



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Current Projects 1-2

Publications 3

Presentations 4

Notice 5-6

• Contributors

- Kathleen Norris
- Hugh Feiss
- Tom Piazza
- Aaron Raverty
- Terrence Kardong
- Linda Romey
- Judith Valente
- Greg Peters
- Martin Shannon
- Julie Upton
- Ephrem Hollermann

Current Projects

Kathleen Norris, OBlSB

from Honolulu writes: "I'll be in residence at the Collegeville Institute for the fall term this year, working on my book on monastic formation. I'm hoping to conduct many interviews at St. Ben's and St. John's. While I'm there I'll be doing talks for the Benedictine Institute and the Sundays at the Abbey series. One new project [is] collaborating with "Movies and Meaning" film festival director Gareth Higgins, for a book on film and spirituality."

Hugh Feiss, OSB, Monastery of the Ascension, Jerome, ID, reports the following: "The *Benedictine Reader 530-1530*, edited by Maureen O'Brien, Ronald Pepin and I, has been edited by Marsha Dutton for Cistercian Publications and is now at Liturgical Press for typesetting. It is a big book, containing more than 30 representative selections by and about medieval Benedictines, with introductions, notes, and translations by a dozen scholars. It should appear in the spring."

•Victorine Texts in Translation, Volume 8: *Sermons on the Liturgical Year*, is also with Brepols publishing. It should also appear around the end of 2018. I did most of it with expert help from Ronald Pepin and Maria Rebbert. Volume 10 in the same series, *Sacraments*, is also coming along well. It

should be at Brepols by Christmas and will appear by May 2019.

•When I finish VTT 10, I want to keep working on a three-part project that looks at the image or idea of Christ in the *Rule of Benedict*, some medieval commentaries on the *Song of Songs*, and on some current ideas about "personal relation to Jesus." I floated the idea in my paper at the ABR session at the International Congress of Medieval Studies at Western Michigan University in May. (See the June 2018 edition of *The American Monastic Newsletter*, p.7, for a summary of the papers at the ABA session).

•Our monastery is going to offer three summer seminars in 2019, on Medieval Mystics, on Medieval Benedictines, and On the Idea of Love in Western Culture, Plato to Thomas Aquinas." (See pp. 5-6 of this Newsletter for a pre-publication notice generously shared with us by Fr. Hugh.) He went on to say, "We hope the one on Benedictines, based on the Benedictine Reader, will draw some monastic participants."

Tom Piazza of Richmond, CA, completed an analysis of membership trends in the American Cassinese and the Swiss American congregations of Benedictine men. He has

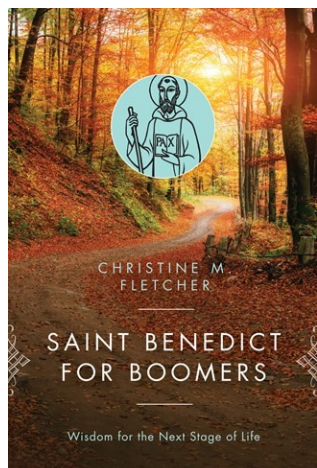
submitted the article to ABR.

•Aaron Raverty, OSB

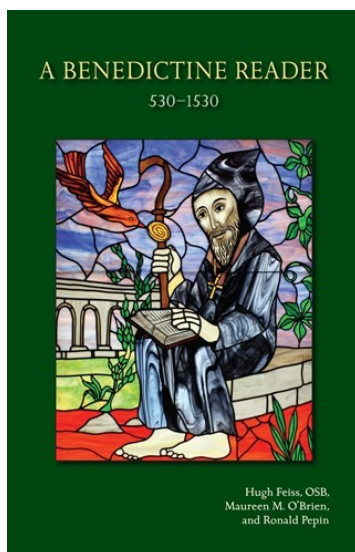
has published on two topics of Benedictine interest. (See citations in the Publications section of this Newsletter). About a Native American mission he writes: "The Red Lake Indian Mission in northern Minnesota bespeaks missionary fervor for the Ojibwe, beginning in the mid-nineteenth century. This article reviews the groundwork laid by intrepid early missionary priests, Saint John's Abbey monks, and Sisters from Saint Benedict's Monastery in St. Joseph, Minnesota, and their enduring establishment of a Benedictine boarding school, and Christian witness amid the trials and privations of pioneer evangelization."

