

Current Projects



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Martin Shannon, CJ reports that in the fall of 2017 he gave presentations at two weekend sessions of the International Symposium on Art and Ecumenism, part of a series of conferences that had begun in the spring of 2017 and included sessions in Paris, Strasbourg, Florence, Yale, and concluded in Orleans, MA, at the Community of Jesus, to which he belongs. The symposium was held in observance of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. The final weekend at the Community of Jesus included papers presented on the monastery as a "laboratory" of the arts. Following the Symposium, a collection of essays was compiled and published by Paraclete Press, entitled *The Ecumenism of Beauty*. Subsequently, he and Julia Upton, RSM, ObISB, were part of a panel discussing the symposium topic at AARSBL in Boston.

Judith Valente, ObISB writes to inform us that her latest book, *What The Rule of St. Benedict Teaches Us About Happiness, Meaning and Community* will be released on April 1 from Hampton Roads Publisher.

• On April 27-28 Judith will be leading a retreat at the Second Presbyterian

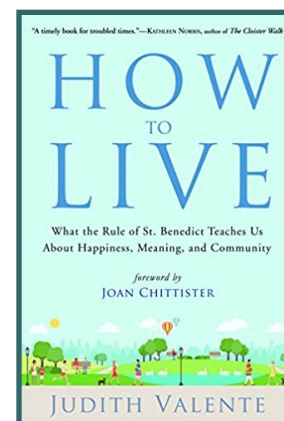
Church in Bloomington, IL on the *Rule of St. Benedict's* blueprint for building community.

• Another upcoming engagement on April 5 will find her giving a presentation entitled, "What Really Matters: Reflecting on *the Rule of St. Benedict*," at Illinois Wesleyan University in Bloomington, IL, as part of the ReligiosiTEA monthly gatherings for students sponsored by the IWU chaplain's office.

• From July 12-15 Judith will be the featured speaker for the annual Oblate Institute sponsored by Mount St. Scholastica Monastery in Atchison, KS. The theme of this year's Institute is "Being Truly Alive: What the *Rule of St. Benedict* Teaches Us About Happiness, Meaning and Community."

• Judith has two forthcoming articles on themes from "*The Rule of St. Benedict*" in *Spirit & Life*, the magazine of the Benedictine Sisters in Clyde MO, as well as two reflections on the *Rule* in "The Good Oil," the e-magazine published by the Benedictine Sisters of the Good Samaritan in Australia.

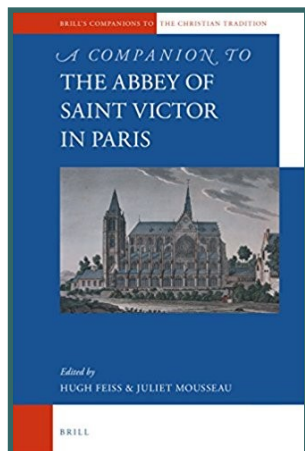
Tom Piazza's article on options for expanding membership in monastic communities has been accepted for publication by the *ABR* and should appear in the near future. Tom has also



begun analyzing the membership trends of the American Cassinese and the Swiss American Congregations of Benedictine men and hopes to write up that analysis before the summer. He and S. Felicitas Seisenberger, OSB, from Abtei Venio in Munich, are also considering other possible federations of Benedictine women for further analysis.

Greg Peters, ObISB, Biola University, successfully defended his thesis in November, 2017, entitled "The Monkhooood of All Believers: A Theology of Monasticism," at Sant' Anselmo in Rome, for his Dottorato in Studi Monastici. His 2017 article, "A Call for Evangelical Monasticism," published in the *Journal of Spiritual Formation and Soul Care* was part of a special theme section of the journal in which three others responded to his proposal.

CURRENT PROJECTS CONT.



The authors trace the history of the abbey, [then] focus on the canons' life and ministry, theology, and biblical exegesis, during the twelfth century, concluding with an examination of the reception of Victorine scholarship in the later Middle Ages. (Amazon)



Ade Bethune's window in Our Mother of Perpetual Help Chapel in Elderwood at Uihlein Residence in Lake Placid, NY.

