

Magazine
MonksOK

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GAUDETE! *Reflections from Abbot Lawrence*



During the Easter season we encounter in the liturgy the story of how the apostles and first disciples of Jesus came to experience the reality of the resurrection and new life that Jesus had brought into the world. Gathering together, often in secret, they revisited familiar places, shared their memories of the Lord, and step by step recognized the transforming call of Jesus in their lives.

For example, the gospel of Luke 24:36-49 tells of how the apostles and others were gathered behind locked doors on the evening of the first Easter. They were sharing with each other the stories of how they had encountered the risen Lord earlier that day. Suddenly, and despite the locked doors, Jesus appeared to them. Showing the wounds of his hands, feet and side to prove his true identity, Jesus explained how Moses and the prophets foretold the necessity of his suffering and death so that God's promise of salvation could be fulfilled. After this he told them: "You are witnesses of these things." In so many words Jesus was telling them: "You cannot hide behind your shutters in fear – you are the witnesses of the fulfillment of all Holy Scripture and of salvation itself. Go and testify to the world!"

The Acts of the Apostles shows that this call to be witnesses became perhaps the most important underlying motivation and theme for the proclamation of the Gospel. St. Peter refers to himself and the other apostles as "witnesses to these things" at least four times. He does so when he proclaims the gospel on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2:30), when he explains the power behind his healing of a man who was crippled from birth (Acts 3:15), when he is tried by the leaders of the Temple (Acts 5:32), and when he shares message of Jesus Christ to the household of the Roman centurion Cornelius (Acts 10:39). Filled with the gift of the Holy Spirit, St. Peter is bold in fulfilling the call to be a witness to the truth of the Gospel.

After his conversion, St. Paul also takes up the phrase as he proclaims the Gospel to the Jews in Antioch (Acts 13:31), when he tells of how Ananias told him that he would be "his witness before all to what you have seen and heard" (Acts 22:15), and when he bids farewell to the Christians at Miletus. On that occasion he assesses his whole life in terms of his calling to be a witness: "Yet I consider life of no importance to me, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to bear witness to the gospel of God's grace" (Acts 20:24).

As the apostles and early disciples came to a deeper under-

standing of the new life they had in Jesus, they understood that they could not remain silent. Rather, they were compelled to proclaim the Good News of salvation, even if it meant hardship, persecution, prosecution and even execution. They had become the true witnesses to Jesus. They had become true witnesses to the fulfillment of God's promises. They had become true witnesses to life itself.

The journeys of faith of the apostles and early disciples into the reality of the resurrection are not all that different from our own. Like the apostles, we do not immediately understand the full impact of the resurrection of Jesus in our lives. Even after we have experienced the risen Lord and have been called to faith, we do not at once fully grasp this new reality. We can experience fear and anxiety, just as the apostles did. At times we remember our sinfulness and the times when we, like St. Peter, have denied our relationship with the Lord. Sometimes we might even want to return to the routines and circumstances of our lives that we had before our encounter with Jesus.

In all of these moments, however, Jesus continues to come to us, gently calling to us, helping us to recognize him, and to be reminded of our his love for us and of our love for him. He does not give up on us, but lovingly calls us back to the experience of his grace. Even with our weaknesses and sins, Jesus continues to invite us to enter more fully into the new life of his resurrection. He also reminds us of our share in the "Great Commission" to proclaim the good news of God's kingdom. He calls each of us to join St. Peter, St. Paul and the other disciples in being "witnesses of these things."

What things? We are witnesses to the reality the Jesus is the Messiah and the full revelation of salvation through his teaching, his healing, his suffering, his death and his resurrection. We are witnesses to the truth that sin, violence, torture, crimes against humanity, rejection of God and death itself do not have the last word in this world, nor do they provide any true experience of fulfillment. We are witnesses to the truth that goodness, humility, compassion, forgiveness, emptying oneself in love and complete fidelity to God's Word are victorious in

Jesus. We are witnesses to the truth Jesus embodies completely the only hope of salvation for our world that is broken by sin and death. We are witnesses to the Way, to the Truth and to the Life.

