

# Mount Saviour Chronicle

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

NUMBER 102

AUTUMN 2018

## In Remembrance

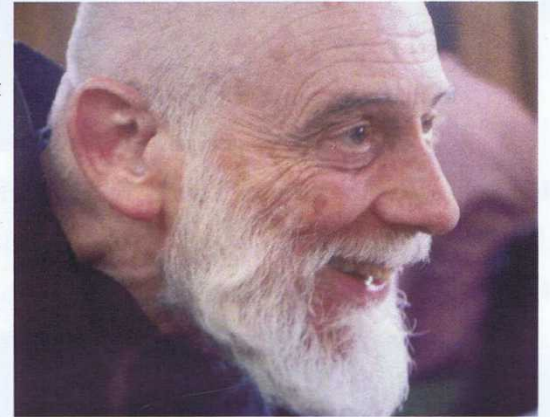
The simple pine boxes were laid out on soaking wet biers. Two brothers waited to be lowered to their final resting place. Here on earth. The day—May 12, 2018; the setting—the monastic cemetery. The community had never experienced a double committal before; neither had our chaplain or funeral director. Brother Stephen Galban had died on January 20. Brother Justin Young died on April 4, shortly after the exuberant celebration of Easter. All of us had to wait for a spring burial date, the ground frozen hard from the winter. The day set was well into spring, when one's thoughts often turn to sunshine and new growth. Many of our own thoughts were focused on dark wooden caskets and the lives of our two deceased brothers. Meanwhile, the statue of the Resurrected Christ, arms outstretched, overlooked the proceedings with its promise of Hope.

Br. Stephen (Juan) Galban was born in Havana Cuba. He received a degree in Architecture from the University of Havana in 1952. Juan first came to know of Mount Saviour while still living in Cuba, through the book *The Silent Life*, written by Thomas Merton in 1957. In it, Merton says that there remains a very great need for the particular kind of monastic life at Mount Saviour, a life that cannot actually be found anywhere else. He says that Dom Damasus [Mount Saviour's founder] sought to return to the primitive simplicity of St. Benedict, in which the monk was purely and simply a monk, not a priest or cleric as well, where the bulk of the community is made up of monks who spend their days in manual labor rather than activities more proper to priests, where its members lead a life of monastic simplicity, labor and prayer without any apostolic ministry.

That description of Mount Saviour by Thomas Merton resonated so strongly with Br. Stephen that he wrote to Fr. Damasus for permission to enter, who allowed him to undertake his monastic journey at Mount Saviour in 1960.

Br. Stephen was only one of many who were requesting admittance to the monastery at that time. As numbers increased, Br. Stephen found it more and more challenging to live with so many monks under one roof. With the monastery running out of room to house everyone, Br. Stephen asked to go to our new foundation, Christ in the Desert in New Mexico. He arrived there on the feast of St. Benedict March 21, 1965, and made profession that year on December 8. Shortly before his profession he wrote to Br. Luke Pape: "I am sure you are rejoicing and praying for me that I may be a good monk; that I may never forget I am being offered the Cross, and that that is what I am accepting. But again, that in it lies life everlasting and unending joy."

Br. Stephen returned to Mount Saviour in 1967 to take up the life of a hermit, a possibility that did not exist at that time at Christ in the Desert. His first quarters were the rickety Lockner house, which used to sit on what is now the wide open space to the south of



*Brother Stephen*

### UPCOMING EVENTS

Dec. 2, 2018	Talk by Sister Mary Donald Corcoran OSB
Jan. 18-21, 2019	16 <sup>th</sup> Annual Knitters' Retreat Weekend
May 5, 2019	17 <sup>th</sup> Annual Damasus Winzen Memorial Lecture with Sister Julia Upton RSM
May 24-25, 2019	Annual Sheep Shearing Days
August 11, 2019	Dedication Day Ceremonies

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## NEWS

For updated and expanded notes visit the Monthly News on our website: [www.msaviour.org](http://www.msaviour.org)

11/15/17 New sound system installed in chapel

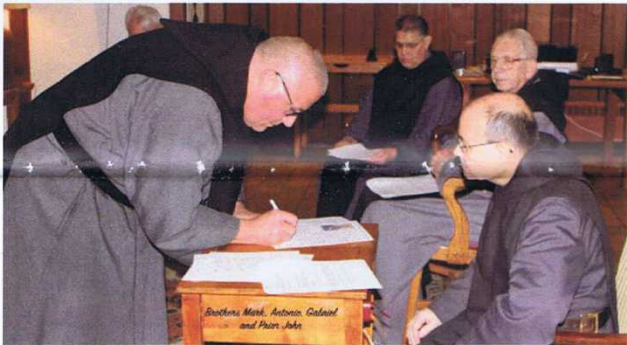
1/20/18 Brother Stephen Galban, 90, died in his 53rd year of profession

