

The Revised
GRAIL PSALMS
a liturgical psalter



Preface by Francis Cardinal George, O.M.I.
With an Introduction by Abbot Gregory J. Polan, O.S.B.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Tower Topics is published triannually by
the Office of Communications of:

Conception Abbey
PO Box 501,
Conception, MO 64433

☎ (660) 944-2823
✉ communications@conception.edu
🌐 www.conceptionabbey.org

Publisher: Abbot Gregory J. Polan
Editor: Jarrod Thome
Layout & Design: Jarrod Thome

Contributing writers:

Fr. Frowin Reed
Fr. Xavier Nacke
Br. Etienne Huard
Fr. Daniel Petsche
Fr. Kenneth Reichert
Fr. Adam Ryan

Photographers:

Geoff Brooke, Jr.
Chris Ciaffa
Jenny Huard
Jarrod Thome

Editorial Board:

Jarrod Thome
Fr. Adam Ryan
Fr. Benedict Neenan
Fr. Daniel Petsche
Fr. Dan Merz
Br. Etienne Huard
Cindy Staten
Jenny Huard

On the cover:

Right as *Tower Topics* was going to
press, word came in of *The Revised Grail
Psalms'* approval for publication. Read
more on the back cover and look for
more coverage of this exciting news in
the coming weeks.

Advent Reflections	4
Capital Campaign Update	6
Another Strong Enrollment at CSC	7
New CSC Personnel	9
Novices John and Eric Profess Simple Vows	10
Alumnus Spotlight: Fr. Matthew Benjamin	12
Development Developments	13
Monks on Mission: Fr. Martin DeMeulenare	14
Jubilarians	16
Abbey and Seminary Footnotes	21
Legacies of Monastic Service: Fr David Clements	22
Alumnitems	24
2010 Alumni Reunion a Success	28
Oblate News	29
The Revised Grail Psalms now ready for publication	32

Dear friends,

Greetings of peace from Conception Abbey.

Almost two decades ago, I read a wonderful book about Advent, *The Coming of God*, by Dame Maria Boulding, a cloistered Benedictine nun of Stanbrook Abbey in England. Dame Maria points out that the season of Advent is really a sacrament of daily life. Truly, God comes to us daily in a variety of ways—in the Sacraments and Scriptures, in events and people, in careful listening and reflection, in *lectio divina*, in encounters with others. The list could go on. In this issue of *Tower Topics*, we look at various ways in which God has come among us at Conception, touching our lives with wonderful blessings.

The happiest days of the year in the monastery are those when we welcome young men into the novitiate, witness their profession of monastic vows, or rejoice at their priestly ordination. God's call to follow a particular way of life is a sacred and mysterious path for each of us. In monastic life, as with any of life's paths, there are times of struggle and blessing, of sacrifice and peace, surrender and true joy. A novice's professing vows upon completing the testing of the novitiate is a true advent of God, whose grace has brought the novice to this blessed moment of commitment. It was just such an occasion for us last August when Brother Basil and Brother Etienne professed triennial vows.

In late September, we successfully completed the Mabee Foundation's Challenge Grant for the construction of a new guesthouse. Our nation was deep in an economic slump, but our generous benefactors, friends, and families helped us reach the goal of raising \$1.6 million, which qualified us to receive the \$700,000 grant. Again, God comes among us in the many people who helped us achieve this goal. God's providential care is manifested to us through you, our devoted and faithful friends.

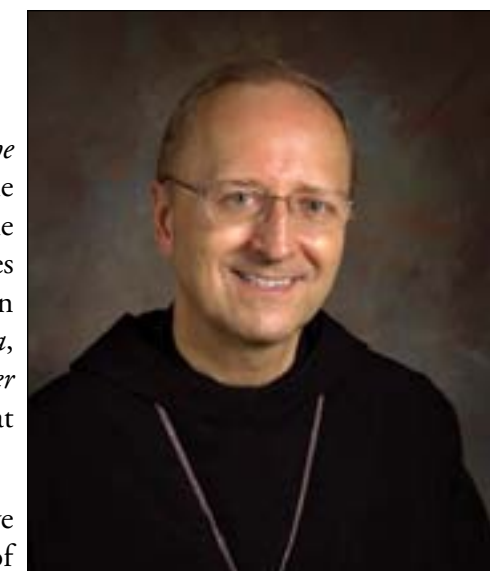
Another way in which we truly see the hand of God powerfully among us is in each of our confreres, the members of our monastic community. In the round of prayer and service, and in our bonds of fraternity, we see how each of us is an instrument of God, bringing blessing to the lives of many. In this issue of *Tower Topics*, we feature our Fr. Martin DeMeulenaere, presently serving as pastor of St. Gregory Parish in nearby Maryville, Missouri, and our deceased Fr. David Clements (1926 – 1986). In the warp and woof of community life, we bring the voice of God to one another in encouragement, fraternal support, and mutual guidance.

The season of Advent is a graced time to reflect on the many ways in which God comes to us. The cover of Dame Maria's book, *The Coming of God*, presents two icons: the Nativity of Jesus, and the Two Disciples on the Road to Emmaus. The Nativity presents a familiar image of God's advent in the birth of Jesus Christ. Yet how unsuspecting were the two disciples on the road that Easter night that walking with them was the risen Christ. May that icon, and its story from the St. Luke's gospel, be for us a hopeful reminder of the simple, mysterious and always graced ways that God chooses to come among us daily as our Strength and Guide.

Sincerely in Christ,



Abbot Gregory Polan, O.S.B.



ADVENT REFLECTIONS

The following homilies were submitted by Fr. Frowin Reed, O.S.B. and Fr. Xavier Nacke, O.S.B. Fr. Frowin is currently working on a Licentiate in Sacred Theology in Rome and Fr. Xavier is Director of Spiritual Formation at Conception Seminary College.



Annunciation and Advent

Fourth Sunday of Advent, revised from a homily preached in the Basilica on 21 December, 2008.

We typically hear St. Luke's account of the Annunciation several times in December—it is woven into the hymns, carols, antiphons and stories that lead up to Christmas. In fact, we monks hear the mystery of the Annunciation rung every morning before Vigils as we pray the Angelus. It is a Gospel written on our hearts and into our daily life precisely because it is the beginning of both the Advent we now celebrate, and the Advent we await in a special way as monks.

But sometimes hearing the Gospel time and time again hinders our reception of the words, or our

ability to penetrate their importance. We need a slight change of perspective in order to awaken us from the lull of repetition.

My favorite course in our seminary was Br. Jude's 17th Century British Literature course. It was there that he introduced me to the metaphysical poet John Donne, an 'Anglican Divine.' In one of Donne's series of poems, the Holy Sonnets, he *ponders* the mysteries of Christ and Mary—ponders them in a manner similar to Mary who pondered in her own heart—linking little pieces of knowledge and faith together. The sonnet on the Annunciation is a lovely work that can help us wake again to the eternal newness of this often heard story. Listen to it as an embolism—a little expansion—of the words of the Angel Gabriel to Mary.

*Salvation to all that will is nigh;
That All, which alwayes is All every where,
Which cannot sinne, and yet all sinnes must beare,
Which cannot die, yet cannot chuse but die,
Loe, faithfull Virgin, yeelds herselfe to lye
In prison, in they wombe; and though he there
Can take no sinne, nor thou give, yet he'll weare
Taken from thence, flesh, which deaths force may trie.
Ere by the spheares time was created, thou
Wast in his minde, who is thy Sonne, and Brother;
Whom though conceiv'st, conceiv'd; yea thou art now*

*Thy Makers maker, and thy Fathers mother;
Thou' hast light in darke; and shutst in little roome,
Immensity cloistered in thy deare wombe.*

By glancing, from Donne's perspective, at this great mystery—the advent of this Advent we celebrate—we are reminded of at least a couple of important aspects of this mystery. *Salvation to all that will is nigh.* St. Benedict echoes this line in another way.... *Are you hastening toward your heavenly home?* Salvation is not some sort of mechanistic force—rather it is a conversation, a meeting of two distinct subjects—I and Thou. The Lord indeed comes to save His people, He comes to save each of us—but each of us as a whole is so precious to him that he does not force even salvation upon us—we are free. We are free to hasten toward that which the Lord extends to us, or to turn away. We are free to run out to meet him, to say *be it done unto me according to your word*... We should not overly fear the coming of the Lord, rather we should have joy at his approach.

Where do we leap for joy? Is there a proper place for us to do so? Yes, I believe there is—though I sometimes forget it—the hint for us is at the end of the sonnet.

*Thou' hast light in darke; and shutst in little roome,
Immensity cloistered in thy deare wombe.*

To the eyes of the world our life in the monastery, or as Catholics or Christians or even just as religious people, is sometimes seen as

foolish—here we are shut up in a monastery far from anywhere... living in relatively small rooms, scraping by at times... but really, when we look at the Holy Rule and at this verse from the sonnet it becomes clearer that we too are actually cloistered in a wombe... we get to live in the very center of the life and prayer of the Church.

Having been born again as 'little Christs' in Baptism we await together the day, and prepare together for it, when we will be fully born into heaven [Please God, may it be so] together. Though we may occasionally forget it, living in this cloistered womb is a luxury. Mary pondered what she did not understand... she made a little creed of faith in her heart. That is something we can all do daily—ponder the mysteries of God in our hearts. Perhaps in doing so we will be more open to God's will and work in our lives.

The Lord comes among us time and time again in the monastic life—constantly tending us for His final Advent. At that time, Mary again shows us the greatest prayer—*May it be done to me according to your word.* It is the same prayer her Son prays countless times to the Father *Thy will be done.* So may this be our constant quest—to be like Mary and to hasten toward our heavenly home. Welcoming God-with-us in the guest, the sick, the confrere and the enemy alike, may we come to be with God.



First Sunday of Advent: Is 2.1 5; Rm 13.11 14; Mt 24.37 44.

Time is something we in our electronic age are very conscious of. I would guess that one reason for this is that we try to get more and more done and feel that we have less and less time in which to do it.

In the rite of welcoming today, in the signing of the senses and the presentation of the cross, we said: "Christ will be your strength, **learn to know and follow Him.**" The crosses placed on the candidate remind us profoundly of our senses—we might say, places in our lives—where Christ helps us to **come to grips with time.** But we are not merely referring to a determination to follow Christ. Certainly that is an important part of it. But **we are referring to the opening that faith gives to everything that happens to us in our lives. And what happens to us comes to us through our senses:**

- the forehead—to learn to know and follow Christ;
- the ears—to hear the voice of the Lord.
- the eyes—to see the glory of

God.

- the lips—to respond to the word of God.
- the heart—that Christ may dwell there by faith.
- the shoulders—to bear the gentle yoke of Christ.
- the hands—that Christ may be known in the work that you do.
- the feet—to walk in the way of Christ.

Make her living proof of its saving power and help her to persevere in the footsteps of Christ.

Notice what the Apostle, Paul, says to us in our second reading today:

Let us throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us conduct ourselves properly as in the day, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in promiscuity and lust, not in rivalry and jealousy.

Notice in this strong encouragement Paul gives to us how the senses come into play. Even in rivalry and jealousy there is a strong component of the senses. Paul wants us to remember that we have been baptized into the light—some one, Jesus Christ. Christ is the one who gives us the light and the power to use our senses for love and not for selfishness.

