



Current Projects

Tom Piazza has completed a paper on membership trends in the African monasteries of Benedictine men. It is currently under review for publication in the *ABR*. Further articles on membership trends will probably be deferred until the publication of the 2020 *Benedictine Catalogus*.

Greg Peters, ObISB writes: "Greetings from Oxford where I am conducting research before heading to Cambridge to take up my Visiting Scholar post at St. Edmund's College...I am conducting archival work on Anglican monastic history at Pusey House, Oxford."

Jeanne Visel, OSB reports: "I have completed a chapter on spiritual direction in the desert fathers and mothers, to be part of a Liturgical Press book edited by Robert Alvis. Presently several seminarians are taking my "Introduction to Icon Painting" course at Saint Meinrad. I also have been tasked with leading a year-long exploration of lay leadership with Saint Meinrad's Board of Overseers, and coordinating plans for chant workshops in January and July 2020. The exciting venture of the moment involves preparing to go to Kenya: October 5-17. I will again be with the Missionary Benedictines at the Subiaco Center in Nai-

robi, teaching a course on 'Formation in the *Via Pulchritudinis*' as part of a month-long program for contemplative nuns from a number of different orders, and about five different countries. My next project will be coming up with a paper for the January 2020 Generative Communities Colloquium in Atchison, where this year's theme is "Freeing Memories: How to Remember."

Jacob Rieyeff, ObISB, Marquette University, writes: "I have been remiss in updating the newsletter's readers on my work. In 2018 my translation of Swami Abhishiktananda's (Henri Le Saux, OSB) poems was published as *In the Bosom of the Father: The Collected Poems of a Benedictine Mystic* by Resource Publications [of Wipf and Stock], as was my first collection of poems, *Sunk in Your Shipwreck*. • My edition, translation, and study of the fourteenth-century Latin novice treatise on the method of meditation or contemplation came out in August of this year in the *Journal of Medieval Religious Cultures*. • I am currently seeking a publisher for my translation of the Old English monastic poem, *The Advent Lyrics* (with accompanying commentary and small-group discussion outlines) and a collection of Latin and Eng-

lish traditional liturgical prayers (Little Offices, Commemorations, Litanies) from the Benedictine tradition that I have gathered together. • I am currently editing the poetry and counsels on prayer and contemplation of Dame Gertrude More and beginning my translation of Dom John Lydgate's 32,000-line, fifteenth-century poem *Troy Book*. • My translation of *The Old English Rule of Saint Benedict* (Cistercian Publications, 2017) won the International Society of Anglo-Saxonists' award for Best Edition or Translation of an Anglo-Saxon Text this summer."

Laura Swan, OSB reports that she and Judith Sutera, OSB have resumed work on a worthy project begun by the late Roger Schoenbachler, OSB of Saint John's Abbey, Collegeville, who began cataloging Benedictine/monastic women in history

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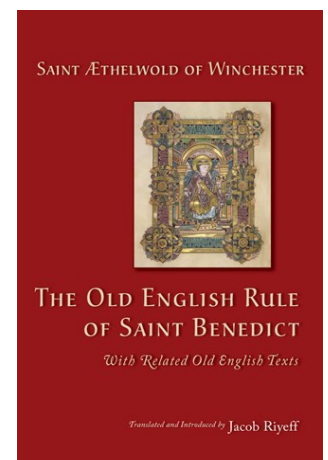
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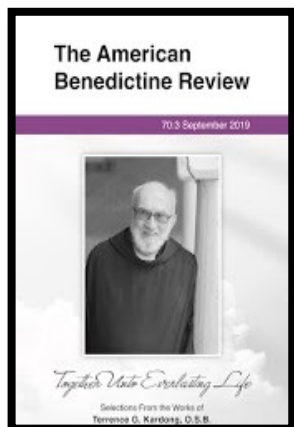
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Contributors

- Tom Piazza
- Greg Peters
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- Jacob Rieyeff
- Laura Swan
- Judith Valente
- Linda Romey
- Hugh Feiss
- Marianne Burkhard
- Kathleen Norris
- Aaron Raverty



CURRENT PROJECTS CONT.



“When at the end of 2018 Terrence retired after thirty-six years as editor of *American Benedictine Review*, the Board of Directors decided to honor him with a *festschrift* issue in 2012, so a special issue of *ABR* containing selections from his many articles and books seemed a natural choice [now.] Members of the *American Benedictine Review* Editorial Board were invited to submit and introduce their favorite articles or selections...Although this issue features only a few of Terrence’s works, it is important to acknowledge his broad accomplishments as a scholar and writer. An examination of his corpus reveals that slightly less than half of his works dealt exclusively with the *Rule of Benedict*.”

