

Mount Saviour Newsletter

MOUNT SAVIOUR MONASTERY • SUMMER 1966

Be filled with the Spirit, and give thanks at all times for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

— Ephesians 5:20

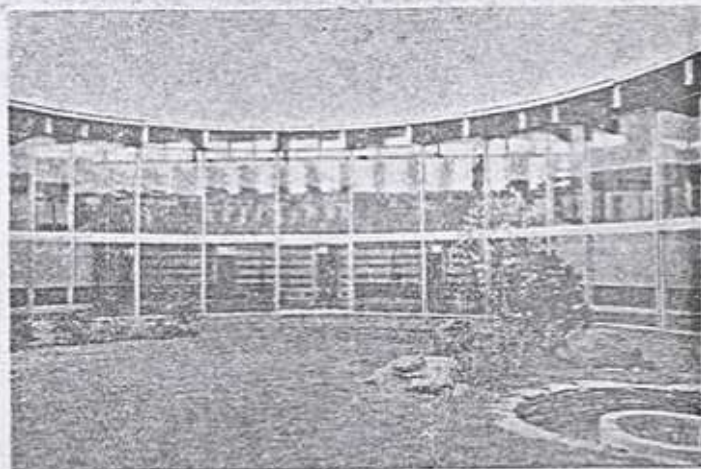
Dear Friends of Mount Saviour,

Father Abbot Primate Benno Gut, O.S.B., and his secretary, Fr. Lambert Dunne, O.S.B., visited Mount Saviour July 4-7. It was a great joy for us to welcome these visitors from Rome and we deeply appreciated the encouragement they gave us. At the end of his stay, Father Abbot Primate said to us: "The first thing that impressed the visitators on arrival was the majestic vista of the beautiful new buildings, symbols of the life and progress made by the community in the past three years. The highest compliments are in order for this achievement. We see here a group of buildings distinctively marked both by monastic and modern building simplicity, yet with a beauty and charm that seem to breathe peace and contentment. Since this was a cooperative undertaking with architect and community, we congratulate you for the patience and thought given to the project; and we pray that it will continue to live its purpose — to be the House of the Lord."

We wanted to share these words with you, because without our friends this "House of the Lord" would not exist. And we would like this Summer Newsletter to be an expression of thanks "for all things" received from our friends. In particular we thank in this issue those who have helped us in our new buildings, and those who have enriched our library, particularly Fr. H. A. Reinhold, whose magnificent gift is described elsewhere in this issue. The articles on our guests, our summer work program, and our forthcoming Dedication Day (on September 18) will, we hope, be of interest and convey our joy at having good friends for whom we "give thanks at all times."

Our New Home

What the Abbot Primate said about our buildings emphasizes the way we have been feeling about them more and more since we moved in almost two years ago. They give expression to the spiritual and practical aspects of our life as a community in such a way that they are truly a symbol of the unity of our life. No longer are they three buildings; they have become for us one home. And this means that we are more and more grateful to the people who made this home a reality — our architects, J. Sanford Shanley of New York, who designed the orig-



THE WEST BUILDING, which houses dormitory, library, study rooms and novitiate, seen from the circular garden court in the center of the building. (Photo: C. Davis Fogg, Finger Lakes Chronicle)

inal chapel, and Ronald Cassetti of Hirsch and Cassetti, Elmira, who enlarged the chapel and designed the East and West Buildings; the workmen who constructed the buildings; and our benefactors, without whose generosity our home simply would not exist.