No matter our age, no matter our state or position in life, no matter the circumstances

in which we find ourselves: we Christians are called to be witnesses of these things. We must not cower in fear behind our closed doors, shuttered windows and a false sense of safety by not getting involved in confronting the injustices, empty promises and tragedies that surround us. Rather, we must do our part – no matter how small it might seem – to bear witness to the Truth and the Life. This is what Jesus did, this is what he called the apostles to do, and this is what he calls us to do as well. We must not be afraid – but rather take courage in the reality that Lord is truly risen and will never die again. Alleluia!

"You cannot hide behind your shutters in fear – you are the witnesses of the fulfillment of all Holy Scripture and of salvation itself. Go and testify to the world!"

Centennial Of Historic Moment

This spring marks an historic anniversary for the monks of St. Gregory's Abbey and the people they serve. It was on May 4, 1913, that the cornerstone of Benedictine Hall was officially set in position and blessed by Bishop Theophile Meerschart of Oklahoma City. The building was completed in the fall of 1915. This rare photo captures the historic moment.

As the first building constructed on the campus at Shawnee, Benedictine Hall housed the monastery, chapel, and all of the indoor facilities serving the new high school, college and museum. Even the gymnasium was included, situated as the central tower atop the landmark building.



FYE Program Includes Pilgrimage to Sacred Heart

On Friday, April 12, approximately 60 St. Gregory's University freshmen traveled to the historic site of Sacred Heart Mission to experience the beginnings of the Catholic Church and higher education in the state of Oklahoma. The students were part of the First Year Experience course (FYE) at St. Gregory's University. Dean of Students, Josh Clary, organized and led the expedition.

Upon their arrival, the students were welcomed by Abbot Lawrence Stasyszen, OSB, and the Pastor of Sacred Heart, Fr. Adrian Vorderlandwehr, OSB. From the steps of the parish church, Abbot Lawrence recounted the history of Sacred Heart,

from the arrival of Fr. Isidore Robot and Bro. Dominic Lambert, to the Great Fire of 1901, to the move to Shawnee. Fr. Nicholas Ast, OSB, then led tours of the mission site.

After the tours, Fr. Nicholas celebrated Mass for the students in the parish Church. Fr. Nicholas said, "We wanted the students to be able to visualize the buildings, the people, the life of Sacred Heart so that they would make a personal connection to the history of St. Gregory's."



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On the cover: Fr. Nicholas and Fr. Adrian concelebrate Mass for SGU students on April 12 in the current parish church at Sacred Heart, which was built in 1910.

Reconstruction Begins on Benedictine Hall

After months of preparation, the first phase of the restoration of historic Benedictine Hall officially began on Monday, March 25. Abbot Lawrence led members of the monastic and university community, as well as other guests and representatives of the news media, in a ceremony to bless the restoration project and the workers who will bring it to completion.

Benedictine Hall garnered national attention in November 2011, which it was significantly damaged by a 5.6 magnitude earthquake centered about 15 miles from Shawnee. Engineers, architects and contractors with special expertise in the historic restoration projects have developed a plan for the restoration, and university officials have led a fund-raising effort that has gathered nearly \$2.5 million in cash and pledges. The first phase will include reconstruction of the four turrets that crown Benedictine Hall, repairs to the masonry and decorative elements on other parts of the building as needed, and reconstruction of the marble steps at the exterior front entrance. Fund raising efforts are still underway to secure the funds needed for subsequent renovations and enhancements to be completed before the centennial of the opening of the building in 2015.

Br. Isidore Attends Annual Medieval Fair

Over the weekend of April 6-8, **Br. Isidore Hardin, OSB**, once again was instrumental in constructing and staffing a booth at the annual Medieval Fair in Norman, Oklahoma. The booth is designed to resemble historic Benedictine Hall at St. Gregory's and features information on medieval history, including monastic life, spirituality and education. Some 365,000 people attend the event, making it the largest weekend event in Oklahoma. Wearing his monastic habit, Br. Isidore is able to raise awareness of the current reality of monastic life in Oklahoma when he explains to visitors that he is not in costume playing a character but is in fact a Benedictine monk from a monastery in Oklahoma. He also finds it a great venue in which he can share with others his passion for Native American style flute music.



