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## Current Projects

**Judith Sutera, OSB** writes: “The Inclusive language *Rule of St. Benedict* and commentary have received a great welcome. It is also getting good reviews in the UK where the text of the Rule is published by Canterbury Press. The Xavier Society for the Blind has selected it to be made available in braille and the Spanish translation is underway.”

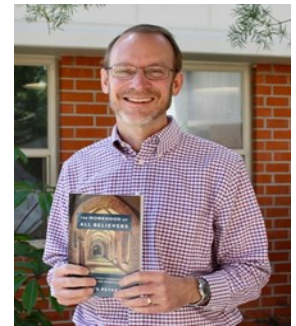
**Jerome Oetgen** reports that “the general chapter of the American Cassinese Congregation has asked me to prepare a history of the Congregation (1855–2022), and I’m currently deep into the research and writing of it. The pandemic slowed but did not entirely prevent archival research, and I’m making what I hope is good progress. It’s always risky to predict a completion date, but I aim to finish a readable draft before the next meeting of the general chapter in 2022. Meanwhile, I’m working on an auxiliary project, an article for the *ABR* on post-Vatican II monastic renewal in the American Cassinese Congregation (1965-1980), which is almost finished.”

**Timothy Joyce, OSB** reports that “Monastic Scribe” is a blog published online every other week by him on behalf of Glastonbury Abbey in Hingham,

MA. Topics have included the Synod, Eucharist, Monastic Life, Grieving, etc. Many people respond and share stories and the readership is getting wider.” In its sixth month now, Timothy has been able to send a short email acknowledgment to all responders to the blogs so that people feel they are being heard.

**Daniel McCarthy, OSB** recently published *Word and Spirit: On the Double Role of Presiding in the Assembly and Directing the Prayer* (*Verbum ac Spiritus: duplici de munere praesidendi coetui orationemque dirigendi*). St. Michael’s Abbey Press, Farnborough, England, 2021. The Abbey Church in Collegeville, MN, and the choir chapel of Mount St. Scholastica in Atchison, KS, along with three monastic chapels in England and several cathedrals and parish churches are featured. Another volume authored by him and R.T. Foster contributes to the study of Latin for research in monastic topics: *Ossium carnes multae ex M.T. Ciceronis epistulis: (The Bones’ Meats Abundant from the Letters of M. T. Cicero, Latinitatis corpus 2)*, Catholic University of America Press, Washington D.C. 2021.

**Rev. Samuel Torvend, OIBS** writes: “I am glad to report that the Liturgical



*Greg Peters, Von Hügel Institute*

Press will be publishing my monograph entitled, *Monastic Ecological Wisdom: Trajectories from the Past for the Present*. We expect publication some time in 2023. This is a study that explores the life of Benedict, the *Rule*, and early monastic engagement with the creation from an ecological perspective. At the same time, the study foregrounds monastic values that illuminate our own commitments to care of and advocacy for our wounded earth.”

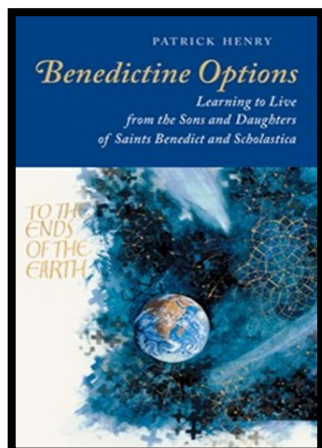
**Greg Peters, OIBS** reports that he was “appointed Research Associate of the Von Hügel Institute at St. Edmund’s College in the University of Cambridge, a non-residential appointment that allows him to continue teaching full-time at Biola University. He is in the beginning stages of research for a book on medieval monastic theology, preparing to teach a graduate-level course on the writings of Bernard of Clairvaux in spring 2022 and translating Robert de Torigni’s

## CURRENT PROJECTS CONT.



**Pasi Organ**  
**St. John's Abbey**  
**Collegeville. MN**  
**115 ranks. 6 divisions,**  
**4 manuals, 112 stops**

### A New Book by Patrick Henry



### **Benedictine Options**

*"Saint Benedict and Saint Scholastica, his twin sister, established a flexible pattern that has adopted, adapted, challenged—and outlived—myriad cultures. Their sons and daughters today, who devote their time and talents to the "school for the Lord's service" launched by the Rule of Benedict, demonstrate a whole range of options that are accessible to anyone."*

*De immutatione ordinis monachorum* for publication.

