



Mount Saviour Newsletter

AUGUST, 1965

Dedication Day

Mount Saviour's twelfth annual Dedication Day will open Sunday, September 19th at 11 a.m. with a concelebrated conventual Mass. When our new chapel was dedicated in August 1953, a large number of friends came to share our joy — and our great hopes for the future. The event has been commemorated every year since on Dedication Day, which gives us an opportunity to meet old friends and new. The proceeds from the day's festivities help us (as the saying goes) to make ends meet — or at least to bring them a little closer together. This year, thanks to the committee of friends which plans the day, we will have all the usual attractions, a few new ones, and a special program for children. Details are enclosed with this Newsletter. The day will come to an end with Vespers at 5 o'clock. *Everyone* is cordially invited.

Community Life

In a brief chronicle of the life of the community, like this, many of the really significant aspects tend, unfortunately, to recede into the background in favor of a catalogue of facts and dates (which, of course, have their own value). Before getting on with it, however, we should mention that during the past few months all of us have been introduced to a richer experience of life together as brothers. There are many reasons for this: but those graces, which, during the lifespan of Mount Saviour, have brought us to marker after marker on a road of hope, take place of honor. Among passing graces that have recently helped us, the retreat preached in January by Father Vincent Martin, O.S.B. of Valyermo Priory, California, was most prominent. Among abiding graces the two most prominent are the new buildings and the gradual accommodation of the liturgy of the monastery to the spirit of the liturgical constitution of Vatican II. As far as the building is concerned, let us affirm in few and simple words that the community is much better for its new and larger dwelling. Adjusting to the new in simplicity has forced us to emphasize the personal rather than the institutional. There is not much need to describe concelebration and communion under two species, since we include pictures of them. Both have made us feel the power of the Holy Eucharist much more deeply, and each has been the occasion of deepening our awareness of the supernatural foundations of the brotherhood we experience as monks. Perhaps the most noteworthy

remaining recent development in our community life is the emergence of group work and group discussions. After less than a year of history, community discussions have become an "immemorial custom": we can hardly remember or imagine life without them. Add to this the success in organizing committees or teams covering most areas of our life and you have a thumbnail sketch of the background against which the following few facts ought to be set.

Life outside the Monastery

Life outside, an improbable part of our life? Not if one considers that no monastery is an island. Reverend Father Damasus' activities have included a trip in early December to Montserrat Abbey, Spain; to take part in a meeting of a team of Benedictine abbots from various countries and observances, to prepare the Congress of Abbots scheduled to convene in 1966. In January and again in June he attended meetings of all the Benedictine superiors of this country, convened to discuss *aggiornamento*, particularly in matters of liturgy. In February Reverend Father preached the retreat at the Trappist Abbey of the Genesee, our neighbors 70 miles north, who have supplied us for years with quantities of their Monks' Bread. This is an opportunity for us to say how great a pleasure it was for us to be able to serve them some spiritual food in return for the very down to earth nourishment they have so generously given us.

Ecumenical activity has been carried out mainly by Reverend Father and Father Benedict in the form of sermons and conferences. Father Benedict has also been moderating a discussion series with the Presbyterian clergy of the Finger Lakes Presbytery ("diocese"). Brother David's talk to the Catholic Art Association Convention at Georgetown last summer on "The Biblical View of the Universe" has just been published by P. J. Kennedy in *Cosmic Piety*, a collection of papers on modern man and the meaning of the universe, edited by Christopher Derrick. Brother David has been active at Elmira College, taking part in their Religious Evaluation Week in November, and in the Civil Rights Weekend in April. This spring he gave a lecture entitled, "A Western Monk Looks at the East" at Fordham University, in which he described monasticism as a bridge between the two hemispheres. In April Father Martin represented the community at a meeting of monastic canonists, Benedictine and Cistercian, in the Abbey of New Melleray, near Dubuque, Iowa.



The Concelebrated Mass

The Community Grows

On June 25th, Feast of the Sacred Heart, Brother Sebastian (Jack) Maher of Trenton, N. J., made his simple profession. On January 12th, Father Nicholas (Lawrence) Grajek, priest of the diocese of Harrisburg, and Brother Anselm (Andrew) Jaskolka of Philadelphia were received into the novitiate. On May 1, Brother Jerome (George) Walter of Chicago, and Brother Philip (Kenneth) Copley of Portsmouth, Virginia took the same step.

