



The AMERICAN MONASTIC NEWSLETTER

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The mission of the American Monastic Newsletter is to be an instrument of communication and information for Benedictine monasteries of North America and members of the American Benedictine Academy.

ABA Convention 2016

Keep Death Daily Before Your Eyes

July 21 - 23, 2016

Benedict Inn Retreat and Conference Center
Beech Grove, Indiana

Thursday, July 21

- 5:15 Vespers with community, supper
- 7:30 Welcome and introductions followed by social

Friday July 22

- 7:30 Breakfast with new members and board
- 8:30 Morning Prayer
- 9:00 Kerry Egan - *Reflections from a Hospice Chaplain*
- 10:30 Chris Kean, OSB - *Death: We Know Not The Day Nor The Hour*
- 2:00 Presentation for research and archivist sections, oblate gathering
- 3:30 Section meetings: researchers, visual arts, librarians and a "room for conversations"
- 5:15 Vespers and supper with community
- 7:30 Poetry and reflection by Judith Valente - *What the Living Do*

Saturday, July 23

- 8:30 Morning Prayer
- 9:00 Terrence Kardong, OSB - *Writing Obituaries*
- 10:30 Panel - *The Paschal Mystery in the Life and Death of a Monastery*
- 12:00 Lunch with optional short presentation by Aaron Raverty, OSB on monastic commemoration of the dead
- 2:00 Business Meeting
- 6:00 Mass, banquet with awards and installation of new board

REGISTRATION FORM INSIDE ON PAGE 7-8

President's Message

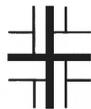
Benedictines aren't usually the hippest people in the room (Well, I should probably only speak for myself). But as I was eating dinner in my monastery a couple of weeks ago, it was pointed out that the theme of this year's convention, "Keeping Death Daily Before Our Eyes" is particularly "on trend." Both Atul Gawande's *Being Mortal* and Paul Kalinithi's *When Breath Becomes Air* have dominated national book group lists and library hold shelves. These beautiful and important works have prompted our co-workers, students, family members, and associates to ask some pressing questions about what it means to live a good life and die a good death. I remain more convinced than ever that the Benedictine tradition possesses unique and significant insights to offer in answering these.

This conviction was sustained by the ABA board meeting last month at Our Lady of Grace Monastery in Beech Grove, Indiana. In reflecting on the days we spent together, I am particularly excited by three things. First of all we will gather in July where the convention has never been held before, one that is in "the middle" of the country and very accessible. Secondly we will be the first

large group using the newly renovated Benedict Inn, which promises to be comfortable and convenient. Our board meeting was a foretaste of the gracious Benedictine hospitality we will experience. Finally the energy and enthusiasm board members brought to convention planning augured good fruit this summer: genuine consideration of how we, as individuals and communities shaped by Benedictine values, live out the paschal mystery.

We so hope you'll come join the conversation. You may not see the Indianapolis Speedway, but through common prayer, study and table, hopefully we will "run the path the God's commandments, our hearts overflowing with the inexpressible delight of love" (Prologue 49). You will also help articulate what we, as Benedictines in all walks of life, have to say on this "trending" topic.

Susan Quaintance, OSB
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The AMERICAN MONASTIC NEWSLETTER

Submit any announcements or articles to:

Editor: Judith Sutura, OSB

Mount St. Scholastica, 801 S. 8th, Atchison, KS 66002

Email: jsutura@mountosb.org

For all address changes, membership payments, or any other ABA business, please contact:

ABA Secretary: Elizabeth Carrillo, OSB

Mount St. Scholastica, 801 S. 8th, Atchison, KS 66002

Email: ecarrillo@mountosb.org

The American Monastic Newsletter is published three times per year and it, as well as other ABA information, may be read online at:

www.americanbenedictine.org

At the annual board meeting, February 19-20, the bulk of the time was spent firming up the details for the July convention. Reports were given regarding grants, nomination for the Egredia Award, and the essay competition. Several essay entries have been received and it is hoped that more will arrive before the deadline at the end of March.

