
March 2026 Newsletter

ABF MONASTIC
RESEARCHERS



Edited by Greg Peters, OBlSB



Current Projects:

Jerome Bryant, is writing a book about the life of Benedictine monks, including sixteen interviews with monks discussing why they became monks, their experience of the monastic life, including its challenges and rewards, and their understanding and experience of prayer. In 2025, he visited Quarr Abbey, Ealing Abbey, Buckfast Abbey, Mount St Bernard Abbey and the Community of St Gregory the Great, making use of an ABF Terrence G. Kardong Monastic Studies Grant. The book project overlaps with his Farmington Scholarship for which he is researching the nature of Benedictine monasticism, its benefits for spiritual and mental wellbeing, and how these benefits can be nourished in Catholic schools under the oversight of Liam Gearon (Oxford Univ) and an oblate of Buckfast Abbey. Concurrently, he is also in the process of creating a website (www.cloistralvoices.com) to serve as an online resource for people hoping to learn more about Christian monasticism in the East and the West.

S. Jean Viesel, OSB, is working on an epilogue for a piece edited by Fr. Harry Hagan, a translation of Fahr Abbey sister Silja Walter's *The Dance of Obedience or The Straw Mat*. It is a beautiful poem in chapters about the spiritual journey of a cloistered nun. She is also preparing to help present two events relating to St. Hildegard of Bingen. Saint Meinrad's Institute for Sacred Music is offering a workshop on St. Hildegard in Context May 17-22. In the fall, on October 17, Rosemary Heredos and S. Jeana will be offering a concert of Hildegard's music at Monastery Immaculate Conception, Ferdinand, IN. She also continues her work toward a certificate in icon painting with the Writing the Light program, and anticipates completing a thesis project in this fall.

In the meantime she was made head of her community's Ongoing Formation Committee.

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Contributors:

Jerome Byrant
Jeana Visel
John Glasenapp
Jacob Riyeff
Hugh Feiss
Colleen Maura McGrane
Greg Peters
Aaron Raverty

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Hugh Feiss, OSB, has written book reviews for *Cistercian Studies Quarterly*, the *American Benedictine Review* and the *Medieval Review*. He has done editorial reviews for several journals, and read the proofs of his edition, translation and commentary on Richard of Saint Victor's *On the Promotion of Good and the Extermination of Evil*, which is now being prepared for publication by Peeters for the Dallas Medieval Texts in Translation series. He is working on his paper for the Medieval Congress at Kalamazoo in May on Saint Frances of Rome. A paper on the complexities of hospitality at Vézelay during the twelfth century, which he gave at Kalamazoo last last year, is appeared is in the March issue of ABR. He taught a course on Patristics in the Fall semester and is now teaching a course on Sacred Art for the theology program of the Missionaries, Servants of the Word. He also published "The Burdens of Hospitality: Vézelay 1106–1167" in *American Benedictine Review* 77.1 (2026): 75-90.

John Glasenapp, OSB, organized and hosted a concert in October 2025 entitled "Hearing Heaven: The Sound(s) of the Sacred and Secular" that explored the musical boundary between this world and the next. He also presented a colloquium to the Sacred Music program at the University of Notre Dame in November entitled "Affectivity and Drama in Liturgical Plainsong." His article, "Sleigh Ride to Bethlehem," on the origins of the American Christmas song in the Great Depression and War years appeared in the special Christmas edition of *The Tablet*.

Aaron Raverty, OSB, published "Saint Nicholas" in the *St. John's Abbey Banner* 25, no. 3 (Winter 2025-26): 6-8. His book manuscript draft for Bloomsbury Academic, *Shrines Theorized*, is currently under peer review.

Greg Peters, ObISB, published "Evangelicalism's Embrace of Early Monastic Reading Practices: An Accidental Ressourcement," in Alex Fogleman and Richard A. Brumbrack, III, eds., *Scripture in the Search for the Doctrine of God: Reading and Receiving the Bible in the Christian Tradition – Essays in Honor of D.H. Williams* (Brill, 2026), 182-198. His article "Episcopacy in the Anglican Tradition" has been accepted for publication in the *Cranmer Theological Review*, of which he has recently been appointed editor.

Colleen Maura McGrane, OSB, published "When Hospitality Becomes Overwhelming: A Ninth-Century Experience" in *American Benedictine Review* 76.4 (2025): 407-415.

Upcoming Events

1) *The Sacred Music of St. Hildegard of Bingen* - Sunday, May 17 - Friday, May 22, 2026 at Saint Meinrad Archabbey
<https://www.saintmeinrad.edu/sacred-music/event-calendar/?item=16251>

2) *34th Monastic Institute* - Monday, June 15 - Thursday, June 18 at St. John's School of Theology/Seminary
<https://www.csbsju.edu/sot/special-programs-and-events/monastic/>

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John Glasenapp, OSB, "Sleigh Ride to Bethlehem," *The Tablet* (December 18, 2025)