

Mount Saviour

THE BENEDICTINE MONASTERY OF MOUNT SAVIOUR

P.O. BOX 3066, ELMIRA, NEW YORK

NEWSLETTER

AUGUST, 1961

This year two "dos" make our summer memorable here at Mount Saviour. The first is already a pleasant memory, the celebration of our tenth birthday, and the breaking of ground for our new monastery buildings, which took place a short while ago on August 6, Feast of the Transfiguration. The second will be Dedication Day, for which we make this late and urgent appeal. We'll return to August 6 in a moment, after having told you something of our plans for this year's Dedication Day.

Dedication Day

First, the date: Sunday, September 17. The date makes it a summer feast, but it's also very close to Fall. We're going to pray it will be a warm Indian Summer's day, and hope to be backed up by a prayer on your part as well. Whether in August or September, Dedication Day is our chief means of helping to defray the summer running expenses of the monastery. In the past we had a raffle, for which we mailed ticket-books to all our friends. We abandoned the raffle and made a request for a donation of a couple of dollars, a donation equal to the returns usually made on the two raffle books we had sent previously. Last year we made no such appeal and in consequence the income from Dedication Day was sadly reduced. This year we have the added (and enormous) expenses that the building of the monastery will involve, so we have decided to return to our request for a donation equal to the donation you would make if we were sending you raffle-books, that is, a few dollars from each of our friends. By doing this you will be helping us gather funds to pay the summer's bills.

In connection with Dedication Day we would be very grateful for articles to be sold at the bazaar. No second hand articles, please! We like to have small and at least somewhat useful articles, or, if you prefer, big, and not altogether useless articles, for sale. Anything from knick-knacks to electric blankets. To help identify them, please mark any packages containing things for sale at the bazaar:

c/o Dedication Day.

Tenth Anniversary

August 6 turned out to be a fine birthday party. We are eager to thank all who helped us celebrate it. First of all, thanks are due His Excellency, Bishop Kearney, for his contributions, both serious and jovial, as well as for his wish to come again to bless the buildings we hope to replace the turned sod with. Thanks go, too, to all, clergy, sisters, the faithful, and other friends, who came from near and far for the celebration. Special mention and thanks must go to Father Abbot Leo Rudloff, O.S.B., superior of Dormition Abbey, Jerusalem, and Weston Priory, Vermont; Dom Walter Helmstetter, O.C.S.O., Abbot of Our Lady of the Genesee at Piffard; the Right Reverend Monsignor Leo Schwab of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Elmira; Father Stephen Leahy, O.C.S.O., who accompanied Abbot Walter; Dom Martin Chamberlain, O.S.B., of the Abbey of Saint-Benoit-du-Lac in the Province of Quebec, here to represent his Abbot and community, bound to us by close ties of friendship from our very first days; and the Rev. H. A. Reinhold of Pittsburgh, close friend of Reverend Father Damasus from the beginning of his monastic life at Maria Laach in the early 20's. Without mentioning the New York Oblates, here in force, and faithful friends of Mount Saviour since it was only a dream of the founder and Prior, this list would be woefully incomplete. For the refreshments, available in great quantities, the Corning-Elmira and area Oblates, and the members of the Saint Scholastica League deserve a real bravo! It was a very painless experience to be the victims of a flood of cakes, cup-cakes, and sandwiches. To the several hundred who made the day so memorable for us we say: May God reward you all!

Two of the stars of the August 6 celebration were the motet sung by members of the community at the end of Benediction and the brochure of the monastery. For the motet, we gladly yield the spotlight to the man who composed and directed it, Professor Maximilian Albrecht, now teacher at Corning College as well as co-manager, with his wife Mrs. Ludwiga Albrecht of our new guest-house. The brochure is partly a Mount Saviour creation, but in great part also a creation of Messrs. John Rast and Ralph Sole of the Travel Literature Company of New York City. A copy is yours for \$1.00: it may sound expensive, but you will not feel cheated once you've seen it.