**Kathleen Norris, OBlSB** writes: "I continue to enjoy my work on "SoulTelegram, a bi-weekly e-newsletter on film and literature. And I've just completed my contribution to "God In Us," a book of daily reflections on the Easter season that will be published by Paraclete Press. I was honored to get the last week, including Pentecost Sunday. This completes a trilogy: previous books were "God With Us" for the Christmas season; and "God For Us" for Lent."

**Jeana Visel, OSB** reports the following: "I recently published a chapter on the music of St. Hildegard in a volume put together for the Evansville Philharmonic called *The Notes Will Carry Me Home: Writings on Music from Evansville and the Tri-State*, edited by Joshua Britton. I continue to administer a Teacher-Scholar Grant from the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship, which has brought iconographer Marek Czarnecki to Saint Meinrad four times over the last eight months. During each weeklong visit, he has given a public lecture and then worked on icons for a new iconostasis for occasional school Byzantine liturgies. Under his tutelage during these visits I have painted six of seven icons for a deisis

set. Presently I am teaching an icon painting course for seminarians, and am preparing to teach a January Introduction to Spirituality course for the deacon candidates of Salina, KS." **Judith Valente, OBlSB** Judith Valente's latest book, *How to Be* (see p.3): received a starred review in Publishers Weekly. In August, she spoke on "Why We Still Need and Read Thomas Merton" as the featured speaker at the monthly "Tuesdays with Merton" lecture series. In September she gave a presentation with Brother Paul Quenon on letter-writing as spiritual practice for the Argentina Thomas Merton Society. In recent months, she has been busy guiding retreats on poet Mary Oliver, mystic Howard Thurman, as well as Dorothy Day and Thomas Merton's contemplative wisdom for crisis times.

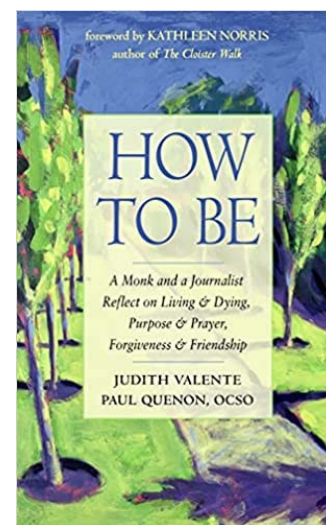
**Tom Piazza** has an article that will appear in the December issue of the *ABR* on membership trends in the Benedictine Confederation from 1880 to 2020. He is also finishing a paper on schools as a metaphor for monastic life, which he expects to submit to the *ABR* in the near future. He recently gained access to a digitized version of the 2020 *Catalogus OSB*, and he hopes to do further analyses of membership trends around the world.

**Aaron Raverty, OSB**, authored an article on "Abbey Woodworking and

Pasi Organs." (see p.3 ). He writes: "Enlisting master organ builder Martin Pasi and Pasi Organ Builders, Inc., in the upgrade of the abbey and university's Holtkamp church organ sparked a new Saint John's initiative in collaboration with Saint John's Abbey Woodworking: an onsite campus organ-building and educational institute. This article details how such a bold venture could become a reality, rescuing the declining art of organ building and providing incentives for abbey woodworking, abbey vocations, and the monastic emphasis on crafts and manual labor (RB 48)."

**Antoinette Purcell, OSB** has a request: "I am interested in reading/writing about the vocation of oblates. If anyone has suggestions for resources on this topic please send them my way. Thank you."

[antoinettep1964@gmail.com](mailto:antoinettep1964@gmail.com)



*"...a genial and spirited epistolary collection of introspective reflections...a dialogue between people stuttering to articulate life's universal questions from within highly diverse contexts."*

