



The Sun of Justice
shall arise!

Christmas 1980

No. 59

Mount Saviour Pine City, N.Y. 14871

Chronicle



Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Pine City, N.Y.
Permit No. 5



We had the privilege of receiving the present Abbot Primate, Victor Dammertz for a brief visit at the end of June. Fr. Abböt was able to visit a few monasteries and convents in the Mid West and East. He is no stranger to the United States nor our (version of the English) language, but this was his first visit since being elected Abbot Primate three years ago.

In September of this year, the British Labor Party met at Blackpool while the Ora et Labora Party met in Rome. Ora et Labora is a tag, as most of you know, that some well meaning but misguided person made out to be the motto of all who follow the Rule of St. Benedict. The motto of the Benedictine Family, if there were a motto, would be taken from Chapter 57 "... that in all things God may be glorified." None the less, the tag does help to show how much we have in common with Labor Parties throughout the world, and invites us to look closer at what we have in common with the British Labor Party in particular.

There are a number of serious and complex problems which beset the Labor Party in England. However they pale into insignificance in light of a proposed solution by a faction within the Party. It is a solution, certainly, but one that would bind the Labor Party, then the British Government, then the Commonwealth, and eventually all of us in the world into such a Gordian knot that not even the Sword in its nuclear forms would be able to set us free. It would lead inevitably into a slavery in forms more oppressive than have been known since the beginning. The proposal is that a document be issued to which every elected Labor Member of Parliament would be bound, and bound in a way that they could not change jot or tittle. It seems that once elected to Parliament, it is next to impossible to get the person out. So one of the reasons for a precise and binding document was that it could become a prompt ejection device to Labor Party Members of Parliament who were growing insensitive and unresponsive to the needs of the Party rank and file. The proposal insisted that the elected officials adhere solely to that document, apply it in every situation that arose in Parliament without the slightest change, modification, or compromise. They would be responsible not to the workers, not to the citizens of Britain nor the people of the Commonwealth, but only to that document.

It was a document, the 72 Chapters of the Rule of Benedict for Monasteries, that some 600 of us had been considering in Rome. This probably made me more sensitive to the proposed document in England. If for 1500 years a document had been the saving feature of monastic life, what was the difficulty with proposing a document to save the Labor Party and the Commonwealth? A document is a document. If for 1500 years one had been our glory, why should one be their shame? Although you couldn't give chapter and verse, you know very well where the expression I used above "... jot or tittle..." came from — another rightly revered document or collection of documents we call the bible.

My shock did not come from the proposal to produce a document. Shock is too weak a word for the almost primal sense of horror that gripped me. Now, months later, I can find words to express what a dreadful awe prevented me from fully formulating — I was present at the birth of an Idol. The work of men's hands which was for them a god — that was the true identity of the document on which they had set their hope — that is what I saw struggling to be born!

The work of our hands, without faith in God or reference to God whose love and reverence for us enables us to work with our "hands", becomes an Idol and we become like it — lifeless, loveless, and incapable of reverence, even for the Idol. The same hands can bring forth that which is the glory of God. The difference between Benedict's Rule and the Political Party's Rule was a difference of Faith in the God who gives us life and in the Life which God has given.

There is much more I want to write. But I pray that this is enough to prompt you to ponder on how what appears the same can be so different depending on our Faith and on our Hope. St. Paul expresses it well in 2 Corinthians 3: "You are our document inscribed on our hearts, which is known and read by all: clearly you are a letter of Christ, composed by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God on the fleshly tablets of the heart..."

At this Season of the Year, it appears ever more clearly the Incarnation is THE document, the Word of God, written in our history by the Spirit and the Love of God. May every person's words and works be drawn from him so that through him and in him and with him, the whole world might know the Peace of Christ which God who is Spirit longs to establish us in and in us.