The Kitchen Cabinet

The "Kitchen Cabinet" was the behind-the-scenes group that purportedly ran the country during the administration of President Andrew Jackson. Our Kitchen Cabinet does not quite achieve underground control of the monastery, though it deals with a sensitive area, the monastic stomach. Brother Andrew has been sent to Christ of the Desert, our year-old foundation in New Mexico, to help the brethren there in some of the many practical ways in which he is gifted. Before leaving he groomed a trio of our Junior monks to take his place as kitchener. The Kitchen Cabinet has emerged, a well-functioning team of Brothers Michael, Bernard, and Cyprian, who take turns of a week as first kitchener. With gratitude (and trepidation) we make honorable mention of them as one of the prime examples of teamwork among us; long life, and may the beef be rare!

Mount Saviour and the Diocesan Clergy

On March 28, Laetare Sunday, we entertained the diocesan clergy and our brother religious of the Southern Tier at the first of what it seems will be annual dinners timed to fall approximately in the area of the feast of Saint Benedict, March 21. The community felt it was the best encounter it had ever had with the clergy of the neighborhood, and hopes the feeling of the men of the cloth is reciprocal.

By way of cordial postscript may we once more ask God's blessings on and congratulate Fathers John Hayes, pastor of St. Patrick's Elmira, and Bartholomew O'Brien, pastor of Saint Mary's Horseheads, on the occasion this Spring of their silver jubilee of ordination.

— *Father Benedict*

Guest Speakers

During the past few months we have had the good fortune to hear a number of interesting guest speakers.

Dr. Krishna Sivaraman of Hindu University, Benares, India, who has been teaching philosophy at Harvard and Elmira College, gave three informative and suggestive lectures on Hindu monasticism to the community this spring.

Pastor Max Lackmann, an observer at the Second Vatican Council and founder of the Evangelical-Catholic League, an international organization for corporate Christian reunion, addressed the community and a large audience of friends of the monastery on April 3. His subject was Catholic dogma as an obstacle to reunion; his views were positive, frank, and, on the whole, optimistic.

In June Dr. E. Mark Stern, a New York clinical psychologist and one of our oblates, discussed with us the role of psychology in the religious life. A perceptive article by Dr. Stern on psychoanalysis and the sacrament of reconciliation appeared in the May issue of *Jubilee*.

Thanks to the kindness of Morris Weisenthal and the Morris Gallery, New York, an exhibit of serigraphs (silk screen prints) by Sister Mary Corita, I.H.M. of Immaculate Heart College, Los Angeles, was on display here during early July. Sister Mary Lenore, I.H.M., one of Sister Corita's associates, spoke to the community about Sister Corita's work and showed a fascinating film by and of Immaculate Heart students.

On July 3 Father Claude Peifer, monk of St. Bede Abbey, Peru, Illinois, gave a paper on monastic obedience. He approached his subject historically and then related it to contemporary monasticism.

One morning in May we had a lively session with Mary Perkins Ryan on the importance of the liturgy in Christian formation. Mrs. Ryan, an oblate of Mount Saviour, has been active in the liturgical movement for years, and is responsible for the excellent Fides translation of the Psalms. She made constructive criticisms of the new liturgical translations, and told us about the catechetical journal she edits so well, *The Living Light*. One result of the encounter is a series of articles by Father Basil on sacred language and the vocabulary of the bible, which will appear regularly in *The Living Light*.

Steve Clark and Ralph Martin, who have spent most of the summer with us and have helped so generously and cheerfully on the farm and elsewhere, do not come under the category of guest speakers (though we did have a good discussion with them one evening about prayer and the Christian life); but their stay at Mount Saviour has been a grace all around and on many levels. On August 19 they leave for the National Cursillo Conference in Kansas City. Our prayers and best wishes go with them, along with the hope that the bond which unites us in the peace and charity of Christ will grow ever stronger.

