

The American Benedictine Academy

Benedictines and Evangelization

Biennial Meeting, August 5-8, 2010, St. Benedict's Abbey, Atchison, Kansas

The meeting opened Thursday, August 5, with registration from 1-5 p.m. and a meeting of the ABA board. At 7 p.m., the opening session featured Father Ezekiel Lotz OSB, giving a presentation entitled "*Quicquid agunt homines: The Benedictine Mission to Post-Modern Culture.*"

On Friday, August 6, Sister Ephrem Hollermann, OSB, spoke on "Where There Was Need: American Benedictines and Evangelization." The ABA is pleased to have had as its afternoon speaker Abbot Primate Notker Wolf OSB. With his experience of monasticism worldwide, he is in a unique position to address the question "How Universal Is the Benedictine Presence Today?"

Later that afternoon, there were section meetings for participants interested in monastic research, archives, or art. In the evening, there was an opportunity to experience another dimension of the abbot primate. Abbot Notker is a talented flute player. He and Dr. Ruth Krusemark, Benedictine College music professor and pianist, provided an accomplished concert for an appreciative audience.

Saturday's program featured a panel discussion, "Where We Are Today," with Sister Kevin Hermsen of the Missionary Benedictines in Norfolk, NE, and Sister Susan Doubet, OSB, Erie, PA, of the Alliance for International Monasticism (AIM). In addition to the board meeting, Saturday afternoon included opportunities for "Circle Conversations" with the convention speakers: Abbot Primate Notker, Sister Ephrem, and Father Ezekiel.

In board elections, Father Martin Shannon was elected vice-president to take the presidency at the 2012 meeting. He is an Episcopal priest and member of the Community of Jesus, an ecumenical Benedictine community on Cape Cod, MA. The other board members elected were Sister Ephrem Hollermann, OSB, St. Benedict's Monastery, St. Joseph, MN; Gerry Allen, Oblate, Bellevue, NE; Dennis Okholm, Oblate, Costa Mesa, CA; and Sister Julie Peak, OSB, Sacred Heart Monastery, Yankton, SD.

Presentations

- Ezekiel Lotz OSB,
"Quicquid agunt homines: The Benedictine Mission to Post-Modern Culture"
- Sister Ephrem Hollermann OSB,
"Where There Was Need: American Benedictines and Evangelization"
- Abbot Primate Dr. Notker Wolf OSB,
"How Universal Is the Benedictine Presence Today?"
- Sister Laura Swan OSB,
"Presidential Address"

Junior Essay Award Winners:

- Sister Ana Cloughly OSB,
"Moved by the Spirit"

- Belinda H. Monahan,
"Changing Habits, Changing Lives"

Other notable features of the convention were the Saturday evening banquet with the announcement of the two Junior Essay Award winners, Sunday's closing Mass with the installation of new officers, and a presidential address by the incoming ABA president, Sister Laura Swan of Lacey, WA. An art show featuring the works of monastic artists ran throughout the convention days.