2/17/18 Rhonda Larson, Flutist, concert performance



4/4/18 Brother Justin Young, 69, died in his fifth year of profession

4/24/18 First Simple Profession of Brother Mark Lau



5/12/18 Burials of Brother Stephen Galban and Brother Justin Young

5/14/18 Visit of four brothers from Weston Priory in Vermont

5/25-5/26 Annual Sheep Shearing Days

6/5-6/9 Canonical Visitation by Abbot Anselm and Father Gregory Phillips

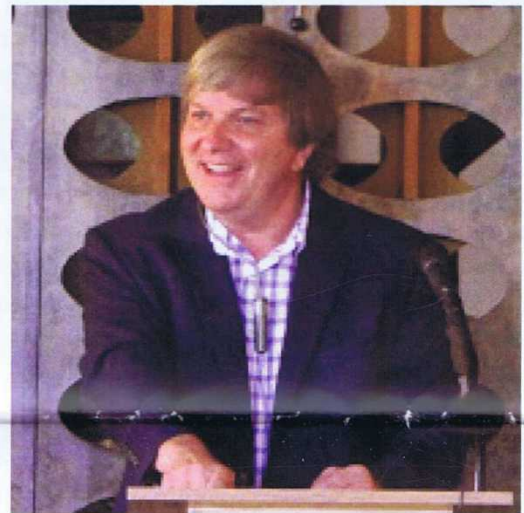
6/19/18 Father James Cronen's 91st birthday



7/4/18 Outdoor Mass on Independence Day



7/22/18 Father John Dear presentation "Jesus: the Way, the Truth, and the Life of Nonviolence"



John Dear at Mount Saviour

8/12/18 Annual Dedication Day Celebration

8/14/18 Gregory Bourn received as postulant

8/28/18 Donald Enzweiler received as postulant

*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**

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St. Gertrude's. Eventually, friends of Br. Stephen's from Corning Glass built him a little cottage. There he lived until 1988, all the while maintaining a very faithful work schedule and returning to his hermitage after his monastery chores down the hill. Br. Stephen said, "The vocation is not in being a hermit. The vocation is having the faith to live the paradox of never really knowing whether I should be a hermit or not." The solitude and silence agreed with him. He got a loom, learned how to weave, and created attractive priestly stoles. He was also an avid painter. His paintings, with their keen sense of geometry and vibrant coloring, demonstrated his knowledge of architectural design.

Br. Stephen was given permission in 1991 to care for his mother in Las Cruces, New Mexico. He lived there until her death in 1997, when he returned to take up life in the monastery. Declining health necessitated a move in 2016 to the Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse in Rochester, New York. Brother Stephen died at the age of 90.



*Brother Justin*

**Brother Justin (John) Young**

was the eldest of 11 children. He was born and educated in Detroit, Michigan. John graduated from Wayne State University with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Speech/Theater in 1980. In 1976 he entered the Catholic Church.

John was privileged to meet Mother Teresa in

Detroit once in 1979 and again in 1980. She invited him to join the Missionary of Charity Brothers in Los Angeles, California. Mother assured him, "I will pray for you." John took vows with the Brothers in 1992 which expired in 2000. His vocational journey had taken him to Africa and Canada and to several religious orders throughout the United States. In 2011 he finally found a home at Mount Saviour.

He was especially inspired by the person and teachings of its founder, Fr. Damasus Winzen, and was faithful in trying to understand and carry out his vision. He recognized hospitality as an essential element of monastic life, and described his ideal job as one that allowed him to be hospitable. For him that meant "mak-

ing people feel welcome and responding to their needs." His ideal and the monastery's charism were a perfect fit. It is said that God works with our inner desires, talents and temperament. Not surprisingly, then, his duties came to include working at the front desk. There he came into contact with many guests. Friends of Brother Justin thought he possessed an uncanny ability to sense one's problems and needs during a simple conversation. His desk job provided only one of many opportunities to make people feel welcome and respond to their needs.

He also possessed an inquisitive mind. If not tending to a guest, he would often be found with a book in hand. Those books came from his ever-present cloth satchel filled with books to be read. Topics of inquiry included the saints, monasticism and the Catholic Church.

