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The United States Secretariat of the Alliance for International Monasticism

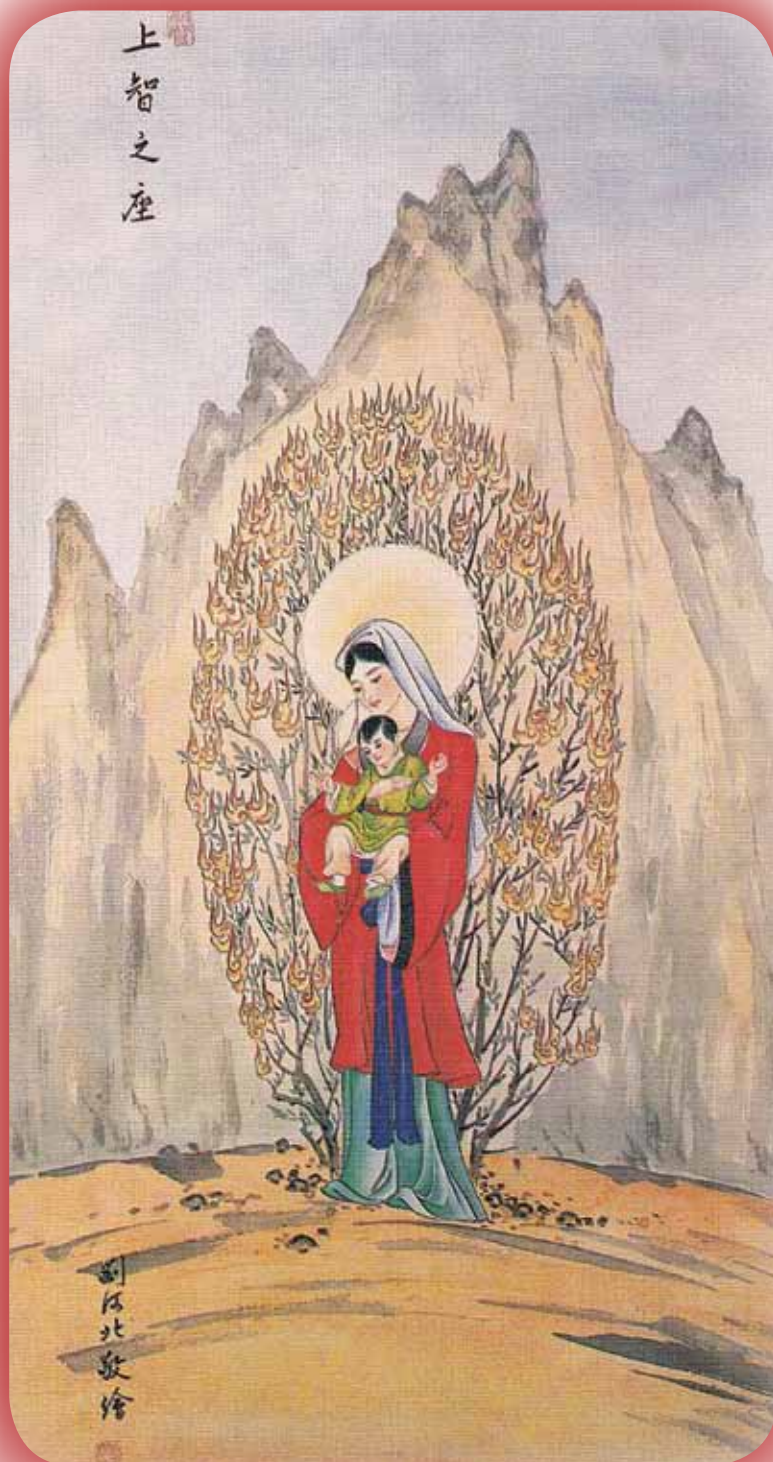
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“Do not be afraid;
for behold,
I proclaim to you
good news
of great joy
that will be
for all the people.”

Luke 2:10



Let all guests who arrive be received as Christ,

And let due honor be shown to all, especially to those “of the household of the faith.”

