

---

# aim usa

---

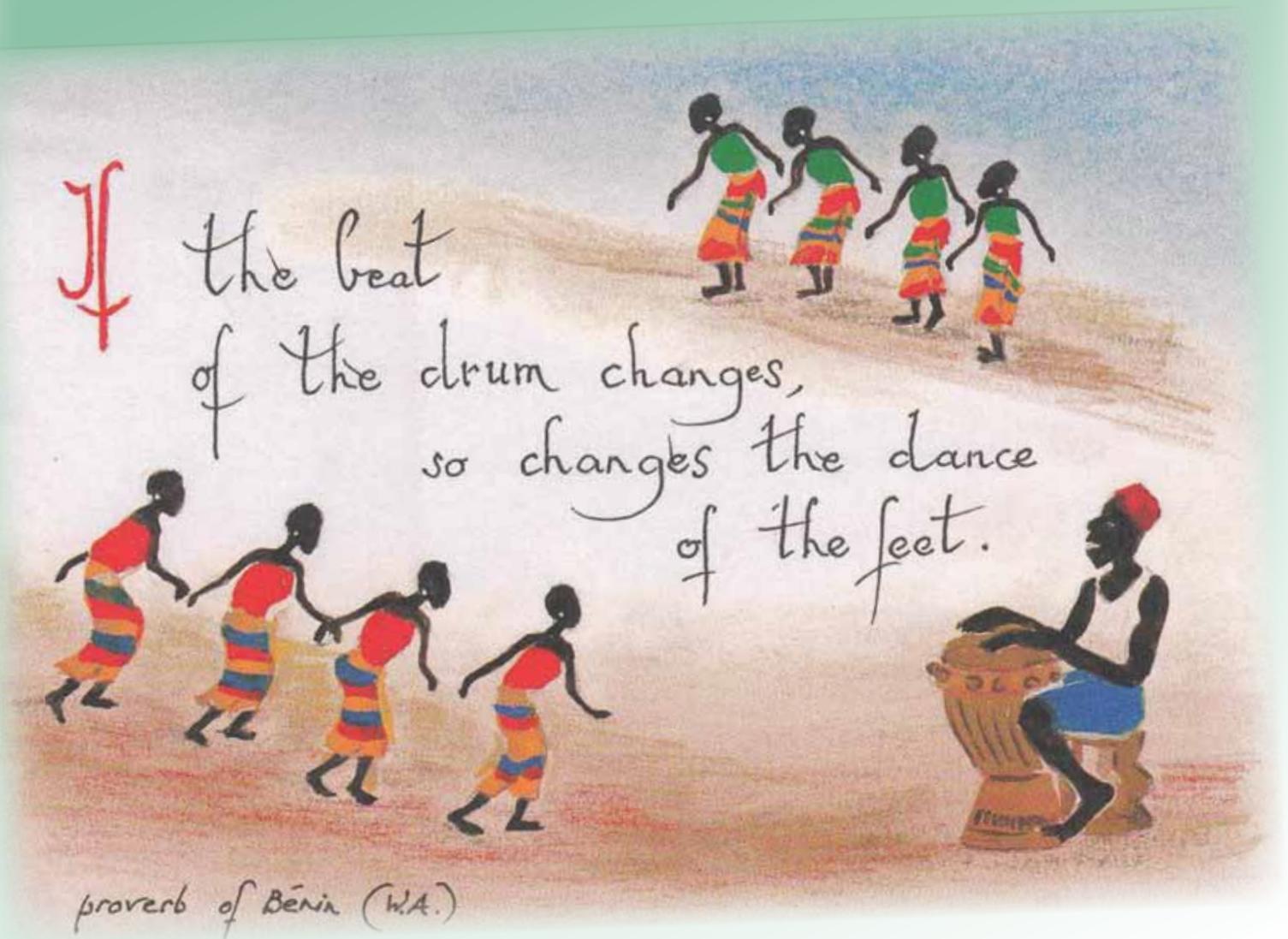
The United States Secretariat of the Alliance for International Monasticism