A large concern for the board is how to keep the ABA viable and fiscally sound. The number of communities that have diminished or closed means that the level of sponsor support is difficult to sustain. More younger monastics and people outside of the monastery, especially oblates, must be made aware of the work of the Academy and encouraged to join. To these ends, the board hopes to establish a finance committee and a futuring committee to assist in addressing these challenges. Members who have interest in being part of this work are urged to contact the president and offer their services.

CANON LAW COLUMN

Transfer of monastics to another community

When monastics make profession, they freely bind themselves to their particular monastery by profession of stability. That means that once profession is made, the monastic commits him/herself to live and, hopefully, to grow in fidelity to the monastic way of life in the monastery which he/she entered. “For life” is a long time! As is often remarked by experienced monastics, “It’s a good thing I didn’t know all I know now when I made profession.” While you can think of that remark in a cynical way, it can also mean that we grow into the reality of living the monastic way of life, and we gradually come to know the myriad ways in which God calls us to deepen and live with integrity and in fidelity in the monastery. When we are new monastics, just as a newly married person might say, we could never imagine the many ways in which we would be called to stretch and grow in the years to come.

It sometimes happens that a member of a particular monastery feels called to transfer his/her stability to another monastery. He/she still feels drawn to the monastic way of life but to another expression of it as it is lived in another monastery. In that case, there should be a period of discernment, honest self-examination and dialogue with the monastic superior of the house that received the profession of stability and also with the monastic superior of the house to which the monastic is considering transferring.

What is the process for such a transfer? Canons 684-685 as well as the proper law of the congregation/federation and that of the individual monastery state what is required. Canon 684 has five sections, only one of which we will focus on, regarding the transfer of a monastic from one monastery to another of his/her own congregation/federation.

However, before looking at canon 684§3, we will briefly look at canon 684§1 which states: “Perpetually professed members cannot transfer from their own religious institute to another, except by permission of the supreme moderators of both institutes given with the consent of their respective councils.” It is striking that the canon is stated in a negative way – “that one cannot transfer, except ...”. One commentator

says that this negative statement “has been chosen to make clear that the transfer to another institute is extraordinary and must be requested and approved only in grave cases...”. This point is well taken. Changing from one religious institute to another, or even from one monastery to another within the same religious institute, should be an exceptional matter, not one to be done lightly.

It is important to note that only §3 of canon 684 deals with monastics transferring from one monastery to another within the same congregation or federation. There are different procedures, somewhat less stringent, when the transfer is within the same federation or congregation. That difference makes sense in that there is not a change of charism except that of the specific charism of the locale. But the basic charism of being a monastic in the Benedictine tradition is the same.

Canon 684§3 states: “For a religious to transfer from one autonomous monastery to another monastery of the same institute, federation, or confederation, the consent of the major superior of both monasteries and of the chapter of the receiving monastery is required and is sufficient unless the institute’s own law has established further conditions. A new profession is not required.” Please note that this part of the canon addresses the transfer of both perpetually and temporarily professed monastics by using the general term “religious” at the beginning of the section, whereas canon 684§1 addresses only “perpetually professed members.” Also, please note the reference to the possibility that “the institute’s own law [might have] established further conditions.” As noted in an earlier canon law column (February 2008 issue of the *American Monastic Newsletter*), the proper law of an institute, together with canons of the Code, must always be taken into account. A further item of note in this part of the canon is the fact that there is no new profession required upon transfer. Rather, for Benedictines it only involves a transfer of stability.

To re-state in brief: for a monastic to transfer from one monastery to another monastery within the same federation or congregation, canon 684§3 requires only the consent of the two monastic superiors as well as the consent of the chapter of the receiving monastery. As Dan Ward, OSB points out in his

(continued from page 3)

commentary on this section of the canon, “no waiting period nor new profession is required,” as is required for others transferring from one religious institute to another under canon 684§1. As Ward also points out, “The Code now simplifies the process, although proper law may require more formalities.”

My own Federation of St. Scholastica, in its constitution (i.e., proper law) states nine norms regarding transfer; and my own Sacred Heart Monastery in Cullman, Alabama, has an additional eight monastery norms, many of them with several subparts. In my federation a period of transition is required for the transferring sister unless she is transferring from a suppressed monastery, in which case the transition period may be waived at the discretion of the prioress of the receiving monastery. In the constitution of both the American Cassinese Congregation and Swiss-American Congregation of Benedictine men, a period of probation for completing the transfer is, among other things, also required.

