

Mount Saviour

THE BENEDICTINE MONASTERY OF MOUNT SAVIOUR
P.O. BOX 272, ELMIRA, NEW YORK

NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER, 1957

The October Newsletter will bring our friends up to date with some of the events at, or connected with, Mount Saviour since Easter.

We here take the opportunity to thank all who responded to our appeal in the summer. May God reward you abundantly.

On All Souls Day and throughout November, we wish to include in a special way in our Masses and prayers all the departed friends and relatives of our friends and benefactors. Please write their names on the list enclosed for this purpose and mail it as soon as possible.

Some of the following news items will indicate what improvements we have been able to make using the contributions which you have given us. We rely greatly on your generosity -- particularly at Christmas time -- to keep us going and bring us a little closer to St. Benedict's ideal that his monks be self-supporting. The realization of this lies in the future. Striving for it is our daily task.

Reverend Father Damasus

On May 28th, after a severe coronary thrombosis, Reverend Father received the sacrament of Extreme Unction, administered by Father Gregory. In the providence of our heavenly Father, the curative power of the sacrament restored the father of the community to his sons and to all those who as oblates, benefactors or friends are members of the Mount Saviour family.

To the Sisters of St. Joseph and their staff, at St. Joseph's Hospital, Elmira, and to Dr. Joseph Shortsleeve, we are all deeply grateful for the wonderful care of Reverend Father during his ten weeks in the hospital and since.

Reverend Father spent the summer convalescing at the Holy Child Convent, Suffern, New York. A member of the Mount Saviour community was always with him, the brethren taking turns to spend part of each week, enjoying the opportunity of some days of retreat. We wish to express our warmest thanks to the superior, Reverend Mother Mary Gabriel, the Sisters and their helpers for the devoted care and many kindnesses shown to Reverend Father and to all the Mount Saviour brethren who experienced their hospitality.

Reverend Father Damasus returned to Mount Saviour on September 6th and his health is steadily improving.

Our First Priest

On Sunday, August 4th, Father Augustine McGowan, son of Mrs. William McGowan and the late Mr. McGowan, of Oakville, Connecticut, was ordained to

the sacred priesthood. Father Augustine is the first of those who entered Mount Saviour as laymen to be ordained priest. Early in July, he returned from Rome where he had spent several years studying at the International Benedictine College of Sant' Anselmo. Father Augustine was ordained at the Abbey of Saint Benoit-du-Lac, in the Province of Quebec, where he, with the other early Mount Saviour candidates, had made his novitiate. The ordaining prelate was the Most Reverend Georges Cabana, Archbishop of Sherbrooke. Father Augustine sang his first Mass at Mount Saviour on the feast of our Lady's Assumption, August 15th. The community was joined in this celebration by a good number of our friends, not only from the vicinity but also from Rochester, Boston and New York. Father Augustine had previously celebrated Holy Mass for his family and friends in the parish in which he was baptized. He will remain at the monastery this year and has been assigned the office of Guestmaster.

Our "Absent Brethren"

Father Benedict Tighe, who has still several years of study abroad before him, strengthened the bonds that unite us to our Roman brethren by coming home to spend the summer at Mount Saviour. He has now returned to join Father James Kelly and Brother Basil DePinto at Sant' Anselmo. Father Benedict was ordained subdeacon at Saint Benoit-du-Lac on August 4th. Father James was ordained deacon and Brother Basil subdeacon at Subiaco on the feast of the Sacred Heart in the church over Saint Benedict's cave.

Plans are already being made for the ordination to the priesthood of Father James next summer. Our Bishop, the Most Reverend James Kearney, has graciously announced that he will come to Elmira for the ordination.

Father James and Brother Basil spent the summer at the Abbey of Solesmes from which they have written enthusiastic letters about the warmth of fraternal charity shown them as well as about the beauty of the chant. On their return trip to Rome, they are stopping at the Abbey of Saint Martin, Liguge, the monastery of Father Peter, our Novice Master.

Brother Martin Boler completed his philosophy course in June, at the Catholic University in Washington, D.C., and spent the summer at Mount Saviour. He has returned to Washington to begin his theological studies, staying, as last year, with our hospitable brethren of Saint Anselm's Priory.

Solemn Profession

The number of those in solemn vows -now nine- was increased on the feast of our Lady's Nativity, September 8th, when Brother Luke Pape made his solemn profession. This great event was witnessed by his parents, who, three days later, celebrated their Golden Wedding anniversary, and by a large number of his brothers, sisters, their wives and husbands, as well as other relatives and friends. Father Luke, as we now call him, remains in charge of The Mount Saviour Shop.

Novices and Postulants

Alfred Duhamel, of New Bedford, Mass., was received as a novice - Brother Jerome - on July 10th, eve of the Solemnity of our holy father Saint Benedict. On June 28th, John Glynn, of Franklin, New Jersey, began his novitiate as a regular oblate novice. He is now Brother Joseph. Jerry Armistead of Shreveport, Louisiana, and Eugene Duffee of Ridgway, Pennsylvania, have recently become postulants. J. Leslie McLaughlin of Baltimore, and Leon Tretjakewitsch of Toronto are candidates for the community.

