

The AMERICAN MONASTIC NEWSLETTER

Published under the auspices of the American Benedictine Academy

www.americanbenedictine.org

Volume 55, Number 1

February 2024

Inside this issue:

President's Message	2
Canon Law	4
Convention Registration	5
In Memoriam	6
News	7
ABA Business	9
Essay Contest	10
Member List	11
Membership Form	12

The mission of the American Monastic Newsletter is to be an instrument of communication and information for monastic communities in the Benedictine tradition in North America, members of the American Benedictine Academy, and other interested persons.

Introducing Speakers for the 2024 Convention

The Academy is pleased to announce the slate of speakers for the 2024 convention, August 8-11 at St. Meinrad, Indiana. Titles of talks and a full schedule will be in the June issue of this newsletter. Inside this current issue, there is a registration form for the convention. Please note that there is a discount for members of the ABA, so those not current members can use the form on the back page of this issue to join ABA. Registration is now open and the fees will go up for those registering after May 1. For greater convenience, both forms and an option for online payment are on the ABA website, americanbenedictine.org.

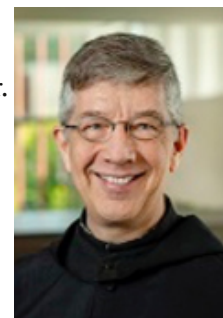
A group of notable speakers will be addressing the convention topic, "Liturgy of the Hours: The Evolution."



Dr. J.J. Wright currently serves as the director of the University of Notre Dame Folk Choir. As a conductor, pianist, composer, and producer his interests lie at the convergence of the creative process, music-making, spirituality, and liturgy. After an enlistment with the United States Naval Academy Band, J.J. completed his undergraduate degree in jazz piano at the New School for Jazz and Contemporary Music. Moving to the University of Notre Dame for graduate studies, J.J. received his

Doctor of Musical Arts from the Program in Sacred Music and was awarded Mellon Foundation and Lilly Endowment Fellowships during his studies. J.J. was awarded the Frank and Domenica Annese Dissertation Fellowship from the Nanovic Institute of European Studies to live in Rome, Italy, for one year while he wrote and composed his dissertation, "Drama and Devotion at Chiesa Nuova: Translating Anerio's Teatro Armonico to Jazz Oratorio," took classes at the Pontifical Institute of Sacred Music, and interned with the Sistine Chapel Choir.

Fr. Anthony Ruff, OSB is a monk and priest of Saint John's Abbey (Collegeville, Minn.). He teaches theology, liturgical music, and Gregorian chant. He has master's degrees from St. John's and Yale University, and he earned



(continued on page 3)

President's Message

Greetings, ABA members and friends!

First of all, it is with deep regret that we inform you that board member Tom Piazza passed away on January 14, 2024. Please keep Tom and his family in your prayers.

As we move forward into our 77th biannual conference, we have revamped our website to include a new online membership and sponsorship page (<https://americanbenedictine.org/membership-sponsorship/>). The new page allows members to sign up online with credit card and bank payment options. Please note that the annual membership runs from January to December, regardless of when a member joins. In Phase II of the revamping of our site, we would like to include portals for our sections. We are just waiting on feedback from our section leaders (and you) before we proceed.

Now, on to the conference. The board is working on the logistics necessary for the first on-site conference since the pandemic. This year's conference will be held at St. Bede Hall, St. Meinrad Archabbey, August 8-11, 2024. An introduction of our speakers is the front page story in this issue of the newsletter. In keeping with past on-site conferences, we will have an on-site art gallery and digital gallery. More information on the galleries can also be found in the newsletter. We hope you will join us at the gathering and we encourage you to invite others who may be interested.

Gregory Evans, Oblate
ABA president
greg.evans.oblsb@me.com



The AMERICAN MONASTIC NEWSLETTER

Submit any announcements or articles to:
Editor: Judith Sutera, OSB
Mount St. Scholastica, 801 S. 8th, Atchison, KS 66002
Email: jsutera@mountosb.org

For all address changes, membership payments, or any other ABA business, please contact the ABA secretary:
Email: abacadsec@gmail.com

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

ABA MEMBERSHIP

All ABA memberships run concurrent to the calendar year, regardless of when the membership began. Those whose membership expired at the end of 2023 should have received a notice and all current 2024 members are listed on p. 11. The membership form is on the last page of this newsletter and at the ABA website. Please encourage new members to join. Payment may be made by mail or by using the Swipe link on the membership page of the website.

