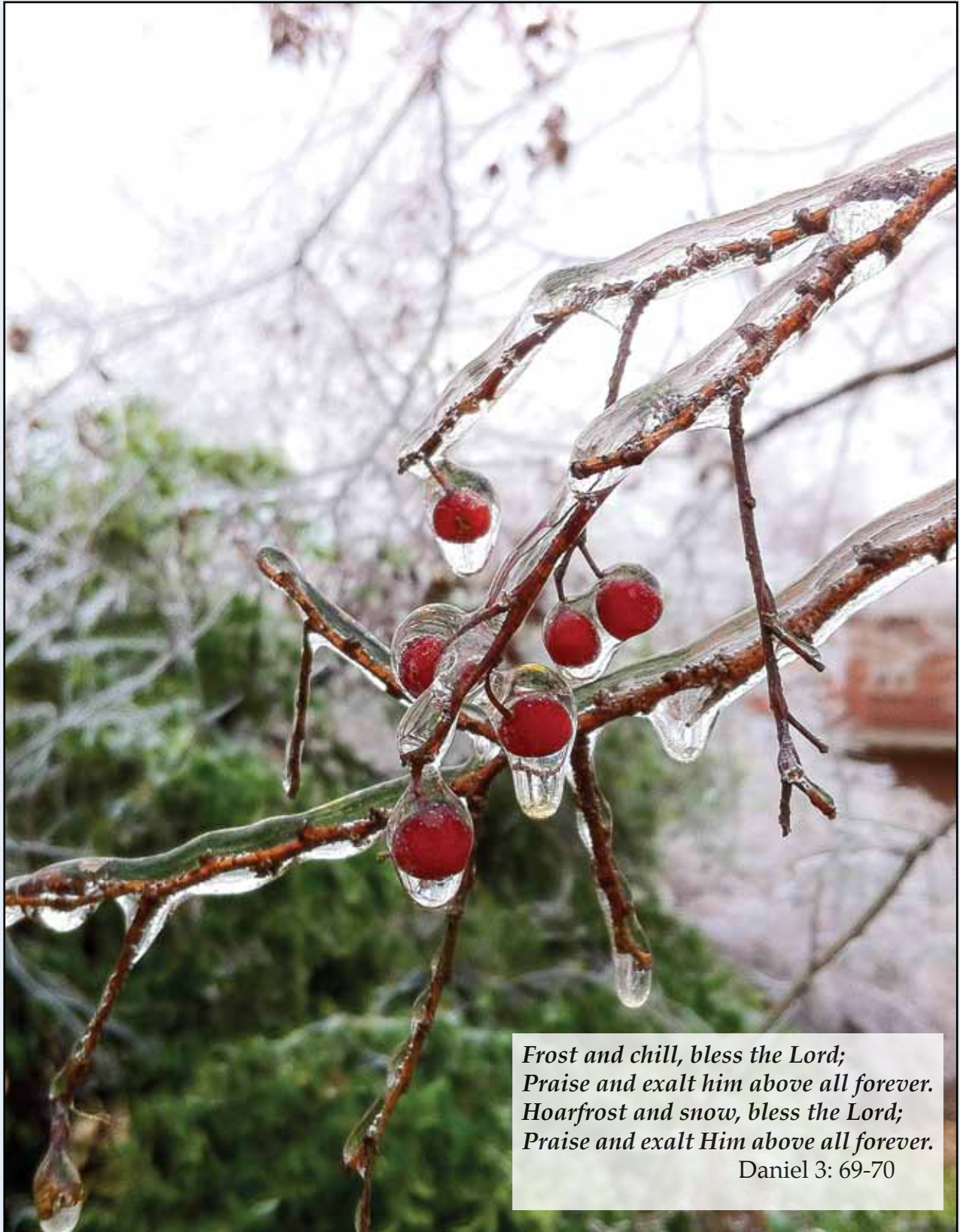


# Magazine MonksOK

Volume 6, Number 1

† Shawnee

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*Frost and chill, bless the Lord;  
Praise and exalt him above all forever.  
Hoarfrost and snow, bless the Lord;  
Praise and exalt Him above all forever.*

