



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Current Projects 1-3

Publications 3-4

Presentations 4

Announcements 5



Contributors

- Colleen McGrane
- Thomas Piazza
- Donald Richmond
- Drew Cottle
- Hugh Feiss
- John Smith
- Aaron Raverty
- Greg Peters
- Carol Griesmer
- Terrence Kardong
- Kathleen Norris
- Jacob Rlyeff
- Katharine Massam
- Julia Upton
- Ephrem Hollermann
- Shawn Carruth
- Daniel McCarthy
- Laura Dunham
- Ruth Fox

Current Projects

Just released, by Laura Swan, OSB

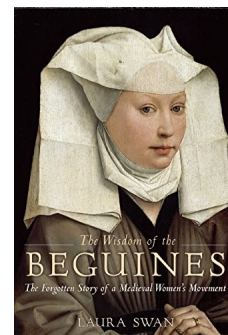
Colleen McGrane, OSB reports that she is editing her draft of the second de Vogüé volume. New City Press will release the book on February 17, 2015.

Thomas Piazza, retired survey statistician at the University of California Berkeley's Survey Research Center, is involved in a research project using the information in the *Catalogus Monasteriorum OSB* to detect trends in monastic membership over the last few decades. "Of course," he says, "we all know that membership overall is declining, but there are also some interesting counter-trends and some leveling-off in the declines in some monasteries and congregations. The problem is that we just don't have a good database to explore what may be happening. What I have done is to enter some of the data by hand from the last few *Catalogus* publications, just to see what is possible." Tom has created tables based on the data that indicate the total membership of congregations (1985-2010) and individual abbeys (1990-2010) by the year. He is also interested in researching the data of women's congregations and communities as well.

The Very Rev. Dr. Donald P. Richmond, Oblate of Saint Andrew's Abbey and Scholar-in-Residence with Anglican

Benedictines continues his extensive verbal and visual publishing on Benedictine Spirituality. Among his recent works, the Ancient Future Faith Network has released his *Praying the Rule* along with other writings on humility and the visual arts (RB 57), building Benedictine parishes, the use of the tongue, and the observance of Lent (RB 49), among publications in other Benedictine periodicals. His article on the New Monasticism, co-authored with the Rev. Dr. Greg Peters, is scheduled for release next year in the *ABR*.

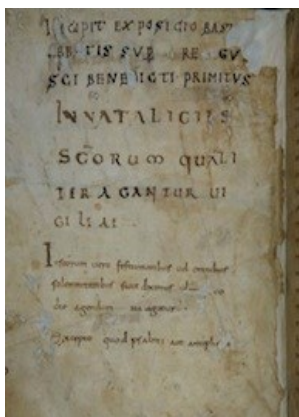
Drew Cottle from Kingston, PA, introduces himself and his work thus: "I am pursuing a Th.D at LaSalle University in Philadelphia, PA. My degree is in Christian Spirituality, and my concentration is the Benedictine *Rule* in the modern, ecumenical context. I am an ordained Protestant minister, and am seeking ways that the *Rule* can be fruitfully adapted to modern contexts, with integrity...I am a year or more away from the competency interviews, so I am in the paper stage. The papers that I have completed so far are: 1) A Comparison of the original LaSallian Rules of 1705 and 1718 with the RB 1980; 2) A study of the Cistercian order's creation, with an eye toward modern implications and applications; 3) A study of Augustine's role in the tradition of celiba-



cy, and modern applications; 4) A paper on the *Rule* and James W. Fowlers' "Stages of Faith" construct. This fall I am 1) preparing a survey paper about the Desert Mothers, and what is available in English; 2) a paper discussing John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, and the influence that the desert elders had on him. Later [I plan] to do something with Pachomius and/or Cassian, and will be working on a paper with Benedict as the specific subject."