•As an anthropologist, he writes about ancestor veneration in Benedictine monasticism: "Catholic monasteries enlist formal and informal means of recalling their predecessors to mind. After reviewing the research domain of ancestor veneration in the anthropology of religion, this investigation foregrounds Benedictine monasticism generally, then specifically the Abbey of Saint John the Baptist in College-

CURRENT PROJECTS CONT.



"Benedict's wisdom is perennial, and it remains helpful to those who negotiate new challenges in living well, preserving bodily health, discerning purpose in new stages of living, deepening faith, and ultimately, facing sickness and death."
(Liturgical Press Website)



Pre-Order Available
The Liturgical Press

ville, Minnesota, USA, emphasizing liturgical ritual, shrines, relics, storytelling/reminiscing, the communion of saints, and the memorial and organizational properties of monastic cemeteries.

Terrence Kardong, OSB writes: "In a recent article on the Life of St. Columban by Jonas of Bobbio, Albrecht Diem, a major scholar includes a footnote that claims that St. Benedict in RB teaches absolute, blind obedience. More than that, he also claims that most scholars of the RB do not want to admit that. Since he named me as one of them, I felt I should smack him back, so I wrote an article to that effect last week (June, 2018)."

Linda Romey, OSB will be presenting at the Federation of St. Benedict Chapter in July, 2018, addressing the chapter theme, "Walking into the Future: Tending the Benedictine Charism," with two presentations. She writes that first she "will talk about change itself. It's such a common topic and something we all experience at many levels each day—but how often do we really look at change and more importantly, can we direct it? Then I will propose specific ways of looking at two areas of change. First, I'm going to borrow from cultural linguist George Lakoff and look at changing frames, the world views that dictate how we see everything around us. After a

break and discussion, I will propose a relatively new model for change and community that might offer us some ideas on how to move along our evolutionary Benedictine trajectory: the open source model. Lastly, I will close with what hasn't changed, with the core of who we are as Benedictine women religious, and why what we bring to the church and the world is still needed today even if in new ways that we can't quite see yet.

Judith Valente, OBI

SB has an article in the September 2018 issue of *U.S. Catholic* on how some Catholic groups are advocating for peace and non-violence. Judith was also recently elected to the board of the International Thomas Merton Society.

She is currently researching what might become an article or eventually a book on anger. She is looking for examples of how anger is dealt with in monasteries, and how people overcame their own angry feelings. If you would like to share a story, please contact her at jvalente17@msn.com. She assures you that "your name and information will not be used without your permission."

Greg Peters, OBI
SB, has recently signed a contract with Cascade publications to write a short work on the thought of Thomas à Kempis.

Martin Shannon, CJ

writes: "In June, the Mount Tabor Ecumenical Centre for Art and Spirituality (Barga, Italy) sponsored

Pursuing the Precursor: Baptism & St. John the Baptist, a 10-day study/retreat in Italy. [I] co-led the project with Monsignor Timothy Verdon, Director of the Opera del Duomo Museum in Florence (and, for a short time, once a monk of Mount Saviour Monastery). After teaching two days of class sessions at the Centre, we led visits to church and artistic sites related to the theme in Pisa, Siena, Ravenna, and Florence."

Julie Upton, RSM

Reports that in addition to preparing for the ABA Convention at St. Benedict's Monastery, St. Joseph, MN, this summer, she is continuing to work on an essay for *Worship* on the contributions of the late Robert E. Rambusch to the Liturgical Movement in America.

•Julie will begin the 5th and last year of her Master of Public Health Degree this fall. In addition to teaching, she will be completing her Public Health internship at Mercy Center Nursing Unit in the city of Dallas, Pennsylvania.

S. Ephrem Hollermann, OSB

has completed near-final drafts of 8 (out of a projected 12) chapters of the history of the now-closed St. Joseph Monastery in St. Marys, PA. (founded in 1852 and closed in January of 2014). A preliminary title under consideration is *Like a Mustard Seed: A History of the First Monastery of Benedictine Women in North America*. She was commissioned by the Federation of St. Scholastica to write this history.