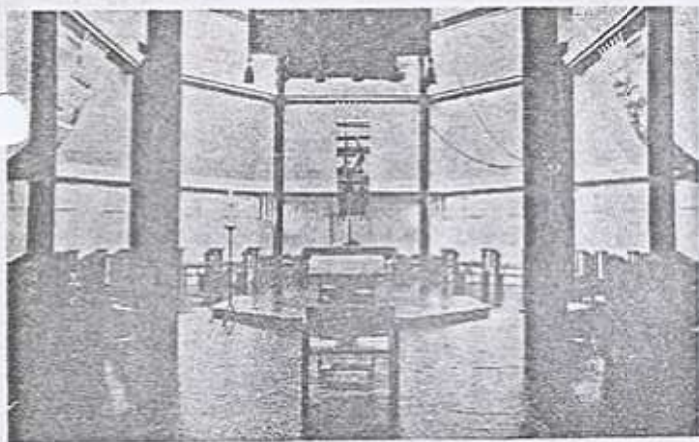
But we would like to take this opportunity to thank in a special way those who have helped us since we moved in. Our Fr. Gabriel is largely responsible for making our house a home, and to him we owe abundant thanks for his faithfulness and untiring efforts. Jack Titus of Elmira was of great technical assistance to Fr. Gabriel in setting up a fine speaker system. Br. Hugh planned the inner-house telephone and signal system; and he is regularly assisted in maintaining it by Robert Wrigley and Harold van Hagn of Elmira. Our old friend, John Callahan, of Endicott, New York, continues to come to help us with plumbing work in all the buildings; his assistance in this and many other areas over the years has been invaluable. We extend a very special word of thanks to Sister Margaret Adelaide and the staff of St. Joseph's Hospital in Elmira for their generosity in helping to furnish our infirmary and kitchen, and for all their hospital services, which are deeply appreciated by this community. We are forever grateful to these and all our benefactors.

Br. Matthew

Brothers at Work

I would like to tell you something about our farm and other work at Mount Saviour this summer.

In April and May a few opportune rains did wonders for our new seedings and hay crop. However they left the fields so wet in early June that the harvest got off to a late start. But once the weather cleared, one beautiful



OUR LADY QUEEN OF PEACE CHAPEL with banners designed and made by Br. Nicholas. (Photo: David Ruether)

day followed another, although at times the heat and humidity made the work difficult. Good things don't come easily: the cross first, then joy. But now we can look at our full silo and hay mow, and count our blessings.

In May, the Chemung County Conservation Advisory Committee sponsored a conservation field day on our farm for 700 sixth grade youngsters. Upon arrival, the students dispersed to sixteen different teaching stations. Instructors gave "demonstrated lectures" on different phases of conservation: game management, forestry, soil conservation, field crops. After the field day was over, Mr. Glenn MacMillen expressed his gratitude: "The school teachers and students really enjoyed the day and learned much about farming and conservation." We were happy to be hosts for this field day; it provided a means for better understanding and mutual appreciation: and these are the means to peace.

This June, Henry Wagner completed his fifth year as a worker on our farm. Henry has been a reliable helper who knows how to do all sorts of things. We appreciate the way he has contributed to the development of our farm by his good, steady work. Henry and his wife, Bonnie, have been living in one of the farm houses on the property, and have done many things to improve the grounds around it.

Our Br. Bruno Lane and Henry are quite a pair of mechanics. Br. Bruno made his solemn profession on the feast of Pentecost, May 29th, and is now a full member of the community. His hard work on the farm, especially in the machine repair shop, and his diligence and interest in all areas of the monastery are a joy to all of us.

Our bees took good advantage of the spring blossoms in the fields and orchard. At one time the linden tree in front of the monastery was literally humming with bees. Fr. Basil and Br. Elias had their hands full extracting a top yield of honey. They brought the honeycombs into the basement of the monastery so that the bees could not get at it, but the little devils smelled the honey up the chimney. Soon they came down the chimney in droves to take the honey back to the hives. The "fun" ended when Br. Elias plugged the chimney.

The grounds immediately around the monastery are now covered with a carpet of clover and many young maples, birch, pine, and shrubs. Last winter we finished drawing up our master plan for landscaping. This plan calls for the use of trees and shrubs native to this area so that they will blend into the existing landscape. Br. Peter, our librarian, who initiated the plan, has devoted much time to carrying it out by planting, weeding, and watering.

The brothers in all departments have been especially busy these summer months when manual work takes up a larger part of the day. Fr. Luke has been hard at work in the gift shop and in the kitchen (and in chasing rabbits from his beautiful flower beds!). The gift shop now sells the work of our arts and crafts group. Fr. David makes small wooden crosses, decorated with enamel, sea-shell, and hand-carved designs. Br. Nicholas has really made a hit with his banners and wall hangings. And Br. Bernard and Br. Cyprian are doing other craft work with leather, wood, and ikons.

We are grateful to *all* in our community for their labors of love. A great effort is being made on the part of each one to put his God-given talents at the service of the whole community. All this does much to build the bonds of charity between us. A brother helped by a brother goes far towards making our community a "well-fortified city."