Where does time fit into all this? There is a Greek word which the New Testament uses—*kairos*—whose specific meaning is a "favorable, decisive point of time" as determined by God. We hear it today in our second reading: "it is the hour now for you to awake from sleep." We are all acquainted with this kind of time. For example, you are thinking of buying a house. You look at many possi-

bilities. One in particular attracts your interest and the more you investigate, the more everything about it seems just like what you were looking for. Then the realtor says, Well, you better decide by such and such a date because after that time it will be sold to someone else.

It's time to make a decision!

That is the way of our following Christ Jesus. Somewhere along the line, things line up in such a way that we know we have to make a decision: will I give myself over to the leadership of Christ or will I continue to dally around.

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE

Capital Campaign Progress

In contrast to the economy of recent years, Conception Abbey has been blessed with a good deal of growth lately. Enrollment in the seminary is up, there is a steady stream of vocations to the monastery, guests and pilgrims continue to visit the Abbey, and the monks have grown in international popularity with the recently completed Revised Grail Psalter. Keeping up with everything is no easy task. Thankfully, Conception's current capital campaign—Renewing Our Father's House—is addressing the needs of expanding ministries.

Update

A year ago, we happily announced the news of a \$700,000 challenge grant awarded by the Mabee Foundation. The “challenge” part of the grant was in raising \$1.6 million by October 1 of this year. With the generous support of our friends and bene-

This is not a matter of accomplishing everything in a moment, as if we could. It is a matter of entrusting our lives, with all their sins and faults, into the loving care of Christ who comes to us and wants to live in us by faith working itself out in love.

It is a matter of seeing that we have become members of Christ through our baptism and in that union we are given the light and power to change, to become people of love and selflessness.

It is a matter of then using our mind and all our senses for loving and creating spaces of welcome in

our lives.

In short, it is a matter of living each piece of time we have for what it really is—a **graced opportunity**. For Christ,

...the Lord of history is at every moment the Savior of his body and of the least of his brothers and sisters: he calls and feeds them, heals them and makes them grow, forgives and transforms them, delivers and divinizes them, tells them that they are loved by the Father and are being increasingly united to him until they reach their full stature in the kingdom.”

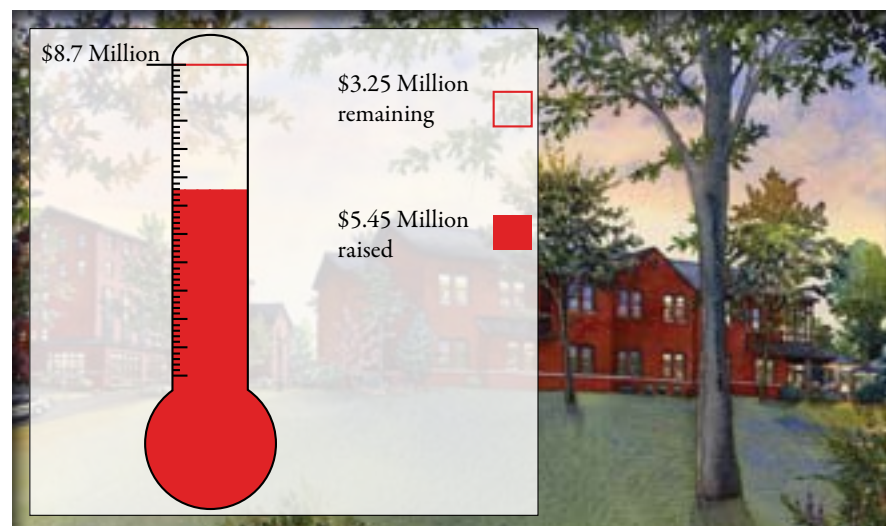
factors, we have met the challenge requirements and have received the funds for the Guest House component of Renewing Our Father's House.

What's next

Now that the challenge is met, we are a total of \$2.3 million closer to the \$8,700,000 campaign goal with \$3.25 million left to raise. If all goes well, construction of the new guest facility will begin in calendar year 2011. After that, attention will turn to the second

phase of Renewing Our Father's House—renovation of the monastery.

Two years ago, when the economy was collapsing, it would have been hard to imagine we'd be where we are today. It is with a sense of sincere gratitude for our benefactors and a humble respect for the work of our predecessors that we continue to move forward with this important campaign. Thank you for your continued support.



ANOTHER STRONG ENROLLMENT AT CSC

by Jarrod Thome and Br. Etienne Huard

It's not always fun to report on the same old things. But what if the “same old things” happen to include a high enrollment in the seminary? For the past three years now I've been talking about strong or even record-breaking numbers here at CSC. Now in my fourth attempt to cover the same subject, I admit that my writing abilities are being stretched to their limits! Could it be that even news this good is in danger of losing its edge?!

Well not really, but it's true that extraordinary events are generally more exciting to read about (and report). As human beings we're fascinated by the unexpected—the underdog upsetting the na-

tional champion or the story of the teenagers finding a purse full of money and returning it to its rightful owner. When these things happen they no doubt catch our eye, but I contend that when the extraordinary becomes the ordinary, this is something to get excited about too.

Such is the case with the seminary's high enrollment of recent years. While technically there's no record-breaker this year, the enrollment stands just shy of last year's record of 121—still unheard of ten or even five years ago. The sensationalistic and on-demand culture we live in, however, likes to keep us from connecting the dots of big pictures, making

it easy to overlook the aggregate value of “repeat” stories like this.

Thankfully, Benedictines have always been counter-cultural in this sense. Here at Conception Seminary College, the monks are well aware that this trend of consistently strong enrollment is nothing to take lightly. Rather than this news losing its edge with each successive year, it is instead honed all the more by the whetstone of the Holy Spirit. And as long as I'm still using a sharp edge metaphor, the sharper it becomes, the more responsibility that must be exercised in handling it.

Fr. Samuel, CSC's President Rector, realizes immediately that this means the seminary must de-

Returning Seminarians help new students get moved in.



liver the same quality formation that has become Conception's hallmark to a larger and more diverse student body. Knowing how to do this requires a deep understanding of both the student body and the needs of the Church.

The Student Body

The Catholic Church in the United States has always been a diverse body and the seminarians at Conception are no different: 73.5% of the seminarians are Caucasian, 17% are Hispanic, 7.6% are Asian and 1.7% are African American. Fr. Samuel also notes, "We continue to attract younger students. All our freshmen are traditional age, as are the great majority of our other students." The average age is 21.71, down from last year's 24.42. This

year there are 20 dioceses and 3 religious communities represented at Conception.

To keep up with recent growth, the seminary has added new and familiar faces to its faculty/staff. See the insets for more information on these updates. Notable among the changes are Spanish speaking chaplains who will assist in character formation for the growing number of LCC students.

The needs of the Church

Conception Seminary College has always tried to be in tune with the needs of the Church. One way it does this is through regular visits with the bishops and vocation directors of the various dioceses who send young men to CSC for formation. For Fr. Samuel and

Fr. Dan Merz, Vice Rector and Dean of Students, summers typically involve a lot of time on the road, attending these visits and the ordinations of alumni. This summer alone, the two traveled 9,196 miles and visited 19 different dioceses.

Another and significant way in which the Seminary keeps in tune with the needs of the Church is with its biannual Board of Regents meeting. The Board of Regents is a group of Bishops and vocation directors of sponsoring dioceses and lay men and women who have particular skills in finance, law, promotion and development, lay ministry, etc. In addition to being the governing Board for the Seminary, this group of men and women serve a very important advisory role for the semi-

nary administration on matters of spirituality, governance, program development, and finance.

This fall's meeting was held October 15th and 16th and its sessions focused on two main topics: the financial needs of the seminary for expansion and tuition, and reflection on how Benedictine spirituality influences seminarians and the seminary's task of fostering a true ecclesial spirituality.

Discussing the topic of ecclesial spirituality is itself a clear example of trying to foster an attitude in line with the needs of the Church. Being a man with an ecclesial spirituality means the seminarian is attuned to the Church as a whole—who "prays with" and seeks truth not as an isolated individual but as a member of a whole mystical body. This spirituality seeks truth with the mindset that it is done in union with both the magisterial and charismatic-prophetic Church.

Our Future

Conception Seminary College is confident and hopeful for the future. We hope to seek more and more to be an instrument of God's good will in helping men discern whether Christ is calling them to carry out His missions of preaching, teaching and sanctifying. And we are confident, because of God's grace, that we can help men identify that it is the person and saving work of Jesus Christ that is most important in priestly formation, for He both reveals and draws us into the Trinitarian mystery of God. Priestly formation is, at its most basic, conversion—turning your hearts—to Christ.

NEW CSC PERSONNEL

Jason Shaver joins Conception as an ESL instructor and coordinator of ESL instruction. Fr. Paul Koch, a priest of the Diocese of Des Moines who spent many years ministering in Bolivia, assumes the role of spiritual director. Fr. Enrique García, a priest of the Diocese of Ecatepec (north of Mexico City), joins CSC for several years to assist as a chaplain after mastering the English language through the LCC program this year. Br. Anselm, who has served in the seminary before as ESL instructor and academic advisor, joins the philosophy faculty as an instructor having just completed a licentiate in philosophy from Catholic University of America. The newly professed Br. Etienne Huard has been appointed Director of Admissions and Vocation Promotion.



Right: The seminary's Board of Regents is important in providing guidance to maintain CSC's quality formation.

Far right: The new dedication plaque for the Alumni Union, honoring priest-martyr alumni Fr. Emil Kapaun and Fr. Stanley Rother.

Opposite page: The LCC computer lab received an overhaul over the summer, thanks in part to grant funding from the Raskob and Koch foundations. The previous equipment was no longer capable of running the updated software used in the program. Needless to say, the students were excited to test it out after seeing it for the first time!



NOVICES JOHN AND ERIC PROFESS SIMPLE VOWS



From left to right: Abbot Gregory, Br. Basil, Br. Etienne, and Br. Bernard. Opposite page: Brs. Basil and Etienne sign their profession documents.

August is usually a pretty busy time around Conception. The seminary begins another academic year, the Printery House begins gearing up for the Christmas season, monks receive new assignments and some leave for studies outside the monastery. Perhaps most joyous among these events, however, are the professions that take place.

On August 15, Novices John and Eric professed vows of obedience, conversion of life and stability for three years. The profession ceremony took place after the reading of the Gospel as Brother Bernard, the novice master led the two before the abbot.

Since brief bios of the two were given in last year's fall/winter issue of Tower Topics, we thought you readers might enjoy a bit of a question and answer session with

these two young vocations.

Question: You've obviously completed your year-long novitiate. What are some ways you feel you've matured in your monastic vocation during that time (things you've learned, insights, understanding, etc.)?

