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## Current Projects

**Kathleen Norris, OBI** writes that she “recently signed a contract with Intervarsity Press for a memoir about my sister Rebecca, to be published next year. Rebecca was disabled at birth by brain damage but refused to let that disability define her.”

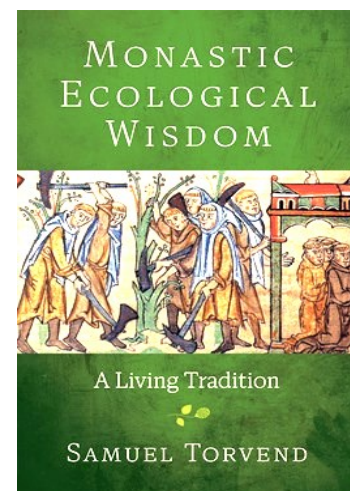
**Laura Swan, OSB** reports as follows: “I continue to work on our history [St. Placid Priory, Lacey, WA] and organize/update our archives (two sides of the same project). I’m also reading heavily across the limited sources for women’s Benedictine history as I’m revamping my monastic history class for postulants/novices. So, I’m having a good time.”

**Greg Peters, OBI** writes: “Here are a few things I’ve been up to... I’ve published ‘The Necessity of Monastic Asceticism: A Case for Retrieval in Contemporary Evangelicalism’ in the *Journal of Spiritual Formation and Soul Care*, and edited *Edward Bouverie Pusey and the Monastic Tradition* for Nashotah House Press. [I] recently signed a contract with InterVarsity Press for a book tentatively entitled *The Evangelical Church in the Middle Ages*. Between February and April I will also lead four parish retreats on different monastic practices.”

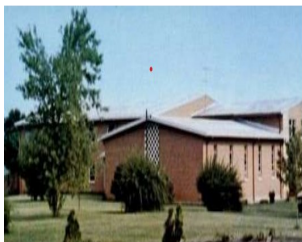
**Samuel Torvend, OBI, PhD** shared the following: “I am happy to report that *Monastic Ecological Wisdom: A Living Tradition* was published in November 2023 by the Liturgical Press and has been well received: <https://litpress.org/Products/6797/Monastic-Ecological-Wisdom>. In September, I attended the World Congress of Benedictine Oblates at Sant’ Anselmo, Rome, and was happy to discover that Abbot Primate Gregory Polan OSB had written a positive review of the book. In addition to webinars and workshops on the book, I am now working on its sequel, *The Christ of Creation*, which begins with an ecology of Jesus and then traces an ‘ecological’ Christology through early Christian and monastic writers of the first millennium.”

**Hugh Feiss, OSB** reports: “My time for research has been somewhat limited by other responsibilities, but long term projects are coming to fruition. An article on a borrowing from Peter of Celle’s *De panibus* in a small work of Richard of St. Victor is currently being printed for the 2023 volume of *Sacris erudiri*; a Latin-English edition of Richard of St. Victor’s *De extermination Mali et promotions boni* is inching its way toward publication in the Dallas Medieval Texts in Translation series

(Peeters); a chapter on twelfth-century monastic exegesis is to appear in July in the first volume of a five-volume work entitled the *Bible and Western Christian Literature* (Bloomsbury); and a monograph on Richard of St. Victor’s exegesis on the Tabernacle of Moses is under consideration at Brepols. Currently I am working on a paper for Kalamazoo in May on Part 13 of the second book of Hugh of St. Victor’s *De sacramentis*, which is entitled ‘On virtues and vices.’ Next project is a paper on the presence of the fourth book of Boethius’ *De consolatione* in the writings of the Victorines. Sr. Colleen Maura [McGrane] and I are presiding at the two sessions of the ABR at Kalamazoo.”



## CURRENT PROJECTS CONT.



ST. MAUR'S

### St. Maur Priory 1947-2001

#### A short History

*It was Originally founded in South Union, Kentucky. It was created as a racially-integrated foundation of Saint John's Abbey in Collegeville, Minnesota. In 1954, Bishop Francis R. Cotton of the Diocese of Owensboro decided to establish St. Maur Priory as a theological seminary. St. Maur Priory and Seminary eventually moved to Indianapolis in 1967, until the closure of the seminary in 1976. In 1989, St. Maur Priory became a dependent priory of Newark Abbey in New Jersey. St. Maur Priory ultimately closed in 2001.*

**"I believe that biography (and history...is inherently theological in the sense that it contains already—literally by virtue of the Incarnation—the news of the gospel whether or not anyone discerns that. We are each one of us parables"**

—William Stringfellow

**Aaron Raverty, OSB** has been awarded an academic book contract with *The Anthropology of Tourism: Heritage, Mobility, and Society* series, Lexington Press (Lanham, MD). His short description reads: "Shrines, as a category, are undertheorized. As multidimensional research targets, we need to redefine and reframe shrines in the anthropology of religion, addressing their evolution, symbolism, ritual context, and potential for stimulating interreligious dialogue."

