects such as beer carriers and quickly moved on to crafting prayer stools.

“When he first came to the shop I asked him if he had ever worked in carpentry or had any artistic talent,” recalls Tony Morris, the Abbey’s lead carpenter. “He said ‘no’ to both questions.

“Either he wasn’t being entirely truthful or he underestimated himself,” says Morris.

“Actually, he really didn’t know about the woodworking machines,” says the carpenter. “He had no fear of the

“He does some really beautiful work and he’s always thinking of new ways to do things. He’s always pushing to do something better, coming up with his own ideas.”

machines and at first we thought he was going to lose a finger or two.”

Br. Alfredo holds up both hands to show he still has all 10 fingers and they both laugh.

“But he is quite artistic,” says Morris. “He does some really beautiful work and he’s always thinking of new ways

to do things. He’s always pushing to do something better, coming up with his own ideas.”

Perhaps the finest pieces of craftsmanship turned out by the carpenters are the simple pine caskets set aside for use when the need arises. The caskets are simple in design yet elegant in execution, with tight interlocking joints and a cover that is designed to look like the door to each monk’s cell.

Br. Alfredo came to Mount Angel Abbey in the summer of 2016. He is a native of El Salvador and took his first vows in Esquipulas, Guatemala, in January 2015.

“My mother said that the first time I said I wanted to be a priest was when I was three years old,” he says.

In Guatemala he worked at a basilica, assisting the priests giving communion and during retreats. He was constantly working closely with people, and it wasn’t uncommon to have Mass at a church packed with 5,000 worshippers, speaking a dozen or more languages.

“Here I work with wood,” he says. “The satisfaction is different. At the basilica I was busy with people all the time. Here I have the chance to think and reflect while I work.

“What I am doing here is building things for other people to use. There is satisfaction in that. Doing things for others, that is one of the reasons for our work as monks.”

– Jerry Boone

Formation

NEWS ABOUT MOUNT ANGEL SEMINARY



(Left) Br. Jorge Haro Moreno, M.Sp.S. and Br. Rene Alvarez, M.Sp.S., Mount Angel seminarians and Missionaries of the Holy Spirit, lead a procession for the celebration of Our Lady of Guadalupe on December 10. A crowd of fellow seminarians carrying flags from various countries of North and South America and several hundred people who attended the Mass follow.

The Spanish-language choral group of Mount Angel Seminary sang for the concelebrated Mass, after which everyone processed back to the Damian Center for refreshments and entertainment.

In addition to the seminarians, nearly 500 guests participated in the festivities. The entertainment included music from the mariachi band Azteca de Oro, and performances by the Aztec dancers and the Ballet Folklórico Tlanese, and songs by the Filipino and Vietnamese communities.

— Abundio Colazo Lopez, College III President of the Hispanic community Mount Angel Seminary

CELEBRATION FOR OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

One of the biggest celebrations for the Hispanic community at Mount Angel Seminary each year – and one of the largest events at the Abbey – is for the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

This year the celebration was Saturday, December 10. The event began with a procession along the Hilltop mall,

moving from the Damian Center to the Abbey church, with seminarians in front carrying a large image of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Then came seminarians carrying flags from various North and South American countries followed by Aztec dancers. A crowd of seminarians, monks and visitors completed the procession.



Mount Angel Seminary welcomed a number of bishops, religious superiors and vocation directors for the annual Episcopal Council in late October. The meeting coincided with the Mass of Candidacy on October 20, at which nine Theology III seminarians were admitted as candidates for ordination as deacons and priests. The liturgy marked the beginning of their final preparations to offer themselves in loving service as ordained ministers in the Church. In the photo above, the nine newly admitted candidates for ordination assemble with visiting bishops, religious superiors, and (front, center) Archbishop Alexander Sample of the Archdiocese of Portland in Oregon, who presided at the concelebrated Mass. To the archbishop's right is Abbot Jeremy Driscoll, O.S.B., chancellor of the seminary. To the archbishop's left is Msgr. Joseph Betschart, president-rector of Mount Angel Seminary.