—Rule of Benedict, Chapter 53

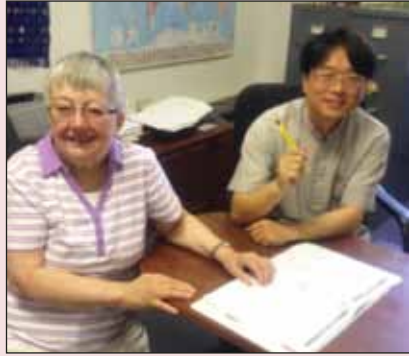
AIM USA WAS HONORED to receive visitors from AIM International. President Père Jean-Pierre Longeat, OSB traveled to Erie with Père Mark Butlin, OSB and Père Abbé Paul Stonham, OSB to meet the staff and visit the offices of AIM USA. It was a pleasure for us to host these coworkers and share our ideas of cooperation to fulfill the mission of AIM. A little R&R was also in order. A trip to Niagara Falls was a day of fun and relaxation. The weather was great and a good time was had by all.

Standing: Sheila McLaughlin, Oblate, staff, Père Jean-Pierre Longeat, OSB, President, AIM International, Therese Glass, OSB, staff. Seated: Theresa Zoky, OSB, Executive Director, Père Mark Butlin, OSB, Stephanie Schmidt, OSB past Executive Director, Père Abbé Paul Stonham, OSB



Visitor from South Korea

Recently Father Anselmo Park, OSB visited the national office of AIM USA in Erie. He is a member of the Benedictine Community in Waegwan, South Korea—which is part of the Congregation of St. Ottilien. Father Anselm has been studying in Canada at the University of Toronto where he is pursuing a doctorate in Theology. His visit to the AIM USA office with Sister Therese Glass was an enriching experience furthering the alliance of AIM USA with monasteries beyond North America.



AIM USA Thanks Long-time Associates

The alliance of AIM USA with approximately 450 Benedictine/Cistercian monasteries in Asia, Africa and Latin America requires the care, concern and commitment of many and varied persons.

From the services of Judy Allison in the local Erie area and from Dennis Day of the Oregon, Wisconsin area AIM USA has greatly benefitted. In turn, the lives of many other monastics and the people of their areas have been enriched.

Since 2004 Judy has shared her creativity and expertise especially in the layout and design of the newsletters for AIM USA. She has also helped develop the materials for the Annual Appeal, the Lenten Appeals and for the Monastery to Monastery Program.

Dennis, a lay Cistercian, has diligently and generously served as the website developer for AIM USA. His technical skill aided in the design of the AIM USA website in 2005 and since that time, he has done updates of the AIM USA website.

To Judy and Dennis, AIM USA offers deep gratitude and many blessings for the future.

May 2014 GRANTS

AFRICA

Benedictine Union of Tanzania

—funding for centennial meeting and conference

Benedictine Communities of Southern Africa

—funding for a meeting of the Benedictine Communities of Southern Africa

Cistercian Monastery in Eritrea

—construction of an underground water reservoir

ASIA

Benedictine Nuns in India

—install liturgical vestment workroom, buy machines/furniture

St. Scholastica Center of Spirituality in the Philippines

—Rule of Benedict—VII study weeks at Tagaytay

Monastery in Vietnam

—additional scholarship to the Catholic Institute in Paris

SOUTH AMERICA

Monastery in Argentina

—publication of the *Cuadernos Monasticos*

Monastery in Brazil

—formation program for the monks

Monastery in Brazil

—funding for a brother to attend the Cistercian formation course in Rome

LATIN AMERICA

REMILA

Latin American Mixed Region meeting



Thank you

for your monetary gift to AIM USA. It will give hope to Benedictine and Cistercian monasteries around the world.



Missionary Cooperative Mission Appeals

Each year dioceses from across the United States invite AIM USA to present appeals as part of the Missionary Cooperation Plan. These appeals are a primary source of funding for grant requests received from the mission monasteries. AIM USA is dependent upon volunteers with a Benedictine spirit who live as near as possible to the assigned parishes to make the appeals.

AIM USA extends much gratitude to the following dioceses and speakers who were part of the 2014 Missionary Cooperation Plan.