High Feiss, OSB writes: "I am now chaplain at St. John's Catholic Student Center at Idaho State University. I get to the monastery a couple of times a month and spend the summers there. I had a very busy summer hosting Road Scholar Programs there. I have four book projects which I am editing and contributing to: with Maureen O'Brien and Ronald Pepin, *A Reader in Medieval Benedictine Monasticism* for Cistercian Publications/Liturgical Press; in the Victorine Text Series (Brepols/New City Press) I am edit-

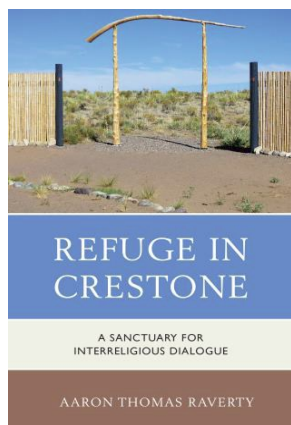




**Hildemar of Corbie's
Commentary on the Rule
of Benedict (ca. 845 CE)**

Aaron Raverty's new book shows us how the use of ethnographic method might serve to deepen the interreligious encounter by sensitizing us to the multi-faceted cultural context in which such encounters take place. Such an approach sharpens our awareness of the meaning of other religions beyond mere words and doctrines and enables us to return to the construction of a Christian theology of religions with renewed vigor and greater sensitivity.

—Michael A. Di Giovine



CURRENT PROJECTS CONT.

ing and contributing to vol. 8: *Sermons on the Liturgy*, and vol. 10: *Sacraments* (with Margaret Jennings); and Sr. Juliet Mousseau RSCJ and I are editing and contributing to *A Companion to Victorine Studies* (Brill) which should appear in 2015 or 2016.

Rev. John H. Smith, Oblate of Holy Trinity Abbey, New Norcia, Western Australia, has been actively researching, writing about, and presenting on Rosendo Salvado, founder of the Benedictine Mission and Holy Trinity Abbey, New Norcia, Western Australia (see p. 3).

Aaron Raverty, OSB's

book on a multireligious intentional community located in south-central Colorado has been published. Using data gleaned from fieldwork at the "Refuge for World Truths," this book investigates how the practice of interreligious dialogue might be enhanced by engaging the qualitative ethnographic methods of sociocultural anthropology. In so doing, it seeks to further the development of a Christian theology of religions and thus uncover the creative interdisciplinary nexus between anthropology and theology. For more information, see <https://rowman.com/ISBN/978-0-7391-8376-2>.

Rev. Greg Peters, in addition to the presentations listed on p. 3, has completed the manuscript for his forthcoming monograph from Baker Aca-

demically entitled *The Story of Monasticism: Retrieving an Ancient Tradition for Contemporary Spirituality*.

Carol Griesmer of Neosho, Missouri, checked in to say that she is still interested in proofreading for any writers who need it. carjog2011@suddenlink.net

Terrence, Kardong, OSB

writes: "Since I am spending most of my time studying the transmission of the RB in the 7-8 centuries, I am excited by the appearance of a new translation of the commentary of Hildemar of Corbie. Along with Smaragdus of St. Mihiel, he is one of the earliest commentators on RB (c. 850).

This translation has been done by a large group of scholars and it appears to be very good. It is also very large: over 600 pages! Best of all, the new translation is ONLINE! You can access it by googling Hildemar. I am pretty impressed by the organizers of this project. To get 50+ scholars to collaborate on such a project--and to get their work in on time!--is a virtual miracle! At the spring medieval conference at Kalamazoo, I will be giving a short paper comparing one chapter of Smaragdus and Hildemar. Don't miss it!"

Kathleen Norris writes:

"This is a call for help. I'll be teaching a course in the spring at Providence College called "Buried Treasure," introducing college students to early Christian literature, and helping them see how modern prejudices can prevent them from ap-

preciating the value of these writings. I'll use the desert fathers and mothers (Benedicta Ward; Mary Forman); John Chrysostom on wealth and poverty (I found excerpts in a paperback, *Living Simply*, to use); Terrence Kardong's book on Benedict and modern technology; portions of Simon Tugwell's *Ways of Imperfection*; Roberta Bondi on Dorotheus of Gaza; some of my writing on Evagrius in *Acedia & Me*. Also I was told of a book, *Theological Foundations for Environmental Ethics*, by Jame Schaefer, that looks at patristic writings that I've ordered but not yet read. Any other suggestions will be most welcome!"

dwyernorris@gmail.com

Jacob Rieyeff, ObISB reports from South Bend, IN: "I am currently working on the first Modern English translation of St. Æthelwold of Winchester's tenth-century Old English reworking of the *Rule of St. Benedict* for Cistercian Publications." He also has been working on an essay entitled "*Homo Contemplans*: The Order of the World, Gregorian Contemplative Anthropology, and Old English Poetics," which will appear in the journal *Viator* in the spring of 2015. "The essay places an Old English poem in the context of St. Gregory's thought on the contemplative nature of the human person and draws on the insights of several modern monastics."