Hugh Feiss, OSB from Idaho writes: "The Brill Companion to the Abbey of Saint Victor in Paris (Brill, 2018) which I edited with S. Juliet Mousseau is now available. I also have some book reviews appearing (ABR, CSQ and Speculum), and I will send off Victorine Texts in Translation, vol. 8: *Sermons for the Liturgical Year* to Brepols in a couple of months. It will be out around January 1, 2019. *The Benedictine Reader, 530-1530* (Cistercian), which I edited with Ronald Pepin and Maureen O'Brien, is scheduled to appear in the Spring of 2019. It has 12 contributors, including S. Colleen McGrane of Clyde. I guess, though, the writing I was most invested in was an op-ed for the local paper about immigrants and refugees, including Joseph, Mary, and Jesus."

Laura Dunham, ObISB of St. Benedict's Monastery, MN, is presenting "Seven Meditations for Holy Week, on March 21 at St. Lucy's Benedictine Priory, Glendora, CA. Her new book, *Extraordinary Time: Spiritual Reflections from a Season with Cancer, Death, and Transition*, will be published this fall with Cascade Books. It covers an extraordinary year in Laura's life with reflections on the great themes of suffering, healing, death, and the after-life, including from a Benedictine perspective. Her new website is www.laura-dunham.com.

Paul Dirkes, Oblate of St. Joseph Abbey and Seminary College, Louisiana, writes: "In January I gave a presentation to parishioners of Christ The King in Daphne, Alabama, on the historical Mary Magdalene, the 'Apostle to the Apostles,' along with my recent research into the interpretations of the carvings on the Magdala Stone that more and more point to the stone as a 1st Century (before 66 CE) memorial to a visit to the synagogue of Magdala by the exulted Jesus.

- Last August, in Scotland, I gave a presentation at a conference on 'Relativity' called, 'Genesis and the Big Bang: A Biblical View of the Problem of Dark Energy.'

- In early March "I will be in Tapiro, Israel, to debate the historian/archeologist James Tabor on where he has discovered the bones of Jesus of Nazareth. I say 'no' and he will say 'yes.'

Terrence Kardong, OSB reports: "I published an essay entitled 'Who Wrote the Rule of Walbert' in a recent festschrift for Michael Casey called *A Not-So-Unexciting Life* (Lit Press 2017). Not a very memorable title! But I have to admit that my essay isn't very memorable either. Since I wrote it, which is about three years ago, I have changed my mind. I no longer think the Rule of Walbert was written by Abbess Fare. I now think it was written by--are you ready for this? Walbert, of all people. Looking back, I can see where I slipped a cog in my logic. This is a problem that

has been increasingly frequent in my head. Time to quit thinking?"

Julia Upton, RSM ObISB is preparing an essay on the contributions of the late Robert E. Rambusch to the Liturgical Movement in North America for *Worship* magazine. She also has an article, "Anointing and Caring for the Sick," to The MAST [Mercy Association in Scripture and Theology] Journal 24:3 (2018), 22-25. In addition to her writing, she gave a presentation for the Environment and Art Seminar at the Annual Meeting of the North American Academy of Liturgy in Vancouver, BC, in January 2018 on "No Lasting City: Repurposed Architecture in the Work of Ade Bethune"

Aaron Raverty, OSB writes about his article entitled, "Saint John's Farming Operation" in the *Abbey Banner* 17:3 (Winter 2017-2018), 16-19: "Monasteries guided by of the *Rule of Benedict* hallmark vowed stability and the ideal of self-sufficiency, an ideal that Saint John's Abbey in Collegeville, Minnesota, strove to make a reality. This article charts the origins, expansion, decline, and eventual cessation of the farming operation at Saint John's from the mid-19th through the mid-20th centuries."



PUBLICATIONS

Branigan, Renee, OSB. Book Review: *The Rule of Benedict: Christian Monastic Wisdom for Daily Living* by Jane Tomaine. Nashville, TN: Skylight Paths Publishing, 2017, in *ABR* 69:1 (March 2018), 99-100.

Burley, Joanna, OSB. "The Heart of Community: Mercy in the Rule of Benedict," *ABR* 68:3 (September 2017), 233-250.

Dunham, Laura, OBlSB. *Extraordinary Time: Reflections from a Season of Cancer, Death and Transition*. Eugene, OR: Wipf and Stock Publishers, 2018 (July).

