



"...the love of God appeared so that we might become heirs in hope of eternal life."

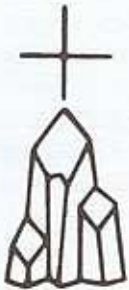
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South side of St. Peter's showing the 100 yr. old stone portion and the addition of 1929. Both sections were completely renovated.

Christmas 1993 No. 75

# Mount Saviour Pine City, N.Y. 14871

Chronicle



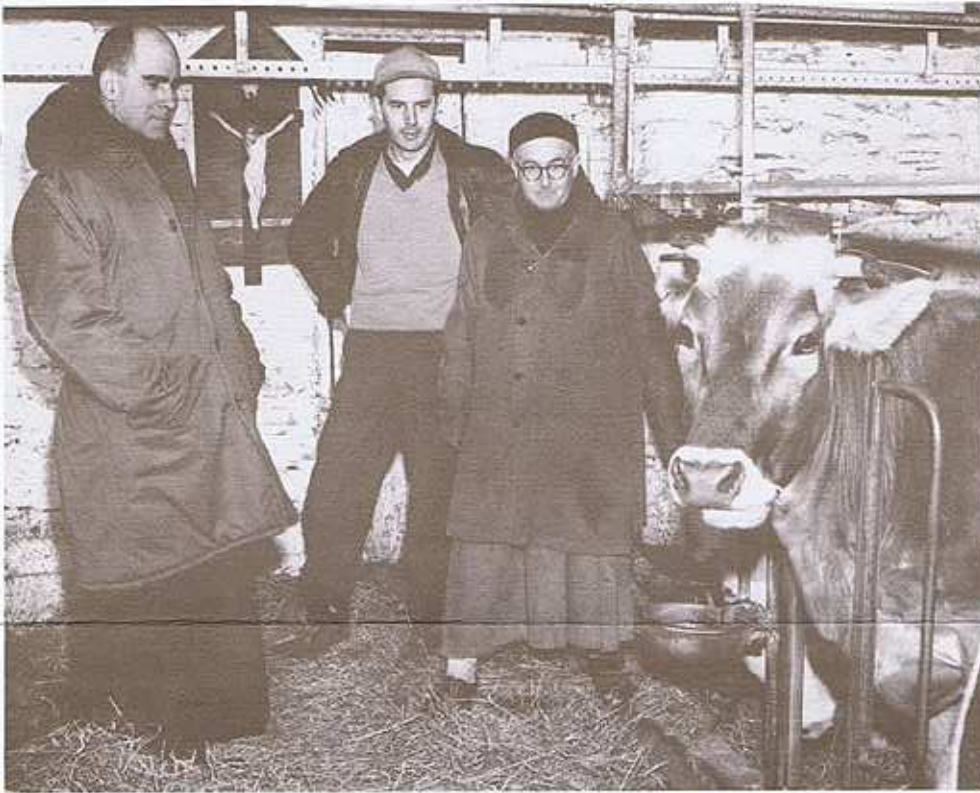
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## VERITATIS SPLENDOR

The title of the recent papal encyclical, *The Splendor of Truth*, is an appropriate caption to describe some of the events and the truth of our faith that we have encountered here at Mt Saviour since the last Chronicle and the letter of May 1993. World Youth Day, which took place in Denver, got more media coverage than the gathering of youth here at Mt Saviour. The media tried hard to spin up the vast differences between the young people and an aging Pope. They were stymied by the overwhelming evidence that the youth were sincerely seeking to live lives of integrity and commitment. We could have advised them .

The five young men who shared our life for five weeks this summer between 1 July and 7 August, attending classes and following our life of work and prayer, gave us an opportunity to see the world from their perspective and it gave us much hope for the future. The sincerity of their search, their questions, their openness to learn from us elders gave new meaning to *The Splendor of Truth*.

We are most grateful to our good friends Dr Anthony Cernera and his family and Fr. Michael Perry, who gave up their summers' to facilitate this program for us. We plan to repeat it again for the 5th time in 1994 from 1 July until 7 August.



Fr. Placid at age 49 with Fr. Martin, Fr. Joseph Riordan and Brown Swiss Miss.

Our lives are oriented towards the future which does not mean we reject the past. Br. Luke's work on the Pape and Durkin family history has been published and much of his research was accepted by the Metropolitan Toronto Reference Library's History Department.

The farm was diversified this year by the addition of some beef cattle. They eat off us all summer and we eat off them all winter. That is the splendid truth of our mutual creatureliness. We also had a splendid garden and a wonderful orchard crop this year.