Carruth, Shawn, OSB. Book Review: *Wisdom: The Good Life: Wisdom Literature and the Rule of Benedict*, by Irene Nowell, OSB. (Collegeville: The Liturgical Press, 2017) in *ABR* 69:2 (June 2018) 209-210.

Feiss, Hugh, OSB. Book Review: John of Morigny (14th-century Benedictine) *Liber florum celestis /The Flowers of Heavenly Teaching*, in *Speculum* 93:3 (July 2018) 860-862.

Book Review: *Glossae in Regula Sancti Benedicti Abbatis ad usum Smaragdi Abbatis Sancti Michaelis*. ed. Matthieu H. van der Meer (Turnhout, Belgium: Brepols, 2017) in *ABR* 69:2 (June 2018) 210-212.

Fox, Ruth, OSB. Book Review: *The Taste of Silence: How I Came To Be At Home with Myself*, by Bieke Vanderkerckhove Collegeville: The Liturgical Press 2015) in *ABR* 69:2 (June 2018) 215.

Kardong, Terrence, OSB. Book Review: *Jonas of Bobbio, Life of Columbanus, Life of John of Réomé and Life of Vedast*. Trans. Alexander O'Hara and Ian Wood (Liverpool, Eng.: Liverpool U, 2017) in *ABR* 69:2 (June 2018) 213-214.

"Love of Learning Revisited," *Benedictines* LXXI:1 (Spring/Summer 2018) 6-10.

Book Review: *Irish Monasticism*, by John Ryan, SJ (Dublin: Talbot) in *ABR* 69:2 (June 2018) 207-209.

Book Review: *The Bible from Late Antiquity to the Renaissance*, ed. Ambrogio Piazzoni with Francesca Manzari (Collegeville: The Liturgical Press) in *ABR* 69:2 (June 2018) 217-218.

Book Review: *A Saint in the Sun* (on Bernard of Clairvaux) by David N. Bell (Collegeville: The Liturgical Press 2017) in *Tjurunga* 90 (2017) 87-89.

McGrane, Colleen Maura, OSB. *A Not-So-Unexciting Life: Essays on Benedictine History and Spirituality in Honor of Michael Casey*, OCSO ed. Carmel Posa (Collegeville: The Liturgical Press 2017) in *ABR* 69:2 (June 2018) 220-221.

Raverty, Aaron, OSB. "Red Lake Mission." *Abbey Banner* 18:1 (Spring 2018) 18-21.

"Ancestor Veneration in Benedictine Monasticism." *Czech and Slovak Journal of Humanities* 3 (2017) 73-88.

Richmond, Donald, ObISB. "Robes of Righteousness" in the Valyermo [Benedictine] Chronicle (Autumn 2017).

"The Oblate and Ecumenism in the Valyermo [Benedictine] Chronicle (Winter 2018)

"Religion as Resistance" in *Forward in Christ* (Winter 2018).

"Saying Yes to No" in the Valyermo [Benedictine] Chronicle (Spring 2018).

"In the Cross is Height of Virtue," *Benedictines* LXXI:1 Spring/Summer 2018) 51.

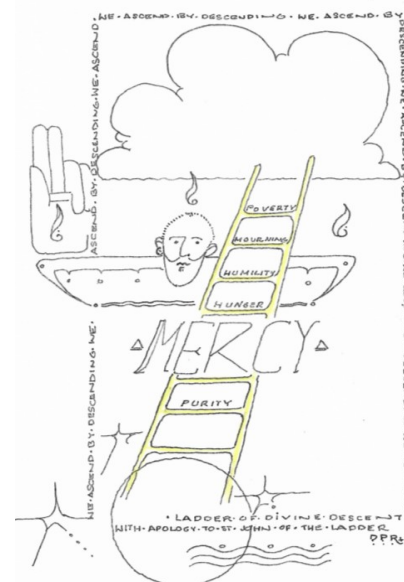
Romey, Linda, OSB. "What will Religious Life Look Like?" *Global Sisters Report* March 13, 2018) <http://globalsistersreport.org/column/trends/what-will-religious-life-look-52506>

Sutera, Judith, OSB. Book Review: *St. Benedict for Boomers: Wisdom for the Next Stage of Life*, by Christine M. Fletcher (Collegeville, MN: The Liturgical Press 2017) 216-217.