BALTIMORE

Kathy White, OSB, Emmanuel Monastery, Lutherville, MD

BEAUMONT

Peter Funk, OSB, Holy Cross Monastery, Beaumont, TX

BUFFALO

John Denburger, OCSO, and Joe Pastwik, Lay Contemplative, Our Lady of the Genesee Abbey, Piffard, NY, Therese Glass, OSB, Mt. St. Benedict Monastery, Erie, PA

CAMDEN

Tina Geiger, RSM, Catholic Rural Ministry, Oil City, PA

CLEVELAND

Cecilia Sullivan, OSB and Janet Houk, Oblate, Mt. St. Benedict Monastery, Erie, PA

DENVER

Rose Ann Barmann, OSB, Clare Carr, OSB, Jan Ginzkey, OSB, Susan Matarrese, OSB, Therese O'Grady, OSB, Naomi Rosenburger, OSB, all from Benet Hill Monastery, Colorado Springs, CO

ERIE

Marlene Bertke, OSB, Therese Glass, OSB, Theresa Zoky, OSB, all from Mt. St. Benedict, Erie

KANSAS CITY

Benedict Neenan, OSB, Conception Abbey, Conception, MO

MANCHESTER

Benet Phillips, OSB, St. Anselm Abbey, Manchester, NH

METUCHEN

Philomena Fleck, OSB, Germaine Fritz, OSB, St. Walburga Monastery, Elizabeth, NJ

SACRAMENTO

Dominic Tran, O.Cist., Leo Tien Nguyen, O.Cist., Our Lady of Chau Son Sacramento, Walnut Grove, CA

SAINT LOUIS

Ambrose Bennett, OSB, St. Louis Abbey, St. Louis, MO

SAINT PETERSBURG

Mary David Hydro, OSB, Holy Name Monastery, St. Leo, FL

SEATTLE

Kilian Malvey, OSB, St. Martin Abbey, Lacey, WA

ST. PAUL-MINNEAPOLIS

Mary White, OSB, St. Paul Monastery, St. Paul, MN

SYRACUSE

Mary Donald Corcoran, OSB Cam, Transfiguration Monastery, Windsor, NY

TULSA

Joachim Spexarth, OSB, St. Gregory Abbey, Shawnee, OK



Communities in Asia, Africa, and Latin America frequently request books. If you have used books in English, Spanish, French or Portuguese about the topics listed below, please consider shipping them to AIM USA, 345 E. 9th St., Erie, PA 16503.



AIM USA will redistribute the books among Benedictine/Cistercian monasteries beyond North America. Children's books are valuable to communities who have ministries in Kindergartens and Elementary Schools and for members who have beginning skills in reading/understanding English. Seminaries and formation programs can often use books having intermediate/advanced English. AIM USA will distribute books written in other languages to appropriate monasteries. Monetary gifts are also accepted to purchase needed books.

Shipping books to AIM USA is a fine way to downsize personal/institutional libraries!



Our longtime website developer has retired. Therefore, AIM USA is in need of someone who can update and keep current the AIM USA web page. If you can help, please call the AIM office at 814-453-4724 or email us at director@aim-usa.org

St. Scholastica Monastery

Duluth, Minnesota, United States

St. Scholastica Monastery in Duluth, Minnesota, was founded in 1892 by a group of twenty-nine Sisters led by Mother Scholastica Kerst from St. Benedict's Monastery in St. Joseph, Minnesota. The first living quarters of the Community were in rented space but in 1909 the Community moved to a beautiful campus on the hills overlooking Lake Superior. The works of the Community have been many mainly in education and health care. Spiritual care including sponsorship is a developing ministry. Current membership is 77 perpetually professed Sisters with seven women in formation.

Sister Amata Macket, the "lumberjack" Sister, was one of the most notable among the early members of the Community because of her work of selling "hospital tickets" (health



Sisters at prayer

The Benedictine Health System, sponsored by the Benedictine Sisters of St. Scholastica Monastery in Duluth, is a notable Catholic long-term care organization devoted to a continuum of care for senior citizens. The acute care system, Essentia, includes Catholic hospitals under the sponsorship of the Community as well as secular not-for-profit clinics and hospitals.

Spiritual care ministries are housed mainly in the Monastery and at McCabe Renewal Center. An increasing number of Sisters are engaged in spiritual direction, training for spiritual direction, and retreat work as well as mission integration work for sponsored institutions.

In response to Pope John XXIII's call for missionaries, several Sisters ministered in schools, clinics, and parishes in Antofagasta, Chile, serving the poor from 1963 to 1979. AIM made possible a continued connection to developing countries through twinning relationships. St. Scholastica Monastery established relationships with Monasterio Santa Maria in Rautén, Chile, and with the Benedictine Sisters of St. Agnes in Tanzania.