Br. Basil: Before I first came I had been in an already very busy college (of architecture), and was commuting from Omaha to Lincoln each day along with holding a job. Needless to say I was very, very busy and had become extremely accustomed to being very, very busy. Since then I have learned... re-learned how to slow down. One of the biggest challenges, which continues to challenge me, is taking things one step at a time. I tend to pick things up quickly, and that too I have become accustomed to. When it comes to my

spiritual life I have to remind myself to slow down. St. Basil warns not to strive for perfection all at once, but to take one's time and slowly move toward it. If you are working on one thing and it collapses, you have everything else to keep you from falling completely, if you are building up everything at once more rapidly than you can keep up with and one small thing falls... everything falls. I try to remind myself of this along with a plant analogy. A plant grows at first under the surface and you cannot see it. If I continue to tear up the plant to see its growth, I continue to slow down its development and risk killing it completely. I have really been working on and learning to trust that God is working, and turning over my feeble efforts to Him. As St. Paul would put it, accepting that I am

weak, and glorifying my weakness, knowing that it is then that I am the strongest because I have turned to Him instead of trusting in myself.

Br. Etienne: I have matured the most, or gotten the most insight, in respect to the idea of stability. I matured mostly in the idea of being stable and firm in a decision. My novitiate year was very difficult for me. I had a great deal of discernment that was very hard and lengthy, but I was very steadfast in my decision to stay and to stay because I believed it was God's will. In the end it was the best experience I've had.

Question: You'll make solemn vows in 3 years. What are some of the things you're looking forward to during the time between now and then?

Br. Etienne: I simply look forward to growing in the monastic way of life. I came here to be changed into the person of Christ and I hope that happens.

Br. Basil: Right now I am looking forward to future studies. Most of the classes so far have been beneficial in looking at how we got where we are, better un-



derstanding what we believe, and allowing us to dive deeper into it. Right now I am taking Latin and look forward to further study and use of it, especially in older texts like the RB and the Vulgate. I have been able to see the growth that has taken place in a years time, I am looking forward to see what changes come in the next few years, both in interests and spiritually.

Question: You've both lived out "in the world." How does your experience of monastic life compare to what you found outside the walls of the monastery?

Br. Basil: It is really quite different to compare the two for me. When I was "in the world" I did make the time for prayer and study of sacred things, because it was important to me, but it was not easy, the time had to be made. I made sure I prayed the prime hours of the office, and Compline at the very minimum, I was sure to get to daily Mass, and I was part of a bible study group and assisted with the local youth group from time to time, but most of it was on a tight time frame, prayer was frequently rushed, and it was usually alone. I had a small group of friends that I contacted when I was free, and many acquaintances at school. In general, everyone was busy, and when we were free, we wanted to relax. The topics of conversation were extremely open and not always comfortable. Everyone knew where I stood, and in general toned it down around me. Between topics of conversation and freedom to dress however one pleased, "the world" was constantly attacking what I



wanted to become. In the monastery, we are not a family, but I can openly speak to most of the members about whatever is on my chest. There is communal support and affection. Instead of rushing prayer and praying on my own, the communal liturgies are the focus of the day and the prayerful work revolves around it. Instead of squeezing in time to pray, I need to remind myself to recreate socially with other monks from time to time, or to take time for myself in reading a novel (something I rarely had time for, or was interested in before). I still like to keep myself busy with many projects, but every once in a while, it is still important to remember just to relax a little bit.

Br. Etienne: It does not compare. That is some of the attraction to monastic life; it is different, radically different from "the world." You cannot escape the world by coming to the monastery because the same sin and temptation that you had with you follows you. The difference lies in the fact I have more tools to help turn back to God and be at peace with Him.

ALUMNUS SPOTLIGHT: FR. MATTHEW BENJAMIN

by Fr. Daniel Petsche

We often spotlight a lay or ordained alumnus in this column who has developed their careers or ministries with the advantage of many years of experience. We thought that spotlighting a newly ordained priest alumnus could provide a different perspective. It's the perspective of someone having recently finished their discernment and now finds himself sent into the midst of pastoral ministry for the first time.

Recently ordained Conception alumnus Fr. Matthew Benjamin is a good case in point. Born in Columbia, MO into an Air Force family Sept. 2, 1969—his father a career Air Force officer and his mother a homemaker—Matthew and his five siblings moved often during his grade school days. In 1988 he graduated from Bob Jones High School in Madison, AL and immediately entered the U.S. Marine Reserves. After completing his basic training in Paris Island, his tour of active duty included two years in Iraq. In 1994 he finished his tour, left the Marines, and spent one year at South Alabama University wondering what he was supposed to do with his life.

The slow but sure process of discernment continued the following year as he took a job driving an eighteen wheeler hauling steel up and down the eastern seaboard and the Midwest. As Fr. Matthew said, "You have a lot of time to think when you're driving a truck!" He not only did a lot of thinking, but he decided to reach for his rosary which had been a bit



unused in those days.

A major turning point came a year later in 1995 when he went to visit his family who were then in Oklahoma City. It happened (in God's plan) that he met the pastor of the parish his family was attending who also happened to be the vocation director for the Archdiocese. Fr. John Metzinger told him he was taking a group of men to Conception for the Encounter with God's Call Weekend and he, Matthew, might as well go along. The rest, as they say, is history, but at a slow and methodical pace. For the twenty-four year old ex-marine the experience had a very strong impact on him and convinced him that the seminary was where he was supposed to be. Three years later in 1999, Matthew graduated from Conception with a deeper appreciation of his faith. The following year found him in his first year of theology at Notre Dame Seminary in New Orleans.

The road ahead still contained too many blind curves, though.

After his first year at Notre Dame, Matthew stepped out of seminary formation to reconsider the life choices before him. This turned out to be a five year period in which he found himself in a supervisory role in a construction firm which included restoring an historic site in New Orleans. Construction work even took him back for another year in Iraq as a civilian while he worked with a private company installing communication facilities.

The discernment question continued to nag him during those five years after he left the seminary. Fr. Matthew says that it was always "priesthood or marriage" with real attraction to both. The final turning point came while waiting with some friends in a popcorn line at a theatre in New Orleans. With the "priesthood or marriage" debate raging in his head he turned to the person in the next line who happened to be the Auxiliary bishop of New Orleans and former rector of the Notre Dame Seminary. He simply said "Hello Matthew, when are you coming back to the seminary?" That seemed to be the sign that tipped the balance toward priesthood. Soon after that he got a call from Keith Jiron, Director of Seminarians at the time for the diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph, inviting him to come and study for this diocese. He came, he met with Bishop Finn, and he decided that priesthood was his vocation. Not one to act impulsively, Matthew took another year of transition during which time he did

more construction work before returning to seminary formation.

At last having decided to study for the Kansas City-St. Joseph diocese he was ready to make the move and spent four years at Kenrick Glennon seminary in St. Louis, MO. He was ordained to the priesthood for our diocese on May 29, 2010.

If the pace of discernment was slow before ordination, the pace of ministry assignment after ordination has been extremely fast. Fr. Matthew jokes that as a newly ordained priest, he may have the all-time record for shortest amount

of time spent as associate pastor, a mere three and a half weeks at St. Elizabeth's Parish in Kansas City. In one fell swoop he was told to go to St. Joseph, MO, where he is the current Administrator of St. Mary's Parish, chaplain at LeBlond High School and part of a ministry team for the local prison.

When asked about what has sustained him and continues to sustain him in his discernment and present pastoral ministry, his answer is the power of the Eucharist and prayer. He speaks of a deepening gratitude for the vocation to priestly ministry which he

is convinced can only succeed by depending upon God's help. God opens doors if we choose to enter. He would encourage any young man who is at least open to the thought of priesthood to come to Conception to experience Encounter with God's Call. In Fr. Matthew's case it was the beginning of his road to the priesthood.

We pray that the Spirit of the Lord will continue to lead and strengthen Fr. Matthew as he continues to discover ever new dimensions of God's plan.

DEVELOPMENT DEVELOPMENTS

The Development Department recently hosted a farewell to Jarrod and Emily Thome as they head back to the Wichita area. Conception Abbey and Conception Seminary College have been enriched by their creativity, hard work, and basic goodness.



Faith Goodwin (left) and Jenny Huard (right)

Jarrod has served as Director of Communications since February of 2007 and Emily has worked as Coordinator of Grants and Donor Research since the fall of 2008. We are pleased to announce that Jarrod will continue as editor of *Tower Topics*.

We welcome Jenny Huard as our new Director of Communications. Jenny and her husband, Joe, also hail from Wichita. Jenny has just completed studies in Integrative Communications Marketing at the Elliott School of Communications at Wichita State University.

Faith Goodwin has joined the Development Department as Assistant Gifts Manager and Coordinator of Grants and Donor Research.

Cindy Staten, Associate Development Director, Jenny Huard, Director of Communications, and Fr. Adam Ryan, O.S.B. Development Director, attended the



The Thome family (from left to right): Olivia, Nora, Emily, Sophia, Jarrod and Grace

National Catholic Development Conference 18-21 September in Chicago, Illinois. During the conference Fr. Adam presented a workshop: *Spiritual and Contemplative Dimensions of Development Ministry*.

MONKS ON MISSION: FR. MARTIN DEMEULENARE

by Jarrod Thome



When Abbot Frowin Conrad founded Conception Abbey in 1873, it was never his intention to send monks out on mission. Nevertheless, he did so in response to the needs of the Church at that time—bringing the sacraments to settlers on the frontier. Today we find ourselves in a different sort of frontier, where vocations aren't as abundant as they once were. This means the needs of the Church are still very similar to what they were 137 years ago; and just as in days gone by, Conception continues to supply priests for various placements outside the monastery.

The early years of Catholicism in northwest Missouri provide a rich history. While Conception Abbey surely plays a crucial role in this history, it is by no means the sole progenitor of Catholic life in the area. The first attempts at establishing a community of faith began in 1858 with Fr. James Power, an Irish priest from Reading, Pennsylvania. He was instrumental in organizing St. Mary's parish in Maryville and helping them construct the initial church building—a 30' x 20' x 18' brick

building—which was dedicated in 1860.

Before too long, Fr. Power realized his efforts (tenacious as they were) were inadequate to meet the spiritual needs of the growing number of settlers. It was then that he began petitioning religious communities to come to his aid and monks from Conception's motherhouse in Engelberg Switzerland answered the call. When Fr. Frowin Conrad and Fr. Adelhelm Odermatt arrived in 1873, the church in Maryville was without a pastor and Bishop Hogan of the St. Joseph Diocese helped transition responsibility of the parish to the new Benedictines on the scene.

While Fr. Frowin was busy starting a monastery, Fr. Adelhelm dug in at the parish—reorganizing the school and clearing the debt. Realizing that religious sisters should be the teachers in the school, Fr. Frowin petitioned the Benedictine community at Maria Rickenbach in Switzerland who responded by sending five sisters to the area.

The sisters were a great help to the parish and the community began to thrive. After the Civil War, however, a number of German immigrants began settling in the area who spoke no English (before the war, the immigrants had been primarily Irish or English speaking). Fr. Adelhelm himself knew little English. This language barrier elicited a desire from the parishioners to have two churches—one for German Catholics and one for Irish Catholics.

After holding out for as long as he could, Bishop Hogan finally gave his consent in 1881 for a new parish to be formed. The first church for the new St. Patrick's parish was built in 1882 and in 1899 a much more substantial building took its place. A school/convent building was built in 1911 with classes starting that September.