Daniel 3: 69-70

# GAUDETE! *Reflections from Abbot Lawrence*



In the days just before Christmas, as we in Oklahoma were quickly approaching the shortest day and longest night of the calendar year, our landscape became frozen in beneath a covering of ice. Along with the growing darkness and coating of ice,

we experienced several days of frigid temperatures so no melting of the ice occurred. Even great and powerful trees became weighed down with a burden that threatened to break them or at least misshape them permanently. And as attractive as the icy landscape might have appeared, it made even simple tasks dangerous. An ordinary walk outside or a journey of a few miles became treacherous and, sadly, even deadly for some.

The natural world was bent down under the burden of ice for nearly three days, so persistent were the cold and the grey clouds that cast a shadow over us!

And then, on Christmas Eve, something wonderful happened: the light of the sun finally burst through the winter gloom and a thaw began in earnest. As the landscape about us sparkled with this light of the sun, the trees were released from their burden, and even the ice was transformed into water that fell to the ground to nourish the earth.

The timing of this seasonal change in weather struck me as a wonderful metaphor for the great feast of Christmas. On Christmas day we once again heard the message beginning of the Good News of Salvation first heralded by John the Baptist: “The true light, which enlightens everyone, has come into the world.”

How the world needed the light of Jesus Christ, the Word spoken by the Father before time began, through whom all things came to be! Since shortly after the light of the first dawn shone upon creation and the time when God breathed his own Spirit into the clay to create man, the whole of creation had suffered from the original sin of our first parents, Adan and Eve. The darkness of sin had entered into the human experience, and had weighed down the lives of all, even the strong and the mighty. And although the ancient foe made sin to appear attractive in so many ways, it made even the simple day to day life of our world dangerous and even deadly.

The gloom of sin and death persisted over the human family like the grey clouds that persisted over the Oklahoma landscape over the last few days before Christmas 2013. It seemed as though the original dignity which humanity possessed at creation would be permanently disfigured or even break under this burden of sin. Even though God spoke words of truth and light in various ways through the prophets, it never seemed to be enough to break the grip of sin and death on the human heart.

But with the coming of Jesus a new dawn has shone forth that

finally broke through the power of sin that held our world in its icy grip. The light of Jesus finally had the power to melt away the burden of guilt that brought humanity down to the point of being ruined under its weight.

This new dawn was the full revelation of salvation that “in these last days, God has spoken to us through the Son, whom he made heir of all things and through whom he created the universe, who is the refulgence of his glory....” Like the radiant heat of the solar light that so quickly melted the ice that covered the winter landscape of Oklahoma, the refulgent warmth of the Son of God melts away the deadly power of sin and now we have seen “...his glory, the glory as of the Father’s only Son, full of grace and truth.”

In the great feast of Christmas, we celebrated the coming of salvation into our world through the Word of God Made Flesh in Jesus Christ. But unlike the passing warmth of the winter sun, the good news of Christmas lasts forever.

As we pass from the celebrations of the Christmas season and into the winter period of “Ordinary Time,” we still can and should give thanks for the gift of new life that God has extended to us through the Son. Through the coming of Jesus, God has given us the “...power to become children of God” if we but embrace anew the testimony of John and believe in the name of Jesus, who has revealed the love and mercy of God to us. Whenever we remember this joyful message of the gospel, we are invited to bask in the refulgent light of the Son of God, so that we might also be relieved of the burden of sin and shame and stand upright in the light of truth and love.

And along with this invitation we also are called to give our own testimony to Jesus, who came to bring the light of truth and salvation to all peoples. We who in the light of Jesus “...see directly, before our eyes, the Lord restoring” our fallen world, are called to break forth in song and to “bring glad tidings, announcing peace, bearing good news, announcing salvation, and saying” to the weary world about us: “Your God is King!” Remembering the joyful light of Christmas, may 2014 be a year when we accept with open hearts the call that God has given to us to “... sing to the Lord a new song, for He has done wondrous deeds!”

