

Current Projects

Luke Devine, OSB of Saint Martin's Abbey, Lacey, WA reports: "My six-page dissertation proposal was approved at the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, California, in early April. My area of study is Christian Spirituality which defines itself as a discipline studying the "lived experience" of Christians in contrast to the discipline of theology that interprets and articulates the beliefs and systems of beliefs of the Christian faith. With a strong interest in visual arts, I became interested in the spiritual lives of artists and how artists balance spirituality and creativity. On the one hand, creativity and spirituality seem to go hand-in-hand; on the other, there can be a tension when creativity is considered an assertion of human ingenuity and ego while spirituality may emphasize contentment with simplicity. In the visual arts, there has always been a long tension around idolatry and iconoclasm. • My case study in creativity and spirituality will be Fritz Eichenberg. He was born in Cologne, Germany, in 1901 and fled with his wife and child just before the Nazi regime restricted travel. He had a long career illustrating novels by authors such as Feodor Dostoevsky, William Shakespeare, Edgar

Allan Poe, the Brönte sisters and others. In 1949, he met Dorothy Day (a Benedictine oblate of St. Procopius Abbey), co-founder along with Peter Maurin of the Catholic Worker movement. Soon, Eichenberg was contributing illustrations to the *Catholic Worker* newspaper including one of his most well-known images, "Christ of the Breadlines" (1950). He also wrote a few essays describing his thoughts about the social responsibility of the artist. I focus on how his idea of the social role of the artist motivated him to contribute illustrations to the *Catholic Worker*."

Greg Peters, ObISB writes that In October he began studies for the Doctor of Monastic Studies degree at Sant' Anselmo in Rome. He is writing a dissertation under the guidance of Fr. Jeremy Driscoll, OSB, that integrates the disciplines of monastic studies, liturgy and ecclesiology. This summer he returns to St. John's University, Collegeville, MN, his *alma mater*, to teach Monastic Spiritual Theology."

Donald P. Richmond, ObISB, Oblate of Saint Andrew's Abbey in CA writes that "since December I have published, broadly and briefly, in three forums: Twenty-Five Christmas Meditations, "Christmas in My Heart," in



Eichenberg's "Eucharist" *Anglicans for Renewal* ; "The Isis Crisis" in *Forward in Christ: The Anglo-Catholic Voice in the Americas* ; "Worship as Drama" for *Anglicans for Renewal* ; (pending) "Mustard Seed Missions" in *The Valyermo [Benedictine] Chronicle* (and possibly a monastic cartoon); "Beholding His Glory: Transfiguration and Human Transformation" for *The Ancient Future Faith Network* (book). I also did two radio interviews since Christmas -- one rather lengthy --- on the topic of "pilgrimage."

Laura Dunham, ObISB, Oblate of Saint Benedict's Monastery, St. Joseph, MN, reports: "On April 18, 2015, I was the speaker at the annual joint gathering of the oblates of the three New Jersey Benedictine communities: St. Mary's Abbey (Morristown), which hosted the gathering, St. Walburga Monastery (Elizabeth), and Newark Abbey. The topic, "Ongoing Oblate Formation," focused on the need for more depth and breadth in oblate formation

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Current Projects 1-3

Publications 3-4

Presentations 4

Announcements 4

• Contributors

- **Luke Devine**
- **Greg Peters**
- **Donald Richmond**
- **Laura Dunham**
- **Terrence Kardong**
- **Judith Valente**
- **Tom Piazza**
- **John Smith**
- **Ephrem Hollermann**
- **Colleen McGrane**
- **Julia Upton**
- **Kathleen Norris**
- **Daniel McCarthy**

CURRENT PROJECTS CONT.

following the period of candidacy. I noted parallels between novice formation and what could be offered in more structured ongoing formation programs for oblates. Those in attendance responded by identifying a series of next steps to strengthen ongoing oblate formation within their communities.”

Terrence Kardong, OSB, of Assumption Abbey, Richardton, ND, writes the following: “I have been asked by some Benedictine Sisters to contribute some videotaped lectures to a project called ‘Wisdom Connections.’ My work centers on the communal aspects of the RB. I am calling it ‘Benedict Backwards,’ since the RB tends to get more communal toward the end. • In general, I am focused now on POST Benedict, that is, the history of the transmission of the Rule to the Middle Ages. Since this mostly concerns France, I am doing work on the Columbanian monasteries. Lately, I have been studying and teaching the *Regula Cuiusdam Partris ad Virginem*, a very fine Rule written for a convent near Paris (Eboriac). • Last fall I gave a series of talks at our priory in Bogota, Colombia, mostly about my life as a student of early monasticism. Some of these will be published in *Cuadernos Monasticos*, in Spanish, although I gave them in English.

