

Mount Saviour Chronicle

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

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In Thanksgiving

The community is most thankful that COVID-19 has not infected any of our brothers during the course of the pandemic. There are brothers with health challenges but none that are life-threatening. Our guest houses, gift shop and chapel reopened to the public in July 2021. Seating remains restricted in our chapel as the community maintains social distancing measures. We are happy to be able to receive guests, both old and new, once again. We continue, however, limiting guest reservations and the number of guests in the refectory. All retreatants must be fully vaccinated.

This is the first issue of the Chronicle in two years that includes dates for upcoming events. We hope we are not being overly optimistic by including them in this issue, knowing how unpredictable the pandemic has been in the past.

A thoughtful reflection on the pandemic by author Kathleen Norris OBlSB: “God does not send nasty viruses to punish us. But God does listen when we respond to trials by praying, ‘What is it you’re asking of me, God, in this situation?’ Our being able to ask that question shows that we still believe that God is there, for us and with us. It means that we still trust in God’s love.”

We are delighted to report news of professions this past year. Brother Francis Regalado pronounced first vows in July. Abbot Cuthbert Brogan is expected to be present to receive the solemn professions of Brothers Mark and Isaiah later this year. Their vocation stories are included in this Chronicle. In addition we received a Postulant, Brother Ramon, in September. Other serious inquirers are working toward entering the community in the near future. We are grateful that God continues both to direct and to add serious seekers to our monastic family.

We also want to thank everyone for your various means of support, encouragement and prayers for the community. We remember you and your loved ones, living and deceased, and remain united with you in prayer.

Brother Francis Professes Vows

On June 10, 2021, Novice Francis Regalado pronounced simple triennial vows in the presence of the Mount Saviour community. “I clearly understand that first simple profession demands monastic vows, such as obedience, meaning ‘to listen intently’, and this vow is undertaken in a spirit of faith and love in following Christ who was obedient to the will of God; stability, the binding of my body and spirit to the community of Mount Saviour Monastery for the rest of my life; I also take seriously the meaning and value of the vow of *conversatio morum* as the means of ongoing conversion and transformation of mind, spirit and behavior.”

Brother Francis made a considerable leap of faith to come to Mount Saviour. He was born on the island of Mindanao in the Philippines and had never traveled out of the country before. Born on the Feast of Saint Francis in 1987, he is the middle of nine siblings. He received a BA in Social Science after two years at Tagoloan Community College, then left to discern a religious vocation. Brother Francis embarked upon religious life with his decision to enter the community of the Sons of Holy Mary Immaculate. His formators sent him to study philosophy in Rogationist Seminary College, where he received a BA in Philosophy. After his studies were completed, he was accepted as a Postulant

UPCOMING EVENTS	
May 1, 2022	Annual Damasus Winzen Memorial Lecture with Father Richard Vosco
August 14, 2022	Annual Dedication Day Mass 10:00 am



NEWS

For updated and expanded notes, visit the Monthly News page on our website: www.msaviour.org

10/26/20 Received news that the Mount Saviour Memorial Plaque in our Crypt, commemorating our brothers in the monastic cemetery, was added to the Smithsonian Archives

12/9/20 Two more Maremma Livestock Guardian Dogs added to our family



2/13/21 First two of 135 lambs born, two months before the usual date

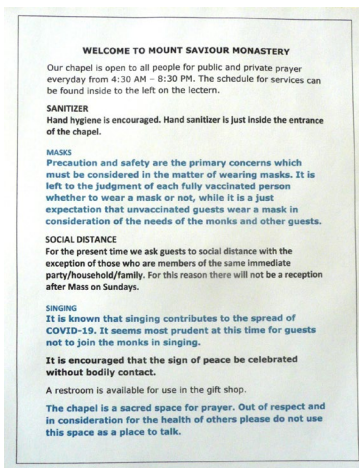
4/24/21 Samantha and Nick move into Saint Gertrude's Guest House as new caretakers



5/28-29 Annual sheep shearing

6/10/21 Brother Francis Regalado pronounced simple triennial vows

7/20/21 Reopened the Gift Shop and Chapel, closed since March 2020



7/26/21 Reopened guest houses to fully vaccinated guests

9/27/21 Ramon De La Fuente received as Postulant



10/12/21 Restored Saint Benedict statue installed on Link Walkway



10/22/21 Over 300 gallons of apple cider pressed from an abundant crop



IN MEMORIAM

Vincent Sementilli ObISB	Gertrude Lau
James Lattin	Jean Valentine ObISB
Mary Ellen Stewart	Margaret "Peg" Snyder ObISB
Fr. Peter Dat Tien Vu	Hiroko Tolbert O'Connor
Eleanor Lesser ObISB	John Leinenweber
Jack Lesser ObISB	Elisabeth Orsten

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in the community. It was during that time that he deepened his understanding of vocation.

Instead of applying for Novitiate, he began searching for a monastic community. That search was cut short and his spiritual journey tested after learning his mother was ill and his family needed his help. Setting aside his search, he took a position as a Project Evaluation Officer for the Philippine Department of Agriculture. For five years he helped finance medication needed by his mother. After his mother died and with the blessing of his father, Brother Francis resumed his monastic search and found the documentary “The Everyday” about Mount Saviour on YouTube.

