
November 2025 Newsletter

ABF MONASTIC
RESEARCHERS



Edited by Greg Peters, OBlSB



Current Projects:

John Glasenapp, OSB,

is a contributor to a project initially supported by the National Endowment for the Humanities assembling leading chant scholars in North America to create a repository of teaching materials. He was invited to present a colloquium in the Sacred Music at Notre Dame program entitled "Affectivity and Drama in Liturgical Plainsong." His co-authored book proposal on the festive Remiremont evangeliary was approved by Brepols, an article on the Jewish origins of the American Christmas song will be published in a special Christmas edition of *The Tablet*, and an article on Books of Hours that appeared over the summer in English and Dutch translation is already in reprint. Br. John has also been invited to support an application to UNESCO to add a set of chant manuscripts held at the Bruges Public Library, the Major Seminary of Bruges, as well as the KBR (the national library of Belgium) in Brussels to the UNESCO Memory of the World Register.

Ephrem Hollermann, OSB,

writes, "On June 28, 2025, St. Benedict's Monastery, St. Joseph, MN, celebrated the 200th birthday of Mother Benedicta Riepp, OSB (Foundress of Benedictine women in North America) at her gravesite. At the meal that followed, I presented a paper entitled, "An Uncommon Friendship: Saint Benedict's Monastery and Waal, Bavaria," recalling the history of the friendship between the community and the people of Waal, (Benedicta Riepp's birthplace) which began in 1987. A month later, I was the keynote speaker at the General Chapter of the Monastic Congregation of St. Benedict, convened at St. Scholastica Monastery, Duluth, MN, July 20-26. I presented "One Way of Life, One Love: The Vision and Spirit of Mother Benedicta Riepp, OSB." I continue work on a book that aims to capture Mother Riepp's life and mission in a "biographical" attempt to record the minimal extant knowledge about her, while examining what can be known about her contextually and experientially."

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Ephrem Hollerman
Jacob Riyeff
Riitta Hujanen
Laura Swan
Joanna Burley
Judith Sutera
Aaron Raverty
Julia Upton
Jeana Visel
Samuel Torvend
Kathleen Norris
Hugh Feiss

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Samuel Torvend, ObISB, led a discussion of his book *Jesus in Nature: A Monastic Christology* and had a book signing at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, a Seattle parish with deep Benedictine roots. In the October issue of *The Oblate* (Saint John's Abbey), he has an article on early Benedictine foundations in Scotland and England and their "message" for oblates today. Those foundations included Holyrood Monastery in Edinburgh, Finchale Priory in Durham, St. Peter's Minster and St. Mary's Monastery in York, St. Benet's in Cambridge, Westminster Abbey in London, and St. Augustine's Abbey in Canterbury. He is preparing a book manuscript on seven Anglo-Saxon monastic practices for contemporary Christians.

Michael Snyder participated in the New York State Association of European Historians 75th annual meeting at SUNY Albany, presenting research on the 8th century manuscript Paris, Bibliothèque nationale de France Latin 13048, which contains the works of Radegund of Thuringia and those of her patron, Venantius Fortunatus. Following scholars like T.A.M. Bishop, Rosamond McKitterick, Sigrid Schottenius Cullhed, and Helene Scheck, Michael provides additional evidence that this manuscript was copied for and by monastic women. Though the authors of the works were probably not Benedictine (Radegund followed the *Regula ad Virgines* of Caesarius of Arles), it is unclear which rule guided the scriptorium that produced the volume.

Aaron Raverty, OSB, published "Rupert Seidenbusch: Missionary Abbot and Bishop" in the St. John's *Abbey Banner*. Seidenbusch was elected first abbot of Saint John's Abbey in Collegeville, Minnesota (1866), later becoming bishop of the Diocese of St. Cloud (1875). The article details his biographical data, missionary travels, fundraising successes, and remarkable grassroots efforts in laying the infrastructural, economic, and spiritual groundwork for this incipient monastic community and its burgeoning educational and seminary apostolate.

