MOUNT | Letter





NSIDE THIS ISSUE

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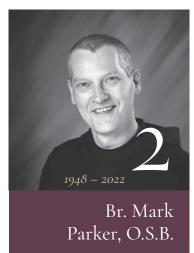
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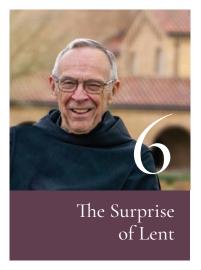
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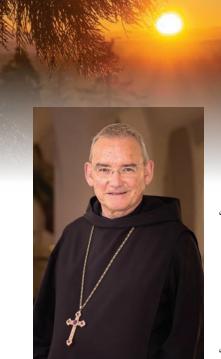


Seminarians Live a Life of Service

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DEAR FRIENDS

We have experienced another winter in the shadow of the pandemic, and perhaps we have felt its interruptions more than we did previously: canceled flights, canceled gatherings, more exposures, and more sickness. The words "maybe" and "if" characterized most scheduled plans and activities, and we experienced some of this contingency in our Hilltop life.

Nevertheless, the contingency of certain things reminds us of what is truly lasting, namely "the things that are above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God" (Colossians 3:1). The season of Lent that we are in is a wonderful invitation to grow in our desire for that eternal communion with the Blessed Trinity and to hold fast to our Lord Jesus Christ, who "is the same yesterday, today, and forever" (Hebrews 13:8).

In this issue of the *Mount Angel Letter*, we want to share with you how we live Lent in the monastery according to the Holy Rule of St. Benedict. We hope that the wisdom of our monastic tradition can enrich your living of this holy season in preparation for the joyous celebration of Easter.

Although surprising, perhaps, Lent is also a season of great beauty since our souls become more beautiful and radiant as we engage more deeply in prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. To that end, we are happy to feature in this issue stories on the artistic beauty of the Hilltop and our efforts to promote that through our new monastic docent program, as well as stories of lives well-lived through our seminarians, donors, and alumni.

We are grateful for your friendship, prayers, and support, which makes all that happens here possible.

Peace to you in Christ,

+ Jeung Micoll, OSB

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

MONKS' CORNER

NEWS FROM THE CLOISTER

IN MEMORIAM

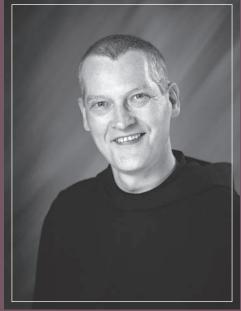
Br. Mark Parker, O.S.B., a life of generosity

For many years, Br. Mark Parker, O.S.B., was the first monk to greet visitors to the Hilltop bookstore and was the bookstore manager from 1996 to 1999. But the assignment that may have put him in touch with the most friends and correspondents of Mount Angel was his work with the Oremus prayer program.

The Oremus program receives requests from thousands of people each year for prayers and Masses to be said for their intentions. Br. Mark made sure that each request was recorded correctly, responded to, and posted for the monks

to remember in their daily prayers. It was a work that seems a far cry from the life of John Parker growing up in Fairbanks, Alaska, and going on to study at the University of Washington. Those were his "unchurched" years, and after college he found himself working as a reservation sales agent for a large airline for about ten years.

During that time, John felt God tugging at his heart, and in 1981 he was baptized at the Easter Vigil at St. Anthony Parish in Renton, Washington.



April 20, 1948 – February 2, 2022 Professed September 8. 1987

Becoming more and more active in his parish, he began to feel another tug from God, to do something "more." Eventually, he found himself speaking with a Benedictine sister who told him, "You belong at Mount Angel."

In 1984, he joined Mount Angel Abbey and received the name of Mark at his first profession in 1987. Br. Mark was known among his fellow monks for his generosity and care for detail. Among his other assignments, for some 25 years he cared for the priests and religious guests who stayed inside the monastery during their visits.

He embraced the Benedictine custom of welcoming all who came as Christ.

In his later years, Br. Mark often experienced severe pain in his legs and feet. Despite that, he continued serving his brothers generously in the community and through his devoted work with the Oremus program.

May he rest forever in the peace of Christ.