Judith Valente, ObisB, from Normal, IL, an Oblate of Mount Saint Scholastica in Atchison, KS, reports that she has given “many talks since the fall to busy professionals about how they can apply monastic practices to their hectic lives.” One of the talks she gives that is very popular is “The Art of Pausing: Reclaiming a Sense of Balance in Our Lives.” Another is “Mindfulness in the Age of Twitter.”

Tom Piazza, retired survey statistician at the University of California Berkeley’s Survey Research Center, is continuing his work on the project to digitize the information in the *Catalogus Monasteriorum OSB*, to study membership trends over time. Since the new *Catalogus* for Benedictine men is being prepared now, the project for men is on hold until the new *Catalogus* appears. However, Tom is now working with Sr. Felicitas Seisenberger OSB, of Venio Abbey in Munich, to digitize the information on Benedictine women. They recently obtained membership summaries back to 1975 and will try to make them computer-readable in the coming months.

John Smith, ObisB from North Melbourne, Australia, writes: “My research and writing since I last reported has been to present a paper at the Symposium for the Bicen-

tenary of Rosendo Salvado’s birth, held at the Western Australian State Library, Perth, Western Australia, 13 and 14 November 2014. The topic I spoke on was “Rosendo Salvado and Ecumenical Relationships: The Revd Douglas Boutflower’s 1872 Visit to New Norcia.” This paper has now been accepted for publication in the Bicentenary edition of *New Norcia Studies*, 2015.”

Ephrem Hollermann, OSB, is currently writing an entry for *MNopedia*, on Mother Benedicta (Sybilla) Riepp, OSB. *MNopedia*, a project of the Minnesota Historical Society, is an online curated encyclopedia of Minnesota history. • She is also scheduled to do archival work in June at Mount St. Scholastica Monastery in Atchison, KS, where the archives of St. Joseph Monastery, St. Marys, PA, are now housed. This research is part of her commission to write the 162-year history of the Pennsylvania monastery which closed in January, 2014.

Colleen McGrane, OSB is translating Adalbert de Vogüé’s third volume which focuses heavily on the Liturgical code of the *Rule*. The tentative title of the translated work is *A Critical Study of the Rule of Benedict, Volume 3: Chapters 8–20, 22–30, 43–46, 48, and 50*. • She recently attended the Medieval Congress in Kalamazoo.

Julia Upton, RSM, ObisB reports: “My work on the Ade Bethune biography continues, and in January I had an amazing breakthrough in being able to get inside church in Schaerbeek (Brussels) where she and her family worshiped. I suspected that a key to understanding more of her theology and spirituality lay in seeing what she saw each day. On my previous research trip (2012) I found it closed and only the crypt open on Sundays for Mass. Still I kept talking about it and trying to make contacts. Persistence pays off! Through Ade’s family in Brussels I was finally able to get inside the church in early January. It has been closed since 1966 for engineering problems, so it helped to have one of her cousins describe the glory it once was.”



St. Mary's Royal Church in Schaerbeek.

CURRENT PROJECTS CONT.

Kathleen Norris, ObISB, writes: "I just completed a year teaching at Providence College in Rhode Island. My students, responding to their introduction to the desert fathers and mothers, wrote me a note thanking me "for introducing this crazy literature and making it come to life!"

My research interest now is in monasteries that are building or considering establishing senior living facilities on or near their grounds. It seems to be a new trend, and I'd like more information for a possible article about this."

Daniel McCarthy, OSB writes: "Liturgy Week, 'Architecture for Liturgy'

was sponsored by Mount St. Scholastica Monastery and St. Benedict's Abbey, Atchison, Kansas, May 26 to 29, 2015. It featured tours of the choir chapel and the St. Scholastica chapel at the Mount conducted by Sr. Judith Sutera, OSB. Ten presentations were given by Fr. Daniel McCarthy, OSB of the Abbey. The

event was coordinated by Sr. Marcia Ziska, OSB and Fr. Jay Kythe, OSB of the two Mount Communities. It was intended for architects and diocesan officials desiring greater liturgical input for renovating or building a new church. This first-level week will be repeated and a second-level week is in development." architectureforliturgy.com/liturgy-week-2015/

PUBLICATIONS

Feiss, Hugh, OSB. Book Review: *Reading through Prayer: Lectio Divina and 'Liturgical Reading' in Some Medieval Texts*, by Marie Schilling, in ABR 66:1 (March 2015), 120-121.

Hensell, Eugene, OSB. Book Review: *The Highest Poverty: Monastic Rules and Form-Of-Life*, by Giorgio Agamben, 2013, in ABR 66:1 (March 2015) 110-113.

Kardong, Terrence, OSB. *Art and Prayer: The Beauty of Turning to God*, by Timothy Verdon, 2014, in ABR 66:1 (March 2015) 119-120.

—————Book Review: *Exegetischer Kommentar zur Regel Benedikts: Part I: Christus Horen (RB Prolog 1-7); Part II: Geeint in Christus (RB 8-52)* by Aquinata Böckmann, OSB, 2011) in ABR 65:4 (December 2014) 429-430.