[www.aim-usa.org](http://www.aim-usa.org)

Volume 21 No. 2 2012

[aim@aim-usa.org](mailto:aim@aim-usa.org)

---



Artwork by Cistercian Sisters  
Benin, West Africa

## AIM USA ANNUAL BOARD MEETING

The AIM USA Board of Trustees gathered for its annual meeting on October 10, 2012, at Mount Saint Benedict Monastery in Erie, PA. The AIM USA staff members reported on the accomplishments of the past year. One of the challenges presented was the need to increase fundraising efforts so that AIM can continue to respond to requests from the mission monasteries. Sr. Stephanie Schmidt, Executive Director, shared highlights from the AIM International Council Meeting which she attended in Rome.



### AIM USA BOARD

**Front:** Sr. Anne Wambach, OSB (Erie, PA) Sr. Susan Hutchens, OSB (Rock Island, IL), Sr. Karen Joseph, OSB (Ferdinand, IN), Sr. Stephanie Schmidt, OSB (Erie, PA) **Back:** Abbot John Denburger, OCSO (Piffard, NY), Abbot John Klassen, OSB (Collegeville, MN), Abbot Paul Mark Schwan, OCSO (Vina, CA)

Absent: Sr. Pia Portmann, OSB (Norfolk, NE), Sr. Anne Shepard, OSB (Atchison, KS), Abbot John Brahill, OSB (Aurora, IL), Abbot Neal Roth, OSB (Lacey, WA)

## June 2012 GRANTS

### AFRICA

#### **Benedictine and Cistercian sisters in West Africa**

–workshop for junior professed sisters

#### **Benedictine monks in South Africa**

–a retreat and music class for Polokwane community

#### **Benedictine sisters in Tanzania**

–support for the general chapter of the congregation of The Benedictine Sisters of St. Agnes (Imiliwaha)

### ASIA

#### **Benedictine sisters in India**

–restoration of the candle shop destroyed by fire

#### **Cistercian sisters in China**

–request for Cistercian books for formation library

#### **O’Cist monks in Vietnam**

–tuition for study by Fr. Antoine (Institut Catholique)

### LATIN AMERICA

#### **Benedictine monks in Mexico**

–tuition for study for Fr. Pablo Alvarez (Rome)

#### **Benedictine and Cistercian monastics in Mexico**

–workshop on Liturgy and Spirituality

## AIM INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING



Père Martin Neyt, OSB, Sr. Gisela Happ, OSB, Sr. Stephanie Schmidt, OSB, Sheila McLaughlin, obl, Abbot Jeremias Schroder, OSB, share a light moment at the end of the meeting.

The AIM International Council meeting was held in September at Villa Palazzola in Rome. Discussions revolved around gratitude for the accomplishments of the past and excitement about the future. In its first 50 years AIM worked diligently to start new foundations in developing countries. Since 1960 there have been between seven or eight new foundations each year. Today it seems more appropriate for AIM to move into the role of a midwife helping communities give birth to new foundations. It was also suggested that AIM consider extending its work to Eastern Europe.

In the future, AIM International has decided to focus on only funding requests for assistance with formation and education since these are the essential elements for promoting healthy communities. Mission monasteries will need to look to other funding sources for support of capital improvement projects and the construction of new buildings. Another challenge the International Council discussed was the need to find ways to get the younger generation of monastics involved in the work of AIM.



Sheila McLaughlin, oblate, congratulates Fr. Mark Butlin, OSB, who celebrated his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday during the Council meeting.