Monks Receive Assignments

Abbot Lawrence recently announced additional or new responsibilities for four members of the community.

Br. Benet Exton, OSB, now serves as the Abbey Guest Master. He had been serving as Assistant Guest Master to Fr. Charles Massoth, OSB. Br. Benet is responsible for managing reserva-

tions for Abbey guest rooms and serves as the primary host for guests.

Br. George Hubl, OSB, will support Br. Benet as the Assistant Abbey Guest Master. In this role, Br. George will develop a new electronic management system to coordinate guest room reservations and will assist with hosting guests as needed.

Also part of the hospitality team is **Br. Isidore Harden, OSB**, who serves as the manager of the staff that cleans and prepares the rooms between guests.

Fr. Brendan Helbing, OSB, will become Associate Pastor for St. Benedict Parish in Shawnee on July 1. His special duties will be as a priest in residence for Immaculate Conception Parish in Seminole, OK, and regular pastoral minister to St. Joseph Oratory in nearby Wewoka, OK.

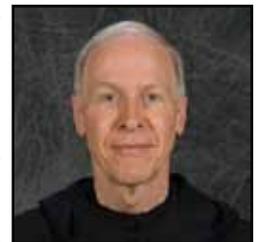
Fr. Basil Keenan, OSB, on July 1, will assume duties as Associate Pastor for at St. Peter Church in Guymon, with its missions at St. Frances Cabrini Church in Beaver, Church of the Good Shepherd in Boise City and Sacred Heart Church in Hooker, covering a vast territory in the panhandle of Oklahoma. This will be a temporary assignment as the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City awaits the arrival of an additional priest from Venezuela. Fr. Basil's fluency with Spanish will be of great help in these communities.



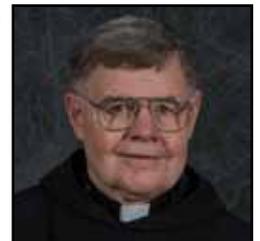
Br. Benet



Br. George



Fr. Brendan



Fr. Basil

Abbey Announces Novena in Honor of St. Kateri Tekakwitha

The canonization of St. Kateri Tekakwitha by Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI on October 21, 2012, was a day of particular joy for the Church of North America. The canonization of the first Native American saint holds up to the Universal Church the inspiring faith, piety and love of a truly courageous young woman. It also has drawn attention to the beauty and inspiring stories of countless other Native American peoples along with their rich cultural traditions.

To celebrate the canonization of St. Kateri Tekakwitha in an ongoing way, Abbot Lawrence has announced that the Abbey will institute a public novena of prayer in her honor at St. Gregory's Abbey. This novena will be offered for the first time this year, beginning on Saturday, July 6, and ending on Sunday, July 14, the established feastday for St. Kateri. The novena will come to a climax on July 14, with



a Mass celebrated by the Most Rev. Paul Coakley, Archbishop of Oklahoma City, a procession to the statue of St. Kateri on the Abbey property, a traditional Native American meal, and traditional dancing. Special novena prayers will be mailed to those who receive MonksOK!, and the public is encouraged to participate in the special celebration. For more information or to register for the meal, please call 405-878-5490.

Annual Oblate Meetings Held

The annual spring Oblate Meeting at the monastery was held on Sunday, April 7. Some 50 oblates from across Okla-

homa and neighboring states gathered for prayer, fellowship and discussions. Fr. Prior Martin, the Abbey Oblate Director, gave a conference to the oblates and discussed the book The Road to Everlasting Life, by Fr. Michael Casey, OCSO. Abbot



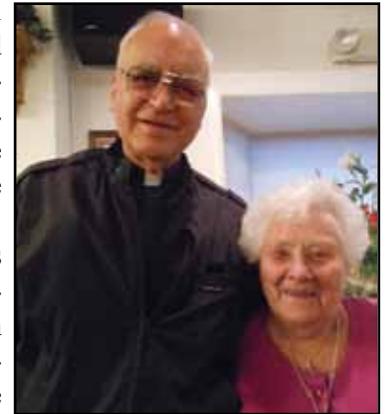
Oblates Daniel Lay and David Bunch.

