

## Current Projects



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## Contributors

- **Aaron Raverty**
- **Jeana Visel**
- **Samuel Torvend**
- **Donald Richmond**
- **Greg Peters**
- **Hugh Feiss**
- **Virginia Jung**
- **Jerome Oetgen**



**Aaron Raverty, OSB** has been invited by the convener of the Anthropology of Tourism section of the American Anthropological Association (AAA) to submit an article dealing with the topic of faith and heritage in the multireligious site in Crestone, CO where he did research for his book a few years ago. [*Refuge in Crestone: A Sanctuary for Interreligious Dialogue*]. Aaron has also published a couple of articles in the *Abbey Banner*, a publication of St. John's Abbey in Collegeville. About the article on the Red Lake Mission in northern Minnesota, he writes that it "bespeaks missionary fervor for the Ojibwe beginning in the mid-nineteenth century." The 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." In the second article he writes about the first onsite abbey church built in 1879. "As part of the quadrangle, it was Romanesque and configured as a Latin cross." The article details its construc-

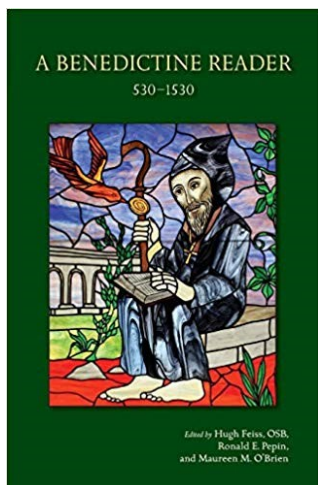
tion, consecration (1882), and subsequent deconstruction and reemergence as the Great Hall in the wake of building the current Breuer-designed Saint John's Abbey and University Church. In process is a third article on the topic of the St. John's bells. Wearing his anthropology "hat," Aaron has published an article on ancestor veneration in Benedictine monasticism. This article, he says, is on how "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 Collegeville, Minnesota, USA, emphasizing liturgical/ritual associations, shrines, relics, storytelling/ reminiscing, the communion of saints, and the memorial and organizational properties of monastic cemeteries." Please see the citations for these articles on p. 3 of this newsletter.

**Jeana Visel, OSB** writes: "This summer I am teaching a course for the Graduate Theology Program at Saint Meinrad on Benedictine Spirituality. I also am working on a chapter for a book on spiritual direction throughout history, to be

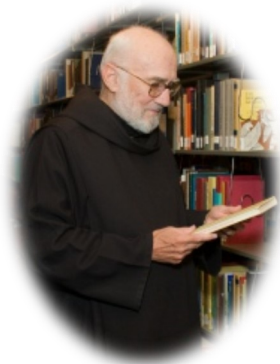
edited by Dr. Robert Alvis [Academic Dean, St. Meinrad Seminary]. My chapter will be on the desert fathers and mothers and spiritual direction. I am also completing a commission for two large icons of SS. Peter and Paul, to be blessed and installed in the seminary chapel at Saint Meinrad in early October. And to balance things out, I am helping present two week-long workshops on chant."

**Samuel Torvend**, new to ABA, is a priest in the Episcopal Diocese of Olympia (Seattle), and an oblate candidate with St John's Abbey, Collegeville. He is a professor of church history at Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma, WA where he teaches courses in early Christian ascetic movements, medieval monasticism, and medieval women reformers and mystics. He also serves as associate priest for adult formation at Christ Church Parish in Tacoma. He writes as follows: "I am happy to report that I will be working throughout 2019-2020 on a sabbatical project that focuses on early monastic contributions to environmental conservation and sustainability. This work will entail research at St. John's Abbey and University Library

## CURRENT PROJECTS CONT.



✠*Rest in Peace,  
Dear Terrence*



1936-2019

"In Terrence Kardong's many contributions to the explication of and commentary on St. Benedict's Rule, we have always found the sharp and well-worded wisdom that opens the Rule and the human heart to the truth of each other."