Valente, Judith, ObISB. "A Spirituality of the Heart:' Report on the Fourth International Oblate Congress," *Benedictines* LXXI:1 (Spring/ Summer 2018) 34-39.

Book Review: *Aging Starts in Your Mind: You're Only As Old As You Feel*, by Notker Wolf, OSB (Paraclete Press 2017) in *Benedictines* LXXI:1 (Spring/ Summer 2018) 44-46.

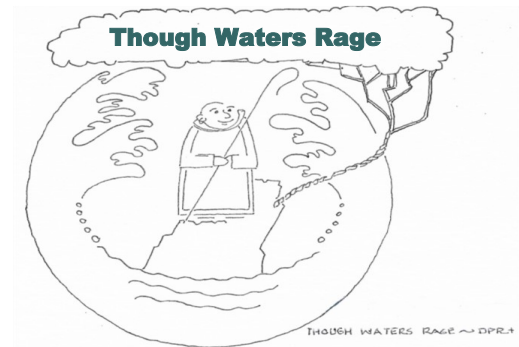
"Monastic Cartoon"



Ladder of Divine Descent
by Donald Richmond

Presentations

Richmond, Donald, ObISB. "Stepping up to Life: The Beatitudes and Christian Holiness / Maturity" (December 2017. (See images below.)



Valente, Judith, ObISB. "Being Truly Alive: What the Rule of St. Benedict Teaches Us About Happiness, Meaning and Community." Upcoming keynote speaker at the 11th Annual Monastic Institute for Benedictine Oblates, on July 12-15, Mount St. Scholastica Monastery, in Atchison, KS.

"Benedictine Spirituality in Daily Life" Fall 2018 presentations at Viterbo University in Lacrosse, WI; Caldwell University in Caldwell, New Jersey; St. Mary's College in Newburgh, New York.

**I'm sure you, as did I, missed Father Terrence Kardong's
editorial in the latest issue of
The American Benedictine Review.
He has retired as its august editor after many, many years of service.
It seems fitting in this Newsletter to say
Thank You
to you, Terrence, for the "blood, sweat and tears" spent in the
task of meticulous editing, for your inspiration
and steadfast encouragement as a first-rate scholar,
and for your always evident love of the Benedictine monastic way of life.**

Notice

**Next MR Newsletter, October 2018
Compiled and edited
by Ephrem Hollermann, OSB
Saint Benedict's Monastery, St. Joseph, MN
Comments/suggestions welcomed
ehollermann@csbsju.edu**

2018 ABA Convention

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



Laurence Hundersmarck

Love in Western Philosophy and Christian Theology, #1 (July 15–21, 2019)

PRESENTERS/FACILITATORS:

Professor Laurence Hundersmarck, Pace University, MA (Philosophy, University of Dayton), PhD (theology, Fordham University); Fr. Hugh Feiss, OSB, Monastery of the Ascension, PHL (philosophy, The Catholic University of America), STD (theology, Sant' Anselmo, Rome).

Almost everyone would admit that they seek to live in a way that will bring them happiness. One major contributor to happiness is love. Our most important ideas about love and friendship are rooted in both the Biblical and the Greco-Roman Classical tradition. The ideas of those traditions continue to be very formative and instructive today. Among the most important forms of love is friendship. This study week aims to explore how thinkers from Plato (ca. 424–348/347 BC) to Thomas Aquinas (1225–1274 AD) thought about love and friendship. Their ideas were not just speculation; they sought to know and teach how to love, how to be good, and how to be happy. The program will last five full days. Participants are asked to read the texts beforehand so that we can discuss them knowledgeably during the study week. Most of them are available as inexpensive ebooks.

It will be easier if we use the same editions, so we have picked out the best, inexpensive versions. The first two days concern two views of love as desire: Tuesday, Plato, *Symposium*, *Phaedrus* and *Lysis*; Wednesday, Augustine,

City of God, Book 14; Thursday will be devoted to Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*, Books 8 and 9, which concern both love and friendship. Friday we will discuss Cicero's treatise *On Friendship* and Aelred of Rievaulx's Christian reworking of it, *On Spiritual Friendship*. On Saturday, we will consider Thomas Aquinas' treatment in the *Summa Theologiae*, of love and friendship as human virtues (I-II, qq. 26–28), and then his consideration of charity, as grace-given capacity to love God and neighbor (qq. II-II, 23–27).