- Feiss, Hugh, OSB.** “Humility in the Life and Writings of Hildegard of Bingen.” *ABR* 72:3 (2021), 321-340.  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Book Review: *Medieval Monasticisms: Forms and Experiences of the Monastic Life in the Latin West*, by Steven Vanderputten. Berlin/Boston: Walter der Gruyter, 2020, in *ABR* 72.3 (2021), 352-353.  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Book Review: *Crown of the Virgin: An Ancient Meditation on Mary’s Beauty, Virtue, and Sanctity*. Trans. by Robert Nixon, OSB. Gastonia, NC: Tan Books, 2020, in *ABR* 72.3 (2021), 356-357.
- Norris, Kathleen, ObISB.** “Be Where You Are: A Pandemic Reflection.” *Benedictines* 74:2 (Fall/Winter), 2021, 17-20.
- Peters, Greg, ObISB,** “The Uniqueness of Russian Thought: How Slavophilism and Monasticism Answer the Challenge of “Westernism,” *ABR* 72:3 (2021), 279-301.  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Book Review: *The Cambridge History of Medieval Monasticism in the Latin West, Vol. 1 Origins to the Eleventh Century* and *Vol. 2 The High and Late Middle Ages*, eds, Alison Beach and Isabelle Cochemin. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2020, and *The Oxford Handbook of Christian Monasticism*, by Bernice M. Kaczynski. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2020, in *ABR* 72:3 (2021), 360-362.
- Piazza, Thomas, and Geraldo González y Lima, OSB,** “Membership Trends in the Benedictine Confederation 1880-2020,” *ABR* 72:4 (December 2021), 452-466.
- Quaintance, Susan, OSB.** “Liturgical Markers of the COVID-19 Pandemic.” *Benedictines* 74:2 (Fall/Winter), 2021, 12-15.
- Raverty, Aaron, OSB.** “Abbey Woodworking and Pasi Organs.” *Abbey Banner* 21, no. 2 (Fall 2021), 22–23.
- Sutera, Judith, OSB.** Book Review: “Desert Daughters, Desert Sons: Rethinking the Christian Desert Tradition,” by Rachel Wheeler. Collegeville, MN: The Liturgical Press, 2020, in *Magistra* 27, no. 1 (Summer 2021), 97-98.  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Book Review: *Humble Aspiration: Constructing an Early Christian Ideal*, by Bernadette McNary-Zak. Collegeville, MN: The Liturgical Press, 2020, in *Magistra* 27, no. 1 (Summer 2021), 98-99.  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Book Review: *The Byzantine Empire: A Historical Encyclopedia*. Eds. Jame F. Lepree and Ljudmila Djukic. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO, 2019 (2 vols), in *Magistra* 27, no. 1 (Summer 2021), 99-100.  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Book Review: *Northern Light. The Cistercian Nuns of Tautra Mariakloster*. Collegeville, MN: Cistercian Publications, 2020, in *Magistra* 27, no. 1 (Summer 2021), 100-101.  
 \_\_\_\_\_ “Being Benedictine in the 21st Century: Conference Report.” *Benedictines* 74:2 (Fall/Winter), 2021, 21-25.
- Swan, Laura, OSB.** Book Review: *St. Benedict’s Rule: An Inclusive Translation with/without Daily Commentary*, by Judith Sutera, OSB. Collegeville, MN: The Liturgical Press, 2021, in *Magistra* 27, no. 1 (Summer 2021), 96-97.  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Book Review: *Saint Benedict’s Wisdom: Monastic Spirituality and the Life of the Church*, by Luigi Gioia, trans. Barry Hudock. Collegeville, MN: The Liturgical Press, 2020, in *Benedictines* 74:2 (Fall/Winter), 2021, 48-49.
- Valente, Judith, ObISB and Paul Quenon, OCSO,** *How to Be: A Monk & A Journalist Reflect on Living & Dying, Purpose & Prayer, Forgiveness & Friendship*. Newburyport, MA: Hampton Roads Publishing, 2021.
- Visel, Jeana, OSB.** Book Review: *Saint Benedict’s Wisdom: Monastic Spirituality and the Life of the Church*, by Luigi Gioia, trans. Barry Hudock. Collegeville, MN: The Liturgical Press, 2020, in *ABR* 72:3 (2021), 365-367.

## Notice

**Next MR Newsletter, February 2022**  
**Compiled and edited**  
**by Ephrem Hollermann, OSB**  
**Saint Benedict’s Monastery, St. Joseph, MN**  
**Comments/suggestions welcomed**  
**ehollermann@csbsju.edu**

## 2022 ABA Convention

**GIVE ME A WORD**  
**July 7-9**  
**St. Benedict Center**  
**Schuyler, Nebraska**