As time passed both parishes weathered the trials of The Great Depression and World War II with faith and the spiritual guidance of long-tenured pastors, including Conception's own legendary Fr. Isidore Diebold (St. Mary's parish) who, among many other accomplishments, established a school bus system that served parochial and public school children alike. At St. Patrick's, Fr. Robert Graham had a similar impact as he ministered to the spiritual needs of his flock for 27 years. Considering the times, both parishes enjoyed relative stability through the 50s.

Then, however, a perfect storm of events tied the two parishes back together. For one, the long-established pastors at both parishes moved on—Fr. Isidore to another assignment and Fr. Graham to eternal life. After Fr. Graham's passing, his replacement died unexpectedly a short three years after taking up the post. The next priest appointed pastor at St. Patrick's—Fr. John Stack—was then asked to be administrator at St. Mary's on the occasion of Fr. Isidore's transfer (which occurred a mere six months after Fr. Stack's



A student cantors at an all-school Mass
appointment as pastor at St. Patrick's). The next fall, both schools were combined and classes were held at St. Patrick's. During this time, masses were held at St. Patrick's during the week and at both churches on Sundays. This would continue for another two years until, in 1961, the two parishes were merged back together and placed under the patronage of St. Gregory Barbarigo—an Italian saint canonized by Pope John XXIII in June of 1960.

Along with every other parish across the world, St. Gregory's dealt with the multitude of changes that occurred in the Church in the years that followed Vatican II. Challenging as the shift was, the parish continued to grow as a community of faith. In the summer of 1979 the parish council elected to explore the possibilities of renovating or replacing the church. In the end it was recommended to construct a new building. Completed in January of 1983, this church serves as the primary worship space for the

parish to this day.

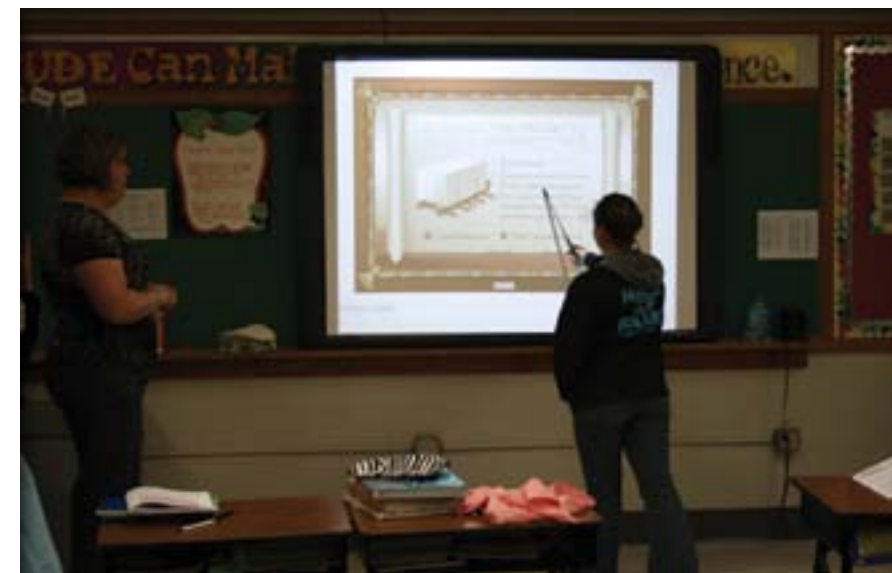
Much like the parish in which he now serves, Fr. Martin too has a "rich history." Growing up in Liberty, MO, Richard DeMeulenaere first came to Conception in 1964 as a seminarian for the Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph. After graduating from the college, he entered the monastery in 1969 and continued to pursue theological studies at the seminary. In 1970 he professed first vows and received the religious name Martin. Three years later in a whirlwind of ceremonies, Fr. Martin professed solemn vows on August 15, followed the next day by his diaconate ordination and then by his ordination to the priesthood on August 17, 1973.

Things didn't slow down much after that for Fr. Martin. Right after ordination he began working on his RN at St. John's Hospital School of Nursing in Springfield, MO. While in Springfield, he also served as assistant pastor at St. Joseph's parish (see the summer issue for an article on St. Joseph's). After returning to the Abbey in 1976, Fr. Martin put his new

training to use as Infirmarian for the next 12 years while also helping out in the seminary with spiritual direction. Also during this time, he began giving preached and directed retreats to religious communities across the country and completed a Master of Theological Studies degree with a concentration in Spiritual Direction from Washington Theological Union in Maryland in 1986.

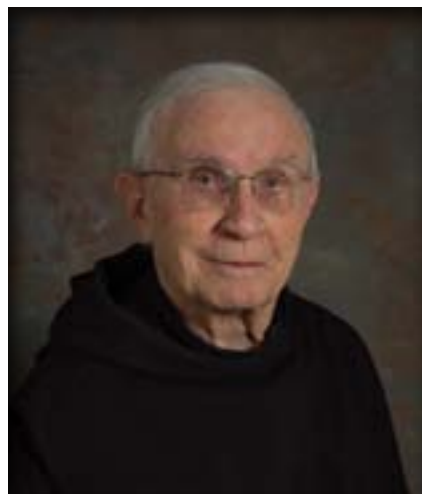
The year 1990 found Fr. Martin back in Springfield where he worked on his CFRE while serving as priest chaplain at the hospital where he once studied. After being called back in 1993 by Abbot Marcel to serve as the monastic vocation director, Fr. Martin was back in hospital ministry from 1996-2003—this time at St. Joseph Health Center in Kansas City, MO. He was then asked to go to the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception (Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph) to serve as Associate Pastor and Coordinator of Sacramental Life. He held this assignment for a year before being

CONTINUED ON PAGE 24



A student uses one of the smart boards during an Egyptian history module.

JUBILARIANS



Fr. Anthony Shidler: 70 Years Professed

by Fr. Xavier Nacke

Fr. Anthony was born into a large family—the 4th of seven boys and one girl, on August 21, 1921 in Elkhart, IN and was baptized Joseph Earl. Fr. Anthony was one of four religious to come from the family of Joseph Earl and Ursula Gettelfinger Shidler. Brothers Lawrence and Stephen were monks of St. Meinrad and Sr. Elnora is a Benedictine sister of Ferdinand, Ind.

He graduated in 1935 from the public high school in Harrison County, Indiana. (He says that he actually “never graduated from High School” but “had three years of quasi-high school at St. Meinrad.”)

Joseph Earl went to St. Meinrad when he was 14. There he attended the school for brothers in St. Placid Hall and afterwards made his novitiate in the monastery, professing first vows on March 12, 1940. Three years later he made perpetual vows.

At St. Meinrad he worked in the bakery and on the farm. In 1950

Abbot Primate Bernard Kaelin made a request of the Archabbey for brothers to help with the work at Sant’Anselmo Monastery in Rome. Br. Anthony told his superior he was willing to respond to this request. So, on July 16 of that year he and three other brothers left for a five-year assignment in Rome. There he worked in the carpenter shop and became driver for the community, hauling “everything from people to pigs.”

When he returned to St. Meinrad in the summer of 1955 he discussed the possibility of a priestly vocation with his abbot. But this was not to be immediately. He returned to Rome and during the next two years studied some Latin privately. He came home to St. Meinrad in the summer of 1957 and on to Conception where arrived on the train, “out in the sticks” on August 14th where Fr. James, who had been a friend and confidant at St. Anselmo, met him at the train station.

That Fall he joined nine younger men in the clerical novitiate. Novice Anthony went to the end of the seniority line and lived graciously, generously and cheerfully in that rambunctious class!

When the rest of the class made vows in September, 1958, Frater Anthony simply changed a short scapular for a long one—he had already made simple vows! (He would transfer his stability from St. Meinrad to Conception in June of 1961).

After a testing program, Anthony then entered second college. The next seven years were spent in the juniorate. This included one

year as a simplex priest after he was ordained on May 22, 1964.

There followed many jobs in the monastery, including archivist, professor at Mount Alverno Academy, prior in the monastery, assistant business manager, associate pastor, chaplain in the nearby hospital and professor in the seminary. But first came a further stint with the books at St. Louis University (1966-67) leading to a masters degree in history and later time in training for certification in Clinical Pastoral Education.

The beautiful wood carving that Fr. Anthony has done as a hobby is perhaps symbolic of his caring, persevering and gentle spirit. The author of this article, who was his fellow novice here at Conception, has appreciated and profited much from his witness as have so many others, both here at the abbey and seminary and in a number of other places!

He currently resides in St. Stephen’s Health Care Center at the abbey.

Br. Blaise Bonderer: 50 Years Professed



by Br. Etienne Huard

Br. Blaise Bonderer was born George Bonderer on January 29th, 1940, in Chillicothe Missouri—the son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Frank and Mary Bonderer of Chillicothe. He attended the Green Grove Grade School, completing studies in 1953 and then went on to St. Joseph’s Academy in Chillicothe where he graduated in 1957. The following year, he entered Conception Seminary College to pursue priestly studies but found a stronger calling to the monastic way of life and entered the novitiate at Conception Abbey. After completing his novitiate he professed temporary vows on May 10th, 1960 and final vows May 10th, 1963.

Due to his farming background, the first assignment for Br. Blaise was working with the dairy operation for five years in the early sixties. For three consecutive years he showed the Grand Champion dairy cow at local fairs and the Missouri State Fair. He reports that her official registered name was Abbeydale Johanna Captain. He also admits that he enhanced the appearance (legally) of this champion white dairy cow with the aid of some talcum powder at strategic places! Moving from the farm, Br. Blaise was assigned as assistant manager of food services for one year and assistant superintendent of maintenance for the next three. For a short time thereafter, he was named the Abbey’s assistant business manager and the Abbot’s secretary while still continuing to help with outdoor landscaping.

For the next ten years, he began

a long and creative relationship working at The Printery House. Here he was able to take his skill and experience of cultivating plants and flowers to developing and printing Christian greeting cards.

Still known for his ‘green thumb’ and his often stunning flower arrangements for the church, Br. Blaise was given a new series of challenges. In 1985 he was named the vice-chairman of the committee formed by the now Archbishop Jerome Hanus, O.S.B. which was charged with making plans for the 1991 centennial of the Abbey Basilica. This committee was also created to address the daunting task of providing the vision for restoring and renewing the Basilica.

Throughout this time, Br. Blaise kept busy with a variety of other necessary assignments. These included being the supply store manager, associate guestmaster, member of the fire and safety team, member of the vocation recruitment team, assistant kitchen master, church manager and sacristan, and director of the monks’ supply room.

After these various duties, Br. Blaise was able to return to working outdoors. He became grounds keeper—giving an official title to a job he had already been performing for quite some time. He gladly held this position for nearly 25 years. To this day, he has never entirely relinquished his duties involving ground maintenance and he continues to help with flower beds which often add to the art and environment of the Church. He now officially serves the com-

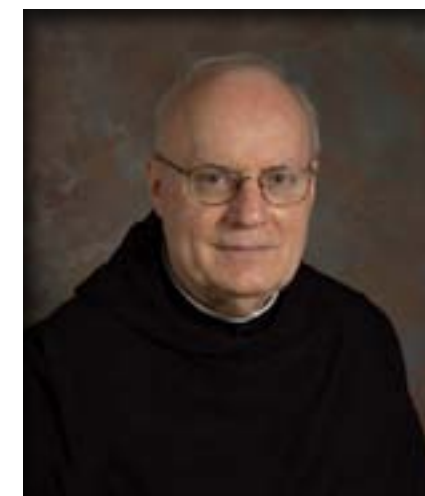
munity as apple orchard manager and monastic refectorian (the person in charge of cleaning and setting up the dining room for all the monks’ meals). It is also important to note that Br. Blaise has carried on Br. Damian’s work of recording and tracking the local weather for the national Weather Bureau, thus continuing the tradition of “the weather monk” at Conception Abbey.