(continued from front page)

his doctorate in liturgy from the University of Graz, Austria. He has studied organ with Kim Kasling, Thomas Murray, and Peter Planyavsky. He is the founding director of the National Catholic Youth Choir, a summer camp and touring experience at St. John's for high school singers. He served on the music subcommittee of the national Bishops' Committee on the Liturgy that drafted the 2007 document of the U.S. bishops *Sing to the Lord: Music in Divine Worship*. He was chair of the committee of three people that wrote the English chant melodies for the 2011 Roman Missal for all the English-speaking countries. He has served on the board of the National Association of Pastoral Musicians and the leadership team of the Catholic Academy of Liturgy, and he has served on the executive committee of the Hymn Society. He is a frequent presenter across the U.S. and internationally on topics of liturgy and music, he serves as English-German translator for the Internationale Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Hymnologie, and he frequently publishes in liturgical and musical journals. He plays organ and directs Gregorian chant at the abbey. He is moderator of the popular liturgy blog "Pray Tell."



Br. John Glasenapp, OSB is Assistant Professor of Music and Director of the Institute for Sacred Music at Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology. He earned his M.A. in Medieval Studies from Fordham University and his Ph.D. in Historical Musicology

from Columbia University. His doctoral research on the long history of the Beupré Antiphoner was supported by the Alliance-Council for European Studies and the U.S. Fulbright Program to Belgium. He has spoken at numerous academic conferences in the U.S. and Europe, including those of the American Musicological Society, the International Medieval Congress (University of Leeds, U.K.), and the Cantus Planus study group of the International Musicological Society. His recent article, "Nuns, Cistercian Chant and Observant Reform in the Southern Low Countries," appeared in *Women and Monastic Reform in the Medieval West, c. 900 – 1500: Debating*

Identities, Creating Communities published by Boydell & Brewer in 2023.

Sister Cecilia Dwyer, OSB received a B.M. in Music Education from Marywood University in Scranton, Penn., and an M.A. in Liturgical Theology from Catholic University of America. Sister Cecilia has been liturgy director and accompanist for her community, St. Benedict's (Bristow, Va.), since 1973. She taught piano and elementary school for several years and then became formation and vocation director. Having a great love for monasticism, Sister Cecilia has given retreats in Benedictine communities for many years, as well as acting as election facilitator and canonical visitor to other Benedictine monasteries.



In 1987 she was elected prioress and served until 1999, then was re-elected in 2003 to serve until 2019. While in leadership, Sister Cecilia had the privilege of being chair of LCWR Region 4 and a member of the National LCWR board, the Bishops' National Advisory Committee, and the Arlington Diocesan Pastoral Council. Sister Cecilia currently serves on the monastic council and as formation director and the director of mission integration for the monastic community. She is also on the Board of DIMMID –



the international organization for interreligious monastic dialogue.

Sister Joanna Burley, OSB is prioress of the Benedictine Sisters of Virginia (Bristow). She coordinates her community's Liturgy of the Hours using electronic media.

In addition to these speakers, there will be a time for meetings of the various interest sections of the Academy, an art display, social events and, most important of all, the opportunity to get together in person after two online conventions and nearly six years without the personal interaction that makes the biennial convention so valuable and enjoyable.

CANON LAW COLUMN

Legal Autonomy vs. Genuine Autonomy of Life

In this issue, we welcome guest columnist Sister Nancy Bauer, OSB, JCD

Benedictine monasteries enjoy and protect their autonomy. But what, really, is the nature of the autonomy they are protecting? I will draw on two related documents to address this question from a canonical perspective. The first document is Pope Francis' 2016 apostolic constitution *Vultum Dei quaerere* (VDQ), which contains new canonical norms for monasteries of nuns (*moniales*), and the second is CICLSAL's 2018 instruction *Cor orans* (CO) which explains how to implement the first.

While these documents apply only to women religious who are canonically categorized as nuns, they contain definitions and other information useful for Benedictine monasteries of monks and sisters (*sorores*), especially in current circumstances when many of these monasteries are experiencing a decline in membership. For example, *Vultum Dei quaerere* and *Cor orans* supply criteria for assessing the viability of a monastery. Of great significance in this regard is the distinction introduced by Pope Francis between a monastery's legal or juridical autonomy and its real or genuine autonomy of life. *Cor orans* addresses this distinction in greater detail.