Fr. John

News from our Guestmaster

St. Benedict supposes that there will always be guests at the monastery, and is clearly pleased that this is so. We hope our guests feel that no one is more pleased to see them than we are. We feel the best we can give anyone is a share in our lives. So a retreat at Mount Saviour is mostly a share in our life for the few days a guest is here. It is always amazing and encouraging when guests tell us they discovered this sharing has given a new dimension to their lives. We ask for suggestions, complaints and personal wishes; but what I hear is so enthusiastic that I sometimes worry about being an "official" who only hears good things!

We would like to share all our guests with you, but since this is impossible, we will say something about certain "kinds" of guests. Between early May and mid-July there were some 115 priest-retreatants, representing twenty dioceses. Philadelphia, Brooklyn, Rochester, Buffalo, and Trenton led the list. Fr. Hugh and Fr. Augustine joined Reverend Father Damasus in giving the conferences this year. In May, the deacon class of eleven from Christ the King Seminary, St. Bonaventure, N. Y., delighted us by making their pre-priestly retreat at Mount Saviour. Fr. Lawrence Tracy of Rochester, and Fr. Gerald O'Connor and Fr. John Donahoe of Elmira honored us by offering a First Mass for the community.

We were happy to have been chosen by the kindergarten class of Our Lady of Lourdes School, Elmira (our fellow-parishioners) for their Spring Outing. It was the first time any of them were privileged to carry a lunch out of the house. Older brothers and sisters go off for a whole day, lunch in hand; but they are on the short circuit — home for lunch and the old grind. Freedom is a brown paper bag. No restaurant in the world had such proud patrons as we had that day. Mrs. Thomas Sullivan's recreation of order out of chaos was as glorious as the opening pages of the Bible.

It is enough of a pleasure when Dr. and Mrs. Oliver Hewitt of Ithaca come alone, but on one of their visits they brought Fr. Farrell Banim, O.M.I. of the University of Ottawa. We had heard that Fr. Banim was a living expression of the open Church, but he surpassed our expectations in a lecture on Teilhard de Chardin. And we cannot mention lectures without thanking Dr. Margaret Peil of the University of Ghana for her talks on West Africa and Ghana. Any class Margaret teaches must be interesting, but when her object was to get us so inter-

ested in Africa that we would make a foundation in Ghana, you can imagine how fascinating it was. Professor Friedl Lang, who is on his way to the University of Colorado from Catholic University, told us about his work in East Africa where he has been doing field work in anthropology. The large and wonderful Lang family (now nine strong) are old friends of ours, and once again they camped in our woods during part of the summer.

It was a moving experience to have Dr. Sivaraman spend some time here during the last days before his return to India. The same is true of Fr. John Hayes, former pastor of St. Patrick's, Elmira, who came to say goodbye before he left for his new post as rector of Sacred Heart Cathedral, Rochester. But he promised to return to us.

Professor Brian Tierney of the Department of History at Cornell spent an evening with us before leaving with his lively family for a sabbatical year in Europe. He kept us spellbound with a lecture on the contributions of medieval canonists to the modern idea of constitutional government.

The Reverend Eido Tai Shimano, a Zen Master from Japan who now teaches at the Zen Studies Society in New York, spent two days with us, and told us about the spiritual goal of the Zen monk. The discovery of how much we have in common with the Buddhist monks opens entirely new perspectives not only for monasticism, but for the understanding between East and West which is more urgently needed than ever before.

We also remember with gratitude and satisfaction the visit of Professor and Mrs. Harrop Freeman of Ithaca, who shared with us their insights and experiences in the field of Law and Civil Rights.

We are grateful for the time Br. Paul Farkas, C.S.C., James McMurry, and Ron Smetak spent with us. We hope the association will continue to be an operative factor in their lives and that they will always remember us. There are so many more we would like to mention, but we must draw an arbitrary line and stop. The gratitude of all the community goes to our guests who show their confidence that the Spirit of God dwells here. We receive more from you than we give: that is always the case in God's work.

Fr. Martin

The Library - - and H.A.R.

Visitors tell us that what impresses them most about our library is the remarkable way it is integrated into the "living-space" of the West Building. This is no accident: we wanted our new home to express the fact that *lectio divina* — prayerful reading and study — is an integral, essential part of our life.