LIBRARY REOPENS, ready to welcome you!

The reopening of the Mount Angel Abbey
Library in September 2021 was a welcome
breath of fresh air for its many patrons who find it
a refuge and source of wisdom. Its peaceful silence
is a welcoming space for deep reading. The initial
closure in early 2020 was due to planned renovation
work, much needed to maintain the 50-year-old
structure. The closure was extended due to the
ongoing pandemic.

During this time, updates to the HVAC system were made that will ensure even levels of temperature and humidity throughout the year. New carpet was installed throughout, and leaks and resulting water damage were also repaired. All of this work improves conditions for book collections and the people who seek learning and

inspiration within the classic curving walls of our Alvar Aalto library.

Mount Angel stands firmly in the venerable, monastic tradition of preserving books in libraries. This tradition has safeguarded the transmission of knowledge and culture for nearly 1,500 years. However, a library is not reducible to a mere physical repository for books. Rather, entering a library is an experience of participating in humanity's unceasing conversation, pondering the deepest things and permitting oneself to wonder.

In the Benedictine tradition, guests are welcome to come and spend quality time in an environment specifically crafted for deep reading and reflection. The door to wisdom is wide open to those who seek it!

See what else is open at Mount Angel:



mountangelabbey.org/hours



1922 - 2021

IN MEMORIAM - JOSEF SPRUG

A man of deep faith and lifelong learning, Benedictine oblate Josef Sprug passed away last fall at the age of 99. Having moved to the town of Mt. Angel in 1988 after a successful career as a librarian and indexer, he quickly became a friend of Mount Angel Abbey and its famous library.

Sprug tirelessly volunteered innumerable hours at the Abbey library, cataloguing at least 24,000 volumes during his decades of service. The rare book room in the library, in which he generously assisted guests, students, and visiting scholars, is named in his honor.

ENCOUNTER GOD THROUGH ART

Those who visit Mount Angel Abbey appreciate it as a place resplendent with the natural beauty of God's creation. Inspired by this beauty, the Abbey has also become a home for the works of human artists. "The whole Hilltop is, in a way, a gallery," according to Abbey Art Curator, Fr. Nathan Zodrow, O.S.B.

Beautiful and intriguing works of art are found in every building on campus, placed carefully to facilitate an encounter with God through an artistic medium. The Abbey's art collection is not decorative but meditative. Each piece is an opportunity to ponder and reflect on divine mysteries.

Fr. Nathan has trained a cohort of monks to serve as guides for the art collection across the Hilltop. The monk docents accompany guests, helping them "read" religious art in a way that deepens their faith. Br. Anselm Flores, O.S.B., one of the docents in training, remarks that "art is difficult. You can have different

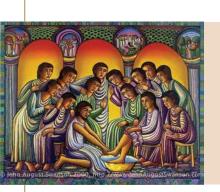
interpretations or get stuck on one.... A guide can help dialogue and broaden that point of view."

With a trained eye, says Br. Anselm, "you become the image to which you are exposed." This means that a deep reading of religious images can help us grow more into reflections of the image of God.

It can be challenging in our digital world to slow down and absorb a piece of art, but adopting this contemplative lens for viewing art is immensely worthwhile.

The monk docents are eager to share this rich practice from their Benedictine tradition with all who come to visit. If you are interested in joining an art tour at Mount Angel with a docent, please contact the Saint Benedict Guesthouse and Retreat Center to arrange a day and time.

- ETHAN ALANO



Can't get to the Hilltop?

Mount Angel's website now features a rotating virtual exhibit from the Abbey's art collection. Curated by Fr. Nathan Zodrow, O.S.B., the exhibit is updated quarterly. Through March 2022, the online exhibit features serigraphs of John August Swanson (1938–2021). Swanson, a good friend of Mount Angel, was a prolific artist whose work was influenced by the cultures of his Mexican mother and Swedish father.



UPCOMING EVENTS: SAVE THE DATES!

Life Lived Abundantly: Benedictine Wisdom from Mount Angel Abbey

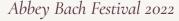
Make a virtual visit to the Hilltop and see how the 1,500-year-old Rule of St.

Benedict leads all who embrace it to a life abundant in grace and peace in Christ. The livestream of Sunday Vespers of Lent with the monastic community will follow the video.