Life on the Farm

Last summer in reporting on our farming operation we had to say: "we had our third dry year on the farm." This summer we have to say that we are having our fourth consecutive dry year, but, having done so, we can go on to say that our first crop of hay was quite a bit better than last year. We are very grateful to God for this improvement which results from a slight increase in rainfall. It's a great help to us not only in the "short run" by providing more needed hay and silage, which will reduce the need to purchase hay greatly, but also in the "long run" analysis of the progress of the farm. Perhaps a capsule report of this latter will be of interest. Our milking herd numbers slightly over 50 cows and is the fourth largest in milk produced per cow in our county, Chemung. Our program of land development — bringing the soil "up to snuff" — ended officially in 1962, but has not really been able to be "prov-

en" in view of the unusually dry weather from that Summer until now. However, the little rainfall we have had this year has indicated that, given a decent amount of moisture, the land we have under cultivation now will pretty much cover our hay needs as we planned it would back in 1957. An analysis of the financial position of the farm shows that we are quite solvent and that for the first time we shall be able to contribute significantly to the running expenses of the monastery proper. This is a great encouragement to all in the monastery because it indicates that this truly monastic work can really assist towards our being at least partially self-supporting.

A great portion of our land is in woodlots which, thanks to the cooperation and help of the New York State conservation authorities, we are able to gradually develop properly. This development is actually in two phases; the first is the establishment of new "tree plantations" by planting seedlings — pines and other evergreens — for the simple purpose of soil conservation and also for the purpose of ultimately selling some of them as Christmas trees. Father Basil's return from "Christ of the Desert" is encouraging as he resumes his care of this end of our use of the land. The second aspect is the thinning of our present woodlots. This is a big job but one which again has the by-product of being not only spiritually but practically productive in that we are able to sell the logs so obtained as firewood in the Elmira-Corning area. This Autumn will be our first experience doing this and we look forward to its being a success.

Brother Elias is getting more experience daily in our orchard, and the report from that quarter is very encouraging. The young apple trees which Father Placid planted ten years ago are now beginning to bear. There are forty-five of them so we look forward to an increase in our harvest. Fortunately the drought has not hurt the orchard in the least (In fact one detail of Brother Elias' report is really startling. "A solitary apricot tree produced two apricots contrary to all expectations!"). Last year we were also able to begin canning and freezing some of our fruit due to the better facilities in our new kitchen.

Brother Cyprian generously offered to start a small vegetable garden — this is the first we've had since 1959 — and the tomato and squash plants and lettuce are coming along very well. We also have a sort of kitchen garden for cut flowers, thanks to Father Luke. The landscape committee has done a fine job in making a start towards getting the grounds around our buildings to look "homey", with some new shrubs and flower beds.

All of this is very heartening to the community because our being able to use God's gift to us of the land is one of the most rewarding aspects of our life.

— Brother Matthew

Mount Saviour Publications

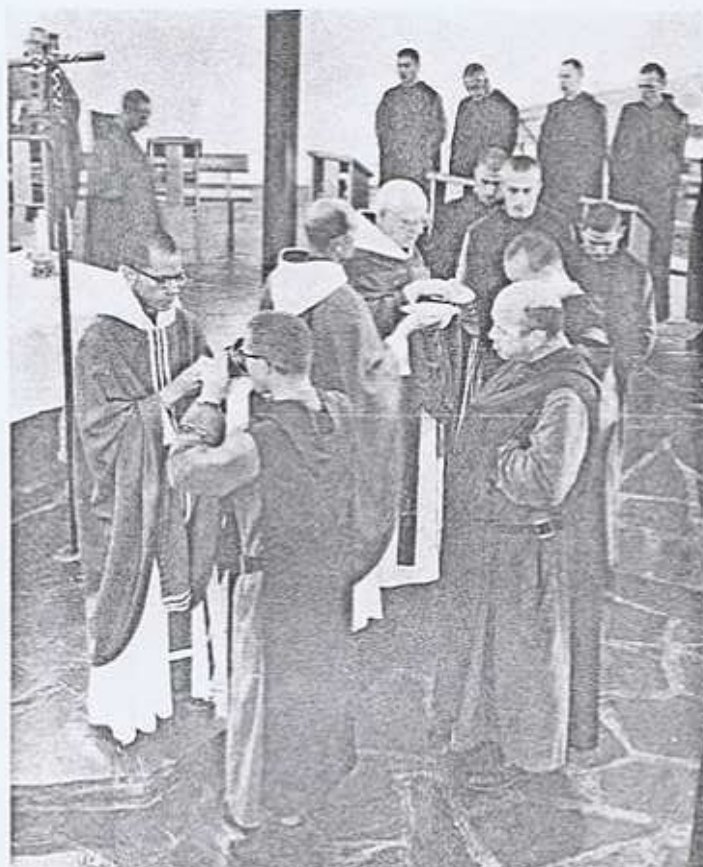
We would like to call our readers' attention to three publications connected with Mount Saviour in one way or another: *How to Pray the Psalms*, *Unison English Mass of Mount Saviour* and *Monastic Studies*.