—Colleen Maura McGrane, OSB

with references to original sources and a brief biography of each woman. A possible working title is, "On Illustrious Benedictine Women" or "*De mulieribus Benedictinis illustribus*."

Judith Valente, OBlSB

reports that she was the keynote speaker at the Religion Communicators Council annual conference held in April in Chicago IL.

•She also gave two days of talks on the *Benedictine Rule* at the University of Wisconsin, Madison as part of the Upper Room’s "Initiative in Christian Thinking, Being and Doing." •She has been invited on a speaking tour in Australia next summer, related to her most recent book, *How To Live: What The Rule of St. Benedict Teaches Us About Happiness, Meaning and Community*. •She is co-chair of the "Being Benedictine in the 20th Century Conference" planned for June 2020 in Atchison, KS.

•Judith has also been named communications director of the 2021 International Oblate Congress in Rome.

Linda Romey, OSB

would like to announce that registration is now open for "Being Benedictine in the 21st Century" She writes: "Judy Valente and I are co-chairs. It will be held at Mount St. Scholastica in Atchison, June 26-28, 2020...[It] will not be a traditional conference. It will be a facilitated conversation among all participants [aimed at] expanding how we live the Benedictine tradition now and into the future...The website with

a full explanation, schedule, endorsements and link to register is: <https://www.beingbenedictine.org/>"

Hugh Feiss, OSB

reports: "I just sent off the final draft of Victorine Texts in Translation, #10, *The Sacraments*, to Brepols [Belgium]. This has been a ten- year project, but the end is in sight. Two volumes to go. Volume # 10 should be available by spring." •In Hugh’s article in *Great Christian Jurists and Legal Collections of the First Millennium* (see Publications section, p. 3) he explored the notion of law in the *Rule of Benedict* and how the Bible, the *Rule*, the founders, and local tradition contributed to the interpretation of the *Rule of Benedict*. • Hugh further writes: "Currently I am working on putting together a sequel to *A Benedictine Reader: 530-1530* (Cistercian Publications, 2019), which will cover 1530-1930. ABA researches Ephrem Hollermann, OSB and Joel Ripinger, OSB are contributing. We have England, France and the United States taken care of, but I need contributions for other counties. The format is a 2500-word introduction and a 4500-word text (legal, theological, spiritual, poetic, epistolary, etc., translated into English).. If anyone who gets this newsletter is interested in contributing one or more chapters, please let me know. hughfeiss@gmail.com.

•I have also returned to the publisher final proofs for an article on "Eschatology" for *The Oxford Handbook of*

Mystical Theology, ed. Edward Howells and Mark A. McIntosh (New York: Oxford, 2019), 646-665.

Marianne Burkhard, OSB is working on a history of St. Mary Monastery, Rock Island, Illinois. Founded in 1874 from St. Scholastica Monastery, Chicago, Illinois, the community moved to a new monastery in Rock Island in 2001. She says, "Doing this work is very absorbing and fascinating, but very slow! I hope that once I reach 1920 it will be smoother sailing!"

Kathleen Norris, OBlSB has an article on "Mechtild of Magdeburg" in the June 2019 *American Benedictine Review*, and two reflections in *Give Us This Day*.

Aaron Raverty, OSB, in his article on "The Bells of Saint John’s," (see Publications section, p. 3) explains that "Abbey churches and bells share deep historical connections, with chimes accompanying monastic prayer and liturgical celebrations, announcing the praise and glory of God over a wide landscape. From the first gift of 'Br. Benno’s bell' to the current array broadcasting their clarion voices from the Breuer church’s abbey bell banner, this article tells the story of the Saint John’s Abbey bells, addressing their specifications and attributions, and the drama surrounding their casting and implementation."

PUBLICATIONS

Feiss, Hugh, OSB. "The Rule of St. Benedict," in *Great Christian Jurists and Legal Collections of the First Millennium*, ed. Philip Reynolds. Cambridge University Press, June, 2019.

Raverty, Aaron, OSB. "The Bells of Saint John's." *Abbey Banner* 19:2 (Fall 2019), 28–31.

Richmond, Donald, OBlSB. "For Life and Godliness" (An analysis of the crisis and process of sanctification in 2 Peter 1: 3 – 8) in *Forward in Christ* (The magazine of Forward in Faith North America).

_____"Fullness of Faith?" in *The Abbey* (The Ancient Future Faith Network: <https://www.ancientfuturefaithnetwork.org/abbey/the-fullness-of-the-faith/>)

_____"Monastic Counseling" in *Forward in Christ* (An analysis of the priorities, principles and practices of care within monastic communities (Forthcoming).

_____"Raising Saints," *The Valyermo [Benedictine] Chronicle* (Summer 2019).

Riyeff, Jacob, OBlSB. "De modo meditando vel contemplandi: A Pedagogical Treatise for Novices from Bury St. Edmunds." *Journal of Medieval Religious Cultures* 45.2 (2019), 139-82.