Juridical autonomy is a monastery's canonical status, which it acquires when it is established or erected as an independent monastery. A monastery can be established directly by the Holy See, but more often a Benedictine monastery begins as a dependent priory of an existing monastery or of a monastic federation or congregation. It acquires its own juridical autonomy when it becomes capable of being independent of its founding entity. According to *Cor orans*, criteria for gaining canonical autonomy include the following: vital community life with at least eight members in perpetual profession; members capable of serving as superior, formator, and financial administrator; a monastery building suitable to the lifestyle of the community; and financial stability (CO 39).

A legally autonomous monastery is one whose superior – abbess, prioress, abbot, or prior – is a major superior. It has a stable community; it accepts its own candidates and has its own novitiate and formation

program; and it is a public juridic person with the capacity to acquire, possess, administer, and alienate temporal goods (CO 15).

Genuine autonomy or real autonomy refers, for the most part, to the vitality of monastic life within the monastery. Criteria by which to assess the genuine autonomy of life are the following: at least a minimal number of members, provided the majority are not elderly; the energy to practice and spread the charism; the capacity to provide personnel for governance and formation; dignified liturgical life; vital community and spiritual life; financial stability; and suitable buildings (VDQ Art. 8 §1). Genuine autonomy is the ability to manage the life of the monastery in all its dimensions, including vocational, formative, governmental, relational, and economic (CO 18).

Juridical autonomy and genuine autonomy are interrelated. "Juridical autonomy needs to be matched by a genuine autonomy of life (VDQ Art. 8 §1)." Juridical autonomy is not granted if genuine autonomy is lacking (CO 18) and juridical autonomy may be revoked if a monastery cannot maintain genuine autonomy (CO 43). In other words, a monastery may be suppressed if it no longer has the capacity for vital monastic life in its many dimensions, that is, the membership is minimal and most are elderly; there have been no candidates for a number of years; there is a lack of capacity to form new members; there are no longer members capable of serving in leadership, which includes the role of superior and council; finances are insufficient, and the liturgical life lacks dignity, etc.

While VDQ and CO do not apply to Benedictine monasteries of monks and sisters, the distinction these two documents make between juridical autonomy and genuine or real autonomy of life are useful in developing criteria for assessing the viability of such monasteries and, thus, for determining when it is time to consider suppression of a particular monastery.

Nancy Bauer, OSB
St. Benedict's Monastery
Saint Joseph, Minn.
NBAUER@csbsju.edu



ABA Biennial Convention
Liturgy of the Hours: The Evolution
 August 8-11, 2024
 St. Meinrad Archabbey St. Meinrad, Ind.

Registration Form

(Please print clearly!)

Date _____

Last Name _____ First Name _____ OSB ___ Oblate ___ Other _____

Preferred name on badge _____ Monastery and its City _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Postal Code _____

Primary Phone _____ E-mail _____ Gender: F () M ()

Registration Fee: *(mark your choice)*

Before June 1, 2024

After June 1, 2024

Day rate: \$125 per person/day (includes meals)

ABA Member \$225.00 \$250.00

Non-member \$250.00 \$275.00

Lodging: Includes three nights (Thursday through Saturday)

Single Room w/private bath: **\$336** (\$112 per night) **total** _____

Double Room w/private bath: **\$210 per person** (\$70 per person per night) **total** _____

I would like to share room with _____

Meals: Thursday evening dinner through Sunday morning breakfast (\$12.50 per meal) **\$100**

Airport Transportation:

Local airports include Louisville, KY (75 minutes away) or Evansville, IN (50 minutes away)

Arrival Date _____ Airport _____ Time _____ Airline & Flight # _____

Departure Date _____ Airport _____ Departure Time _____ Airline _____

_____ **I need airport transportation. If this line is checked, you will be contacted for details.**

Please specify dietary restrictions or mobility assistance needed (limited handicap rooms available):

I would be willing to assist with liturgy: prayer leader _____ reader _____ musician/cantor _____

Registration Fee _____ **Room** _____ **Board** _____ **= TOTAL** _____

Please make check payable to "**American Benedictine Academy**" and submit with your registration form to:

Diane O'Brien
 9345 Llewellyn
 St. Louis, MO 63132



IN MEMORIAM

Tom Piazza, longtime member of the ABA, and serving on the board of directors since 2020, resigned from the board recently due to ill health and died on January 14, 2024.