It should be noted that during any time of transition or probation, before the transfer of stability is finalized, canon 685 states the “the rights and obligations which the member had in the former institute are suspended; however, the religious is obligated to observe the proper law of the new institute from the beginning of the probationary period.” Nevertheless, should the monastic decide during the period of probation that he/she wishes to return to his/her former monastery, he/she may do so. It should also be noted that during the period of probation, the transferring monastic has no right to vote (active voice) or be voted for (passive voice) in either the former or the new monastery.

In contrast to the above, should a monastic wish to transfer to a different religious institute (i.e., a non-Benedictine community or another monastery not in the same federation) then the process is different from that described above; and it is lengthier. In such a case, the provisions of canon 684§§1 & 2 apply. It is required that the permission of the “supreme moderator,” together with the consent of his/her council of both the original and the new institutes, must be given. It also requires a probationary period of at least three years (though proper law can require a longer period). Canon 684§4 requires that the proper law of the institute “determine the time and mode

of probation which is to precede the profession of a member in the new institute.” It can be no less than three years as required in canon 684§2.

It should be noted that there is also another type of transfer that a monastic might seek. This occurs when the monastic wishes to transfer to another type of institute altogether – not just to a non-Benedictine religious institute, as shown above, but rather to a “society of apostolic life” or to a “secular institute.” While it is beyond the scope of this brief column to address or even define what these two types of different entities are, suffice it to say that a transfer to one of them by a monastic cannot be accomplished by the simple permission of the two superiors, etc. Instead, according to canon 684§5, the permission of the Holy See (in this case, it is the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life [CICLSAL]; see canon law column from October 2012) is required.

It is clear from the brief discussion above that transfer of a monastic must be discerned and carefully considered. The required process described above ensures that there is sufficient time for that to take place.

If you have a question or idea for a future column, feel free to contact Sister Lynn.

Lynn McKenzie, OSB
Sacred Heart Monastery, Cullman, Ala.
lynnmckenzieosb@gmail.com

SPEND A WEEK IN ITALY
WITH ST. BENEDICT
Barga, Norcia, Subiaco
June 10-17, 2016

Learn about Benedictine spirituality through art and St. Benedict’s life and rule. This study/retreat will be based at The Mount Tabor Ecumenical Centre for Art & Spirituality in Barga, Italy, a beautiful context for reflection and contemplation in an atmosphere of monastic hospitality and peace. It will feature Timothy Verdon, Abbot Primate Notker Wolf, OSB, and Jonathan Wilson-Hartgrove.

For questions or to register contact:

Mount Tabor Ecumenical Centre for Art &
Spirituality, PO Box 700, Orleans, MA 02653
508-240-7090, info@mounttabor.it

CALLING ALL MONASTIC ARTISTS

2016 convention art exhibit

The Visual Arts Section of the ABA invites Benedictine artists to submit one to four pieces of their art work for the ABA Art Show July 21 - 23, 2016, during the convention in Beech Grove, Indiana. At this convention we are adding a digital art gallery in addition to actual display pieces. Artists may submit one to three digital images. The theme for the convention is "Keep Death Daily Before Your Eyes." When making your selections please try to include art work reflective of the theme (such as funeral palls, urns, memorial cards, etc.) although all art work will be accepted.

Criteria for submission: original art work in any medium (fiber, ceramic, woodworking, stain glass, photography, etc.). Pieces must be ready for hanging or display on a pedestal. Clearly label each piece with your name and also include the name of your community and its location. Bring to convention or ship in a returnable container with pre-paid return shipping included. **Do not ship anything with glass.** Send art to arrive at the convention site by 12:00 noon July 21, 2016 (address to attention of Sister Antoinette Purcell, 1402 Southern Avenue, Beech Grove, IN 46107). Please note, ABA is not responsible for returning shipments. Shippers will need to make arrangements for return shipping.