Surely Br. Blaise, “one of the Bonderer kids of Chillicothe” has provided a powerful witness through these fifty years of generous and faithful monastic life which has touched the lives of many. His brother monks appreciate his ready smile and generosity and pray that whether working, praying, or playing a game of Bridge at the card table, the blessings still to come will indeed be abundant.

Fr. Quentin Kathol: 50 Years Professed

by Fr. Daniel Petsche

Golden Jubilarian of Profession, Fr. Quentin Kathol, traces his early days back to his hometown of Hartington, NE where he was born July 30, 1936, the



son of Leo and Clara Kathol. He got his early academic formation at Holy Trinity Grade School where the Benedictine Sisters of Yankton, SD introduced him to the idea of checking out the high school seminary operated by the Benedictine monks of Conception, MO. He began this adventure as a high school freshman in 1950 and eight years later graduated from Conception College Seminary with a Bachelor of Arts in 1958. After spending one semester at St. Bernard's Seminary in Dubuque as a seminarian for the Omaha Archdiocese the attraction to monastic life lingered, intensified and led to his entering the monastery as a novice on Aug. 31, 1959. Having persevered through the novitiate he professed temporary vows on Sept. 1, 1960 to be followed by solemn profession Sept. 2, 1963.

The responsibilities of priestly and academic ministry began immediately after his ordination to the priesthood on Sept. 21, 1963, the same month as his final solemn vows. After tasting the experience of classroom teaching for one year he went off to graduate studies in linguistics at Georgetown University in Washington D.C. from 1965-1968 and again 1969-70. In the years that followed Fr. Quentin could be found teaching in the classroom but also served as Dean of Studies from June 1970 to August 1981. Known for his precision in word choice and attention to details he brought his special gifts to the functioning of the office of the dean.

The years 1972 to 1991 saw Fr. Quentin wearing a number of

hats as languages professor, sub-prior associate treasurer with three years on the budget and finance committee and from 1972 – 2003 director of testing. He served as abbey archivist from 1991-2000.

Fr. Quentin has always had a keen interest in all things electrical and took delight in being a technical troubleshooter whenever problems with the audio-visual and telephone equipment arose in the monastery or seminary. He always seemed able to come up with the needed spare part or solve the problem if it was fixable. We knew that he would take it as a personal challenge to conquer the problem. When it was dandelion season around the monastery in spring and early summer we often saw Fr. Quentin waging a personal vendetta against that nasty flower/weed digging them out by their roots!

Even though he had done periodic parish ministry as substitute weekend help over the years a major change came for him when he was appointed pastor of the two rural parishes, St. Paul's Parish in Tarkio and St. Benedict's Parish in Burlington Junction, MO. He was pastor of these rural parishes from August of 1994 to 1998. His next assignment was back to the classroom in the seminary where he taught English as a Second Language with supplementary parish assignments from 2000-2003.

Further pastoral assignments followed in Aug. 2003 when he was assigned to be chaplain at St. Bernard's Medical Center in Jonesboro, AR and then followed in Aug. 2007 his current assign-

ment as chaplain for the Missionary Benedictine Sisters at Norfolk, NE and for the sick and elderly at St. Joseph's Nursing Home and Skyview Villa. This assignment was very fortunate for him in that it allowed him to be present more often to visit his elderly mother in her final days in his hometown.

When asked for a "word to the wise" in preparing this article Fr. Quentin offered the following thought:

"Despite the Benedictine vow of stability, the monastic vocation is as much subject to change as any other vocation. For anyone giving serious thought to entering the monastery at Conception, a "word to the wise" is that there's a dynamic aspect to the vows which a monastic person tries to live by. The impulse to begin is wonderful, but the call to put down roots and to grow in the midst of changing conditions involves a lifetime of adaptation. Also, you are not joining a single admired person but a community of persons who live and work together as brothers until each one meets the call to move on in death. For peace, happiness, and sheer survival, try each day to remain serene."

We congratulate Fr. Quentin as he marks his Golden Jubilee of Profession and pray that he will be able to continue to serve in a variety of assignments giving monastic witness to those vows he made so many years ago.

Fr. Allan Stetz: 50 Years Professed

by Fr. Patrick Caveglia

Fr. Allan Stetz, who celebrates his golden jubilee of monastic



profession this year, was born in St. Edward in east-central Nebraska in 1939. He began his college work at Conception Seminary in 1958, made his first profession of monastic vows on September 1, 1960, and was ordained to the priesthood on January 7, 1966.

For many years, Fr. Allan worked in our Christian greeting card apostolate, now known as The Printery House. He spent fourteen years as assistant manager, where he had special responsibility for advertising and marketing. He worked with designers to create advertising pieces. In those years, The Printery House relied on in-house printing and inserting of direct mail promotions. Fr. Allan became an expert on the care and feeding of our inserting and labeling equipment, which was used extensively during the summers to prepare advertising for our Christmas card lines. As the equipment became more and more complex, Fr. Allan constantly developed new tricks to repair older equipment. In about 1979, he purchased the first Printery House computer – a Tandy/Radio Shack model which he used to track source codes for catalog

orders. The data was recorded on an ordinary audio cassette player! But this was the beginning of on-site computerization of work data for Conception Abbey's apostolates.

In 1981, Fr. Allan was asked to take on the task of community business manager, which meant oversight of the financial health of the community. In this role, Fr. Allan served for eight years. During that time, the community moved toward greater financial coordination by means of better budgeting and accountability. As the demographics of the monastic community changed, so did the works the community had traditionally engaged in. Fr. Allan helped the community end its direct and active role in farming, and worked to solidify the community's financial situation during the 1980s. During this time at home, Fr. Allan also served the community as a confessor, director of the candidate program, and on various committees.

Following his term as business manager, Fr. Allan turned his attention to pastoral care as a parish priest. He was first assigned as pastor at St. Columban Parish, Chillicothe, Missouri, where he served from 1989 to 1995. There he was able to engage his passion for history, since Chillicothe was celebrating its sesquicentennial when he arrived. As he told the local newspaper, "I was very impressed by the long history of the area, which goes back much longer than where I grew up. So I got to learn a lot about the community from its history when I first arrived."

Fr. Allan's assignment at St. Columban was the beginning of a number of pastoral appointments. After a short sabbatical at Notre Dame, Fr. Allan became pastor at Sacred Heart Parish, Chariton, Iowa in the Des Moines Diocese. In 2000, he was assigned to serve at St. Brendan Parish, Mexico, Missouri, in the Jefferson City Diocese. He was called home to the Abbey in 2002 to serve as director of planned giving in the Development Office, and continued to do pastoral ministry in the area. He was pastor at St. Peter's Parish, Stanberry, and St. Patrick's Parish, Ford City until 2008, when he was assigned to serve as pastor of St. Columba Parish, Conception Junction. He continues in this pastoral role today, pastoring our neighbors and their families.

Fr. Allan's mind is open to new ideas and new inventions, and his heart is attuned to the needs of the people he serves. His ministry of service is one of Benedictine hospitality – welcoming all to come into the presence of the God of mercy and grace. May that service grow and flourish in the years to come!

Fr. Isaac True: 50 Years Professed

by Br. Justin Hernandez

One of the difficulties in trying to give a brief portrait of someone celebrating 50 years of religious life is that highlighting some of the more noticeable traits means inevitably passing over many no less significant qualities known to those who have shared his life. Anyone who has known Fr. Isaac True can testify that beneath the



learned, hard-working, and independent surface, lies a soul God-fearing, caring, and humble in the estimation of his own wisdom.

There is little need to dwell on Fr. Isaac's learnedness. Though he did not like school when he was younger, Fr. Isaac has shown an enthusiasm, or at least a determination, to learn what it takes to tackle the practical demands his assignments presented—whether as President-Rector, Business Manager, teacher of philosophy, and, more recently, as pastor of a parish. Fr. Isaac's perceptive and open mind usually enables him to arrive at a well-considered solution to the issue at hand. But as we know, Fr. Isaac never uses the successes he may have experienced as an excuse to stop re-thinking, re-working, re-learning. Always a teacher, he's never stopped being a student.

Fr. Isaac's industriousness is accompanied by humility, a chief characteristic mentioned by St. Benedict of the monk who truly seeks God. As President-Rector from 1973-88, and during somewhat challenging times, Fr. Isaac diligently and patiently sowed the seeds of the seminary's later

fuller flourishing. To paraphrase St. Paul, Fr. Isaac watered and planted, but God gave the increase. Fr. Isaac's industriousness, in other words, has been accompanied by an evident and strong faith in God. If there's one theme that consistently stands out in Fr. Isaac's homilies to the community, it is this: Do not allow our own wills to get in the way of God's grace in our life. Surely it is this theme of personal conversion that is responsible for the "sacred enthusiasm" that can sometimes burst forth from Fr. Isaac's more ordinary Stoic demeanor—often coming as a surprise to unsuspecting observers.

Underneath Fr. Isaac's independent exterior there is also a generous, caring, and even affectionate quality that is shown to those who approach him in trust. On many occasions Fr. Isaac has offered a quiet but wise word of support to a confrere experiencing a difficulty. If the situation calls for a candidly direct response, Fr. Isaac is quite capable of that too. Those of us who have worked with Fr. Isaac in the administration of the abbey or seminary know of the neatness and thoroughness that he applies to his work. We also know of his willingness to help with tasks that may require his expertise. For example, Fr. Isaac was asked to write the most recent self-study report for the seminary's successful accreditation—an important and demanding work that he was already familiar with.

Fr. Isaac's strong sense of purpose to better the lives of others has been shown not only in the seminary as a teacher and admin-

istrator, but also in the pastoral responsibilities more recently assigned to him. After fifteen years as rector, Fr. Isaac spent a sabbatical of a year and two summers in Guatemala, knowing he would be exposed to poverty, violence, political unrest, and an unfamiliar language. The first three he could do very little about, but then he not only taught himself Spanish, he also learned Cachiuel, the Mayan dialect of the native region. We are thankful to God that Fr. Isaac has enjoyed good health over the years, enabling him to presently serve the Catholic parish in Bethany, Missouri, sharing his wisdom and his faith as he has done for us these past 50 years.



Fr. Timothy Schoen: 25 Years Professed

by Abbot Gregory Polan

Fr. Timothy knows about persistence. A graduate of our seminary college, he studied theology at the North American College in Rome during the exciting years of the Second Vatican Council. After ordination in 1964, he served for twenty years in parish ministry

as a priest of the Diocese of Kansas City-Saint Joseph: Fr. Frank Schoen became a well-known figure among the liturgical musicians of our nation. But even as his ministry progressed, Fr. Frank found himself growing ever more aware that God could be persistent, too: through all those years, a divinely inspired attraction to a more contemplative life than the parish could afford was a persistent whisper in the ear of his heart. Finally heeding the voice of his Master's instruction, Father petitioned for admission to the monastic community he had known as both seminarian and priest. And as a monk, placed at profession under the name and care of St. Timothy, he has borne the "full discipline of the rule" with zeal, putting his priestly ministry his many talents fully at the service of his monastic community.