In Xto,

J. Martin

NEWS BRIEFS

Symposium in honor of St. Benedict: All who follow the Rule of St. Benedict, the monastic family of Benedictines, Cistercians, Trappists, Camaldolese, and Silvescimes met in Rome in mid-September to consider the Rule of Benedict and its influence on the history of Spirituality, the local diocese, and secular culture. Fr. J.M. Tillard OP shared with us the fruits of his experience and scholarship. He is exceptionally well qualified as a historian of spirituality and in contemporary religious life in every continent. Archbishop Rembert Weakland, formerly Abbot Primate of all Benedictines and presently Ordinary of Milwaukee developed the notion of monastic charism within the Church and especially the charism of stability which gives the Benedictine family a relation to the diocese in which it is located like that of no other religious institute. Madame Lorraine, Minister of Culture in W. Germany gave a very profound presentation on the place of Benedictine life within contemporary European civilization. Although not listed as part of the input, certainly the prayerful singing of the Divine Office by all the men and women present, had as much to do with the atmosphere and success of the Symposium as anything. We were joined by Pope John Paul II for Mass and festive meal at Monte Cassino. I think we were all moved by the graciousness of the Pope who greeted each of us in turn. From a very busy man and a very weary man, it did not seem like a formal gesture, but rather the way he found to share the burden and the weariness with each and all of us under the wings of the Lord who invites us to Himself. It was a delight also to speak with so many Trappist friends who were having a General Chapter in Rome during that time. The same was true of the monks and sisters among the Benedictines although one is acutely aware of how brief and distracted the short time was; we were together.

English Interlude: I traveled by train, subway, and boat from Rome to Cambridge England and learned again the great lesson of the helpfulness and kindness of fellow travelers. On and off trains, in and out of Subways in Paris and London, but always someone came to the rescue at just the right moment — which was very often what seemed like the last moment!

In Cambridge I stayed at St. Edmund's House, a guest of Fr. Joseph Brennan, former rector of St. Bernard's Seminary in our diocese of Rochester, NY who is Dean of Student's there. I fell completely in love with Cambridge, but I will spare you a lover's ravings. In a quite unexpected way it inspired and rekindled my Benedictine vocation. The culture of England is so permeated with Benedictine values and ways. Quite likely the blending of Anglo, Saxon, and Norman is a by-product of Benedictine peace and a challenge to modern Benedictines to bring a new and true peace to Anglos, Hispanics, Orientals, and Blacks. I believe we can do it, or certainly substructure and subculture it in our own quiet way.

I had business at Quarr Abbey on the Isle of Wight, but was able to spend an overnight on the way there with Fr. Luke Rigby, Prior of the St. Louis Community and his family south of London. Then the rush to Quarr, a quick cup of tea Ryde Abbey near the Harbor and back to Ealing Abbey on the West of London the same day to be an impromptu guest, hungry and sick, a blessing in disguise to Abbot Francis and the monks. Things also happened so that Fr. Luke and I were able to visit Worth Abbey and also the lay community there. Five days might not seem like a vacation, but it was a re-creation for me.





Fr. Augustine Stock OSB of Conception Abbey in Missouri was with us for 6 weeks teaching the Gospel of Mark. It has been a great blessing not only for us, but also for the Oblates and guests with whom he shared each Sunday. An exchange like this where someone lives among us as a monk-in-residence as much as a scholar-in-residence leaves us very grateful to Fr. Augustine, Abbot Jerome, and the monks of Conception.

Sign Magazine printed the story by St. Mary Ann Walsh and the pictures of John Oller in their October issue. We appreciate the insight and discretion that went into the making of the article.

While we rejoice in the signs of constancy and fidelity of the solemnly professed monks, and at the continued growth of the Communities of Christ in the Desert and Montreal, we rejoice in a special way over those who newly turn to monastic life. Fr. Dan Twomey of Boston, Mass., Les Miller of Ann Arbor, Michigan, and Patrick Shevlin of Scranton, Pa., are half way through their novitiate as Br. M. Elijah, Br. Peter-Damian, and Br. Benedict. Bob Owen of Dayton, Ohio, Jim Munsch of Pittsburgh, Pa., and Chris McCaffrey of New York City, have finished an Observership, and are going through the process of Postulancy. We ask your prayers for these men and for all of us older ones as well that we do become a clearer and brighter sign of the life and unity God accomplished in Christ and accomplishes in the Church.

The final good news is a blessing to you for the Year of Our Lord 1981 with our thanksgiving that we are here to give it and you are there to receive it.

