



Image: St. Mary Monastery
Rock Island, Illinois

Current Projects

Greg Peters, ObISB, presented a lecture entitled "Ab verbo et exemplo: Medieval Monastic Theology as a Model for Christian Catechesis" at Christ Church Anglican in Waco, TX, on February 23. The event was sponsored by the Institute for the Renewal of Christian Catechesis. He also presented the lecture "Theology in a Monastic Key: Monastic vs. Scholastic Theology" in the Torrey Honors College at Biola University. He is currently preparing another lecture, "Bare ruined choirs?: The Death and Life of Anglican Monasticism," for presentation at The Michael Ramsey Centre for Anglican Studies, Durham University, on April 27. In addition to these activities, Greg is organizing the June 23-24, 2022, Breck Conference at Nashotah House Theological Seminary. See details : <https://nashotah.edu/breckconference/>

Jacob Riyeff, ObISB is "moving forward (with the blessing of the Benedictine sisters of Stanbrook Abbey) on an edition of Dame Gertrude More's seventeenth century meditations, with some exciting publishing news possibly coming soon. He's also beginning an edition of the collected essays of his beloved spiritual mother, Sr. Pascaline Coff, OSB, who passed on

to her eternal reward Dec 16, 2021. Another project headed toward completion is an edition of the selected poems of Bernard Durward, a nineteenth-century Catholic artist from Wisconsin."

Antoinette Purcell, OSB "presented a 4-week virtual program for Benedict Inn Retreat and Conference Center in Beech Grove, Indiana on "From Cave to Mountaintop". The series considered the life and miracles of Benedict based on Book Two of the Dialogues by Pope St. Gregory, an introduction to the *Rule of Benedict*, and consideration of Benedict's teaching on humility, obedience, prayer and service, with a look to significance for the 21st century spiritual seeker.

Aaron Raverty, OSB, continues writing for the *Abbey Banner*, the periodic magazine for Saint John' Abbey in Collegeville. In a recent issue (21:3, Winter 2021–22, pp. 14–17) he wrote about the indigenous people of central Minnesota: "The land dubbed 'Indian bush' by the nineteenth-century pioneer monks who founded Saint John's in central Minnesota was the original home of three Native American indigenes: the Ojibwe, Dakota, and Ho-Chunk. This article recognizes their aboriginal claim on this land, provides ethnographic snapshots, and

briefly describes the woeful treaty dynamics involved in the loss of their homeland and their shifting relocation with the U.S government and white settlers."

Dennis Okholm's well-received book, *Monk Habits for Everyday People* (2007) has been translated into Korean.

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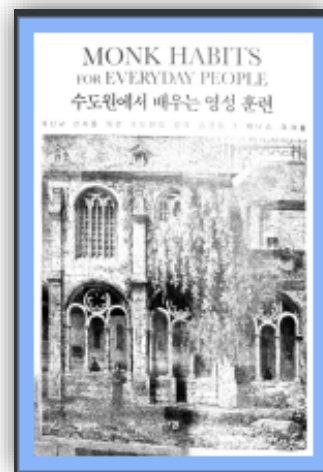
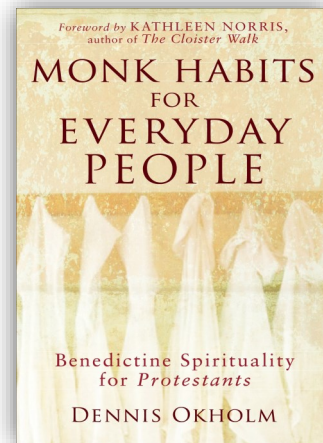
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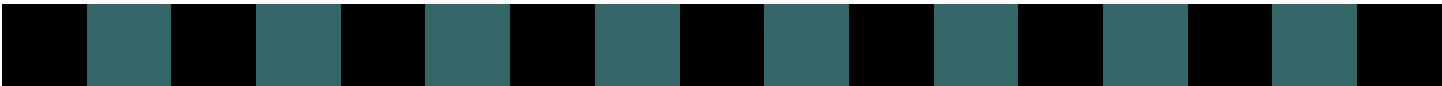
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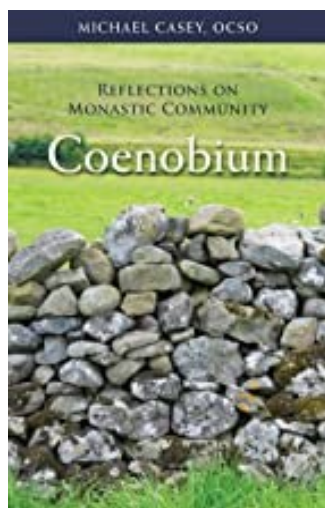
- **Greg Peters**
- **Jacob Riyeff**
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Korean Translation



CURRENT PROJECTS CONT.