Katharine Massam from New Melbourne, Australia, writes: "I am completing a history of the Benedictine

CURRENT PROJECTS CONT.

Missionary Sisters of New Norcia 1904-1974, who worked in Western Australia (New Norcia, Kalumburu, Girrawheen) and in Spain (Barcelona, Parla, Madrid) before merging with the Benedictine Sisters of Tutzing in the 1980s, to be published in 2015. I will also contribute a paper, "The Spiritual and the Material: Women, Work, and Prayer at New Norcia", to the symposium "Ways of Telling" focused on the nineteenth century photographic record of the Benedictine mission at New Norcia co-sponsored by the State library of Western Australia in Nove-

We hope to produce an edited collection of essays from this conference which is one of several events marking 200 years since the birth of New Norcia's founder Rosendo Salvado."

Julia Upton, RSM, OIBSB reports the following: "After presenting my research on Oblates at this summer's ABA Convention, I went on the road with it. So far I have given presentations at St. John's Abbey, St. Benedict's Monastery and Glastonbury Abbey. Other monasteries have asked if they can ex- data from

cerpt the report for their newsletters
 •In September I spoke at the Adé Bethune centenary celebration at St. Catherine University in St. Paul, MN where her archives are housed. I will be giving a paper focused on the renovation of one of her church designs at the annual meeting of the North American Academy of Liturgy in Minneapolis in January 2015. •As the Institute of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas celebrate the

25th anniversary of our 25 regional communities coming together as one Institute, I part of an Advisory Board and writing team preparing to document the process and project in what we hope will be an engaging history.

Ephrem Hollermann, OSB has been commissioned by the president of the Federation of Saint Scholastica and her council to write the 162-year history of Saint Joseph Monastery, St. Marys, PA, the first monastery of Benedictine women founded in North America. The monastery in St. Marys, PA, announced their closure on January 13, 2014.

PUBLICATIONS

Carruth, Shawn, OSB. "Monastery--Marketplace: Two Ways," *Tjurunga* 84 (Easter 2014) 66-78.

_____ Book Review: *Echoes of the Word: A New Kind of Monk on the Meaning of Life*, by Enzo Bianchi, 2013 in *ABR* 65:3 (September 2014) 353-354.

Feiss, Hugh, OSB. "Cura in the Rule of the Master and the Rule of Benedict," *ABR* 65:3 (September 2014) 328-345.

_____ *The Lives of Monastic Reformers 2: Abbot Vitalis of Savigny, Abbot Godfrey of Savigny, Peter of Avranches and Blessed Hamo.* Collegeville, MN: Cistercian Publications/Liturgical Press, 2014.

_____ "Peter of Celle, *De panibus*" *ABR*, forthcoming in 2015.

_____ Book Review: *Monasticism between Culture and Cultures.* Acts of the Third International Symposium, Rome June 8-11, 2011. *Studia Anselmiana* 159, 2013, in *ABR* 65:2 (June 2014) 226-228.

_____ Book Review: *Mystagogy: A Monastic Reading of Dionysius Areopagita* by Alexander Golitzin, 2013, in *ABR* 65:3 (September 2014) 350-353.

_____ Book Review: *Monks and Muslims: Creating Communities of Friendship*, eds. Mohammad Ali Shomali and William Skudlarek, OSB, 2014, in *ABR* 65:3 (September 2014) 346-347.

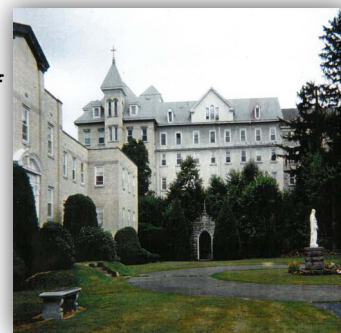
Forman, Mary, OSB. Book Review: *Smaragdus of Saint-Mihiel. Didema monachorum: The Crown of Monks*, introduced and translated by David Barry, OSB, 2013, in *ABR* 65:2 (June 2014) 235-236

Fox, Ruth, OSB. Book Review: *Faith Can Give Us Wings: The Art of Letting Go*, by Notker Wolf, OSB, 2013, in *ABR* 65:3 (September 2014) 349-350.

Kardong, Terrence, OSB. "A Puzzling Passage in the *Communal Rule* of St. Columban," *ABA* 65:2 (June 2014) 204-209.