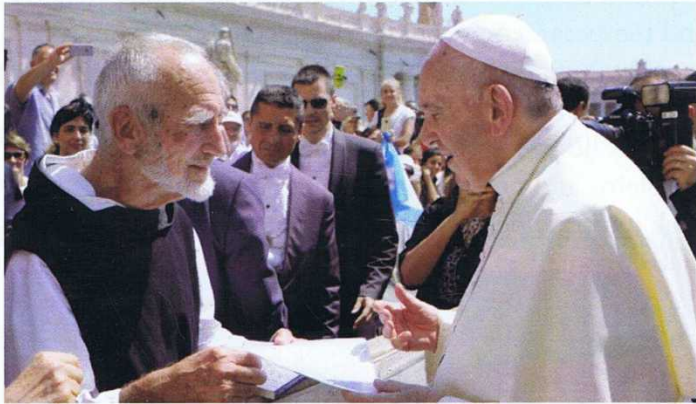
Visitors approached Brother Justin specifically to request his prayers. A brother who knew Brother Justin 16 years ago remarked he was a "prayer warrior" already back then. His spiritual warfare continued at Mount Saviour. After his death, the walls of his room were found to be covered with prayer intentions written on post-it notes. More prayer intentions written by him could be found on bulletin boards throughout the monastery. Still more prayer notes were found in his books—all written in what might best be described as a chicken-scratch style. Brother Justin died quite unexpectedly at the age of 69.

THE OBLATES OF MOUNT SAVIOUR BLOG  
WE WELCOME NEW OBLATES!  
<http://oblates-of-mount-saviour.blog/blog/>

For sheep and donkeys and brothers, O Lord,  
I give you thanks and humbly of you pray  
That I your simple graces never hoard  
But pass them on to all who come my way:  
Pass on the icy walks to morning prayer;  
Pass on the stars and blessing of the moon;  
Pass on the winter soups and gentle air  
Of life to God and brotherhood attuned.  
Pass on the warmth of silence or a psalm  
Whose song has found in us a single voice;  
Pass on the deep and sacramental calm  
That gives us life and makes the soul rejoice.  
The Peace of Christ I now can share with others  
All thanks to sheep and donkeys and the brothers.

- By Oblate Jeffrey Essmann

## Brother David Steindl-Rast Meeting Pope Francis



It was a great joy for me when some dear and generous friends invited me to travel to Rome with them for a few days, to do some sightseeing with a most knowledgeable private tour guide—and to have an audience with Pope Francis! I was quite overwhelmed by gratitude, but also by the responsibility that an opportunity to talk with the Pope brought with it. What would we be talking about? What would people want me to ask him, or to tell him? This was my chance to call his attention to whatever seemed most important to me for the future of the Church. But what was that?

After a good deal of thought, I decided that the pivot point with the most effective leverage for change would be the Principle of Subsidiarity. For more than a century now—starting with Leo XIII in 1891—popes have upheld a guiding principle for the reform of commerce and society: Every decision ought to be made on the lowest level, by the people most immediately affected by it, and only in matters that go beyond their capacity should the next-higher level of administration be called upon to decide. This means a flow of power from the bottom up, rather than from the top down. Today, masterminds of business and industry have made this principle of Catholic social teaching their own and are applying it with much success, but Church administration is still stuck in the outdated model of the Power Pyramid.

The earliest Church was a network of small communities, following the principle, as we put it today, “In essentials; unity; in non-essentials, liberty.” But soon, and throughout Church history, unity was taken to mean uniformity. This disastrous misunderstanding turned missionary efforts into colonialism and even caused wars among Christians. Given today’s self-awareness of cultures all over the world, a world Church’s attempt to enforce uniformity must of necessity threaten its unity. Both Pope Francis and his adversaries in the Vatican fervently want unity. The Principle of Subsidiarity would be

the key to that unity. Pope Francis could appeal to this principle and apply it to the Church, since the teaching of his predecessors has given it a weight and prestige that even his adversaries would have to respect.

Therefore, I summarized my request of Pope Francis—to speak about the practical application of the Principle of Subsidiarity to the Church—in four short Spanish lines: Santo Padre, nos podria explicar, por favor como se podria poner en practica en la Iglesia Catolica el principio de subsidiariedad. The audience was my opportunity to hand him a sheet with my request. Now, looking at a photo taken as I presented my request, I have to laugh at my insistence in pointing to the key words: “Principle of Subsidiarity.” Although the audience lasted only a few minutes, I did not at all feel rushed. Pope Francis took his time and read my lines with full attention. I cannot recall the exact wording of his reply, but it was clearly positive and encouraging.



I had been prepared for the much-praised warmth and kindness of the Pope. What took me by surprise was the joy he radiates in spite of all the resistance against his reforms. (In the reply to a letter of mine in 2016, he had written: “Las resistencias existen. Le pido, por favor, que reze por mi.” – “The resistances exist. I ask you to pray for me.”)

And I, in turn, ask all my friends to send Pope Francis good energy by whatever prayer or other inner gesture feels right to them. And I wish that all of us, regardless of what may happen, might share in his radiant joy.

- Brother David Steindl-Rast

A highly recommended resource about our founder Father Damasus Winzen is available through [www.proquest.com](http://www.proquest.com). Click Products and Services. Click Dissertations. Click Order. Under Search enter Winzen. Click Order Copy for Damasus Winzen: A voice for liturgical reform in the United States by Shannon, Robert. It is available in book form or as a PDF file for immediate downloading.