



Current Projects

**Hugh Feiss, OSB**, reports: "The reader in Benedictine History, 530-1530, edited by Hugh Feiss, OSB, Maureen O'Brien, and Ron Pepin, with translations by several members of ABA, should be ready to submit to the publisher (Cistercian Publications) by August. We used print-outs of the contents in a Road Scholar Program on "Medieval Benedictine Life, Literature and Culture," conducted at the Monastery of the Ascension. The five-day program went very well. Next year we hope to use the book itself."

**Rev. Donald Richmond, ObISB**, Apple Valley, CA, continues to provide a weekly column for his local newspaper on Christian faith and spirituality, contributes regularly to *Forward in Christ: The Anglo-Catholic Voice in the Americas*, and has released a major work on "Mercy" for *Our Sunday Visitor*. He is currently working on a piece that emphasizes the "self-help" orientation of the RB as found in the Prologue.

**Judith Valente, ObISB**, Normal, IL, was named one of her community's "Women of Distinction" in May, 2016, an award given by the YWCA to women whose efforts promote greater understanding and community service. Judith was cited for her work as a journalist covering minority issues as well as her frequent talks on how to practice Bene-

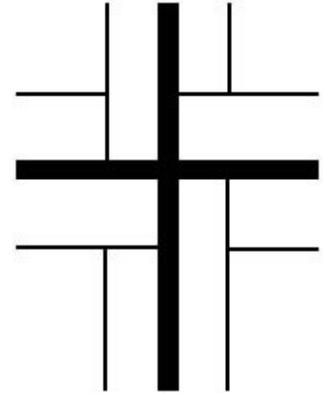
dictine monastic values in daily life.

• Judith was interviewed May 21 on Relevant Radio in Chicago about her book *Atchison Blue: A Search for Silence, a Spiritual Home and a Living Faith*, a memoir of her frequent visits to Mount St. Scholastica Monastery in Atchison, KS.

**Jacob Riyeff, ObISB**, South Bend, IN, reports: "My introduction to and translation of the *Rule of St. Benedict* as translated and reworked by St. Æthelwold of Winchester is currently in the editing phase with Cistercian Publications and is scheduled to appear next year. I am also currently editing and translating two apparently-unique Latin texts for novices in the fourteenth-century Bury St. Edmunds manuscript, Oxford, Bodleian Library, Bodley 240.

**Aaron Raverty, OSB**, St. John's Abbey, Collegeville, reports on several works in progress: 1) An article accepted for *Cistercian Studies Quarterly* to appear in the late summer/early fall issue, entitled "Phenomenological Timing in the Rule of Benedict." He writes: "In addition to a dismantling probe of St. Benedict's perspective on time and timing in his *Rule*, the monastic charter document of the Benedictine Order (OSB), this article also queries whether 'age grades' as described by cultural anthropologists characterize monastic generational succession."

2) An article which will appear in the upcoming issue



of the *Abbey Banner*, the Newsletter of St. John's Abbey. The article is entitled "Saint John's Stone Walls and Stone Buildings" and "explores the history, functional utility, and aesthetic appeal of the decorative stone architecture gracing the grounds of Saint John's Abbey and the campus of Saint John's University in Collegeville, Minnesota." 3) While unable to attend the ABA meeting in July, he is currently constructing "an academic poster display that will complement the theme of the conference that was OK'd by ABA president Susan Quaintance, OSB, and the ABA board. The poster display is entitled "Ancestor Veneration in Benedictine Monasticism," and will be on display at the Convention for all to view. The poster/posters will summarize the inquiry and goals of a comparative research project I hope to complete that will combine my training as a cultural anthropologist with an empirical investigation of monastic practices in commu-