From Brother Francis: “I also asked and am still praying for the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary to grant me the gifts of commitment and perseverance as she showed and endured with and for God. May Saint Benedict and Saint Francis inspire me more to love the Church and the people of God so that it may emanate in me as I choose to live and embrace monastic life. If this is part of God’s will then He will make it all happen.”

Brother Mark Lau To Pronounce Solemn Vows



In December, Brother Mark Lau will pronounce solemn vows in the presence of Abbot Cuthbert Brogan and the Mount Saviour community.

Brother Mark was born and raised in Chesterton, Indiana. He was the youngest of four boys. He received an Associate in Culinary Arts

Business Management from Northwood University. Before becoming a monk at Mount Saviour, he worked almost 40 years in the customer service industry. Brother Mark held positions in the food and restaurant industry, customer service, retail and office management.

Brother Mark was raised in the Lutheran Church. He felt a pull to become Catholic through a close friend who was Catholic, and the two began going to Mass together. Brother Mark joined RCIA, which led to his confirmation in 2012. He became more and more involved in volunteer work for the Church until the volunteering

became the equivalent of a full-time job. While in between jobs, Brother Mark was offered a full-time job but turned it down because he did not want to stop serving others. When his pastor found out, he told Brother Mark, “We need to look at this closer. You have a vocation.” The talk led Brother Mark to complete a survey with the religious vocation service, Vision Quest, which in turn led him to knowledge of Mount Saviour.

First though, his vocation led him to the Congregation of Alexian Brothers. The Alexians minister in hospitals, nursing homes and other outreach ministries such as homeless shelters and food pantries. Their apostolate is care for the sick, poor, dying and unwanted. After four years, Brother Mark continued to feel something was missing and still had Mount Saviour in mind from the survey he had taken. His spiritual director supported and encouraged a closer look. “God was leading me on a new path, a journey of love and silence, allowing me to become closer to Him.”

From Brother Mark: “I want to live a simple life, a life devoted to prayer, a life with brothers serving God and each other. I want to dedicate myself to God. My focus is on spirituality, faith, hope and love, and living in this community will help me have an even stronger foundation to be closer to God. I need to live a life that is constantly growing toward God. I found that life here at Mount Saviour.”

REMINDER

Our online ordering page <https://www.msaviour.org/managecart.html> can be used to order products from the monastery. These include candles, artwork, woolen goods and specialty items.

The 50-minute documentary video of Mount Saviour, *The Everyday*, is also now available online through YouTube. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3hFvGCZ2PG4>

Brother Isaiah Dwyer To Pronounce Solemn Vows



In December, Brother Isaiah Dwyer will pronounce solemn vows in the presence of Abbot Cuthbert Brogan and the Mount Saviour community.

A Chicago native, Brother Isaiah grew up with three siblings on the city’s South Side. During his senior year in high school, the same his father had graduated from, he made a trip to Rome



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for Easter Week. On Holy Thursday he received communion from now Saint John Paul II. Brother Isaiah described the encounter as a grace-filled experience that carried him along for months afterward.

After graduation he attended Villanova University for two years. Knowing that his son loved aviation, his father managed to get him a summer job at Chicago's Midway Airport. That turned into a full-time position. There Brother Isaiah worked with private jets and encountered numerous celebrities.

Brother Isaiah became acquainted with the works of Mother Theresa of Calcutta through books and talks on social media. Her charismatic way-of-being inspired him immensely. So much so, that in 1991 he entered the community of Missionaries of Charity Brothers. He then spent the next 27 years working as a missionary in several countries, including Colombia, Mexico, Haiti, Peru, Guatemala and India. For six of those years he was a Provincial. He founded the MC community in Bucharest, Romania, and served as Prior both there and in Medellin, Colombia.

While in the MC's, he discovered there were groups of men living in communities as contemplatives. He was profoundly impressed that the men dedicated their lives to prayer, silence and work. Brother Isaiah devoured everything he could lay his hands on pertaining to Thomas Merton and his spiritual journey and began taking his annual retreats at contemplative monasteries. "Monks spending their days getting to know Christ in their prayer life and work while growing deeper in relationship with God sounded right."

Brother Isaiah heard of Mount Saviour through a worker with the Missionaries of Charity Brothers who spoke enthusiastically of the monastery. He asked his superiors for permission to discern his vocation at Mount Saviour, and they granted his request. After a three-year probationary period, he petitioned the community to take solemn vows as a Benedictine monk. "I really do believe that the prayer of contemplative men and women keeps the world spinning on its axis."

The Seasons



THE BIRDS ARE WAITING BY OBLATE JEFFREY ESSMANN

"The Kingdom of Heaven is like a grain of mustard seed, which a man took, and sowed in his field; which indeed is smaller than all seeds, but when it is grown, it is greater than the herbs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and lodge in its branches."

Mark 4:30-32

The birds are waiting, feathers ruffled plump
They chirpless bide their time beneath the sun.
Though some who think the warming day's begun
Spread wings and from the ragged fence they jump;
Not really soar, but circle circumspect
The greening air so cool upon the wing
And keep an eye on earth for anything
They might their homing instinct there direct.
Somehow, I think they know I have a seed
Within me, deep and secret, tiny still:
A mustard germ of faith that patiently
Is pushing, growing like a holy weed.
Its branches twine beyond my human will.
The birds are simply waiting for the tree.

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

*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