

The ABA Update



November 1, 2022

A Light in the Darkness

In many parts of the country, leaves have already turned vibrant colors and fallen from the trees. Days are growing shorter, with longer stretches of darkness each night. Some radio stations are already playing holiday music, and cable channels have switched to festive movies.

While the celebration of All Saints and All Souls signals a nearness to the end of the liturgical year, Benedictine monasteries will spend this month praying for those who have gone before - religious, family, friends.

Remembering loved ones can be difficult, missing their physical presence - especially on holidays such as the upcoming Thanksgiving. Yet, if these souls gone to their eternal reward are visualized reflecting the holy light of the divine, it can brighten their memories and ease the burden of grief.

The living can be a light in the darkness for others, too. As the holiday season approaches, with Advent beginning November 27, the media will be filled with requests for charitable donations. Giving to those in need is admirable, and very much a part of Benedictine hospitality, but not only at this time of year.

As Jesus said, "The poor are always with you," and so Benedictine hospitality encompasses the entire calendar year.

The latest American Monastic Newsletter will be posted on the ABA website soon, and reminders will be sent to those whose ABA memberships will expire on December 31, encouraging them to renew for 2023.

Blessings on your Thanksgiving and Advent!

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