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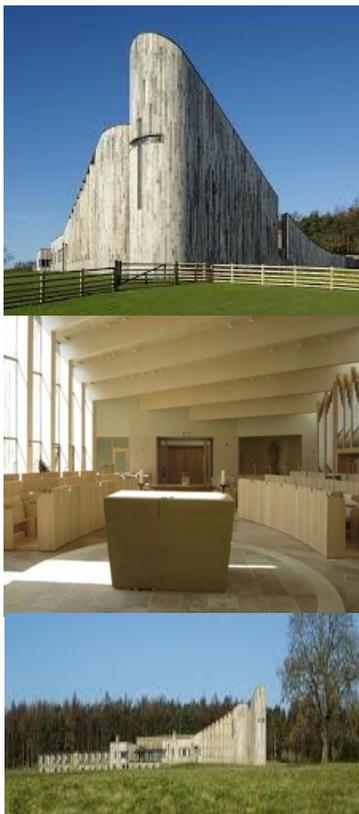
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## CURRENT PROJECTS CONT.



**New Stanbrook Abbey Church and Monastery, Wass, Yorkshire, England**

nities of Benedictine men and women. Here is a brief summary: How do Benedictine monasteries of men and women honor their members who have died? What commemorative rituals and shrines illustrate Benedictine monastic ancestor veneration? Ancestors populate monasteries even though those ties that bind the dead to the living are not (usually) those of blood relationship. In fact, every monastic community of men and women has ways—formal and informal—of recalling their predecessors to mind. Thus, stretching the anthropological notion of ‘ancestor veneration’ a bit allows us to explore the various methods monastics use to recall earlier community members, and make them tangible and dynamic once again in their midst. This research specifically addresses the variety characteristic of practices of ancestor veneration in monasteries.”

**Laura Dunham, OlsB**, now residing in Riverside, CA, has begun a research and writing project aimed at the meaning of stability for

Catholics in general and Benedictines in particular. She will be working on this project in *Studium* at Saint Benedict’s Monastery, St. Joseph, MN, from September 21-28, 2016.

**Br. Cyril Drnjevic, OSB** is “looking for a suitable author with whom he could collaborate on a centennial history of Mount Angel Abbey. He will attend the 2016 ABA Convention, where he hopes this prayer intention will be answered. He would appreciate any substantive help you could provide for this project.”

**Daniel McCarthy, OSB** reports the following: “Monastic communities wishing to renovate or build a chapel, or desiring to develop their ritual celebration of liturgy are invited to participate in the First Liturgy Week: *Architecture for Liturgy I*, given by Daniel McCarthy, OSB, January, 16-20, 2017, Spiritual Life Center, Wichita, Kansas. Daniel served as the liturgical consultant for the new church of Stanbrook Abbey in the UK.” <http://architectureforliturgy.org/liturgy-week-1/>

•Several monastic churches are featured in the forthcoming publication due out June 30: McCarthy D.P., *Come into the Light: Church interi-*

*Liturgy*, Canterbury Press, Norwich 2016•“Generative Communities: Roadmaps for Critical Junctures in a Benedictine Community,” third Atchison conversation, was sponsored by Abbot James Albers, OSB, and hosted by both St. Benedict’s Abbey and Mount St. Scholastica Monastery on January 5th and 6th, 2016. Papers were given by Professor Wim Vandewiele (Leuven); Mary Collins, OSB; Irene Nowell, OSB; James Leachman, OSB (Ealing Abbey); Edith Bogue, OSB; Daniel McCarthy, OSB; and Mark Shipperlee, OSB (Ealing). **Thomas Piazza**, Richmond, CA, and S. Felicitas Seisenberger, OSB (Munich) are continuing with their project to digitize and analyze the *Catalogus* information on Benedictine women. They have recently added data for another monastery of the Bavarian Congregation and will complete the analysis of that congregation this summer. The analysis will show interesting membership trends by years of age and of profession that are probably applicable to American congregations as well. The results will be made available through the ABA monastic research section.