**Your monetary gift to AIM USA  
will give hope in the New Year  
to Benedictine and Cistercian  
monasteries around the world.**

*Thank You!*

## Christ in the Desert Monastery— Northern New Mexico

Christ in the Desert Monastery was founded in 1964 by Father Aelred Wall with monks from Mount Saviour Monastery, Pine City, New York, USA. This was at the close of the Second Vatican Council, a time of many changes when monks began leaving monastic life and very few were entering monastic life. So that was not a good year to start a monastery. However, God's plans have their own way of working out. Mount Saviour was a solid motherhouse and supported Christ in the Desert throughout all the many difficult years of getting established.

In 1984 Christ in the Desert joined the Subiaco Congregation. This was a great help in stabilizing the form of monastic life undertaken by Christ in the Desert. The monastery has maintained a simple life based on the *Rule of Benedict*, following most of the major structures of the Rule. Thus we have the whole Divine Office as it is outlined in the Rule as well as four hours of manual labor and time for *Lectio Divina*.

The monastery is situated in a very remote canyon in northern New Mexico. The site was discovered by Father Aelred Wall with the help of a former teacher from Portsmouth Abbey. The setting is dramatic, with red stone canyon walls of more than 600 feet rising behind the monastery and also on the other side of the Chama River which flows



Dallas and Houston in the small town of Kerens, TX. In 2007 Christ in the Desert had 12 Vietnamese monks. It seemed very clear that we would do well to begin another monastery focused on the spiritual needs of the Vietnamese immigrant community in the United States. This monastery was canonically erected as a dependent priory in May of 2012 and now there are ten monks living there.

In 1990 we helped begin the women's community of Our Lady of the Desert. The community began as oblates of Christ in the Desert and eventually became a formal foundation of Jamberoo Abbey in Australia.

The community has its own monastery about 2 ½ hours away from ours. It is finishing the construction of its provisional monastery and soon will have a guest house.

We also help the Monastery of Nuestra Señora del Tepeyac in Coyoacan, Mexico. This is a women's community aggregated to the Subiaco Congregation by virtue of being oblates of our Monastery of La Soledad.

Over the 48 years since we were founded, we have been incredibly blessed with good vocations from all over the world. Our Mexican houses have Mexican monks and a monk from Argentina. The Vietnamese house only has Vietnamese monks. At Christ in the Desert there are monks from China, England, Kenya, Madagascar, Mexico, Peru, the Philippines, South Africa, Vietnam, Zambia—and, of course, from the United States.

In the year 2006 we were asked to help St. Benedict's Abbey in Polokwane, South Africa. We gave major leadership and personnel help for about five years. One of our monks is still helping there. This year we have sent monks to help our motherhouse (Mount Saviour Monastery, NY) because the number there has dwindled and aged.

At present our focus at home is to strengthen the community with our formation programs. We bring in outside speakers two or three times a year to address various aspects of monastic life. We also bring in people to train us to sing better. This year, in partnership with Sony, we released our first recording, "Blessings, Peace and Harmony," by Monks of the Desert and we have a contract for a second recording (unnamed and still in process) with Sony.

It is not easy to earn our living in the high desert of northern New Mexico. Our guesthouse and gift shop have always been our main source of income and they can support a community of 20 to 25 monks. We do much craft work: icons, soaps, lotions, leather belts, candles, etc. Our current membership, without the foundations, is about 34 monks. Because of helping so many other monasteries we must always find new sources of income. We have two stores in Santa Fe, New Mexico: a thrift store and a religious art store. We have begun brewing and selling beers through our Abbey Beverage Company and we are now growing hops on our farmland.

Our story is one of blessings through a trail of tears. It is a monastic story which means that we don't know the ending until it ends. We are grateful to be here and to share our life with others.



through the canyon. The construction of the monastery is basically adobe mud, with the newer portions using straw bale construction. The monastery produces all of its own electricity, has its own water system and constructed wetlands to purify waste water.