In Coenobium, Michael Casey successfully demonstrates that the individual search for God and community life are not two disparate elements of coenobitism but are in fact mutually dependent upon one another.

—Colleen Maura McGrane, OSB



Kathleen Norris, OBlSB, reports as follows: “I continue to write regularly for *Give Us This Day* and SoulTelegram. On March 16 I’ll be participating in a program on ‘Stability for Non-Monks’ for Paraclete Press, along with the author Michael Patrick O’Brien.”

Tom Piazza is working on an article on membership trends among Benedictine monks in Brazil. Also still in progress is an article on the metaphors used to describe the monastic life and how they may need to be updated in order to be more understandable to younger people today.

Ephrem Hollermann, OSB, is beginning a book project on the life and legacy of Mother Benedicta Riepp, OSB, foundress of the Bavarian tradition of Benedictine women in North America. Her plan has a threefold goal: 1) to explore the historical context of Riepp’s early life during the Catholic Revival in Europe, and the post-French Revolution period of restoration in Bavaria, 2) to bring together into one narrative the disparate pieces of available biographical information, and 3) to discuss Riepp’s vision and spirit based on her extant letters and her life experiences. A final section of the book will include a collection of relevant primary texts.

Linda Romey, OSB, continues to write for the *Global Sisters Report*, a project of the *National Catholic Reporter*. She has sent a link to her recent provocative article: <https://www.globalsistersreport.org/news/religious-life/column/its-time-find-out-where-religious-life-can-go-without-patriarchy>. Linda also added a link to an article by Soli Solgado entitled “Monasticism Sees A Renewal As People Seek Meaning in a Rushed World.” <https://thecatholicspirit.com/news/nation-and-world/monasticism-sees-a-renewal-as-people-seek-meaning-in-a-rushed-world/>

Hugh Feiss, OSB, writes: “Three books with which I am deeply involved are still waiting their turn at their respective publishers: *Benedictine Reader 2, 1530-1930* (Cistercian Publications); a bilingual edition of Richard of St. Victor, *On the Extermination of Evil and the Promotion of Good* (Dallas Medieval Texts and Translations); and *Symbolism and Contemplation*, Victorine Texts in Translation 5 (Brepols). I have also written a long introduction to Ron Pepin’s monumental English translation of Caesarius of Heisterbach’s *Dialogue of Miracles* (also forthcoming at Cistercian Publications). The last half of ‘A History of Benedictine Libraries’ will appear in the

March 2022 *ABR*. I am currently writing a book review for *Revue d’histoire ecclésiastique* and working on a study of Richard of St. Victor’s multiple commentaries on the Tabernacle of Moses. Soon I need to write up my paper for the ABA sponsored session on Benedictine monasticism for the International Congress of Medieval Studies at WMU, which will be remote again this year.”

Julie Upton, RSM, writes: “I’m preparing for two virtual talks “at” Glastonbury Abbey [Hingham, MA]. Their Lenten Supper Series focuses on ‘Women in the Church,’ and I am covering medieval women: ‘Julian of Norwich, the Beguines, and Hildegard of Bingen: Theologians for Our Time.’ • I am also preparing ‘Learning from the Distanced Church,’ which will focus on what has been learned from using technology to serve parish communities, and what should be continued and even expanded; along with what doesn’t work so well. • A longer-term project is focused on what the pandemic has revealed about health equity, and how that should be addressed using the social determinants of health.

Tracey Rittmueller reports as follows: “I am in the process of making final revisions to my memoir in essays, *Duties Of The Spirit: Personhood In A Marriage Transformed By Dementia*. In this collection for ecumenical spiritual seekers who may

CURRENT PROJECTS CONT.

not be familiar with Benedictine monasticism, I explore the practice of wisdom in three “disciplines”: Benedictine monasticism; the reading and writing of poetry; and the “Science of Safety” (The Polyvagal Theory by Stephen Porges, which I think of as “the neurobiology of trust”). These disciplines’ practices are helping us live within chasms of grief mingled with the graces of joy and serenity, with a commitment to healing and renewal for us as individuals and as a married couple. ● I am also involved with *Being Benedictine in the 21st Century*, a networking effort initiated and led by Judith Valente, ObISB, Linda Romey, OSB, and Judith Sutera, OSB. This networking is based on conversations with all the