*MonksOK* is published four times per year by the **Benedictine Monks of St. Gregory’s Abbey** for our friends, oblates, and sponsors.

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## From the Vocation Director

On December 9<sup>th</sup> thru the 11<sup>th</sup>, Abbot Lawrence and I attended a workshop entitled: *Men Religious Moving Forward in Hope*. Presented by the National Religious Vocations Conference (NRVC), the workshop was made possible through a generous anonymous donation to the NRVC to assist in its efforts at promoting vocation awareness in the United States. Participants were vocation directors and major superiors from numerous orders and congregations of consecrated religious life for men in the United States. The focus of the meeting was on understanding the men who are looking at religious life these days and to evaluate our own communities in terms of how they can foster culture of vocations.



Fr. Boniface visits during the conference with Fr. James Flint, O.S.B., from St. Procopius Abbey in Lisle, IL.

In terms of demographics, or the study of population trends and how they relate to religious vocations to consecrated life, one study demonstrated that of Catholic men today, only 33% are from the Vatican II generation as opposed to 47% in 1987. This same study showed that of Catholic men today, 23% are of the “Millennial” generation (those born between 1981 and 2000). That is almost one quarter of Catholic men!

Specifically looking at those men who have entered religious life in the past 5 years, the data showed that college personnel, especially those who are professed religious, have a profound effect on vocational discernment. The second greatest influence on those who had entered from college was that of friends and roommates who have encouraged discerning a vocation.

In terms of a culture of vocations within the community, participants were given a tool designed to stimulate discussion within our respective communities. The focus is to allow our community to articulate our particular charisms in such a way as they become an encouragement to us and a means of identifying ourselves to those men who might be looking for our kind of life.

I am looking forward to these discussions within our community and I also look forward to discussing the outcome with men who are looking for a community with whom to seek God as St. Benedict describes and in the traditions of this house.

## A Day in the Life of a Monk

Anyone who visits the Abbey website or stops by the vestibule of the Abbey Church can study the day to day schedule around the monastery – which in monastery terminology is the *horarium*. Each day is divided into times for communal prayer, meals, work and recreation. It all seems very regular – perhaps even routine. But even with the published schedule, it is easy for one to wonder what really happens in the day to day life of a monk of St. Gregory’s Abbey.

Truth be told, it is not easy to give a clear idea of what a typical day in the life a monk is like. In reality, even though the daily schedule is maintained with great regularity on most days of the year, the way each individual monk experiences any given day is going to be different.

At one level, each monk has his own assignments, duties and routines between those times when the community gathers for prayer, meals and recreation. These assignments might include manual labor, pastoral care and counseling, teaching, reading and study, care for the sick, preparation for the liturgy or for meals, exercise – or all of the above on the same day!

At another level, within the various individual assignments, no two days are the same. The scriptures speak to us in a new way

each. We encounter different people, challenges and opportunities each day. And as we pass through the days, weeks and years, we go through changes in our own physical, emotional and spiritual development. The



way we experience the monastic day while we are new to the life and in our twenties should naturally be different from the way we experience it if we reach our eighties after some sixty years of profession.

We hope that the issues of *MonksOK!* magazine give our readers some degree of insight into the day-to-day life of the monks of St. Gregory’s Abbey. The “Abbey News” section highlights only a few of the events and circumstances in the life of our community. In addition to this, we hope that the more in-depth features on the monks who celebrate special anniversaries or assignments, such as the reflection by Fr. Charles in this issue, will help others to know us better on a more personal level.

We invite our readers to let us know if there is any aspect of our monastic way of life and spirituality that they would like to see covered in the pages of our magazine. We will do our best to include the topics in future issues.