Digital submissions must be in JPEG format. Please email files to greg.evans.oblsb@icloud.com by June 20, 2016. To contact Gregory Evans with questions or concerns: Phone (571) 225-7745, e-mail greg.oblsb@gmail.com.



NEWS

The four presentations from the 2014 ABA convention were published in the *American Benedictine Review* in December of 2015 (vol. 66, no. 4). Instead of printing a book of proceedings for distribution among members, the ABA is now making an effort to have the talks published in various journals so that they might be seen by a broader

readership and thus promote the Academy and its conventions.

The international DIMMID (Monastic Interreligious Dialogue) will hold a fourth Monastic/Muslim dialogue with Iranian Shi'ites in Qom, Iran, May 9-13. The topic is "The Dignity of Being Human," proposed by Abbot Timothy Wright of Mapleforth, who is in charge of arrangements for this year's gathering.

Along with Abbot Primate Notker Wolf and DIMMID Secretary General William Skudlarek, monastic participants from Australia, Africa, and Europe will attend as will the following representing North America: Gertrude Feick OSB (Queen of Angels, Mt Angel, Ore.), Michael Peterson OSB (Saint John's, Collegeville, Minn.), and Patricia Crowley OSB (Saint Scholastica, Chicago, Ill.)

Planning ahead

Following their 2015 meeting, the National Association of American Benedictine Oblate Directors has announced that the 2017 convention will be hosted by the oblates and directors of St. Scholastica Monastery on the campus of the College of St. Scholastica in Duluth, Minn.

The steering committee of the Monastic Worship Forum is working on plans for their 2017 conference to be held in Subiaco, Ark. Fr. Michael Joncas will be the main presenter and will focus his presentations on the liturgical year, including some liturgical theology and sharing of musical resources.

The Conference of Benedictine Prioresses held their annual meeting at Our Lady of Grace in Beech Grove, Ind., on Feb. 1-7. Forty-six prioresses participated in business meetings and a retreat. Abbot Gregory Polan, OSB of Conception Abbey, Conception, Mo., and Sister Karen Joseph, OSB of Monastery Immaculate Conception, Ferdinand, Ind. led them in a pre-Lent retreat on "The Paschal Mystery" with each presenter offering insights from their perspective and their own reflection.

ABA Call for Nominations

At the convention in July, the members in attendance will need to elect a vice-president who will succeed to the presidency in 2018 and four at-large board members who will each serve on the board for a term of two years and may be re-elected to a second term. At least one board member must be an oblate.

Current members of the board are: President Susan Quaintance, OSB (Saint Scholastica, Chicago), Vice-President Julie Upton, RSM (oblate of Mount Saviour, Pine City, N.Y.), Executive Secretary Elizabeth Carrillo, OSB (Mount St. Scholastica, Atchison) and at-large members: Marianne Burkhard, OSB (St. Mary, Rock Island), Greg Peters (oblate of St. Andrew's, Valyermo, Cal.), and Judith Valente, (oblate of Mount St. Scholastica, Atchison), all of whom are eligible for re-election, and Antionette Purcell, OSB (Our Lady of Grace, Beech Grove) who is not eligible for re-election but may be nominated for the presidency. Employees of the ABA (secretary and newsletter editor) may not be nominated to serve as at-large board members.

The Election Committee is requesting nominations for the positions of vice-president and four at-large members. "Only members of the Academy are eligible for nomination" (By-Laws, V.1.D). The list of ABA members for 2016 is posted in this newsletter.

Only current ABA members may nominate a candidate. For each nomination, please include the nominee's full contact information if known and a brief summary of what you feel are his/her qualifications. ABA members will also receive a nomination form by email from the secretary and may also access it on the "members only" page of the website.

Submit nominations by mail or email to:

Julia Upton, RSM
St. Mary of the Angels Convent
600 Convent Road
Syosset, NY 11791
uptonj@stjohns.edu

Please submit all nominations by April 1, 2016.