## PUBLICATIONS

**Carruth, Shawn, OSB.** Book Review: *Studies on the Gospel of John* by John Kurichianil, O.S.B. (Kappadu, Kerala, India: St. Thomas Abbey, 2014) in *ABR* 67:1 (March 2016) 119-120.

**Feiss, Hugh, OSB.** Book Review: *Gregory the Great, Ascetic, Pastor, and First Man of Rome*, by George E. Demacopoulos (Notre Dame, IN: University of Notre Dame Press, 2015) in *ABR* 67:2 (June 2016) 231-232.

**Fox, Ruth, OSB.** Book Review: *The Mystery of Suffering: A Spiritual Classic on Trust in Divine Providence* by Hubert van Zeller, OSB (Notre Dame, IN: University of Notre Dame Press, 2015) in *ABR* 67:1 (March 2016) 120-121.

**Joyce, Timothy, OSB.** Book Review: *Thomas Merton, Early Essays 1947-1952*, ed. by Patrick F. O’Connell (Collegeville, MN: The Liturgical Press, 2015) in *ABR* 67:2 (June 2016) 217-219.

## PUBLICATIONS CONT.

**McCarthy, Daniel, OSB.** *Come into the Light: Church Interiors for the Celebration of Liturgy*, Norwich: Canterbury Press, 2016.

\_\_\_\_\_ Poem: "New Wine," *Benedictines* 69:1 ((Spring/Summer 2016) 26-27.

**Peters, Greg, OBISS.** "A 'pretensed and counterfeit holiness' or Sowers of 'spiritual things'?: John Jewel and Thomas Harding on Monasticism," *Downside Review* (Spring) 2016.

\_\_\_\_\_ "The Journey of Our Life: Dante as a Spiritual Theologian of Grace," *Journal of Spiritual Formation and Soul Care* (Spring) 2016.

\_\_\_\_\_ Book Review: *Ecclesia in medio nationis: Reflections on the Study of Monasticism in the Central Middle Ages*, edited by Steven Vanderputten and Brigitte Meijus (Ithaca, NY: Cornell, 2009) in *ABR* 67:2 (June 2016) 228-231.

**Riyeff, Jacob, OBISS.** "'Tenlmyne' the *Laetabundus*: John Lydgate as Benedictine Poet," *Journal of English and Germanic Philology* 115:3 (July 2016) 370-93

**Rippinger, Joel, OSB.** "Thomas Merton And Damasus Winzen: Pathfinders, Companions and Prophets in American Monasticism." *Cistercian Studies Quarterly* (August) 2016 .

## Presentations

**Bogue Edith, OSB,** "Change in Family Life and Its Impact on Children," at the third Atchison Conversation hosted by St. Benedict's Abbey and Mount St. Scholastica Monastery, on the topic "Generative Communities: Roadmaps for Critical Junctures in a Benedictine Community," Atchison, KS, January 5-6, 2016.

**Daniel McCarthy, OSB,** "Two-Crisis Community," at the third Atchison Conversation hosted by St. Benedict's Abbey and Mount St. Scholastica Monastery, on the topic "Generative Communities: Roadmaps for Critical Junctures in a Benedictine Community", Atchison, KS, January 5-6, 2016.

**Hollermann, Ephrem, OSB,** "Benedictine Foundresses in North America: Source of Hope and Inspiration for the Twenty-first Century," Novice and Director Institute, Saint Benedict's Monastery, St. Joseph, MN, May 20, 2016.

**Peters, Greg, OBISS,** "No, Really, God is Love: A Medieval Theology of Love and Its Implications," at Biola University's Center for Christian Thought, May, 2016.

