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# Mount Saviour *Pine City, N.Y. 14871*

Chronicle



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In October, the community had a workshop on authority with Br. Ronald Fogerty, a Marist Brother from Australia. At the end of the workshop, Br. Ronald added three sessions on "non-contentious dialogue" - what I shall simply call "true dialogue"- which he considered essential for enabling us to experience and exercise authority creatively. St. Benedict is very insistent on eliminating all forms of contentious dialogue from the community. In Chapter 3 of his Rule, he writes: "...the brothers are to express their opinions with all humility and not presume to defend their own views obstinately." In recent times, Paul VI spoke of dialogue as a new name for charity in his encyclical *Ecclesiam Suam* and Pope John Paul II quoted this in *Vita Consecrata* #74.

In the present era of "talk shows", we may think there is dialogue when two or more people are talking to each

other. They are, in fact, nearly perfect examples of what dialogue is not. As non-dialogue they are close to and sometimes surpassed by the verbal exchanges we hear on "sit-coms". We might better think of **dialogue** on the order of **diameter** or **diagnosis**: going through the center of a circle or to the core of a disease. True dialogue is a mutual search for truth or the solution to a problem through understanding the other's ideas, feelings, etc. It is not adversarial or antagonistic. It is evocative not provocative, disposing not proposing. We have to work at the attitude that makes true dialogue possible -what the author of the Letter to the Ephesians expressed as "living the truth in love." The primary goal of true dialogue is a unity of persons. Then preserving that unity of understanding and acceptance, the parties work on the solution to the problem or carry it as far forward as is possible at a given time in the context of a



A black and white photo doesn't do justice to Br Luke's lovely painting of St. Agnes commissioned by Msgr. Thomas Craven's parish in West Chester PA. We thank Graig Puffer who helped Br. Luke on this project.

true exchange. Other examples of what true dialogue is not are the negative advertising in the recent elections, the suspicious maneuvering by some of the major players in Bosnia, Palestine, Zaire and elsewhere.

I find a sincere appeal for true dialogue in Pope John Paul's call for unity of Christians set forth in his encyclical *Ut Unum Sint* (That all Might Be One). He admitted that his call for a commitment to ecumenism would be a serious challenge to the Catholic faithful, in part due to our lack of appreciation of the process of a true dialogue. The Pope also said we need to enter the completely interior space where all of us without exception must examine ourselves before the Father and ask whether we have been faithful to God's plan for the Church. We must pass from antagonism and conflict to recognizing each other as partners. We must desire reconciliation or unity in truth and foster this through prayer. Furthermore the Pope reminds us that the quest for Church unity is not something limited to specialists but is a responsibility for all baptized. In a key section, Pope John Paul says this is an immense task he can neither refuse nor carry out by himself: and he asks for help!

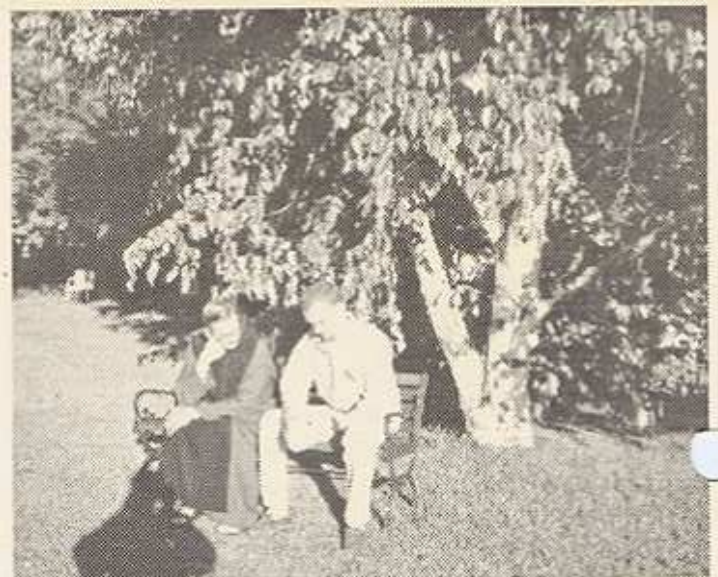
Archbishop John Quinn, the former Ordinary of San Francisco, to my mind, gave a perfect response to the Pope's invitation in his June 1996 lecture at Campion Hall, Oxford. I would urge you to read the entire lecture printed in the July 12, 1996 of *Commonweal*.

The Archbishop addressed areas that have been in the past stumbling blocks to unity, among which is the structure and functioning of the curia, and he did so as simply a case in point. Unfortunately, the response to this lecture, by supporters of both Pope and Archbishop seemed to fall into the talk show variety of 'dialogue', namely, a defensive stance that missed the whole point. Response to this exchange reveals a basic incapability to carry through in the attitude of true dialogue that both men had tried to initiate. It is just that stance that we as individuals and as Christians need to overcome if the serious problems of both church and society are going to be met.

What better example of true dialogue can there be than the one we celebrate in the Incarnation—the **Word made flesh**, the Mystery we celebrate during Advent and Christmastide. What better way to begin our dialogue of conversion that Pope John Paul urges on us than to ponder in our hearts, as did Mary, the dialogue we call the Incarnation and bring it forth in our flesh for the salvation of the world?

Earlier this year, in Philadelphia, Buffalo and Rochester, I spoke to Oblates and friends of Mt. Saviour and their guests about the need for monks and laity to enter the 21st Century together. I intend to return to those cities and further develop that topic and promote the pope's challenge to a dialogue of conversion "that all might be one...so the world might believe" the message of the Gospel. I invite you to join us if you can and to include us in your prayers.

In Xto,  
Fr Martin



Br. Gabriel and Tom Finan engaged in true dialogue.

