

Abbey
Letter
no. 278

Summer
2019



Come & See

Find out what it's like to be a Benedictine monk.

Worship & Pray Work & Learn

with the monks at St. Gregory's Abbey — a monastery within the Episcopal Church at Three Rivers, Michigan if you are male, 18 to 50, and can stay for at least two weeks in July. The only charge is \$25 for registration.

For more information and an application form, write:

July Program Director
St. Gregory's Abbey
56500 Abbey Road

Three Rivers, Michigan 49093-9595
novicemaster@saintgregorysthreerivers.org



front cover: summer begins with prayers asking God to bless the garden

back cover: summer ends with preserving the fruits of the garden

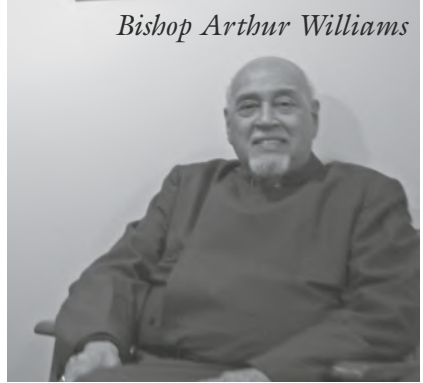
NOTES

St. Gregory's Abbey had our official visitation February 4th – 8th, conducted by our Bishop Visitor, The Rt. Rev. Arthur Williams (retired suffragan bishop of the Diocese of Ohio), and assisted by Fr. Joel Macul OSB (prior of Christ the King Priory in Schuyler, Nebraska). Confidential interviews with each member of the community, overviews of financial records, and reviews of our liturgical practices, physical environment, and community life were held by the visitation team, who later presented helpful suggestions for the further strengthening of our monastic life.

Fr. William continues his ministry to the Formation Group of the Diocese of Northern Indiana. This group of people preparing locally for ordination meets every few months for mutual exchange, discussion, and presentations concerning practical issues pertaining to ordained ministry. Fr. William is in charge of the spiritual life part of the program.

Beavers were busy this past winter building a lodge in our lake. This year is the first time any monks here have noticed any beaver activity on the abbey grounds.

Bishop Arthur Williams



Fr. Joel Macul OSB



beaver lodge on the abbey lake

Q: What Do You Do at the Monastery All Day?

A: look at our website to find out – you will find slideshows showing various aspects of the abbey grounds and monastic life, back issues of the Abbey Letter, sermons preached by the monks, information about monastic life, the Summer Vocation Program and monastic vocations, and contact links for the abbot, novice master, guest department, and publications office. Prayer requests and donations can also be made online, as well as calendar and book purchases.

saintgregorysthreerivers.org

Feeling Lost – Being Found

We all have stories about being lost and found. I remember being anxious on Head Start field trips about losing one of the children. I sometimes have dreams about being terribly lost and being afraid to admit that I am lost, although I usually feel quite detached in my dreams. There are lots of jokes about men who refuse to ask for directions.

There are many ways of being lost. I was reminded of this fact many years ago preparing a sermon for the Second Sunday in Christmas. The scripture readings for that day were all about the lost and forsaken being found and restored (Jeremiah 31:7-14; Ephesians 1:3-6,15-19a; Luke 2:41-52). The reading from Jeremiah is about the exiled remnant of Israel being called home and having God as their father. From Ephesians we learn that, no matter how lost or confused or abandoned we may feel, God chose us long ago — even before we came into being — to be God’s very own. And in the Gospel we have the Holy Family being dispersed and dislocated and then reunited in the House of God.

Of course, these scriptures are about us. Like the church in Ephesus, we might not have realized we were lost until we experienced being found and reconciled. There is another kind of lostness where we know we are lost but can never find our way back on our own. No matter how much we want to find our way back, we keep making wrong turns and getting more and more lost. Even if we desperately want to find our way out, situations can be like an addiction where we become more and more lost until we finally stop trying to find our way out and instead open our lives to simply being found by the One who can truly find us and set us on the right path. Once we admit our powerlessness and our lostness and turn our lives over to God, only then can we really begin to find our way again.

This is the kind of lostness that is the model for the second form of Reconciliation of a Penitent in the Book of Common Prayer. Among the Gospel writers, St. Luke works with this image more than any of the others. In the fifteenth chapter of Luke, Jesus tells three parables back-to back-to back that are unique to Luke: the parables of the Lost Sheep, the Lost Coin, and the Lost (Prodigal) Son. Luke is also the only Gospel writer to tell us the story of Jesus being left behind in the Temple, without his parents even realizing it until three days had passed. This, of course, is a different kind of story about being lost and found. On the surface, it’s about a twelve year old boy who was lost and eventually found, but in the exchange at the end between Jesus and his mother, it becomes evident that the “lost” was not Jesus. The boy knows exactly who he is and where he needs to be — in his Father’s House. It’s his parents who have lost him and need the help.

