

# Mount Saviour

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

NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER, 1958

## Reverend Father Damasus

Late in the summer, Reverend Father assisted at the National Liturgical Conference on The Church Year, held in Cincinnati. Nineteen years ago, he had spoken in the same city at the first Liturgical meeting ever held in the States. At that time, there were about a hundred people present. Now more than 5000 participated in the Conference. The enthusiasm of the moment carried Reverend Father beyond space and time when he delivered the third of the three major speeches of the Conference on 'The Church Year in Fruition'.

Soon after, Reverend Father attended the annual meeting of the Catholic Biblical Assoc. of America, which took place at St. Bonaventure's University in Clean, N.Y. He was accompanied by our Br. Basil DePinto, who will devote himself mostly to Biblical studies. He was glad to find eight other Benedictines present at the meeting; a clear indication that the monks become increasingly aware of their special mission in this important field.

## Ordinations

"Hear us o Christ. To our brethren James and Basil, endowed with the gift of the priestly ministry: the spirit of holiness, pleasing sacrifice, fellowship with the angels." With these words, the choir of monks marked the conclusion of what we can truthfully call the greatest ceremony thus far celebrated at Mount Saviour. On the feast of St. James, July 25th, our bishop, the Most Reverend James E. Kearney, D.D., of Rochester, came to Mount Saviour, and in the chapel of Our Lady Queen of Peace, ordained to the priesthood Father James Kelly and Brother Basil DePinto.

It was Bishop Kearney's first visit since he blessed the monastery and broke ground for the chapel on the feast of the Transfiguration, August 6th, 1951. At the conclusion of the Mass, His Excellency congratulated the new priests, their families and friends, and Reverend Father, and said in his address: Jesus loved the hills, and Mount Saviour is certainly one of the hills that Jesus loves today because here Benedictine monks continue to preach Christ's doctrine by their lives of toil and humility, and sanctify their lives and ours by the prayers offered in this chapel.

Father Benedict Tighe was ordained deacon on August 28th at the Abbey of Solesmes in France where he spent the summer.

## Primate's Visit

From May 1st to 4th, we were honored by the presence of the Most Reverend Bernard Kaelin, Abbot Primate of the Benedictine Confederation. Father Abbot Primate made the canonical visitation of the monastery at this time. On Sunday

May 4th, he presided at the High Mass. The chapel was crowded with invited guests from the vicinity who, at coffee after Mass, were presented to the abbot.

### Guests

The number of guests coming to the monastery in the course of this summer has surpassed by far those of previous years. This we attribute to letting our guests participate in the life of the community as far as the nature of the monastic life permits. During Holy Week and Easter, about forty people did not only listen to but took an active part in the celebration of the liturgy.

We are very glad over the fact that a much greater number of priests came for retreats. One of them probably spoke for all of them when he said: It is so good to have the psalms wash through you! Better accommodations for priests in closer connection with the monastery heads the list of priorities on our building program, because we feel strongly that the clergy has a special claim on our hospitality.

Our 'open' form of hospitality is, in a special way, directed to the growing number of individuals, as well as families, whom the Spirit urges to a fuller participation in the life of the Church.

### Dedication Day

Held this year on Sunday, August 17th, the annual commemoration of the dedication of the chapel brought to the monastery an estimated 500 visitors. The celebration began with the High Mass at 11 o'clock, in which the congregation took an active part by singing the responses and part of the Ordinary with the community. The afternoon began with the recitation of the Rosary. Vespers was sung at 4:30, followed by Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament given at an altar on the chapel porch.

We take this occasion to thank the ladies and gentlemen who energetically and faithfully served on the Dedication Day Committee, donating, soliciting, collecting and even making articles. They carefully organized the day, and those who prepared the occasion also worked in the various booths all day.

We are deeply grateful to many friends, locally and at a distance, who donated things to be sold on Dedication Day. The variety booth was particularly successful because of these contributions and completely sold out before the day was over. This prompts us to ask now that you make and send things to us for next year's Dedication Day.

### Farm

The past year brought many blessings on our farm. It seems as if all things have begun to shape up at once. While our milking herd has not increased in number, nevertheless, the amount of milk produced has jumped up considerably through the introduction of younger animals with better breeding and also because we are learning a little more about the care of these animals.

We were very fortunate to be able to send Brother Laurence to the College of Agriculture, which gave a great impetus to new and better ways of handling our stock. For three months of the past summer we were at the top of the list in our County for milk production.

This is the first season we have been farming some of our farm on the contour. The stone walls were removed from 55 acres last spring giving us three

fields in a space that was once divided in seven small fields. This makes for much more efficient use of our land, prevents erosion and allows us to use our machinery more economically. We had an excellent oats crop and also a crop of sorghum and millet which was put into the silo. Clover was seeded with the oats last spring, and all evidence is that we have a very good seeding. Every year sees some more improvement to our farm and the better crops, methods of harvesting and the herd are all beginning to show results.