Since our ordinary budget doesn't allow us to build up our library from our own funds alone, we depend largely upon friends to help. And how well they have! The Abbot Primate remarked that our library was "a paradise." For all who have helped to make it so we are deeply grateful. In particular we would like to mention the following benefactors who have helped us to build up our library over the years: Fr. Joseph Mondel, William Ryan, Bernard Peebles, Maurice Lavanoux, Elisabeth Steindl-Rast, Barbara Sessions, Mr. and Mrs. William S. Collins, and David Reeves, who sends new Sheed and Ward books not only to us but to our foundation in New Mexico. A large por-

tion of the history section of our library was a bequest of the late Frederic Coudert. The largest gift we ever received came this summer from Fr. Hans Anscar Reinhold, who donated to us his entire library.

Fr. Reinhold's friendship with Reverend Father Damasus began during the year he spent, as a young man, at the Abbey of Maria Laach. But his was not a monastic vocation, and after his ordination in 1925 he founded the Apostolate of the Sea in his native city of Hamburg. This was brought to an end by the secret police on April 30, 1935, when Fr. Reinhold had himself to sign the decree banishing him from all contact with the sea and her men; and as harassment continued, he left Germany.

His first year in the United States was spent teaching at Portsmouth Priory, after which he returned to work with the seamen, in Seattle. He became an American citizen in 1944, and was made pastor of St. Joseph's parish in Sunnyside, Washington, where were effected the sound principles of liturgical practice of which he had been writing in *Orate Fratres* (now *Worship*), *The Commonweal*, and other periodicals, usually over the initials H.A.R. His writings include four books: *The Soul Afire: Revelations of the Mystics*; *The American Parish and the Roman Liturgy*; *Bringing the Mass to the People*; and *The Dynamics of the Liturgy*.

This pastoral work came to an end when in 1956 Fr. Reinhold was stricken with Parkinson's disease. Since then he has lived as the guest of Bishop Wright of Pittsburgh, writing, lecturing, consulted by men of all faiths. His work as liturgical prophet and guide has not gone unhonored:



FATHER H. A. REINHOLD
(Photo courtesy of Jubilee)

the Benedictines of St. John's University in Collegeville granted him the Doctorate of Divinity in 1951, and Seton Hill College and Duquesne University have both given him the Doctorate of Humane Letters.

Fr. Reinhold's library brings to us more than the 2000-2500 books: it is an image of the man himself, reflecting a man who delights in books as well as uses them. In the Cathedral rectory in Pittsburgh, where Fr. Martin and I packed up the books, it was obvious that they had been arranged on the shelves with care; and now as I go over them prior to putting them on our shelves I can see better the breadth of his interests. There are books on almost all subjects, especially of course works contributing to the "liturgical movement" in German, French, and English; but also many volumes of art, poetry, and other literature, Judaica, history of religion . . . and a noticeable thing is the number of volumes which have been the gift of friends.

Br. Peter



FATHER FRANCIS AND FRIEND at Dedication Day, 1964.
(Photo: Jim Walsh, Elmira Star-Gazette)

Dedication Day and Open House

We cordially invite you to our annual Dedication Day Fair on Sunday, September 18 (9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.). On this day we celebrate the thirteenth anniversary of the dedication of our Lady Queen of Peace Chapel. Dedication Day gives us a welcome opportunity to greet and thank our many faithful friends, and to meet new ones. It also helps us to cover expenses, particularly those connected with the debt on our new home.

The special feature of Dedication Day this year will be a series of tours of the new monastic buildings for all (men, women, children) who would like to see the interior of Mount Saviour. We have not been able to have such an "open house" since 1964 when the buildings were blessed. But because of the great interest in the new buildings (particularly the interior, which was only recently completed), and as an expression of gratitude to all who have made these buildings a reality, we have secured special permission for this one day. Tours will be conducted from 11:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. We hope many will take advantage of the opportunity and will share with us "the beauty of the Lord's house."

Our "D-Day" committee, made up of friends and neighbors of Mount Saviour, is hard at work once again, planning new attractions and old favorites for the Fair. This year's Dedication Day promises to be an especially good one. It will open with Concelebrated Mass at 9:00 a.m. and close with Vespers and Benediction at 5:00 p.m. We look forward to seeing you!

DIRECTIONS TO MOUNT SAVIOUR

From the East, take Route 17 to Elmira and follow Route 17E through Elmira. At the blinker at western city limits, turn left. Cross bridge and follow signs.

From the West: From Route 17 in East Corning take Route 17E through Big Flats. Turn right at blinker before entering Elmira, cross bridge and follow signs.

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