READINGS:

(prices are approximate; used copies may be less, new copies more):

Plato on Love, *Lysis*, *Symposium*, *Phaedrus*, and *Alcibiades*.

Ed. D. C. Reeve (Hackett, 2006), \$16.00. We will read

Lysis, *Symposium* and *Phaedrus*.

St. Augustine, *On the City of God*, tr. H. Bettenson (Penguin,

2003), \$10. We will read Book 14.

Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*, ed. Robert Barlett and Susan

Collins (University of Chicago, 2012), \$15.00. We will read Books 7 and 8.

Cicero, *On Friendship*, in Cicero, *On the Good Life*, tr. Michael

Grant (Penguin, 1971), \$5.

Aelred of Rievaulx, *On Spiritual Friendship*, tr. M. Dutton and

L. Braceland (Cistercian Publications/Liturgical Press,

2010), \$10.

Thomas Aquinas, *Summa theologiae*, I-II, qq. 26–28; qq. II-II,

23–27. The second part of this reading is available in

Thomas Aquinas, *On Love and Charity*, *Summa theologiae*,

I:23–46, tr. Robert Miner (Yale, 2016), \$25. Both parts are

available in the translation of the *Summa theologiae* by

the Fathers of the English Dominican Fathers, which is

now out of copyright and available in several print and

ebook versions.

Monastery of the Ascension

2019

SUMMER Study Weeks

The Intention of these Study Weeks

For more than fifty years the Monastery of the Ascension has been a center of prayer, hospitality, and pastoral ministry, to which many people look for spiritual renewal and quiet retreat. For more than twenty years the Monastery of the Ascension has been offering week-long Road Scholar (formerly "Elderhostel") programs in the summer. Most of the participants in the Road Scholar programs have come from far away. We now would like to offer somewhat more in-depth programs, more reflective of the monastery's life and mission, and more accessible to people who live closer by. Our aim is to keep the cost as low as possible for room, board, and instructors' stipends and travel. The cost is about what it would be for someone to stay for six days (fasting!) in a motel. For those who would really like to attend but cannot afford it, we have a few scholarships available. We have labeled these programs #1, so that if the participants wish, we can have a follow-up in 2020, God willing.

Enrollment is limited to 24 people. Meals from Monday evening through Sunday morning will be provided. Costs for double occupancy rooms and all meals is \$600; cost for single occupancy rooms and all meals is \$800. Cost for commuters is \$300 + meals (breakfast \$7, lunch \$8, dinner \$10). All meals are prepared by a chef, who is happy to accommodate special needs. Those who wish can join the monks in Mass and the Liturgy of the Hours. All are welcome to use the monastery library. Enrollment is open now; participants are asked to send a \$100 down payment by June 1, 2019. For further information or to enroll, contact Fr. Hugh Feiss, OSB.

Phone 208-761-9398; hughf@idahomonks.org.

www.idahomonks.org

Medieval Mystics #1
(June 10 to 16, 2019)

The Benedictines:
530–1530: 1000 Years of
Living Tradition #1
(June 24–30, 2019)

Love in Western Philosophy
and Christian Theology, #1
(July 15–21, 2019)



Monastery of the Ascension
541 E – 100 S, Jerome, ID 83338



Medieval Mystics #1:

Hildegard, Julian of
Norwich, Brigit of
Sweden, *The Cloud of
Unknowing*, Jan van
Ruysbroeck

(June 10–16, 2019)

PRESENTERS:

Janne Goldbeck, Idaho State University, emerita, PhD (University of Oklahoma); Hugh Feiss, OSB, Monastery of the Ascension, PhD (philosophy, The Catholic University of America), STD (theology, Saint Anselmo, Rome); Ezekiel Lotz, OSB, MA (theology, Mount Angel Seminary); PhD (University of Oxford).