Tune in Sunday, March 20, at 4:30 pm.

Saint Benedict Festival 2022

Join us in person on the Hilltop for the Saint Benedict Festival, Saturday afternoon, July 9! Watch for news of ticket sales and more information on the festival website.



Celebrate the 50th anniversary of this esteemed Mount Angel musical event on the Hilltop, July 27, 28 and 29. For more information and to purchase tickets, see the web page for the Abbey Bach Festival.





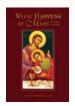
Live Lent LIKE A MONK

As we approach Lent, we tend to ask "what should I give up?" Or, "how can I be extra good for a few weeks?"

Monks aren't immune from such thoughts. After all, Ash Wednesday invites us to pause for self-reflection. St. Benedict offers time-tested wisdom for that moment in his Rule. He doesn't exhort us to do more so much as to do better what we're already doing, with greater fervor, intentionality, and generosity.

His advice can help us choose areas of growth, keeping in mind that Lent calls us to repentance, care for those in need of assistance, and a bit of self-denial. Each Lent, the monks and Mount Angel oblates choose a book to read. It can be a spiritual book, but it can also be an inspiring work of fiction, theology, philosophy, or poetry.

Here are a few of the books on our list of favorites:



What Happens at Mass By Abbot Jeremy Driscoll, O.S.B.



Awesome Glory: Resurrection in Scripture, Liturgy, and Theology By Abbot Jeremy Driscoll, O.S.B.



On Living Simply: The Golden Voice of John Chrysostom By St. John Chrysostom



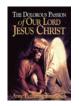
The Joyful Mystery: Field Notes Toward a Green Thomism By Christopher Thompson



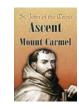
The Letters of St. Therese (Vol. II) (1890–1897) By St. Therese of Lisieux



The Noonday Devil: Acedia, the Unnamed Evil of Our Times By Jean-Charles Nault, O.S.B.



The Dolorous Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ By Anne Catherine



Ascent of Mount Carmel
By St. John of the Cross



Sermons on the Song of Songs By St. Bernard of Clairvaux



The Interior Castle
By St. Teresa of Avila



The Story of a Soul: The Autobiography of St. Therese of Lisieux



Divine Mercy in my Soul – Diary of St. Maria Faustina Kowalska



Please follow our livestream web page to join us for the Lenten hours of the Divine Office and daily Mass at mountangelabbey.org/live-stream.

4

THE SURPRISE OF LENT

IN THE RULE OF ST. BENEDICT

When I was a youngster, I took it for granted that monks were practitioners of extreme asceticism.

They fasted much, slept little, and prayed always.

And that was on ordinary days. Hence, as a novice, I was not surprised to discover that in his Holy Rule, St. Benedict devotes the entirety of chapter 49 to "The Observance of Lent." I steeled myself for finding in it some demanding norms for prayer and fasting.



What a surprise that chapter proved to be! Although St. Benedict tells his monks that all of life should have a Lenten character, he acknowledges that "few have the strength for this." Hence, he urges the community that during these days of Lent they should "keep [their] manner of life most pure and ... wash away in this holy season the negligences of other times" (RB 49:2-3).

In itself, that admonition is open-ended. The sky could be the limit as far as penitential practice is concerned. But St. Benedict doesn't shoot for the stars. In fact, he suggests that the ascetic practices are simply one component of a larger Lenten program: negligences are most effectively washed away "by refusing to indulge in evil habits and by devoting ourselves to prayer with tears, to reading, to compunction of heart and self-denial" (49:4), which entails forgoing of "some food, drink, sleep, needless talking and idle jesting," (49:6) in order to anticipate "holy Easter with joy and spiritual longing" (49:7).

Whatever penitential practices a monk chooses to do, St. Benedict wants him to decide in consultation, since vainglory [pride] might well be a hidden motive. Thus, he should "make known to the abbot what he intends to do, since it ought to be done with his prayer and approval." And finally, holy reading should hold pride of place. In Chapter 48:15, St. Benedict says, "during the days of Lent," each monk is to receive a book from the library, and he is expected to read it!

