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PAX

OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE MONASTERY



Good Friday: Behold the Wood of the Cross

SPRING 2010



Benedictines are a family of religious, God frequently calls brothers and sisters together. Our Brother Thomas Aquinas and Sister Angel are one shining example among many others...

Dear Friends and Benefactors,

THE FUTURE OF THE CHURCH CONSISTS IN ONE WORD: VOCATIONS!

The present, universal rise in vocations is like the medic who feels the changed pulse of a strengthening heart of a wounded soldier, recovering at

long last from a grievous fall in battle. The analogy of warfare and the soldierly virtues of the battlefield, the sense of valor: the vocation is truly the honor to serve in an elite force. The Divine Voice calls and instills in the heart of each vocation the sense of a patriotic cause, a great crusade, a spiritual combat to be fought with spiritual soldiers: it would not be an exaggeration to say that religious life is an engagement in battle on a higher level, in the decisive conflict with the powers of darkness. The prayers of the Mass speak frequently of this analogy of spiritual warfare, and every baptized soul repeats the words, but not as the religious does...



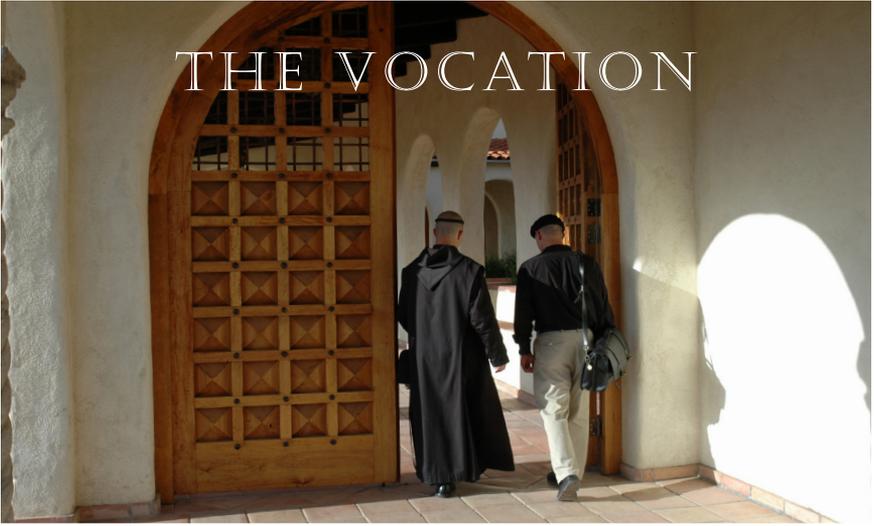
Our Divine Saviour exclaims: “Many are called...!” What exactly is this “calling” and who exactly are the “many?” The Saints, who answered the call and lived it to the highest limit, tell us that at least one out of every three boys, and at least one out of every three girls, has the vocation. In most cases the Divine Voice is first heard speaking in the language of the child, God calls early on. And God does not call in vain. The present surge in vocations is for a divine purpose, for a divine battle. Our Lord’s infallible recruiter, Our Lady of Victories, is leading vocations to our religious family of monks and nuns, may your extra support be their encouragement to carry out the highest service Pro Deo et Patria.



From the Hands of His Excellency Bishop Tissier, our Br. Augustine has just been ordained sub-deacon, and our Brothers Andrew and Elias have received Minor Orders with their fellow classmates at St. Thomas Aquinas Seminary, while below, the newest member of our community, Br. Joseph, receives the Benedictine habit.



THE VOCATION



“You have not chosen me, but I have chosen you.”

The Religious vocation is the continuation of the family life according to grace. The religious does separate from the family in one sense but in another, more perfect sense, the religious embraces the family even more, since now it is according to the will of God and in order to carry out his great mission in life. The religious is more closely united to the family, in God. The Religious Order is a family, the superior is the father, the members of the community are his spiritual children. Like one's father in the world, the superior provides for everything the religious needs, in order to maintain health in body and especially health in soul that he might accomplish the will of God. The religious vocation is a calling and there must be an answering. “He who can take, let him take it...”



Truth, the postulants' daily bread!



“What do you seek?” The postulant, desiring to become a soldier of Christ, requests to be admitted into the monastic family.

