



God's Space on Earth

By Robert J. Allen

President Harry Truman once said, "It's amazing what you can accomplish when you don't care who gets the credit." All who had the opportunity to gather on July 1 at St. Emma's Monastery shared in the glorious prayers and works of the Benedictine Nuns celebrating 75 years of *ora et labora*.

Truly, these are remarkable women, who really prefer not to take credit. All of the rest of us, attending or not, bask in their tireless accomplishments. The celebration was a blend of hospitality, prayer, praise, joy, companionship, and peace all founded in this monastic presence. Archabbot Douglas R. Nowicki, OSB, of St. Vincent Archabbey, Latrobe, (main celebrant and homilist), the Knights of Columbus Honor Guard, the visiting religious, priests, friends and many volunteers, the person who donated the flowers, those who poured the punch, cut the grass – all shared in making this a wonderful occasion.

Nothing just happens. No, the 75-year presence of the Benedictine Nuns was scored and simplistically orchestrated, always grounded in living for Christ. The community celebrated much more than their 75 years in the United States. They also committed to memory the 971 years of their founding community of the Monastic life in Eichstaett, Germany. A deeper existence is being lived in the traditional habit or rubric. It is the meaningful relationship the Nuns bring to each person on his or her personal journey; the stability of presence.

Although Saint Emma is a Benedictine Monastery consisting of 13 of some 17,000 Benedictine Religious women in the world, they are different from other communities or retreat centers. It is that difference I urge you to experience. We invite you to come and visit this community. If you are a single person visiting for the first time, you may even discern and decide to join the monastic life. Do not deprive

yourself of experiencing this monastic life filled with vowed monastic women. They will embrace you for who you are without judging why you came...

Come experience God's space on Earth.

A History of St. Emma

Continued from page 3

building either a retreat house or a monastery building. Being a wise, holy, pragmatic, German, Benedictine nun, Mother Leonarda said she needed to build the Sisters an income first and so she built the retreat house.

Six years later at age 80, she began the first monastery building with no woman having asked to enter! This was after being in this country for 29 years and the youngest of the Sisters were about 50. It was a good thing that she had no board of directors for someone astute would have asked what part of "No" she just did not understand.

Three years later at age 83 she started the second monastery building, finished it at age 84 and died the following spring at age 85. Mother Leonarda had some serious illnesses in her life. She had learned well the art of bargaining with God from Abraham. She begged God to let her live to finish "just this one building" to provide for her Sisters and must have started another project with the same plea on the day the other was completed.

Rev. Msgr. William Charnocki (pastor of Holy Trinity Church, Ligonier, PA) relates that he was a seminarian about to be ordained in 1965 and he saw Mother Leonarda shortly before she died. He asked her what her secret was having done so much. Expecting a really pious response, he was caught off guard when she lightly tapped the nightstand with her fist and replied, "German stubbornness!"

To be continued...



Benedictine Nuns Daily Prayer Schedule

Vigils ~ Lectio Divina I

5:30 a.m.

Lauds ~ 6:30 a.m.

Eucharist ~ 7:00 a.m.

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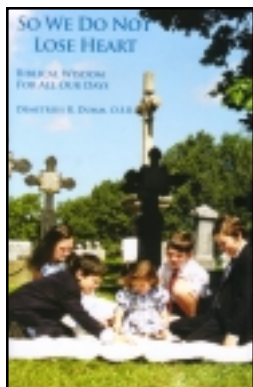
Sext/None ~ 11:45 a.m.

Vespers ~ 5:00 p.m.

Compline ~ Lectio Divina II

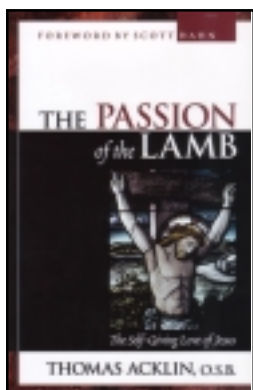
7:30 p.m.

This statue of Mary adorned the Sisters' chapel during their years at St. Vincent Archabbey and College, Latrobe, PA. Mary and the companion statue of the Sacred Heart now grace our rose garden. We invite you to meditate on the mysteries of the rosary on our Rosary Path — especially during October, the Month of the Rosary.



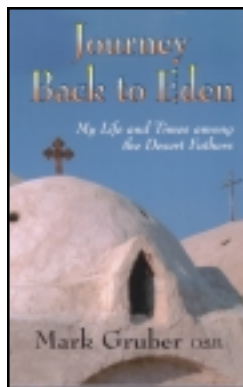
So We Do Not Lose Heart by Rev. Demetrius R. Dumm, OSB — This book contains 83 short reflections on passages of Scripture which address, from various perspectives, the perennial human problem of mortality. A prominent theme in these reflections is, therefore, an invitation to trust the goodness of God in situations where we experience loss of control and the consequent need to rely on a higher power for love and support. These reflections also remind us that reliance on the goodness of God need not be a desperate last resort but can be in fact a joyful discovery that will illuminate the whole landscape of our lives. *Cost: \$12.95*

of Jesus clinched the deal confirming God's commitment to his creation. *Cost: \$12.99*



