



Current Projects

Terrence Kardong, OSB recently gave a Skype class on John Cassian to a group of cloistered Dominican nuns (Bronx, Newark, Vancouver). He writes: "This was my first experience with this medium so I was a bit awkward with it. Still, it beats flying half way around the world. I also find it interesting that Dominicans are now interested in a monastic Father like Cassian. I had not taught Cassian for 20 years, so I needed to get up to speed. Next, they want a short course (3 hrs.) on the *Rule of Benedict*, in March. I also published an article called "Challenges to Monasticism in Our Time" in the German monastic periodical *Erbe und Auftrag* (1: 2017). I wrote it in English and they translated it into Deutsch. It is a long article, including four current phenomena: Pope Francis; Arab Explosion; Culture Wars and Digital Revolution. Maybe I will publish it in English, though some of it may raise some hackles."

Tom Piazza, Richmond, CA, and Sister Felicitas Seisenberger, OSB, of Abtei Venio, Munich, have finished their analysis of membership trends among Benedictine women of the Bavarian Federation. Their analysis has been submitted to the *American Benedictine Review* and was accepted for publication. They continue to analyze other groups of Benedic-

tine women. In addition, Tom and D. Geraldo González y Lima, OSB, of Abadia São Geraldo, Brazil, are working on an analysis of overall trends for Benedictine men from 1880 to 2015.

Donald P. Richmond, Oblate of Valyermo Abbey, spoke about "Faith and the Arts" at Saint Luke's Episcopal Church. He writes: In it "I suggested starting an Art Guild called 'Chapter 57' where artists can devote themselves to discipleship (rooted within common commitment to Christ), discipline (rooted within common commitment to our crafts) and catechesis (rooted within a common commission to the world) rooted within the RB." Pending is his "Visio-Divina" series, "In the Cross," which he says, "centers upon six visual meditations on the words of Thomas 'a Kempis: In the cross is life / In the cross is protection / In the cross is infusion of heavenly sweetness / In the cross is height of virtue / In the cross is perfection of sanctity."

Paul J. Dirkes, Oblate of St. Joseph Abbey, St. Benedict, LA, is working on a piece of historical fiction, *Jesus and the Stone*, based on a new interpretation of the Magdala Stone. He writes: "For many years, prior to my conversion experience, the only reason I stepped into a Church was when my mother needed me to take her to Sunday Mass. One Church she attended was Our Lady Star of the Sea in New Smyrna Beach,



Florida. I was always attracted to the tabernacle of Our Lady Star of the Sea. It was in the form of Herod's Temple in Jerusalem. This particular tabernacle was never covered with a cloth as are most Catholic tabernacles, and it stood on a wooden table in front of a massive stained glass window. Very impressive!

...Imagine my surprise when on a trip to Israel in 2016, when we visited the earliest synagogue ever discovered, the Synagogue of Magdala, I saw in the middle of the floor of the synagogue, a stone carved into a representation of Herod's Temple just like the tabernacle at the church of Our Lady Star of the Sea." Paul writes more than can be printed here, but stay tuned for his work of historical fiction.

Jacob Riyeff, Oblate of Osage Deanery, BSPA, writes: "Most immediately, I have finished my translation of and introduction to Swami Abhishiktananda's French poems and am currently looking for a publisher. I have a few proposals out, but if anyone has suggestions for presses and/or people to contact, I would

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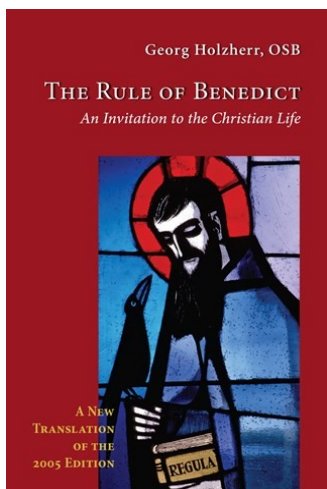
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• Contributors

- **Terrence Kardong**
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be most grateful. I realize that Swamiji's poems will not be the greatest commercial venture, so I anticipate a struggle to get them to the light of (published) day. Otherwise, I continue work on 1) my monograph on Old English prayer poems largely in monastic manuscripts of the tenth and eleventh centuries, 2) my translation and edition of two treatises for Benedictine novices from a fifteenth-century Bury St. Edmunds manuscript, and 3) other essays."

Hugh Feiss, OSB, reports: "All current book projects are moving, slouching along: *The Brill Companion to Victorine Studies* that I am editing with Sr. Juliet Mousseau, RSCJ (Aquinas Institute of Theology) is in the final editing process, and vol. 8 of *Victorine Studies in Translation: Sermons for the Liturgical Year* is soon to go to Brepols; *A Benedictine Reader: 530-1530*, which I am editing with Ronald E. Pepin (Professor Emeritus at Capital Community College, Hartford, Connecticut) and Maureen O'Brien (Assistant Professor of history at St. Cloud State University in MN) is almost ready to go to the editor for Cistercian Publications. Currently I am doing introductions and translations for *Victorine Texts in Translation*, vol.