—Shawn Carruth, OSB



and the Hill Monastic Manuscript Library in the Fall. I will also be spending time in central Italy in the late winter of 2020 examining monastic sites that have been designated or proposed as World Heritage sites for their care of land, water sources, forests, gardens, and fields: St. Scholastica in Subiaco, Monte Cassino, San Vincenzo al Volturno, and the Farfa Abbey."

**Rev. Donald Richmond, OLSB** has two articles awaiting publication—one on the topic of "Monastic Counseling," and the other on "Raising Saints."

**Tom Piazza** is currently working on membership trends in the African monasteries of Benedictine men in addition to a statistical overview of the Confederation from 1880 to the present. His article on membership trends in the American Cassinese and the Swiss American Congregations of Benedictine men appeared in the June 2019 issue of *ABR* (Citation, p. 3).

**Greg Peters** is editing a special issue of *Religions* entitled "Exploring the Future of Christian Monasticisms" and continues to work on a new book entitled *Thomas à Kempis: His Life and Spiritual Theology*. This September he will be in residence at Pusey House, Oxford, working with nineteenth-century Anglican monastic archives. He has also

been appointed Visiting Scholar at St. Edmund's College, Cambridge, beginning on October 1, 2019.

**Hugh Feiss, OSB** has had two huge projects published which he edited and contributed to: *Victorine Texts in Translation: Vol. 7, Sermons for the Liturgical Year*, and *A Benedictine Reader, 530-1530* (See citations on p. 3). Hugh writes: "The ABA Session at Kalamazoo was a good one. Members of the researchers section can read about it in the latest issue of the

*American Monastic Newsletter*. S. Colleen Maura and I both contributed papers, along with a PhD student from Oxford, who gave an outstanding paper on St. Anselm's prayers to the saints. I am continuing to study how Benedictines thought about Christ, trying to weigh the influence that the RB had on their approach to Him. In 2020 the ABA section at Kalamazoo will be, if accepted, about how medieval Benedictines thought and practiced humility and whether it was good for them. We also hope to have a roundtable on using the *Benedictine Reader* in teaching. **I'd love to hear from anyone interested in taking part in either session.** My current project is to finish *Victorine Texts in Translation*, vol. 10, *On the Sacraments*. It is very close to finished, and should be to the publishers before the October newsletter."

**Virginia Jung, OSB**, archivist at St. Scholastica

Monastery, Chicago, has engaged in an exciting project with students from DePaul University. They are creating a "Story Map," representing the schools where the sisters from her monastery have served as educators. She writes: "The researchers, so far, are myself as archivist, the two students who got it started (Taylor Armbruster and Anna Rose McGoldrick), in collaboration with several sisters, alumnae, former faculty & oblates...It is a work in progress but we are pleased with it thus far... Eventually, we hope to make it interactive, soliciting more input from alumni and other map users." <https://depaul.edu/maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=c7e2dcd60f7146d6b0866e4de4b0b5a6>

**Jerome Oetgen** from Arlington, VA, reports that he is working on two projects: "The first is a book-length continuation (volume 2) of my institutional history of Saint Vincent Archabbey, *Mission to America* (Catholic University Press, 2000). Volume 1, *Mission to America*, covered the period 1846 to 1963 of Saint Vincent's history. The second volume is tentatively titled *Always Forward: A History of Saint Vincent Archabbey, 1963-2020*. I hope to have this project completed by February 2020. A second project is an essay about the Anglo-Saxon Benedictine abbot and homilist Ælfric of Eynsham, tentatively titled "Ælfric of Eynsham's Monastic Usage," which draws on Ælfric's extensive homiletic writings and focuses on his monastic observance. [This project] seems to have a life of its own."