Kathleen Norris, ObISB, published *Rebecca Sue: A Sister's Reflections on Disability, Faith, and Love* with InterVarsity in September. IVP also accepted her manuscript on the desert fathers and mothers. She recently gave a talk, "Standing in the Promises," at Bellarmine College in Louisville, and had a brief visit with Br. Paul Quentin and other writers at Thomas Merton's hermitage at Gethsemani Abbey.

Greg Peters, ObISB, published a book chapter and the article "The 'Reanimation Principle' of Edward Bouverie Pusey: The Re-Establishment of Monasticism in the Church of England," in *Anglican and Episcopal History*.

Joanna Burley, OSB, published "The Community of Mercy" in the *American Benedictine Review*.

Michael Seretny, ObISB, presented the joint research conducted by he and Dr. Thomas Ryba, the Purdue Religious Studies chair, this fall semester. The submitted chapter is now under editorial revision.

Jeana Visel, OSB, had an exhibit of her icons in the Saint Meinrad Archabbey Library from mid-September through mid-October. She continues to work toward a certificate in icon painting with the Writing the Light Program in collaboration with St. Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary.

Laura Swan, OSB, is updating and revising a research bibliography on North American Benedictine women she created 25 years ago. She would appreciate hearing from any members of women's communities: new histories since ca. 1999? Articles or papers? Memoirs? Please contact her at LSwan@stplacid.org. Nothing is too trivial and she is happy to discuss your questions.

Judith Sutera's, OSB, commentary on the Rule continues to get attention in English-speaking countries. She spent nearly a month this fall in the Philippines, facilitating a renewal program for the Missionary Benedictine Sisters of Manila Priory and addressing oblates of Philippine communities and other groups.

Hugh Feiss', OSB, article on hospitality at twelfth-century Vézelay that emerged from a paper given at Kalamazoo 2025 will appear in the March 2026 issue of the *American Benedictine Review*. He recently submitted an article to *ABR* on the eschatology of Hugh of St. Victor's *De sacramentis*. In preparation for Kalamazoo 2026 he is studying Santa Francesca Romana's response to the deaths of her family members and friends.

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Jacob Rieff, ObISB, published "AI, Irreality, and the Project of Liberal Education" in *Inside Higher Ed* in July. His "Ecological Conversion: Ember Days and Rogation Days" as well as his book review of Samuel Torvend's *Monastic Ecological Wisdom* appeared in *Spirit & Life*. Several poems appeared in *The Anchorite*, and *Contemplate: Toward an Expansive Heart* is forthcoming from Monkfish (contact jacob.rieff@marquette.edu about copies for review and/or for talks/retreats). He also gave the inaugural Zak Myers Legacy Workshop Series for Catholic Leaders talk to K-12 Catholic school leaders in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee in November on "AI for Catholic School Leaders," basing the talk on the integral humanism and integral ecology of the Vatican's doctrinal Note *Antiqua et nova*.



Publications:

Burley, Joanna, OSB. "Community of Mercy," *American Benedictine Review* 76.3 (2025): 337-343.

Norris, Kathleen, ObISB. *Rebecca Sue: A Sister's Reflections on Disability, Faith, and Love*. InterVarsity, 2025.

Peters, Greg, ObISB. "Evangelicalism's Embrace of Early Monastic Reading Practices: An Accidental Ressourcement," in Alex Fogleman and Richard A. Brumback, III, eds., *Scripture in the Search for the Doctrine of God: Reading and Receiving the Bible in Christian Tradition – Essays in Honor of D.H. Williams* (Leiden/Boston: Brill, 2026), 182-198.

_____. "The 'Reanimation Principle' of Edward Bouverie Pusey: The Re-Establishment of Monasticism in the Church of England," *Anglican and Episcopal History* 94.3 (2025): 551-572.

Raverty, Aaron, OSB. "Rupert Seidenbusch: Missionary Abbot and Bishop." *Abbey Banner* 25, no. 2 (Fall 2025): 15-17.

Rieff, Jacob, ObISB. "AI, Irreality, and the Project of Liberal Education," *Inside Higher Ed*.

_____. "Ecological Conversion: Ember Days and Rogation Days," *Spirit & Life* 121.3 (2025): 6-8.

_____. Review of Samuel Torvend, *Monastic Ecological Wisdom: A Living Tradition* in *Spirit & Life* 121.3 (2025): 18.