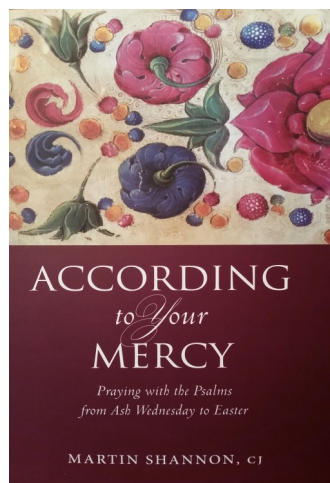
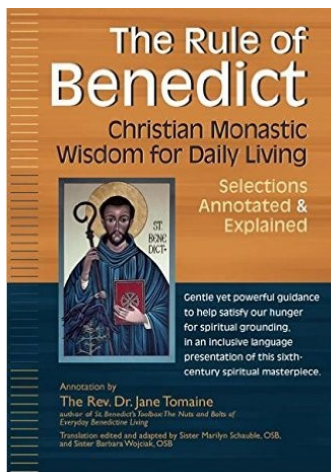
10 *The Sacraments*. My only new scholarly publication is "Prayer and Work: The Example of Robert La Chaise-Dieu (d. 1067)," in *ABR* 67:4 (2016): 403-422, which calls attention to the ambiguities in medieval use of the terms "action" and "contemplation" to describe religious communities. Also, I have been involved in two local history books: *The History of the Monastery of the Ascension, 1965-2015*, by John O'Hagan, and *Toward Omega: St. John's Catholic Student Center at Idaho State University, 1965-2015*, which I wrote with Colin Cameron."

Judith Valente, Oblate of Mount St. Scholastica, Monastery, Atchison, KS, and ABA board member, gave a presentation on "Why Poetry Matters" at St. Benedict High School in Chicago during National Catholic Schools Week in February. This June, she will lead a retreat on "The Art of Pausing: Reclaiming a Sense of Balance in Our Lives" June 23-25 at St. Mary Monastery in Rock Island, IL. She recently finished her manuscript on the *Rule* for Hampton Roads Publishers tentatively titled, "The Art of Living: Meditations on Happiness, Meaning and The *Rule of St. Benedict*."

Martin Shannon reports that Paraclete Press just released a small book of reflections on 47 psalms

for Lent, *According to Your Mercy*. If all goes well, I hope to do another volume for Advent, maybe eventually covering all the psalms. Obviously, the psalms play a formative role in our Benedictine life, and I'm hoping that this is another way of sharing some of that life 'outside the walls.'"

Daniel McCarthy, OSB, St. Benedict Abbey, Atchison, KS, while teaching liturgy at Sant' Anselmo, is also putting the final touches on an expanded version of his doctoral research for publication in English. He will feature images and critical reflection on numerous monastic churches in his analysis. He began researching the history and models of the presidential chair, but because the chair is the weaker element compared to the altar and ambo, the work has expanded to include the whole church, given in twelve elements for the arrangement of a church. He is working toward a synthesis entitled the "Ritual Model." He anticipates completing the text by the end of this semester. •He would like to know if anyone is interested in collaborating on a project to compose a Mass formulary (collect, prayer over the offerings, preface, post communion) for the occasion when a monastic community renews its vows on a ferial day, for example



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at the end of a retreat. The prayers for religious in the *Roman Missal* do not quite speak to the monastic charism. •He is also preparing two chapters on the interpretation of short prayers of the liturgy. One presents a step-by-step method of understanding the Latin text of a collect. The other uses the ritual patterns of the Eucharist as a means of integrating the four pairs of interpretative keys in the interpretation of any liturgy-

cal action or text. The four pairs of keys are abbreviated: *anamnesis* (memory), *epiclesis* (invocation), *eschatology* (the fulfilling), *theosis* (becoming fully human).

Marianne Burkhard, OSB, St. Mary Monastery, Rock Island, IL, is translating the dissertation of Sister Scholastika Haering from the Abbey at Burg Dinklage in Germany. It traces and discusses the origins of the *Communio*

Internationalis Benedictarum (or CIB, an organization parallel to the Benedictine Confederation of Men)—a union of Benedictine nuns and sisters that was very difficult to establish. The process began after Vatican II. The first Symposium in Rome in 1987 was a big step. The first Statutes were approved in 1992, then revised in 1997. The CIB was officially founded in 2001-02. At present it is operating under the revised Statutes of 2009.