### The Horarium: Monday through Friday

5:30 a.m.	Rising Bell
6:00 a.m.	Office Vigils
6:30 – 7:10 a.m.	Breakfast / Lectio
7:15 a.m.	Office of Lauds
8:00 a.m.	Assigned Tasks
12:05 p.m.	Midday Prayer
12:15 p.m.	Lunch
1:00 p.m.	Assigned Tasks
5:00 p.m.	Mass
5:45 p.m.	Dinner
6:10 p.m.	Recreation
6:45 p.m.	Office of Vespers

*The horarium on Saturday and Sunday is slightly different, but maintains the same basic structure.*

## Visitation Process a Blessing

The monastic community was blessed to engage in a regular visitation process October 13-18. Each monastic community in the American-Cassinese Congregation of Monasteries participates in a visitation process approximately every four years. This process is an occasion when monks from other monasteries visit the abbey in order to observe the life of the community and to interview each monk to gather their perspective on the strengths and needs of the monastery. Based on material submitted by the community prior to the visitation and on their direct observations and interviews, the visiting monks compile a report to the community that will help it to focus efforts for ongoing growth and development.

Abbot Neath Roth, O.S.B., from St. Martin Abbey in Lacey, WA, and Br. Alban Petesch, O.S.B., from Assumption Abbey in Richardton, ND, served as the visitation team to St. Gregory's this year. The Oklahoma monks are grateful for the attentive service and insightful feedback that they received from the visitation team. Their observations and recommendations provided guidance to the community in its annual "Community Days" meetings during the second week of January.



Abbot Neal and Br. Alban

## Abbot Participates in Workshop on Benedictine Leadership

Abbot Lawrence was fortunate to be selected as a participant in the inaugural offering of a workshop entitled *Leadership and the Rule of St. Benedict*. The workshop was organized and presented through a collaborative effort between the Monastic Institute of the Pontifical Athenaeum of Sant'Anselmo in Rome and the College of Business and Management of the University of St. Gallen in Switzerland. Sant'Anselmo is the university sponsored by the worldwide Benedictine Confederation and the College of Business of the University of St. Gallen has been ranked by the London *Economic Times* as the top business school in Europe for three consecutive years. An anonymous donor underwrote the entire program, providing full scholarships and even travel expenses for the participants.

The two-week intensive program was taught jointly by top



lay faculty from St. Gallen and monks and nuns representing the faculty of Sant'Anselmo. Thirty-seven participants were selected for the program, consisting of Benedictine men and women in leadership positions from around the globe. The participants represented over twenty nations and all the inhabited continents of the world.

The program featured four separate modules and covered such topics as interpersonal dynamics and personnel management, budgeting and financial strategies, project planning and management, and organizational change. This particular workshop was unique in that it based the best practices of modern day business management with the wisdom of the *Rule of St. Benedict* and Catholic Social Teaching. And rather than simply being passive recipients, the participants actively collaborated with one another to apply the "theory" of the lectures to the real situations faced by their respective communities and cultures.

Abbot Lawrence reports: "it was a very intensive program. We worked six days each week, morning afternoon and evening. It was a very beneficial experience for everyone. Not only were the faculty members very qualified and excellent presenters, but the participating monastic leaders were able to share with one another the opportunities and challenges that we and our communities face. We were able to assist one another in looking at the issues in a new and collaborative way. The experience helped me to grow in many ways and will be a great resource going forward in my role as abbot."

## Br. George Begins Culinary School

Earlier this year, Br. George Hubl, O.S.B., accepted a new assignment to begin studies at Okmulgee campus of Oklahoma State University in pursuit of a degree in culinary science. In announcing the assignment to the community, Abbot Lawrence stated: "Br. George has always expressed an interest in serving the community through the preparation of food and the hospitality that it involves. We have often benefitted from his willingness to prepare the refreshments after Midnight Mass, the Easter Vigil and other special gatherings of the community. In addition to this, I believe it would be good to have a monk trained in food preparation and kitchen management who could represent the monks with our food service provider."



Br. George –  
Chef in Training

Each semester of the program is divided into two eight-week sessions that focus on different aspects of food safety, preparation, presentation and food service or restaurant management. Br. George has completed the first semester successfully and is looking forward to the spring semester. While he most often makes the 3-hour round trip drive each day, he also benefits from the hospitality of Fr. Josh Litwack and the Catholic community of St. Anthony of Padua / Uganda Martyrs Parish, who have welcomed him to stay overnight at parish facilities when needed.