Lawrence reflected on the recent transition from Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, reflecting on what we as a Church and as individuals can learn from their respective gestures and words. He also gave an overview of news from the monastery. A highlight of the day came during Solemn Vespers, during which Rev. Mr. David Bunch of Lawton, OK, and Mr. Daniel Lay of Shawnee, OK, made the final commitment as Benedictine Oblates of St. Gregory's Abbey. Oblate David Bunch is a deacon of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City serving at Holy Family Parish in Lawton. Oblate Daniel J. Lay is the Preparator for the Mabee-Gerrer Museum of Art, and also has volunteered his training and skills as a "master gardener" to help beautify the grounds of the Abbey.

Abbot Lawrence and Prior Martin traveled the following weekend to St. Benedict Parish in Montebello, California, to meet with the oblates and friends of the abbey in southern California. Abbot Lawrence celebrated Mass with Prior Martin and Oblate Deacon David Estrada assisting. Following Mass

the group gathered at a local restaurant for fellowship and conferences from Abbot Lawrence and Prior Martin. Approximately 35 were attendance for the California spring oblate gathering.

St. Gregory's Abbey has deep historic ties to southern California as monks from Oklahoma traveled to the region in the first decade of the 20th century to found a priory and several parish churches. The monks staffed to of these parishes until the latter part of the century. They staffed Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in East Los Angeles until 1987 and St. Benedict Parish in Montebello until 1997. Strong ties of friendship remain between the monks and many people in the area, especially through the oblates of the area and through personal family connections. Prior Martin and Fr. Manuel were raised in Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, and our deceased confreres Abbot Robert Dodson, OSB, Fr. Theodore Seneschal, OSB and Fr. Luke Gonzalez, OSB, were also from the greater Montebello and Los Angeles area.



Prior Martin and Oblate Betty Genino, long-time CA gathering coordinator.



Oblates gathered in Montebello, CA.



We give thanks to God for sending rain in answer to our prayers!

Abbot Charles Damian Massoth, O.S.B., Enters Eternal Life

Rt. Rev. Charles Damian (William) Massoth, O.S.B., died peacefully at St. Gregory's Abbey on April 21, 2013. He was 89 years of age. He had completed 67 years as a monk of St. Gregory's, having served for 63 years as an ordained priest.

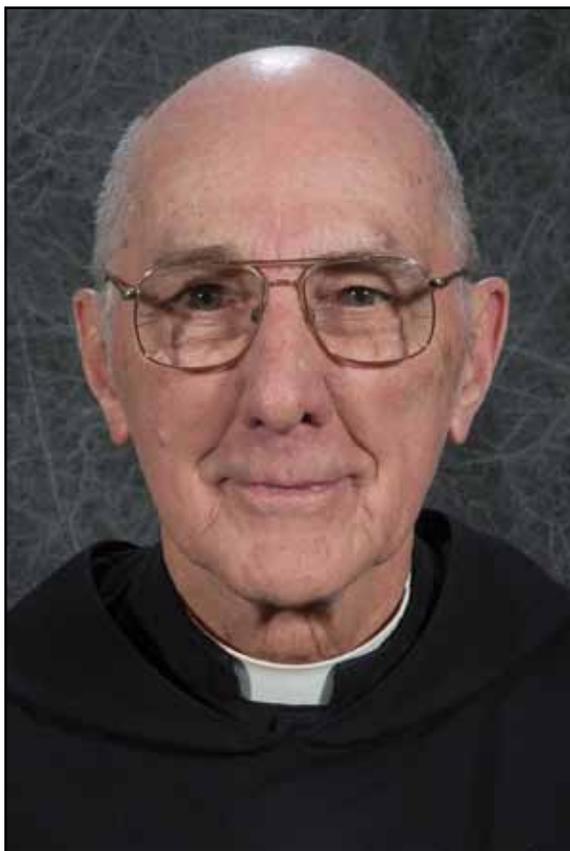
Charles Massoth was born on November 26, 1923, in Piqua, Kansas, the son of William J. and Christina T. (Kipp) Massoth, and was the youngest of five children. He is pre-deceased by his parents, by his brothers Leo J. Massoth and Ralph J. Massoth, and by his sisters, Sister M. Coletta Massoth, R.S.M., and Sister M. Leonilla Massoth, R.S.M. His sisters were members of the Religious Sisters of Mercy, and also spent much of their lives on assignment in Oklahoma.

