

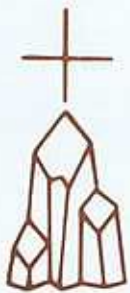


EPIPHANY 1990

NO. 72

# Mount Saviour Pine City, N.Y. 14871

Chronicle



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

## Living on the Fault

The recent earthquake in California has made us a bit uneasy about the possibility of sudden disaster in our lives. The unexpectedness and the extensiveness of the destruction are both unsettling. We ordinarily don't avert to the fact that the earth's fault lines run elsewhere than up the California coast. Not only are there many known fault lines in other parts of the country, but an earthquake in the Eastern region will result in disproportionately more damage to lives and property since the earth's crust is older and more brittle here. Now that we are much more aware of living or within reach of a fault, what can we do about it?

All of us have been living on a Fault of another kind, an Original Fault, it has been called. The mystery of

the Incarnation which we celebrate at Christmas is the result of God's past and present response to our precarious situation. Now there is a new creation in the making, a new heaven and a new earth without any fault lines. There is a Rock on which we are grounded and on which we can build our lives with confidence. Since this Fault is within as well as around us, we couldn't move away from it. God moved, so to speak, to dwell with us and secure us to the Godhead by a bond that cannot be broken. This new bond is the risen humanity of Jesus Christ and the gift of his Holy Spirit, the very humanity he took from Mary and with which God dwelt among us.

(Continued on Next Page)

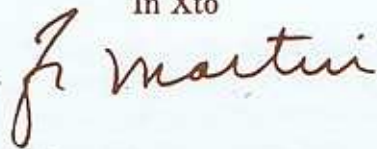


Just as the fault lines in the earth run deep and hidden, so are the fault lines in us and our society. Racism, sexism, biases of various kinds usually lie deep within us until some event causes them to surface. The ethnic character of our neighborhood changes or threatens to change, the children begin to make 'new' friends, drugs, unemployment when it strikes us or our families, costs of health care or education when they are vital to our loved ones, events of this nature can shock us or jolt us out of or complacency. We are forced to respond to these jolts with limited time or resources and we realize how shaky and unstable our foundations are and how few are our options. It is at these times when we suffer injustice that we begin to realize how human sin has complicated beyond remedy difficult enough situations. This can happen at times of quiet prayer or when a text or scripture makes us aware of rumblings deep within ourselves. How mindlessly we live so much of the time.

The options for people living along the earth's fault lines are: to move away, to build according to criteria (codes and laws) and on foundations that will withstand any quakes, to ignore the whole thing and rebuild on sand like the foolish person in the gospel or certain Californians in the Marina district. The options for us on the Original Fault line are the same. First of all, we must recognize there is a fault line that runs deep and usually hidden within ourselves and our society. God in Christ can be the foundation of our lives or we can ignore the whole thing and do nothing. We can rebuild after a shock on the sand of our wealth, talents, or arrogance. Since we cannot move to God, we permit God to move to us in whatever way God chooses. That is what Mary and Joseph did.

We might remember, too, that someone described the Fault we live on as a happy fault because it merited so great a redeemer. Our Christmas greeting this year is Happy Fault! Submit to the new building code (what St Paul called the Law of Christ). Love one another as Christ loves us so that you and everyone might be grounded in the faultless relationship of the Risen Lord with God and which is given as a gift that we might live in his peace.

In Xto



## Profile: Br. Pierre

In Three Rivers, Quebec, on August 12, 1940, my seven brothers and sisters were sent to various uncles and aunts when native Indians, passing by, dropped a ten and a half pound baby; this was the way the birth phenomenon was explained in my family. I never gained much since: I never exceeded 125 lbs. or 5 feet 2 inches. I shall mention some of my assignments with some historical background.

## Music

My first contact with music was at a park where a marching band gave a weekly concert. Less shy at 5 years old, I used to mimic the conductor in front of the bandstand. At 9 years old, I joined a boys' choir that specialized in Renaissance music. Gregorian chant was one factor that made me join St-Benoit-du-Lac in 1961. When I moved to Mount Saviour in 1966, I found a solid liturgical tradition: proper time for the liturgy of the hours and good quality in the reading and singing. In 1976, I became choir master. I felt the need to add some accompaniment besides the guitar. We got a small harp and, after 2 lessons, I practiced enough to accompany the psalmody. The most difficult aspect of this assignment was the selection of a repertoire that is singable without an organ and texts that are not offensive to the feminist movement. I deeply believe that the real issue does not stem from language; rather, like the separatist movement in Quebec, from the standpoint of rights and respect. When we have more contacts with history and other languages, words and symbols become less problematic because they are variables dealing with literature rather than present social issues. Singing should add to the meaning of the word. Participation is an important aspect of the liturgy; when the choir becomes a battle field due to variations in pitch, rhythm and "musical distractions", I would agree that "silence is golden".

