



Lost Fresco, Norcia Refectory

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**Current Projects**

**Julie Upton, RSM** writes: “My research project at Mercy Center in Dallas, PA (“The Use of iN2L in Enhancing Well-Being Among the Elderly in a Residential Setting”) is underway. In addition I am giving two diocesan presentations on well-being—“Liturgy and Well-Being” for diocesan ministers and “Spiritual Well-Being” and a conference for seniors, *Gold for the Golden Years*.

**Greg Peters, ObISB,** reports that on August 1 he was appointed Servants of Christ Research Professor of Monastic Studies and Ascetical Theology at Nashotah House Theological Seminary, a 176 year old Anglican seminary in Wisconsin. On November 6 his new book *The Monkhood of All Believers: The Monastic Foundation of Monastic Spirituality* will be released from Baker Academic. He is currently working on a short biography and study of Thomas à Kempis’ *Imitation of Christ*.

**Laura Dunham, ObISB** writes: “My new book, *Extraordinary Time: Spiritual Reflections from a Season with Cancer, Death, and Transition*, was published in September by Cascade Books. The book is infused with Benedictine spirituality, and I will offer retreats

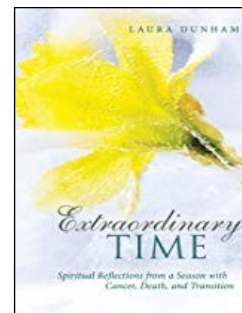
on its themes of suffering, healing, death, and the after-life at St. Andrew’s Abbey, Valyermo, CA, in May, and at Queen of Angels Monastery, Mt. Angel, OR, next October, as well as at churches, community groups, and retreat centers. Invitations are welcome!

• I will also offer a four-day Advent mission at St. Andrew’s Newman Center in Riverside, CA, Dec. 9-12, which will include *Lectio, Visio,* and *Audio Divina* on the Advent theme of waiting.

• I’m also leading two long-term group studies of the Christian Mystics, one for some of the Valyermo oblates and friends in Orange County, CA.”

**Terrence Kardong, OSB** is stepping down as editor of the *American Benedictine Review* as of December 1, 2018. He reports that his replacement is Sister Colleen Maura McGrane, OSB of Clyde, Missouri. Terrence writes that he “has been editor for 36 years, so there is a mountain of waste paper (back issues, etc.) to dispose of. And two flights of stairs to negotiate. Colleen is a sharp and hard-working monastic scholar. Her current translation of de Vogüé’s huge commentary is proof enough that she can handle this job.”

**Tom Piazza’s** article on membership trends in the



American Cassinese and the Swiss American congregations of Benedictine men will appear in the *ABR* in the near future. Tom is currently working on membership trends in the African monasteries of Benedictine men and hopes to complete that analysis in the near future.

**Laura Swan, OSB** of St. Placid Priory, Lacey, WA, writes: “My primary focus has been immersion in the histories of American Benedictine women’s communities with the intent of writing an overall history for people in formation/oblates, and those plain curious. Also working on our own history. I had been assisting Holy Rosary Parish in Tacoma, where Sisters from St. Benedict’s, St. Joseph, MN, began in 1892. Some of the sisters stationed there became founding members of my monastery, St. Placid Priory.”

**Kathleen Norris, ObISB** reports as follows: “I’m in residence at the Colledgeville Institute this fall, working on my book on

## CURRENT PROJECTS CONT.

formation and community. Slow going so far. But I'll be giving a talk in the Sunday at the Abbey lecture series at St John's in October, and a Lunch & Learn program for the Benedictine Institute in November."

**Cheryl Crozier Garcia, ObISB** reports that She has been accepted to the Business Analytics graduate certificate program at Harvard University. She says: "It's a one year, online program, and the current class on prob-

ability theory may kill me!" **Colleen Maura McGrane, OSB** writes: "I have just sent another corrected proof of *A Critical Study of the Rule of St. Benedict- Volume 3: Liturgy, Sleeping Arrangements and the Penal Code (RB 8-20, 22-30, 42-46)* by Adalbert de Vogüé to New City Press. Hopefully, it will soon be ready for publication."

**Judith Valente, ObISB** writes that she led Oblate Renewal Days this past fall at St. Benedict Monastery

in St. Joseph, MN and at Glastonbury Abbey in Hingham, MA. She also gave presentations on the Benedictine Rule at Viterbo University in La-Crosse, WI, Caldwell University in New Jersey and Mount St. Mary College in Newburgh, NY. She gave a public lecture on "The Art of Pausing" for the Chicago Theosophical Society, and spoke on "Becoming An Everyday Contemplative" at St. Paul's Parish, the Catholic community for Harvard

University. She will soon travel to Rome as part of the planning committee for the next International Oblate Congress scheduled for 2021.

**Katharine Massam** of Pilgrim Theological College, University of Divinity, Melbourne, writes that the publisher of her forthcoming book (see book title in the "Publications" section of this newsletter) is interested in co-publishing with a monastic or other international press, should there be interest. She welcomes suggestions.