His devotion to Benedictine life goes back to some years as a member of St. Leo Abbey (St. Leo, Fla.) during the 1960's and later as a friend and frequent visitor.

Tom held a Ph.D. in sociology from Berkeley and an S.T.L. in theology from Sant'Anselmo in Rome. He was the principal survey statistician for many years at UC Berkeley's Survey Research Center, taught sampling in the School of Public Health, and was manager of Survey Documentation and Analysis. In later years, he turned his expertise to analysis of trends in Benedictine life, producing articles for the *American Benedictine Review* documenting current membership trends and suggestions for reversing them. In his profile for election to the board, he wrote, "It is my hope that the ABA can serve as a helpful resource for communities that are trying to adapt to difficult circumstances. My background and experience in social science academic research provide a useful perspective on the current situation, and as an ABA Board member I will try to be of further service to the Benedictine family." Indeed, he did fulfill that promise.

BOOK REVIEW

A Cloister in the World: Emerging Visions of Leadership in Contemporary Benedictine School Chaplaincy by J. P. Bryant (LAP Lambert Academic Publishing, 2023) 356 pp., ISBN 978-6206150923, \$77.89 (\$9.99 ebook).

Dr Bryant is a Catholic social scientist graduating from St. Mary's University, England. His book, which is written within the tradition of phronetic social science, offers a unique insight into the life of three English Benedictine schools and specifically

explores how these schools are adapting to the changing demographics of their founding monastic communities. Although there are now less monks available to work as teachers and chaplains, this is seen as an opportunity for the laity to take their responsibilities in the Church seriously, often in dialogue with members of the Benedictine congregation. Such dialogue is marked by a genuine commitment to collaborative ministry in contrast to a paternalistic or hierarchical paradigm.

The main aim of the book is to discover how lay Benedictine chaplains can lead the spiritual life of their schools in such a way as to maintain the Benedictine ethos and transmit the Benedictine charism to their pupils. Although this work is just the beginning of a much-needed effort to establish foundations for the future of Benedictine education, it contains fruitful Benedictine leadership wisdom gathered in interviews with people at the forefront of Benedictine education: abbots, governors, headteachers, chaplains and lay chaplains all have a voice and share vital insights clearly and succinctly.

Dr. Bryant's work is certainly valuable for anyone with an interest in Catholic education, especially Benedictine education. However, it would also be of considerable benefit for anyone interested in the Benedictine monastic tradition and the future of its leadership in education.

John Lydon,
Professor of Catholic Education
St. Mary's University, Twickenham, UK.

ABA MEMBERS

***** Be sure to check out the newly redesigned ABA website created by Paraclete Design, our longtime partner.**

***** For your convenience, try out the website's improved process for digital forms and for payment of dues, donations and convention registration using Swipe to process your credit card payments.**

***** The ABA has a new secretary with a new mailing address. Don't forget to update your contact information.**



Elections

In recent elections, the following have been chosen for monastic leadership:

Prioress Teresa Jackson, OSB - Monastery of St. Gertrude (Cottonwood, Id.)

Abbot Gregory Boquet, OSB - St. Joseph's Abbey (Covington, La.)

Abbot Valerian Odermann, OSB - Assumption Abbey (Richardton, N.D.)

Abbot Douglas Mullin, OSB - St. John's Abbey (Collegeville, Minn.)

AIM, the Alliance for International Monasticism is conducting its annual Lenten appeal to assist monastic communities in developing nations. This year, the funds will be used by: a mission monastery in Senegal to install solar panels and repair a host-making machine; nuns in the Philippines to buy a car; monks in Mexico to send a monk for theological studies at Sant'Anselmo; sisters in Angola to have a sister pursue a nursing degree. Information about contributing may be found on the website <www.aim-usa.org>.

Recognizing Dorothy Day's significant connection to Benedictine communities as a Benedictine oblate, we invite you to join the Dorothy Day Guild in further promoting her work and advancing her Cause for Canonization.