The Liturgy of the Hours: On-going Revision

In the 1980's Saint Benedict's Monastery, St. Joseph, Minn., launched the huge task of designing a Liturgy of the Hours book for our community. We decided on a format that would be simple to use, incorporating various aspects of our long tradition of singing and proclaiming the Divine Office. We included music and texts in various forms, i.e., chant in the classic four-line, square note system both in Latin and in English translation, compositions of our sisters for hymns, seasonal calls to worship, antiphons, responsories, psalm tones, and poetic translations for singing and proclamation.

Our first set of LOH books in English were welcomed by the community in 1989 with a ritual blessing at morning prayer. The new books looked and felt like prayer books with leather-like covers, truly icons of our common prayer. The covers continue to look like new 27 years and one revision later!

Because our daily prayer schedule consists of morning, noon and evening prayer, we published separate books for each. These books contain only the elements needed for ordinary time and Sundays of the various seasons of the liturgical year.

How would we move toward celebrating the fullness of the Liturgy of the Hours with fitting texts and music for solemnities and feasts? As liturgy director at the time, I began immediately to prepare separate booklets to meet this need. This has been an ongoing project spread over several years. Each time we assess what is still needed, we realize that some of the earliest editions need revising both for content and for updating with more flexible and worthy software.

To date, with the help of editors, proofreading, etc., we have completed the solemnities, the feasts of the Lord and two commons (apostles and evangelists), and funerals of our sisters. Still in consideration is the feasibility of preparing booklets for a specific LOH or a common for groupings such as Benedictine women, holidays of national importance, or saints of local or regional prominence.

This work has been energizing and has given me the motivation to continue to read and research in the area of the liturgy, especially the Liturgy of the Hours.

Theresa Schumacher, OSB
Saint Benedict's Monastery
St. Joseph, Minn.

American Benedictine Academy Convention

July 21-23, 2016

Benedict Inn
1402 Southern Avenue
Beech Grove, Indiana

Registration Form

Date _____

Name for badge _____

Monastery (name and city) _____

Personal Information

Full Name _____ OSB _____ Oblate _____ Other _____

Mailing Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Gender: () Female () Male

Registration Fee

Before June 1, 2016

\$150.00 ABA member

\$175.00 Non-member

After June 1, 2016

\$175.00 ABA member

\$200.00 Non-member

Day rate: \$100 for single day attendance and meals on that day ____ Fri. and/or ____ Sat.

Registration Total _____

Room and Board (room for Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights and meals from Thursday supper through Sunday breakfast). Please check room preference below:

Standard room with common bathroom: \$200 single ____ \$150 per person double ____

Private room with bath: \$235.00 single ____ \$175 per person double ____

NOTE: Space is limited and will be first come, first served.

I would also like housing on the additional nights of _____ at the published rate for the type of room in which I am staying.

I would like to share a double room with _____

Room & Board Total _____

TOTAL OF ALL ITEMS ABOVE _____

Assistance at Liturgies: Please volunteer. Check all that you are willing to do.

() Reader at prayers and/or Eucharist

() Prayer leader

() Cantor at prayers and/or Eucharist

() Play musical instrument - Type of instrument _____

Please indicate if you have any dietary or mobility needs and be specific about your requirements.

Transportation

Airport is Indianapolis International Airport which is approximately 15 miles from the monastery. Please make your own arrangements for transportation from airport.

IMPORTANT: When putting address in GPS or instructing a driver, be sure to indicate that the address is in Beech Grove as there is also a Southern Avenue in Indianapolis.

Other Housing Options

There are several motels at exits 103 (Southport Rd), 101 (County Line Rd) and 99 (Greenwood) on I-65 south of downtown Indianapolis, within 10-20 minutes of the monastery.

Please make check payable to “**Sisters of St. Benedict**” and mail with your registration form to:

Sister Antoinette Purcell
Our Lady of Grace Monastery
1402 Southern Avenue
Beech Grove, IN 46107

ABA Monastic Essay Competition

One of the goals of the American Benedictine Academy is to encourage newer monastics and newer oblates to do monastic research. Therefore we are enlarging the pool of those who are eligible to participate in the monastic essay competition. Monastics in initial formation and up to ten years after their first monastic professions, as well as oblates up to ten years after their oblation, are eligible to participate in this competition. All monasteries are asked to encourage participation in this competition as a means of promoting monastic scholarship for the future.