### Building Plans

A generous bequest of the late Miss Gertrude Newell, a friend of the Monastery from its first days, makes it possible to start planning for some additional building. We know you will rejoice and thank God with us as the urgent needs of the monastery in this regard have been mentioned in previous Chronicles. At the same time, we must point out that because such funds are devoted to necessary building, we are as much in need as ever of donations to take care of those expenses which, despite very hard work, we are not yet able to realize in sufficient amount from other sources.

### \$2500 due

In December of this year, we must repay the \$2500 non-interest bearing loan of an anonymous benefactor who made this sum available in 1956 for the expenses of printing the Chronicle, which is published twice a year. Is there anyone who will take up this loan under the same or other terms? Our friends always welcome the Chronicle and some have even been asking if it could not be published more frequently.

### Studies

This year six of the brethren are away for studies: Fr. Benedict Tighe, Fr. Augustine McGowan, Fr. James Kelly and Br. Basil DePinto resume their theological studies in Rome; Br. Martin Boler at the Catholic Univ. in Wash. D.C., while Fr. David has been granted an assistant-fellowship at Cornell's Institute of Architecture. Fr. Boniface continues his philosophy here with Reverend Father. Fr. Peter teaches Church History and gives a course on 'Sacraments of Christian Initiation' for the professed monks.

We are especially grateful to Father Prior <sup>Alban</sup> Anselm Boulwood of St. Anselm's Priory in Washington, D.C. for giving us the annual retreat which was deeply appreciated by all. Because the community is still so young, we rely heavily on help from the outside to fill our spiritual needs.

During their visits this year, we had a series of talks on problems of modern art by Henry Clifford, Prof. Norman Daly of Cornell University and Maurice Lavanoux.

Another group of talks centered around the Christian Orient. Two priests from South India, Fr. Kuriakose Mialil and Fr. Singarayn Fernando spoke about the Malabar Christians. Dom Placide Pernot, O.S.B. of Toumliline showed slides and described the efforts of his monastery situated in the very heart of Morocco, to bring about a better understanding of Christianity in the Moslem world. Fr. Joseph Mitchell celebrated the liturgy of St. John Chrysostome. Abbot Leo Rudloff, of Dormition Abbey in Jerusalem and Weston Priory, spoke about the spirit of the new Jewish State in Palestine. Fr. John L. Rowan, O.F.M., secretary to the Latin Bishop of Beirut, Lebanon, gave two talks on the Church in Lebanon. Joseph Stewart, who had spent several years in Persia, Turkey, So. India and at Holy Trinity in Jordanville, N.Y., gave us a picture of Eastern monasticism.

Of other friends who contributed to our 'education' this summer, we'd like to mention John Julian Ryan, Dr. Bernard Peebles, Prof. Maximilian Albrecht and Dr. Thomas Caulfield.

We hope that in time more of our friends will help us to widen our horizon by giving us a share in the fruits of their studies.

A very special opportunity fell into the lap of our Father Placid. The generosity of relatives and friends enabled him to celebrate the Silver Jubilee of his Profession by joining as a Chaplain the Catholic Art Association tour, of which Dr. Balduin Schwartz of Fordham University was the leader.

Various

Our new high altar, the gift of Mr. Joseph Swann, was completed in time for the ordinations on July 25th.

All our visitors have rejoiced with us that at long last the Road Department of Big Flats made considerable repairs to our road. The Supervisor promises that more will be done this autumn. We are all grateful for the much-needed improvement.

Our friends may be encouraged to follow the good example of Brother Andrew's aunt, Mrs. Oma Leach, who held a very successful card party in June for the benefit of the monastery. Her efforts resulted in our acquiring a badly needed commercial type washing machine. We are grateful for her interest and help and for the cooperation of all who assisted her.

Suggested Reading -- We recommend the following books:

- Christ, Our Lady and the Church - Fr. Yves Conger, O.P. - Newman Press
- The Meaning of Sacred Scripture - Fr. Louis Bouyer - Notre Dame, Ind.
- Thunder in the Distance, Life of Fr. Lebbe - Canon J. Leclercq - Sheed & Ward
- The Holy Rule - Dom Hubert Van Zeller, O.S.B. - Sheed and Ward
- The Yoke of Divine Love - Dom Hubert Van Zeller, O.S.B. - Sheed and Ward

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We enclose for your convenience a slip on which to write the names of those faithful departed whom you wish to have remembered specially in the Mass and Divine Office on All Souls Day and throughout November.

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May God reward and bless you