After completing high school in Yates Center, KS, he entered the U.S. Navy during World War II in 1943. He soon contracted rheumatic fever, however, and was honorably discharged from the military after six months of service. With the encouragement of his sisters, he enrolled at St. Gregory's College, where he studied Philosophy.

After his sophomore year of college, Charles entered the novitiate at St. Gregory's Abbey on February 24, 1945. He made his first profession of vows at St. Gregory's on February 25, 1945. After theological studies at St. Gregory's, he was ordained to the priesthood on April 7, 1951, by Bishop Eugene J. McGuinness of Oklahoma City. Following ordination, Fr. Charles pursued additional university studies in business at East Central State College in Ada, OK, in music at the St. Pius X School of Liturgical Music of Manhattanville College of the Sacred Heart in Purchase, NY, and in education at St. Benedict College, Atchison, KS, and the University of Oklahoma, Norman, OK.

From 1948 until 1971, Fr. Charles served in a variety of capacities at St. Gregory's High School and College. He taught business courses in the high school, served as Business Manager (1955-1962), and Dean of Admissions and Records and Financial Aid Officer of the College (1963-1971). He was instrumental in guiding St. Gregory's College through its first accreditation process with the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. During this period he also served variously as Procurator, Cleric Master, and Prior of the monastery.

On July 1, 1971, Fr. Charles became Pastor of St. Benedict Parish in Montebello, CA, a large and vibrant parish of nearly 5,000 households, founded by the monks of St. Gregory's in 1907. He was a beloved pastor, known for his gentleness, kindness, compassion and practical business sense. He became involved with local civic organizations and community development efforts. He was a member of the Montebello American Legion Post 272 and of the Elks Lodge 2051. On May 15,



1974, he received the "Community Service Award" for his efforts in the city of Montebello. On January 11, 1975, he received an honorary Doctor of Divinity Degree from the San Diego based Ministry of Salvation, Inc., in recognition of his Christian experience and personal qualifications. He completed his first tenure of service in Montebello in August of 1986.

At that time, Fr. Charles returned to Oklahoma to serve as Prior of St. Gregory's Abbey and as Chaplain at St. Gregory's College. He also accepted many weekend assignments to Catholic parishes around Oklahoma in need of ministry.

Fr. Charles was elected and confirmed as the eighth Abbot of St. Gregory's Abbey on January 3, 1989. He was blessed as Abbot on March 5, 1989. The day of his blessing will always be remembered for the significant blizzard that unfortunately prevented many people from attending the festivities. As Abbot, he

served actively on the Boards of Directors for St. Gregory's College and the Mabee-Gerrer Museum of Art. During his tenure as Abbot, the Sarkeys Performing Art Center was built at St. Gregory's, which included the expansion of the Mabee-Gerrer Museum of Art. Abbot Charles resigned as Abbot on January 3, 1994, having surpassed the standard retirement age for abbots.

After a six month sabbatical, Abbot Charles returned to St. Benedict Parish in Montebello, CA, to reassume his former duties as Pastor. This assignment was to be brief, however, as he was called back a year later to become the Pastor of St. Benedict Parish in Shawnee, OK. There he served as Pastor for four years.

In June 1999, Abbot Charles returned to the monastery where he lived in semi-retirement. As long as his health permitted, he fulfilled several internal and external ministries. He frequently provided weekend assistance at parishes in Oklahoma and served for many years as a monthly confessor to the Carmelite Nuns at St. Joseph Monastery in Piedmont, Oklahoma. He served on the St. Gregory's University Endowment Foundation Board of Trustees between 1989 and 2012. He also served, until shortly before his death, as the monastery Guest Master, graciously hosting countless monastery visitors.

Abbot Charles always was concerned to beautify the physical environment of the many places he served. He personally installed many landscaping elements at his parishes and around the campus of St. Gregory's, carefully watering flowers and shrubs to coax them through dry seasons. He similarly oversaw the renovation or redecoration of several parish and monastery facilities. One of the last projects he made possible on the campus of St. Gregory's was the installation of the new plaza on the

Continued

Abbot Charles – Continued

west side of Benedictine Hall, centered around our statue of St. Kateri Tekakwitha. Although he was well into his 80s, he could be seen frequently carrying water to the new shrubs and flowers to sustain them through the summer heat and drought.