The Dorothy Day Guild works to further the sainthood cause of Dorothy Day and foster knowledge of her life and legacy. The Guild website includes quarterly newsletters and monthly updates from the coordinator; resources that would be useful in introducing Dorothy to those with whom your community works; a calendar of activities sponsored by the Guild and others; and testimonies of those whose lives have been impacted by Dorothy Day and the Catholic Worker. You can access the Guild's website at: <http://dorothydayzuild.ore>.

The Diocesan Phase of the canonization process was completed on December 8, 2021, when all the documentation relevant to Dorothy's cause was sent for examination to the Dicastery for the Causes of

Saints at the Vatican. We are hopeful that Servant of God Dorothy Day will become Venerable Dorothy Day within the next few years.

We ask that you consider joining the Dorothy Day Guild with a group or individual membership. Membership helps in sustaining the work of the Guild as it supports Dorothy's Cause for Canonization.

We ask also that you encourage those in your community to invoke Dorothy's intercession in prayer for their needs or the needs of their loved ones. We would appreciate as well their informing us of any ways in which Dorothy's intercession has impacted their lives, whether a grace or a favor or a potential miracle.

Please feel free to reach out to us with any questions, suggestions, or concerns. Thank you for your consideration.

Dr. Casey Mullaney
Coordinator, Dorothy Day Guild

Make Rome part of your summer itinerary! Pontificio Ateneo Sant'Anselmo introduces the Monastic Summer Studium, the Catholic world's newest Roman summer study program in English. Summertime provides unique opportunities for learning, relaxing and engagement with new ideas and people. The Monastic Summer Studium at Sant'Anselmo offers participants a way to experience the treasures of the church in Rome while meeting people from around the world. Eligible students can earn 3 ECTS per week, recognized by the Pontificio Ateneo Sant'Anselmo. Join us for one, two, or three weeks of prayer, study, and exploration!

The three course offerings are: (July 1-5) Liturgy and Monastic Life - Fr. Eusebius Martis, O.S.B.; (July 8-12) The Rule of Saint Benedict Today: Monastic Tradition and Contemporary Culture - Sr. Manuela Scheiba, O.S.B.; (July 15-19) The Life of St. Benedict: A Model for Contemporary Spiritual Life - Fr. Mauritius Wilde, O.S.B. See the program's website <<https://www.anselmianum.com/it/26-facolta/facolta-di-teologia/1102-mss>> for more information.

The 2024 Conference of Benedictine Prioresses meeting was hosted by the sisters in Beech Grove, Ind.

The theme was taken from Rule of Benedict: Chapter 2:4: “The Prioress should keep in mind that she has undertaking the care of souls.” 37 prioresses attended in person and another 9 joined by Zoom.

A speaker from Saint Luke Institute, Dr. Emily Cash, spent one day with the assembly talking about the challenges, boundaries, tensions, and changes facing leadership today and ways to maintain healthy teams and do self-care. Time was given for each community to share what was going on in their communities. In addition, there were reports on the North American Benedictine Vocation Formation Conference, the 55 & Under Group, AIM, and CIB, the international group of Benedictine women who held their meeting this year in Cullman, Ala. A financial report and discussion of policy matters were included in the meeting, as well as prayer, social events and informal time together. Next year’s meeting will take place at Mount St. Scholastica in Atchison, KS., January 28 to February 4, 2025.

* * * * *

Subsequent to the sudden death of Sister Priscilla Cohen, OSB (Sacred Heart Monastery, Cullman, Ala.), Father Meinrad Miller, OSB, has become president of the North American Association of Benedictine Oblate Directors (NAABOD). Father Meinrad, a monk of St. Benedict’s Abbey (Atchison, Ks.) was the vice-president of the organization.

The biennial meeting of the group will be held at the St. Benedict Center in Schuyler, Neb., from July 5 to July 9, with the theme “Carrying Wisdom Across the Threshold.” Speakers will be Abbot Joel Rippinger (Marmion Abbey, Aurora, Ill.) and Sister Judith Sutera (Mount St. Scholastica, Atchison, Ks.).

* * * * *

Abbot Sharbel Ewen, OSB, and the monks of Prince of Peace Abbey in Oceanside, Cal., hosted the annual meeting of North American abbots from February 2 to 6, 2024. Abbot Primate Gregory Polan, OSB, was present and reported on the affairs of the Benedictine Confederation and Sant’Anselmo. The two keynote presenters were Father David Songy, O.F.M.,Cap., Ph.D and Abbot Lawrence Staszysen, O.S.B.. S.T.D. on the topic of “Formation and Technology.”