As an outgrowth of the Tanzanian connection, several service-learning projects were initiated for the students of The College of St. Scholastica at the monasteries in Tanzania. The first were led by Sister Beverly Raway beginning in 2002. Also, a number of Sisters from Tanzania have received



Aerial view of the Monastery, College and Benedictine Health Center and related buildings.

insurance) to the lumberjacks of northern Minnesota. The hospital, now St. Mary's Medical Center, that her efforts supported was founded in 1888 and became a charter member of CHA (Catholic Health Association) when that organization was begun about 100 years ago.

The Community also established The College of St. Scholastica in 1912. From an early beginning with a tiny handful of students, it has grown to encompass over 4,000 students.

About half of the students are traditional undergraduates on the Duluth campus but the growing segment includes graduate students at multiple campuses and in on-line programs. The College is particularly noted for its healthcare programs. The first baccalaureate program in medical records (now health information management) was initiated by the college in 1935.

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A class of postulants in Imiliwaha, Tanzania, presenting Sister Beverly Raway with a gift of a pair of doves.

education at The College of St. Scholastica. Currently two members of the Community in Imiliwaha are attending the College. The Sisters of St. Scholastica Monastery have been enriched by these and other cross-cultural opportunities.

Our Lady of the New World Monastery Paraná, Brazil

The Trappist Abbey of Our Lady of the New World (Nossa Senhora do Novo Mundo), located in Paraná, Brazil, was founded by the monks of Genesee, New York, in 1977. From a small community of four founders—one of whom is still vigorous at the age of 91—we have grown to a community of 27, with 17 solemn professed, 6 simple professed and 4 novices. We look forward to the entrance of three observers in the course of the next few months.



Monks working on an irrigation project

We are a relatively youthful community (the average age is 44). Our vitality manifests itself in our dedication to the monastic practices, our enthusiastic preparation for and participation in liturgical celebrations and moments of community confraternização, and an intense desire for the experience of God.

The community supports itself by agriculture (the cultivation of corn and soybeans), a bakery which produces fruitcake and cookies, a small honey industry, and a monastic gift shop. On Sundays and holidays, a large number of people come to participate in the Eucharist and the Divine Office, many of whom make retreats in our guesthouse. A good number of priests, religious and laypeople come regularly for confession and spiritual direction.

Over the last 8 years, we have developed an in-house program of philosophical and theological studies for our monks. It is a joy for us that, on the feast of St. Benedict, the first student who has completed these studies will be ordained deacon, with other ordinations to come in the following years.

In 2010, our life was enriched by the arrival of nuns from Our Lady of Quilvo, Chile, to make a foundation at a site 40



The monks of Our Lady of the New World Monastery

miles away from our house. One of our priests resides there as chaplain of the community, and another monk, with many years of experience in construction work, is the coordinator of the building project for the sisters.

A hallmark of this year has been an increase in the frequency of group dialogues within the community. Already they have produced genuine fruits and made the “good zeal” that Benedict so desired for his monks more palpable in the fraternal climate of our house.

Ever since the jubilee year of 2000, the monks have made an annual pilgrimage to a church or sanctuary to renew their consecration to Our Lady of Guadalupe, patroness of Latin America. Sometimes the journey is short, other times long, as when we traveled by bus to the national shrine of Our Lady of Aparecida in São Paulo. Without a doubt, the most memorable pilgrimage to date was our trip last July to the World Youth Day in Rio. At the end of the Mass in the Cathedral, Pope Francis paused briefly to chat with and embrace one of our senior monks. All of us experienced ourselves as included and blessed by that embrace.

A special grace for us has been the unfailing friendship and support of several religious communities of sisters, of our neighbors and of our diocese. In this friendship, we flourish.



Schola Cantorum at Sunday Mass

MONASTERY TO MONASTERY — 2014

Seventy-five Monasteries and one oblate group joined the program for 2014 (as of October 24).

