



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Current Projects 1-3

Publications 3-4

Presentations 4

Notices 4

• Contributors

- Kathleen Norris
- Samuel Torvend
- Hugh Feiss
- Mary Wolff-Salin
- Timothy Joyce
- Aaron Raverty
- Greg Peters
- Jeanna Visel
- Jacob Riyeff
- Tom Piazza
- Judith Valente
- Colleen McGrane
- Miriam Perkins

Current Projects

Kathleen Norris, ObISB, writes that she “recently signed a contract with Brazos for a book on film with co-author Gareth Higgins. It’s based on our weekly e-newsletter, “SoulTelegram,” and will focus on films that have meaningful things to say about every stage of life, from birth to the afterlife. It’s scheduled for publication in 2024.”

Samuel Torvend, ObISB reports: “My monograph, *Monastic Ecological Wisdom: A Living Tradition*, will be released this Fall by the Liturgical Press. I am grateful for a book recommendation written by Gregory Polan, OSB, abbot primate and former classmate. • In September, I will attend the Fifth International Oblate Congress in Rome and then map out site visits in England for a study tour on monastic sources of Anglican spirituality - a thousand year tradition.”

Hugh Feiss, OSB, writes the following: “At the Medieval Congress at Kalamazoo in May, I organized a section sponsored by the American Benedictine Academy on the shifting balance of work, prayer, and reading in medieval Benedictine monasticism. ABA mem-

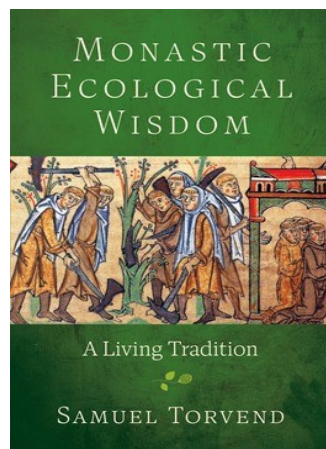
ber S. Colleen McGrane gave an excellent paper on Hildemar’s horarium. At the same congress I gave a paper on a textual borrowing I discovered between Peter of Celle and Richard of Saint-Victor, regarding Spiritual Breads. It is currently under consideration for publication. I also chaired a session on the Abbey of St. Victor. • With some oblates I went on a three-day “reading retreat” at a cabin in the [Idaho] mountains. Seven or eight of us spent the time reading books of our choice by CS Lewis. We had Mass, brunch, a discussion at 5:00, and supper at 6:30. After supper we watched *Surprised by Joy* and *Shadowlands*. Otherwise we were free to read. I read Lewis, *Pilgrimage of Love* and *That Hideous Strength*. It turned out to be a very pleasant and invigorating time, despite the family of skunks who lived under the small bunk house where I stayed.

• I reworked a bilingual edition and commentary on Richard of St. Victor’s *De extermination mali and promotions boni*, that has been at a publisher. It is a cause we can all embrace.

• Now I am back working on a larger project on Richard of St Victor’s various treatments of the Tabernacle of Moses and its contents. I have been working on it for

quite a while, and I have a rough draft almost ready. We’ll see where this lands.

• The proposed topic for the ABA session at the International Medieval Conference at Kalamazoo in May 2024 is how Medieval Benedictines thought about salvation. When and if the session is accepted, I will send notifications to various Benedictine places where there might be someone interested in submitting a paper. I plan to investigate how Bernard of Cluny (*De contemptu Mundi*, etc.) thought about salvation. There are many angles to the question: grace and free will and/or good works, what the monks’ hoped to be saved from and what salvation is here and hereafter, and so on. The *Rule* and St. Anselm obviously are fertile fields for consideration, but almost any medieval Benedictine author would have thoughts about the topic.



CURRENT PROJECTS CONT.

“At some point in the later ninth to tenth centuries, the following short prayers were added by monastic hands to manuscripts that were already complete. These poetic prayers are small monuments left to

us from nameless monastics ...”

—Riyeff

Spirit and Life, July/August, 2023

Saint Peter's Song

The Lord has given Saint Peter dominion, so, he might spare those in his care. *Kyrie eleison, Christe eleison.* With words he waits on heaven's gates to open God's doors to those he'll restore. *Kyrie eleison, Christe eleison.*

The Augsburg Prayer

God, as it's your nature to be gracious to your creatures, answer our plea, our need, immediately.



