



Abbey Letter
no. 283
Fall 2020

Because of the pandemic, our annual summer vocation program was cancelled this year, and our guesthouses have been closed for several months. Although monasticism involves an element of separation from busy social gatherings, monks love the world and everyone in it. We hope to see you soon, and even if we don't, be assured that you are in our hearts and prayers.



NOTES

A large tree fell on our equipment barn the night of April 25th, causing considerable damage to the roof. The rest of the structure was undamaged, and no one was in or around the barn at the time.

Abbot Andrew attended the annual CAROA (Conference of Anglican Religious Orders in the Americas) meeting via video teleconferencing April 28th – May 1st. The Most Rev. Michael Curry, Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church, was the guest speaker.

Abbot Andrew rescheduled the presentation based on his book MOVING AND RESTING IN GOD'S DESIRE for June 3rd via video teleconference, originally scheduled for March 26th at Truman State University's Episcopal Campus Ministry in Kirksville, Missouri.

Video teleconferencing was also used when Fr. William attended the virtual meeting of the Formation Group of the Diocese of Northern Indiana May 9th. 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.

Thomas Bassett has arrived at St. Gregory's Abbey to test his monastic vocation. He is a native of South Carolina.

Randy Murray has arrived at St. Gregory's Abbey to test his monastic vocation. He is from Port Hope, Ontario.



The Pandemic At The Abbey

Because of the current pandemic, things have been especially quiet here at the abbey. Basically, we've been closed to the public, shutting down our guest ministry, and even cancelling the July Vocation Program for the first time ever. Various outside engagements have been cancelled as well, or at least changed into online affairs thanks to computer programs like Zoom.

Liturgically, we've been keeping up the monastic schedule of Divine Office and Mass, again, closed to the public (another first for us.) In-house changes include the removal of the Holy Water fonts in the church, the elimination of the individual Passing of the Peace at Mass, and allowing only the celebrant to partake of the chalice (the bread being the only one of the Eucharistic elements being received by everyone.)

Despite such changes, life here at the Abbey is much closer to normal than it is for most people experiencing lockdown. As Benedictines we live where we work, most of the time. Our daily schedule has not changed. All of which is to admit that in many important ways, we monks have it easier than most people. We are very aware of the many hardships most people have to live through, and of the many worries the pandemic has unloaded onto everyone. We do keep you in our prayers.





Looking as it were from the outside in, it has been interesting to watch how society has been reacting to the pandemic. More often than not, it has been heartening to witness people come up with creative and wonderful ways of maintaining connection with each other, as well as attending to the needs of those who live alone, are elderly, or suffering from economic and/or emotional distress. Witnessing this gives me hope that we as a society will choose to become more compassionate and caring.

What also gives me hope is the current national conversation regarding race relations in the US and the world. This has been long overdue, and it will not be pleasant as we strive to correct past mistakes and current difficulties. The fact that we live in a racist society should not be hard to see. Let us all approach this discussion with an open mind, an open heart, and with good will.

—Br. Martin

Daily Schedule at St. Gregory's Abbey

Weekdays

4:00 a.m. MATINS
6:00 a.m. LAUDS
8:15 a.m. TERCE & EUCHARIST
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 & EUCHARIST
noon SEXT & NONE
5:00 p.m. VESPERS
followed by meditation
7:45 p.m. COMPLINE



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10	11	12	13	14	15	16			
17	18	19	20	21	22	23			
24	25	26	27	28	29	30			
31	2021								



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