Dear Friends of Mount Saviour:

It has been a long while since you have had any news. Now that the first cutting of sugar has been put away there is time to take a breather and reflect on what has been happening here during the past several months.

Like provident squirrels we are not only looking back on what we have done, but have an eye cast to the future when summer turns green. We expect to have Dedication Day.

Last year was the first time we risked a September date, but the day turned out so beautifully that it will probably become a fixed custom to have it then. Those of you who are old friends of Mount Saviour know that this is the day we count on for providing us with the means of paying a good portion of our summer running expenses.

Old friends also know that we have changed the custom of sending raffle tickets to requiring a donation equal to the return on two raffle tickets, or $2.00. Old friends know these things, but new friends might not. Please bear with us in reminding you of them. As always we would be grateful for the donation of articles to be sold at the bazaar, but no second hand articles please! Provisions anything but the normal, as it is somewhat useful. When sending things please mark them c/o Dedication Day.

A big welcome to all to help us celebrate Dedication Day, and a thank-you to all who contribute to its success!

One reason for our advertising Dedication Day so fervently is that the Community is growing; this year we have had Father Gabriel Dulles, on February 2, Feast of the Purification, at Vespers of the same feast brothers Elias Mandell, Stephen Galbraith, and Peter Leinwand make their simple profession, on February 10, Feast of St. Scholastica, Brothers Bruno Lane, Anthony Word, and Matthew Regan, received their novices. The seven postulants we now have give us a total family membership of thirty-six. We are old, the young, and youngsters, happy that the Holy Spirit is acting in our way, and we are all working to help support ourselves, though we all join in this single annual appeal for funds to help tide us over.

It may not be very tactful to call our Father Phild, one of the elders, because his heart is young, but the fact that on May 22 he celebrated the 25th anniversary of his ordination certainly cases him gently towards the 'elderly' category. His way is quiet as he himself admits, but there is time to appreciate his presence: the high point of a recent visit of his at the home of a friend was when he decided on a glass of apple juice that he brought exploded and added splashes of new color to the entire kitchen. His way is quiet, but subtle, too: in his chronicle of monastery life this Spring one reads: March and April, nothing much happens, particularly, that of good selection, letters and gifts to Fr. Gregory, and grape juice.' The tanning of the recreation must have been unheeded because the list on May 15 reads: Wine bottling, w. help of Terri Czerm, in a.m. We have enjoyed the wine in several small doses, including the time Father Phild was toasted with it.

The wine of the Spirit was ours in abundance during the Easter season, blessed as it was in countless ways for the whole community to make up for the absence of Reverend Father Damianus. Reverend Father had left early in Lent for Rome and the Holy Land as part of a winter restorative program prescribed by his doctor at the time of his last cardiac crisis. Because of the almost daily conferences it is his custom to give the community that changes Lent to the priests of the community, we have meant our having arrived spiritually parched at the Pashal Mystery, but the Spirit made Himself visible in weather, prayer, and love, particularly that of good Friday, above all in us. It may sound as if I am saying it, but it was the general feeling of the community that never before in the 69 years that Reverend Father and the community of the Holy Land has been reflected so clearly in the eyes of those around us. It was into the quiet eye of what he was later to call the 'Fenestral Stone' that Reverend Father Damianus made a three-point landing via the Chenango County Airport on May 22. A few days later the Spirit gave again, this time with the tender collaboration of His Holiness Pope John XXIII who in a letter accompanying the gift of an autograph portrait conferred on us, our families, benefactors, and friends, allowing us to share in a still more tangible way with the blessed and agreeable storm of the Church that Reverend Father and the community have been sitting out together since his return.

One of the major events of the last year was the breaking of ground for the new monastery buildings. Since then we have undertaken considerable building activity that is located on the perimeter of the spot of the old turned by His Excellency Bishop Earley last August 6, though it approaches the center more each day. On April 4 we began construction of a new shop building, to the north of the Farm. This building is now practically completed and is the temporary home of the nuns, and in the garage area, of the chapel, because on June 18, work began on the remodeling and enlarging of the chapel proper, forcing us to vacate for four months and move to the barn area. The garage of the shop building makes a very good oratory, providing more togetherness for the community, as well as occasional company for the cows and with the nearby cows. The maternity wing of the farm faces the oratory, meaning that Vespers can be punctuated or even punctured with more than the cow's moo. Better known by her Christian name, Ech, now several days overdue and getting impatient.

Construction of the main monastery buildings is due to begin later in the summer, meaning that within a reasonably short time the community will have settled into a permanent home leaving the old building for the cows. The summer also provides more room for guest, particularly priest guests, who are increasingly anxious to make their retreats here with us. It is our hope that the number of guests will continue to increase, along with the number of retreatants, some of them old friends, such as Father Rolando Lamberg, assistant chaplain at the University of Corpus Christi, and Father Welch, oblate, of the Westminster Diocese, and Father William Brown, newly ordained priest of the New York Archdiocese, and others, who did us the honor of celebrating various Masses. We hope the newcomers among them will soon be old friends, and others among them can see how the future will increase the number of friends and obligations among the diocesan clergy of the Rochester and neighboring dioceses.