Note: An English translation of Böckmann's commentary on the Prologue and Chapters 1-3, by Matilda Handl, OSB, and Marianne Burkhard, OSB, was released by Liturgical Press, Collegeville, MN, under the title *A Listening Community*, in April, 2015.

Massam, Katharine, ObISB. "Missionary Women and Work: Benedictine Women at New Norcia Claiming a Religious Vocation," *Journal of Australian Studies* 39 (April 2015).

—————"The Spiritual and the Material: Women and Work in the Benedictine Mission of New Norcia, Western Australia, 1860-1910," *New Norcia Studies* 22 (forthcoming November 2015).

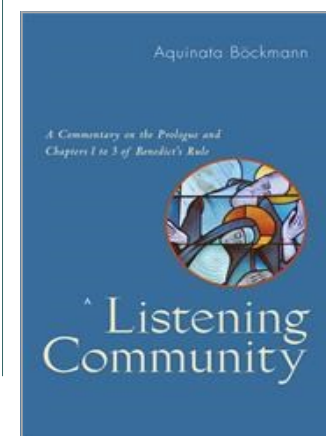
Peters, Greg, ObISB. *The Story of Monasticism: Retrieving an Ancient Tradition for Contemporary Spirituality*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2015. (August release date)

Quaintance, Susan, OSB. "Living with a Benedictine Heart," *Benedictines* 57:2 (Fall/Winter 2014) 25-26.

Sutera, Judith, OSB. Book Review: *The Wisdom of the Beguines*, by Laura Swan, OSB, 2014, in *Magistra* 20:2 (Winter 2014) 114-115.

—————Book Review: *Holy Matter: Changing Perspectives of the Material World in Late Medieval Christianity*, by Sara Ritchey, 2014, in *Magistra* 20:2 (Winter 2014) 117-119.

Swan, Laura, OSB, Book Review: *Sacred Communities, Shared Devotions: Gender, Material Culture, and Monasticism in Late Medieval Germany*, by June L. Mecham, 2014, in *Magistra* 20:2 (Winter 2014) 115-116.



Thole, Simeon, OSB. Book Review: *Prayer As Night Falls: Experiencing Compline*, by Kenneth Peterson, 2013, in ABR 66:1 (March 2015) 101-102.

Valente, Judith, ObISB. "Business As Unusual: Monastic Wisdom for the Workplace," *Benedictines* 68:1 (Spring/Summer 2015) 34-41.

_____ Book Review: *Power of Sisterhood: Women Religious Tell the Story of the Apostolic Visitation*, by Margaret Cain McCarthy and Mary Ann Zollmann (2014) *Benedictines* 68:1 (Spring/Summer 2015) 45-47.

_____ "Living Beside Dachau" (poem), *Benedictines* 57:2 (Fall/Winter 2014) 23.

Presentations

Hollermann, Ephrem, OSB. "Historical Perspectives on Benedictine Colleges and Universities," Association of Benedictine Colleges and Universities (ABCU), Benedictine College, Atchison, KS, June 7-9, 2015.

Kardong, Terrence OSB. "Smaragdus and Hildemar Comment on RB 71," International Congress on Medieval Studies, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI, May 14-17, 2015.

Rippinger, Joel, OSB. "Preserving and Transmitting the Benedictine Charism in Educational Settings of Diminished Benedictine Presence," Benedictine Colloquium for High Schools under Benedictine Sponsorship, Benedictine University, Lisle, IL, July 22-25, 2015.

Announcements

• A School of Benedictine Spirituality

In September, 2015, Saint Benedict's Monastery in St. Joseph, Minnesota, will launch a new program, entitled "A School of Benedictine Spirituality," for persons seeking to learn the Benedictine way for daily living. Designed to support spiritual growth and guidance for living the gospel in a learning community, the School will focus on Benedictine values and practices that shape Benedictine spirituality. Schedules, course descriptions, instructors, and a registration form are available on the monastery's website, www.sbm.osb.org under "Quick Links."

• The Tenth Triennial Conference on the History of Women Religious

"Whither Women Religious: Analyzing the Past, Studying the Present, Imagining the Future." Santa Clara University, Santa Clara, California, June 26-29, 2016.

• Back Issues of ABR now Accessible Online

HathiTrust, a consortium of major universities at the University of Michigan has scanned back issues of *ABR* gratis. See <http://www.osb.org/abr>. On the opening page, click on "The American Benedictine Review. Index of Volumes. OSB," then <http://catalog.hathitrust.org/Record/000598411>

Next MR Newsletter, October 2015

**Compiled and Edited
by Ephrem Hollermann, OSB
Saint Benedict's Monastery, St. Joseph, MN
Comments/suggestions welcomed
ehollermann@csbsju.edu**

2016 ABA Biennial Convention

**July 21-23, 2016
Benedict Inn Retreat and
Conference Center
Beech Grove, Indiana**