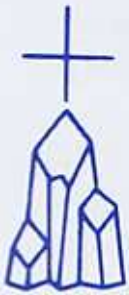




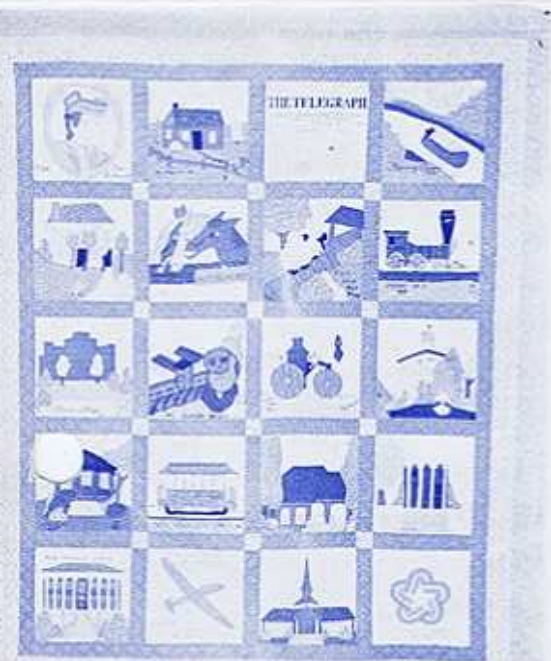
Heart, soften. Faith, flame!
Fragile as an infant's cry
He comes, calling you.

Mount Saviour Pine City, N.Y. 14871

Chronicle



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Mary Martin, of 354 Parma Center Road, Hilton, New York, won the quilt. We're especially grateful that Mary will enter it in the Good Housekeeping Quilt contest next fall. We think our quilting bee deserves national honors!

A Special Request

The friends of Mount Saviour would like to begin a special project to benefit the monastery. This will be the publication of a cook book, a collection of tried and true favorites, from Mount Saviour's many friends and from the community itself. Will you help please, by sending your own good recipes for this purpose? If we can use them, they will be published with your name and our thanks. Please participate with us in this pleasant project. Send your recipes to Mount Saviour, c/o Brother Andrew, as soon as you can. We will keep you informed. Many thanks!

Dear Friend of Mount Saviour,

For some time a word keeps coming to the top whenever I ruminate on things. The word is GIFT. It has nothing to do with Christmas—in fact our Christmas gift-giving practices may take the life out of it, and that is probably why I write about it now. Gift is not an 'in' word, though it has the prodromes of becoming one. Spiritual writers use it with increasing frequency these days. I have been at Weston Priory in Vermont where the brothers have made a very fine tape-slide presentation of their life together under the title of 'The Gift of Community.' On my return, Brother Pierre showed me his essay, 'The Gift of a Monastery,' which appears in this Chronicle. The gift dimension of our lives comes to awareness every night when we gather around the statue of the Virgin in our crypt. I am very conscious that the statue, the crypt, the brothers, the healing, are not merely present or given, but gift. Two of the Canons of the Mass gently remind us of this theme: '... May he make us an everlasting gift to you ...' Who but the Church would have a prayer like that? Who else but Christ would think it was a good idea and so offer it? What other God but our God would welcome such a gift? Just us and as we are. Propped up, falling down, or standing straight but being there like the dickens.

It is wonderful, in a way, that the majority of people who come here to worship don't have to come. Their presence at the liturgy is gift and they become more so through, in, and with the one who is Gift: gift of the Father to us and of us to the Father; and who gives us the gift of his Spirit to '... complete his work on earth and bring us the fullness of grace.' The gift of the Spirit, as Canon IV proclaims, enables us 'to live no longer for ourselves but for him.' This gift of the Father and the Son—the freedom to give and receive the Spirit, the very love and life of God—is called by Saint Paul 'the freedom of the sons of God.' It is the freedom that begins with the gift of faith.

In Christ all is largeness, freedom, ingenuity, and the transformed presence of the giver in the gift. He reveals for us the true notion of gift and the foremost experience of what that gift means. Now I could go on and on, but let me give to you some words from a conference Father Damasus gave us some years ago. Speaking of Mary, who is in herself a symbol of the Church and creation, he said: 'In this symbol of devotion to Mary the deepest problem of our time is expressed. ... The struggle of communism against capitalism is on the surface. But at the bottom before God, it is the eternal struggle of grace, of the humility that receives grace, against the pride that does not want to receive any gifts. It is the fight of mercy against hardness of heart.'

Our prayer for you at this Christmas season is that through the gift of the Incarnation you may become aware of the many gifts which God has given you, above all that of a new and eternal life.

In Christ,



In 1980 we will celebrate fifteen hundred years of Benedictine life. We ask your prayers that we will always be worthy of that great tradition and that we embody peace and hope and community in our age. We ask your prayers for all monks and nuns, and in particular for our brothers at Christ in the Desert, and Brother Philip, who is the new prior.

THE GIFTS OF A MONASTERY

In the study of Church history or spirituality, we find many references to the monastic influence. We tend to raise many questions to satisfy our curiosity as to the causes or charisms of the monks of the past. A culture is never established by direct means. It is shaped by many indirect factors.

As we try to point out the relevance of the monastic life today, we discover many by-products that are the most striking elements to outsiders. The medieval monks did not join monasteries to build, to compose music, or to transcribe manuscripts. They followed an inner call to 'seek God.' As we commit ourselves to truly seeking God in the twentieth century, we have been able to notice as well some of the by-products that are important to us and meaningful to the guests who come to share a part of our life:

1. This 'school of the Lord's service' is an institutionalizing of the search for meaning. The identity of a monk is a matter of 'becoming,' a growth in the quality of life and in faith. Therefore his formation is always in progress, with 'the Gospel as guide, to go forward on His paths.'

