



## Current Projects

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### Contributors

**Jacob Rieff**

**Colleen McGrane**

**Judith Valente**

**Martin Shannon**

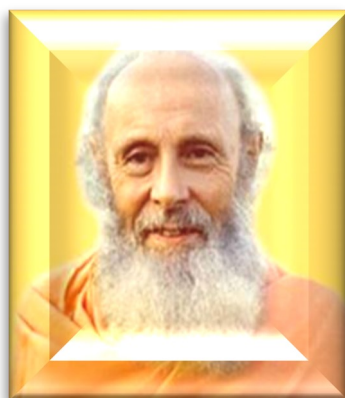
**Tom Piazza**

**Joel Rippinger**

**Hugh Feiss**

**Laura Dunham**

**Jacob Rieff, ObISB**, Visiting Assistant Professor at Marquette University, is currently finishing work on his book-length translation of Swami Abhishiktananda's (Henri Le Saux, OSB) collected poems, a project commissioned by the Swami Abhishiktananda Centre for Interreligious Dialogue in Rishikesh, India. In addition, his translation of St. Æthelwold of Winchester's Old English version of the *Rule* of St. Benedict is now slated to appear in the Fall of 2017 from *Cistercian Publications*. He is also continuing work on two anonymous Latin treatises for novices from a fourteenth-century manuscript of the monastery, Bury St. Edmunds in England. Jacob's monograph project on meditative verse prayers in Old English, found in largely monastic manuscripts of the tenth and eleventh centuries, is in renewed progress as well.

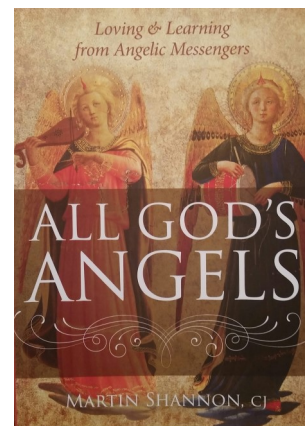


SWAMI ABHISHIKTANANDA (Henri Le Saux, OSB)

**Colleen McGrane, OSB**, reports that she is finishing preparation for classes to be given during the RB Study Weeks for Benedictines in the Philippines, October 28 to Nov. 12.

**Judith Valente, ObISB**, has received a contract from Hampton Roads Publishers, (an imprint of Red Wheels/Weiser Publishing), to write a book of 52 reflections on the Benedictine *Rule*, geared toward the working person. She reports that the tentative title is "Simplicity and Silence: Meditations on Happiness, Meaning and *The Rule of St. Benedict*." Publication date is set for spring of 2018.

**Martin Shannon, CJ**, writes that Paraclete Press has just published his small book of reflections on 24 scriptural accounts of angelic visitations, entitled *All God's Angels: Loving and Learning from Angelic Messengers*. Each reflection draws on the biblical story, and also on the interpretation given to it by a selected piece of art, which is included in the book. He writes further: "I've also just submitted an essay to be included in *The Ecumenism of Beauty*, a collection of essays on aesthetics and theology by Catholic and Protestant scholars and artists, to be published by Mount Tabor books in observance of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation in 2017. My



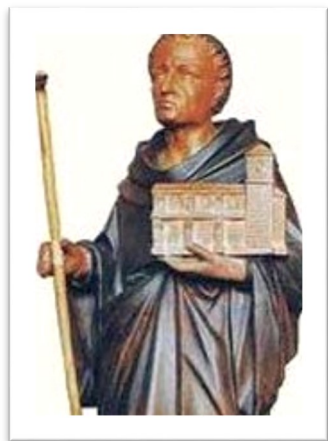
essay is entitled, "Beauty in and of the Church" -- a look at the place of art in liturgy, using The Church of the Transfiguration (of the Community of Jesus) as an illustration."

**Tom Piazza**, Richmond, CA, and Sr. Felicitas Seisenberger, OSB, Abtei Venio, Munich, are continuing their project to digitize and analyze the *Catalogus* information on Benedictine women. They have recently completed the analysis of the data on the Bavarian Federation from 1990-2014. Statistical charts that accompany the narrative show interesting membership trends by years of age and of profession. The report, entitled "Trends in Membership for Benedictine Women in the Bavarian Benedictine Federation," is currently under review for possible publication in *ABR*. They are now digitizing the data on another congregation, and hope to complete that analysis by the spring of 2017.

## CURRENT PROJECTS CONT.



Abbaye de la Chaise-Dieu



**“...give charitably what is ours to all, whether known or strangers, rich or poor, whether they ask or not”**

—St. Robert  
of La Chaise-Dieu

**Joel Ripinger, OSB**, writes: “I am interested in trying to coordinate in some electronic forum the necrologies of American Benedictine communities. These would include death notices and more extended obituaries/eulogies. Most of our houses have these and they constitute, I believe, an invaluable tool for any historians seeking to understand the history of our communities.”