Although there is a great resemblance to ordinary family life in the religious life, there are many differences, “I live, now not I; but Christ liveth in me.” The religious no longer lives for himself but for the salvation of souls. His life is more than the life he lives, his work is more than what he does, it is the work of God. The religious is one who seeks to fulfill more perfectly his Divine adoption “whereby he cries out Abba, Father.” His life, his work, his vocation, his mission is to participate in a divine work, to collaborate

with the work of grace in souls. Amidst the ordinary means of work as in every home, for the monastery is first a home, there are the many tasks of family living common to every household. There is a cook, a gardener, a craftsman, a cobbler, a builder. There is a teacher...and many who are learning.

But the religious life also possesses something extraordinary amidst the ordinary. It is a life of intimate union with God. If the monk keeps silence, it is to converse inwardly with God. He turns his whole being towards God, he does not waste his time thinking of himself. He seeks God everywhere and at every moment. The religious life is full of life—a life of sacrifice. Its source is the Cross, drawing its life from



The Liturgy is the new field of battle!

The monks have red blood in their veins! They are soldiers of Christ. Every soldier must be trained: a “boot camp” to test the call, a time to change from a boy to a man, from a man to a man of prayer; a time not only to strengthen and harden body and soul for combat, but also to soften mind and will so as to be more conformed to the one Religious, Our Lord, whose sole mission was to “drink from the chalice” and accomplish the will of his Father. The monk must also drink from that same chalice of obedience and self-sacrifice. “Let us also go, that we may die with him.”



Work, now done for God alone, becomes a continuation of the Praise of God.

Why does the young man decide to abandon the world and bury himself in a remote monastery, just when life’s opportunities seem to be most promising? Why does the young soldier go off to battle if not in order to win the war? The monk also thirsts for victory in the spiritual battle, that victory is union with God. “Behold we have left all things in order to follow thee, what shall be our reward...? “I am your reward exceedingly great.”

How do I know if I have the vocation? God speaks to the soul in countless ways. The religious life is understood in only one way: in living it. A man is worth what he seeks. “What is it you seek? Lord, where dost Thou live? Come and see...!” Obedience is to act from hearing. Docility is to be teachable. Discipline is to be taught...Christ is the sole ideal of the monk: “He who can take, let him take it!”



The postulant soon learns a secret: the joy of doing all things for God!

CHRONICLE



SEPTEMBER

30 Departure of Dominican Father Albert from Avrillé, France, who has generously assisted us with untiring zeal for more than three years by his teaching mastery, giving daily classes on the Summa of St. Thomas, the Psalms & Latin.



NOVEMBER

1 ALL SAINTS DAY: The Monastery hosts an All Saints Day party for the children of the parish. After they gave an explanation of their saints they were awarded prizes and ended the celebration with the traditional Piñata.



3 Oblate Brothers Joseph & John the Baptist arrive to help advance the project of making windows for the Sacred Heart House.

DECEMBER

1 Dominic & Joseph Vanderputten, with a group of volunteers, arrive for an intense work week on the Sacred Heart House.



6 U.S. District Superior Fr. Arnoud Rostand arrives for a three-day visit, giving a talk on the state of the Church and celebrating the Conventual Mass for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception.

12 Procession in honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe. The Monks and faithful join voices in singing traditional Mexican hymns.



20 Departure of our friend Fr. Pierre Duverger who spent a sabbatical year of rest at our monastic oasis in the desert.





28 Our Annual Retreat, rich in Monastic tradition, preached by Fr. Bergez with a week of daily conferences based on the Rule of St. Benedict and the writings of our founders.

JANUARY

16-20 Fr. Gabriel, accompanied by two brothers, celebrates a series of First Masses at St. Thomas More Church in San Jose, CA, and several chapels on the East Coast. We thank these faithful for their charity.



FEBRUARY

10 **FEAST OF ST. SCHOLASTICA:** Fr. Prior, accompanied by two brothers, joins Br. Thomas Aquinas in France to give the Benedictine veil to Jessica Kaiser, brother's younger sister of St. Marys, KS, who receives the name Sister Angel.