CHRIST AS SON OF GOD IS TOPIC OF FALL SYMPOSIUM

On Monday and Tuesday, November 21 and 22, Mount Angel Seminary held the 2016 Theological Symposium as part of the newly established Archbishop Robert J. Dwyer lecture series. Rev. Thomas

Weinandy, O.F.M.Cap., spoke about the Incarnation of Christ and related issues in Christology.

Fr. Weinandy is a Capuchin priest and renowned scholar in the fields of Christology and Trinitarian

theology. He holds an M.A. in Systematic Theology and a Doctorate in Historical Theology. During the last forty years, he has held various academic positions at institutions such as Georgetown University, Franciscan University of Steubenville, and the University of Oxford. Two years ago, he was appointed to the International Theological Commission by Pope Francis. He is also the author of dozens of popular books and articles on faith and the sacraments in addition to many scholarly works of theology.

The annual symposium is part of the seminary's academic formation program and involves both lectures and lively discussion sessions.

– Phillip J. Shifflet, Theology II
Diocese of Orange



The Rt. Rev. Jeremy Driscoll, O.S.B., abbot of Mount Angel Abbey and chancellor of Mount Angel Seminary (left), and Rev. Thomas Weinandy, O.F.M.Cap.



Three seminarians studying at Mount Angel Seminary, all belonging to religious communities, were ordained to the diaconate in the Abbey church on October 29. From left to right, Br. Bede Clark, O.S.B., of Prince of Peace Abbey, Br. Matthias Lambrecht, O.C.D., Carmelite House of Studies, and Br. John Vianney Le, O.S.B., of Mount Angel Abbey, receive the laying on of hands from Archbishop Vlazny during the ordination Mass.

SOCCER MATCH PROMOTES FRATERNITY AMONG SEMINARIANS AND PRIESTS

The first St. Benedict's Cup soccer match was held at Mount Angel Seminary on October 30. It was the first of what may become an annual competition, initiated to promote fellowship between the priests serving in the Archdiocese of Portland and the seminarians of Mount Angel Seminary.

The team of priests included several Mount Angel alumni, who faced the seminary soccer team, the Mount Angel Guardians.

Although the seminarians seemed to have more raw energy, the priests had experience. Fr. Anthony Ahamefule, parochial vicar of St. Cecilia Parish in Beaverton had been a star member of the Guardians until his ordination last June. Now he played for the opposing side and was a force on the priests' defense.

Seminarian Brody Stewart, from the Archdiocese of Seattle, broke

through and scored the first goal for the Guardians. Fr. Fredy Bonilla, seminary alumnus and parochial vicar at St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Salem responded with a beautiful corner shot.

The priests' team included a wide variety of ages; the most senior athlete was Fr. Jim Coleman of St. Luke Parish in Woodburn, age 70.

"I did make a cameo appearance," Fr. Coleman says. "My hope was to touch the ball once. It did come to me and I tried to kick it out of bounds. Unsuccessful."

A seminarian retrieved the kick and produced a goal for the Guardians.

"It was fun, but I think this may have been my swan song," Fr. Coleman concluded. He plans to participate as a spectator next year and hopes to build up the fan base.

Though the priests played hard, they lost 6-3.



Seminarian Alex Nelson attempts to evade Fr. Ignacio Llorente during the St. Benedict's Cup, a soccer game held October 30 between priests from the Archdiocese of Portland and Mount Angel seminarians.

Throughout the game, there was a spirit of camaraderie that continued as the priests joined the seminarians post-game for evening prayer and dinner.

As a result of the game, a group of priests has resolved to put together an indoor team and start to play regularly — to promote fellowship among themselves, and of course, to be prepared to claim the St. Benedict's Cup next year.

— Dominic Sternhagen, Theology I
Diocese of Salt Lake City, Utah.