In 1987 Christ in the Desert founded the Monastery of Nuestra Señora de La Soledad near San Miguel de Allende in the State of Guanajuato in Mexico, where ten monks lead the same style of monastic life as at Christ in the Desert. In 1997 Christ in the Desert founded the Monastery of Santa María y Todos los Santos near Coatepec in the State of Veracruz in Mexico. Some 20 monks are there at present. Also, in 1997 Christ in the Desert began to work with the already established Monastery of the Holy Cross in Chicago which officially became a dependent house of Christ in the Desert in the year 2000 and became an independent monastery in the year 2011.

Our latest foundation is the Monastery of Thien Tam between

## **St. Benedict Priory— Archdiocese of Tororo, Uganda**

St. Benedict's Priory was founded by the Dutch Benedictine Nuns from Breda (Netherlands) at the invitation of the Rt. Rev. John Greif MHM, the Bishop of Tororo. He had longed to have a contemplative community in his diocese for he strongly believed in the power of prayer for the success of the active apostolate of the priests, religious, and laity in the diocese. Under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, the Breda Community chose Sr. Gemma, Sr. Gabriel, Sr. Lucia, and Sr. Veronica who left Holland on April 25, 1960 to carry on the mission. They had their first Mass celebrated by Rt. Rev. John Greif in their new home on July 8, 1960. On August 21, 1960, a pontifical High Mass was celebrated in the Cathedral, after which the Blessed Sacrament was brought in procession to the monastery. Benediction followed in thanksgiving for all the blessings already bestowed on the new foundation.

With the coming of the first aspirants, contemplative life was established and perpetual adoration was introduced. Among the aspirants was Sr. Maria Benedicta, the first novice to receive the habit on July 10, 1961. Many more young girls came to experience life in the monastery. In 1966, the Priory became independent and Mother Gemma was appointed as the first Prioress.



At the time of the monastery's founding, the Church was undergoing tremendous changes as a result of the Second Vatican Council which had just opened doors for renewal in many facets of Christian living. The most affected areas in the sisters' monastic life were changes in the liturgy and the need to determine which language to use. Plain chants were slowly replaced by African music accompanied by rhythmic drumbeats. The English language was chosen on grounds that it was the official language of the country. Amidst all the changes, the young African sisters were becoming strong in their monastic life—more aware of their identity as African monastic religious.

However, the years from 1969 onward had many challenges. There was political insurgency in the country followed by political change of governance. In 1971 President Milton Obote was overthrown by Idi Amin who expelled all foreigners from the country, including missionaries. Our founders were not exempt. After the departure of the founders many young sisters left. It was a big blow for the young community but the Lord's providence kept it growing. The bishop, together with the AIM Secretariat, was very helpful to the community. The AIM Secretariat sent monks at various intervals to give workshops about monasticism to the community.

In 1981, through the Abbot Primate, the Sacred Congregation for the Religious sent Abbot Lambert Doerr of Peramiho Abbey in Tanzania for visitation. Among the needs he assessed was the necessity for the community to separate from the founding monastery in Holland. He put the community under the protection of a religious assistant



appointed by the Sacred Congregation in order to help the community be self-sufficient and become a canonically erected monastery. In 1988 the community developed its own constitution.

In 2004 many things were discussed as the community prepared for the General Chapter. The outstanding matter during this Chapter was returning to our roots and the spirituality of our founder. When the community contacted our foundresses in the Netherlands, they welcomed the idea and referred us to the German Federation, who also welcomed us with open hands.

In 2007 the community was officially accepted back into the Institute of the Benedictine Nuns of Perpetual Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament. There are six Federations of the Institute. We, the Tororo Community, and Arua (another African community who just entered into the Institute) are looking forward to making the seventh Federation.

Currently the Tororo Community has twenty-six professed sisters (sixteen sisters in final vows and ten junior sisters), two novices, one postulant, and three aspirants. We are committed to liturgical prayer, Perpetual Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament, monastic community life, and work. Our activities include retreats, spiritual direction, counseling, hospitality at the guesthouse, baking hosts for church use, vestment making, training for sustainable agriculture, animal and crop husbandry, and horticulture.