● I have written some book reviews for ABR and other publications. Still to appear is a review of Albrecht Diem, *The Pursuit of Salvation*, a lengthy study centered on the *Regula cuiusdam*, which contains an edition and translation. It influenced my choice of the topic for the 2024 Medieval Congress.

Mary Wolff-Salin reports that in the Fall of 2023 she will be teaching a class at the Boston C.G.Jung Institute on “Monastic Spirituality and Jung: Common Threads.”

Timothy Joyce, OSB, writes the following and is interested in others' ideas. “[My] Abbot has asked me to form and lead a committee to study the future of our monastery. I have been meeting with a group of ten people, five men and five women, as well as with the monks themselves. It is slow going. I know Benedictine women are far ahead of us, e.g. Atchison, Erie, Cottonwood, and I am wondering whether any men's communities are dealing with the future. Please let me know so we can share with each other joycet@glastonburyabbey.org Thanks.”

Aaron Raverty, OSB reports that he has written two articles for the *Abbey Banner*—one of them is about angels as personal, incorporeal beings created in heaven by God—with intelligence, will, and moral agency—who function principally (but not exclusively)

as messengers of the Divine.” A second article features a Central Minnesota family that offered two Benedictine monks and four Benedictine sisters to St. John's Abbey and St. Benedict's Monastery. (See references in the “Publications” section of this newsletter).

Greg Peters, ObISB has signed a contract with Eerdmans Publishing for a book tentatively entitled *Monastic Theology as Theological Method: The Superiority of the Monastery to the University*, to be published in 2025.

Jeana Visel, OSB reports: “I am continuing archival research on the early renewal period of the history of Monastery Immaculate Conception in Ferdinand, Indiana. Presently I'm working through letters from the prioress to the community in 1969. What a period of transition!

● Beyond that I have completed several new icons, and continue to refine a “Foundations in Christian Spirituality” course that I taught for Saint Meinrad for the first time this past spring.”

Jacob Riyeff, ObISB “has had two short essays on Benedictine pioneers of interreligious dialogue appear recently—one on Fr. Bede Griffiths in New Camaldoli's newsletter and one on Dom Henri Le Saux (Swami Abhishiktananda) in *Dilatato Corde*. Also, an essay on the spiritual value of encountering plants in

the city appeared in *Living City*, and an essay on imperial Benedictinism (with original poetic translations) in *Spirit & Life*. ● This summer, he is at work on a new “collaborative” project with Abbot Louis of Blois and doing background research for another edition of the work of Dame Gertrude More.”

Tom Piazza had two articles on Benedictine membership trends accepted for publication in the *ABR*. One article is on Brazil, and the other is on European countries. In progress is a revised and corrected edition of his reports on the monastic life in several European countries during the 1960s.

Judith Valente, ObISB an ABA Board member, was elected president of the International Thomas Merton Society at its biennial conference in June at St. Mary's College, Notre Dame IN.

● In May, Judith led a two-week contemplative, cultural, culinary retreat/pilgrimage called “Benedictine Footprints” which focused on life in a small Italian town and included visiting little-known Benedictine sites in the Abruzzo region of Italy. Because of its success this year, she will be offering the retreat again in June 2024.

Judith will be one of five scholars in residence in July at the St. Columba Retreat Center in Inverness, CA.

● She will guide a retreat on “Thomas Merton & Dorothy Day: “Contemplative Wisdom for Crisis Times” at the St. Benedict Center in Schuyler, NE July 28-30.

CURRENT PROJECTS CONT.

Colleen Maura

McGrane, OSB presented a paper entitled: *Hildemar's Horarium: A Balanced Life* at the American Benedictine Academy session of the International Medieval Congress, Kalamazoo, MI on May 12, 2023. ● Her article "The Number of Masses Celebrated Each Day in Hildemar of Corbie's *Expositio Regulae Sancti Benedicti*" has been accepted for publication in *Revue Bénédictine*. ● In June she gave conferences on the *Rule of Benedict*, as well as Hildemar, at Monastery of Christ in the Desert, Abiquiu, NM.

● On July 12 she will give a presentation to Saint Brigid of Kildaire oblates entitled "St. Benedict and Scholastica: Models of Holiness and Humanity." **Miriam Perkins, ObISB** wrote a short piece, "Prioritizing What We Value" for the Ministry Resource Center at Milligan University, Milligan, Tennessee. <https://ministryresource.milligan.edu/2022/08/prioritizing-what-we-value/> She also gave a paper at the 2023 Christian Scholars Conference in Houston, TX, titled,

"Political Theology without a Platform: What the White Church can Learn from the Earliest African American Congregation in Savannah."