* * * * *

Sister Teresa Jackson, OSB, of the Center for Benedictine Life in Cottonwood, Id., recently hosted a five week webinar on “Listening with the Ear of the Heart” for oblate formation. Videos for each session are now available on YouTube to share with oblate directors and oblate groups.

The links are:

Part 1 – Diffusion: Wisdom from the Center
<https://youtu.be/IyAtKoNkh8g>

Part 2 – Introduction to Benedictine Practices
<https://youtu.be/HGNqQRiWvFY>

Part 3 – Practices of prayer, lectio, reflection
<https://youtu.be/9-cMsVWFJTw>

Part 4 – Reading the Rule
<https://youtu.be/t3ftf3qAKV0>

Part 5 – Living Benedictine Formation in Life
<https://youtu.be/rfsn4Kb66AY>

The Terrence G. Kardong MONASTIC STUDIES GRANT

ABA members are invited to apply for Monastic Studies Grants to support projects that “cultivate, support and transmit the Benedictine heritage within contemporary culture.” Applications will be selected on the basis of quality of the proposal (originality, feasibility, clarity of purpose), potential benefit for monastics, and relevance to the purposes of the Academy. More details are on the ABA website.

To apply for a grant please supply:

Name, address, phone number, e-mail

Religious or academic affiliation (if any)

A brief description of the proposed project

The goal(s) of the proposed project

An itemized budget which includes:

total cost of project

sources of funding other than the ABA

sum requested from the ABA

Send applications to:

Sister Edith Bogue, OSB

Sacred Heart Monastery

916 Convent Rd NE

Cullman, AL 35055

edithosb@gmail.com

ABA Business

New Assistants: The ABA is pleased to introduce two new members of the administrative team. The new executive secretary is Diane O'Brien, an oblate of Mount St. Scholastica (Atchison, Ks.). Diane is retired from a career in the computer software field and lives in St. Louis, Mo. The email address for ABA, abacadse@gmail.com, remains the same as before, but all correspondence and membership payments should be mailed to her at: 9345 Llewellyn, St. Louis MO, 63132.

The second new addition is Mike Gulden, who will be serving as webmaster for the ABA website (americanbenedictine.org). His family has been associated with the Benedictine Sisters of Virginia at Bristow, where his wife is an oblate, for over 30 years. He is retired from a career in software development, systems design, and cyber security. He may be reached by using the contact form on the website.

* * * * *

Board Nominations: It is time for ABA members to nominate current ABA members for vice-president (2-year term, who becomes the president-elect) and two board members (4-year term) to be elected at the convention. Duties can be found in the by-laws and a list of current members is on page 11 of this newsletter. Nominations may be submitted in advance or made from the floor during the business meeting. Having nominations in advance helps to ensure that there is a good slate and allows for information about the candidates to be published in the June *American Monastic Newsletter* in advance of the convention for the members' deliberation and prayer. Please take time to give this right of membership your energy and initiative. Members may submit names for vice-president or board members by email (jvisel@thedome.org) or by hard copy to:

Sr. Jeana Visel, OSB
Monastery Immaculate Conception
802 E. 10th St.
Ferdinand, IN 47532.

Please make your nominations by April 30, 2024. If nominated and accepted, please be prepared to submit a short biography and photo for the June 2024 newsletter.

Art Exhibit: The Visual Arts Section of the ABA invites Benedictine artists to submit one to four pieces of their artwork for the ABA Art Show at the convention in St. Meinrad, Indiana. There will also be a digital art gallery for artists to submit one to three digital images.

Criteria for submission:

- Original artwork in any medium (fiber, ceramic, woodworking, stain glass, photography, etc.)
- pieces ready for hanging or display on a pedestal or table
- each clearly labeled with the artist's name & medium - the name of the artist's community and its location
- shipped in a returnable container with pre-paid return shipping included.

DO NOT SHIP ANYTHING WITH GLASS

Bring art to the convention or ship to arrive at the convention site by noon, August 5, 2024. ABA is not responsible for return shipments. Shippers will need to make arrangements for return shipping with Gregory Evans at greg.evans.oblsb@icloud.com.