In 2010 the community celebrated its Golden Jubilee—fifty years of existence in the archdiocese of Tororo. We thank Archbishop Emeritus James Odongo who has journeyed with us through the difficult days. We appreciate the contribution of the large Benedictine family that offered support during the years of anxiety and turmoil, especially Stanbrook Abbey for their supportive relationship and the Benedictinerinnen Köln who have offered to continue the work of our foundresses.

We acknowledge in a special way the grace of God that has led us thus far.

May the Lord be blessed forever more!

*Benedict saw the entire world in a single ray of light. (Dialogues)*

## Cause for Celebration

In May three representatives of AIM USA, Stephanie Schmidt, OSB, Marian Wehler, OSB, and Sheila McLaughlin, Oblate, travelled to Bristow, Virginia to attend the graduation of Sr. Gisella Chinguile from Marymount University.

This special day in the life of Sr. Gisella was the culmination of a process that began nearly seven years earlier. A native of Tanzania, Sr. Gisella travelled to the U.S. in 2005 and was warmly welcomed by the Benedictine Sisters in Bristow, VA. The community became her new family and supported her through her many years of study.



She spent her first two years studying English at a community college before receiving a scholarship from Marymount University to earn a degree in liberal studies. The graduation ceremony and the community's celebration afterward with Sr. Gisella were tangible experiences of the joy that follows success. Being with her and seeing her delight as she danced across the stage to receive her diploma while the audience clapped wildly was definitely worth the nine-hour drive from Erie, PA.

Two sisters (Sr. Gemina and Sr. Judith) from her African community who are studying with the Benedictine Sisters in Atchison also travelled to Bristow to share in the festivities. A weekend of special African food, dance, song and laughter created a rich memory for



Sr. Stephanie Schmidt, Sheila McLaughlin, obl., Sr. Gemina Munyuku, Sr. Gisella Chinguile, Sr. Judith Kapinga, Sr. Andrea Verchuck and Sr. Marian Wehler

all who had gathered.

Sr. Gisella has now returned to her community, Our Lady Help of Christians, in Tanzania and is enrolled in a university in Uganda to pursue a master's degree in education. She is one of a number of African Benedictine sisters and monks who have journeyed to the U.S. to pursue higher education that enables them to return to their own communities and share what they have learned.

AIM USA is grateful to the many monasteries who have so graciously welcomed these students. It is a wonderful example of the mutual exchange that is created by these alliances. The hosting communities are enriched by the sharing of African culture and learn much about their brothers and sisters in another part of the world.

## Gratitude To and From Translators

*SINCE 2003* the AIM USA newsletter has been translated into Portuguese and Spanish and sent along with a copy in English to 170 mission monasteries. The Portuguese version goes to Brazil and Angola; the Spanish version goes to 80 monasteries in Central and South America. In 2007 a monk from Madagascar offered to do the translation into French and this is sent to 65 mission monasteries in Africa, the Caribbean area, Japan, Israel and Vietnam. There are presently seven who translate into Portuguese, eight into Spanish and one into French.

Periodically AIM USA plans to introduce you to other translators.

### SISTER CATHERINE MARTINEZ

I was blessed to grow up in a diverse bilingual, multicultural family. My grandparents, who only spoke Spanish, were very influential in my formative years and in my love for languages. My mother assisted people who did not speak English by translating documents. She would often have me either proofread her work or give suggestions for various pieces. In this way, I gradually learned some of the



finer points of Spanish grammar and phrasing. Since entering our monastic community I have had multiple opportunities to use my Spanish background and my theology studies in various, creative ways including translating the Spanish version of various catechetical training modules used in the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City during the 1990s.

I appreciate the opportunity to translate. It allows me to use my Spanish in ways that form connections. It also provides a path for me to be able to keep my skills current.

Sister Catherine Martinez  
St. Joseph, Tulsa, OK

### DOM PAULO PANZA

I have worked as a translator for AIM from English into Portuguese for several years. I am always happy in doing this, because it helps me to improve my language skills.