## Farm

Since my arrival, I have been involved with the land: helping with the harvest, herdsman after Br. Lawrence's death, woodsman while I was guest master and shepherd when Br. James' hip worsened. How can a city boy cope with such "alien" trades? Should I say that it is in the blood since both my parents were raised on a farm? Working with animals requires a great deal of patience; friendly responses from some animals are very rewarding. Although forestry work is dangerous (chain saws, falling trees), much satisfaction comes from a clean forest, a nice pile of firewood and healthy physical exercise.

## Technology

During my college years, I joined the Royal Canadian Air Force (reserve) to earn some money in the summer. I was a radar operator and got my first introduction to "gadgets". While I was a monk at St-Benoit-du-Lac, I learned all the stages of printing: paper cutting, dark room process, printing, folding and shipping. That experience was put in use here with the preparation of the Chronicle and mailing. In the early 1980's, I got a \$100 computer and learned the jargon for programming and experimenting. A benefactor built our first computer that I used for the guest reservations. Later, they were introduced in the business office and in the library. Even though my experiments with a wind generator and a solar heater were not successful, due to lack of funds and equipment, I keep my eyes open for solar energy (electricity) in the future.



## Interests

Once, I was asked by a teenager: "What kind of excitements do you have up on the hill?" My answer: "If you believe in the gospel message, you can find a lot of excitements." It went right over his head; but the more I thought about it, the truer it became because I believe that there a God worthy of praise, that Christ's message, especially in the beatitudes, gives hope and that we are greatly rewarded when we are attentive to the inspiration of the Spirit. The sharing in the life of the Trinity can be overwhelming. One other time, I was asked: "Do you miss life?" The answer is easier: "For me, life is growth and there is lots of room for it in a monastery." Lately, I was able to bring back memories of my seminary college when Latin, Greek, French and English literature absorbed most of our time. History and human behavior were analysed and offered an excellent base for knowledge and truth. Such a formation helped me keep cool when I was a hockey referee and prevents me from getting too excited about the latest trend. I spent some years studying how people were seeking God throughout the centuries. It was a good way to know and respect other spiritualities. Now with the proper use of VCRs, educational programs and literature can be included in a monastic schedule and enrich those who benefit from visual aids. The arts found room in the Medieval monasteries and contributed to the Western culture. Mount Saviour can be proud of its humble contribution. The schedule allows balance for prayer, studies and work according to one's talents and limitations. At times, this balance is not achieved because of "conflicts of perfection": difficulty to say "no", imposing highest standards, planning with the ideal circumstances, etc.

I am grateful for an excellent health since it is so important to care for the 330 sheep until they multiply in the spring. My part-time work in the business office is compatible with my "law and order" temperament. I pray that we may be faithful stewards of God's creation so that "in everything, God may be glorified."



"Br Pierre inspecting the sheep with Pola, the guard dog and Jesse, the sheep dog."

## News Notes

Many of you take on the daunting task of the annual Christmas letter and do quite well with it. I've settled for a resolution to put out news notes more frequently. Lest I be guilty of improving the pavement to you-know-where, one or two news notes are imperative immediately.

Fr. Damasus insisted that "the end is the beginning," by which he meant a good beginning insured a favorable outcome. The adage proved true for us this year since we began with a retreat by Fr. Aiden Shea of St Anselm's Abbey in Washington, DC. Fr. Aiden focused us on the metaphor and reality of a monastery as a "school of the Lord's service." The expression is St. Benedict's, but often enough we overlook or forget or smother what the monastery was set up to be and to do.

One happy experience in this school is teaching our guests to be shepherds and learning from them a lot about a community cooperative enterprise. Our sheep shearing session is a two day affair scheduled for Memorial Day week-end. It is our version of an Amish barn raising in that it involves the talents and energies of men, women, and children in a wide variety of activities necessary to do one thing well.

Our greatest joy is in the increase of what St Benedict calls "a good flock", by which he means the monks in the community. Br Seraphim (Edward) Winslow is now in simple vows. Like George Bush, Br Seraphim comes from Maine and several other places. Most recently he taught science at Gilmore Academy, conducted by Holy Cross Brothers in Gates Mills, Ohio. His fertile imagination shows most obviously in "fix-it" skills and the computer. It is also evident in art and wood working. Br Michael Gallagher of Boston and Philadelphia and Fr Peter Funk of Philadelphia began their novitiate at Pentacost. Br Michael's background includes law and music. He incorporates boundless energy and the widest range of talents. Br Peter is also blessed with youthful energies and brings an ability to teach and a sensitivity to the situation of others that we sorely need. He has talents for baking and breaking the bread of scripture in excellent homilies. All three are down-to-earth people and bring a blessed reality factor into our life. The gift or talent, above all others they bring, is the gift of themselves. They have set aside careers to enter this school of the Lord's service, to lay down their lives for all of us and all of you, thus embodying the dying and rising of our Lord's Paschal Mystery. We ask your prayers for them and for us, in this phase of their transformation in Christ, that our lives might show forth the life of Jesus as well as his death to sin.

