



## Current Projects

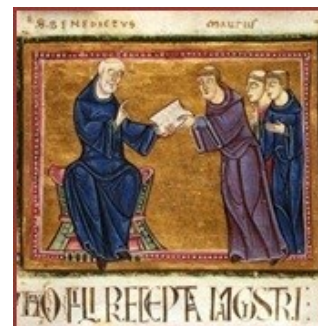
**Kathleen Norris, ObisB**, writes: "At the age of 66 I am going to take on a new venture and teach for a year as a visiting professor at a college -- Providence College in Providence, Rhode Island, for the school year 2104-2015. I will be conducting a symposium for undergraduate students in the honors program."

**Martin Shannon**, Community of Jesus, Orleans, MA, reports that he has a forthcoming article in *ABR* entitled "Monasticism, 'Old' and 'New,' and the Cause of Christian Unity." He writes: "It is a look at what Benedictine monasticism has contributed and can continue to contribute to ecumenism--both through traditional monasteries and "new" monasteries--especially in this chilly ecumenical environment."

**Terrence Kardong, OSB**, writes: "For a couple of years I have been working on the monastic literature connected with the Irish monks in France in the 7<sup>th</sup> century. Since this is roughly contemporary with the *Rule of Benedict*, it could be considered the general context of the RB. But more specifically, these Irish monks were the main conduit of the RB itself north of the Alps. Why? Probably because their own monastic rule (the *Rule of Columban* in its

three parts) was inadequate to their needs. So they often used parts of the RB to beef up their legislation. Recently I have been working on a piece of the Columbanian corpus, namely, the so-called *Rule of a Certain Father for Virgins*. It was written by Walbert, a monk of Luxeuil, for the nuns of Eboriac just east of Paris. I have translated the documentary and written a commentary on it. In doing so, I noticed certain parts where Walbert uses pieces of RB, but uses it in rather creative ways. So I decided to mine some short articles out of this study. These articles will be appearing in the *American Benedictine Review* during the coming months."

**Greg Peters, PhD**, Biola University, reports that he has published *Reforming the Monastery: Protestant Theologies of the Religious Life* (Cascade Books, 2014), "an examination of what Protestants have said about monasticism over the past 500 years. It examines the thought of authors like Martin Luther, John Calvin, John Henry Newman and others." He has also published "John Henry Newman's Theology of the Monastic/Religious Life as a Means to Holiness" in *Newman Studies Journal* 10.2 (2013)7-17. This semester he is on a half-time research leave, funded by the Center for Christian Thought at Biola University,



"investigating the intersection of psychology and monastic studies, studying whether or not a particular kind of psychological person is prone to enter the monastic life."

**Hugh Feiss, OSB**, writes: "I have finished my paper for The Medieval Institute at Western Michigan University in May. It is on Peter of Celle's *De panibus* viewed as the result and basis for lectio divina.

•A collaborative book on the *vitae* of four twelfth-century "saints" of Savigny is now with the publishers (Cistercian Publication/Liturgica Press). That finished, I have been working on transcribing and translating some sermons of Godfrey of St. Victor, translating and vetting selections for the next volumes of Victorine Texts in Translation, working with Sr. Juliet Mousseau, R.S.C.J. lining up contributors to a volume on the Victorines in Brill's *Companions to the Christian Tradition*, and gathering contributions for a reader on Medieval Benedictine Monasticism, for

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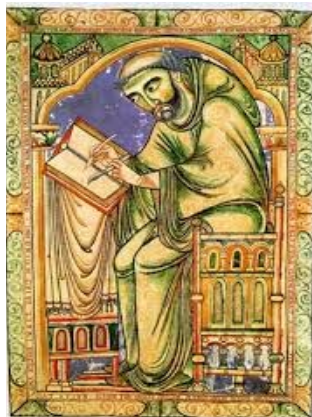
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### • Contributors

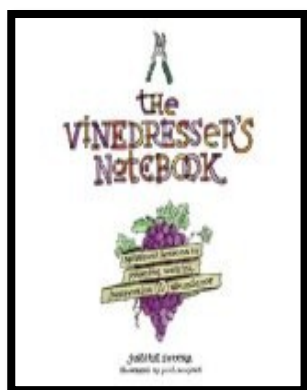
- Kathleen Norris
- Martin Shannon
- Terrence Kardong
- Greg Peters
- Hugh Feiss
- Laura Swan
- David Robinson
- Luke Devine
- Judith Sutera
- Julia Upton
- Laura Dunham

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"In reading this book and understanding how the vines work and what the role of the vinedresser is, readers can explore more deeply what vine care means for their spiritual walk."

—Amazon



which at this moment I am translating afresh some excerpts from Theophilus, *De diversis artibus* and Suger's *De administratione* on stained glass. Before too long I need to get to work preparing a course of Dante's *Divine Comedy* that I am team-teaching this summer. I feel very grateful for the time and health to do such fun projects. Blessings!"

**Laura Swan, OSB,** reports: "I am tying up loose ends on a book manuscript that will be released through BlueBridge late summer/early autumn entitled "The Beguines: the Story of Medieval Women Seeking Freedom and Spirituality." Monastic women were frequently in close relationship with these independent religious women."