_____ Book Review: *The Church of the Transfiguration*, ed. Donna Kehoe, 2012, in *ABR* 65:2 (June 2014) 225-226.

_____ "Morose: Slowly or Languidly?" *ABR* 65:3 (September 2014) 291-295.



**St. Joseph Monastery
St. Marys, PA**

"The presence and ministries of the Benedictine Sisters of St. Joseph Monastery have touched and influenced thousands of lives, leaving traces of faith, love and friendship..."

**—Rita Brink, OSB,
Administrator**

Publications cont.

- _____ "Walbert's Portress: An Analysis of the Sources of RWal3." *ABR* 65:3 (September 2014) 312-327.
- _____ "Reflections of An Eco-Monk," *Benedictines* 67:1 (Spring/summer, 2014)12-17.
- Massam, Katharine.** "Missionary Women and Holy Work: Benedictine Women in Western Australia" *Journal of Australian Studies*, forthcoming 2014.
- _____ "Making Familiar, Making Strange: Introducing Monastic Sources to Contemporary Adults," *ABR* 65:2 (June 2014) 158-175.
- _____ "Catholic Church: Women and Leadership," *Encyclopedia of Women Leaders in Twentieth-Century Australia* (includes a reference to Eliza Willaway who worked with the Benedictines at New Norcia in the 1880s).
- McGrane, Colleen Laura, OSB.** "Relics in 21st Century America: The Collection of the Benedictine Sisters of Perpetual Adoration," *ABR* 65:2 (June 2014) 145-152.
- _____ "The Abbess in the *Concordia Regularum*: The Dicta of Caesaria of Arles," *Magistra* 20:1 (Summer 2014) 59-75.
- Smith, John H.** The Bicentenary Booklet celebrating the bicentenary of Rosendo Salvado, founder of the Benedictine Mission and Holy Trinity Abbey, New Norcia, Western Australia, March 2014.
- _____ "In Search of Salvado" in *Tjurunga* 84 (Easter 2014) 91-97.
- _____ "Are all Guests to be Received As Christ? *Tjurunga*, Forthcoming, Christmas 2014.
- Raverty, Aaron, OSB.** *Refuge in Crestone: A Sanctuary for Interreligious Dialogue*. Lanham, MD: Lexington Books, 2014.
- Riyeff, Jacob.** "*Lectio Divina and Cynewulf's Epilogues: the Poet in Community.*" *ABR* 65:3 (September 2014) 271-290.
- Swan, Laura, OSB.** Book Review: *Nineteenth-Century Women Write Religion: Lived Theologies and Literature*, Mary McCartin Wearn, 2014, in *Magistra* 20:1 (Summer 2014) 117.
- _____ Book Review: *Women and Religion in the Atlantic Age, 1500-1900 ed. By Emily Clark and Mary Laven*, 2013, in *Magistra* 20:1 (Summer 2014) 118.

Presentations

- Carruth, Shawn, OSB.** "Behold I Am Doing Something New': Imagine, Create, Embrace" for the Federation of St. Gertrude General Chapter, June 23, 2014.
- Dunham, Laura.** "Transmitting the Tradition through a School of Benedictine Spirituality," presented in July, 2014, for the American Benedictine Academy's Pre-Convention Oblate Day at Conception Abbey in Missouri; two other presentations to oblates of two New Jersey monasteries (St. Mary's Abbey in Morristown, NJ and St. Walburga's Monastery in Elizabeth, NJ) on the role of oblates in transmitting the charism and values of the Benedictine tradition and on the plans of St. Benedict's Monastery, St. Joseph, MN, to launch a school for Benedictine spirituality in September, 2015.
- Feiss, Hugh, OSB.** A Symposium on Medieval Saints Lives at St. Cloud State University, St. Cloud, MN, October 2014. A presentation at the Benedictine Center at St. Paul's Monastery in St. Paul, MN, February 26-28, 2015.
- Massam, Katharine.** "Gender, Race and Work in a Mission Town (New Norcia Western Australia)" at the conference on Gender, History and Society, University of Winchester, UK, September 4-5, 2014; "Technologies of Work and Prayer: Education for the Modern World" at the conference on Missionaries, Materials and the Making of the Modern World, University of Cambridge, UK, September 15-17, 2014.
- McCarthy, Daniel, OSB.** Gave the monastic retreat at Mount St. Scholastica Monastery, Atchison, March 9-15 and June 8-14, 2014, on *conversio* vs. *conversatio*, monastic rituals and the celebration of the Eucharist, their theological meaning and ritual performance, and their expression in art and architecture and liturgical prayers.
- Peters, Rev. Greg.** "The Rule of Benedict in the University and Parish" presented in July, 2014, for the American Benedictine Academy's Pre-Convention Oblate Day at Conception Abbey in Missouri; "A 'Pretensed and Counterfeit Holiness' or Sowers of 'Spiritual Things'?: John Jewel and Thomas Harding on Monasticism" given at the Defending the Faith Conference, Salisbury, England, September, 2014.
- Rev. John H. Smith.** "Rosendo Salvado and Ecumenical Relationships : The Rev Evd Douglas Bountiflower's Visit to New Norcia" for the Bicentenary Symposium at the State Library of Western Australia, November 2014.
- Raverty, Aaron, OSB.** Two retreat conferences for "Hallowing Time: Finding and Honoring a Rule of Life" for the Friends of Benedict at the Episcopal House of Prayer, September 23-28, 2014: "Time Frames in the Rule of Benedict" and "Benedictine Time in a Busy World."