None of these Lenten practices are undertaken to flex and develop our ascetic muscle. St. Benedict sees them not primarily as penance in expiation for sin but as an opportunity to offer a little something to God gladly – "with the joy of the Holy Spirit" (49:6).

The Lenten practice at Mount Angel hews quite closely to the norms St. Benedict establishes. A few weeks before Ash Wednesday, each monk receives a form called *Bona Opera* (literally, "Good Works"). On it he puts down a couple of Lenten resolutions he intends to carry out as well as a book he intends to read. He submits this to the abbot, who signs and returns it. Then it is up to him to follow through with his good intentions "to wash away in this holy season the negligences of other times" – always "with the joy of the Holy Spirit."

To do with a little less food, drink, and sleep, in addition perhaps to a little less time spent surfing the web, and to devote a little more time to prayer and reading: that might be a good Lenten program for everyone, don't you agree?

- ABBOT PETER EBERLE, O.S.B.



"For through bodily fasting you restrain our faults, raise up our minds, and bestow both virtue and its rewards, through Christ our Lord." - EUCHARISTIC PREFACE OF LENT IV

NEWS ABOUT MOUNT ANGEL SEMINARY



Priestly vocation is a communal discernment

There are many steps along the way to priestly ordination, a process that can take several years of study and discernment. One of the more public steps is the Rite of Admission to Candidacy. This is the formal act of the seminarian's faith community, represented by his bishop, affirming that this man is indeed recognized and received as a candidate for Holy Orders. The Rite takes place in the context of the Eucharistic Liturgy and precedes the seminarian's ordination as a deacon.

At Mount Angel, nine seminarians representing six western dioceses were received as candidates for Holy Orders at a Mass in the Mount Angel Abbey church on October 20, 2021. Their reception by Archbishop Alexander K. Sample, of the Archdiocese of Portland in Oregon, signified the acceptance of each man's diocesan bishop as well as the consent of the broader faith community for which they are preparing for priestly ordination.

Those received as candidates for Holy Orders during a Mass at Mount Angel Abbey & Seminary on October 20 were: (Back L-R) Mark Hun Chae Jung, Diocese of Orange, Marc Gandolfo, Diocese of San Diego; Efrain Razo, Jr., Archdiocese of Portland; (Middle L-R) Ian Gaston, Diocese of Orange; James Tasy, Diocese of Fresno; (Front L-R) Timothy Segert, Diocese of Boise; Anthony Hoangphan, Archdiocese of Portland; Sylvester Chanda, Archdiocese of Seattle; Nelson Cintra, Diocese of Boise.

THE MINISTRY OF PRESENCE GOES TWO WAYS



At the beginning of the academic year, Abbot Jeremy Driscoll addressed the seminary community by highlighting seven rich ways the Benedictine monastic charism strengthens the formation of diocesan seminarians. One of the rich ways, As seminarians receive ministerial presence each day on the Hilltop, they are fortified to offer such presence in their pastoral assignments. Along the way to ordained ministry, the seminarians represent the Church in a particular way, offering its love and



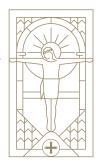
that of *life together*, expresses the truth that "we go to God together, or we don't go." Being present to one another is fundamental to the Christian life and essential pastoral formation for seminarians.

Practicing the art of ministerial presence begins in the seminary among the students themselves. The seminary is not simply an association of people with a shared goal; it is a microcosm of the Church, which is a family whom God calls to himself. Bonds of love and relationship in a family come first, so "it's more about being part of the community than it is about fulfilling certain actions or completing certain tasks," says Deacon Agustín Henderson, Archdiocese of Santa Fe. This familial togetherness naturally lends itself to a deepening of those bonds through loving action toward a brother seminarian. A powerful expression of this love is giving one's complete attention to another as a ministry of presence. This conveys that "my time is well spent by being with you," according to Deacon Chad Hill, Archdiocese of Seattle.

care to the people with whom they interact. At the same time, their love and care are rarely experienced as a one-way street. "There were a lot of times where I felt they were ministering to me as well," says Deacon Adrian Sisneros, Archdiocese of Santa Fe.