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
Marmion Abbey	Aurora	IL
St. Benedict Monastery	Bakerstown	PA
Holy Cross Monastery	Beaumont	TX
Our Lady of Grace Monastery	Beech Grove	IN
St. Benedict's Abbey	Benet Lake	WI
Belmont Abbey	Belmont	NC
New Camoldoli Hermitage	Big Sur	CA
St. Scholastica Monastery	Boerne	TX
St. Benedict Monastery	Canyon	TX
Our Lady of Guadalupe	Carlton	OR
St. Scholastica Monastery	Chicago	IL
Benedictine Monastery.	Clyde	MO
St. John's Abbey	Collegeville	MN
Benet Hill Monastery	Colorado Springs	CO
Conception Abbey	Conception	MO
Monastery of St. Gertrude	Cottonwood	ID
St. Walburg Monastery	Covington	KY
Mt. St. Benedict	Crookston	MN
Our Lady of the Angels Monastery	Crozet	VA
St. Bernard Abbey	Cullman	AL
Peace and Justice Committee	Cullman	AL
St. Scholastica Monastery	Duluth	MN
St. Walburga Monastery	Elizabeth	NJ
Mt. Michael Abbey	Elkhorn	NE
Mount St. Benedict Monastery	Erie	PA
Monastery Immaculate Conception	Ferdinand	IN
St. Scholastica Monastery	Fort Smith	AR
Our Lady of the Annunciation	Hulbert	OK
Our Lady of the Holy Trinity	Huntsville	UT
Monastery of the Ascension	Jerome	ID
Holy Angels Convent	Jonesboro	AK
St. Martin's Abbey—Oblates	Lacey	WA
St. Martin's Abbey	Lacey	WA
St. Vincent Archabbey	Latrobe	PA
Emmanuel Monastery	Lutherville	MD
St. Anselm Abbey	Manchester	NH
Dwelling Place Monastery	Martin	KY
Holy Wisdom Monastery	Middleton	WI

MONASTERY	CITY	STATE
Mepkin Abbey	Moncks Corner	SC
St. Mary's Abbey	Morristown	NJ
Queen of Angels Monastery	Mount Angel	OR
St. Peter's Abbey	Muenster	SK
House of Bread Monastery	Nanaimo	BC
St. Paul's Abbey	Newton	NJ
Immaculata Monastery	Norfolk	NE
Prince of Peace Abbey	Oceanside	CA
New Melleray Abbey	Peosta	IA
St. Bede Abbey	Peru	IL
Abbey of Genesee	Piffard	NY
Mount Saviour Monastery	Pine City	NY
Woodside Priory	Portola Valley	CA
Abbey of St. Gregory the Great	Portsmouth	RI
St. Martin Monastery	Rapid City	SD
Sacred Heart Monastery	Richardton	ND
Mary Mother of the Church Abbey	Richmond	VA
Monastery of the Good Shepard	Rio Grande City	TX
St. Mary Monastery	Rock Island	IL
Santa Rita Abbey	Sonoita	AZ
St. Joseph's Abbey	Spencer	MA
Mount Angel Abbey	St. Benedict	OR
St. Joseph Abbey	St. Benedict	LA
Holy Trinity Monastery	St. David	AZ
St. Benedict's Monastery	St. Joseph	MN
Holy Name Monastery	St. Leo	FL
St. Leo Abbey	St. Leo	FL
St. Louis Abbey	St. Louis	MO
St. Meinrad Archabbey	St. Meinrad	IN
New Subiaco Abbey	Subiaco	AR
Abbey of Gethsemani	Trappist	KY
St. Joseph Monastery	Tulsa	OK
St. Andrew's Abbey	Valyermo	CA
Our Lady of New Clairvaux Abbey	Vina	CA
Abbey of St. Walburga	Virginia Dale	CO
Queen of Heaven Monastery	Warren	OH
St. Anselm's Abbey	Washington	DC
Mother of God Monastery	Watertown	SD
Weston Priory	Weston	VT
Redwoods Monastery	Whitehorn	CA



**“From the fourth hour until the time of Sext,
they will devote themselves to reading.”**

Rule of Benedict, Chapter 48

Thank You Notes—Worth Noting...Worth Quoting

FROM INDIA

Loving greetings

from all of us at Lioba Bhavan-Perambra, Kerala, India

We are glad to inform you that we have received with gratitude and love the check you sent for Mass stipends. As you mentioned in the enclosed letter, we will be offering the Holy Mass for the intentions of those who have donated the money. Some of the Masses will be offered in our Chapel. We have Holy Mass in our Chapel every day. We have a Home for the aged ladies here. They all are Christians and attend the Mass every day. A small amount of money will be given for the poor and needy. During Holy Mass all of us and our aged Ladies also will pray for all of you and the AIM USA Staff. May God bless and reward you for doing this good work. We do promise our prayers for all your needs, intentions and the work you are doing.

Yours sincerely,

Sister Regi Nerinjampilly

Cordial greetings from Kurisumala Ashram!