The story is, of course, a foreshadowing: later Jesus and his disciples will make their way to Jerusalem, and the disciples will come away from Jerusalem thinking they have lost Jesus, and still not understanding that they are the ones who are

lost. Jesus wasn't lost on the cross but was going to his Father's House. In Luke's Gospel, when Jesus dies he freely offers his spirit back to God: "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit." He does so willingly and so on the third day those who think they have lost him will find him.

It is also only Luke who has the story of the two disciples on their way to Emmaus. These two disciples are going out from Jerusalem thinking they have lost Jesus, but they are the ones who are lost. They are so lost that they don't even recognize Jesus when he joins them on the road, until he starts explaining scripture and breaking bread. The disciples on the road to Emmaus are us. We are the ones who time and time again, lost on our journey, fail to recognize Jesus when he joins us on the way. But he is the one who is seeking us, and in finding us, redeems the lost and gives us new life. We gather as Christians (explaining scripture and breaking bread) to celebrate the fact that we who were lost have been found.

— Prior Aelred



Music compositions from St. Gregory's Abbey

Missa Brevis *choral symphony* by Br. Abraham – *Latin text from the ordinary of the mass*

Rumi *choral symphony* by Br. Abraham – *English translation of the poems of Rumi*

A Symphony of Psalms *choral symphony* by Br. Abraham – *Latin text of four psalms*

The Kiss *baritone voice and string quartet* by Br. Abraham – *texts from office readings for Mary Magdalene and the Virgin Mary*

Tuesday Afternoon *chorus and wind octet* by Br. Abraham – *psalms from Tuesday vespers*

Symphony in c minor *orchestral symphony* by Br. Abraham *in romantic minimalist style*

Symphony in g minor *orchestral symphony* by Br. Abraham *in expansive classical style*

Visible Dream *piano and baritone voice* by Br. Abraham – *poems of Cyrus Cassells*

Week In Review *piano and baritone voice* by Br. Abraham – *poems of Robert Fruehwirth*

The Hours *tenor, baritone, and bass voices* by Br. Abraham – *texts from psalms for lauds and vespers*

Life of Benedict *orchestral setting of Gregory the Great's Life of Benedict* by John Webber
scores and synthesized performances available at webbermusic.com

For everything but *Life of Benedict*, search for "Newsom, A"; for *Life of Benedict*, search for "Webber, J". Donations of \$1.00 per look and listen are requested and can be made at the website or sent to St. Gregory's Abbey designated for "music compositions." Hard copies of scores and orchestral parts are for sale at list price from webbermusic.com

CONTACTING THE ABBEY

Mailing address –

St. Gregory's Abbey
56500 Abbey Road
Three Rivers, MI 49093

Telephone –

269-244-5893
9:30am - 11:15am or 2:30pm - 4:15pm
Eastern Time Monday through Saturday
(please do not telephone at other times
or on Sundays or holidays)

E-mail –

Guest reservations and information –
guestmaster@saintgregorysthreerivers.org

Mailing list –

office@saintgregorysthreerivers.org

Abbot Andrew –

abbot@saintgregorysthreerivers.org

Information about becoming a monk or participating in the July Program –

novicemaster@saintgregorysthreerivers.org

Books and calendars may be ordered, prayers requested, and donations made at our website –

www.saintgregorysthreerivers.org



Saint Gregory's Abbey now has an e-mail list for those wishing to receive the ABBEY LETTER electronically (PDF). To enroll in the e-mail list, send your full name and e-mail address to

abbeyletter@saintgregorysthreerivers.org

Enrolling in our e-mail list does not remove you from our hard copy mailing list. If you do want to stop receiving the hard copy once you are on the e-mail list, simply send an e-mail to

office@saintgregorysthreerivers.org

telling us you are now on the e-mail list and want to be removed from the hard copy list. (If you are in the confraternity, please mention that so that we make sure you receive the confraternity letter via e-mail).

Become A Monk

see our website for details
saintgregorysthreerivers.org
under the “About” tab,
click “Becoming a Monk”

or

contact the vocations director

novicemaster@saintgregorysthreerivers.org



Daily Schedule at St. Gregory’s Abbey

Weekdays

4:00 a.m. MATINS

6:00 a.m. LAUDS

8:15 a.m. TERCE
EUCCHARIST

11:30 a.m. SEXT

2:00 p.m. NONE

5:00 p.m. VESPERS
followed by meditation

7:45 p.m. COMPLINE
(on Tuesdays and Thursdays,
COMPLINE is prayed privately)

Sundays and Major Holidays

5:30 a.m. MATINS & LAUDS

8:30 a.m. TERCE
EUCCHARIST

noon SEXT & NONE

5:00 p.m. VESPERS
followed by meditation

7:45 p.m. COMPLINE

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