19 Texas warmly receives our Fr. Raphael who offers first Masses for the faithful of Dickenson, Houston and Sanger.



MARCH

20 **"SITIENTES":** The subdiaconate is conferred on our Br. Augustine by His Excellency Bishop Tissier de Mallerais who also ordains Brothers Andrew and Elias to the orders of Exorcist and Acolyte.



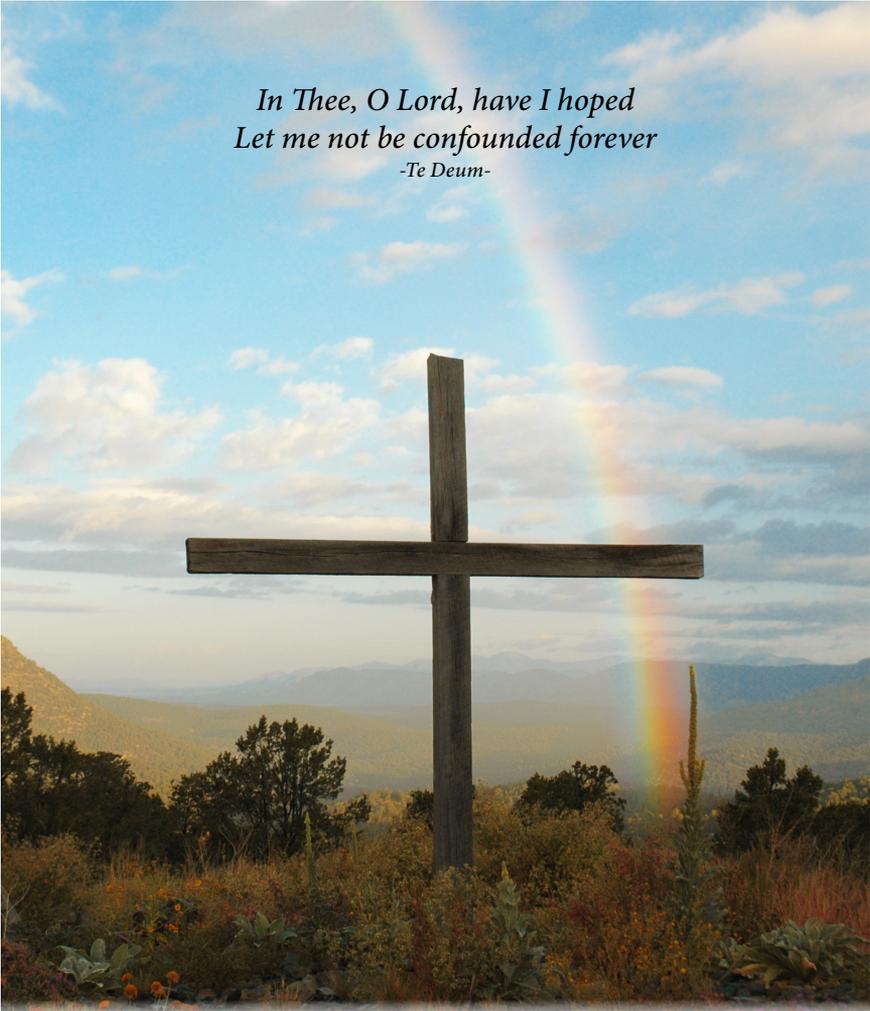
24 **VIGIL OF THE ANNUNCIATION:** Michael McCarthy, from St. Marys, KS, receives the Benedictine habit and is given the name of Joseph, the model of the contemplative life. Brother's family travels from St. Marys, and Fr. Webber, a family friend, flies down from Toronto, Canada for the ceremony.



APRIL

6 A group of boys and men from Syracuse, NY, arrive for a camp, accompanying them are four Seminarians on their Easter break. The same day, Fr. Denis McDonald, Prior of the St. Isidore's parish in Denver, CO, arrives with four men and the Scouts of Christ the King.





*In Thee, O Lord, have I hoped
Let me not be confounded forever
-Te Deum-*

HOW TO HELP THE MONASTERY

THE GROWTH OF OUR MONASTIC COMMUNITY, THE CONSTRUCTION WORK
REQUIRED FOR OUR PRESENT EXPANSION AND OUR ONGOING APOSTOLATES
DEPEND ENTIRELY ON CHARITABLE AND GOODWILL DONATIONS.

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