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Current Projects

Jacob Riyeff, OBlSB is preparing to send out his edition and translation of an introduction to *De modo meditando vel contemplandi* and *De remedio contra indeuocionem*, two original Latin treatises for novices from fourteenth-century Bury St. Edmunds, the Benedictine monastery to which Middle English poet John Lydgate belonged. In addition, his translation of St. Æthelwold of Winchester's *Old English Rule of St. Benedict* is in final preparation for release in December of this year and is available for pre-order here: <https://www.cistercianpublications.org/Products/CS264P/The-Old-English-Rule-of-Saint-Benedict>.

Kathleen Norris, OBlSB reports: "I am thinking about writing about monastic formation: what it does to, and for people. I've gathered many stories over the years but can use more." It sounds like she would be happy to hear from anyone who has stories to contribute. dwyernorris@gmail.com

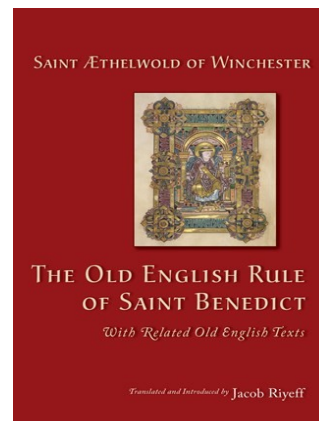
Joel Rippinger, OSB, has begun research in preparation for writing the history of Mount Angel Abbey in Oregon.

Tom Piazza, Richmond, CA, and S. Felicitas Seisenberger, OSB, of Abtei Venio, Munich, have finished their analysis of membership trends among Benedictine women of the four North American feder-

ations. Their analysis was submitted to *Benedictines* (Atchison, KS) and has been accepted for publication. Further analyses are underway. They say the following about their work: "The number of members in monasteries and convents has been in decline for many years. This trend is well known but is not well understood. Aggregate statistics at the level of a monastery can be used to trace the direction of the trend, but they do not provide any insight into its internal dynamics. [Our work shows] how the person-level data available in the *Catalogus Monasteriorum O.S.B. Sororum et Monialium* can be used to illuminate the trend."

Daniel McCarthy, OSB, convened the fourth annual *Generative Communities* colloquium held January 10-11, 2017, in Atchison, KS, sponsored by St. Benedict's Abbey and hosted with Mount St. Scholastica Monastery. The theme of the colloquium was "Framing a Monastery's Identity." The next colloquium will concern "Nurturing Leadership" and is scheduled for January 9-10, 2018. Website: <http://www.liturgyhome.org/generative-communities/>

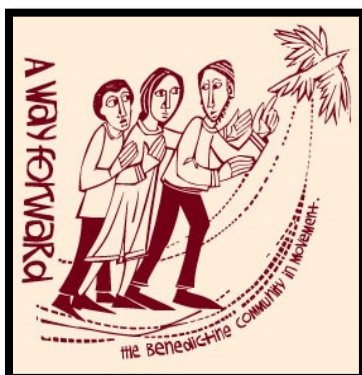
• Daniel also gave thirteen lectures during the First Liturgy Week, *Architecture for Liturgy I*, held January 16-20, 2017, at the Spiritual Life Center, Wichita Kansas.



Participants included architects, diocesan personnel, religious, and members of parish building committees. The second level week is scheduled for January 22-26, 2018. He writes: "I am seeking a sponsoring diocese or religious house to host the two weeks in January, 2019, and 2020. Website: <http://architectureforliturgy.org/liturgy-week-1/>

• Having published *Ossa Latinitatis Sola: The Mere Bones of Latin*, Daniel is working with Reginald Foster, OCD, on the second volume, *Ossium Carnes Multae: The Bones' Meats Abundant*, which presents fifty-one Letters written by Cicero to his family and friends. Each letter integrates the whole language into his natural speech to his close associates. The explanations of how Cicero expresses himself in Latin offer a finishing synthesis to the top level of Latin learning. They spent much of December 2016 and part of January 2017 working together in Milwaukee, and

CURRENT PROJECTS CONT.