Another source of joy is because it gives me the sense of being part of a family that is spread throughout the world. The Benedictines are perceived by me as one family—a beautiful, rich and large family. I can meet through this small service many members that I would never encounter without it. I pray for them and feel deeply united to them.

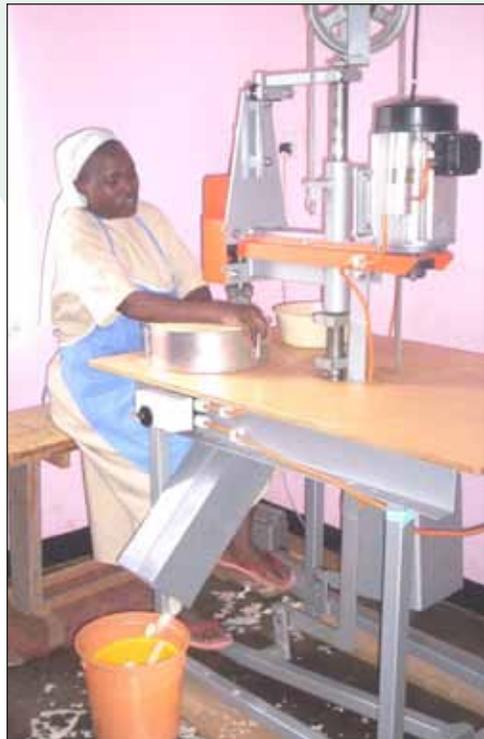
Dom Paulo S. Panza, OSB, Prior  
St. Benedict Monastery, Vinhedo, Brazil

# Monastery to Monastery — 2012

Sixty-nine monasteries and abbeys joined the AIM USA Monastery to Monastery program for 2012 (as of October 26). One oblate group also became a member.

Membership donations are used to fund grants for Benedictine and Cistercian communities in developing countries.

MONASTERY	CITY	STATE
Christ in the Desert Monastery	Abiquiu	NM
Mount St. Scholastica Monastery	Atchison	KS
St. Benedict's Abbey	Atchison	KS
Assumption Abbey	Ava	MO
Our Lady of Grace Monastery	Beech Grove	IN
Belmont Abbey	Belmont	NC
St. Benedict's Abbey	Benet Lake	WI
Annunciation Monastery	Bismarck	ND
Monastery of the Glorious Cross	Branford	CT
St. Benedict Monastery	Bristow	VA
St. Benedict Monastery	Canyon	TX
St. Scholastica Monastery	Chicago	IL
St. Andrew Abbey	Cleveland	OH
Perpetual Adoration Cong.	Clyde	MO
Mount St. Benedict Monastery	Erie	PA



St. Angela from St. Benedict Priory in Tororo, Uganda, bores hosts to supply to other monasteries and parishes.

St. John's Abbey	Collegetown	MN
Benet Hill Monastery	Colorado Springs	CO
Conception Abbey	Conception	MO
Monastery of St. Gertrude	Cottonwood	ID
Monastery of St. Gertrude, Oblates	Cottonwood	ID
St. Walburg Monastery	Covington	KY
Mount St. Benedict Monastery	Crookston	MN
Our Lady of the Angels Monastery	Crozet	VA
Sacred Heart Monastery	Cullman	AL
St. Bernard Abbey	Cullman	AL
St. Scholastica Monastery	Duluth	MN