Ephrem Hollermann, OSB, and four other monastic researchers contributed chapters in *A Benedictine Reader, 1530-1930*, edited by Hugh Feiss, OSB, and Maureen O'Brien and released by the Liturgical Press in March, 2023. Hugh Feiss, OSB, by far the most prolific monastic researcher contributed 12 chapters. The other contributors are Jacob Riyeff, Colleen Maura McGrane, OSB, and Greg Peters.



Hildemar was a mid-ninth century monk of Corbie in northern France, known for his commentary on the *RB*. *Expositio*, ca. 845 CE

PUBLICATIONS

Feiss, Hugh, OSB. "Saint-Michel de Bois-Aubry, Jacques Bienassis and Religious Toleration," in Hugh Feiss and Maureen O'Brien, eds. *A Benedictine Reader: 1530–1930* (Collegeville, MN: Cistercian Publications, 2023), 3-26.*

*The following are additional chapters contributed to *A Benedictine Reader: 1530-1930* by Hugh Feiss

- _____ "Augustine Baker, OSB, Recusant Benedictine: Sophia/Holy Wisdom," 39-54.
- _____ "Faremoutiers and the Benedictine Revival in Seventeenth-Century France," 79-100.
- _____ "The Abbey of Saint Walburg: Devotion to Saint Walburga During the Thirty Years War," 101-121.
- _____ "The Congregation of Saint Maur in the Seventeenth Century: Claude Martin, OSB, The Practice of the Rule of Saint Benedict," 123-145.
- _____ "Benedict Michael Pembridge, OSB, and the English Benedictine Congregation, 1688-1795," 185-207.
- _____ "The Abbey of La Trinita, Cava dei Tirreni," 233-263.
- _____ "Abbot Prosper Guéranger, OSB (1805-1875), Solesmes, and The Liturgical Year," 265-281.
- _____ "Abbot Maurus Wolter, OSB, and the First Fifty Years at Beuron," 283-303.
- _____ "Father James Ambrose Cotham, OSB (1810-1883) Monk and Missionary," 305-328.
- _____ "Abbot Rosendo Salvado, OSB (1814-1900), Founder of New Norcia Abbey in Western Australia and Missionary to the Aboriginal People," 329-351.
- _____ "St. Ottilien and Tutzing and Their African Missions, 1883-1906," 419-444.

_____ Book Review: *Bede the Theologian: History, Rhetoric, and Spirituality* by John P. Bequette (Washington, DC: The Catholic University of America Press, 2022) in *ABR* 74:1 (March 2023) 109-110.

Hollermann, Ephrem, OSB, "St Walburg Abbey, Eichstatt, Bavaria, and the Founding of American Benedictine Women's Communities (1806-1881," in Hugh Feiss and Maureen O'Brien, eds., *A Benedictine Reader: 1530–1930* (Collegeville, MN: Cistercian Publications, 2023) 359-380.

McGrane, Colleen Maura, OSB, "The Number of Masses Celebrated Each Day in Hildemar of Corbie's *Expositio Regulae Sancti Benedicti*," forthcoming in *Revue Bénédictine*.

_____ "Catherine Mechtilde de Bar, OSB (1614-1698), Founder of the Benedictine Nuns of the Institute of Perpetual Adoration of the Most Holy Sacrament of the Altar." in Hugh Feiss and Maureen O'Brien, eds., *A Benedictine Reader: 1530–1930* (Collegeville, MN: Cistercian Publications, 2023), 147-163.

Perkins, Miriam, ObISB, "Prioritizing What We Value," Ministry Resource Center at Milligan University, Milligan, Tennessee.

Peters, Greg ObISB. "Father Ignatius Lyne (1837-1908): Monasteries in the Church of England," in Hugh Feiss and Maureen O'Brien, eds., *A Benedictine Reader: 1530–1930* (Collegeville, MN: Cistercian Publications, 2023), 381-400.

_____ "Bare Ruined Choirs?: The Death and Life of Anglican Monasticism," *ABR* 74.1 (March 2023) 22-41.
 _____ *Monastic Theology as Theological Method: The Superiority of the Monastery to the University*, forthcoming from Eerdmans Publishing in 2025.