For the seminarians, especially the deacons, practicing the ministry of presence now anticipates that transformative reality to come in their priestly life. "Everything that a priest does is priestly. He's another Christ, no matter where he is or what he's doing. Just being present with people is bringing Jesus into their midst," says Deacon Dalton Rogers, Diocese of Fresno. Not only is this priestly presence objectively valuable, it also points to "a deeper goal of finding something meaningful and contributing something meaningful," concludes Deacon Agustín.

- ETHAN ALANO



We serve others

BECAUSE WE ARE CATHOLIC

Prayer, fasting, and almsgiving are often linked together as Lenten spiritual practices, but the third, almsgiving, is perhaps the most easily neglected or forgotten. Yet, St. John the Evangelist reminds us that "whoever does not love a brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen" (I John 4:20).

At Mount Angel Seminary, there are ample ways for seminarians to serve each other and those whom they meet in their ministry assignments. They also pursue opportunities to love their global neighbors through the seminary's partnership with Catholic Relief Services (CRS).

Deacon Chad Hill, Archdiocese of Seattle, and third-year college seminarian Alejandro Mendoza, Diocese of Sacramento, serve as CRS Animators for the seminary, which means they organize events to raise awareness and take concrete action for social justice concerns with the guidance of CRS. Currently in his eighth and final year at Mount Angel, Deacon Chad has served as a CRS Animator since his fourth year in the college, though he collaborated with CRS even before seminary, while he was a youth minister. Alejandro, on the other hand, is in his first year as an

animator and had little experience with CRS prior to this position. Both men have found the experience transformative and life-giving as they have learned to serve the poor and marginalized, not "because they're Catholic, but because *we're* Catholic," says Deacon Chad.

The positive response of the seminarians to these initiatives continues to inspire the CRS Animators in their mission. Deacon Chad recalls a Lenten season a few years ago when the seminarians raised money to buy 10-12 cows and goats for villages in Africa, an investment that helped those villages substantially improve their nutritional and economic welfare. He describes the seminarians' enthusiasm for this project as "amazing" and a wonderful response "to the call of our faith."

Alejandro experienced this spirit of unity when he organized a procession for the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. A large number of monks from the monastic community, along with the seminarians, carried the beloved image of Guadalupe in procession from the bottom of Abbey Drive to the church, praying the rosary for the intention of immigrants and refugees. Alejandro was especially grateful for the presence of the monastic community, through which this shared event became "the intention of a community consecrated to God for life."

- ETHAN ALANO



Dr. Liam de los Reyes (far left), faculty advisor for Mount Angel Seminary's CRS group, works with seminary faculty and students to finish boxing donations for Salem for Refugees.



Jorge Noricumbo, Diocese of Fresno, and Jacob Valdez, Diocese of Fresno, lead the procession up Abbey Drive for the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

GENEROSITY

NEWS FOR BENEFACTORS & VOLUNTEERS



Hospitality builds a lifelong friendship

Warm, witty, engaging. These three qualities stand out when conversing with Fr. Ken Olsen '65, a priest for the Archdiocese of Portland and Mount Angel Seminary alumnus. To speak with him is to experience the hospitality Fr. Olsen learned while at Mount Angel.

As a child, Fr. Olsen felt an early, persistent desire to become a priest, and after the eighth grade, he applied to Mount Angel High School Seminary. He affectionately describes his time there as "some of the best four years of my life," remarking that "there wasn't a monk I didn't like." Fr. Olsen fondly remembers English class and the beautiful grammar taught by the late Fr. Ignatius Groeger, O.S.B., whose grave he visits whenever he comes to the Hilltop. After high school, Fr. Olsen attended The Catholic

University of America and later the
Collegium Canisianum in Innsbruck,
Austria, for theological studies
before his ordination in 1973.

Fr. Olsen's late mother, Anne,

was Greek Catholic, and
he proudly embraced
that heritage as his
own. His pastoral
service includes
many years in
Ukrainian
Catholic
parishes in
British Columbia,
and also in
Oregon. In 1988,
Fr. Olsen experienced

the tenacity of the

Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church when he traveled to Ukraine – then a part of the Soviet Union – for a celebration commemorating a millennium since the foundation of Christianity in that region. Although the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church was officially illegal under Soviet law, nearly 20,000 Ukrainian Greek Catholics gathered to sing and celebrate the Divine Liturgy as the Soviet army surrounded them with machine guns. Witnessing this courageous stand amid intense persecution inspired a renewal of faith within Fr. Olsen, who describes that event as the "paramount experience of my life."