Send art to: Carol Troesch
Guest Services Event Coordinator
Saint Meinrad Archabbey
200 Hill Drive
St. Meinrad, IN 47577

Submissions for the digital gallery need to be in JPEG format. Please email files to greg.evans.oblsb@icloud.com by July 1, 2024. Don't hesitate to contact Gregory Evans with any questions or concerns: Phone (571) 576-4118 or email. greg.evans.oblsb@icloud.com.

* * * * *

Egregia Award: At each convention, the Egregia Award is given to a member who has embodied the values of the Academy in their life and work. Members are encouraged to nominate those who have made an outstanding contribution to the ABA, Benedictine studies and monastic culture. Living members who have already received the award are: Sister Judith Sutura, Father Hugh Feiss, Father Joel Rippinger, Sister Ephrem Hollermann, and Sister Renee Branigan. Any other ABA member may be nominated. See full details at the ABA website.

ABA ESSAY CONTEST

Each convention year, the Academy holds an essay contest to encourage scholarship and appreciation for Benedictinism among those who have been professed religious or oblates for less than 10 years.

The word essay comes from the French *essayer*, which means to try, test, probe. We are looking for personal essays of no more than 2,500 words that are built on solid reasoning and research, but also include vivid anecdotes that support the premise of the essay and show the author's personal involvement in, or attraction to, the chosen topic.

Essays are not academic or research papers. However, they include both the objective (that is, research elements) and the subjective (such as the author's personal reaction to or struggle with the topic). The essay does not have to be the final word on a topic but rather show the author's thinking process and how he/she came to their conclusions.

Some possible topics, are, but would not be limited to:

- A reflection on a particular Benedictine value that offers a fresh perspective on that value (such as community, consensus, humility, hospitality, conversatio)
- A verse/chapter of RB that has been a particular gift/challenge been to you
- Living RB in a concrete way in your daily life
- How chapters on humility or leadership or discipline are relevant to issues facing today's world
- Whether contemplation is possible in the age of social media
- How the monastic call can be re-imagined for the 21 century
- Considering how persons (not professed Benedictines) can manage to live out the Rule in the secular world

Deadline: March 30, 2024

Competition is limited to professed members and oblates who have been part of their community for 10 years or less

Award: A book relevant to Benedictine life and free registration for the next ABA conference
Send essays to Sister Jean Visel at JVisel@thedome.org and Judith Valente at JValente17@msn.com

2024 Membership of the Academy

Below is a list of the 2024 membership of the Academy. Please encourage community members, oblates and others with interest in monastic life to consider joining this organization.

Your membership supports the ABA website, *The American Monastic Newsletter*, awards and grants for monastic studies, and conventions (for which members receive a registration discount).

We regret any omissions due to the publishing deadline.