The Road

The first change visitors will notice, with gratitude, is the improvement of the road to the monastery. We wish again to thank the friends whose contributions three years ago made this work possible. We are grateful too to the Chemung County and Town of Big Flats officials and others who have contributed in various ways to this project, which is of great importance to the monastery.

The Mount Saviour Shop

The Mount Saviour Shop (In which are sold imported and domestic Christmas cards, religious articles of all sorts, Bibles, missals, prayerbooks and some devotional literature) has been moved from the little shed it formerly occupied into St. Peter's, the farmhouse monastery at the top of the hill.. A new entrance has been constructed at the end of the building towards the chapel, and a new parlor and lavatory facilities for guests have been installed.

Mount Saviour Bread

Baked by Brother Boniface, until recently "first kitchener" (which being interpreted means just plain cook), Mount Saviour Bread has been a great success. On sale in the Mount Saviour Shop, it is in large demand. We are able to supply only limited quantities of "Honey White", raisin and whole-wheat loaves.

Dedication Day

August 18th saw a "bigger and better" Dedication Day than ever before. Besides the customary sale of food and soft drinks for refreshments, of baked articles, of handwork made or collected by friends, there were special booths for Mount Saviour Bread, for the "turtle game", Balloons and Darts, and there are pony rides for the younger visitors. We owe much gratitude to those who helped get ready for this occasion, and who worked so hard all day to make it such a success. Space does not permit mentioning all their names here. To Mr. Angelo Palladino, however, a special word of thanks for all the grading he did on the area around the chapel before the big day.

The high points of the festivities were the Conventual Mass at which the congregation made all the responses and sang some of the Ordinary, and Vespers and Benediction, the latter given from an altar on the chapel porch, the number of people present being too large to get all inside.

The Farm

With the blessing of God, and the hard work of Father John, Brother Laurence, Bill Ryan and the monks assigned to the farm, we had a good summer despite the drought. Hay harvesting started early, in June. By the use of electrical fencing, it was possible to move the cows all over the property and take advantage of acreage not enclosed with permanent fencing. As a result, the milk production increased tremendously. An overall plan for the use of the entire property was developed with the help of our County Farm Agent and the local representatives of the Soil Conservation Program. Through their assistance we were able to put in four diversion ditches totalling about 4 miles, which will drain approximately 75 acres of our hilly farm land. Another mile and a half of diversion ditch will be put in next year. We intend to develop an all grassland farm program to take care of our dairy herd. The herd now numbers 33 milkers and 16 young stock.

Father Placid took care of the vegetable garden and the orchard. In the former, besides the rows of the usual vegetables, were planted three long rows of sweet corn. 110 tomato plants were set out. The garden furnished the community with an abundant supply until the frost. In April were planted 17

each trees, 5 apple trees and 3 pear trees. The plum crop has been good, the apple crop fair this year. Father Placid and his helpers, guests as well as members of the community, have canned 10 quarts of currant jelly, 63 gallons of stewed plums and 160 quarts of tomatoes.

Visitors

For Holy Week and Easter, we had no less than 38 visitors who were given conferences and who took an active part in the celebration of the restored Holy Week rites. Only about 6 of the guests stayed in town, the rest we managed to put up here. All had their meals here. Among other retreatants at that time were: the Right Reverend Msgr. Charles V. Boyle, Diocesan Superintendent of Schools for Rochester; the Very Reverend Richard M. Quinn, Rector of St. Andrew's Seminary, Rochester and Moderator of the Rochester Oblates; the Reverend Louis Hohman, Spiritual Director of St. Andrew's Seminary.

Since Easter, we have had the pleasure of receiving many more visitors. Among them: The Most Reverend Franz Hengsbach, Auxiliary Bishop of Paderborn, Germany; The Right Reverend Leo Rudloff, Abbot of the Dormition Abbey, Jerusalem; Very Reverend Msgr. Gerhard Fitkau, Director of the St. Boniface Society; Very Reverend Bede Scholz, Prior of Weston Priory, a daughter-house of Dormition Abbey; Reverend Paul Gibbons; Brother Anselm of Weston Priory; Dr. Bernard Peebles; Professor and Mrs. Goetz Briefs and Miss Regina Briefs; and Dr. Heinrich Kronstein, all of Washington, D.C.; two groups of seminarians from Baltimore and Boston; a number of our oblates from Rochester who came for a Day of Recollection; several of the oblates from Erie, Pennsylvania; Mrs. Henry Mann, Miss Sandra Fuehr of New York; Mr. Anthony Rizzotti of Brooklyn; Dr. Balduin Schwarz, Mr. Lyman Stebbins of New York

In Conclusion

We hope you will be interested in this chronicle of events. For us, it is an opportunity to share with you the good things which God has done to us, and to invite you to share in our thanksgiving.

Reverend Father Damasus and all the community renew their thanks to you for your interest and your help, and for the encouragement which these give us in our work.

May God reward and bless you.