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# Mount Saviour Pine City, N.Y. 14871

Chronicle



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Christmas 1977

Dear Friends of Mount Saviour,

Those of us who experience the Upstate New York winter on short fuel rations learn to think warming thoughts like "What is so rare as a day in June." I was using it as a Mantra or repeated prayer the other day, and other parts of The Vision of Sir Launfal came back to me. Do you remember any of it?

Then, if ever, come perfect days;  
Then heaven tries earth if it be in tune,  
And over it softly her warm ear lays:

It became a perfect Advent song. The joyful Good News of Christmas is none other than that heaven and earth are again in tune. In the humanity of Mary, by reason of her faith, and in the flesh and blood of the child by the obedience of love, the ear of God heard not just a tune from earth, but the earth in tune. The Incarnation is that harmony all the prophets, all the kings, all the poets and people, longed to hear. "Let the heavens rejoice and earth be glad." "Let the earth bud forth the Saviour." "Mercy looked down from heaven and Justice sprang up from the earth." "Let the heavens rain down the just one." "The earth has yielded up its



fruit." All these aspirations from Sacred Scripture found their fulfillment and form in Jesus the Christ.

The Mystery of the Incarnation is so much more than an individual child and a virgin mother. It is at once an act of divine love, promise of new life through dying and rising in the Paschal Mystery, and embryo of the new creation. In the "Fiat, let it be done to me..." of the Virgin, God hears once more the melody heard in the beginning, the harmonious echo-like tune, which was creation's response to "Fiat lux, let there be light". The first song God sang when light was made set in tune the music of the spheres. The joy of the angels' Hosanna expressed their wonder and delight that heaven and earth were now in tune.

The words of the poem by James Russell Lowell are so appropriate:

Whether we look or whether we listen,  
We hear life murmur, or see it glisten;

...  
The flush of life may well be seen  
Thrilling back over hills and valleys;

And so it is--a world in tune, entered through Baptism, harmonized in all the Sacraments and our repeated blessing and thanksgiving; a new heaven and a new earth come into being even as we live here and now.

May the melody of the Incarnate harmony of heaven and earth be in your lives this season. Snow-covered and wintry, our hills and fields ring out their joy. The snow is like a new coat to warm the poor earth--a gift of our brother and king. All of us monks send you warm greetings as well, clothed as we are with the glory of God--more or less! We join with the poet in a final wish and blessing:

(May) the eyes forget the tears they shed,  
The heart forget its sorrow and ache;  
The soul partake the season's youth,  
And the sulphurous rifts of passion and woe  
Lie deep 'neath a silence pure and smooth,  
Like burnt-out craters healed with snow.

...  
'Tis heaven alone that is given away,  
'Tis only God may be had for the asking.

In Christ,

*J. Maurer*



For the second time in twenty-four years we had rain the day of the Fall Festival. Despite this fact we had a good crowd and the Festival served its double purpose of helping our income and providing a good, healthy, and holy setting for a September outing. This was the last year for Barbara and Curran Sekella as lay chairmen; Bob and Mary Ann Hain will take their place. The theme of next year's festival will be "Our International Heritage."

The presence of novices and postulants again has enabled us to redistribute some of the work. Brother Daniel has been assisting Brother Luke in the Gift Shop, thus freeing him to pursue his longstanding interest in water color painting. Brother Luke has shown his work at the monastery, at the Fall Festival, in St. Joseph's Hospital, and at the Arnot Art Gallery in Elmira. At this last his painting of St. Peter's Barn was awarded a blue ribbon as the most popular painting in the exhibition.



Readers of earlier Chronicles will remember how close was the relationship we have enjoyed with the abbot primate of the Benedictines, Rembert Weakland. This September, during the Congress of Abbots in Rome, his appointment as Archbishop of Milwaukee was announced. As abbot primate, Archbishop Rembert had the duty of conducting our regular visitation every three years, and we will always be deeply grateful for the generosity and wisdom with which he assisted us in facing the many problems and challenges of the past ten years. Father Martin was able to be in Milwaukee and to assist at the installation of Archbishop Rembert in his diocese. The abbots assembled in Rome elected as the new primate the German archabbot of St. Ottilien, Victor Dammertz.