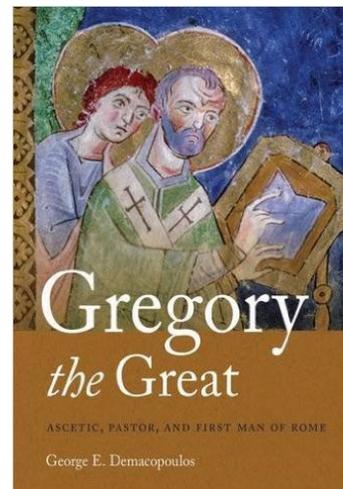
\_\_\_\_\_ "Whither the Monks? Spiritual Formation in Christian Community," Ancient Evangelical Future Conference, Robert E. Webber Center at Trinity School for Ministry, June. 2016

\_\_\_\_\_ "Christian Monasticism: An Outdated Institution or the Way Forward?" Pepperdine University, March, 2016.

**Valente Judith, OBISS,** Two reflections on the day's theme, "Designing Women: Re-imagining Monastic Life in the 21st Century," Community Day, St. Scholastica Monastery, Fort Smith, AR, April 7, 2016.

### International Congress on Medieval Studies May 11-14, 2017 Western Michigan University

The theme for the 2017 ABA Session is "Authority among Medieval Benedictines: The Interplay of Bible, Rule, Customaries, and Tradition." Approval of the session is still pending, but if you are interested in giving a paper related to that topic please contact Fr. Hugh Feiss, OSB. Email: [hughf@idahomonks.org](mailto:hughf@idahomonks.org).



## 51<sup>st</sup> International Congress on Medieval Studies

**Hugh Feiss, OSB**, the faithful convener of ABA's session at the Kalamazoo Congress, has provided summaries of the papers given at the 2016 Congress, held from May 12-15 at Western Michigan University.

**Shana Thompson**, a doctoral student in art history at the University of Texas, Austin, discussed a well-known portrait of Hugh of St. Victor found in a 12<sup>th</sup>-century manuscript from the Benedictine Abbey of St. Alban's, which had close ties with the canons regular of St. Victor in Paris. In the portrait Hugh is shown in the foreground larger than the three students sitting on a bench and looking up at him. Hugh himself gazes upward at a lamp suspended from the roof, above which is depicted the heavenly Jerusalem. Hugh thus mediates heavenly wisdom to his disciples. Hugh holds a book or tablet divided into four parts by horizontal lines, perhaps signifying the four senses of Scripture. One of his students holds a small version of the same book. Hugh himself, in his role as teacher, embodies the Victorine conviction that they had a responsibility to share the fruits of their study and contemplation with others.

**Colmán Ó Clabaigh, OSB**, of Glenstal Abbey, currently a visiting professor at Boston College, discussed a manuscript from St. Thomas Abbey, Dublin, a Victorine community. The manuscript contains 30 different works. It seems to have been designed for the instruction of novices. Among the texts included are the *Rule of St. Benedict* and the *Speculum monachorum* of the Cistercian, Arnulf de Boeriis. This interspersing of Benedictine and Victorine texts ran both ways. As Grover Zinn observed, many Benedictine manuscripts include both the *Rule of Benedict* and Hugh of St. Victor's, *On the Instruction of Novices*, just as this manuscript does.

**A. Compton Reeves**, emeritus professor at Ohio University, described a long poem on St. George written by Alexander Barclay, while he was a monk at Ely Abbey. He was ordained a diocesan priest in 1508 in Devonshire, and then entered the Benedictine community at Ely. In the 1520s he became a Franciscan. At first he resisted Henry VIII's break with Rome, but he reappears in the 1540s as a priest of the Church of England. His life of St. George is based on a Latin life written in Italy. It presents St. George as an ideal chivalrous knight. He rescues a princess by charging and spearing a dragon with a lance. He converts the princess's town, turns down an offer to marry her, and rides off into the sunset to Palestine, where he is instructed by Carmelites, and then to Persia where he is martyred.

### Notice

**Next MR Newsletter, October 2016**  
**Compiled and edited**  
**by Ephrem Hollermann, OSB**  
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### 2016 ABA Convention

**July 21-23**  
**Benedict Inn**  
**Beech Grove, Indiana**  
**"Keep Death**  
**Daily Before Your Eyes"**