How to Pray the Psalms is a simple, extremely valuable commentary on the great prayer-poems of the Bible by Archbishop Gabriel Garrone of Toulouse, France. It was originally translated here for our novices, and has just been published as a Fides Dome Book (95c, paper-bound). Archbishop Garrone is one of the leading members of the French hierarchy, and has shown great sensitivity to the role played by the Bible and the liturgy in the life of the Christian. The great value of his book lies in its constant interplay of themes from the Old and New Testaments, so that the Psalms are understood in the light

of the Gospel, and the Gospel is found everywhere present in the Psalms.

Mr. Maximilian Albrecht, who "retired" to Mount Saviour a few years ago, has composed an English ordinary of the Mass which has recently been published by the Gregorian Institute of America under the title, *Unison English Mass of Mount Saviour*. It is dedicated to our Reverend Father Damasus, and is notable for its simplicity and expressiveness. An organ accompaniment is included. Despite a background of nineteenth-century training, including experience in conducting some of the great choral works of the baroque era, Mr. Albrecht has shown much concern for composing music that will appeal to the taste of today's churchgoer. It has been well received by those who have heard it here, and is a welcome contribution to the search for musical forms to fit the vernacular.

Monastic Studies, a new journal, presents translations of outstanding articles on monastic spirituality, as well as original work in English by monastic scholars; it is now edited at Mount Saviour by Father Bernard with the assistance of Father Hugh and Brother Peter. Although it is intended primarily for monks, an increasing number of laymen have asked to receive it. The current issue (over 320 pages in length) contains articles on the Rule of St. Benedict, monastic priesthood, liturgy, and other subjects by a group of scholars which includes Jean Leclercq, Hans Urs von Balthasar and Thomas Merton. In the same issue there is a report by Reverend Father Damasus on the recent meeting of Benedictine abbots at Montserrat; the issue closes with reviews of seventeen recent books dealing with the monastic life and three contemporary documents on monastic renewal. Some extra copies of this issue were printed and are available to those



The Communion procession at Concelebrated Mass: the community receives the Eucharist under the forms of bread and wine.

Photos: Jim Walsh, Elmira Star-Gazette

who are interested. Because *Monastic Studies* is published as a service to monastic communities, many of whom, particularly in underdeveloped countries, cannot afford to pay for it, no fixed price has been established; but contributions of \$3.00 (or more) per copy will be gratefully received.

Recommended New Books

The Revised Standard Version of the New Testament, Catholic edition (The Liturgical Press, \$3.50). The Catholic edition of the R.S.V. is, of course, an ecumenical milestone and a great encouragement to Catholic-Protestant scriptural dialogue. But in its own right the R.S.V. has much to recommend it as an accurate, readable translation, direct from the original text of the Good News of salvation.

Sacraments and Orthodoxy by Alexander Schmemmann (Herder & Herder, \$3.50). It would be difficult to praise Father Schmemmann's book too highly: it contains one of the best discussions we know of on the place of Christianity in the modern world. It first appeared in a limited edition a few years ago under the title *For the Life of the World*. We welcome this new edition, and wish it the wide circulation and deep influence it so deserves.

Cosmic Piety: Man and the Meaning of the Universe, edited by Christopher Derrick (P. J. Kenedy & Sons, \$3.95). A collection of papers given at the 1964 Convention of the Catholic Art Association at Georgetown. We particularly call our readers' attention to two contributions: "The World as Sacrament" by Alexander Schmemmann and "The Biblical View of the Universe" by our Brother David.