What does it mean to be an oblate in the 21st Century? Formed by the Rule of St Benedict, what is our responsibility for our broken world? How can we act as peacemakers showing hospitality in the face of war, terrorism, refugee crises and religious fanaticism? How can we serve as stewards of an abused planet as challenged and inspired by Pope Francis and his encyclical "Laudato Si"? How can we experience stability when monastic communities are shrinking and disappearing?

continue their work now via Facetime. Website: <http://thelatinlanguage.org/ossium/>

Judith Valente, ObISB, writes: "I will represent Mount St. Scholastica in Atchison at the International Oblate Congress in Rome." The Congress, which takes place every four years, is being held November 4-10, 2017. The Congress theme is "A Way Forward: The Benedictine Community in Movement."

Aaron Raverty, OSB, writes about his two publications listed on p. 3 of this *Newsletter*. About the Collegeville Institute article he says "This article recounts the mission, Benedictine foundation, history, major figures, and contemporary programs and outreach of the Collegeville Institute for Ecumenical and Cultural Research in Collegeville, Minnesota." About his article on monks he explains: "The movie *The Mask You Live In* underscores the conflicted dysfunctionality of the heteronormative masculine gender script for male youth in Western societies. A cross-cultural, anthropologically informed exploration of gender variance among religious functionaries may prompt alternative considerations. Christian, Catholic monks in educational institutional settings may herald better adjusted and more spiritually integrated masculine gender variant trajectories in modeling manhood among young men.

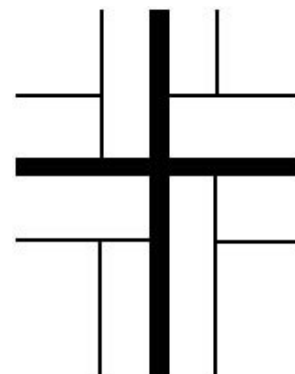
Raymond Studzinski, OSB, a monk of St. Meinrad Archabbey and on the faculty of Catholic University, delivered a paper entitled "Technologies of the Self in a Monastic Context" at the Monastic Symposium in Fabriano, Italy, commemorating the 750th Anniversary of the Death of St. Sylvester Guzzolini, the Founder of the Sylvestrine Congregation, June 2, 2017. The paper focused on the practices at the heart of monastic spirituality and suggested that scholars such as Michel Foucault, Sergey Horujy, and Talal Asad provide lenses for viewing and understanding these practices and the impact they have on monastic men and women. In Foucault's view, disciplines like *lectio divina* and confession are "technologies of the self," exercises which shape and form the self of the practitioner into a monastic self who is humble, hospitable, and obedient. These recent perspectives on practices illuminate the dynamics of *conversatio morum*.

Greg Peters, ObISB, hopes to complete his forthcoming book on the theology of monasticism this summer. It will be published by Baker Academic.

Laura Swan, OSB, in collaboration with S. Mariterese Woida, archivist at Saint Benedict's Monastery, St. Joseph, MN, has worked on a project to restore the memory/history of the Benedictine Sisters who established and staffed Holy Rosary School/parish in Tacoma, WA, for 105 years. She says: "The parish is publishing their history and now these wonderful women are being included."