Brother Luke this year celebrated his twenty-fifth anniversary at Mount Saviour. A group of his relatives from Toronto and vicinity came to the monastery for the Canadian Thanksgiving weekend and prepared a traditional Thanksgiving dinner for the community and friends from the Elmira area.

Brother Peter and Brother Pierre accepted an invitation from the Abbey of Gethsemani in Kentucky to attend a two week seminar in October. The first week was spent in the study of Pachomian texts, that is, the lives of Saint Pachomius, considered the founder of Christian cenobitic monasticism (i.e., lived in communities), and writings ascribed to him and to his immediate successors in Upper Egypt during the third and fourth centuries. Father Armand Veilleux was the leader of the seminar. During the second week Father Adalbert de Vogüé commented and led discussions on the first ten Conferences by the fourth century abbot, John Cassian. He was largely responsible for the passing of monastic values from their Eastern place of origin to the Latin West, and influenced Saint Benedict, who recommends the reading of the Conferences in his Rule.

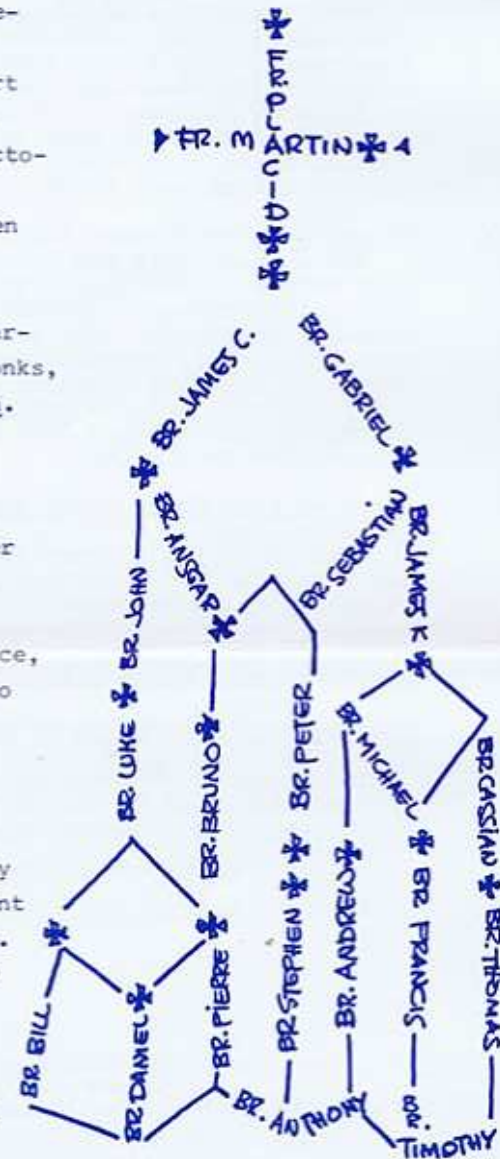
On November 5 we buried Elsi Reyburn in our cemetery. Elsi and Albert were old friends of Reverend Father Damasus, and friends of Mount Saviour from the earliest years. More recently Elsi used to spend the month of October with us as our teacher of French and German, languages of her native Switzerland. Albert stayed on with us a few days after the burial and then returned to his home in Montreal.

John Boler, brother of Father Martin and professor of philosophy at the University of Washington, Seattle, is spending his sabbatical year nearby. He has given two series of Friday evening lectures for oblates and monks, on values in our society, and on Hannah Arendt's book, The Human Condition. He has also organized a kind of "great books" seminar, which during the autumn read and discussed Dante's Divine Comedy.

Father Kevin Seasoltz, of Saint Anselm's Abbey in Washington, D. C., was with us for the weekend beginning on Father Martin's feastday (November 11th). Father Kevin is a teacher of liturgical theology and canon law in the religion department of the Catholic University. His subject with us was the place of the liturgy, especially the Eucharist and the Divine Office, in the life of a Christian community. This is important to the newcomer to monastic life, but no less valuable to the professed members all of whom attended the conferences.

Father Adalbert de Vogüé, of the French Abbey of la Pierre-qui-Vire, the most renowned student of the Rule of Saint Benedict in the world, was with us from November 26 to 29. During his visit he spoke to the community on the three pillars of Benedictine tradition, the Rule of the Master, Saint Benedict's Rule, and the life of Saint Benedict by Saint Gregory the Great.