Ladies' and Couples' Guest-house

Although at this writing it looks as if the winter might not pass without the community's having to take over one of the older guest-houses because of our rate of growth, one of the biggest news items of the summer is that Mr. and Mrs. Maximilian Albrecht, formerly of Portsmouth, R.I., are in charge of a large house on the highest spot of our property, where they will provide comfortable quarters and good meals for married couples and ladies who wish a few days' retreat. The hill-top house was christened "Saint Gertrude's" and blessed on July 16. Arrangements for a stay there should be made by writing The Father Guest-master, Mount Saviour Monastery, P.O. Box 3066, Elmira, N.Y.

Publicity

In connection with its Tenth Anniversary Celebration, the Monastery was featured in several newspapers, and in the August issue of Jubilee. Thanks are due the Rev. Henry Atwell and the staff of the Rochester Catholic Courier Journal, Ann Bavis and Carl Baronius of the Corning Leader, Andy Lamb and Jim Walsh of the Elmira Star-Gazette, Francis Sugrue and Maurice Warman of the New York Herald Tribune, and Ned O'Gorman and Charles Harbutt of Jubilee for giving us write-ups and photographs.

Guests

In addition to the visit of the New York Oblates for the Tenth Anniversary, other distinguished guests include:

Mr. and Mrs. George Nakashima and family, here to get an impression of the Chapel, for which Mr. Nakashima has designed the new choir benches and lecterns.

Professor Eugenio Batista, architect from Cuba, in exile, who gave the community a vivid description of his imprisonment in Cuba. Mr. Batista is supervising the alterations now in progress in the monastery chapel.

Dr. Thomas Caulfield, Boston psychiatrist, and Oblate of Mount Saviour, who talked to the community on the merits and comparative value of psychological screening tests for candidates.

Father Thomas Phelan, of Troy, N.Y., also an Oblate, who gave slide lectures on Mount Athos and Byzantine architecture.

Francis Medina's Funeral

On Saturday, February 25, the community sang the Mass of Requiem for the repose of the soul of Francis Medina, our Oblate Brother Aelred, killed in the Sabena jet crash at the Brussels airport a few weeks before. His body was flown to the United States by the Belgian government. The funeral Mass, attended by his widow Torrey, members of his and her families, and a group of the monastery's Oblates, was held in weather too inclement to permit immediate burial here at the monastery. The interment in our cemetery took place after None on June 6, attended by the entire community.

Activities

June 4 - Sunday - A group of Methodists from Horseheads, accompanied by their minister, the Rev. John W. Lewien, together with a group of Lutherans from Corning, attended Vespers.

June 8 - Reverend Father Damasus leaves to preach the community retreat at Weston Priory, Weston, Vermont.

- June 24 - Brother Hugh (Thomas) Kelly made his oblation as a claustral Oblate. Present were his mother, Mrs. Chester Kelly, and his sister, Mrs. Kenneth Eipp.
- July 4 - To celebrate Independence Day, the community had an outdoor supper at picnic grounds on the monastery property.
- July 10 - The First of the new construction work began. Part of the Chapel floor was raised to make the entire octagon of one level. This work was completed by the first of August. Further alteration of the Chapel is planned to begin late this Fall or early in the Spring.
- July 16 - The community went to the cemetery to commemorate the first anniversary of the death of Brother Christopher Claas, the first death in our community. From the cemetery all went on to our most recently opened guest house, Saint Gertrude's, for its blessing and official opening.
- July 27 - A dog arrived, borrowed from the Elmira S.P.C.A., to help our verger, Father Placid, keep the numerous local deer from ravaging the vineyard.
- August 3 - Our new choir benches and lecterns arrived and were installed in the Chapel. The usual monastic choir stalls were rejected in favor of benches for two, with a lectern for each bench, all of which are arranged in a circle around the altar.
- August 4-5 - Guests arrive for the August 6 Anniversary.
- August 7-11 - The community retreat, preached by Father Abbot Leo Rudloff. The exchange of retreat masters between Mount Saviour and Weston, Reverend Father Damasus having given the retreat at Weston early in June, did much to deepen the already warm bonds uniting the two monasteries.
- August 15 - The Feast of the Assumption. After Terce, blessing of the wayside cross, given last Fall by Mrs. Gardiner Hope Miller of Georgetown, Conn., and set up in a large shrine at the side of the road by the novices last winter. It is the first thing seen by guests as they drive up from the hemlock grove at the edge of the monastery property.

If your address is incorrect or incomplete, or if you receive more than one copy of Chronicles and Newsletters, please let us know.

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