

Mount Saviour Chronicle

THE BENEDICTINE MONASTERY OF MOUNT SAVIOUR
231 MONASTERY ROAD, PINE CITY, NEW YORK 14871

NUMBER 100

AUTUMN 2016

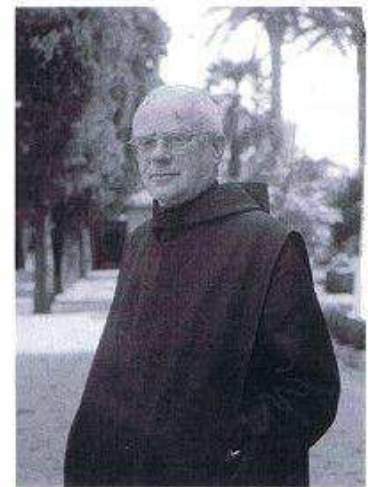
With this 100th issue of the Chronicle we have reached a milestone. It seems an appropriate occasion to call to mind our Founders, Frs. Damasus, Gregory and Placid who, in laying the groundwork, have enabled Mount Saviour to continue its mission to the present day. The masthead used in the present Chronicle reproduces the one used for our first Chronicle back in 1953. The article by Br. David, who arrived at Mount Saviour that same year, and

who facilitated this year's community retreat, reflects on the important theme of the monastery as a place of healing. An article by Br. Justin and one on our community's sick brothers speak to the present with intimations of things yet to come. We are grateful to our readers who have been a part of our past and present. In talking about our life, we are acutely aware that were it not for the generosity of others (guests, oblates, benefactors, and friends) none of this would be possible. The prayer, financial and material support, and

physical assistance we have received from the beginning, and which continues to this day, is a testimony to the value and significance of our life. With hope we look forward to continue our service to the Church and the world.



Fr. Gregory 1956



Fr. Damasus 1956



Fr. Placid 1951

UPCOMING EVENTS

Jan. 13-16 2017	14 th Annual Knitter's Retreat Weekend
May 7	15 th Annual Damasus Winzen Memorial Lecture with Fr. Martin Shannon
May 27&28	Annual Sheep Shearing Days
August 13	Dedication Day

NEWS

The following are some highlights of the past year. For updated and expanded notes visit the Monthly News on our website www.msaviour.org

11/25/15 Death of Enrique Govantes: monastery helper for 30 years who resided on our property

7/2/16 Br. Bruno's 50th Anniversary Profession and Renewal of Vows

7/12-8/23 Br. Michael Visits England

7/25/16 Fr. James Cronen Hospitalized

12/8/15 50th Anniversary of Br. Stephen's Profession

12/12/15 Br. Antonio Bravo Lara Transfer of Vows to Mount Saviour

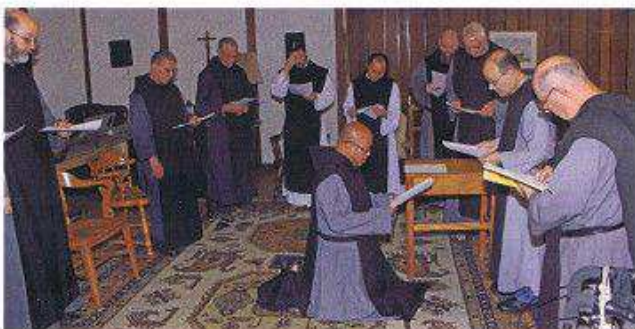
1/15/16 Fr. James Cronen Pacemaker Implanted and Yearly Knitter's Retreat

3/13/16 Bishop Emeritus Matthew Clark's Talk on Pope Francis and Year of Mercy

4/23/16 Br. Justin Young's Profession (See Article)

4/25-29 English Congregation Provincial Council Meeting

5/1/16 14th Annual Damasus Winzen Lecture with Fr. Joel Rippinger from Marmion Abbey



5/25/16 Fr. Neil Arce received into Novitiate: now known as Br. Paschal

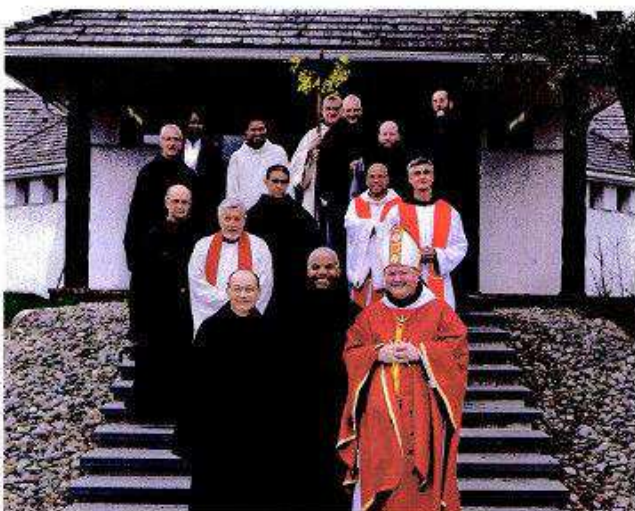
5/27-28 Annual Sheep Shearing Days

5/31-7/10 Br. Luke to England and Scotland (monks visit to England was on the recommendation of the English Province to allow us a better understanding of congregation and monasteries.)