Man & Wife in Scripture, by Pierre Grelot (Herder & Herder, \$2.95). A return to the biblical sources of the Christian understanding of marriage by Father Grelot that is highly recommended by *The Catholic Biblical Quarterly*.

True Worship, an Anglo-French symposium edited by Lancelot Sheppard (Helicon, \$3.50). Contributors include I. H. Dalmais, O.P.; Louis Bouyer; Gabriel Hebert, S.S.M.; Paul Grammont, O.S.B.; J. D. Crichton; Lancelot Sheppard and Basil Minchin. This historical and theological analysis prepares the reader to understand the modifications of the traditional forms of worship to meet the needs of today's Christian.

Christ of the Desert Monastery

On June 24th, feast of St. John the Baptist, the Monastery of Christ of the Desert, Mount Saviour's foundation in New Mexico, celebrated its first birthday. Two events made the day especially memorable: the breaking of ground for the new chapel and the baptism at the monastery of the grandson of Juan Gallegos, former owner of the property. "It all fitted so beautifully together," writes Father Aelred: "the feast of the nativity of St. John the Baptist, the baptism, the first anniversary of our arrival, the breaking of ground for the chapel."

The chapel fills a real need in the growing community (which now numbers five). Soon the first candidate accepted will arrive, and then the present chapel will be filled to capacity. The construction of the new chapel was undertaken immediately after the groundbreaking, thanks to the generous help provided by Mr. Jerry Sullivan of New Hampshire and a group of eight college students. Mr. George Nakashima of New Hope, Pa., the architect, was in hand to supervise the initial stages of construction. The

students are repeating the experience of the original founding group, camping out for the summer.

On hand to greet the summer workers were Fr. Aelred, Fr. Placid, and Fr. Maur, as well as Br. Andrew and Br. Stephen, who were both sent from Mount Saviour to the foundation this spring. Fr. Basil was recalled here just before Easter.

The simple beauty of the main house, the original four-room adobe hut which came with the property, has been greatly enhanced by a small patio which serves as a proper entrance to the monastery. The living quarters of the monks were recently completed so that there are now eight cells for the community.

The people of the area are most generous and kind, and always show great interest in the monastery. Visitors have to brave thirteen miles of rough mountain road to reach the monastery, and many do. The community is looking forward to a visit from Dom Jean Leclercq who has promised to stop by on his way to Mount Saviour in the fall. Ed Rice of *Jubilee* and Maurice Lavanoux of *Liturgical Arts* have both visited, and hope to run articles on Christ of the Desert in the near future.

All in all, the first year at Christ of the Desert has been one of great blessings. We ask our friends to join us in thanking God for the great things he has done for us in the Desert and to implore his blessing on the years to come.

New Mount Saviour Shop

You are cordially invited to the new Mount Saviour Shop; it is located in the East Building near the Pottery and guest parlors. The large book section has a good stock of current titles on religious, social, ecumenical and spiritual subjects from leading publishers.

You might like to order a sample box of our 1965 selection of Christmas cards, many of them imported from Europe. Each box contains a generous number of cards with envelopes and costs \$2.00 postpaid.

If you use a large number of cards we will be happy to send a sample brochure with order forms and a stamped return envelope so that you may make your own personal selection.

All publications mentioned in this Newsletter, including *Monastic Studies* and the Albrecht-Mount Saviour Mass (which costs \$1) are available at the Mount Saviour Shop.

— Father Luke

Deceased Friends

We single out the following names of deceased friends to recommend to your prayers (the first three were buried in our hillside cemetery):

Josephine Roberts Fox (Oblate Sister Thomas Aquinas)
Charles Henry Lee, III (Oblate Brother Aelred)
Margaret Sweeney (age 4)
Ruth Burdin (Oblate Sister Ebba)
J. John Hassett, Jr.
Louise Hoguet
John Cerio
Mary Kosti
Herbert Williams
Perpetua Heidt
Marietta Manocchio

May they rest in peace.

THE BENEDICTINE MONASTERY OF MOUNT SAVIOUR, ELMIRA, NEW YORK

POSTAL ADDRESS: PINE CITY, NEW YORK 14871