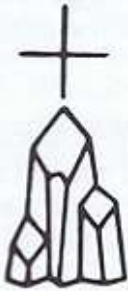


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VOCATION SHORTAGE SOLVED

Science and technology hold promise of solving the present shortage of priests and religious. Mount Saviour stands not only to share in the benefits, but we may be in an enviable position financially. Cloning, of course, is the technological miracle which can bring new life to our formerly troubled future. The new asceticism will involve going from clowning to cloning. A difficult transition for some of us, but a necessary one and we're confident we can do it. A fantastic financial future may be guaranteed because the scientists who made Dolly used Scottish Blackface sheep as the surrogate mothers. We have probably the largest Scottish Blackface flock in North America! Who would have expected the farm to produce anything but nettles and troubles?

There are some formidable difficulties however. Which of the monks should we clone? Another problem, I think you can all relate to, would be having to live with one's self or at least with a reasonably accurate facsimile of oneself which may be as scary as the sci-fi prognostications surrounding the cloning story.

Self acceptance is an enormous struggle especially in our culture. Most of us have finely developed skills like denial, blaming others, avoidance, grumbling and abilities to compensate with easily available addictives. Having yourself as 'the other' in your face day in and day out is a formidable challenge and one that might scuttle the project before the 'cell' stage.

Another concern is that the synapses in the brain and some of the neuro-proteins might not function properly and we will be confronted with our worst selves, or a self worse than ourselves! Early on, a question about the age of the clone arose. We could be confronted very quickly with a number of 90 yr old copies of ourselves!

God, of course, has been cloning for ages and twins are the perfect example. Think of the cloning as the image when you hear in Eucharistic Prayer III, "Grant that we, who are nourished by his (Christ's) body and blood, may be filled with his Holy Spirit, and become one body, one spirit in Christ.". Think of cloning when you read St Paul's exclamation, "we have the mind of Christ" or ponder the teaching that we are the Mystical Body of Christ and members of one another. Though this isn't exactly cloning, the image of cloning can make these traditional doctrines come alive and impact our lives more effectively than considering them as vague mystical notions.

We are organically, though mysteriously, united with the risen humanity of Christ. The image of cloning gives that mystery some bite and is a clarion call to us to replicate Christ's service, his compassion and forgiveness in our lives. The corporal and corporate works of mercy -to feed and care for the poor, to visit the sick and those in prison, take on a new urgency and relevancy. The cloning of Dolly has been thought provoking and should carry over into our actions as members of the Body of Christ and thereby members of one another -clones that we are!

Meanwhile, anybody wanna buy some Blackface sheep?

Fr. Martin



Linda and Laszlo Ivanits brought these bright and enthusiastic students from Penn State who enlivened a March week-end. We are always encouraged by the serious searching of many college students. During this past season we have also had groups from Cornell, Ithaca College, Nazareth, Gannon and St John Fisher as well as King's College, Ontario.



In response to numerous requests that we do something to improve our inarticulate speech, we asked Patricia Ciccariello, shown here doing an audiometer screening test on Br Ray Giebler, to help us. You will be best judges of the results. It has been informative and great fun.

NEWS NOTES

It is a joy to report that some slight changes in the medicine Br Luke was taking has resulted in an almost miraculous change in his "health". He couldn't sit down and stay awake for over a half a minute. Now he scoots around the buildings and is back to painting. We could kiss the person who had the bright idea to put wheels on walkers!

Br Sebastian was the recipient of the other minor medical miracle. He slipped on ice outside the Chapel on March 15th. He laid outside in 15 degree weather for at least a half an hour before he was discovered by a guest who left Mass early. The guest called Dr Anthony Ciccariello out of the Chapel and Tony carried Br Sebastian piggy-back into the relatively warm East Building. That was close to a miracle since Dr Ciccariello has considerably less body mass than Br Sebastian! Happily Tony keeps in shape riding a bicycle in various parts of the world and climbs up and down the mountains of Honduras or Guatemala every spring with a dental group that helps the poor campesinoes. Br Sebastian received a new hip connection that very afternoon and was back with us on Holy Thursday.

More prosaic experiences were had by Fr Martin who gave Days of Recollection in Philadelphia, Buffalo and Rochester, continuing the general theme of Monks and Laity Together into the 21st Century, the specific topics were the polarization in the Church and how developed and the significance and similarity of the seasons of Advent-Christmas and Lent-Paschaltide. He also held a day's Retreat for the Catholic Medical Society of Rochester.



For a number of years, we have sung Vespers and Compline on 'Laetare Sunday', the Fourth Sunday in Lent, at Grace Episcopal Church in Elmira. We are well fed and cared for between the times of prayer.