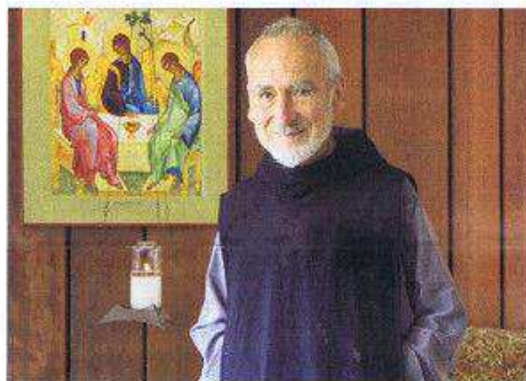
6/26-7/26 Fr. Scott Detisch offered Theology Classes to the Community

6/4-8/4 Br. Savio Visits His Monastery in Vietnam

6/23-7/10 Br. John Visits England and Scotland



8/1/16 Br. Stephen Moves to Sisters of St. Joseph's Motherhouse in Rochester, New York



8/1-5 Community Retreat with Br. David Steindl-Rast

8/2/16 Br. Luke's Foot Surgery

8/4-30 Br. Ignatio Visits a Vietnamese Monastery in Ava, Mo.

8/14/16 Dedication Day Celebration

8/18/16 Br. Bruno's Sister Ann+

8/31/16 Br. Savio Returns to Pope St. John XXIII Seminary to Begin 2nd Theology

9/18/16 Resurfacing of Road to St. Gertrude's Finished



10/7-9 Oblate Retreat with Fr. Donald Raila from St. Vincent Archabbey

11/1/16 Fr. James Moves to Sisters of St. Joseph's Motherhouse in Rochester, New York

you praise" (Ps 55: 13-14). I commit my life to God by fulfilling the vow of obedience, stability, and *conversatio morum*, which means fidelity to the monastic way of life - celibacy, poverty, ongoing conversion, the horarium, *lectio divina*, meditation, divine office, the Mass and community work. My vocation has brought me "to the land of the living" where prophets, apostles and the saints preside. The monk is called to live a life of fraternal charity as a means to union with God and with my brothers in community. For me, the spiritual reality I now experience consists of, and cultivates charity, patience, kindness, compassion and long suffering. A passage from First Corinthians that I hope to be mindful of, and express towards my community of brothers.

My Experience of the Profession of Solemn Monastic Vows by Br. Justin

On April 23, 2016, on the memorial of St. Adalbert of Prague, Bishop, Monk and Martyr, I professed my solemn monastic vows in the community of Mount Saviour Monastery. It was a day of gratitude and joy, praise and thanksgiving. I thank God, my community of brothers in the Subiaco-Cassinese Benedictine Congregation, Abbot Cuthbert, my Prior, Br. John, the community at large, oblates and friends of Mount Saviour, relatives, and friends. I also thank St. Teresa of Calcutta of the Missionaries of Charity where I spent nine-and-a-half years as a brother in the order in Los Angeles, my fellow Missionary of Charity co workers who accompanied me on my spiritual journey to this joyful sacramental moment. I would be remiss not to mention the many who prayed, offered a Mass, or lit a candle on my behalf, and for the gifts, beautiful cards and photographs sent to me. A heartfelt thanks to all of you!

Reflecting on the day I professed solemn vows several scriptural texts for the Profession Mass come to mind. The readings highlight my experience and understanding of the monastic profession and solemn vows: "You have declared this day concerning the Lord that He is your God...and will obey His Voice" (Dt 26:17). On the day of my profession, I declared publically that the Lord is my God and I will obey His voice in my monastic vocation at Mount Saviour by means of the Holy Rule of our Father St. Benedict and the Prior.

Another reading that speaks to my profession: "I am bound by the vows I have made you. O God, I will offer

THE SICK BROTHERS

Saint Benedict in Chapter 36 of the Rule is emphatic when he states that the sick are to be cared for, before and above all else, and that the Abbot must be very careful that they suffer no neglect whatever. Having St. Benedict's solicitude for the sick brothers in mind and in trying to do what seems best for our own sick brothers, this past year our two most elderly and infirm brothers, both 89, moved permanently to the Sisters of St. Joseph's Motherhouse in Rochester, NY where they are receiving personal and professional round the clock care. Our monks believe that members of the community should continue with the community as long as possible, however Fr. James and Br. Stephen both require 24 hour supervised care in a specialized and secure environment which we are not able to provide at the monastery.