That service has included many manifestations. Fr. Timothy has been an instructor in the seminary for most of his years in the

monastery; mainstay of the music department, he regularly teaches voice and chant as well as organ and piano. He has further served the seminary at various times as Chaplain, Spiritual Advisor, and Director of Seminary Liturgy, having completed further graduate studies in Liturgical Music at Saint John's University, Collegeville, in 1996.

His service in the monastery has been no less illustrious. Whether as refectorian, assistant choirmaster or abbot's secretary, he has acquitted himself with devotion and enthusiasm. But as anyone who knows Fr. Timothy can tell you, his real gifts to the community come in the Liturgy. He is an organist of exceptional ability; no one can resist the thrill generated by his blazing execution of Charles-Marie Widor's Toccata. Fr. Timothy is never above sharing the liturgical stage: in addition to his direction of both the monastic schola and seminary choir, Father expands the beauty

of our liturgies in encouraging participation by student-players of violin, trumpet or flute, diligently searching out organ pieces suited to the accompaniment of such instrumentalists. His liturgical compositions grace both our Eucharistic celebrations and monastic office. The heart of Father's musical endeavors is always the joyful praise of God.

The beauty and depth Fr. Timothy brings to the liturgy is not limited to organ bench or music stand. His homilies are renowned for their sensitivity, learning and spiritual power, and his deep appreciation for poetry brings striking insight to his scriptural exegesis, gleaning apt spiritual kernels from literary luminaries ranging from George Herbert and John Milton to W. H. Auden and T. S. Eliot.

Fr. Timothy came to Conception for love of God and neighbor. Let us rejoice with him, thanking God for twenty-five years of monastic life and service!

ABBAY AND SEMINARY FOOTNOTES

Abbot Gregory Polan, O.S.B. gave the annual Study-Day for the Catholic Biblical School in Buffalo, NY on Saturday, 23 October 2010. On 1-4 December 2010, he will conduct the annual retreat for the Benedictine monks of St. Gregory's Abbey, Three Rivers, Michigan.

Fr. Benedict Neenan, O.S.B. gave a "Busy Person's Retreat" at St. Thomas Aquinas Newman Center at Iowa State University in Ames from October 17-21.

Fr. Samuel Russell, O.S.B. at-

tended the annual convention of the National Conference of Diocesan Vocation Directors in Milwaukee, WI 12-16 September. He led the senior pilgrimage to Chicago and St. Louis October 28-November 2. October 21-22 he attended a board meeting of the National Association of College Seminaries at St. Charles Seminary in Philadelphia. The board met to plan the association's annual conference.

In addition to directed and preached retreats at the Abbey

Guest Center, **Fr. Patrick Caveglia, O.S.B.** preached the annual retreat to the Catholic Daughters of the Americas of the Archdiocese of Dubuque at the American Martyrs Retreat House, Cedar Falls, Iowa, in October. The retreat house is celebrating its 50th jubilee of founding in 2010. He also attended the Swiss-American Congregation Finance Committee meeting at Glastonbury Abbey near Boston in early November. Fr. Patrick chairs the committee.

Fr. Dan Merz will be presenting

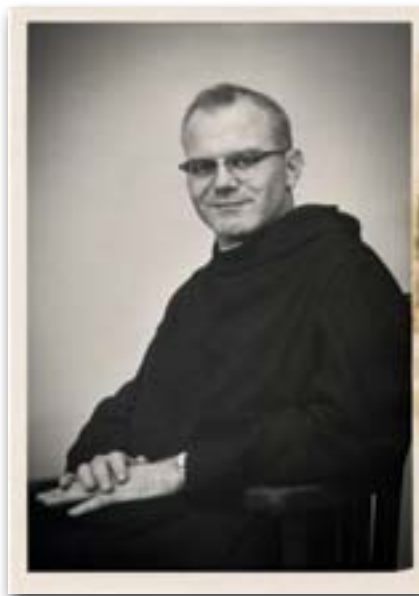
CONTINUED ON PAGE 24

LEGACIES OF MONASTIC SERVICE: FR. DAVID CLEMENTS

The spotlight of this issue's *Legacies of Monastic Service* falls on Fr. David Clements. Fr. David was recommended by a *Tower Topics* reader and is fondly remembered by many for his assignments as CSC Latin professor, Rector, and compassionate pastor at Standing Rock Indian Reservation in Fort Yates, North Dakota. Fr. David was a true example of Christ-like love to all he encountered. Even though he died at a rather early age, Fr. David's ministry left a large footprint. Below is his necrology.

To the great shock and disbelief of all his parishioners, relatives and friends, Fr. David Clements, O.S.B., died unexpectedly at St. Alexius Hospital in Bismarck, North Dakota, on 19 May 1986, five weeks short of his sixtieth birthday. Five days earlier, in an attempt to deal with one aspect of the medical problems which had surfaced in recent years, Fr. David had undergone vascular surgery. He was thought to be making a remarkable recovery, having left the Intensive Care Unit and already become ambulatory, but around 4:00 a.m. on 19 May, while a doctor was routinely taking his pulse and conversing with him, he apparently suffered a severe heart attack, and died almost instantly. Word of the death spread through the Standing Rock Indian Reservation like a prairie fire.

That evening, at a Wake Service in the mission church at Fort Yates, which was attended by an estimated five hundred people, Fr. David's casket was draped



with a traditional "Star Quilt" and crowned with a magnificent blue-feathered war bonnet: two rites which are the highest honors a tribe bestows upon one who has died.

Joseph Clements was born on 27 June 1926, in Washington, Indiana, into a family of solid Catholic faith. Nurturing an early interest in the priestly life, he entered the high school seminary at St. Meinrad Archabbey as a student for the Indianapolis Archdiocese. While still in the minor seminary he first conceived and expressed the desire to enter the monastic life instead. The journey toward his goal would prove long and difficult. His pastor was opposed to the idea, insisting that at least he finish the minor seminary first. After the formation of the new diocese of Evansville, and after several failed petitions to enter St. Meinrad's, his new bishop finally yielded to his perseverance and released him, under the condition that the monastery he would enter should not be either

St. Meinrad's or Marmion. With the help of Abbot Gerald Benkert of Marmion and the Rector of St. Meinrad's, contact was made with Abbot Stephen Schappler at Conception; toward the end of his first year of theology at St. Meinrad's, Joseph petitioned to enter the novitiate at Conception, and was accepted. In his twenty-third year, on 29 December 1949, he made his profession, and was given the name David.

While still a cleric, he was assigned to St. Pius X Priory, the first summer it opened. Fr. Bede, Fr. Lambert, and Frater David were the first to arrive.

After finishing his course in theology at Conception, Frater David was ordained a priest on 6 August 1952.

After ordination, Fr. David's first assignment, from 1952 through 1960, was as professor of Latin in the college department of Conception Seminary. He is remembered by his students for his lively teaching style, and his knack of making a sometimes difficult subject attractive and interesting. For one year during this period, he attended both St. Louis University, and Creighton University in Omaha, for post-graduate work in Classical Languages; from the latter institution he received his Master's Degree in Latin in 1954. In the same year he received a second assignment as prefect in the college seminary; in this position, his unfailing good humor and zest for life made him the students' friend as well as superior. Together with Fr. Arnold Blaes, Fr. David did much

to awaken in the student body a lively co-curricular interest in the fine arts. He returned to St. Louis University in the summer of 1955 for speech courses, and in the summer of 1959, for further studies in Latin.

In 1960, his work as seminary professor and prefect came to an end, when he enrolled in Columbia University, New York, for three years of doctoral studies in Latin and Education. During the last year of his time in New York, he also served as guest lecturer in Latin Literature at the University. And for a semester and a summer, he exercised priestly ministry at New York's famous Actor's Chapel, St. Malachy's Church.

Returning home, Fr. David became chaplain at Mount Alverno




Convent from 1963 through 1970, and also taught in the Academy there for the last two years of that period.

In 1970, he was asked by Abbot Kevin McGonigle, shortly after his abbatial election, to accept the

position of President-Rector of Conception Seminary: a difficult job during a difficult time, which he filled with distinction for the next two and a half years. In making the appointment, Abbot Kevin

CONTINUED ON PAGE 25







THE PRINTERY HOUSE

Christian greeting cards for all occasions

Christmas is almost here and there is no better way to remember loved ones and special friends than with beautiful religious Christmas Cards and gifts from The Printery House

We encourage you to visit our website, www.printeryhouse.org to see our complete offering of cards and gifts that will help you to remember important people in your life and to celebrate the Birth of our Savior. See just how easy, fast and secure online shopping can be with The Printery House. We accept, Master Card, Visa and Discover.

Proceeds from your purchase help to support Conception Seminary College, where young men receive an accredited college education as they study in preparation for the Priesthood.

TOLL-FREE ordering or to request a catalog: (800) 322-2737
or shop on line: www.printeryhouse.org

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 21
three keynote talks on the new Roman Missal translation at the Religious Education Institute in Jefferson City on Nov. 19 and speaking again to RCIA leaders of the Diocese about the new translation on Nov. 20. On Dec. 4, he will be presenting to the Dominican Sisters of Mary Immaculate Province in Houston, TX on the new translation.

ALUMNITEMS

Rev. Rick Parker (C '73) died October 27, 2010 in Carmel, CA.

Rev. John Degnan (C '47, T '51), died September 9, 2010 in Jefferson City.

Clarence Wiedel (C '69, T '70) died September 23, 2010 in Kansas City, MO.

Michael L. Bryde (H '53, C '57) passed away June 26, 2010 in Tucson, AZ.

Duane Zimmerman (C '67) died

Mr. Ryan Rojo, a senior at Conception Seminary College from the Diocese of San Angelo, submitted a philosophy paper entitled "Dawkins and the Divine" for consideration for the 21st Annual Undergraduate Philosophy and Religion Conference at Truman State University held in November, 2010. Rojo's paper was selected for inclusion at the conference from among a field

of very strong contenders, and his paper was well-received when he delivered it at the November conference. Rojo reported that the student presenters held a wide variety of views, and they enjoyed the opportunity to meet other philosophy majors and to discuss their different perspectives on issues in philosophy and religion.

January 23, 2009 in Orlando, FL.

Rev. Robert J. Schuler (C '68) died August 11, 2010 in Clarendon Hills, IL.

2nd Lt. **Matthew B. Fenner** of the US Army (C '07), died August 8, 2010 in Fort Leonard Wood, MO.

Andrew Dever (C '10) died August 15, 2010 in Tulsa, OK.

Rev. James M. Burns died August 6, 2010.

Mrs. Beatrice Hawkins, the mother of **Rev. Tom Hawkins**, pastor of St. Mary's Parish in Higginsville, died August 5, 2010.