He was widely known and admired for his beautiful singing voice, which he would freely share whenever he could find an opportunity – even incorporating popular carols, hymns and patriotic songs into his sermons and homilies. His love and talent for singing was spotted while he was a student at St. Gregory's, and on the eve of entering the novitiate of the monastery he was featured as a soloist in the college musical review for 1945, during which he sang without irony the popular song "Don't Fence Me In." During his reflections on the occasion of his 60th anniversary of ordination he summed up his life as a priest by singing "The Impossible Dream." The song most identified with him was "Scarlet Ribbons," which was an annual feature of the Abbey Christmas season. Shortly before his death, he completed an oral history interview with students of St. Gregory's University by singing this signature song.

Abbot Charles experienced declining strength after experiencing a heart attack in December 2010. Despite his weakened condition, he faithfully observed the daily schedule of the monastery until shortly before his death. He faced his final days peacefully and with deep faith, filled with gratitude for a fulfilling life marked by countless blessings from God and the people he served. He died at the monastery, sustained by the sacraments of the Church, the good wishes of many, and the prayerful presence of his monastic community. He is survived by the monks of St. Gregory's Abbey, several nieces, nephews, and cousins, and many grateful parishioners, oblates and friends.

A prayer vigil for Abbot Charles was celebrated in the St. Gregory's Abbey Church on Thursday, April 25. Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated in the Abbey Church on Friday, April 26. He is interred the Abbey Cemetery.

Those wishing to recognize Abbot Charles can do so by making a gift to St. Gregory's Abbey for the newly established Abbot Charles Massoth, O.S.B., Monastery Education Burse. This endowment fund will provide resources for the education of members of the monastic community for future ministry.

**Do you ever wonder where
God is leading you?**

**Are you interested in becoming a monk
of St. Gregory's Abbey?**



**Contact Fr. Boniface
Copelin, O.S.B.,
for more information.
405-878-5455 or
frboniface@
stgregorys.edu**

From the Vocation Director

Rev. Boniface Copelin, O.S.B.

Where do we find enough?



In the past few months we have had a number of vocations guests come to the Abbey for our Monastic Experience Retreats. Some of these men have been from the University and many from other life situations. It is indeed encouraging to have these men come and visit us and get to know a bit more about our life. As I have talked and written with these men over the past few months there has been a common theme which I will call 'not enough'. These men are all doing rather well in their various walks of life, but they are finding something lacking in them.

This is a different kind of 'not enough' than we might normally encounter. I believe that it was J. Paul Getty who was asked "How much money is enough?" and he answered "One more dollar." In that sense, there is a clear idea of the things which our world provides which will somehow satisfy our needs.

The start of a vocation, on the other hand, begins with this 'not enough' and comes to the realization that the goods of this world by themselves will never completely satisfy that need. The beginning of a vocation is then the seeking of that which is not of this world which will satisfy the needs of the heart which only God can provide to the hearts of those who seek him.

Join Us for These Special Events

Br. Simeon Spitz, O.S.B., will be ordained to the Order of Deacon by Archbishop Paul Coakley on Friday, June 7, the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart. The Mass with Ordination will begin at 10:30 a.m. in the Abbey Church.

Celebration for the Feast of St. Kateri Tekakwitha - Sunday, July 14. Archbishop Coakley will celebrate Mass in the Abbey Church at 3:00 p.m. This will be followed by a pilgrimage walk to the outdoor statue of St. Kateri to complete the Abbey Novena of St. Kateri, a traditional Pow-Wow picnic, and inter-tribal traditional dancing for all in attendance until sunset.

Those interested in attending these special events are asked to call the Abbey Office at 405-878-5490 for more information.