Allen Obl., Gerry - Bellevue NE	Klassen OSB, John - Collegeville MN	Purcell OSB, Antoinette - Beech Grove IN
Anderson, Liza - New York, NY	Kobos Obl., Marie - Cary IL	Quaintance OSB, Susan - Chicago IL
Bailey OSB, Roberta - St. Leo FL	Kosin OSB, Christine - Erie PA	Ranek OSB, Jeanne - Yankton SD
Bartel OSB, Archabbot Martin - Latrobe PA	Long OSB, Marie Therese - Tulsa OK	Raverty OSB, Aaron - Collegeville MN
Biermaier OSB, Ann Marie - St. Joseph MN	Lowe OSB, Anita Louise - Ferdinand IN	Rea, James - Lincoln NE
Blaize OSB, Joel - St. Meinrad, IN	Martinson Obl., Jane - New Point Richey FL	Richmond, Rev. Donald - Loomis CA
Bogue OSB, Edith - Duluth MN	Maynus, Cody - Northfield MN	Rippinger OSB, Joel - Aurora IL
Branigan OSB, Renee - Dickinson, ND	McCargar, Victoria - Encino CA	Rittmueller, Tracy - Sauk Rapids MN
Bratsovsky OSB, Mary - Lisle IL	McCarthy OSB, Anne - Erie PA	Romey OSB, Linda - Erie PA
Brown, Jesse J - Arvada CO	McCarthy OSB, Daniel - Atchison KS	Rowan, Justin - Depew NY
Bryant, Paul - Hampshire UK	McGrane OSB, Colleen Maura - Clyde MO	Rudolph OSB, Susan - St. Joseph MN
Burkhard OSB, Marianne - Rock Island IL	McKenzie OSB, Lynn - Cullman AL	Sautner OSB, Adel - Watertown SD
Burley Johanna - Bristow, VA	Meyers, Steven - New Era MI	Schlabach, Gerald - St. Paul MN
Carrillo OSB, Elizabeth - Atchison KS	Mills OSB, Dawn Annette - Clyde MO	Seretny, Dr. Michael - West Lafayette IN
Colvin, Obl., Bede - Puyallup WA	Mohrman OSB, Abbot Gregory - St. Louis MO	Shannon, CJ, Martin - Orleans MA
Dirkes Obl., Paul - New Smyrna Beach FL	Moore CJ, M. Karen - Orleans MA	Slizys, Maria - Lompoc CA
Ellis, Rose A. - Fredericksburg TX	Moose OSB, Dunstan - Collegeville MN	Stoner OSB, Dorothy - Erie PA
Evans, Gregory - Bristow VA	Nadeau, Elaine - Atchison KS	Studzinski OSB, Raymond - Washington DC
Feiss OSB, Hugh - Jerome ID	Nehotte OSB, Catherine - St. Paul MN	Suhr OSB, Laura - St. Joseph MN
Ferraro, Julie - Atchison KS	Neenan OSB, Benedict - Conception MO	Sutera OSB, Judith - Atchison KS
Forman OSB, Mary - Cottonwood ID	Neuman OSB, Matthias - St. Meinrad IN	Swan OSB, Laura - Lacey WA
Fowler, Susan A	Neville OSB, Eileen - Yankton SD	Tewes OSB, Mary - Villa Hills KY
Fox OSB, Ruth - Dickinson ND	Norris Obl., Kathleen - Honolulu HI	Thompson OSB, John - Pine City NY
Glasenapp OSB, John - St. Meinrad IN	O'Brien, Diane - St. Louis MO	Thompson Obl, Phyllis - Nanaimo BC
Guarino, Maria - Cumberland ME	Ocken OSB, Rosann - Norfolk NE Odermann	Tomaine, Jane - Mountainside NJ
Hensell OSB, Eugene - St. Meinrad IN	OSB, Valerian - Richardton ND Oetgen,	Torvend, Dr. Samuel - Lakewood WA
Hill, Stephen - South Bend IN	Jerome - Arlington VA	Upton RSM, Julia - Syosset NY
Hollermann OSB, Ephrem - St. Joseph MN	Oliver OSB, Richard - Collegeville MN	Valente Obl., Judith - Normal IL
Hutchens OSB, Susan - Rock Island IL	Panowicz OSB, Mary Kay - Yankton SD Peters	Varga, Hildegard - Paris AR
Joyce OSB, Timothy - Hingham MA	Obl., Greg - La Mirada CA	Verhalen OCist, Peter - Irving TX
Jung OSB, Virginia - Chicago IL	Poulx, Andrew - Entfield CT	Visel OSB, Jeana - Ferdinand IN
Kanaga, Sarah - Orleans MA	Prohaska OSB, Kimberly - Ft. Smith AR	Walker, Obl, Lynn Elizabeth - New York NY
Kennedy OSB, Patricia - St. Joseph MN		Ward OSB, Daniel - Collegeville MN
		Wolff-Salin Obl, Mary - Westwood MA

**We are especially grateful for our sponsors,
who make a larger donation for the works of the Academy.**

Monastic communities and other benefactors will be receiving an annual appeal letter in the spring and their names will be listed in the newsletter later this year.

Anyone wishing to become a sponsor may find details and form on the website.

Please encourage your community or oblate group to be a sponsor.

American Benedictine Academy

Membership Form



Individual/1 Yr (\$35) _____ Individual/2 Yrs (\$50) _____ Student/1 Yr (\$15) _____
 New _____ Renewal _____

Payment: Check _____ Swipe _____

Date _____

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/ZIP _____

Country (if not USA) _____

Phone _____ Cell _____ Email _____

Religious Community/Oblate Affiliation/Academic/Other _____

Areas of Interest You Wish to Share with the Academy _____

Please check if you wish to participate in one or more ABA Sections:

Monastic Research _____ Visual Arts _____ Archives _____ Library _____

Send form to: *Diane O'Brien*
 9345 Llewellyn
 St. Louis, MO 63132

Email:
 abacadsec@gmail.com

ABA Use Only

Rec'd	Amount	Payment	Year