The new roofs are on and we are grateful for the old ones 25 years of service. They have been "re-somethinged." I hesitate to say re-done since what is new is a little insulation and a thin rubber-like material on the sky side. We have quite a bit of surface so even a little is a lot according to the bill! Nevertheless, we are

(Continued on Next Page)



immensely thankful for the new technology, the original job, the workers, and the generosity of all of you who are helping us pay for the project. Especially credit goes to Br Gabriel who has been devoting considerable energy and concern over the past two years in order that the task was well conceived and carried out. He delayed his 25th anniversary trip until everything was successfully completed and enjoyed a well deserved rest in Europe. He has been able to stay with a pastor in Delemont, Switzerland, while tracing out the roots of his family. He was also able to visit our Fr Ansgar, who is chaplain to the Benedictine nuns in Denmark (where the Pope said Mass last June) and working in the Apostolic Delegation in Copenhagen. Br Gabriel followed up the Duffee side of the family tree in Northern Ireland.

## We ask your prayers for the following deceased:

**Chauncy Stillman & Lyman Stebbins** who were generous benefactors especially in the critical early days. Lyman's support went far beyond financial help and he was given the title Co-Founder of Mt. Saviour.

**Hank & Glenner Winslow**, aunt & uncle of Br Seraphim Winslow DeWitt Duffee, uncle of Br Gabriel Duffee.

**Alma Cormey**, niece of Fr Placid Cormey.

**Dr Flavio Galban**, brother of our Br Stephen Galban.

**Gloria Govantes**, mother of Enrique Govantes.

**Bette Drohan**, an Elmira Oblate, who typed every word in the cook book and who taught us selfless service over many years.

**Lawrence Everson** who had been a member of both the Mt. Saviour & Weston communities.

**Julie Louisnathan**, a neighbor whose promising young life was ended in an auto accident.

**Walter Staley**, a former postulant.

**Sarah Fisher**, a long-time oblate.

## Books recommended by Fr Martin:

**LIVING WITH CONTRADICTION: Reflections on the Rule of St Benedict** by Esther de Waal \$13.95.

This is a superb book on the Christian life by a layperson from the perspective of the Rule of St Benedict.

**SEEKING GOD** by the same author.

A commentary on the main themes of the Rule as applicable today. Finest commentary on Rule itself available \$4.50.

**SPIRITUALITY FOR EVERYDAY LIVING: an adaption of the Rule of St Benedict** by Brian Taylor \$4.95.

This is by an Episcopal priest, married, two children and a mortgage.

**ST BENEDICT FOR THE LAITY** by Eric Dean \$4.95.

Eric Dean, unfortunately recently deceased, Presbyterian minister, also husband and father.

The four books mentioned above, all written by people who are not monks make the riches of Christian life in its monastic form available to everyone today and witness our oneness in Christ and one another. The territory is the same, the geography wonderfully different!

**WHO WE ARE IS HOW WE PRAY** by Charles Keating \$7.95.

This is the fifth printing which should be recommendation enough. Dr. Keating helps us to match our spiritual response to the first of God's gifts to us, namely, our own personality.

**AT THAT TIME: cycles and seasons in the life of a christian.** Edited by James Wild \$4.40.

For all christians who seek deeper insight about how the eternal God enfleshes Jesus in time and space to redeem us.

**ADDICTION AND GRACE** by Gerald May M.D.

A rare book that it is difficult to praise sufficiently. A reviewer wrote that it mediates what it celebrates: GRACE. That is true.

**DISPUTED QUESTIONS IN THE LITURGY TODAY** by Rev. John Huel \$4.50.

The Liturgy Committee of the Archdiocese of Chicago has long been renown for its leadership role in the church in the United States. This small book will be valuable to any christian looking for wisdom and clarity in the confusion of opinions effecting parish worship.

**COMMITMENT AND COMMUNITY** by George Rupp \$8.95.

Rupp is President of Rice University and we offer this as a fine example of ecumenical concern and the impact of religion, politics, and culture in our day.

Mail Orders: Write to: **MT. SAVIOUR SHOP**  
1825 Mt. Saviour Rd.  
Pine City, NY 14871-9770

New York State orders add 7 percent sales tax  
Postage & packing add \$2.00 in the U.S. Phone 607-734-1688.  
Prices subject to change.

## Lamb Meat Available

Side of lamb 10-15 lbs. cut and wrapped (leg, chops)  
3.25/lb.

Selling separately:

Gound Meat	1.15
Liver	1.00
Kidneys	.75
Heart	.50

Pick-up time: every day between 10:00 and 11:30 a.m.  
or by appointment.