The tentative title is: *Shrines Theorized: Symbolic Repositories of Memory Culture*. He notes that input from other ABA researchers is welcome.

● He also summarizes two articles he has written for the *Abbey Banner* in the fall and winter issues: "Saint Maur's Priory": As fifth abbot of Saint John's Abbey, Collegeville, Minnesota, Alcuin Deutsch, O.S.B. (1877–1951), made the bold mid-twentieth-century decision to establish an interracial Benedictine monastery in Kentucky. This article traces the fruits of his passion for mission infused with a determination for social justice. The success of Saint Maur's Priory is reflected in its interracial composition, standing as a model for respecting the equality of all who answer God's call for holiness in the monastic life." Also, "Subiaco" The central Italian city of

Subiaco became the youthful Saint Benedict's refuge following his flight from the chaos of Rome around A.D. 500. Drawn out of his grotto (*Sacro Speco*) in Mount Taleo, where he sought silence and solitude, he instructed the local people in Christianity and eventually founded several monastic communities. Today, as a premier artistic tourist destination, Subiaco is hailed as the site where Benedict wrote the earliest drafts of his *Rule*, rightfully claiming Subiaco the *womb* of the Benedictine Order."

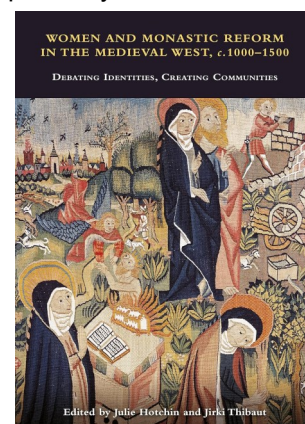
**Jeana Visel, OSB** has published two book reviews [see p. 3] and has submitted an article adapted from a talk she gave to seminarians called "Living a Virtuous Life" to *Benedictines*. She expects to return to writing quarterly blog posts for "Pray Tell" soon. She has been asked to be a peer reviewer for an article submission for *Modern Theology*. Recently she has been engaged in teaching spirituality courses and painting icons.



**St. Mary Magdalene Icon  
By S. Jeana Visel, OSB**

### Timothy Joyce, OSB

At Glastonbury Abbey in Hingham, MA, he continues his work moderating a committee of both monks and lay people on "The Future of the Monastery." He reports: "We have been doing a lot of spade work in identifying everything we actually do now, obstacles to change, and our potential." Meanwhile the monks of Glastonbury meet weekly during Lent to discuss the book of Rowan Williams, "Passions of the Soul", which covers much of early monastic spirituality.



**"Over the last two decades, scholarship has presented a more nuanced view of women's attitude to and agency in medieval monastic reform, challenging the idea that they were, by and large, unwilling to accept or were necessarily hostile towards reform initiatives. Rather, it has shown that they actively participated in debates about the ideas and structures that shaped their religious lives, whether rejecting, embracing, or adapting to calls for "reform" contingent on their circumstances."**

(Amazon Website)

## PUBLICATIONS

**DeGracia, Rosemary, OSB.** Excerpt in "Reflections on the Practice of Hospitality." *Benedictines* vol. 76:1 (Spring/Summer, 2023), 30.

**Feiss, Hugh, OSB.** Book Review: *Pursuit of Salvation: Community, Space, and Discipline in Early Medieval Monasticism* by Albrecht Diem (Turnhout: Brepols, 2021) in *Disciplina Monastica* 13, 455-459.

**Hollermann, Ephrem, OSB.** Book Review: *The White Stone: The Art of Letting Go* by Esther de Waal, in *Benedictines* 76:1 (Spring/Summer 2023) 33-34.

**McGrane, Colleen Maura, OSB.** Book Review: *The Holy Rule of Our Holy Father Saint Benedict: The Saint Meinrad Translation*. Trans. Harry Hagen, OSB (St. Meinrad, IN: Saint Meinrad Archabbey, 2022) in *ABR* 74:4 (December 2023) 451-454.

**Norris, Kathleen, ObISB.** Book Review: *Shelter From the Storm* by David Hodges, OCSO (Caldey Island, Wales: Caldey Abbey, 2023) in *ABR* 74:3 (September 2023) 353.

**Oetgen, Jerome.** "Initiating Monastic Renewal in the American Cassinese Congregation: 1965-1969." *ABR* 74:4 (December 2023) 377-414.