## PUBLICATIONS

**Branigan, Renee, OSB.** Book Review: *No End To the Search: Experiencing Monastic Life*, by Deacon Mark Plaiss (Collegeville, MN: Cistercian Publications 2017) in *ABR* 69:3 (September 2018) 330-331.

**Kardong, Terrence, OSB.** Book Review: *Spirituality: An Art of Living*, by Benoit Standaert, OSB (Collegeville, MN: The Liturgical Press 2018) in *ABR* 69:3 (September 2018) 331-332.

**Massam, Katharine,** "Networks of Friendship and Family: Spanish Benedictine Women at New Norcia," in *New Norcia Studies* 24 (2017) 75-86.

\_\_\_\_\_ *Between: Spanish Benedictine Missionary Women in Australia.* Canberra: Australian National University Press, 2019 (forthcoming).

**Oliver, Richard, OSB.** "Lives of the Benedictine Saints: Frances of Rome." *Abbey Banner* 18:1 (Spring 2018), 26-27.

\_\_\_\_\_ "Lives of the Benedictine Saints: Bernard of Clairvaux." *Abbey Banner* 18:2 Fall 2018), 20-21.

\_\_\_\_\_ "Lives of the Benedictine Saints: Walburga." *Abbey Banner* 18:3 (Winter 2018) forthcoming.

**Piazza, Tom.** "Alternative Forms of Community Membership," *ABR* 69:3 (September 2018) 285-295.

**Sutera, Judith, OSB.** Book Review: *St. Teresa of Avila: Her Life in Letters*, by Kieran Cavanaugh (Notre Dame, IN: Ave Maria Press, 2018) 100.

\_\_\_\_\_ Book Review: *In Our Own Words: Religious Life in a Changing World*, eds. Juliet Mousseau and Sarah Kohles (Collegeville, MN: The Liturgical Press 2018) 100-101.

**Swan, Laura, OSB.** Book Review: *Crispina and Her Sisters: Women and Authority in Early Christianity*, by Christine Schenk, CSJ (Fortress Press 2017) in *Magistra* 24:1 (Summer 2018) 92-93.

### Note

**Judith Ann Heble, OSB, outgoing moderator of the CIB (Communio Internationalis Benedictinarum, the international organization of abbesses and prioresses) has informed me that the CIB website now has posted all of the talks given at the 2018 Symposium in Rome, September 6-13.**

[www.benedictines-cib.org](http://www.benedictines-cib.org)

## PUBLICATIONS CONT.

Book Review: *Medieval Liege at the Crossroads of Europe: Monastic Society and Culture, 1000-1300*, ed. Steven Vanderputten (Brepols 2017) in *Magistra* 24:1 (Summer 2018) 95-96.

Book Review: *Meditations on the Life of Christ: The Short Italian Text*, by Sarah McNamer (University of Notre Dame Press 2018) in *Magistra* 24:1 (Summer 2018) 96-97.

Book Review: *Visions of Sainthood in Medieval Rome: The Lives of Margherita Colonna by Giovanni Colonna and Stefania*. Trans. Larry F. Field, ed. Lezlie S. Knox and Sean L. Field (University of Notre Dame Press 2017) in *Magistra* 24:1 (Summer 2018) 97-98.

Book Review: *Clare of Assisi and the Thirteenth-Century Church: Religious Women, Rules and Resistance*, by Catherine M. Mooney (University of Pennsylvania Press 2016) in *Magistra* 24:1 (Summer 2018) 98-99.

**Upton, Julia, RSM.** "The Ways of the Pilgrim," *The MAST Journal* 25.1 (2018) 6-9.

**Valente, Judith, ObISB.** "Benedictine Beauty and God." *Global Sisters Report*, October 2, 2018. <https://www.globalsistersreport.org/column/trends/benedictine-beauty-55446>

## Presentations

**Massam, Katherine.** "The Fabric of the Mission: Women's Work and Textiles in Benedictine Life," as well as co-convening the stream on *Sensory Cultures and the Communication of Belief* at the Australian Historical Association Conference in Canberra, July 2018.

**McGrane, Colleen Maura, OSB.** "The Holy Rule: Enkindling the Fire," a retreat at St. Scholastica Monastery, Fort Smith, AR, September, 2008.

**Norris, Kathleen, ObISB.** "A Writer's Journey: Benedictine Values As Muse," Sunday at the Abbey lecture series at St John's Abbey, Collegeville, MN, October 21, 2018.

**Rippinger, Joel, OSB.** "The Authentic Voice of Thomas Merton as Found in His Journals," at the Thomas Merton Symposium sponsored by the Monastic Institute of Sant' Anselmo, June 2018.

**2020 Biennial Convention  
Benedictine College  
Atchison, Kansas**

### Notice

**Next MR Newsletter, February 2018  
Compiled and edited  
by Ephrem Hollermann, OSB  
Saint Benedict's Monastery, St. Joseph, MN  
Comments/suggestions welcomed  
ehollermann@csbsju.edu**



**Call to Prayer**



**New Clairvaux**

**Photos by  
Donald Richmond, ObISB**