Feiss, Hugh, OSB and Juliet Mousseau, RCSJ. *A Companion to the Abbey of Saint Victor in Paris*. Leiden, Netherlands, and Boston: Brill Publishers, 2017.

Kardong, Terrence, OSB. "Some Issues For Current Monasticism." *ABR* 69:1 (March 2018), 62-87.

_____ Book Review: *A Saint in the Sun*, by David N. Bell. Collegeville, MN: The Liturgical Press, 2017, in *Tjurunga* 90 (2017), 87-89.

Norris, Kathleen, OBlSB. Book Review: *The White Cat and the Monk* by Jo Ellen Bogart, illus. Sydney Smith. Berkeley, CA: Groundswell Books, in *ABR* 68:4 (December 2017), 435.

_____ Book Review: *Benedict's Daughter* by Philip C. Colin. Eugene, OR: Resource Publications, 2017, in *ABR* 69:1 (March 2018), 90-91.

Peters, Greg, OBlSB, "A Call for Evangelical Monasticism," *The Journal of Spiritual Formation and Soul Care* 10:2 (2017), 248-264.

Piazza, Thomas and Felicitas Seisenberger, OSB. "Trends in Membership for Benedictine Women in the Bavarian Benedictine Federation." *ABR* 68:4 (December 2017), 408-417.

Raverty, Aaron, OSB. "Saint John's Farming Operation," *The Abbey Banner* 17:3 (Winter 2017–2018), 16–19.

Sautner, Adel, OSB. Book Review: *The Wisdom of the Body: A Contemplative Journey to Wholeness for Women* by Christine Valters Painter. Notre Dame, IN: Ave Maria Press, 2017, in *ABR* 69:1 (March 2018), 98-99.

Shannon, Martin, CJ. *My Soul Waits: Praying with the Psalms through Advent, Christmas & Epiphany*. Brewster, MA: Paraclete Press, 2017.

**Happy Feastday to all
March 21**



Sutera, Judith, OSB. Book Review: *At the Pulpit: 185 Years of Discourses by Latter-Day Saint Women*, eds. Jennifer Reader and Kate Holbrook. Salt Lake City, UT: The Church Historian's Press, 2017, in *Magistra* 23:2 (Winter 2017) 88-89.

Book Review: *Mannock Strickland (1683-1744), Agents to English Convents in Flanders: Letters and Accounts from Exile*, ed. by Richard G. Williams. Suffolk, UK: Boydell & Brewer, 2016, in *Magistra* 23:2 (Winter 2017) 89-90.

The Mary Daly Reader, eds. Jennifer Rycenga and Linda Barufaldi. New York University Press, 2017, 90-91.

Upton, Julia, RSM, ObISB. "Anointing and Caring for the Sick." *The MAST* [Mercy Association in Scripture and Theology] Journal 24:3 (2018), 22-25.

Valente, Judith ObISB. "'Benedictine Oblates Stand at a Crossroads in Monastic History.'" *Global Sisters Report Online*, November 27, 2017.

How to Live: What the Rule of St. Benedict Teaches Us About Happiness, Meaning, and Community. Newburyport, MA: Hampton Roads Publisher, 2018 (April 1).

Presentations

Dirkes, Paul, ObISB. "Apostle to the Apostles," presented to Christ the King Parish in Daphne, Alabama, January, 2018.

"Genesis and the Big Bang: A Biblical View of the Problem of Dark Energy," at a Conference on Relativity in Scotland, August, 2017.

Hollermann, Ephrem, OSB. "Sturdy Legacy: Reflections of An Archives-User," a response to a paper presented by Malachy McCarthy [Province Archivist for the Claretian Missionaries of the United States and Canada] entitled, "The Love of Learning and the Desire for God: An American Archival Perspective," at the Conference of Benedictine Prioresses, Sacred Heart Monastery, Cullman, AL, February 2, 2018.

Upton, Julia, RSM, ObISB. "No Lasting City: Repurposed Architecture and the Projects of Ade Bethune," at the North American Academy of Liturgy Art and Environment Seminar's annual meeting in Vancouver, BC, January 6, 2018.

Notice

Next MR Newsletter, June 2018
Compiled and edited
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Comments/suggestions welcomed
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2018 ABA Convention

July 19-22
Saint Benedict's Monastery
St. Joseph, Minnesota
"Artisans of the Monastery"