The books you kindly sent have arrived in good condition. Thank you very much!! It is a good selection of monastic books, biography, books on inter-religious interest, etc., of good use to our monastic library. Please thank the generous donors on our behalf. With fraternal regards and prayers,

Brother Augustine, OCSO, Librarian

Kerala State, India

FROM PHILIPPINES

Greetings of Peace and Joy from St. Benedict's Monastery, Corte, Carmen, Cebu! We write to acknowledge with great gratitude for the box of books you recently sent to our monastery. The books are very useful to all of us and we really appreciate your love and concern for our young community here in Cebu.

Fr. Devasia Varavunkal, OSB

Philippines

FROM TAIWAN

Peace, and Joyful Easter Greetings, from Holy Mother of God Trappist Monastery, ¾ of the way up a mountain in central Taiwan—our mountain used to be called “Monkey Mountain,” from the groups of primates that live here, but now folks call it “Monks’ Mountain”... hopefully, the resemblance is in the English words only!

What a delightful surprise when the box of excellent books you sent us arrived today. Many, many thanks for this welcome addition to our fledgling but slowly growing Monastic Library. I say this as the community member charged with its proper care and growth, both the English Section and the Chinese Section. Thank you so much for this very practical help you give to us monastic folks out in the sticks. Every wish and prayer for a fruitful Easter Time for you and all the benefactors of AIM USA.

M. Theophane Young, OCSO

Natou, Taiwan

FROM BRAZIL

We are so grateful for the donation of books by AIM USA. We have just received this valuable package. The comments about the books are the best, especially monastics, very helpful for our spiritual and community life. The sisters are also interested in studying or improving their English to be able to read, consult, and search so many issues in such books. May God reward all of you for every incentive and help in our formation.

Sister Martha Lucia, OSB

Mosteiro Nossa Senhora da Paz – São Paulo, Brazil

FROM UGANDA



Sr. Anna Mary Adakini, OSB, at St. Benedict Center in Jinja, Uganda



A few days ago, we received your precious parcel with books. Thank you. They are very useful both for our novitiate, there are still 5 sisters in the novitiate, and in the retreat house, where we have regularly groups of charismatic leaders, who are making their retreat in order to help others in their parishes. So I can only say that we are very pleased with these gifts of books. We promise our prayers for all your intentions. May Christ bless you and reward you for the precious work you are doing.

Loving and grateful greetings,

Sr. Leonie Otten, OCSO, Librarian
Abbey of Our Lady of Praise –
Butende, Masaka, Uganda

Sr. M. Gertrude, St. Benedict's Priory, Tororo,
Uganda, knits a mat..

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Single Point of Light

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

This excerpt, from the *American Monastic Newsletter* (February 2014), is from a reflection written by Sister Christine Vladimiroff, OSB before the convention at which she was to be a speaker. Sister Christine passed to eternal life September 25, 2014.

“We stand now in a new moment. Monasticism is an experiential tradition, not a disembodied idea. It is people; it is communities that model the charism in the specificity of the local, national, and worldwide environments of church and society.

The dialogical process takes place in response to the questions of our age. What are the challenges? What is the ferment of new ideas that cause us to question? What are the threats: decline, demographics, mediocrity of observance? What can guide us to raise new from old? Are we open to development of monasticism, not as a static prototype but as a multiform and resilient experiment in the human goal of seeking God? How can we re-frame the monastic enterprise in our day? What will be the elements, in the Rule and in our lives, to guide us in the task?

I believe there must be fidelity to essential aspects of our life as we enter into a process in which the past is to receive the future. Listening is key. Our prayer, the Liturgy of the Hours prayed antiphonally, and a life with a certain marginality in church and society ought to heighten our capacity to listen and truly to hear. We need to live in a community that fosters

communication among members, for Benedict urges us to listen to the young and those who may not be first to stand and share their thoughts (RB 3:2-3). We need to cultivate an expansive spirit of generativity. Some of us may need to move aside and encourage others to take over governance and leadership for the future.

We need leaders, not managers, as we open paths to a new time. But most of all our communities need to be human and loving oases in a world that seeks meaning and life in a community centered on Christ.”



***And so as we celebrate new life, new birth,
let us welcome Christ into our midst
in new ways this blessed Christmas Season.***

The Peace of Christ is with you,

Theresa Zoky, OSB

Sister Theresa Zoky, OSB
Executive Director, AIM USA
director@aim-usa.org