Some Members of the CIB meeting in Croatia, 2009

PUBLICATIONS

Branigan, Renée, OSB. Book Review: *In the Beginning Was Love: Contemplative Words of Robert Lax*, ed. S.T. Georgiou (Springfield, IL: Templegate, 2015) in *ABR* 67:4 (2016), 454-455.

Book Review: *Two Dogs and a Parrot: What Our Animals Can Teach Us about Life*, by Joan Chittister, OSB (Katonah, NY: Bluebridge, 2015), 456-458.

Feiss, Hugh, OSB. "Prayer and Work: The Example of Robert La Chaise-Dieu (d.1067)," *ABR* 67:4 (2016), 403-422.

Fox, Ruth, OSB. Book Review: *Hidden in God: Discovering the Desert Vision of Charles de Foucauld* by Bonnie Thurston (Notre Dame, IN: Ave Maria Press, 2016) in *ABR* 67:4 (December 2016), 449-450.

Kardong, Terrence, OSB. "Challenges to Monasticism in Our Time." *Erbe und Auftrag* 1 (2017).

Book Review: *Histoire Littéraire du Mouvement Monastique dans L' Antiquité, Part II: Le Monachisme Grec, Vol. 1-3* by Adalbert de Vogüè, OSB Rome: Sant' Anselmo, 2015) in *ABR* 67:4 (2016), 458-459.

McCarthy, Daniel, OSB. with Reginald Foster, OCD. *Ossa Latinitatis Sola: The Mere Bones of Latin*. Washington, DC: The Catholic University of America Press, 2016. <http://thelatinlanguage.org/ossium/>

Norris, Kathleen. Book Review: *Joan Chittister: Her Journey from Certainty to Faith*, by Tom Roberts (Orbis Books, 2015) in *ABR* 67:4 (December 2016), 448-449.

Peters, Greg, ObISB. "Influence of the Benedictine Rule" and "Mount Athos Established as a Major Monastic Center (960s)," Andrew Holt and Florin Curta, eds., *Great Events in Religion: An Encyclopedia of Pivotal Events in Religious History* (Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO), 2016.

Richmond, Donald P., ObISB. "A Pilgrimage in My Pocket," *The Valyermo [Benedictine] Chronicle*.

Poem 11 (To God)

"No point in asking where I go
next. I go
wherever you take me.
Go gladly to & gladly from. I
only want to
know you're there."
—Robert Lax

Romey, Linda, OSB. "Take Action to Welcome the Emerging Future of Religious Life," *Global Sisters Report* <http://globalsistersreport.org/column/trends/take-action-welcome-emerging-future-religious-life-44336>

Sautner, Adel, OSB. Book Review: *Befriending Silence: Discovering the Gifts of Cistercian Spirituality* by Carl McColman (Notre Dame, IN: Ave Maria Press, 2015), 451-452.

Shannon, Martin, CJ. *According to Your Mercy*. Brewster, MA: Paraclete Press, 2017.

Swan, Laura, OSB. Book Review: *Religious Women in Early Carolingian Francia: A Study of Manuscript Transmission and Monastic Culture*, by Felice Lifshitz (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2014), 105-106.

_____ Book Review: *The Silk Industries of Medieval Paris: Artisanal Migration, Technological Innovation, and Gendered Experience* by Sharon Farmer (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2017), 106-107.

Upton, Julie, RSM, ObISB. Reflection on Rabbi Lawrence Hoffman's *Beyond the Text*. NCR Online "Take and Read" series. <https://www.ncronline.org/blogs/ncr-today/hoffmans-beyond-text-directs-us-border-lands>

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, January 7-8 and 21-22.

McCarthy, Daniel, OSB. Thirteen Lectures for *Architecture for Liturgy I*, January 16-20, 2017, Spiritual Life Center, Wichita Kansas. <http://architectureforliturgy.org/liturgy-week-1/>

Upton, Julia, RSM. Appeared on "City of Churches" explaining the development of St. Thomas More Church on the campus of St. John's University https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V261sE_y5-Y&feature=youtu.be

_____ "Adé Bethune: Wheel Calendars 1947-1966," Washington, DC: For the Environment and Art Seminary at the Annual Meeting of the of the North American Academy of Liturgy, January 2017.

Valente, Judith, ObISB. "Why Poetry Matters," St. Benedict High School, Chicago, during National Catholic Schools Week, February, 2017.

Book to Note

Tomaine, Jane. *The Rule of Benedict: Christian Monastic Wisdom for Daily Living, Selections Annotated & Explained*. Nashville, TN: Skylight Paths Publishing, 2017.

Notice

**Next MR Newsletter, June 2017
Compiled and edited
by Ephrem Hollermann, OSB
Saint Benedict's Monastery, St. Joseph, MN
Comments/suggestions welcomed
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2018 ABA Convention July 19-22

**Saint Benedict's Monastery
St. Joseph, Minnesota**

"Artisans of the Monastery"