In the Bosom of the Father: The Collected Poems of a Benedictine Mystic (Swami Abhishiktananda). Trans.by Jacob Riyeff. Eugene, OR: Wipf and Stock Publishers, 2018.

_____*Sunk in Your Shipwreck: A Palmer Stammering* (Poetry). Eugene, OR: Wipf and Stock Publishers, 2018.

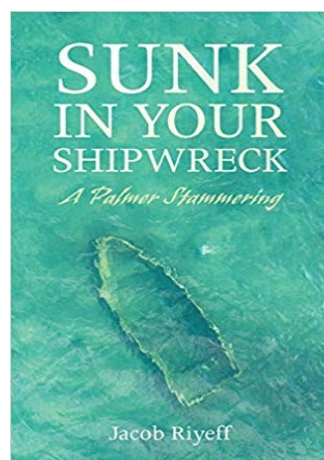
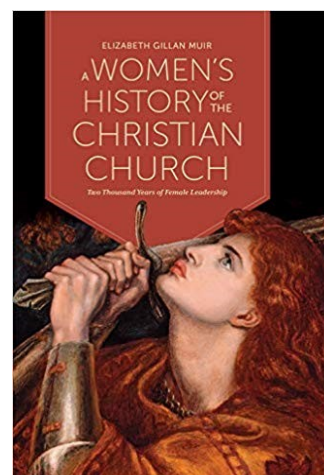
Romey, Linda, OSB. "It's Traditions, Not Religious Life," *Global Sisters Report*, September 4, 2019. <https://www.globalsistersreport.org/column/trends/its-traditions-not-religious-life-56510>

Sutera, Judith, OSB. "Report From the International Dialogue of Buddhist and Christian Nuns. *Magistra* 25:1 (Summer 2019), 85-93.

_____*Book Review: courting Sanctity: Holy Women and the Capetians* by Sean L. Field (Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 2019) in *Magistra* 25:1 (Summer 2019), 101-102.

Swan, Laura, OSB. *Book Review: A Women's History of the Christian Church: Two Thousand Years of Female Leadership* by Elizabeth Gillan Muir (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2019) in *Magistra* 25:1 (Summer 2019), 98-99.

_____*Book Review: Elizabeth Ann Seton: American Saint* by Catherine O'Donnell (Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 2019) in *Magistra* 25:1 (Summer 2019), 99-101.



[Riyeff's poems] reflect a late modern palmering, a movement from place to place and time to time and back again, movement through language and silence, inner and outer states, contemplative and active, starting and stopping, a longing for a constant or a destination in a life of uncertain circumstances and goals. —Amazon



Presentations

Hollermann, Ephrem, OSB. "Benedictine Women from Eichstätt, Bavaria, to St. Marys, Pennsylvania, to St. Cloud and St. Joseph, Minnesota." Members of Bethlehem Lutheran Congregation, St. Cloud, Minnesota, August 1, 2019.

_____ "What Ever Happened to Sunday? Reflections on Sabbath from Scripture and the *Rule of Benedict*," Oblate Retreat, St. Paul's Monastery, St. Paul, Minnesota, September 21, 2019.

Richmond, Donald, ObISB. "Romuald's Brief Rule within the Wider Contexts of Being in the Enclosure," St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Auburn, CA. (August, 2019).

_____ "Romuald's Use of the Psalms: Immersion to Conversion," St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Auburn, CA (August, 2019).

Riyeff, Jacob. Oblate Retreat: "The Nature of the Soul and Contemplation in Early Monastic Sources," Monastery of the Ascension, Jerome, ID, 2018.

_____ Retreat: "Swami Abhishiktananda's Legacy," New Camaldoli Hermitage, Big Sur, CA, June 2019.

Valente, Judith. "Stirring the Ashes: Reclaiming a Sense of Hope in Our Work," Stewardship Day Convocation, University of Mary, Bismarck ND.

_____ Oblate Retreats: St. Scholastica Monastery, Fort Smith AR; Holy Angels Monastery, Jonesboro, AR; Our Lady of Guadalupe Monastery, Pecos, NM.

_____ Autumn Equinox Retreat: "Becoming An Everyday Contemplative," Sophia Center, Atchison KS.

_____ Oblate Days of Renewal: Queen of Angels Monastery, Mount Angel, OR and St. Placid Priory, Lacey, WA.



June 26-28, Mount St. Scholastica Monastery, Atchison, Kansas

Notice

Next MR Newsletter, February 2020
Compiled and edited
by Ephrem Hollermann, OSB, Saint Benedict's
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Comments/suggestions welcomed
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2020 ABA Convention
July 16-19
Benedictine College
Atchison, Kansas "2020 Vision:
Seeing the World in a Single Ray of Light"