We will begin a Study Week here from June 8-12, having received a good response to our inquiry about this last fall. If you are interested in attending a Sunday to Thursday session on some aspect of our faith, eg. scripture, spirituality, or liturgy, please let us know.

Advise us, too about the dates that would be best for you since closing the regular Guest Houses takes some planning.

We have welcomed grateful laity, religious and priests into the Sabbatical Space in the recently renovated section of St. Peter's farm house. Thanks, again, to all of you who contributed to that project. The most recent occupant was Fr. Robert Dwyer of the Syracuse Diocese. It was a pleasure to welcome Abbot-elect, Joel Macul of St. Paul's Abbey, Newton N.J. and Abbot Gerald of St. Mary's Abbey, Morristown N.J. for brief visits, as well as Fr. Timothy Brennan for a longer stay.

Fr. Christian Leisy of Christ in the Desert directed our Retreat in January. Fr. Christian studied at the Monastic Institute at St. Anselmo in Rome and brought us the blessings of his studies, his subsequent learning, experience and enthusiasm as a mature monk.



Brother Luke Pape visits with Sharon Vanderlinde, Archivist of the National Ballet of Canada at their gala reception for their Alumni, Sept. 18, 1996.

BUILDING RESTORATION PROJECT

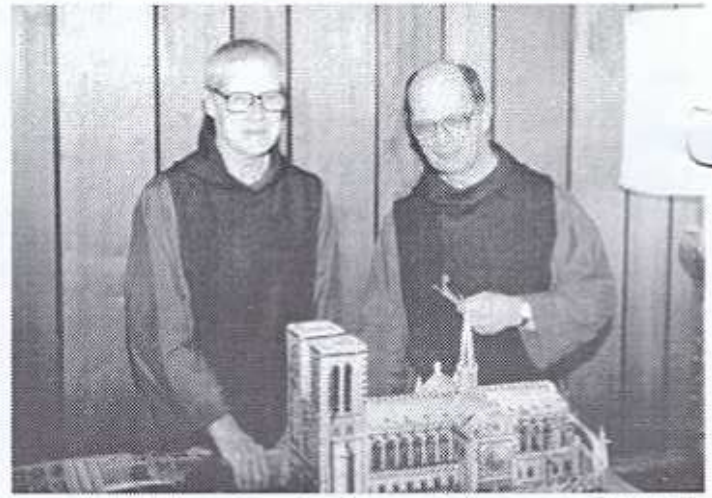
The building restoration project continues on track. The contract to repair the passageway between the monastery buildings and the chapel has been awarded to Elmira Structures Inc. Work will begin as soon as weather permits. The cost estimate is \$110,000. That figure is 1/8 of the cost of the entire building complex when it was first erected. We have already reaped the benefits from the repairs undertaken, not the least the gratitude of the men staying at St. Joseph's Guest House. The new windows there keep the rooms snug and warm in our wind swept winters.

We are especially happy that Delta Therm, a company owned by Ed and Eileen Slagis will be installing piping equipment in the upper walkway which will keep ice from forming on the surface. (Too late, alas, to prevent Br. Sebastian's fall). Ed and Eileen are Oblates now living near Chicago after moving there from Big Flats. In the "old days" they and their children were among the very dedicated workers who made our Fall Festivals such a success. They continue that good work donating their time, expertise and equipment to this project, which will save us many thousands of dollars. We are most grateful for this gift and to know that they will be spending some time with us.

Another gift, which eases our financial burdens, was the very generous bequest from Patricia Henry, who died this past October. She and her husband, Bill, owned the Patty Cake Bakery on Hoffman Street in Elmira. They supplied us with thousands of donuts for the Fall Festivals and welcome treats in between. Madeleva Roarke, who manages St. Gertrude's, is gathering material to write a history of the founding



Bob Caiola helps Doug Cumming and another lamb get ready for the fly season. We now raise some beef cattle and the sales of meat and stock have been gratifying.



So much renovation and construction goes on here, we decided to train our own builders. Br Pierre and his assistant, Fr James Cronen put together a small replica of the Cathedral of Notre Dame in Paris. They did the work here in Pine City.

of Mt. Saviour. One of the things that has amused her, as she reads the early Chronicles, is that some of the major events were overlooked in the busy and hectic days of the foundation. But when Fr. Placid was keeping the daily journals, no donation of food or a great meal went unmentioned. So it was a red letter day, duly noted, when Bill Henry came to teach Br. Boniface Hendry how to bake bread. We came to appreciate good bread as the staff of life and tasty addition to our diet. We commend Patricia to your prayers and Bill who survives her. Remember also Br. Boniface who predeceased them both.

NEW E-MAIL & WEB SITE

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



A portion of our former clowning crew now our cloning committee. They are better left unidentified.