



CHRISTMAS 1986

NO. 68

Mount Saviour Pine City, N.Y. 14871

Chronicle



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

O Admirable commercium

The above title may give the impression that this brief Christmas greeting is a commentary on the US Bishop's Pastoral on the economy. The phrase is rather the classic Christian cry with regard the Incarnation. "What a wonderful exchange . . .". What is wonderful is not only what is exchanged, but the exchange itself. It is a cry of wonder, awe, and joy at our unity and life with God and one another embodied in such a way that access to each other and to God is possible in the way which previously was only possible within the Triune God.

The prayer of Christ in the 17th chapter of John's Gospel expresses all this very beautifully. "May they all be one, just as, Father, you are in me and I am in you so that they also may be one in us so that the world may believe it was you who sent me. I have given them the glory you gave me that they may be one as we are one. With me in them and you in me, may they be so perfected in unity that the world will recognize that it was you who sent me and that you have

Continued on Inside

Admirable Commercium Continued

loved them as you loved me. Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, so that they may always see my glory which you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world I have made your name known to them and will continue to make it known, so that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and so that I may be in them”.

The action of God becoming a human child in the womb of Mary and the action of the Incarnate God nursing at his mother's breast is an expression and evidence of the wonderful exchange. It is not a one-way giving on the part of either Mary or God. It is an imperceptible exchange that will continue in a more and less evident fashion as the child grows in stature and grace.

What about us? What is the evidence that God has entered into this exchange with me personally or with us? The answer is very simple: our new found ability to take the long view and a sense of humor. That was all the evidence Mary had. Notice the difference in her reply to the angel: “How can this happen . . .” and her wonder-filled words to Elizabeth: “My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour . . .”. Certainly a change in her viewpoint and a delight in God's sense of humor.

Do ponder all this in your heart — the words of



Christ noted above; the deed of God in the Incarnation; the response of Mary. It will happen with you as with Christ and Mary and Christians throughout the ages, you will find your joy in believing being expressed in words ever ancient and ever new: “What a wonderful exchange”.

In Xto

Fr Placidus

Jottings from Fr Placid's Chronicle for 1986

For our Community Retreat in January, Fr Leonard Vickers of St Anselm's Abbey in Washington was a God-send and a very great blessing. On the 21st of March, the Solemnity of St Benedict, we were especially grateful to have had Br John of Taize with us. Pope John XXIII called this ecumenical monastery in Southern France “a bit of Springtime”. It is one Papal pronouncement that all who have been there can endorse. Br John sent us an address Pope John Paul II gave to a large gathering of young people when he himself visited Taize recently. In April we were able to receive a group of Russian clergy who were part of a larger number of Russians visiting the USA. Rev. Michael Jupin of Christ's Episcopal Church in Corning was gracious enough to arrange the visit. Another ‘ecumenical’ event was the portrayal of Julian of Norwich of Roberta Nobleman on a memorable Wednesday evening June. The Company at Kirkridge brought us a lively and challenging few days with Sr Joan Chittester in our midst.

It was a great joy to welcome representatives from Benedictine monasteries of the Northeast from Vespers of Sunday until the morning of Wednesday the last week in July. We have begun a series of very unstructured gatherings in order to learn from one another something of the manifold riches or the Benedictine-response to the challenges of life in our times and region. Aware of our autonomy and differences of origin and history, we desire to come in closer contact with one another to explore our common values and our common monastic vocation. This sort of association is just in its infancy and we ask your prayers that it may continue. We also want to encourage religious and especially other Bene-

dictines to do the same. We use 'a day's drive' as a radius to delimit our region. Monks from St Vincent's, St Anselm's in Washington DC and in Manchester NH, Newton, Morristown, Weston, and Montreal made the journey this year. We were happy to have had monks from St Anselm's in Washington DC staying with us at times during the Summer—Fr Lonard, Fr Edward, Br Boniface, Br Philip, Br Aelred, and Fr Christopher. Fr Radbert Kohlhaas of Maria Laach managed to 'pop' in and out. Among the wider Benedictine family, Fr Matthew Kelty and Br Paul Quenon of Gethsemani graced us with their presence.