## Fr. Eugene Feted on 91<sup>st</sup> Birthday

The monks celebrated the 91<sup>st</sup> birthday of Father Eugene Marshall, O.S.B., on December 23. Fr. Eugene is not only the eldest member of the community, but is also the senior monk by profession, having made his first vows on July 11, 1944. He was



ordained to the priesthood on February 25, 1950. Fr. Eugene was born and raised in Harrah, OK, located about 20 miles from the Abbey. He has served countless persons in various assignments during his life as a monk.

Fr. Eugene remains very active through his fidelity to the Divine Office and daily Mass, in helping to care for the monastery bees and the annual honey harvest, in distributing the abbey mail, and in assisting in the abbey office on most afternoons by monitoring the phones and greeting visitors. If you would like

to congratulate Fr. Eugene on his birthday and recognize his fidelity, you can do so by contributing to the endowed scholarship established at the abbey in his name.

## Work on Abbey Church Progressing

A critical phase of the needed restoration of the beautiful Abbey Church is well underway. Workers have made great progress on the repair and replacement of all the mortar joints and tuck-pointing on the exterior of the church.

With the effects of wind, rain, ice and extreme temperatures, the exterior mortar had deteriorated considerably over the seventy year history of the church. Some of the deterioration had been slowed and even repaired during the 1980s by Br. Kevin McGuire, OSB, but a comprehensive restoration was well overdue. Contractors found that some of the mortar in the higher parts of the church was practically all gone and was the likely source of water that had been intruding into the church causing interior damage.

This first phase of the restoration project represents half of the expense of the Abbey Church restoration program, costing over \$400,000. Several donors have stepped forward to assist with this critical effort. The project will take four to six months to complete and it appears that workers have finished about two thirds of the work.

The Church Restoration Project will continue with the restoration and protection of the priceless stained-glass windows of the church, replacement of the antiquated and inadequate interior lighting system, installation of power doors for the handicap entrances to the church, water proofing and repair of the basement, improvements to confessionals, repair of exterior doors and repainting of interior surfaces. The Abbey Stewardship Office will launch a special appeal later this year to secure the funds needed to complete this important work.



## New Books for Divine Office Underway

Two years ago we began a process of revising the books that we use for the Liturgy of the Hours here at the monastery. In recent years resources have become available that make it possible to celebrate “the Work of God” in a manner that is both noble and reverent, and suitable to the circumstances and needs of our particular community. Current technology also makes it possible for us to create a more “professional look” to the overall format and layout of the book, especially eliminating the need to notate music by hand as we have had to do in the past.

Our revised office will return to the exclusive use of chant and chant-based melodies, although largely in English, for the sung portions of our daily prayer. Fr. Columba Kelly, O.S.B. and Fr. Samuel Weber, O.S.B., both monks of St. Meinrad Archabbey have provided us with a majority of the texts and music for antiphons and hymns that will be included in our new books.

Work on the volume which contains the office for feasts and solemnities is now substantially complete in draft form and the community has been using these draft pages for some months now in order to identify any corrections that need to be made and to “test” the suitability of the music. The revision of the daily (ferial) office has begun and should be largely complete by the end of this year.

We have engaged the services of a typesetter in the Netherlands to do the final layout and formatting of the books for us and it is our hope to have the final version professionally printed and bound so that we will have more permanent and noble books to use in our worship. The age of computer based word processing and electronic communication is certainly creating a new experience of the monastic scriptorium.

## Christmas at the Abbey

The season of Christmas is always special at the Abbey! Since we are mindful of the season of Advent, decorating for the monastery and Abbey Church for Christmas does not begin until around December 23. We celebrate Christmas in the liturgy, during special meals, and in our annual Christmas party which features fun games and simple gifts for all. Of course we also continue our celebration and enjoy the decorations around the Abbey until after the feast of the Baptism of the Lord! As is our custom, we offered Mass on the last full day of the Christmas season for all of those who have contributed to the Abbey through their prayers, their encouragement and their material gifts during the previous year. Thank you!