During the last century medieval mystics became a topic of intense interest to theologians, historians, students of spirituality, and to lay Christians who are eager to learn more about spirituality or to deepen their own connection with God. This study week will study the life and works of five fascinating and varied medieval mystics: Tuesday: Hildegard of Bingen (d. 1179), abbess, poet, composer, student of medicine and nature, and theologian; Wednesday: *The Cloud of Unknowing*, last half of 14th century), an

anonymous work in Middle English, perhaps by a Carthusian, that teaches a form of wordless prayer in the presence of God; Thursday, Brigit of Sweden (d. 1373), wife, mother, visionary, religious founder; Friday, Julian of Norwich (d. 1416), anchoress, mystic, and theologian; Saturday, John of Ruysbroeck (d. 1381), Flemish mystic, who wrote many religious works in Dutch, founded the monastery of Groenendaal, and had great influence during his life and since. The program will last five full days.

READINGS:

Most of them are available as inexpensive ebooks or paperbacks. (prices are approximate; used copies may be less, new copies more). We will not discuss everything in these books, but we advise you to read at least some of each of them. We will specify more particularly what parts to concentrate on a few months before the program.

Hildegard of Bingen, *Scivias*, tr. Columba Hart (New York: Paulist, 1990) \$20. [We will also listen to her music: there are recordings of all of it by Sequentia]

Cloud of Unknowing, tr. James Walsh (Paulist, 1980) \$5–20.
Brigit of Sweden, *Life and Selected Writings*, tr. Marguerite Harris (Paulist, 1989) \$5–25.

Julian of Norwich, *Showings*, tr. Eric College and James Walsh (Paulist, 1977) \$5–20.

Jan van Ruysbroeck, *Adornment of the Spiritual Marriage; The Sparkling Stone; The Book of Supreme Truth, and Seven Steps of the Ladder of Spiritual Love*, intro. Evelyn Underhill (London: G. Bell, 1915; rept. Kessinger, 2010). \$25.



Ronald E. Pepin

The Benedictines:

530–1530:

A Thousand Years of
Living Tradition, #1

(June 24–30, 2019)

PRESENTERS/FACILITATORS:

Ronald E. Pepin, Capital Community College, Hartford Connecticut, emeritus, PhD (classics, Fordham); Fr. Hugh Feiss, OSB, Monastery of the Ascension, PhD (philosophy, The Catholic University of America), STD (theology, Saint Anselmo, Rome).

The Rule of Benedict (ca. 530 AD) is one of the foundational documents of European civilization. It has been the inspiration of a monastic tradition that has lasted until the present day. Dr. Ron Pepin and Fr. Hugh Feiss, OSB, have studied this tradition for many decades and published a number of books together. In the spring of 2019, the book with the title of this summer seminar will be published by the Liturgical Press/Cistercian Publications. The book contains documents of all kinds—prayers, satires, poems, histories, saints' lives, letters and accounts of visions—from the first 1000 years of Benedictine monasticism.

Copies of the book will be provided to serve as the basis of this seminar. Meanwhile, here are some sources that participants might read in preparation for the seminar:

The Rule of Benedict. There are many translations of this. The text itself is available in RB 80: *The Rule of St. Benedict* in Latin and English (Liturgical Press, 1981) \$1.00–3.00.

A large version of this, with background essays and notes is available as RB 1980: *The Rule of St. Benedict*,

unabridged edition (Liturgical Press, 1981) \$49.95. A very thorough commentary is Terrence Kardong, *Benedict's Rule: A Translation and Commentary* (Liturgical Press, 1981).

\$30–\$65. There are ebook versions of some of these and free online translations of the Rule of Benedict.

Melville, Gert. *The World of Medieval Monasticism: Its History and Forms of Life* (Liturgical Press/Cistercian Publications, 2016). \$33. (Kindle, \$20). Melville's history encompasses more than Benedictine monasticism, but is probably the best survey for the period of monastic history we will be discussing. Of particular interest are pp. 1–80, 136–179, 298–372.

Gregory the Great, *The Life of St. Benedict*, tr. Terrence Kardong (Liturgical Press, 2009) \$10–19. There are other versions, some that can be downloaded for free.

Among the other Benedictine figures that we will discuss whose works are readily available are Hildegard of Bingen, Bede the Venerable, Peter Abelard, Christina of Markyate, Peter of Celle, Louis de Blois (Blosius), and John Lydgate.