RECOMMENDED FROM MOUNT SAVIOUR SHOP

- Simon, Arthur: *Bread for the World* \$2.25
 Hellwig, Monica: *The Eucharist and the Hunger of the World* \$1.95
 Sider, Ronald: *Rich Christians in an Age of Hunger: A Biblical Study* \$4.95
 Freudenberger & Minus: *Christian Responsibility in a Hungry World* \$2.50
Reasons of the Heart, by John Dunne paper \$4.95
 It would be worthwhile to learn to read just to read this book.
The Fire and the Rose are One, by Sebastian Moore \$9.95
 A guide to the ways of God with us. hard cover
Prayer, Our Journey Home, by Dame Maria Boulding, OSB. paper \$3.50
 An apt title and a very helpful book
Word into Silence, by Dom John Main, OSB. paper \$3.95
 We are happy to introduce our Oblates and friends to the teaching on prayer of the Prior of our Montreal Community.
Being a Christian, by Ladislaus Boros hard cover \$7.95
 Anyone familiar with Boros, will appreciate this study of the Beatitudes.
Saccidananda, A Christian Approach to the Advaitic Experience hard cover \$10.00
 I join my hope to that of the Catholic Bishop of Varanasi that this authentically Christian and profoundly Indian way of understanding the Church will find a wide audience. The author is the Benedictine monk, Abhishiktananda.

Fall Festival: Favorable weather and a spirit of cooperation provided the context for the Festival again this year. We are grateful for and proud of all who are a part of our thanksgiving and who spend their time, talents, and finances with us every year. Mr. and Mrs. Vincent Lisi of Elmira won the trip to Europe; Mr. Austin Lourie of Brooklyn the Leitz Pradovit Projector; Fr. Thomas Smith of Newark, the hand crocheted coverlet; Sam Josbeno of Elmira, the Quasar TV; Mr. and Mrs. John Cupakas, the electric blanket; Bruce Segal of Alfred, the luggage; Fr. Thomas Hagerty of Brooklyn, the clock radio; Mary Morrell of Elmira, the silver pen; Mrs. Katy Votava, the energy savers. May the Lord bless each of you as only God can. We want to thank our chairpersons, Bob and Mary Ann Hain in a very special way for their labors and concern during the last two Festivals. We are also praising, Br. Pierre and the monastic steering committee and all our workers. Finally we congratulate Bob and Mary Ellen Ivers, Ken Lindquist, Linda Rutenkroger, Br. Luke and Br. Stephen, for the extraordinary art exhibition in honor of the 1500th Anniversary of St. Benedict.

Mount Saviour Cookbook, by Oblates and Friends of Mount Saviour paper \$6.00

This popular book is in its third printing!

Adventure Inward, by Morton T. Kelsey paper \$7.95

Christian growth through personal journal writing.

Benedict's Disciples, edited by David Hugh Farmer 354 pages, hard cover \$26.95

This book is about PEOPLE; these form an impressive procession reaching from the sixth to the twentieth century. They include famous monastic figures of nuns and monks as well as some known only to a few. Each chapter has a bibliography to provide further reading. A final chapter "Benedictines of Today" by Dom Stephen Otiger, gives an overall view of the Benedictine Confederations today. Maps, on endpapers, of Medieval and Modern Monasteries following the Rule of St. Benedict in England and Wales, are by St. Cecilia's Abbey, Ryde.

Brother David Steindl-Rast, Conferences on Cassettes

Conferences given to the Kirkridge Community, 1980

- 1237 — What makes prayer contemplative? \$6.00
 1238 — How to go about contemplative prayer \$6.00
 1239 — Practical implications of contemplative prayer \$6.00

It is difficult to give a title broad enough and precise enough to indicate the unifying vision which Brother David brings to creation and redemption. The following conferences were given to Mount Saviour Community in Lent, 1980.

- 1253 — Primordial religion \$6.00
 1254 — The poetics of creation and redemption \$6.00
 1255 — Hero mythology \$6.00
 1256 — Relating mythology to life \$6.00
 1257 — Cross is our only hope \$6.00
 1258 — Prayer — the thread of life \$6.00
 1259 — Lift up your mind and heart to God \$6.00

N.Y. State customers please add 7% sales tax.

Postage and handling, add \$1.00

SAINT PETER'S BARN, Mount Saviour Monastery. A four color print of the watercolor painting by Brother Luke Pape.

Prints, 4 color offset on 80 pound text paper.

Limited number of 250 prints, numbered and signed by Bro.

Luke.

Size: 21 x 14-1/2" at \$20.00 each

13-1/2 x 9" at \$15.00 each

Remaining prints:

Size: 21 x 14-1/2" at \$15.00 each

13-1/2 x 9" at \$10.00 each

New York State customers please add 7% sales tax.

Packing and first class postage, add \$1.50 per order.

MOUNT SAVIOUR SHOP

Mount Saviour Road

Pine City, NY 14871