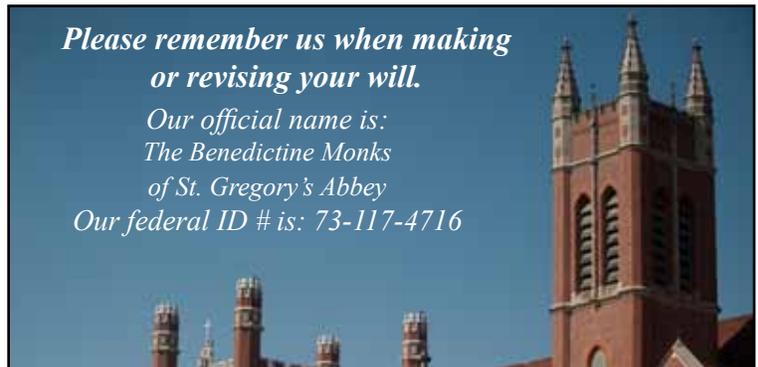
*Please remember us when making
or revising your will.*

Our official name is:

The Benedictine Monks

of St. Gregory's Abbey

Our federal ID # is: 73-117-4716



Abbey Golf Tournament

St. Gregory's Abbey will hold its 2nd Annual Golf Tournament on Monday, June 17, at the beautiful Twin Hills Golf and Country Club in Oklahoma City with a start time of 9 a.m.. This year's tournament is in honor of Br. Andy. The tournament will raise funds to support the continuing education of the monks as well as the meeting their healthcare costs.

The fee to play is \$150 per player (\$50 minimum deposit required), or \$1,000 for a 4-Player Corporate Sponsorship (\$250 minimum deposit required). Lunch is included and prizes will be awarded at the course following the tournament.

Tee sign sponsorships are \$100. If you'd like to join us for lunch only, the cost is \$25. To make a reservation, please call Lynda at (405) 878-5490.

If you cannot attend that day, but would still like to make a donation in honor of Br. Andy, you may use the enclosed envelope or the golf website.



Use your smart-phone to scan the code above to go directly to the golf webpage.



Br. Andrew "Andy" Rapple, OSB, has been a monk of St. Gregory's Abbey for over 60 years. Having served for over 45 years in the Abbey kitchen, Br. Andy is known as for his selfless service to generations of monks, students, employees and guests as

he faithfully prepared meals, treats and especially his special breads. Today he continues to welcome alumni and guests at the Abbey Greenhouse, where he cultivates roses, orchids, poinsettias, and Easter lilies, and crafts intricate wood carvings."



Please use the enclosed envelope to send in your prayer requests.

Abbey Announces Dates For Annual Summer Retreats

Two retreats will be offered this summer by St. Gregory's Abbey for the general public. The retreats begin at 7:30 p.m. on Friday evening and end with lunch on Sunday. Lodging is available in the university residence halls and meals are taken in the monastery dining room. Along with access to Mass and the daily prayers of the monks, the retreats will feature conferences and discussions led by Abbot Lawrence and Fr. Charles Buckley, OSB. For more information about the retreats listed below, please call the Abbey Office at 405-878-5490, or email Fr. Charles: cjbuckley@stgregorys.edu.

July 5-7: Retreat with Abbot Lawrence

The Incarnation of Love - Holiness in the Rule of St. Benedict. The Second Vatican Council emphasized that all baptized persons are called to a life of holiness. And yet we often are still left with the questions of what constitutes holiness and how can one arrive at holiness. In this retreat, Abbot Lawrence will examine the quest for holiness in the Rule of St. Benedict. In doing so, he will consider how St. Benedict brings holiness from the realm of theory and into the reality of daily life as the embodiment of love.

August 2-4: Retreat with Fr. Charles

Introducing the Devout Life Today. St. Francis de Sales has been quoted often recently. That's maybe unusual for a spiritual writer from the early 1600's. But he is important now for the same reasons he was important in the early 1600's: opening the spiritual life to a wide range of Christians, not just those in religious careers. He wrote his *Introduction to the Devout Life* to open the doors to the spiritual life to people in various circumstances, realizing that king and pauper, ancient and modern will differ in the ways they conceive of God and cultivate intimacy with God. This retreat will center on the teaching of St. Francis de Sales as expressed in the *Introduction* as well as in other writings. The goal, as always, will be to enhance the way we experience and live out our relationship with God and our neighbor in the place we occupy in space and time, within the long perspective of space and time.

