

Seek Peace and Pursue It: Monasticism in the Midst of Global Upheaval

August 2 - 5, 2012

St. Scholastica Monastery, Duluth, MN

Guest Essays

Sister Laura Swan OSB, president of ABA, announced that she would be seeking thought-provoking pieces on the theme "Seek Peace and Pursue It" for *The American Monastic Newsletter* in the issues preceding the 2012 convention with that theme. Essays were: "The Pursuit of Peace" by Norvene Vest (AMN, June 2011), "Seek Peace" by Linda Soler OSB (AMN, February 2011) and "Seeking Peace" by Daniel Saavedra, OSB (AMN, October 2010).

Presentations and Speakers

"The Power of our Portfolios in this Global World" - Sister Susan Mika, OSB, of St. Scholastica Monastery, Boerne, Tex., has long been committed to social justice and corporate responsibility issues, currently serving as the executive director of the Benedictine Coalition for Responsible Investment (CRI). She works with the Socially Responsible Investment Coalition, primarily consisting of religious groups in Texas. Susan is passionate about the possibilities for a more just society.

"The Contribution of Buddhist-Christian Dialogue to Peace" - Brother Luke Devine, OSB, of St. Martin's Abbey, Olympia, Wash., has taught in the religious studies department at Saint Martin's University and is currently pursuing his doctorate in Christian Spirituality at the GTU in Berkeley. He is a board member for MID (Monastic Interreligious Dialogue), a passion of his. Brother Luke is also an artist.

"Practicing Presence: Wisdom from the Rule on Finding Balance in a Digital Age" - Sister Colleen Maura McGrane, OSB, of the Benedictine Sisters of Perpetual Adoration, Clyde, Mo., has been dedicating her "spare" time to translating the many volume commentary on the Rule of Benedict by the French Benedictine scholar Adalbert de Vogüé, OSB. She has published in *The American Benedictine Review* and *Magistra*. Sister Colleen presented a very fine paper at the Medieval Congress in Kalamazoo, Mich., this year.

"Seeing Jesus, Being Peace"- Weldon Nisly, oblate of Saint John's Abbey, Collegeville, Minn., is a pastor at Seattle Mennonite Church and active in peace ministry, serving with Christian Peacemaker Teams (www.cpt.org) in Iraq, as a founder of the Mennonite Catholic peace group called Bridgefolk (www.bridgefolk.net), and with the Network of Biblical Storytellers. He has been a resident scholar three times at the Collegeville Institute.

Talks were subsequently published in the "Proceedings" of the convention and all but the Nisly paper were also published in journals. Audio CDs of the talks are available from the AMN editor at a cost of \$5 each.