The splendid truth of our existence includes death and resurrection. Helen Mann died in June and Harold Fisher in October this year. The spouses of both had predeceased them. Helen and Henry Mann met Fr. Damasus in NYC before Mt Saviour was founded. They were a tremendous moral support to him and Henry's business skills and devotion helped us come to be and stay in being. Sarah and Harold Fisher were among the first Elmiraans to give us support and encouragement. They were all life-long friends and the truth is we wouldn't have life without them.

A simple truth is that everyone who comes does not find their ultimate vocation at Mt Saviour. A desire to teach in a more academic setting while remaining a Benedictine monk has led Br. Nathan to try his vocation at St Vincent's Archabbey near Pittsburg. Our blessing and best wishes go with him. Br. Benedict Stabile has returned with a greater confidence in his vocation here. Three others are about to join us so in spite of departures and

near arrivals, our numbers are edging up. That is a splendid truth!

A final truth is that our horizon goes beyond the surrounding hills. We have made visits to Haiti, the Dominican Republic and Mexico. The question always arises "what can we do to help these people?" One answer is to help them help themselves. With this in mind we are now selling very excellent coffee, grown at plantations in Guatemala operated by the San Lucas Mission. Friends of Mt. Saviour have spent time as volunteers there. One group has taken the task of finding markets for their coffee, so that the bulk of the profit returns to the people. "Juan Ana" Coffee, whole beans or ground is \$6.95 for 17 oz. and your enjoyment of a rich cup of coffee is enhanced

by the fact that you are helping people enable themselves to break the cycle of poverty.

Our blessings to you during this Christmas season. Our good news is that the renovated part of St Peter's houses candidates for our monastic life and reservations for Sabbatical time are being received. Remember the place in your prayers and pocketbooks. Remember also our summer program for young men 20-35 yrs. of age, 1 July to 7 August. If you know of anyone you think might profit from this experience, please have them get in touch with us.

In Xto,



Tom Maley and Fr. Martin hardly recognize the room they shared with Fr. Basil de Pinto almost 40 yrs. ago..



Matthew Kells, Bill Platz and Bob Hill learning that sheep can be smarter than humans.

The splendor of truth shone out in another way with a workshop by Br. Ronald Fogerty, a Marist brother from Australia. The workshop helped us to see the splendor of truth in ourselves and in our relationships. Three years ago Ronnie made us aware of our emotional illiteracy in that we can't read our emotions accurately, nor those of others, nor those arising during our encounters with others. Since one of our relationships is with the Risen Lord, the workshop isn't just about humanistic self-fulfilment. *Lectio Divina*, the prayerful reading of scripture and the events of our lives, our prayer in choir and when alone, are all affected by our ability to recognize, admit and deal with the data and energy our emotions give us.

Last year we dealt with the so-called unconscious and how to become aware of the dynamics operating below the level of our awareness. This year, among other topics, we studied our need to control our lives and environment and how, in doing so, we often choose to stay bitter, blaming, discouraged and negative. Over the years I've come to realize all defeat is self-defeat. Br. Ronald exposed the process and happily how we can deal with the energy in our needs and emotions.

A third splendid truth exemplified Fr. Damasus' teaching that a monk is a man of the church. For the past 3 years, the Diocese of Rochester has been in a Synod process. Br. Gabriel and Fr. Martin attended the final sessions as delegates since the monastery had formed a sub-group of Our Lady of Lourdes parish contingent. Meetings were held in the monastery in the Fall of 1992 and the Spring of 1993 in order that people who might come to Mass here could take part in the synod process. Brs. Bruno and Nathan as well as several lay facilitators helped the participants go through the many issues proposed for consideration. The final sessions in Rochester were the best organized meetings the world has ever seen. There were over 1,000 delegates and everything