The Motherhouse is the home of over 130 Sisters of St. Joseph and provides care services for both men and women religious including Carmelites, Cenacle, IHM Sisters, Basilian Brothers, retired diocesan priests and now Benedictines! Our monks have been friends of the sisters ever since our first days when they provided the monastery with many essentials needed to get the monastery up and running, and even the bedding to

The monk is called to a life of transformation of mind and spirit in the image and likeness of God, despite our shortcomings, to express in word and action the Christ within (Rev. 21: 5-7). This ongoing inner spiritual-ascetical work of the monk is nurtured by the beatitude command of Jesus in the gospel of Matthew, "Blessed are the pure of heart, they shall see God." Jesus invites the apostles and his followers to live and participate in the intimate love the Father has for the Son, and the Son has for the Father, by means of love, which is the authentic sign and witness of true discipleship. This is the goal and invitation to the monk as well; to live a life of love and compassion in his community and for all peoples of the earth (John 15:9-17).

The text from the Code of Canon Law on Religious Life expresses in concise language, what is the purpose and nature of religious life and the consecrated state for members in the Church who profess religious vows: "Religious life in the consecrated life in the service of God in the Church is a marriage established by God." The origin of a religious vocation is divine and is initiated by God in the Church. I rejoice to be called by God, in the name of the Church, through the Mount Saviour community, to vow for life this sacramental marriage to God and one another. I commit my monastic life to service in the church, to my community of brothers, and all I come in contact with.

In conclusion, the liturgical ceremony experience was greater than my personal participation. Not only do I view the experience as a gift but I'm honored to join so many great men and women who have traveled a spiritual path to God. The grace and gift of my solemn profession marks the beginning and not the end of my journey. Please remember me in your prayers.

Mount Saviour: A Place of Healing

Rev. Father Damasus thought of the monastery as a place of healing. He used to remind us that the early Christian monks were called "therapeutes," (Θεραπευται) a Greek word, meaning "healers" of body and mind. At my monastic profession, in 1956, Fr. Damasus preached on the healing of the paralytic in chapter 2 of St. Mark's Gospel. He stressed two aspects of that story. First: The sick man would have never come into Jesus' healing presence, had it not been for his friends. Not only did they carry him all the way, they showed stubborn persistence and amazing ingenuity when they found their way blocked by the crowd. They went so far as to rip open the roof, letting their friend down on ropes – stretcher and all. Fr. Damasus stressed a second point of this story, worth remembering: Although the sick man was healed, he didn't get rid of his sickbed. Now there was a difference. Formerly, he lay helplessly prostrate on his stretcher and, now, he was able to shoulder it.

Another story about healing that Fr. Damasus liked to tell comes from the Gospel according to St. John, chapter 5. Here, a man has been sick for as long as 37 years. "Do you (really) want to be healed?" Jesus asks him. Sometimes we so identify with our infirmities of body or mind that we

get us to sleep at night. Many of the sisters have known and visited Mount Saviour for years and tell us that the monastery has been an important part of their lives and now, 65 years later, they are again providing bedding for some of the brothers and caring for us once more! Br. Stephen says it feels like his community has simply expanded because of the many sisters connections with us through the years. Fr. James and Br. Stephen can be visited there and there are even guest rooms available for overnight stays if arranged in advance. The brothers of Mount Saviour who are familiar with the Motherhouse would themselves have no hesitation in moving there under similar circumstances. In fact, some have said they are ready to move there now!!, but will have to wait as we see what God has planned for the rest of us. For those interested in visiting Fr. James and Br. Stephen and who would like more information, please feel free to contact the monastery.

Please remember us in prayer and, if possible, also in your estate planning and will.

Our legal title is —

The Benedictine Foundation of New York State

don't even want to be healed. We'd lose our sense of identity. "Ask yourself sincerely," Fr. Damasus would urge us, "do I *really* want to be healed – considering all that a healthy life would ask of me?"

A third passage dear to Fr. Damasus was the 47th chapter of Ezechiel: Healing water is flowing from the altar in the Temple. After a thousand measures, this river is only ankle-deep. But after another thousand measures the river grows knee-deep, then hip-deep, and finally so deep that one can no longer stand. "Son of man, do you see this?" God's messenger asks the prophet. "Do you get it?" Father Damasus in turn asked us. You can't be healed until you trust and surrender, until you let yourself be carried by the healing waters of God's grace. "In God we live and move and have our being" (Acts 17:27). To trust in this most basic truth and "to swim in God" means being healed – whether we are cured or not.

May the healing waters of life in God continue to flow from Mount Saviour. May all who sincerely want to be healed find friends here who carry them into Christ's presence by their prayer and caring. And may the Holy Spirit give all of us strength to pick up our bed and carry it home – home to the Father. This is my heart-felt wish for the future of our community.

Brother David Steindl-Rast

<www.gratefulness.org>