Seminarian Ken Olsen at his diaconal ordination in the Mount Angel Abbey church.

When asked why he chooses to support Mount Angel financially, Fr. Olsen replied that "you help those you love." His gratitude for his high school seminary experience, the personal friendships he has developed with the monks, and his appreciation for the monastic community's dedication to beautifully celebrated liturgies, all contribute to his love for Mount Angel. Fr. Olsen warmly remarks, "I trust the monks of Mount Angel Abbey, and I love them."

- ETHAN ALANO

High school baseball creates a connection

While occasional generosity is praiseworthy, a lifetime of giving is rich in meaning. The lives of **Jim and Terry (Theresa) O'Hanlon** demonstrate that it is possible that generosity is most rich when faith is at the center.

Jim's first encounter with Mount Angel Abbey came not from the monastery but from a baseball diamond. Playing second base for his high school, the sincedissolved Columbia Prep in Portland, Jim recalls playing against Mount Angel High School in a makeshift field in front of the Abbey church. Although Mount Angel's landscaping has changed a lot since then, Jim clearly remembers the event with fondness.

After high school, Jim spent 18 months in the Coast

Guard before enrolling at the University of Portland. The university sometimes organized dances for its all-male student body with the all-female Marylhurst College. At one of these dances in 1948, Jim first met his lifelong love and future spouse, Terry. Wed in 1951, Jim and Terry O'Hanlon celebrated 70 years of marriage in 2021.

Jim's best-known legacy of service, Blanchet House in Portland, is just a year younger than his marriage, this year celebrating its 70th anniversary. Modeled after the houses of hospitality of Dorothy Day and the Catholic Worker movement, Jim and the other eight co-founders of Blanchet House originally wanted to establish a fraternity for themselves. However, Fr. Francis Kennard, an alumnus of

Mount Angel Seminary
High School and chaplain
for the fledgling fraternity,
encouraged the young men
to seek a higher purpose
and dedicate themselves
to serving the poor and
suffering. Fr. Kennard's
charisma and zeal remain
with Jim, who vividly
remembers the priest's
challenge to "do something
great, do something
different; go out and preach
the Gospel!"

This experience of a passionate priest calling forth Jim's deepest potential,

coupled with Terry's brother having spent some time in the seminary, have inspired the O'Hanlons to support Mount Angel Seminary financially. Jim recalls that he joined the Serra Club in 1961, a volunteer organization that supports priestly and religious vocations. Both Jim and Terry attended the Serra Club retreats held at Mount Angel. As the couple received spiritual nourishment on the Hilltop and befriended Mount Angel seminarians and priests, their generosity deepened into a richly meaningful hallmark of their life together.

- ETHAN ALANO



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PILGRIMAGE to the Holy Land

Led by Fr. Odo Recker, O.S.B., Mount Angel Abbey is sponsoring a pilgrimage to the Holy Land in May 2022. Come join us as we experience what the Church Fathers and recent popes have called "the fifth Gospel." See and touch the historical and cultural foundations of the Christian faith and be opened to the biblical worldview in a new way.

HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

- Daily Mass at various Christian sites of historical significance
- Visits to all major Holy Land locations including:
 - The Sea of Galilee
 - Nazareth
 - Bethlehem
 - Jerusalem
 - Mount of Olives/The Garden of Gethsemane
 - The Via Dolorosa
 - And more!
- · Guided tours will be in English.

DETAILS:

- Departs May 9th | Returns May 20th
- Pilgrimage group size is limited.

For pilgrimage cost $\dot{\mathcal{C}}$ more information, contact

Fr. Odo Recker, O.S.B. odo.recker@mtangel.edu.

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

WEEKDAYS

Vigils: 5:20 am Lauds: 6:30 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: 8:00 pm

SEE MOUNTANGELABBEY.ORG/LIVE-STREAM SCHEDULE.

Was there a moment at Mount Angel that changed your life?



Fr. Augustine DeNoble, O.S.B. 1925 – 2019

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 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)