## PUBLICATIONS

**Burkhard, Marianne, OSB.** Book Review: *Jean-Baptiste Chautard, OCSO: The Spirit of Simplicity*. Trans. Thomas Merton (Notre Dame, IN: Ave Maria Press, 2017) in *ABR* 69:4 (December 2018), 450-452.

**Burley, Joanna, OSB.** Book Review: *Faces of Easter: Meeting the Paschal Mystery in the People Around Us* by Albert Holtz, OSB (Collegeville, MN: The Liturgical Press, 2019) in *ABR* 72:2 (June 2019), 220.

**Feiss, Hugh, OSB.** ed. *Sermons on the Liturgical Year* (Victorine Texts in Translation). Turnhout, Belgium: Brepols Publishers, 2018.

\_\_\_\_\_ *A Benedictine Reader, 530-1530*. et al. eds. Kalamazoo, MI: Cistercian Publications, 2019.

\_\_\_\_\_ Book Review: *A Critical Study of the Rule of Benedict, Volume 3: Liturgy, Sleeping Arrangements, and the Penal Code, RB 8-20, 22-30, 42-46* by Adalbert de Vogüé, OSB. Trans. Colleen Maura McGrane, OSB (Hyde Park, NY: New City Press, 2019) in *ABR* 72:2 (June 2019), 216-217.

\_\_\_\_\_ Book Review: *Moral Reflections on the Book of Job* by Gregory the Great. Trans. Brian Kerns, OSCO (Collegeville, MN: Cistercian Publications by The Liturgical Press, 2019) in *ABR* 72:2 (June 2019), 221-223.

\_\_\_\_\_ Book Review: *Cistercian Fathers and Forefathers: Essays and Conferences* by Thomas Merton. Ed. Patrick F. O'Connell (Hyde Park, NY: New City Press, 2019) in *ABR* 70:1 (March 2019), 120-121.

**Frigge, Marielle, OSB.** Book Review: *St. Teresa of Avila: Her Life in Letters*. Trans. and intro. Kieran Kavanaugh, OCD (Notre Dame, IN: Ave Maria Press, 2018) in *ABR* 69:4 (December 2018), 459-462.

**Joyce, Timothy, OSB.** Book Review: *Saint Columban: His Life, Rule and Legacy*. Trans. and intro. Terrence Kardong, OSB (Collegeville, MN: Cistercian Publications by The Liturgical Press, 2017) in *ABR* 69:4 (December 2018), 452-454.

**Kardong, Terrence, OSB.** "Writing Obituaries," *ABR* 72:2 (June 2019), 124-132.

\_\_\_\_\_ Book Review: *Philosopher-Monks, Episcopal Authority, and the Care of the Self: The Apophthegmata Patrum in Fifth-century Palestine* by Zachary B. Smith (Turnhout, Belgium: Brepols Publishers, 2018) in *ABR* 69:4 (December 2018), 445-447.

\_\_\_\_\_ Book Review: *Columbanus and the Peoples of Post Roman Empire*. Ed. Alexander O' Hara (Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press 2018) in *ABR* 69:4 (December 2018), 457-459.

**McGrane, Colleen Maura, OSB.** Book Review: *From the Tools of Good Works to the Heart of Humility* by Aquinata Böckmann, OSB. Trans. Marianne Burkhard, OSB and Andrea Westkamp OSB, ed. Marianne Burkhard, OSB (Collegeville, MN: The Liturgical Press, 2017) in *ABR* 72:2 (June 2019), 212-215.

\_\_\_\_\_ Book Review: *Asceticism of the Mind* by Inbar Graiver (Toronto: Pontifical Institute of Medieval Studies, 2018) in *ABR* 72:2 (June 2019), 218-219.