Encouraging monastic research at this early stage of monastic and oblate life is important because, as Benedict indicates in RB 3.3, younger/newer members may see things more clearly, or differently, because they bring both the enthusiasm of the newcomer (*feror novicius*) and their own individual experience in the world into the monastery and, in the case of oblates, into their thinking of how to apply Benedictine values to their life in the world. Building on their specific experiences they may be able to open some new questions or new ways of looking. It is also important for the ABA to do what it can do nurture new scholars in the field of Benedictine monasticism.

The purposes of the contest are:

- To stimulate interest in and study of monasticism and monastic history
- To acquaint newer members/oblates with the rich sources of monastic writings which are now much more easily available in print or even electronically
- To acquaint newer monastics with the history of the community, the purposes and personalities of founders, significant events, developments and challenges
- To foster use of local archives in monastic communities
- To focus on productive ways of integrating traditional monastic practices with the needs of 21st century Benedictine living, especially with the participants' own previous experience outside the monastery
- To encourage the collection of personal memoirs
- a discussion of the difficulties/possibilities of integrating tradition and current environment and possible new solutions
- a review of various adaptations of traditional practices in the past to new situations, their effectiveness in the past and possibly their significance for the current situation.

The essay is to be submitted as a double-spaced and computer-generated Word document.

The deadline for submissions is March 31. Send essays to the chair of the Monastic Essay Competition:

Sister Marianne Burkhard OSB
srmarianne@cdop.org

Project requirements

Within the theme of "the monastic tradition," the essay of 2,500-3,000 words may take a variety of forms, such as:

- the connection of a monastic topic to the writer's own monastery, or at least to the writer's own interpretation of how traditional monastic practices could be authentically and productively lived out in our time either in the monastery or in the oblate life

Winner/s will be notified by May 10, 2016. The prize for the winning essay is a 2-year membership in ABA, a waiver of registration and hospitality fees at the 2016 convention, and a book of interest to monastics/oblates.

Mentoring by ABA members will be available to those who participated in the competition in order to help them to develop their thoughts for possible publication in a scholarly journal, such as *The American Benedictine Review*.

ABA Grant Report

As a condition of receiving a monastic studies grant from the American Benedictine Academy, recipients are asked to give a report to be shared in this publication.

Since September of 2011, I have been a member of the Interfederation Committee on American Benedictine Origins and Heritage as a representative from the Federation of Saint Benedict.

The president of the Federation of Saint Scholastica assembled the committee as conversations were beginning about the future of St. Joseph Monastery in St. Marys, Pennsylvania, the first Benedictine women's monastery to be founded in North America in 1852. On January 14, 2014, the community in St. Marys publicly announced the closure of their monastery.

The purpose of the Interfederation Committee has been twofold: 1) To study, appreciate, and grasp the significance of the origins and history of the first foundation of Benedictine women in North America, and 2) To propose and facilitate ways of preserving and handing on the historical legacy born and nurtured at St. Joseph Monastery.

In 2014 I received an ABA Monastic Studies Grant for one of the Committee's remaining projects, that of 1) researching and updating a previous chart tracing the generations of independent monasteries founded from St. Joseph Monastery, which form the Bavarian tradition in North America, 2) engaging a design and graphic professional to create a new chart, and 3) drawing up a bibliography of the histories of the monasteries represented on the chart.

Research Findings

1. Between the years 1856 (founding of Mount Saint Benedict Monastery, Erie, Pennsylvania) and 2000 (independence granted to Monasterio Santa Escolastica, Humacao, Puerto Rico), 49 independent monasteries that trace their lineage back to St. Joseph Monastery were founded. Of these, 32 monasteries still exist independently in the year 2016.

2. The heritage tree of St. Joseph Monastery, includes five generations of Benedictine women's communities. Eight first generation monasteries were established directly from St. Joseph Monastery between 1856 and 1911, that is, during the first third of its history. Of these eight directly-founded

monasteries, six still exist in 2016. Second generation monasteries founded between 1859 and 2000 number 18. Third generation monasteries total 15 established between 1867 and 1989. Fourth generation monasteries founded between 1879 and 1996 total 7. One fifth generation monastery, begun in 1969, closed in 2009.