# Fr. Charles Reflects on Sabbatical

Last spring sometime Abbot Lawrence invited me into his office, commented that I looked tired, and asked me to think about something: “I’d like you to think about taking a sabbatical,” he said. So I thought about it for a while – probing my energy like you probe a chipped tooth with your tongue – and after about 20 seconds said “Yes.”

Many sabbatical programs surfaced by an internet search were merely places to stay, not programs as such. An exception to that is the “School of Applied Theology” in Oakland/Berkeley, CA. I cleared my teaching schedule for the fall and headed out there in August.

I was ready for a sabbatical. The people who ran the SAT program insisted that it was for rest and renewal, and they promoted that. No papers, no tests, but great classes. The San Francisco area is rich in excellent faculty who presented short courses to us in a great variety of areas: much on personal renewal and spirituality, scripture, moral theology, interfaith dialogue, an astronomer’s conception of the evolving universe followed by a student of theology from that viewpoint.

And there was a marvelously diverse group of participants in the program. The 16 participants included priests, brothers, sisters, and one lay woman; they came from seven countries, having ministered in several others. The program was housed at a Dominican priory where most members were students at the Dominican school that is part of the Graduate Theological Union in the Berkeley area.

One of my goals in the program was to take my brain out for a walk. Teaching mathematics, sitting on committees to formulate policies and make recommendations – the analytic side had been working very hard and very long; it was time to give my imaginative/creative side some room. So it did.

Many of the presenters punctuated their sessions with poetry, and I got to meet for the first time the poetry of Mary Oliver. Look her up. We also had an opportunity to do a spiritual exercise reflecting on one of several works of art, and a session challenging our own creativity. Another presenter spoke about dreams and some simple steps in processing them, so that let loose a torrent of dreams for me. Every morning at breakfast, the group would ask: what was the dream last night. And half of them involved basketball. I didn’t figure why that was a theme.

There were structured ways for us to share our reflections on the program and many informal ways. We spent 2½ days in silent retreat in the hills east of Berkeley, and said our goodbyes to the program at a retreat house on the beach in Santa Cruz.



**The Camaldolese Chapel at Big Sur.**

We took advantage of being in the San Francisco area for excursions. Individuals and small groups ventured into neighborhoods and museums in the area and the different churches to experience the variety of expressions of the Sunday liturgy. Some anonymous angel with a role in the San Francisco Symphony provided tickets for many of the performances. We simply

signed up for them and were treated to marvelous music.

We also explored the glories of nature. Most of us went on a weekend visit to the Monterey Peninsula and Big Sur, where we visited the Camaldolese monastery that sits high up overlooking the coastline. We celebrated the Eucharist with them in their elegantly simple chapel on Saturday. Most of us went another day to the Napa Valley where SGU alumna Beth Nickel gave us a grand welcome to her Far Niente winery.

Another trip was to Yosemite Nat’l Park – after the summer’s forest fire there was extinguished. The rock faces were magnificent, the sequoia groves impressive. Because it was fall and the area was experiencing severe drought, the waterfalls and rivers were very calm, but I found a quiet trickle of water gurgling its way between rocks that captured my attention.

Now I don’t want anyone to think that this was just a three-month vacation; but these adventures were indeed part of it, part of our expanding our minds and our souls. We were urged to have a spiritual director, and that was a great experience for me. And the ones who presented our courses challenged us to grow.

One of the presenters who moved us all greatly was Fr. Michael Fish, a member of the Camaldolese monastery at Big Sur. He had originally been a Redemptorist from South Africa. He beguiled us with an Old Testament view of God, the God who was bursting with love for us before creation, and so created us humans to be able to share with Him. In fact, the whole of the Old Testament is the story of God’s trying to develop a relationship with us humans, with His own people, a relationship we so often soured. So when Adam and Eve sinned, God was lonely. God went into the Garden and called to Adam and Eve: “Where are you?”