Three years ago, when oil prices first began to rise, we were able to convert part of the kitchen that had been planned for baking and canning into a small refectory for winter use. Since then, in our effort to cut down our dependence on outside fuels, we have exchanged the common room fireplace for a Defiant wood stove, put storm windows on the chapel and in the monastery, and further insulated some of the rooms. This autumn we have had foam insulation put into the spaces above the ceilings and within the walls of the chapel. During the month of November, when this was done, we used the large refectory as a chapel--and found it not so bad, though the acoustics are not quite as good as in the actual chapel, and the Sun-



"ALL OF US MONKS SEND YOU WARM GREETINGS"





Our Oblate, Pat Ciccariello, presented the first Mount Saviour Monastery Cookbook to Governor Hugh Carey during a visit to Elmira by the governor.  
Mount Saviour Monastery Cookbook \$5.00

Also available from the monastery:  
Pathways in Scripture by Damasus Winzen \$3.95  
Drink Freely of Love by Fr. James Kelly \$1.95

Father Martin recommends for reading:

Thirsting for the Lord; Essays in Biblical Spirituality by Carroll Stuhlmueller, CP

Aimed deliberately at educated people who are not biblical scholars and at educators and catechists who want more background for their work, this is one book that hit the mark. Fr. Stuhlmueller has the great gift of allowing the meaning of Sacred Scripture to get to him and an equally great gift of handing it on to others. I want to recommend this book very highly. \$7.95

Dagger John by Richard Shaw.

The unquiet life and times of Archbishop John Hughes of New York. Why some authors try to frighten away readers of very fine books by titles and dust jackets, I'll never know. This will acquaint you with the colorful and exciting story of the church and the immigrant, and the struggles of the 1800's in the United States. John Hughes certainly "fought the good fight". \$10.95

The Crucified Jesus Is No Stranger by Sebastian Moore.

This is on the mystery of the cross and our participation in it and on it. Father Sebastian is an uncommon thinker. He gave some of these chapters as conferences here at Mt. Saviour, and we are happy to recommend them to a wider audience. \$6.95

The Mass and the People of God by J. D. Crichton.

This book on the Mass by a famous British liturgist is one of three books which are as valuable as they are inexpensive. \$2.75

The Signs of the New Covenant by A. G. Martimort.

This book was very popular in its first printing. I think it would be good today especially for parents whose children are learning "new" things in religion. \$2.75

The Rites (of the Catholic Church as revised by the Second Vatican Ecumenical Council).

I hesitate to put this here since it would appeal mostly to priests. But the participation of the people in the liturgy was the aim of the Constitution on the Liturgy, and since more and more people are Eucharistic ministers, etc, it may attract more readers. There is also a lot to be said for 'browsing', and this is a great browser while preparing for Mass, or celebrating the sacraments, going to weddings, funerals, baptisms, confession. I don't want to push it, but since so much of your adult education in the Catholic thing has to be do-it-yourself, this gives the how and why of much of it. \$9.50

The Practice of the Presence of God by Brother Lawrence, with an introduction by Dorothy Day.

This is a classic often referred to but rather hard to come by until this edition. With the renewed interest in prayer and someone like Dorothy Day writing an introduction, it needs no further explanation by me. \$5.95

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 Customers in New York State, please add 7% sales tax.

FALL FESTIVAL PRIZE WINNERS

- 1st prize: European trip for two...Rose Ellis Lewis, Binghamton, NY
- 2nd prize: Prodivit projector by Leitz...Barbara Coleman, Woodside, NY
- 3rd prize: Sylvania 16" TV set...C. J. Milliken, Elmira, NY
- 4th prize: Sylvania 16" TV set...Mrs. Joseph Sbedico, Elmira, NY
- 5th prize: Tenna 8 track stereo...Edward Schano, Ithaca, NY
- 6th prize: GE AM/FM clock radio...Dr. Lewis Minor, Cleveland, Ohio
- 7th prize: GE AM/FM portable radio...Sara Fisher, Elmira, NY
- 8th prize: auto timer ... Ronald Pariso, Elmira, NY
- 9th prize: Spalding Tennis racket ... Christopher Sregl, Philadelphia, PA