3. Thirteen of the original 49 monasteries relocated geographically one or more times throughout their history. Six monasteries merged since 1880, four of them with their founding monasteries and two with other than their monasteries of origin. Seven monasteries closed permanently between the years 1888 and 2011. The remaining members of these communities individually transferred their profession to various other monasteries/convents or left religious life. One monastery changed its status to a non-canonical, ecumenical monastery in 2007.

The definitive history of St. Joseph Monastery is yet to be written. For now, it can be said that no historical account, however carefully researched and recorded, will ever be able to measure the enormous impact and legacy of this first monastery of Benedictine women in North America. At its height of membership in the 1930's to 1950's, the community never numbered more than 125 members at any one time. In reality, over the 162 years that the monastery was in existence, a total of 350 women entered the community of St. Marys, many of whom went out from there to establish new monasteries as far west as North Dakota by the turn of the twentieth century. The branches extending from the sturdy trunk of this Benedictine tree planted in St. Marys, Pennsylvania, have given birth to thousands of Benedictine women dedicated to prayer, work, and service to the Church and the world.

The results of this research are now in the hands of a professional graphic designer who will produce a visual image of the "family tree" of St. Joseph Monastery, St. Marys, Pennsylvania. When the image is completed, it will be electronically available on the ABA website, along with the bibliography of the published histories of the monasteries represented on the chart.

Sister Ephrem Hollermann, OSB
Saint Benedict's Monastery
St. Joseph, Minn.

Grant applications for this year are closed, but general information is available on the ABA website and next year's deadlines will be announced there soon.

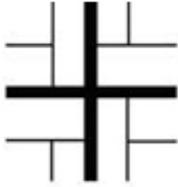
DON'T FORGET THAT ALL MEMBERSHIPS PAID THROUGH 2015 WERE DUE FOR RENEWAL JAN 1.

MEMBERS RECEIVE A DISCOUNT ON THEIR CONVENTION REGISTRATION.

The following are the current members of the American Benedictine Academy with dues paid through 2016. Nominations for positions on the board of directors must be selected from this list.

Anderson, Linda, St. Paul, MN
Berger, OSB, Mary Jane, St. Joseph, MN
Bevens, OblSB, Donna, Vancouver, WA
Biermaier, OSB, Ann Marie, St. Joseph, MN
Biggs, Rev. John A., Pahrump, NV
Bingham, OSB, Penny, Yankton, SD
Blake, Tom, Kansas City, MO
Bogue, Edith, Duluth, MN
Boucaud, OSB, Michaela Marie, Ft. Smith, AR
Bratsovsky, OSB, Mary, Lisle, IL
Burley, OSB, Joanna, Bristow, VA
Carlson, Helen, Richfield, MN
Carrillo, OSB, Elizabeth, Atchison, KS
Carruth, OSB, Shawn, Moorhead, MN
Christensen, Katherine, Berea, KY
Cooper, OSB, Mark, Manchester, NH
Corcoran, OSB, Mary Donald, Windsor, NY
Devine, OSB, Luke, Lacey, WA
Dick, OSB, Trish, St. Joseph, MN
Dieker, OSB, Alberta, Mt. Angel, OR
Dirkes, OblSB, Paul, Daphne, AL
Dohn, OSB, Rita, Clyde, MO
Dummer, OSB, Mary Lou, St. Paul, MN
Ernster, OSB, Jacquelyn, Yankton, SD
Erspamer, OSB, Martin, St Meinrad, IN
Evans, Gregory, Manassas, VA
Evans, OSB, Robin Lynn, Mount Angel, OR
Feehan, OSB, Mary, Elizabeth, NJ
Feiss, OSB, Hugh, Jerome, ID
Forman, OSB, Mary, Cottonwood, ID
Fox, OSB, Ruth, Richardton, ND
Fritts, Jack, Lisle, IL
Funk, OSB, Mary Margaret, Beech Grove, IN
Gacnik, OSB, Bonita, Yankton, SD
Garcia, OSB, Pachomius, Cullman, AL
Grabert, OSB, Colman, St. Meinrad, IN
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