The other side of the story is the longing that we feel as part of being human. We experience the gap, the ache, the pain. It is this to which St. Augustine referred when he said: “Our hearts are restless, Lord, until they rest in You.” The gap is part of any real spirituality. But what Fr. Michael was saying was that God experienced this gap, too, this separation between God and his people.

I saw a phrase in a book on the spirituality of St. John of the Cross to the end that God wants us to be part of God’s life. The remedy for this separation – this gap – is Jesus Christ – true God and true man. It is through Him that we see and interact with God and God with us. Jesus shows us how to live in the gap, how to live our humanity. Jesus is the longing of God, searching for us, made flesh. Every time we anesthetize the gap (eating, drinking, shopping) we anesthetize God.

And so Michael’s message, echoed by many of the other speakers, was that our call, our mandate, is to become human. God created us good and loves us fully, and so our task is to respond to this love. One of the Church Fathers said that Jesus Christ became human that we might be divinized – and thus fully human in the way God intended for us. Fr. Michael quoted Merton: We are never simply a being that is “there” and “ready-made,” just for the asking. From the very start we are something that can Be, a being who must win selfhood and decide what it is to be. We must fully *become* what we *are* – a human being.



*Continued*

# Lent is Love

**By Robert J. Allen**  
**Abbey Stewardship Director**

Several years ago, before Vatican II when our children were very young, I was trying to explain Lent after we had just come home from church on Ash Wednesday. I suggested that each person consider giving something up during Lent. My daughter Cathy raised her hand and said, "I know what we can give up." I asked what that might be – to which she replied, "The Rosary – it is a long prayer anyway." Oh, what comes out of the mouth of children!

For me, this reflects the single greatest difference between being Catholic before Vatican II and being Catholic after Vatican II. It is the difference between focusing our attention on rules rather than on love as the primary motivation in practicing our faith.

The Church has always called us to love. It is, after all, the only thing that lasts forever. Faith and hope will no longer be needed when we pass into eternal life. Love alone will remain.

The formula to become a saint is not complicated, but neither is it easy. If we truly want to be a saint, then we must

love God above all else, in all things, and at all times. Sin is what we choose if we don't choose to love God.

What the Church is still calling us to do is love. Now the clear voice of Pope Francis is saying: Love one another. God resides in each person he created. If you want to see God, look at the next person. God sent his Son to be human and His humanity is how we are to act as a creation of God because of His love for each person; equally and totally. This is a simple, yet full-time task: Just love God and the rest is a grace-filled life.

Love is what we must choose. We must understand that love is charity. If we do acts of charity, we are carrying out good deeds, which are acts of love for one another and expressions of our love for God (who cannot be outdone in his charity to us!).

Try it - I guarantee you will like it, because to give is to receive. In charitable giving we are in keeping with the two commandments Christ gave us:

- Love God
- Love one another

This is what Lent is really calling us to be - Christ's message of love for his Father and for each of us.

*Ash Wednesday will be March 5, 2014.  
Begin planning now  
by carefully considering how you can  
make the most of Lent through prayer,  
penance and acts of charity.*

## Fr. Charles Reflects on Sabbatical

*Continued from page 6*

Now none of this denies other ways to speak of God, ways when the reflection on who God is was done in the context of philosophical language. But no particular view can exhaust our speaking of God and appreciating God, and the insight above gives us a way to accept the dynamic of God's powerful love for us, and to receive God's loving care. It allows us to value the creation we are and to realize that we do well to take good care of ourselves as instruments of God.

And so Fr. Michael left us with some strong advice about caring for ourselves and making our spiritual search real as we return to the "real world" at the end of sabbatical: walk every day, take a siesta, be reading a novel all the time, devote an hour to God daily, take a day off every week, have a hobby, keep intellectual and creative stimulation, live with beauty and simplicity. He admitted that this was a long list, which we might be able to carry out successfully some of the time, not having full time assignments. But he did encourage us to find ways to keep these elements alive in our lives so that we might maintain this active search for God.