The first profession of Br Gereon on 23 June and the final profession of Br Nathan on 9 August were focal points for us last Summer. Some of the family and friends of both monks were able to join in the festivities. They enabled it to be a full sign of the Church at our house sanctifying its members. Br Nathan's brother, Robert Munsch is a very famous man in Canada. He is a storyteller of great wit and imagination and the idol of every 3-6 yr old in the land. He demonstrated his ability to captivate an audience much older in years! The Ordination of Br Paul Geraghty of the Montreal Priory was another blessed event.

Rain threatened all Hospitality Day in September, but we were able to carry it off with the help of many friends and visitors. The community took an outing on the Erie Canal and that put the seal on Summer. Fr Dan Magni increased our joy by beginning his Postulancy this Fall. That brings us closer to Winter than I really want to be.

We had a funeral mass for Br David's mother who died on November 18, 1986. We recommend her to your prayer and we express our sympathy to her family for their love and devotion.

Announcing: Our Sheep Products Catalogue. The catalogue is available on request and contains information on the sheepskins, wool mattress covers, a variety of styles of bicycle seats, and house dusters which work at short and long ranges.

Knitting yard from our wool processed by Bartlett Yarns of Harmony, Maine is also available. We will not be replenishing our supply of this particular item so act soon to insure delivery.



Solemn Profession of Br. Nathan

On Saturday, August 9, Br. Nathan Munsch professed solemn vows as a monk of Mt. Saviour. A thirty five year old, Br. Nathan comes to us from Pittsburgh where he was a high school teacher prior to joining the monastery in 1980.

The story of Br. Nathan's vocation to the monastery goes back many years. A 1973 graduate of the University of Notre Dame, Br. Nathan first learned of Mt. Saviour during his freshman year through an article in the Notre Dame student magazine which described the experiences of a group of students who had spent the summer of 1969 at the monastery as part of a retreat program organized by the Notre Dame Program for the study of non-violence.

The following year Br. Nathan was in foreign study in France and made the acquaintance of a young Frenchman studying for the priesthood. The seminarian happened to be a Benedictine monk and invited Br. Nathan to visit his monastery, named Landevennec, on the coast of Brittany. Before returning to the United States, Br. Nathan motor scootered through Brittany, stopped to visit Anselm at Landevennec, and found himself in the midst of a vibrant, flourishing, hospitable Benedictine community. Surrounded for the first time by the divine office, liturgy, prayer, communal spirit and hospitality of a Benedictine house, Br. Nathan first experienced an attraction to the monastic life. Before leaving Br. Nathan asked Anselm if anything like this existed in the United States. Anselm replied that the American house they

Continued on Back Page

Solemn Profession Continued

had heard the best reports about was named Mt. Saviour Monastery.

Electing to major in history upon returning to Notre Dame, Br. Nathan was introduced to the rule of St. Benedict and the importance of monasticism in a course on medieval history. In the summer of 1972, Br. Nathan signed up for the continuing Notre Dame retreat program and, with five other Notre Dame students, spent ten weeks at Mt. Saviour partaking in the monastic life and also witnessing the memorable "Hurricane Agnes" flood of that summer that devastated the Chemung valley beneath the monastery.

The following year several of the students who had been on the retreat together developed an interest in the Program of Liturgical Studies at Notre Dame. As a participant in this group Br. Nathan developed an abiding sense of the importance of liturgy and common prayer as the heart of the Church and the heart of each Christian community. It was this conviction which eventually led him to Mt. Saviour well known for its role in the American Liturgical movement.