James M. Reinhart (C '66) was ordained a priest for the Archdiocese of Louisville, KY by Archbishop Joseph Kurtz on May 29, 2010. He is assigned to St. Augustine Parish in Lebanon, KY and Holy Name of Mary in Calvary, KY.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15
assigned to St. Gregory's in March of 2004.

A Sense of Community

When I asked Fr. Martin what it was like being a Benedictine monk at a thriving parish, he was quick to point out the emphasis on community. Benedictine life centers around community and, of course, prayer and work. If a Benedictine monk is on a parish assignment away from his "home" community, it is not surprising that he quickly establishes a vi-

brant community atmosphere wherever he's at. Fr. Martin observed this while at St. Joseph's in Springfield—also staffed by Conception monks—and it's something he's made a priority at St. Gregory's. As a parishioner myself, this is not hard to see. But if that wasn't enough, just walking into the parish offices gives one a good indication of Fr. Martin's success in building camaraderie with the staff. In fact, he mentioned it's more like family (as an office worker's dog jumped up on

his lap during our conversation).

The sense of community at St. Gregory's takes root with the parishioners and spreads the Gospel message even further. One clear example is the school. Principal Susan Martin acknowledges that without the strong sense of community, it would be difficult to keep the school open, let alone continue the strong tradition of excellence it is known for.

One example was fresh on her mind. Through a grant, the school was able to purchase a few Pro-

methean smart boards for some of the classrooms. When parishioner W.R. O'Riley called and asked if there was something he and his wife Carole could do to help the school out, Susan mentioned they were looking for ways to get the interactive white boards for the other classrooms as well. Turns out the project was a good fit and the students and teachers are leveraging this new technology to great effect.

A Full Service Parish

During our interview, Fr. Martin mentioned that St. Gregory's is a "full service parish." Springing from the community life, many ministries flourish and there are plenty of chances for people of the parish to get involved.

Right after my interviews with Fr. Martin and Susan, I drove down the street to get my haircut. My barber, Jason Barbosa, is a parishioner at St. Gregory's so I

took advantage of my chair time and asked him a bit about his recent involvement with the parish. Apart from getting my hair cut, I see him most often singing in the choir at Mass. In addition to that, though, he helps out with prison ministry, RCIA and religious education classes.

Any of Jason's many satisfied clients will tell you he's a first-rate guy. He's also another example of how St. Gregory's faith community touches the local community in Christian service. May this community continue to draw others to Christ as they journey toward heaven!



A group of preschoolers participate in some Halloween fun. St. Gregory's excels academically and there is currently a waiting list to get into the preschool program.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 23
in commented to the press:

I feel that [Fr. David] will have a tremendous influence on the students. [At age 43,] he is young enough to relate to them and to understand their problems, and yet he is old enough and sufficiently experienced to hold firmly to the teachings and traditions of the Church without closing an eye to the tremendous developments that Vatican II and the recent directives concerning priestly training have outlined.

...I find him to be a man of faith and above all, a man happy in his priestly vocation and his dedication to the Church.

Early in 1973, at the end of his time as rector, he was assigned as associate pastor at Conception's mission in Standing Rock Indian Reservation, Fort Yates, North Dakota, and in 1975 he became pastor there. Serving there with characteristic zeal and human warmth, uninterrupted for the remaining eleven years until his death (except for the summer of 1979, which he spent in a ministry institute at St. Mary of the Woods, Indiana), he earned the respect and love of all the people of the reservation, not just his parishioners.

At the time of his early death, he was survived by a sister, Sister

Mary Deidre, S.P., of Vincennes, Indiana, and a brother, James, of Louisville, Kentucky. A funeral Eucharist was held in St. Peter's Church in Fort Yates on Tuesday, 20 May 1986, after which Fr. David's body was flown home to Missouri, accompanied by Bro. Mark Kosiba and Fr. Regis Probstfield, his friends and associates. An evening prayer service was offered at Conception Abbey the next day, and the Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated by Abbot Jerome Hanus and the monastic community on Thursday, 22 May 1986.

May he rest in peace!

Abbot Gregory Polan, O.S.B.
Conception Abbey
Invites you on a Pilgrimage to
The Holy Land



Your 10-Day Pilgrimage Includes:

- Roundtrip airfare from Chicago to Tel Aviv on scheduled commercial airline
- Eight (8) nights accommodations at 3 star Hotels: (3) nights in Tiberias and (5) nights in Jerusalem
- Continental breakfast daily
- Eight (8) dinners, including two (2) restaurant dinners with a special Welcome and Farewell Dinner
- Luxury motor coach for airport transfers in Israel and for specified sightseeing
- Christian Israeli Tour Escort while in Israel
- Sightseeing per the attached
- Arrangements of daily Masses
- Hotel taxes and portorage for one (1) piece of luggage

April 6 – 15, 2011

\$3,099*

*Regular Price, per person double occupancy

* Per person, double occupancy, cash price. Please see TERMS & CONDITIONS for additional applicable pricing specifications. Rates based on June 2010 exchange rates. Exchange rates, taxes, tariffs and fuel surcharges are subject to increase prior to tour departure.	<div>\$3,099*</div> <div>* Regular Price, per person double occupancy</div>	<div>Conception Abbey</div> <div>The tour does not include:</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">Air taxes, government fees and fuel surcharges estimated at \$500 per personMeals not specifically identifiedGratuities payable to guides, drivers and local service personnelOther personal expenses</div>
--	---	---

Reservation Form:	Conception Abbey – Holy Land	April 6 – 15, 2011
<div>Please fill out one reservation form per person. Photo copies of form are permitted.</div> <div>Clergy _____ Mr. _____ Mrs. _____ Miss _____</div> <div>Name _____ (As it appears on your passport) If Under 18: Age _____(see back)</div> <div>Address _____ City _____</div> <div>State _____ Zip Code: _____ Home Phone (____) _____</div> <div>Cell Phone (____) _____ Email address _____</div> <div>(Roommate) _____</div> <div>____ I would like land only; I will be responsible for my own air and will sign a Land Only Waiver</div> <div>____ I would like a roommate; please put me in touch with other passengers looking for a roommate</div> <div>____ I prefer a single room and will pay an additional \$750 which is due with my balance</div>		
<div>Passport Information:</div> <div>Date of Issue _____ Expiration Date: _____</div> <div>Passport Number _____ Authority _____</div> <div>Date & Place of Birth _____</div> <div>Preferred Name for Name Badge _____ (Your Name)</div> <div>Preferred Name for Name Badge _____ (Roommate)</div>		
<div>Payment Schedule:</div> <div>Deposit \$1,600 to book. Balance due January 6, 2011.</div>		
<div>In order to qualify for the advertised price, traveler must pay all installments by cash or check. Add a \$70 surcharge if any payment is made by credit card.</div>		
<div>Make check payable to Corporate Travel Service or use Credit Card, Visa or MasterCard (circle one)</div> <div>Name as it appears on Card _____ Amount \$ _____</div> <div>Card Number _____</div> <div>Security code (back of card) _____ Expiration _____</div> <div>Card Billing Address _____</div> <div>I have received, read and agree to the TERMS & CONDITIONS on the backside of this form and the Liability clause and payment terms outlined on this side of the form. I also understand that Corporate Travel Service highly recommends the purchase of travel insurance and that the cancellation terms and penalties cannot be waived for any reason. If I decline to purchase travel insurance, I understand that there is no monetary recourse for any flight cancellations or delays by the airlines and I agree to the cancellation terms and penalties:</div> <div>Signature _____</div> <div>(Required to confirm reservation)</div> <div>Signature of Parent or Guardian if Under 18 _____</div> <div>Please mail payments to: Corporate Travel Service, Inc., 23420 Ford Rd., Dearborn Heights, MI 48127 Phone: 313-565-8888 x 121 Fax: 313-565-3621 Website: www.ctscentral.net</div>		
<div><div>Liability:</div><div>In making arrangements for accommodations, meals, transportation, transfers, excursions, sightseeing and other services included in the tour, Corporate Travel Service, Inc., is acting only as an agent for the following suppliers of travel services, i.e. all airlines, all hotels, all ground handlers, all transfer companies, all restaurants, all sightseeing attractions, all entertainment, all bus companies, all museums and all cruise lines and is not liable for any accident, injury, damage, loss, illicit act, delay or other irregularity which may be caused by the defect of any vehicle or the negligence or default of any company or person engaged in conveying the passenger or carrying out the arrangements of this tour. Should Abbot Gregory Polan be unable to participate in this event, every effort will be made to secure a substitute. Regardless of participation of Abbot Gregory Polan the pilgrimage tour will proceed as scheduled on the dates listed. By signing this form to participate in this pilgrimage tour, you agree that the terms of the cancellation penalty will be binding upon you regardless of whether Abbot Gregory Polan is able to participate. Corporate Travel Service will not be responsible for any loss incurred by traveller, including lost days of the scheduled tour, due to a cancelled flight or other means and modes of transportation. Please investigate purchasing travel insurance as recommended, to cover any type of loss associated with cancelled air or other transportation.</div><div>CANCELLATION INSURANCE IS HIGHLY RECOMMENDED</div><div>For optimum insurance coverage, purchase travel insurance within 14 days of deposit.</div><div>Call Corporate Travel Service at 313-565-8888 ext 151 or 152.</div></div>		
<div>Hours of Reservations Department:</div> <div>Monday: 9:00am – 7:00pm EST</div> <div>Tuesday through Friday: 9:00am – 5:00pm EST</div>		

2010 ALUMNI REUNION A SUCCESS

by Fr. Daniel Petsche

“Getting back to your roots is good for your soul” may not be a famous quote, but for those who came back for the Sept 24-25, 2010 Alumni Reunion it proved to be true. Sixty-five alumni, some with their wives, returned for the sheer joy of renewing friendships with former classmates and professors. Some who had not been back for over 40 years found that the Conception of those distant memories had undergone many changes. Although many familiar faces in the monastic community were no longer here, they delighted in renewing their acquaintances with monks who are still vital and active. This was especially true for the members of the College graduating class of 1961 (ordination class of 1965) who had made special efforts to gather for

this anniversary year. This group arrived a day early in order to celebrate a special Memorial Mass for deceased classmates as well as to find time to share the stories of their lives and careers. The volume of their laughter spoke of their delight in being together again and picking up where they had left off some forty years ago.

A special feature of this year's reunion was the Friday afternoon presentation to alumni, seminarians and monks by Bishop John Wester, Bishop of Salt Lake City, UT and Chairman of the Committee on Immigration of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. He spoke to us about the complex issue of undocumented immigration, stressing that the Church's stance on social justice compels a co-

operative approach between the Church and government to find solutions to the problems causing undocumented immigration. His excellent presentation and discussion questions which followed provided challenging thought for our seminarians and all involved with pastoral outreach to immigrant peoples.

The celebrant and homilist for the alumni reunion's Mass of Thanksgiving was our alumnus (C 1957-58; T 1958-1962) Bishop Arthur N. Tafoya, retired Bishop of Pueblo, CO. We were very happy to present the Conception Seminary College Distinguished Service Award to Bishop Tafoya at the end of Mass in recognition for his many years of pastoral service to his people of Pueblo. His words of appreciation at the presenta-

tion focused on what Conception has meant to him in his pastoral ministry through the years.