A first-ever soccer match between seminarians of Mount Angel Seminary and priests of the Archdiocese of Portland was held October 30 at the seminary. The seminarians prevailed, but the priests put up a good defense. Few came away unmarked by the day's muddy field.

Fellowship

NEWS FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS

ORA ET LABORA PROVIDES BALANCE IN PARISH LIFE

Most alumni of Mount Angel Seminary remember graduation as a time of joy and hope (mixed with a little anxiety) about the future. Fr. Jeff Meeuwsen, '07, remembers graduation as a broken nose, two black eyes, and the fog of pain medication.

His disfigurement, soon to be corrected by surgery, was the unintended result of a friendly game of baseball. "I was taken off [pain killer] two days before ordination to the priesthood," he recalled. For Fr. Jeff, seminary was a time of intense social engagement, unexpected new friendships, and steady growth into maturity and commitment for the work of a priest.

"I arrived as a college student, and tried to play the role," he recalled. When I put on some loud heavy metal a fellow seminarian introduced himself as 'a quiet one.'"

The message was understood, and an abiding – if unexpected – friendship was formed.

"The most influential part of seminary for me was the Benedictine *ora et labora* (prayer and work). I learned to pause in my work and pray the Liturgy of the Hours. Admittedly, the first year was frustrating; the second year it was coming together;



the third year I liked it. By the fourth year I loved praying the Hours."

Today as pastor of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Aloha, Ore., Fr. Jeff continues the Benedictine discipline, and teaches it to others. He leads weeklong day camps for his younger parishioners – fittingly called *Ora et Labora* – in which the participants intersperse work projects with times of *Lectio Divina* and prayer.

In late December 2016, Fr. Jeff took his group to visit the Abbey. "They were especially impressed with praying Noon Prayer with the monks. They wanted to see where I had gone to seminary. I only wished I had time to show them everything."

Fr. Jeff's seminary graduation was followed by parish assignments in Medford, Forest Grove, and three years studying Canon Law in Rome.

Now Fr. Jeff serves in the same valley where his great-grandfather, Anton Meeuwsen, settled and farmed in the late nineteenth-century.

There will be plenty of *labora* for the new pastor. The next phase of construction on his parish site will be a new office, chapel, and an enlarged food pantry.

Fr. Jeff remains thankful for his experience at Mount Angel Seminary. Despite his obvious aptitude for canon law, he puts his emphasis on the priesthood: "I really did love my time at seminary. They didn't train me to be a student; they trained me to be a priest." And, we presume, to dodge baseballs.

– Jim Thompson

Generosity

NEWS FOR BENEFACTORS AND VOLUNTEERS

FAITH AND FAMILY ARE CENTER OF COUPLE'S LIFE

Bob and Jean Fessler, founders of Woodburn Nursery and Azaleas, have quietly put the values of their faith and family to work for almost fifty years.

Bob's Swiss-German grandfather settled in the Mount Angel area; Jean's family settled in St. Paul, Ore. Today they live in Mount Angel and are surrounded by the families of their five adult children. Together, the family owns and operates one of the largest and most innovative nursery operations in the United States.

"The good Lord has treated us well," reflects Bob. "We have a nice family, all living within a few miles. And our family works well together." He gives credit to the education given him by the monks at Mount Angel Abbey's former high school, and to the prayers of the monks and of their friends at St. Mary's church in Mount Angel. The Fesslers have an obvious love for both the Abbey and their parish, especially for Fr. Philip Waibel, O.S.B., pastor of St. Mary's. "He's so good with the children," Jean comments. "The kids love him."

The Fesslers are themselves loved by people in their community. Woodburn Nursery has over 200 employees, many of whom have worked there for more than 20 years. The business in some ways is an expression of the family's values, extending to the care and encouragement of the workers. Bob and Jean's son, Tom Fessler, who manages the Woodburn operation, says, "We encourage [our employees]



to think beyond what they do to how we can make the operation better."