Monastery Immaculate Conception	Ferdinand	IN
St. Scholastica Monastery	Fort Smith	AR
St. Lucy's Priory	Glendora	CA
St. Emma Monastery	Greensburg	PA
Abbey of the Holy Trinity	Huntsville	UT
St. Martin's Abbey	Lacey	WA
St. Vincent Archabbey	Latrobe	PA
Sacred Heart Monastery	Lisle	IL
St. Procopius Abbey	Lisle	IL
Sisters of St. Benedict Priory	Littleton	CO
Emmanuel Monastery	Lutherville	MD
St. Anselm Abbey	Manchester	NH
Holy Wisdom Monastery	Middleton	WI
Westminster Abbey	Mission	BC
Mepkin Abbey	Moncks Corner	SC
St. Mary's Abbey	Morristown	NJ
Queen of Angels Monastery	Mount Angel	OR
St. Peter's Abbey	Muenster	SK
Newark Abbey	Newark	NJ
New Melleray Abbey	Peosta	IA
Abbey of Genesee	Piffard	NY
Mount Saviour Monastery	Pine City	NY
St. Benedict Monastery	Pittsburgh	PA
St. Martin Monastery	Rapid City	SD
Assumption Abbey	Richardton	ND
Sacred Heart Monastery	Richardton	ND



Refectory of Christ in the Desert Monastery, New Mexico.

St. Mary Monastery	Rock Island	IL
Christ the King Priory	Schuyler	NE
St. Gregory's Abbey	Shawnee	OK
St. Benedict's Monastery	Snowmass	CO
Santa Rita Abbey	Sonoita	AZ
St. Joseph's Abbey	Spencer	MA
St. Benedict's Monastery	St. Joseph	MN
Holy Name Monastery	St. Leo	FL
St. Louis Abbey	St. Louis	MO
St. Meinrad Archabbey	St. Meinrad	IN
St. Paul's Monastery	St. Paul	MN
New Subiaco Abbey	Subiaco	AR
Abbey of Gethsemani	Trappist	KY
St. Joseph Monastery	Tulsa	OK
Our Lady of New Clairvaux Abbey	Vina	CA
Queen of Heaven Monastery	Warren	OH
Weston Priory	Weston	VT
Redwoods Monastery	Whitethorn	CA

# Letters—Worth Noting...Worth Quoting

## AIM BOOKS TRAVEL THROUGHOUT THE WORLD

To all of our friends at AIM,

I'm in Rome at the CIB representing East Africa and have an opportunity to send a personal note of thanks to you. We are all so very, very grateful for your support. The English section of our library is growing. Since there is almost nothing related to Benedictine literature or even spirituality in Kisumu, the English books are a lifeline to a deeper understanding of our vocation and our role in the Church. All of our sisters can read and understand English.

We also appreciate the medical supplies you have sent. They are put to good use either at the monastery or at our health center.

The AIM Bulletin is also a joy—I appreciate that we can stay connected to what is happening beyond our own environment. So I send this with grateful prayers for all of you. Everything takes time, energy and commitment and I appreciate all that you do for us. United in Christ,

Sr. Rosann Ocken, OSB  
St. Scholastica Priory  
Peramiho, Tanzania

Your box of books just arrived today. I saw no date on the tags to say when they started on their journey but I can say that they are very welcome.

As I looked through the books I found myself saying Ohhhhhhhhhhh! Ahhhhhhhhhhh! Lovely! As I looked at the titles and authors of the books, I'd like to read this book!

Thanks, thanks, thanks! Please pass on our thanks to all those who contributed. Books are precious things.

Greetings to all who work with you in AIM! I don't know if and how many that may be but you do a wonderful thing for the Benedictine communities that do not have so much economically.

Gratefully,  
Sr. Michael Marie Rottinghaus, OSB  
Sacred Heart Priory  
Nairobi, Kenya

Thank you very much for the books. We especially appreciate books by Mother Teresa and Thomas Merton. These help us as we dedicate ourselves to monastic life. In our praying you are always with us.

Thank you again for your kindness.  
Sr. Maria Juliana, OCSO  
Our Lady Of Immaculate Conception Monastery  
Sujung, Korea

The second package of books for the community of Rosary in China arrived a few days ago. Thank you for sending it at this time since I am going to Hong Kong next week and will meet some sisters there who can take them into the mainland.

We are all extremely grateful for the charity of AIM and your benefactors.