Let us not forget how much we have been impressed with everything, but were also very careful to affirm, it is our hope that these, as well as the four, that "We believe in Marxism as you believe in God." Communication along more familiar lines, and to the common feeling of the community will greatly contribute to the well-being of our community. I am sure that you, as a community of friends, will think of us often, and in the coming months I hope that you will be able to contribute to our success.

Among our other guests were three Russian exchange students from Cornell, who spent an afternoon here early in April. They had never visited a monastery before and were 'very impressed' with everything, but were also very careful to affirm, it is our hope that these, as well as the four, that "We believe in Marxism as you believe in God." Communication along more familiar lines, and to the common feeling of the community will greatly contribute to the well-being of our community. I am sure that you, as a community of friends, will think of us often, and in the coming months I hope that you will be able to contribute to our success.

Among our most welcome recent guests were our Elmira and Rochester oblates who came for a few days' recollection over the weekend of June 8-10. The scores of any monastery's success is the degree to which it projects the face of Christ to the world around it, and these oblates are the face of the Mount Saviour community. This loving face outside the cloister, we are happy that our family-in-the-world is constantly growing and regularly renewing to manifest the life it shares.

All the members of the Mount Saviour community hope that the recently deceased oblate members, Mary Heine and...
Fred Grimaldi, are interceding for those of us still on route to heaven.

Other deaths that particularly saddened the community were those of Mrs. Alice Mergenthaler and Mrs. Katherine Hofbauer. Mrs. Mergenthaler, benefactress, and old friend of the community, died suddenly on May 20. Mrs. Hofbauer was the widow of Joseph Hofbauer and with him had been the owner of the house and farm that formed the nucleus of the monastery at its founding eleven years ago. The Hofbauers became fast friends of the monastery and have now both returned to rest in the community cemetery on a hillside above Saint Peter’s, the name we gave the old Hofbauer house.

Mr. and Mrs. Maximilian Albrecht have managed our ladies’ and married couples’ guesthouse, Saint Gertrude’s, for over a year now, and have made their name a synonym for cordiality to guests and community alike. In addition to cordiality, the name Albrecht has come to mean ‘music!’ Mr. Albrecht, a musician of note in pre-war Germany, has recently had a composition sung by the Cornell University choral society. A major work, his Requiem, will be performed by the same group during the coming school year. Mr. Albrecht has fired the enthusiasm of the community so successfully that a kind of ‘music fever’ has resulted. In addition to the several small choral groups that have developed, Brother Bruno has organized a chamber music group, consisting of several recorders and a cello. After an evening concert that ended with all players together after a few bars of tense improvisation the cellist wiped his brow and said: ‘All’s well that ends well.’ Though there is no end of the music fever in view, it has never reached a crisis and has contributed considerably to the community’s recreation.

Part of the work of the Spirit here at Mount Saviour this spring was to provide us with enough rain to make the first cutting of sage the best we have ever had. Father John was never altogether satisfied with the weather, but in the long run we were blessed with enough ‘right’ weather to give us a prize cutting. At present we are faced with a water shortage, the drought that the rest of the Northeast has had to cope with from the beginning of the season. We have been praying for all of you with parched laws and now ask that you fall to praying that rains come for us, too. There may be no connection between dry weather and angry bees, but there is a connection between exerted and angry bees. Father James moved several hives this spring, and within fifteen minutes of the operation the hilltop was awash with the angry creatures and the community had dive-bombed indoors, many of us stung in many a part. The real frustra occurred later that day, after Compline, when another hive was being transported downhill in the car the nurses use to get back and forth to novitiate. As the hive was being removed from the car the bees came out en masse, and a twilight massacre ensued with the bees the clear and easy victors. Frankly, the chronicler does not know whether there is any real connection between drought and angry bees, but if drought means shrivelled plants and if shrivelled plants mean less food for bees and if hungry bees are angry bees, we need prayers, so please pray for rain.

Before closing —

A Memo from the Office:

NOTICE — CHANGE OF ADDRESS
All recipients of the ‘Chronicle’ or the ‘Newsletter’ who change their place of residence are urged to notify the monastery prior to moving, if possible.

Give the old address as well as the new. This saves duplication in mailing, helps keep our records in order and avoids confusion.

Due to change in postal regulations, the service of returning undeliverable copies has been increased to eight cents for each copy.

Your promptness in sending us your change of address will save us quite a financial burden and will keep you from missing any issue of the ‘Chronicle’ or ‘Newsletter.’

Please address such information to:
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Box 3066
Elmira, N. Y.