## ADULT STUDY WEEK

From Vespers (6 PM) Sunday, June 8 through the noon meal Thursday, June 12 we will close the Guest Houses except for the 22 people who will study with us on the theme of the Kingdom of God. We can accommodate 6 couples and 10 singles. Conferences will be conducted by members of the community. Cost \$200 for singles and \$300 for a couple (married, of course).



This lively conversation surely continues 'in the clouds' between Ann Enyedy who died June 27, 1996 and Fr Placid who died June, 12, 1995.

## BUILDING RESTORATION PROJECT

We ran into some snags that delayed our planned repair on the passageway between the buildings and the chapel. Happily, we have a priority plan for the overall restoration. So we went ahead to replace of the 40+ year old windows in St Joseph's, the men's guest house. We also made repairs on the drainage systems and found some unexpected surprises. We put two valves in the main water line from the reservoir so we can shut off the water preventing the loss of 96,000 gallons as happened two years ago. All is ready to begin the repair on the passageway in the late spring and early summer of 97.

Each year we are gratified and sometimes surprised by bequests that have been provided for in the Wills of our friends. For those of you who may wish to do this, our official title is: The Benedictine Foundation of New York State.

## EIGHTH ANNUAL FIVE WEEK SUMMER PROGRAM FOR MEN 20-35 OF AGE

From 1 July through 6 August 1997, we will hold our 8th annual Summer Program for men 20-35 who intend to continue as Catholic laypersons and who would like to deepen their knowledge and experience of our faith by living in with the monastic community of Mt. Saviour. Please contact Fr. Martin by mail or phone 607 734 1688. Fax 1689.

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## NEWS NOTES:

The best news we have to offer is the daily miracle of our lives and our efforts to put into practice the fourth chapter of the Letter to the Ephesians. We thank you for your part in the miracle!

A special cause of joy within the community was the reception of Br. John Thompson, who made simple vows on November 1. Ray Giebler of Syracuse became a postulant on 3 July. We ask your prayers for the perseverance of both these men.

Some travel was on the agenda for several of us. Fr. Martin and Br. Gabriel went to Christ in the Desert for the blessing of their first abbot, Philip Lawrence. It was a wonderful occasion and they met a number of long-time friends, including Br. Christopher Gardner, Friedl and Martha Lang and the growing community itself.

Br. Pierre went to the Benedictine Musician's Guild conference in Duluth MN in June.

In September, Rita and Michael Moretti drove Br. Luke to Toronto for the grand opening of the new Toronto Ballet Building. Br. Luke was a member of the original company and designed both scenery and costumes for their early productions. Br. Luke was an honored guest and had a great time.

Fr. Martin drove back with his brother John, who retired from the Department of Philosophy at the University of Washington. They visited friends along the way, including an overnight stay at St. John's Abbey in Collegeville, MN, fulfilling the warning of St. Benedict that guests may "present themselves at unpredictable hours." John is now settled into the old milk parlor on the monastery road that has undergone numerous mutations over the years.

One trip that will not be forgotten is Br. Bruno's delivery of thirty-one ram lambs to auction. Somehow

a gap appeared in the tailgate and a number of lambs escaped on Route 17. Happily, a woman in the car following Br Bruno had a cellular phone. Br. Pierre was called and arrived on the scene with Merrick, our Border Collie. And quite a scene it was. The round-up involved a most helpful (female) sheriff, a passel of passersby, lines of stalled trucks, cars and skittish sheep. Eventually all but two were captured. They had fled across the four lane highway. One was easily caught. Curiosity led the last one to a return. He was discovered as he peeked over some insulation in the garage of a home near the road.

Water...and lots of water has been a continuing saga in our life. In August, Br John noticed water gushing from the ground near the Arts & Crafts building. The main water line had burst...again! It had been "fixed" after a similar breakdown during our January thaw. The storms of early November saw our roads washed away...again. This just after a very dedicated Town of Big Flats road crew finished the repaving for damage done by that January flooding. The repaired water main did not prevent the monastery cellars from getting eight inches of water. We may have missed a warning omen since Barbara Sekella, who keeps our bookstore at the cutting edge, reported that the Angel craze has begun to wane. The hottest item this season is Noah and some funny little monks!

We had a full compliment of visitors during the summer, who enjoyed cooler than usual weather and lots of sun. One visitor, who had not pre-registered, was a large black bear. It scared the bee-jabbers out of a piano tuner, and the incident was written up in the local paper.



One half of the participants in our 7th Annual Summer Program. Tom Finan is the cook and Peter Roaldi, the watcher. Paul Woods, the photographer and Benjamin Myers who was working up an appetite and improving his skills as a wood craftsman are invisible.



Abbot Thomas of Blue Cloud Abbey, Marvin S.D., Fr Martin, Abbot Gerald of St. Mary's Abbey, Morristown, NJ, and Abbot Jerome Kodell of New Subiaco Abbey in Arkansas are pictured at the Abbot's Congress outside Rocca di Papa, Italy.

We are always grateful for the financial support we receive during the year and especially for Dedication Day. You came through for us again and it is one of the factors that enables us to be here. We thank Elissa Quinn, vocalist, who accompanied Glenn McClure and the Paloco Steel Drum Band. their lively Calypso tunes still have us jumping.

The final bit of news, and very good news, is to report the election of Abbot Marcel Rooney as Abbot Primate of the Benedictines. He was Abbot of Conception Abbey in Missouri and has been a friend of the community for a long time. Abbot Marcel visited Mt. Saviour a number of times while he was a student at the Eastman School of Music in Rochester N.Y. Please remember him and all who follow the Rule of St. Benedict in your prayers.

## NEW E-MAIL & WEB SITE

msaviour@servtech.com  
<http://www.servtech.com/public/msaviour>