**High Feiss, OSB**, reports: “Three projects are finished and pending publication. (1) an article on Robert of La Chaise-Dieu and the issues of action/contemplation, work/prayer, to appear in the December 2016 issue of the *American Benedictine Review*. I think the contemplation/action dichotomy is confused and not

very helpful as illustrated from a consideration of Robert of the La Chaise-Dieu’s life. (2) I also explore Robert’s understanding of authority in monastic polity (Bible, Rule, Customary, tradition) in a chapter I am contributing to a forthcoming book on Christianity and Law in the West. In it I argue that for Robert the Gospel was the primary authority. In the rest of the article I explore the ideas about law in the RM and RB and how the monks of the monastery at Fulda appealed to law and tradition in the *Supplex libellus*. (3) I have submitted a chapter on eschatology and mysticism for an encyclopedia on mysticism. I focus on Benedict’s vision at the end of his life, St. Bernard’s idea about the incomplete fulfillment of the blessed prior to the resurrection, and

Teilhard de Chardin’s mysticism of matter.”

•The ABA session for Kalamazoo 2017 is set. There will be four papers on the interplay of four authorities (Bible, Rule, Customary and tradition) in the self-understanding of medieval Benedictine monks. S. Colleen Maura McGrane of Clyde MO, is one of the presenters.

**Laura Dunham**, Oblate of Saint Benedict’s Monastery, St. Joseph, MN, writes: “I am at work on a book tentatively titled “Extraordinary Time: Spiritual Reflections from a Season with Cancer, Death, and Transition.” The book will contain reflections on the Benedictine vows of stability, obedience, and *conversatio morum*, and how these and the Benedictine way of life sustained me through a very difficult

## PUBLICATIONS BY ABA MONASTIC RESEARCHERS

**McCarthy, Daniel, OSB**, and Foster, R.T. *Ossa Latinitatis sola ad mentem Reginaldi rationemque: The Mere Bones of Latin According to the Thought and System of Reginald*. Washington, DC: Catholic University of America Press, 2016. <http://thelatinlanguage.org/ossa/>

**Raverty, Aaron, OSB**. “Phenomenological Timing in the *Rule of Benedict*,” *Cistercian Studies Quarterly* 51:3 (2016), 291-308.

“Upon These Rocks.” *Abby Banner* (Fall 2016), 24-27.

**Ripinger, Joel, OSB**. “Damasus Winzen and Thomas Merton: Pathfinders, Companions and Prophets in American Monasticism,” *Cistercian Studies Quarterly* 51:3 (2016), 373-383.

Book Review: *Sant’ Anselmo in Rome* by Pius Engelbert (Collegeville, MN: the Liturgical Press) in *The Catholic Historical Review* 102:3 (Summer 2016), 632-634.

**Schlabach, Gerald W., ObISB**. “The Virtue of Staying Put: What the ‘Benedict Option’ Forgets About Benedictines,” *Commonweal* 143:16 (October 7, 2016), 11-13. <https://www.commonwealmagazine.org/virtue-staying-put>

**Suter, Judith, OSB**. Book Review: *The Wisdom Commentary Series*, ed. Barbara Reid, OP (Collegeville, MN: The Liturgical Press, 2015) in *Magistra* 22:1 (Summer 2016), 91-93.

Review: *Christianity and Culture Resources* (Digital) (University of York, UK: Study of Christianity and Culture) in *Magistra* 22:1 (Summer 2016), 93-94.

\_\_\_\_\_ Book Review: *Gender in Medieval Culture* by Michelle M. Sauer (New York: Bloomsbury, 2015) in *Magistra* 22:1 (Summer 2016), 94-95.

\_\_\_\_\_ Book Review: *German Mysticism and the Politics of Culture* by Ulrike Wiethaus (New York: Peter Lang, 2014) in *Magistra* 22:1 (Summer 2016), 95-96.

**Valente, Judith, OBlSB.** "Grace" (Poem), *Benedictines* LXIX: 2 (Fall/Winter 2016), 32.



## **PRESENTATIONS**

**Hollermann, Ephrem, OSB.** Eight sessions on "The Spirituality of the Benedictine Tradition," for the School of Benedictine Spirituality, hosted by the Spirituality Center•Studium, Saint Benedict's Monastery, St. Joseph, Minnesota, August 12-15, 2016.

**McCarthy, Daniel, OSB.** "Invocation to the Holy Spirit" at *A Service of Commitment: A Year in God's Time* for the Community of St. Anselm, Lambeth Palace, London, September 30, 2016.

**Valente, Judith, OBlSB.** "Reclaiming a Sense of Balance in Our Lives," for the Christian Legal Society of Chicago. \_\_\_\_\_ Keynote speaker at this year's Chicago Literary Hall of Fame annual get-together.

\_\_\_\_\_ "The Art of Pausing," overnight retreat at the Sophia Center, Mount St. Scholastica, Atchison, KS, September, 2016.



## **Announcement**

Monastics planning to renovate their church or build a new one are invited to attend the Liturgy Week *Architecture for Liturgy* to be given by Daniel McCarthy, OSB, of Atchison, held in Wichita, Kansas on January 16-20, 2017. The Pontifical Liturgy Institute, Sant' Anselm, Rome, has granted its patronage for both this event and its successive week January 22-26, 2018. Web-page: <http://architectureforliturgy.org/liturgy-week-1/>

### **Notice**

**Next MR Newsletter, February 2017**

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**Comments/suggestions welcomed**

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### **2018 ABA Convention**

**July 19-22**

**Saint Benedict's Monastery**

**St. Joseph, Minnesota**

**"Artisans of the Monastery"**