While their children handle much of the operational oversight, Bob still enjoys making the rounds of the five different locations of the business and talking to the employees. He modestly explains, "If I'm not around for a while, they miss me."

When asked about their support of Mount Angel Abbey and Seminary, Bob puts it simply: "We need priests." Nothing is more encouraging to the Fesslers than attending the annual Seminary Benefit Dinner in Portland. "This year was the best," says Jean. "It just gets better and

better. It's so good to be met by the seminarians at the door, and to have two of them at our table. The program and food are excellent. It took no effort for us (as table hosts) to fill out our table this year."

The Fesslers can be found at many of the Abbey events, especially the St. Benedict Festival in July. "There has never been anything at the Abbey at which we did not experience a great welcome," said Jean.

— Jim Thompson



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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.

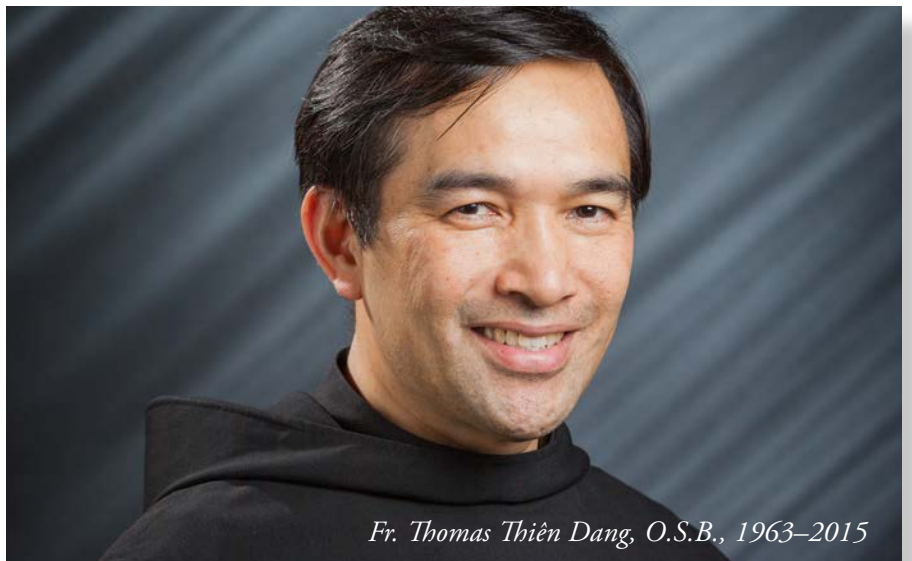
Sacred Music at the Abbey

This spring, as they have done for the past several years, the Willamette Master Chorus will perform a concert of sacred music at Mount Angel Abbey.

Included in this year's concert will be Ralph Vaughn William's Mass in G minor for double choir; Arvo Part's Magnificat; and, Maurice Duraffle's Lord's Prayer. Debra Huddleston is organist.

The concert will also feature parts of a new Mass, written by Fr. Teresio Caldwell, O.S.B., of Mount Angel Abbey. Fr. Teresio has been a member of the chorus since 2008 and credits his experience there as helping him with his composition. While he has written the initial version of the Mass to be sung in a four-part choir, his intent is to compose a version that is equally beautiful and accessible for a parish congregation or for his own community of men's voices to sing at the Abbey.

The concert is at 3 p.m. Sunday, May 7 and 21, in the church at Mount Angel Abbey. Tickets are \$25, open seating. They can be obtained at willamettemasterchorus.org. Tickets purchased in advance are recommended as this concert frequently sells out.



Fr. Thomas Thiên Dang, O.S.B., 1963–2015

If a monk, spiritual director or teacher has changed your life ...

If a mentor at Mount Angel has challenged you to grow in new ways or 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 503-845-3077 or susan.gallagher@mtangel.edu.

Please note, when writing your will, our legal title and address is:
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