

Mount Saviour

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

NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER, 1959

Reverend Father Damasus

A busier-than-ever summer gives us much news to share with our friends. Reverend Father Damasus left for Europe on August 18th, to visit several monasteries and attend the Congress of Benedictine Abbots and Priors in Rome. The Congress, held from September 17th to 25th, elected as Abbot Primate, for a term of twelve years, the Right Reverend Dom Benno Gut, Abbot of Einsiedeln, Switzerland. Reverend Father Damasus had been asked to give one of the first addresses at the Congress on the subject of lay-monks. At the conclusion of the Congress, the Holy Father went to Sant' Anselmo, the International College of the Benedictines, for an audience and address to the Abbots and Priors. On the Sunday following the election of the Primate, special prayers were offered for him after our Conventual Mass. And our grateful prayers were with the former Primate, Dom Bernard Kaelin, as he celebrated the 50th anniversary of his monastic profession on the feast of St. Placid, October 5th. It was during his term of office, and with his warm encouragement, that Mount Saviour was established. He will always be considered by us as one of our Founders.

The Solemn Profession and The Ordination to the Priesthood

The solemn profession of four monks and the ordination to the priesthood of one further built up the community, spiritually and numerically. On July 19th, Fr. Laurence Duffy made his profession. Those of Fr. Andrew Leach and Martin Boler took place on the Feast of the Transfiguration, August 6th. These professions took place in the Chapel of Our Lady Queen of Peace at the monastery. On October 11th, feast of the Maternity of our Lady, and ninth anniversary of the foundation of the monastery, Reverend Father Damasus received the solemn profession of Fr. Basil De Pinto in the basilica of Maria Laach Abbey in the Rhineland. Being held in the monastery where Reverend Father himself had been professed, this ceremony created another bond between Maria Laach and Mount Saviour.

On July 25th, feast of St. James the Great, Apostle, and his feast-day, our Most Reverend Bishop James E. Kearney, of Rochester, honored us by coming to Mount Saviour to ordain Fr. Benedict Tighe to the priesthood. Fr. Benedict celebrated his first solemn Mass on the following day in the chapel. He returned to Rome at the end of the summer, and he and Fr. Basil will continue their studies this year at Sant' Anselmo. Frs. James and Augustine, who returned from Rome in July, having completed their studies, will now teach Theology and Philosophy, respectively, here at Mount Saviour. Fr. Augustine has also been put in charge of a group of candidates preparing to enter the community.

On September 27th and 28th, Fr. Martin Boler was ordained subdeacon and deacon at Catholic University in Washington. He will continue his studies there this year.

Retreatants and Other Visitors

Retreatants and other visitors came in greater numbers during the summer than at any previous time in our history. One week was set aside for a priests' retreat. Ten priests made the retreat, which was given by Reverend Father Damasus. They came from the dioceses of Rochester, Albany and Brooklyn. Four groups of The Professional Sodality from Syracuse came in addition to those who made private retreats or visits of several days. We have been happy to welcome a growing number of faculty, staff and students from Cornell University.

The community enjoyed the great privilege of having Father Hubert Van Zeller, of Downside Abbey, England, for its annual retreat.

Dedication Day

Dedication Day, held on Sunday, August 16th, the sixth anniversary of the blessing of our chapel, was a great success. We are deeply grateful to all who donated articles for sale at the bazaar and to all who helped prepare for the occasion and to those who worked in the booths and assisted in many ways on the day itself. The proceeds of the day were a help in providing income for the usual operating expenses of the summer, although the amount was necessarily a good deal less than in former years, due to our having abandoned the raffle. We wish to thank those who, despite the absence of raffle tickets, or perhaps because of this, responded generously to the appeal in the July Newsletter.

The New Barn

The new barn, to which these donations were allocated, is nearing completion. We hope to introduce the herd to its new quarters by Thanksgiving.

Editorial in the Elmira Star-Gazette

An editorial in the Elmira Star-Gazette of Tuesday, August 18th pleased us very much. Our hearty thanks to the Editor and his staff for this and for many evidences of their friendly interest which reflects that of the generous community where we are so happily situated. The editorial follows: "Hard Work, Faith Pay Off. Time rolls swiftly on. Mount Saviour Monastery has held its ninth Dedication Day celebration to mark its steady progress. This year it had been planned to dedicate the monastery's new barn. The structure wasn't completed and the ceremony for it had to be deferred. Many of the nearly 600 persons who gathered at the monastery must have found themselves thinking back through the years to the small beginnings of Mount Saviour. Its buildings, with the distinctive chapel as the focal point, are manifestations of the depth of faith of the members of the community - and the hard work that accompanies it. The devout members of the order have asked little. With it they have done much."

New Windows

On Sunday, August 9th, the new windows in the crypt were blessed after Vespers. Donated by Miss Mary Mann, of Elmira, in memory of Mrs. Gertrude Holleran, the windows were designed by Norman Daly, Professor of art at Cornell University and were executed by Lyman Gibbs of Elmira. The carefully selected colored glass was obtained from England, France and West Germany. There are four sets of windows, the general theme of which is The Mystery of Time. This theme is developed in the whole series focusing in turn on the week, the day, the year, and the lifetime of the monk as the temporal frame for God's eternal work of redemption. The forceful simplicity of the symbolic designs

And variety of rich and delicate color tones have attracted much attention to this beautiful new adornment of the Shrine of Our Lady Queen of Peace. We take this opportunity to express again our deep gratitude to Miss Mann and also to Mr. Daly and Mr. Gibbs.

Oblates

Our oblates are reminded that their special feast, the Presentation of Our Lady, November 21st, is the occasion of the renewal of oblation. Where this cannot be done in groups at a meeting, each should do so privately, using the form in the Oblate Manual. In either case, every professed oblate should send a note stating that he or she has renewed oblation. We ask this now in view of the fact that the sending of a special letter with a form for reporting the renewal may not be possible this year. To give the renewal of oblation a reality, oblates are asked to review their daily rule of life and to send a copy of it to the monastery in order that their observance may receive the blessing of obedience and that they may have the benefit of such counsel as may seem desirable.

St. Scholastica League

St. Scholastica League Members who have not received the letter about renewal of membership are asked to advise Fr. Gregory. It has not been possible to bring our address file wholly up to date, so some members may not have received the letter sent out in September.

FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE WE ENCLOSE 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.

Note:

We would be glad to have requests to offer Low Masses. The number of such requests is at present insufficient to supply the eight priests of the community. The offering for Masses should be a regular source of income to the monastery. For Low Mass, the offering in our diocese is \$3.00; for Low Mass on a special date, \$5.00.