**Greg Peters, ObISB.** "The Necessity of Monastic Asceticism: A Case for Retrieval in Contemporary Evangelicalism." *Journal of Spiritual Formation and Soul Care*, forthcoming.

\_\_\_\_\_ Edited *Edward Bouverie Pusey and the Monastic Tradition* (Nashotah, WI: Nashotah House Press), 2024.

\_\_\_\_\_ *The Evangelical Church in the Middle Ages* (Westmont, IL: Intervarsity Press), forthcoming.

**Piazza, Thomas** and Geraldo Gonzalez y Lima, OSB. "Membership Trends for Benedictine Monks in Brazil." *ABR* 74:3 (September 2023) 318-330.

\_\_\_\_\_ "Membership Trends in European Countries." *ABR* 74:4 (December 2023) 436-446.

**Raverty, Aaron, OSB.** "Saint Maur's Priory." *Abbey Banner* 23:2 (Fall 2023) 22-24.

\_\_\_\_\_ "Subiaco." *Abbey Banner*, 23:3 (Winter 2023-24) 12-14.

\_\_\_\_\_ *Shrines Theorized: Symbolic Repositories of Memory Culture* (Lanham, MD: Lexington Press), forthcoming.

**Sutera, Judith, OSB.** Book Review: *Awakenings: Prophetic Reflections* by Joan Chittister, OSB (Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 2022) in *Magistra* 29:1 (Summer 2023) 97.

\_\_\_\_\_ "In Memoriam: Two of the *Magistra* Family" (Mary Forman, OSB and Dr. J Frank Henderson) *Magistra* 29:1 (Summer 2023) 74-77.





\_\_\_\_\_ Book Review: *Between Orders and Heresy: Rethinking Medieval Religious Movements*, edited by Jennifer Kolpacoff Deane and Anne E. Lester (Toronto, CA: University of Toronto Press, 2022 ) in *Magistra* 29:2 (Winter 2023) 95-96.

\_\_\_\_\_ Book Review: *Revelation* (Vol. 58, Wisdom Commentary Series) by Lynn Huber and Gail R. O' Day. (Collegeville, MN: The Liturgical Press, 2023) in *Magistra* 29:2 (Winter 2023) 96-98.

**Swan, Laura, OSB.** Book Review: *To Govern is to Serve: An Essay on Medieval Democracy* by Jacques Dalarun (Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 2023) in *Magistra* 29:1 (Summer 2023)92-93.

\_\_\_\_\_ "The Second International Conference on the Beguines," *Magistra* 29:2 (Winter 2023) 40-44.

\_\_\_\_\_ Book Review: *Writing Holiness: Genre and Reception Across Medieval Hagiography* by Jessica Barr and Barbara Zimbalist (Belgium: Brepols Publishers, 2023) in *Magistra* 29:2 (Winter 2023) 87-90.

\_\_\_\_\_ Book Review: *Obsculta Listen Carefully: A Study of Benedictine Continuity of charism and Tradition with a Focus on the Benedictine Nuns of Subiaco, Tydalmere, New South Wales, Australia* by Hildegard Mary Ryan, OSB (Bolt Publishing, 2023) in *Magistra* 29:2 (Winter 2023), 90-92.

**Torvend, Samuel.** *Monastic Ecological Wisdom: A Living Tradition* (Collegeville, MN: The Liturgical Press) 2023.

**Visel, Jeana, OSB.** Book Review: *Like A Mustard Seed: A History of the First Benedictine Women's Monastery in North America: St. Joseph Monastery, St. Marys, Pennsylvania 1852-2014*, by Ephrem Hollermann, OSB (Morrisville, NC: Lulu Press, Inc., 2022) forthcoming in *Review for Religious*.

\_\_\_\_\_ Book Review: *Women and Monastic Reform in the Medieval West, c.1000-1500:Debating Identities, Creating Communities*, eds. Julie Hotchin and Jirki Thibaut ( Suffolk, UK: Boydell Press, 2023) forthcoming in *ABR*.

## Presentations

**Hollermann, Ephrem, OSB.** "Benedictine Women: From Europe to North America, from *Moniales* to *Sorores*," given at the Leadership Delegate Assembly of the *Communio Internationalis Benedictinarum* (CIB), meeting at Sacred Heart Monastery, Cullman, Alabama, September 4-8. 2023.

### Notice

**Next MR Newsletter, June 2024**

**Compiled and edited**

**by Ephrem Hollermann, OSB**

**Saint Benedict's Monastery, St. Joseph, MN**

**Comments/suggestions welcomed**

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### 2024 ABA Convention

**Liturgy of the Hours: Evolution**

**August 7-11**

**St. Meinrad Archabbey**

**St. Meinrad, Indiana.**