Peace,  
Sr Martha Driscoll, OCSO  
Pertapaan Bunda Pemersatu Monastery  
Gedono, Indonesia

Thank you for the box of books that we received today. Surely we will keep all your donors in our prayers.

As we have two communities we always share with them the books you send. They, too, appreciate the books very much. We will make good use of them. Here in our country we cannot find good books and if we do they are always very expensive.

Thank you so much and May God bless all of you.  
Sr. Sylvester Jayakody OSB, Mother Prioress  
St. Helen's Benedictine Monastery  
Wennappuwa, Sri Lanka

The feast of St. Bernard of Clairvaux (August 20th) was really a feast for us, since we received your very valuable gifts of books! They are very useful and suitable for all of us. The books you sent, especially spiritual books, are timeless. We can read them time after time, from generation to generation. We can read and re-read, again and again, ruminating on them for our *Lectio Divina*.



On behalf of the community of Lamanabi in Flores, Indonesia we want to express gratitude to AIM USA and everyone who made possible these generous donations.

Mikael Santana, OCSO  
Pertapaan Trappist Monastery  
Lamanabi, Flores, Indonesia

Brs. John Arimurti (top) and Rufin Egho make candles to sell to help their community toward self-subsistence.

A pleasant good morning!

We are ever so grateful for your untiring generosity in sending us the magazines, the books and financial help as well, to our Congregation.

We are happy to learn about your website so we will be able to be updated of your newsletter issues.

Sr. Gladys, OSB and community  
St. Benedict Priory  
Davao City, Philippines





*Benedict saw the entire world in a single ray of light. (Dialogues)*

Our cover features an African proverb,

*If the beat of the drum changes,  
so changes the dance of the feet.*

These days the dance of our feet not only changes but changes rapidly as technology brings the drumbeats of the world into our immediate awareness. Facebook brings us hundreds of “friends” from around the globe at the click of a mouse; we video chat across borders and receive instantaneous updates via Twitter to say nothing of the vast array of news sites and blogs.

Our interconnectedness is so real that a new beat from far away can send shock waves throughout and demand action from the global family: an ongoing civil war in Syria, a hotly-contested U.S. presidential election, a young girl in Pakistan severely wounded for standing up for the right of all females to go to school, a collapse in the European market, an offensive anti-Muslim film going viral on You-Tube. These drum beats have the power both to ignite violent riots and protests and to bring positive and enduring change.

Fifty years ago, bishops and theologians from 116 countries gathered in Rome for the Second Vatican Council. Pope John XXIII believed it was time for the Church to enter into dialogue with the modern world, to invite some much-needed fresh air into

a centuries-old institution. This meeting forever changed the beat of the drum in the Catholic Church. The Spirit drummed a new understanding of Church and our role in it. New images called us, the People of God, to dance with all people of good will, to build ecumenical bridges, to respect the values, customs, and languages of other cultures by incorporating them into liturgy, to work passionately for peace and justice, and to recognize the gospel’s preferential option for the poor.

As we celebrate the Council’s achievements let us pray for the courage needed to continue sounding the drum and dancing into the future. Let us keep our hearts open and our feet nimble so that we can keep pace with the new beat calling us to a dance of inclusivity, compassion, welcome, and reconciliation. Let us set aside our fear. The Spirit is inviting us to return to the Pentecostal dance of discipleship and move boldly into the future.

Peace,

*Stephanie Schmidt, OSB*

Stephanie Schmidt, OSB  
Executive Director, AIM USA  
director@aim-usa.org

[www.aim-usa.org](http://www.aim-usa.org)   **aim usa**   [aim@aim-usa.org](mailto:aim@aim-usa.org)

 **aim usa**  
Benedictine Sisters  
345 East Ninth St.  
Erie, PA 16503-1107

United States Secretariat—Alliance for International Monasticism

Non-Profit  
Organization  
US Postage  
PAID  
Erie, PA  
Permit No. 888