Benedictine constituencies including professed monastics, oblates, staff, seekers and others drawn to Benedictine spirituality about how to address the needs of the current times with our Benedictine values. With their guidance, I am exploring the feasibility of facilitating a circle on “Reimagining Benedictine Healing Hospitality,” online at Peer 2 Peer University. I want to clarify that we would not be talking about what we know today as “health care.” Instead, we would imagine a deeper and broader conception of “healing,” and how Benedictine hospitality in the 21st Century might embrace what is valuable in the science of healthcare, while also drawing on spirituality, the arts, and “the and communities’ minds, hearts, and the ‘neurobio-

logy of trust,’ to nurture the healing/changing of individuals’ and communities’ minds, hearts, and embodied actions/ reactions at conscious, subconscious, and autonomic levels.”

Judith Valente

ObISB spent December through March in Italy as part of her research on a book about the contemplative aspects of Italian life. She also has been asked to review the personal papers of the great peace activist and Pax Christi USA co-founder Eileen Egan with a view toward writing a book about Eileen, who was St. Teresa of Calcutta’s traveling partner, a close friend of Dorothy Day, and an instrumental voice in convincing the U.N. and the Second Vatican

Council to recognize conscientious objection to war as a fundamental right. Judith has also been leading a series of talks on Zoom on the wisdom writings of Thomas Merton for the St. Mary Monastery (Rock Island IL) Merton study group. She and Patricia Pickett ObISB (St. Benedict Monastery, MN) led an online retreat in March for the Sophia Spirituality Center on “Our Great African American Spiritual Teachers,” focusing on the writings of Howard Thurman and Sister Thea Bowman.



PUBLICATIONS

Feiss, Hugh, OSB. “A History of Benedictine Libraries and Their Afterlives: *Part One*,” *ABR* 72:4 (December 2021), 368-383.

McGrane, Colleen Maura, OSB. “Two Carolingian Monks on the Fourth Step of Humility,” *ABR* 72:4 (December 2021), 384-395.

Book Review: *Carolingian Commentaries on the Apocalypse* by Theodulf and Smaragdus, trans. texts and intro., by Francis X. Gumerlock (Kalamazoo, MI: Medieval Institute Publications, 2019), in *ABR* 72:4 (December 2021), 467-469.

Norris, Kathleen. Book Review: *Deep Unto Deep*, by David Hodges, OCSO. Wales: Caldey Abbey, 2020, and *Poems and Counsels on Prayer and Contemplation* by Dame Gertrude More, ed. and intro. By Jacob Riyeff. Leominster, UK: Gracewing, 2020, in *ABR* 72:4 (December 2021), 469-471.

Swan, Laura, OSB. Book Review: *Addressing Women in Early Medieval Religious Texts*, by Kathryn Maude. Cambridge: D.S. Brewer, 2021, in *Magistra* 27, no. 2 (Winter 2021), 93-95.

Sutera, Judith, OSB. Book Review: *The “Breviary of Fire”: Letters by Mother Mechtilde of the Blessed Sacrament*, trans. by an Oblate of Silverstream Priory. Brooklyn: Angelico Press, 2021, in *Magistra* 27, no. 2 (Winter 2021), 95-97.

Book Review: *Religious Hair Display and Its Meaning* by William C. Innes, Jr. Switzerland: Springer Nature, 2021, in *Magistra* 27, no. 2 (Winter 2021), 97-98.

Book Review: *The Spirituality of Countess Matilda of Tuscany* by Penelope Nash. Bologna: Patron Editore, 2021, in *Magistra* 27, no. 2 (Winter 2021), 98-99.

Book Review: *Desire, Darkness and Hope: Engaging the Thought of Constance FitzGerald*, eds. Laurie Cassidy and M. Shawn Copeland. Collegeville: Liturgical Press Academic, 2021, in *Magistra* 27, no. 2 (Winter 2021), 99-100.

Valente, Judith. Book Review: “A New Silence: Spiritual Practices and Formation for the Monk Within,” by Beverly Lanzetta. Sebastopol, CA: Blue Sapphire Books, 2020, in *ABR* 72:4 (December 2021), 475-477.

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Notice

Next MR Newsletter, June 2022
Compiled and edited
by Ephrem Hollermann, OSB
Saint Benedict's Monastery, St. Joseph, MN
Comments/suggestions welcomed
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2022 ABA Convention

GIVE ME A WORD...
July 7-9
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