Br. Nathan graduated from Duquesne University with a master's degree in classical languages in 1976 and taught High School for three years. In 1980, after traveling in Europe and the Middle East, he joined Mt. Saviour where his quiet presence has been appreciated by com-



MOUNT SAVIOUR YARNS

100% pure wool from our flock

100% wool Fishermen type yarns two and three ply and Icelandic type bulky.

Send a self addressed envelope for free samples and order forms.



Mount Saviour Monastery • Pine City, New York • 14871

munity and guests for the past six years during which he has held various responsibilities as librarian, woodcutter, cook and translator.

When asked what it feels like to make solemn vows in the modern world he comments, "I must admit, it's a bit scary. I find it easy to be overcome by worry about the future of my vocation or the future of the monastery but the most important thing I have learned in the past six years is to recognize that we can neither predict nor control the future and so it does little good to worry about it. We must do what seems best in the present and leave the future to God. One of the verses that I sang in latin during the profession translates 'let me not be disappointed in my hopes.' That pretty well expresses how I feel."

The profession ceremony followed by a festive meal in the monastery refectory took place at 11:00 on August ninth and was attended by about 100 people including members of Br. Nathan's family, visiting monks, friends and oblates from the Elmira area.

Mount Saviour Book Shop Suggests the Following Titles:

New Testament Message Series, Biblical-theological commentary

MATTHEW, by John P. Meier. pbk\$ 12.95
MARK, Wilfrid Harrington, OP. pbk\$ 8.95
LUKE, Eugene La Verdere, SSS. pbk\$ 10.95
JOHN, James McPolin, SJ. pbk\$ 7.95

Old Testament Message Series

PSALMS, VOL. I, Carroll Stuhlmueller, C.P.\$ 12.95
PSALMS, VOL. II\$ 10.95

A CHRISTIAN'S PRAYER BOOK, Psalms, Poems and prayers for the Church's Year. pbk\$ 4.50

GRATEFULNESS, THE HEART OF PRAYER, by Bro. David Steindl-Rast. pbk\$ 6.95

THE LORD'S PRAYER, Leonardo Boff. pbk\$ 6.95

QUEST FOR GOD, Studies in prayer and symbolism, Abraham Joshua Heschel. pbk\$ 8.95

DAY BY DAY, The Notre Dame Prayerbook for students. pbk\$ 2.95

MARKED FOR LIFE, prayer in the Easter Christ, by Dame Maria Boulding, OSB. pbk\$ 3.50

THE PSALMS, a new translation, with notes by Fr. Alexander Jones. pbk\$ 3.95

THE COMING OF GOD, by Dame Maria Boulding, OSB. We are an Advent People; we look for the coming of God. pbk\$ 9.00

ON THE INCARNATION, by St. Athanasius introduction by C.S. Lewis. pbk\$ 4.95

SEEKING GOD, the way of St. Benedict. pbk\$ 4.95

TO ACT JUSTLY, LOVE TENDERLY, WALK HUMBLY, by Brueggemann, Parks, Groome. pbk ...\$ 3.95

AVAILABILITY, the problem and the gift. pbk\$ 5.95

BELONGING, issues of emotional living in an age of stress, an Affirmation House book. pbk\$ 2.95

CELIBATE LOVING, encounter in three dimensions, Sr. Mary Anne Huddleston, IHM, editor. Member of academic & spiritual formation faculty, St. Mary's Seminary. pbk\$ 9.95

AIDS, A CATHOLIC CALL FOR COMPASSION, by Eileen P. Flynn, assistant professor of medical ethics, St. Peter's College. pbk\$ 4.95

MOUNT SAVIOUR COOKBOOK, illustrated, drawings by Bro. Aelred Shanley, Marge Lucarelli, Helen Siegl, 300 pages, 3rd printing!! pbk\$ 7.95

Mail Orders: write to Mount Saviour Shop
1825 Mt. Saviour Rd.

Pine City, NY 14871-9770

New York State orders add 7 percent sales tax.
Postage & packing add \$1.00. Phone 607-734-1688