Well, I'm back at the Abbey now, and it will be up to me – and the Spirit – to see if this sabbatical was just a pleasant interlude, or a transforming experience.

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

### St. Gregory Abbey Charitable Gift Annuity



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## One Piece at a Time Appeal Successful!

During the summer months, the Abbey made an appeal for donations toward the purchase of newer and safer vehicles for the monastery. The response to the appeal to help the monks “build” new vehicles “one piece at a time” was very generous, making it possible for the monastery to purchase two gently used low-mileage cars to replace two of the least dependable cars of the abbey fleet.

Three other used vehicles were donated directly to the community. One of these vehicles was in such good condition, that it was assigned to Br. Simeon for his last year of seminary studies in Pennsylvania. Br. Simeon needed use of a car this year to be able to drive each weekend from St. Vincent Seminary to St. Benedict Parish in Carrolltown, PA, where he has been assigned to serve as deacon as part of his pastoral formation in preparation for ordination to the priesthood on May 31 at St. Gregory’s Abbey.

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**Br. Simeon places his luggage in the trunk of a car donated to the Abbey this summer as he prepares to return to St. Vincent Seminary, Latrobe, PA.**

We are grateful to everyone who contributed to the success of this campaign.

## In Memoriam

Long-time Oblate and Friend of St. Gregory’s Mary Frey Fowler entered eternal life on October 4, 2013. Mary served on the staff of St. Gregory’s College/University for nearly 20 years as a residence hall director, student activities coordinator, and director of the Mabee-Aerobic Center. Respected and loved by many, especially students she mentored, her mortal remains were interred in the Abbey Cemetery during homecoming weekend on November 9, 2013.



## Connect with the Abbey Online

- New ways to enjoy updates, commentary and pictures from the Abbey.
- “Like” the St. Gregory’s Abbey page on Facebook.
- Follow the Abbot on Twitter: @abbotlawrence.

## Mark your Calendar

### For the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Abbey Golf Classic

Plans are well underway for the next edition of the annual Abbey Golf Classic. The increasingly popular event will be held once again at the beautiful Twin Hills Golf and Country Club in Oklahoma City and is scheduled for Monday, June 23.

The Abbey Golf Classic raises funds to support the day to day needs of St. Gregory’s Abbey, including support of educational and formation expenses, vocation promotion, health care needs and facilities improvement.

Those interested in participating in the Abbey Golf Classic can contact the Abbey Office at 405-878-5490 to request more information and a registration form.

## Abbey Oblates Continue to Increase

The regular fall meetings of Oblates were held in October. The Oblate gathering at St. Gregory’s was held on October 13, beginning with Mass and continuing with Midday Prayer, lunch, conferences by Oblate Director Prior Martin and Abbot Lawrence. During Vespers at the end of the day, Abbot Lawrence accepted four new novices for oblation - Gary Feltner, Chandra Miller, Jamie and Tracy Howard. Five then made their final oblation: George Zampaloni, Diane Zampaloni, Linda J. Mahoney, John Ryan and Rev. Denise J. Abston. We congratulate all who became oblate novice and who made their final oblation!



**Prior Martin, Director of Oblates, delivers a conference on Benedictine spirituality during the fall Oblate meetings.**

The regular fall meeting of the oblates of Southern California was held on October 6. Unfortunately Abbot Lawrence was not able to attend the meeting due to mechanical difficulties with one of his flights.

Nonetheless, the oblates enjoyed meeting with Prior Martin for Mass, dinner and conversation.

The Spring Oblate Meetings are scheduled for April 6, 2014, at St. Benedict Parish in Montebello, CA, and April 27, at St. Gregory’s Abbey in Shawnee, OK. For more information on becoming an Oblate of St. Gregory’s Abbey, please contact Oblate Director Prior Martin Lugo, OSB, at 405-878-5



**Abbot Lawrence blesses a cross to place around the neck of Rev. Denise Abston, who made her final oblation in October.**