The Passion of the Lamb by Rev. Thomas Acklin, OSB — In this powerful book Father Acklin reveals the passionate love of God for every person that will not be denied or defeated. God is *for* us in spite of our indifference. God has not been eclipsed by the world's agenda. God will *never* abandon us. God will *always* seek out the wounded and lost. We have his guarantee that this is so because the suffering and death — the passion —

ordinary moments of daily life. *Cost: \$15.95*



Journey Back to Eden by Rev. Mark Gruber, OSB — In their austere desert monasteries Coptic monks maintain a tradition of Christianity that extends back to St. Anthony and the ancient Desert Fathers. Father Gruber's journey began almost accidentally as part of his doctoral research, but it became more. His account of his year's sojourn — entertaining, poignant, and spiritually challenging — opens a window on a mysterious world, saturated in prayer and silence, that functions as it always has to awaken hearts to the mercy and power of God. *Cost: \$18.00*

of Jesus clinched the deal confirming God's commitment to his creation. *Cost: \$12.99*



Renewed Each Morning by Rev. Philip M. Kanfush, OSB — A collection of reflections on the wisdom and grace that we need to lead healthy, happy lives rooted in the teaching of Jesus Christ. Such wisdom is very ordinary and exceedingly practical. These stories from a Benedictine monk and priest proved a framework for illustrating life's lessons and the opportunities for spiritual growth that can result from being attentive to the voice of God in the surprisingly

ordinary moments of daily life. *Cost: \$15.95*

Order Form: It's easy to order! Mail to: St. Emma's Monastery, 1001 Harvey Ave., Greensburg, PA 15601 • (724) 834-7483 • Fax (724) 834-5772

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Pro-Life Programs



Growing in Relationship with Jesus Christ Who is Life

October 14 (Saturday)
8:45 a.m. – 4:15 p.m.
Rev. Tom Smith

Day includes celebration of the Eucharist, spiritual conferences, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, opportunity for the Sacrament of Reconciliation and noon meal. Fee is \$25.00.

For reservations and/or additional information please call 724-834-3060 or email benedictinenuns@stemma.org.

Mark your calendars!

Pro-Life Prayer Vigil – January 17, 2007
2:30 pm — 8:30 pm (no fee)
Rev. Mark Gruber OSB

Annual Flea Market Successful

Many thanks to all who made our annual Flea Market an outstanding success! Many thanks to the buyers as well as the donors for helping us to raise over \$3,500! Special thanks go to John Mickinak and Roger Stern for sharing their time and talent in pricing the various items – as well as to so many of our other faithful volunteers who helped carry, unwrap, set-up, cook, serve, assist customers, clean-up, etc.! We are deeply grateful.



Bequests ~ We are grateful for the following individuals who remembered us in their wills:

- + Olivia Staub
- + Lorraine Coddington

May God grant them eternal rest.

*Our legal name is:
The Sisters of Saint Benedict
of Westmoreland County*

Our Federal ID-# is: 75-231-104

Retreat Schedule

October	6-8	Women Rev. Tom Smith (Waiting list)
	8	Carmelite Spirituality, 8:45 a.m. – 6 p.m. Rev. Bede Mulligan, O. Carm.
	27-29	Legion of Mary Rev. Boccardi
November	3-5	Married Couples Rev. Tom Smith
	10-12	Married Couples Rev. Mark Gruber OSB
2007		
February	23-25	Silent Lenten Rev. Mark Gruber OSB
March	2-4	Silent Lenten Rev. Tom Acklin OSB
	9-11	Men Rev. Mark Gruber, OSB
	16-18	Women
	23-25	Silent Lenten Rev. Mark Gruber OSB

Monastic Guest House Priests' Retreats

Semi-Directed Retreat

"Prayer: the Contemplative Dimension"

January 7 (Sunday supper)-12 (Friday breakfast), 2007
Rev. Lester Knoll OFM^{Cap}

Daily Outline: Eucharist, one conference, spiritual direction (optional), Eucharistic Adoration, silence except for meals. optional discussion in the evening.

SILENT Directed Retreat

March 4 (Sunday supper) — March 9, 2007 (Friday breakfast)

Rev. Tom Acklin OSB

Daily Outline: Eucharist/homily, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament throughout the day, spiritual direction (optional), meals also in silence.

Advent Programs

November 30: Advent for Women
Rev. Tom Acklin, OSB • 5-9 p.m.

December 2: Lay/Religious
Most Rev. Anthony G. Bosco • 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.



In Memoriam:

- + Leo Noll, father of our Mother Mary Anne, on April 2, 2006.
- + Mrs. Shirley Fremming, mother of our novice Sister Sheridan, on July 17.
- + Lilly Davis, our faithful Wednesday bookstore volunteer, died after a prolonged faith-filled, battle with cancer on June 3, 2006. We are grateful that Lilly herself and her family suggested that memorials be directed to St. Emma in her name.