Announcements

Jack Fritts, our ABA colleague and university librarian at Benedictine University in Lisle, IL, reports the following: "The Library Section of ABA met at the 2014 convention in Conception, Missouri. The meeting included a brief presentation by Brother Cyril Drnjevic, OSB, on the use of the word 'library' in the Rule of Benedict and on good zeal. His presentation led into a discussion on the purpose and direction of the Library Section.

The mission and vision statements of the Library Section are: 1) The ABALS believes that Benedictine libraries, building upon 1,500 years of culture and heritage, contribute to, nourish, and are integral to the spiritual and intellectual life of Benedictine communities. The ABALS promotes networking among American Benedictine libraries to support this tradition. 2) The vision is to network among American Benedictine libraries.

Based on that mission, the Library Section seeks to establish resource sharing practices among the ABA members. We are in the investigative stage right now, and **I request your assistance in helping to identify the members of your communities responsible for library support. Please send me their contact information or have them contact me directly so we can begin the work of identifying linkages and possibilities as we move forward.**

Jack Fritts, University Librarian, Benedictine University, 5700 College Road, Lisle, IL 60532 jfritts@ben.edu

Daniel McCarthy, OSB, Atchison, KS, and James Leachman, OSB, Ealing Abbey, announce another session of the colloquium *Generative Communities*, an interdisciplinary, academic conversation on how religious communities generate new life both in welcoming members and throughout members' lives, to be held January 6-7, 2015. It is sponsored by Mount St. Scholastica Monastery and St. Benedict's Abbey, Atchison. As a colloquium, only those giving a paper or preparing a considered response attend. The papers presented in this and the last colloquium are intended for publication as a book. More information here: <http://www.liturgyhome.org/generative-communities/>

Transition in the Easter Vigil, Becoming Christians: Paschali in vigilia Christiani nominis fieri, ed. D.P. McCarthy –J.G. Leachman (*Documenta rerum ecclesiasticorum instaurata. Liturgiam aestimare: Appreciating the Liturgy 2*), St Michael's Abbey Press, Farnborough 2011 (copyright 2011, published 2014).

Stanbrook Abbey Hymnal, newly expanded version in hardback and paperback now available at: <http://www.stanbrookabbey.org.uk/page-bookshop.html>

The liturgical design of the two chapels of Mount St. Scholastica Monastery, Atchison, will feature in a three and one-half day Liturgy Week, *Architecture for Liturgy* sponsored by the Mount and St. Benedict's Abbey to be held on May 26-29, 2015. The liturgical theology presented derives from the studies and doctoral research of Daniel McCarthy, OSB, while studying liturgy at the Pontifical Institute of Liturgy, Sant' Anselmo.

**50th International Congress
on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, Michigan
May 15-17, 2015**

The Benedictines and Victorines

During its heyday in the 12th century the canons regular of the Parisian Abbey of St. Victor developed a customary that drew on Benedictine sources.

ABA Contact: Hugh Feiss, OSB
hughf@idahomonks.org

Notice

**Next MR Newsletter, February 2015
Compiled and edited
by Ephrem Hollermann, OSB
Saint Benedict's Monastery, St. Joseph, MN
Comments/suggestions welcomed**
ehollermann@csbsju.edu



Presentations