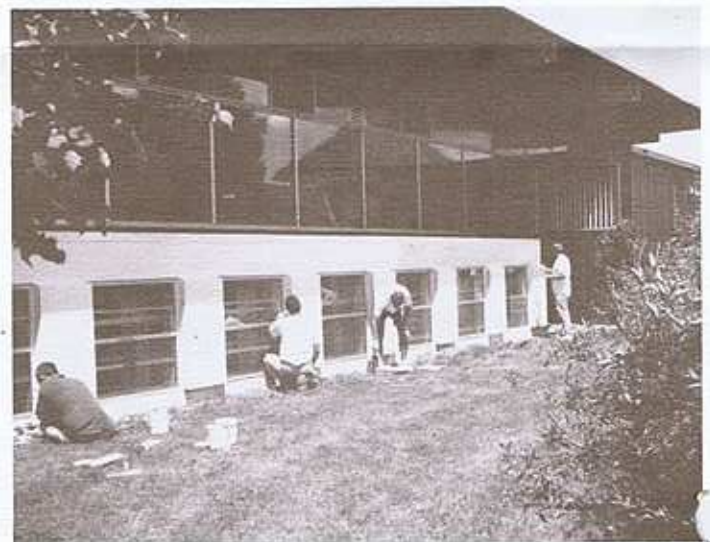
started on time and was completed within the time allotted. It was truly a Spirit-filled event.

Fr. Placid celebrated his 90th birthday in grand style. This is not an obituary so we will not give an account of his accomplishments. He has more one-liners than Woody Allen and a better reputation to go with them. We tried to find the picture of him jumping from a boat to the dock which was taken either at Fort Augustus in Scotland or Portsmouth R.I. We settled for the one you see here.

Br. Sebastian chalked up 25 years among us thanks to quadruple by-pass heart surgery in June. His new wound adds to those he acquired in North Africa and France in WWII.

St Peter's farm house (shown on front page) was also given a new lease on life by reason of its renovation which was completed in August. We blessed the beautiful creature as part of the Dedication Day festivities. It expresses another splendid truth about Benedictine life. Our care for material things expresses our belief in the Incarnation and our gratitude for all God's gifts. Br. Gabriel has shepherded the project from inception to completion. Actually its completion will be when it is paid for, which we can still use considerable help to accomplish. We are very grateful for your response to the Dedication Day appeal.

Part of the beauty in our lives comes from concerts that our friends and various artists perform at the monastery. Melissa Quinn, who helped Madeleva this summer and who is now studying in Italy, gave us a lovely evening in August. Clare Gonta Smock and her students Brian and Laura Kahl had a program of romantic piano and violin that was splendid.



Tom Sawyer's friends painting the Monastery's West Building.



Br. Luke Pape with Ms. Christine Mosser, Senior Collections Librarian in Toronto.

Left: Summer Program participants and Staff.

### NEWS ITEMS

There are now six priests in the community so we can handle many more Mass Offerings. The Rochester Diocese set the stipend at \$10. We will also accept less.

To be able to take an income tax deduction over \$250 for the year, you must be able to show a receipt. A cancelled check is no longer adequate. We will issue a receipt even for Mass Offerings since the \$250 is an accumulative figure for the year. Please save your receipts.

### BOOKS RECOMMENDED BY FR. MARTIN:

**THE GOSPEL OF LUKE:** commentary by Luke Timothy Johnson. In spite of the expense, please read. We need a guide in reading scripture and we do need to read scripture. This is excellent, \$29.95

**TOO DEEP FOR WORDS:** Praying Based on Scripture, by Thelma Hall. Less expensive and very helpful, \$5.95.

**THE PSALMS IN INCLUSIVE LANGUAGE:** by Joseph Arackal, \$12.95

**FLOWERS IN THE DESERT:** Spirituality of The Bible, by Fr. Demetrius Dumm, \$8.95.

**CONTACT WITH GOD:** \$10.95, by Anthony de Melo, SJ, & **MORE ONE MINUTE NONSENSE:** \$10.95. We have a number of Anthony de Melo's books.

**PATHS IN SPIRITUALITY,** 2nd edition, by John MacQuarrie, \$10.95.

**SPIRITUAL DIRECTION:** The Encounter with God, by William Barry, SJ, \$7.95. This is an especially fine book.

We have a number of his books; the latest is **GOD'S PASSIONATE DESIRE AND OUR RESPONSE,** \$6.95

**A CASE FOR PEACE IN REASON AND FAITH,** by Monica Hellwig, \$6.95.

**THE AWAKENED HEART,** by Gerald May, \$12.00, and

**WILL AND SPIRIT,** \$20.00 and well worth it.  
**GRATEFULNESS - THE HEART OF PRAYER,** by Br. David Steindl-Rast, \$9.95, and a 90 minute cassette by Br. David,

**THE GRATEFUL HEART,** \$10.95.

**WHO TOLD YOU YOU WERE NAKED:** Freedom from Judgment, Guilt and Fear of Punishment, by John Raub, OCSO, \$9.95.

**SALT, LEAVEN AND LIGHT:** The Community Called Church, by T. Howland Sanks, SJ, \$21.95.

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