Saint Sylvester Guzzolini
15th-century Italian painting
Artist unknown



PUBLICATIONS

- Feiss, Hugh, OSB.** Book Review: *Bernard of Clairvaux, Sermons for the Autumn Season*, trans. Irene Edmonds, OCSO, ed. Mark Scott (Collegeville, MN: The Liturgical Press, 2016) in *ABR* 68:1 (March 2017), 99-101.
- Hensell, Eugene, OSB.** *Abbot Columba Marmion, O.S.B., Christ the Ideal of the Monk: Spiritual Conferences on the Monastic and Religious Life* [an abridgment of the 1922 original], (Brewster, MA: Paraclete Press, 2014) in *ABR* 68:1 (March 2017), 106-107.
- Joyce, Timothy, OSB.** *Illuminating the Way: Embracing the Wisdom of Monks and Mystics*, by Christine Valters Painter ((Notre Dame, IN: Sorin Books) in *ABR* 68:1 (March 2017), 116-117.
- Norris, Kathleen, ObISB.** Book Review: *Disciples of the Desert: Monks, Laity, and Spiritual Authority in Sixth-Century Gaza* by Jennifer L. Hevelone-Harper (Baltimore, MD: Johns Hopkins University, 2005) in *ABR* 68:1 (March 2017), 104-105.
- Ranek, Jeanne, OSB.** Book Review: *The Way of Silence: Engaging the Sacred in Daily Life* (Cincinnati, OH: Franciscan Media, 2016) in *Benedictines* LXX:1 (Spring/Summer 2017), 46-47.
- Raverty, Aaron, OSB.** "The Collegeville Institute at 50." *Abbey Banner* 17:1 (Spring 2017), 10–11.

 "Monks as Model Men: Gender Anomalies or Heroic Ideal?" *Open Journal of Social Sciences* 5:6 (June 2017), 103–112.
- Rippinger, Joel, OSB.** "A Source of Vigor in the Spiritual Ecosystem: Benedictine Presence in the Chicago Metropolitan Area." *ABR* 68:2 (June 2017), 211-223.

 Book Review: *To Prefer Nothing to Christ: The Monastic Mission of the English Benedictine Congregation* (Collegeville: Liturgical Press, 2016) in *ABR* 68:2 (June 2017), 225-227.
- Romey, Linda, OSB.** "A New Heart, New Relevance, New Formation," and "On Generativity." *Global Sisters Report*, <http://globalsistersreport.org/column/trends/new-heart-new-relevance-new-formation-45726> (March 27, 2017) and <http://globalsistersreport.org/column/spirituality-trends/generativity-46976> (May 30, 2017).
- Studzinski, Raymond, OSB.** "Intergenerational Living: Challenges and Strategies for Monastic Communities." *ABR* 68: 2 (June 2017), 136-153.
- Swan, Laura, OSB.** Book Review: *Devout Laywomen in the Early Modern World*, ed. Alison Weber, in *Early Modern Women: An Interdisciplinary Journal* (2017).
- Upton, Julia, RSM, ObISB.** Article in "Take and Read" series, reflecting on Rabbi Lawrence Hoffman's *Beyond the Text*, NCR Online : <https://www.ncronline.org/blogs/ncr-today/hoffmans-beyond-text-directs-us-borderlands>

 "Life Among the Beguines." MAST [Mercy Association in Scripture and Theology] Journal 24:1 (2017).
- Valente, Judith, ObISB.** Book Review: *On Living*, by Kerry Egan, (New York: Riverhead Books, 2016) in *Benedictines* LXX:1 (Spring/Summer 2017), 42-43.

Human beings are spiritual beings; many if not most seek God in some way. But for vowed religious, that is the core and center of our being.

—Linda Romey, OSB



Presentations

Peters, Greg, ObISB. "The 'Paradise of Inner Pleasure': The 'Monastery' in Medieval Monastic Spirituality" at the Conference on Cistercian and Monastic Studies, May 2017.

Rippinger, Joel, OSB. "The Benedict Option," at the meeting of the Association of Benedictine Colleges and Universities, June 1-4, St. John's University, Collegeville, Minnesota.

Upton, Julia, RSM, ObISB. Appeared on "City of Churches," explaining the development of St. Thomas More Church on the campus of St. John's University, New York. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V261sEy5-Y&feature=youtu.be>

"Adé Bethune: Wheel Calendars 1947-1966," Environment and Art Seminary at the Annual Meeting of the North American Academy of Liturgy, Washington, DC , January 2017.



Notice

Next MR Newsletter, October 2017
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2018 ABA Convention

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