2. This community shows the capacity of men from various countries and backgrounds to live together in spite of many differences, that are part of nature. The mutual support can be felt at various levels and at different degrees in this classless society. The Rule of Saint Benedict has some references to the idea of edification (aedificare is the Latin for 'to build up'). The monk has to face his responsibility without denying his Christian freedom.

3. We find an anthropology that gives room for the body, as it stands close to nature and to related sciences in manual work; for the soul's yearning for knowledge, through lectio divina and studies; for spirit as a means of communication in prayer.

4. A sense of poetry is cultivated by the use of ritual and symbols. As we try to read between the lines of the sacred texts and hear the harmony of simple tones, the mystery becomes more accessible. The religious profession is the sacrament of the eschaton (the last thing), of the parousia (the final coming).

5. The Liturgy of the Hours marks the rhythm of the day and of the seasons like the down beats of a musical line. The regular order is infinitely varied since it includes motion and rest, work and leisure.

How does this relate to the Gospel? It helps one to practice the commandments: 'You shall love your God with all your heart . . . and your neighbor as yourself.' There are three objects of love in this quotation: God, the neighbor, and the self. By a commitment to seek Him, by our praise, and by faith in His mystery, we seek the Glory of God. By sharing the material goods as well as the burden and responsibilities in the community, the monk exercises a social role. With an awareness and appreciation of his own talents and limitations (self-knowledge) the monk is able to relate to others and to God. He remains human and is in need of God's grace 'to bear most patiently one another's infirmities' (Saint Benedict).

'Having, therefore, our loins girt about with faith and the observance of good works, let us, with the Gospel as our guide, go forward on His paths, that we may deserve to see in His kingdom Him who has called us.'

Prologue of the Rule

FALL FESTIVAL PRIZE WINNERS

- 1st prize: One week European holiday for two Miss Carolann Oravec, Cleveland, Ohio
2nd prize: Leica Ch Camera mfg. by Leitz, Inc. Robert P. Heaney, Omaha, Nebraska
3rd prize: Toshiba 13" Color TV Set. William Drohan, Elmira, New York
4th prize: Minolta Electronic 35mm Camera. Rev. David G. Looney, Utica, New York
5th prize: Samsonite 3" Commuter Case John J. O'Connor, Middletown, New Jersey
6th prize: G. E. Toaster Oven Rev. Karl H. Monahan, Susquehanna, Pennsylvania
7th prize: 72x90" Quaker Lace Table Cloth Rev. Karl A. Bauer, Shrub Oak, New York
8th prize: G.E. AM/FM Clock Radio. Miss Wilma Claas, Seaside Park, New Jersey
9th prize: Crock A Dial (Crock Pot) Miss Pheobe Hogan, Lima, New York

Father Martin recommends for reading:

The Other Side of Silence, by Morton Kelsey. This is a 'how to' book written with a sure touch by a fellow Christian with lots of experience in teaching and helping. Ideal for parents who wonder about the current interest in meditation. But keep it away from the kids or you won't get it back. cloth \$8.50

Models of the Church, by Avery Dulles. It is too often said that books are 'musts' so I will find some other words. Father Dulles writes with a clarity and balance in setting out the assets and shortcomings of the images we have of the Church—whether as institution, mystical communion, sacrament, herald of the Gospel, or healer. It is refreshing, calming, encouraging, and enlightening. And you won't find that elsewhere. cloth \$6.95

Spirit and Sacrament, by Joseph Powers. I want to recommend this book in the strongest way, but I hesitate to do so for a general audience without more qualifications than can appear here. Father Powers uses the vocabulary and mind-set of process theologians, and some of what they say is offensive to my pious ears, and some of it is simply 'off the wall.' The author gives the impression that a self-conscious awareness of the Spirit working in us is the *only* valid Christian experience. It is certainly *one* valid experience and lots of fun, but it is not the only one by many hundreds of thousands . . . the human comes out a little overweight . . . when we pray or act in union with God something changes and it is a mystery, but I'd hesitate to say God changed. The author has a section on dying and rising, and on the Spirit and our horizon that are almost indispensable—and so with other notions. Assimilating this book is a little like eating fish. It is delicious, but survival depends on spitting out the bones.

cloth \$8.95

As Bread That Is Broken and Called by Name, by Peter van Breemen. This author has the rare gift of penetrating the mysteries of our faith and life and sharing the fruits of his labors without being overly subjective. Romano Guardini, Gerald Vann, Karl Rahner, and now van Breemen stand apart from the rest of us in this respect.

cloth \$5.95 and \$6.95

Pathways in Scripture, by Damasus Winzen. We are proud and happy to present this commentary which some of you remember came out in fascicle form. There is a song, 'Weave me some sunshine out of the mist and rain.' The deep waters of patristic, liturgical and scriptural scholarship have yielded a rainbow we want all of you to see. If everyone would ponder just the commentary on the book of Esther, it would change the history of the world.

paper \$3.95

George Washington, by James Thomas Flexner. Your own public library may be the best source for this bit of Americana. Brother Luke said he would order it on request. It is an inspiring account of our historical origins and the role of Washington. Once you start it you will turn off the TV for a month . . . or more. cloth editions

- vol. I—the Forge of Experience, 1732-75. \$15.00
vol. II—in the American Revolution, 1775-83. \$15.00
vol. III—and the New Nation, 1783-93 \$15.00
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