





The bare altar on Good Friday and Holy Saturday reminds us of the empty tomb. After Jesus died, nobody knew the tomb was empty; it was assumed that Jesus' body was still there. When the women who came early on the Sunday found the tomb empty, they thought something terrible had happened, such as a sacrilegious theft of the body. The emptiness of the tomb echoed the emptiness of grief felt by the women. But the strange thing about emptiness is that it opens up the most room for being filled. The emptiness gave the women room for Joy when they found that the Risen Christ had emptied the tomb to fill the deadness within them with Joy and fill the dead in Hades with Life.

- Abbot Andrew







NOTES

Br. Abraham was one of the presenters for an Advent Speakers Series at St. Thomas the Apostle Episcopal Church in Overland Park, Kansas. The event took place via teleconference on December 22nd, and the topic was "Intentionality in Spiritual 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. The meetings are in person or online, depending on current rates of virus transmission.

Representatives from various retreat and prayer centers in our neighborhood continue to meet regularly online for discussion about how we can be of mutual support for each other. Participants in the discussions usually include representatives from: St. Gregory's Abbey, GilChrist, The Hermitage, Apple Farm, and Culture Is Not Optional.

St. Gregory's Abbey 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 list. If you do want to stop receiving the hard copy once you are on the e-mail list, send an e-mail to office@saintgregorysthreerivers.org telling us you are 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.)

Incline the ear of your heart...come for a vocational visit at St. Gregory's Abbey, a Benedictine monastery of the Episcopal Church at Three Rivers, Michigan.

...if you are male, age 18 to 50, have a serious interest in monastic vocation, and can spend at least two weeks at the abbey. The only cost is \$25 for registration. For more information and an application form, write:

Vocation Program Director St. Gregory's Abbey 56500 Abbey Road Three Rivers, Michigan 49093-9595

novicemaster@saintgregorysthreerivers.org

All applicants must be fully vaccinated according to current CDC guidelines.

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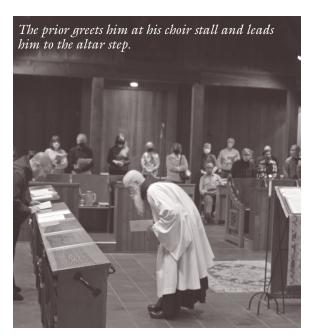




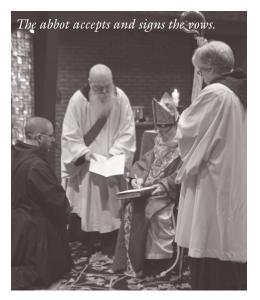


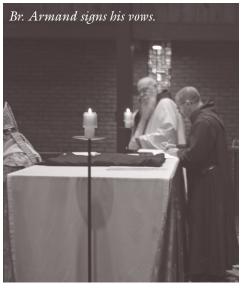


Br. Armand Koss made his life profession on October 23rd in the Abbey Church with friends and family in attendance. Br. Armand grew up in suburban Chicago. He attended the University of Illinois at Chicago, where he earned a bachelor of arts degree in liberal arts and sciences, and a master of arts degree in Hispanic studies.







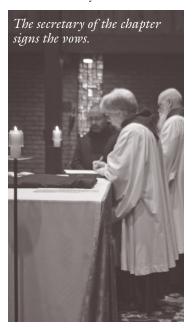


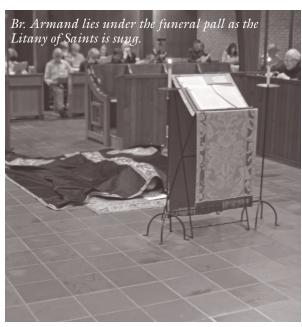


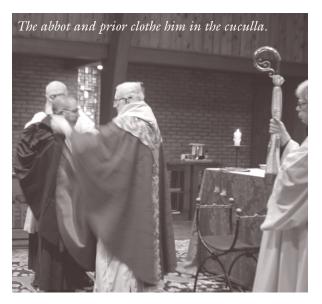


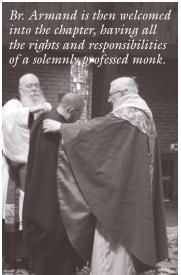


Br. Armand is admitted to practice before the Internal Revenue Service. Prior to joining the community at St. Gregory's Abbey, he was a tax advisor in Columbus, Ohio. Earlier in his career, he taught undergraduate courses at the University of Illinois at Chicago and The Ohio State University, and worked in the telecommunications industry. Br. Armand joined the community in 2015.















Books read in the refectory during lunch and supper 2021

How We Got to Now: Six Innovations That Made the Modern World by Steven Johnson

A Pilgrimage to Eternity: From Canterbury to Rome in Search of a Faith by Timothy Egan

Successful Aging: A Neuroscientist Explores the Power and Potential of Our Lives by Daniel J. Levitin

Detroit: An American Autopsy by Charlie LeDuff

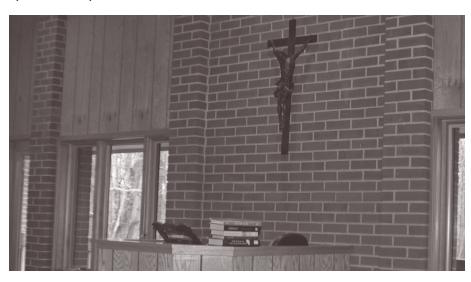
The Public Universal Friend: Jemima Wilkinson and Religious Enthusiasm in Revolutionary America by Paul B. Moyer

Yiddish: Biography of a Language by Jeffrey Shandler

Jesus and John Wayne: How White Evangelicals Corrupted a Faith and Fractured a Nation by Kristin Kobes Du Mez

Stories from Palestine: Narratives of Resilience by Marda Dunsky

Wanderlust: The Amazing Ida Pfeiffer, the First Female Tourist by John van Wyhe











St. Gregory's Abbey hosts many students and faculty members (individuals and groups) from colleges and universities in our area (public, private, and church related). We are happy to have been given such a large ministry to students and teachers, yet we receive no regular funding from any educational institutions. You are an important part of our ministry to the world. Your prayers for us are the most important way to help us, but we also need your financial support. As with most faith-based organizations, our income has decreased significantly over the past few years. If you feel called and are able to do so, please make a donation by using either the envelope in this newsletter or by using the "donate" button on our website (saintgregorysthreerivers.org). To prolong your support, please consider us in your estate planning and use the name "St. Gregory's Abbey of Three Rivers, Michigan." Feel free to contact us if you have any questions.

St. Gregory's Abbey 56500 Abbey Road Three Rivers, MI 49093 269-244-5893 abbot@saintgregorysthreerivers.org

I have been coming to St. Gregory's Abbey for ten years now. This is a community of some of the kindest people I know, welcoming to all. Just because they wear medieval robes does not mean they are perfect, or demand perfection in those who visit. Throughout the years these brothers have met me and comforted me through great suffering, and shared in my joys. Any of us can wake at 4:00am, full of stress and fear, our thoughts racing as we struggle to return to sleep. But it is a comfort beyond words knowing that already the monks are up praying, caring for the world, loving us in the midst of the darkness. – Anna-Lisa Cox, adjunct faculty of Harvard University

Joining the monks' rich liturgical life has greatly enriched my own personal prayer and the Christian life of my household. I have brought Benedictine values into my life as a father and into my classroom at the university where I teach. The geographically diverse and ecumenical family of the Confraternity has been a great blessing to me in my membership in the Body of Christ and a foretaste of that day when Jesus's prayer "that all may be one" will be fulfilled. – Christian Casper, lecturer, University of Michigan