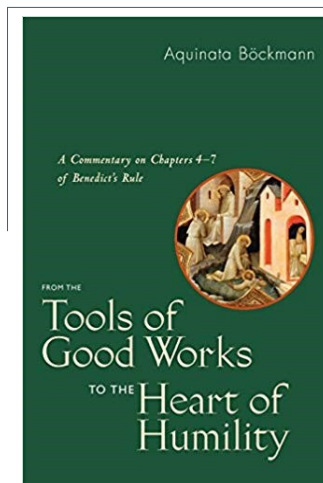
**Norris, Kathleen, OLSB.** "Mechtild of Magdeburg: An Appreciation," *ABR* 72:2 (June 2019), 193-200.

**Piazza, Tom.** "Membership Trends for Benedictine Monks in the American Benedictine Congregations," *ABR* 70:2 (June 2019), 151-162.

**Raverty, Aaron, OSB.** "Ancestor Veneration in Benedictine Monasticism," *Czech and Slovak Journal of Humanities* (March 2017), 73-88.

\_\_\_\_\_ "Red Lake Mission," *Abbey Banner* 18:1 (Spring 2018), 8-21.

\_\_\_\_\_ "Saint John's First Church," *Abbey Banner* 19:1 (Spring 2019), 16-21.



**Sautner, Adel, OSB.** Book Review: *Give Love and Receive the Kingdom: Essential People and Themes of English Spirituality* by Barbara Ward (Brewster, MA: Paraclete Press, 2018) in *ABR* 72:2 (June 2019), 215-216.

**Sutera, Judith, OSB.** Book Review: *The Herald of God's Loving Kindness, Book Four*. Trans. Alexandra Barratt (Cistercian Publications by Liturgical Press, 2018) in *Magistra* 24:2 (Winter 2018), 111-112.

**Swan, Laura, OSB.** Book Review: *Black Bride of Christ: Chicaba, an African Nun in Eighteenth-Century Spain*. Ed. and trans. by Sue E. Houchins and Baltasa Fra-Molinero (Nashville, TN: Vanderbilt University Press, 2018) in *Magistra* 24:2 (Winter 2018), 112-113.

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Book Review: *The White Nuns: Cistercian Abbeys for Women in Medieval France* by Constance Hoffman Berman (Philadelphia, PA: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2018) in *Magistra* 24:2 (Winter 2018), 113-114.

**Valente, Judith, OBlSB.** "Finding Our Place in the Great Benedictine Narrative." *Benedictines* LXXII:1 (Spring/Summer, 2019), 34-38.

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Book Review: *Renouncing Violence* by Mary Margaret Funk, OSB (Collegeville, MN: The Liturgical Press, 2018) in *Benedictines* LXXII:1 (Spring/Summer, 2019), 44-45.

## Presentations

**Frigge, Marielle, OSB.** "A Paschal Christ at the Heart of the Rule." Ten Retreat Conferences, Saint Benedict's Monastery, St. Joseph, MN, June 9-14, 2019, and St. Scholastica Convent, St. Cloud, MN, 16-21, 2019.

**Hollermann, Ephrem, OSB.** "And God Said That It Was Good: Honoring the Benedictine Sisters of Virginia" [History of the pioneer sisters in Richmond, VA, founded in 1868, and the move to Bristow, VA, in 1901] on the occasion of the community's 150th Anniversary year, March 16, 2019.

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"A Grandmother's Legacy: The History of St. Walburg Abbey, Eichstätt, Bavaria," to faculty and staff participants of the College of Saint Benedict and Saint John's University, in preparation for the May 2019 European Heritage Tour, April 2, 2019.

*Congratulations, Sister Colleen Maura McGrane, OSB  
on your recent appointment as editor of The American Benedictine Review.  
Thank you for this important service!*

### Notice

**Next MR Newsletter, October 2019  
Compiled and edited  
by Ephrem Hollermann, OSB  
Saint Benedict's Monastery, St. Joseph, MN  
Comments/suggestions welcomed  
ehollermann@csbsju.edu**

**2020 ABA Convention  
July 16-19  
Benedictine College  
Atchison, Kansas  
"2020 Vision: Seeing the  
World in a Single Ray of Light"**