For those who like to plan ahead, we urge all alumni to save the date of Sept. 23-24, 2011 when the next annual alumni reunion will take place. We will have the honor of hosting Archbishop Pietro Sambi, the Apostolic Nuncio to the United States, who resides in Washington, DC. Archbishop Sambi will be our guest lecturer on Friday afternoon as well as celebrant and homilist at the reunion Eucharist.



Abbot Gregory and Fr. Daniel present Bishop Tafoya with the seminary's Distinguished Service Award.



OBLATE NEWS

Oblate Retreat

The last oblate retreat held at Conception Abbey October 8-10, was conducted by Brother Thomas Sullivan. The conferences were entitled: “A school of the Lord's Service.” About forty oblates made the retreat. During the retreat two were received as oblate novices: Earlene Koons from Kansas City, and Gail Frost from Wichita, Kansas. Five oblate novices made their final oblation: Suzanne Crowley, Des Moines, Iowa, Margaret Gardner, Kansas City, Constance Huard, Wichita,

Kansas, Mark Roesel, St. Peter, Missouri and Cynthia Switzer, Des Moines, Iowa.

Constance (Connie) Huard who made her final oblation, is the mother of Brother Etienne, who made his first profession of vows in August. Gail Frost, who entered the oblate novitiate is Brother Etienne's grandmother. So three generations of the family are now living the Benedictine way of life. The picture to the right is of the three of them along with Fr. Kenneth, the Director of Oblates.



Oblate Novices

Rev. Mr. Thomas Schenk, Granger, IA, July 10, 2010

Mrs. Julia Schenk, Granger, IA, July 10, 2010

Ms. Christine Wells, Goddard, KS, July 27, 2010

Mr. Thomas Cullerton, Excelsior Springs, MO, August 12, 2010

Mr. Eric Brintzinghoffer, Excelsior Springs, MO, September 3, 2010

Ms. Gail Frost, Wichita, KS, October 9, 2010

Ms. Earlene Koons, Kansas City, MO, October 9, 2010

Final Oblations

Ms. Suzanne Crowley, Urban-

dale, IA, October 9, 2010

Mrs. Margaret Gardner, Kansas City, MO, October 9, 2010

Ms. Constance Huard, Wichita, KS, October 9, 2010

Mr. Mark Roesel, Saint Peters, MO, October 9, 2010

Ms. Cynthia Switzer, Des Moines, IA, October 9, 2010

BLESSINGS

DONOR	IN HONOR / MEMORY OF	DONOR	IN HONOR / MEMORY OF
Mr. & Mrs. R. James Blaise	Henry Soetart	Julie & Jennifer Kieser	Jack & Valeda
Mr. & Mrs. R. James Blaise	Adeline Novak	Julie & Jennifer Kieser	Rev. Peter Ullrich & Rev. Xavier Nacke
Mr. & Mrs. R. James Blaise	Anthony Thomas Chop		
Mr. & Mrs. R. James Blaise	Gary DeGraeve	Mr. Louis L. Kosiba	J. Fitzharris
Mr. & Mrs. R. James Blaise	Helen Gast	Mrs. Dennine Krumm	Bro. Mark Kosiba, OSB
Mr. & Mrs. R. James Blaise	Elizabeth Regan	Mrs. Verda Kurtz	Wanda Hindery
Mr. & Mrs. R. James Blaise	Andy Hoytal	Mrs. Verda Kurtz	Bob Wood
Mr. & Mrs. R. James Blaise	Bernard “Bubba” Miller	Mrs. Geraldine Lawhon	Nancy Fitzgerald
Mr. & Mrs. R. James Blaise	Jim & Lillian Reno	Mrs. Geraldine Lawhon	Tim Mason
Mr. & Mrs. R. James Blaise	Rev. Phillip E. Kendall, CSV	Mrs. Carol J. Marlin	Lugarea Dorado
Mr. & Mrs. R. James Blaise	Elaine O’Bryan	Mr. & Mrs. Charles Mattson	Sr. Mathilda Mattson, OSB
Mr. & Mrs. R. James Blaise	Erica J. Gardner	Mrs. Winifred Nash	A special intention
Mr. & Mrs. R. James Blaise	Leroy Paschke	Mr. & Mrs. John D. O’Donnell	Mrs. Marian O’Meara Evans
Mr. & Mrs. R. James Blaise	Eileen Joyce Burger	Mrs. Mildred Parsons	Helen Cosper
Mr. & Mrs. R. James Blaise	James E. Bannister	Mrs. Kathleen G Patrzykont	Ethel Dodson
Mr. & Mrs. R. James Blaise	Louise Kuzila	Mrs. Kathleen G. Patrzykont	Debra Gatz
Mr. & Mrs. R. James Blaise	Bobby Gast	Mrs. Marguerite Pope	Bill Damroth, Sr.
Mr. & Mrs. R. James Blaise	Celina A. Bourquin	Mr. & Mrs. Steven Reddin	The Hackenjos Family
Mr. & Mrs. R. James Blaise	Al Meiners	Mr. & Mrs. Steven Reddin	Chuck Granholm
Mrs. Ann Cole	Joan Thomassen	Mr. Cory Register	Rev. Richard Cleary
Sr. Mary Joan Dyer, CPPS	CPPS Jubilarians Anniversaries	Mr. & Mrs. Karl Reichman	John Snyder
Mr. & Mrs. Earl Eilts	Beverly Vicik	Mrs. Maria Resendiz and family	Lugarea Dorado
Mr. & Mrs. Earl Eilts	Joan Quan	Mr. Paul Ruggle	Arva Ruggle
Mr. & Mrs. Scott Hillyard	Nancy Hillyard	Mr. & Mrs. Francis Schwartz	Clarence “Bud” Thiel
Mrs. Mary E. Kelly	John P. & Elizabeth Chloe Davis Henggeler	Mr. & Mrs. Francis Schwartz	James Krebs
		Mr. & Mrs. Vince Seiler	Leo & Sylvia Seiler
Mrs. Mary E. Kelly	John P. & Elizabeth Chloe Davis Henggeler	Sr. Agnes Springer, CSJ	Sr. M. Frederick Molitor
		Mr. & Mrs. Roman Weiler	Bro. Mark Kosiba, OSB
Mrs. Mary E. Kelly	John P. & Elizabeth Chloe Davis Henggeler	Mr. & Mrs. Roger Metz	Josh Barlett
		Brothers of the Holy Rosary	Living and deceased members of the community
Julie & Jennifer Kieser	John & Helen Hotzel		
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Grudzinski	Shirley Grudzinski		

CONCEPTION ABBEY AND SEMINARY COLLEGE DONATION FORM

Enclosed is a contribution to be used for: ☐ *Renewing Our Father’s House* capital campaign ☐ Facilities Endowment
☐ Lenten Appeal ☐ Conception Seminary College Annual Appeal ☐ Other: _____

I would like to donate/pledge: \$_____ ☐ one time ☐ monthly ☐ quarterly ☐ semi-annually ☐ annually
for _____ years with the first payment beginning: ____/____/____ Credit Card Information

Information (if different from the back of this slip)	Card Issuer (circle one): Visa / Master Card / Discover
Name:_____	Account Number:_____Expires:_____
Address:_____	Name on Card:_____
City:_____State:____Zip:_____	Signature:_____
Home Phone:_____Work Phone:_____	Date:_____
E-mail:_____	Electronic Funds Transfer (\$10.00 minimum)
Checks may be made out to Conception Abbey	Please deduct from my <input type="checkbox"/> checking <input type="checkbox"/> savings account
Give securely online by going to www.conceptionabbey.org	Attach a voided check (not a deposit slip) for verification
	Signature:_____Date:_____

OBLATE RETREAT

“Sacred Rituals: Collective, Performative, Formative”

April 8-10, 2011 • Directed by Br. Cyprian Langlois • Retreat Fee: \$100 per person

• If you have trouble paying this amount, contact Fr. Kenneth.

“Sacred Rituals: Collective, Performative, Formative” Retreat • April 8-11, 2011

Please use the business reply envelope enclosed in this issue to return your reservation form. You may also register by contacting the Guest Department at: 660-944-2809 or guests@conception.edu.

I plan to be at Friday night’s dinner (check one) ☐ Yes ☐ No

Name			
Address			
City	State	Zip	
Phone			



SEND YOUR BLESSINGS

The *Blessings Program* is an opportunity to honor a friend or family member, memorialize a deceased loved one, or commemorate a special occasion, such as a birthday, anniversary, wedding, etc. while furthering the work of the monks of Conception Abbey and Seminary College. The donor decides the amount of the gift (which will be kept confidential), and the person to be honored—or, in the case of a memorial, the person’s immediate family—will receive a card conveying the donor’s intentions. The donor will receive a thank-you card. For more information on the *Blessings Program* please call the Development Department at (660) 944-2821.

Enclosed is my Memorial/Honor Gift of: \$ _____

My Name: _____ Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

In Memory/Honor/Commemoration (circle one) of: _____

Send special card to: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Mail to: Conception Abbey • c/o Blessings Program • P.O. Box 501 • Conception, MO 64433 ☐ Please send me more *Blessings* forms

From the Planned Giving Office

Do you wish to partner with us during your lifetime? Consider an annuity with us.

Do you wish to partner with us after death? Consider including us in your will.

For more information, contact Fr. Daniel Petsche, O.S.B, Director of Planned Giving at: (660) 944-2870 or daniel@conception.edu

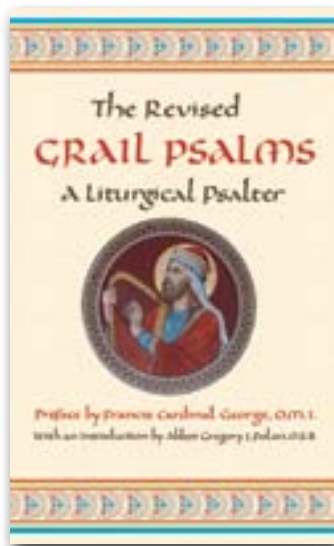
Official name: Conception Abbey, Inc.

Tower Topics



P.O. Box 501
Conception, MO 64433-0501
Return Service Requested

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Marketing
Technologies



THE REVISED GRAIL PSALMS NOW READY FOR PUBLICATION

We are happy to announce that final approval has been granted to *The Revised Grail Psalms* by the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments, and that both print and electronic versions of the text are expected to be ready for distribution and purchase some time in December 2010. Printed copies can be ordered from **The Printery House of Conception Abbey** at www.printeryhouse.org, and from **GIA Publications** at www.giamusic.com. The electronic form of *The Revised Grail Psalms* can be purchased at **GIA Publications** at www.giamusic.com.

The Revised Grail Psalms has been a decade-long project of the monks of Conception Abbey. Undertaken at the request of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, these psalms will be used in all future liturgical books produced for our country under the auspices of the USCCB; it is expected that they will gain a wide usage in many English-speaking countries beyond the U.S. as well.

“The monks of Conception have given much time, energy, and devotion to this project,” said Abbot Gregory. “It is our hope that this newly-revised and updated version of the Church’s preeminent prayer-book will lead many people to a deeper reflection on God’s mysterious presence in their own lives, and lead them to heartfelt expressions of petition, praise, and gratitude to our all-loving and provident Lord.”