- Raverty, Aaron, OSB.** "Angels." *Abbey Banner* 22, no. 3 (Winter 2022–23), 16–19.
"The Weber Brothers." *Abbey Banner* 23, no. 1 (Spring 2023), 22–25.
- Richmond, Donald, ObISB.** "A Fool with A Word," *ABR* 74:1 (March 2023) 97-108
- Riyeff, Jacob.** "Bede Griffiths and the Divine Office." *New Camaldoli Hermitage Newsletter* Lent/Easter (2023).
"Swami Abhishiktananda and the Psalms." *DIMMID* Jul-Dec (2023).
"The City Is Alive." *Living City Magazine* Jul-Aug (2023).
"On the Strange Case of Empire Catalyzing the Benedictine Order." *Spirit & Life* 119:2 (Jul-Aug 2023), 5-8.
"Bare Ruined Choirs?: The Death and Life of Anglican Monasticism," *American Benedictine Review* 74.1 (2023): 22-41.
" Dame Gertrude More, OSB," in Hugh Feiss and Maureen O'Brien, eds., *A Benedictine Reader: 1530–1930* (Collegeville, MN: Cistercian Publications, 2023), 55-78.
- Sutera, Judith, OSB,** Book Review: *The Cambridge Companion to Hildegard of Bingen*, ed. By Jennifer Bain (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2021) in *Magistra*, 28:2 (Winter 22) 84-86.
Book Review: *St. Mary of Egypt: A Modern Verse Life and Interpretation* by Bonnie Thurston (Collegeville, MN: The Liturgical Press/Cistercian Publications, 2021) in *Magistra*, 28:2 (Winter 22) 87-88..
Book Review: *For Their Sake I Consecrate Myself: Sister Maria Bernadette of the Cross* by Jadwiga Krukowska (Bridgport, Ont.: Arouca Press, 2022) in *Magistra*, 28:2 (Winter 22) 88-89.
- Swan, Laura, OSB.** Book Review: *Like a Mustard Seed: A History of he First Benedictine Women's Monastery in North America, St. Joseph Monastery, St. Marys, PA, 1852-2014*, by Ephrem Hollermann, OSB (Morrisville, NC: Lulu Press, 2022), in *Magistra*, 28:2 (Winter 22) 71-72.
Book Review: *Gertrud the Great of Helfta: The Memorial of the Abundance of the Divine Sweetness*, trans. by Alexandra Barratt (Collegeville, MN: Cistercian Publications/Liturgical Press, 2022) in *Magistra*, 28:2 (Winter 22) 72-73.
Book Review: *Thousands and Thousands of Lovers: Sense of Community Among the Nuns of Helfta* by Anna Harrison (Collegeville, MN: Cistercian Publications/Liturgical Press, 2022) in *Magistra*, 28:2 (Winter 22) 73-76.
- Torvend, Samuel, ObISB.** *Monastic Ecological Wisdom: A Living Tradition*, forthcoming from The Liturgical Press, Fall 2023.

Presentations

- Feiss, Hugh, OSB.** "Textual Borrowing Between Peter of Celle and Richard of Saint-Victor Regarding Spiritual Breads," at the International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI, May 2023.
- McGrane, Colleen Maura, OSB.** "Hildemar's Horrarium: A Balanced Life," at the International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI, May 12, 2023.
Conferences on the *Rule of Benedict*, as well as Hildemar, at the Monastery of Christ in the Desert, Abiquiu, NM., June, 2023.
"St. Benedict and Scholastica: Models of Holiness and Humanity," to Saint Brigid of Kildaire Oblates, July 12, 2023.
- Perkins, Miriam, ObISB,** "Political Theology without a Platform at the White Church can Learn from the Earliest African American Congregation in Savannah," Christian Scholars Conference, Houston, TX, 2023.
- Peters, Greg,** *Monastic Theology as Theological Method: The Superiority of the Monastery to the University*, to be published in 2025.

Notice

Next MR Newsletter, October, 2023

**Compiled and edited by
Ephrem Hollermann, OSB**

**Saint Benedict's Monastery, St. Joseph, MN
Comments/suggestions welcomed**

ehollermann@csbsju.edu

**2024 ABA Convention
Liturgy of the Hours: Evolution**

August 7-11

**St. Meinrad Archabbey
St. Meinrad, Indiana.**