**David Robinson, ObISB** of Mount Angel Abbey, OR, writes: "I'm submitting an excerpt of a recently completed book manuscript based upon *St. Gregory's Pastoral Care*. My book manuscript, yet to be published, is titled *Soul Mentoring: Discover the Ancient Art of Caring for Others*. I'm currently looking for a publisher for this work." David has prepared an 844 word excerpt from the book manuscript for your consideration.

Contact him at [forestcloister@gmail.com](mailto:forestcloister@gmail.com) if you are interested in the excerpt.

**Brother Luke Devine, OSB,** writes: "I am in my third year of the PhD program in Christian Spirituality at the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, California. I am currently working on my comprehensive exams which will consist of two research papers. The first paper will propose a need to reconsider traditional religious perspectives on artistic creativity using theories from contemporary psychological creativity studies. One psychologist who has contributed extensively in this field, Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi, challenges the assumption that creativity and inspiration is a divine infusion bestowed upon an individual. This notion must be expanded to consider contextual factors that contribute to creativity such the individual's training within a domain of knowledge and the support of influential sponsors. I will use theories of creativity proposed by Csikszentmihalyi and some of his colleagues to analyze Bede's account of the poet Caedmon. My other paper must demonstrate my familiarity with a topic in a

non-Christian religion. I will be studying the theology of art proposed by Melissa Raphael in *Judaism and the Visual Image: A Jewish Theology of Art* (2009).

**Judith Sutura, OSB,** writes: "I have a new book from Abingdon Press that is very different from anything else I have done. Entitled, *The Vinedresser's Notebook*, it began with sketches and observations about growing grapes, now rendered by an exceptional professional artist and combined with longer reflections on each message. It is currently available for pre-order and will be in bookstores in mid-April.

**Julia Upton, RSM, ObISB,** reports "My ABA Oblate Research Project for presentation at the Convention at Conception Abbey this summer is going well. The survey is still open and so far has 737 respondents. Analyzing the results will be a treat!

- My work on the Ade Bethune biography continues. I will be giving a paper on one of her Church renovations at the annual meeting of the North American Academy of Liturgy in Minneapolis in January 2015.

- Together with some other Sisters of Mercy I am engaged in some historical research on the women who succeeded Catherine

## CURRENT PROJECTS CONT.

McAuley and made Mercy foundations throughout the world. I was fortunate to be able to spend some time in the Archives at the Mercy Heritage Center in Bermondsey (London, England) this January."

**Laura Dunham, ObisB,** is collaborating with the Sisters in St. Joseph, Minnesota, on a project she calls, "Transmitting the Tradition through a School for Benedictine Spirituality." She describes it thus: "Oblates share their monastic communities' desire and re-

sponsibility to transmit the Benedictine tradition. As communities decline in numbers and strength, effective ways to pass on the tradition have been studied by the Benedictine Project Group at St. Benedict's Monastery. Drawing upon the strengths of oblates in partnership with the community, St. Benedict's is developing a Center for Benedictine Learning and Living, with a School for Benedictine Spirituality at its core. One of several purposes the

School will serve is to strengthen oblate formation. Oblates completing the School's foundation classes and spiritual companionship may partner with the monastery to offer the School's program in parish, community, and workplace settings." Laura will be one of four presenters at the 2014 Pre-Convention Workshop of ABA, to be held at Conception Abbey on Thursday, July 24, 2014.



## PUBLICATIONS

**Carruth, Shawn, OSB,** Book Review: *Gregory the Great on the Song of Songs*, trans. by Mark DelCogliano, 2012, in *ABR* 64:4 (December 2013) 449-451.

**Feiss, Hugh, OSB.** Book Review: *Bernard of Clairvaux: Theologian of the Cross*, by Anthony N. S. Lane, 2013, in *ABR* 65:1 (March 2014) 118-120.

**Kardong, Terrence, OSB.** Book Review: *Learn How to Fight Spiritually*, by Fidelis Ruppert, OSB, 2012, in *ABR* 65:1 (March 2014) 116-118.

\_\_\_\_\_ Book Review: *In the Beginning Was the Word: Saint Augustine's Homilies on the Gospel According to John*, by John Leinenweber in *ABR*, 64:4 (December 2013) 458-459.

\_\_\_\_\_ Book Review: *Mission and Monasticism: Studia Anselmiana 158*, 2013, in *ABR* 65:1 (March 2014) 121-123.

\_\_\_\_\_ Book Review: *Dilatato Corde* ed. by William Skudlarek, 2012, in *ABR* 64:4 (December 2013) 460-462.

**McGrane, Colleen Maura, OSB.** "Practicing Presence: Wisdom from the *Rule* on Finding Balance in a Digital Age," *ABR* 64:4 (December 2013) 370-383.

**Norris, Kathleen, ObisB.** Book Review: *Old Monk*, by Mary Lou Kownacki, OSB, 2012, in *ABR* 64:4 (December 2013) 457.

**Peters, Gregory.** *Reforming the Monastery: Protestant Theologies of the Religious Life*. Eugene, OR: Cascade Books, 2014.

\_\_\_\_\_ "John Henry Newman's Theology of the Monastic/Religious Life as a Means to Holiness," *Newman Studies Journal* 10:2 (2013) 7-17.

**Quaintance, Susan, OSB.** Book Review: *Cave Refectory Road: Monastic Rhythms for Contemporary Living* by Ian Adams, 2010, *ABR* 64:4 (December 2013) 454-455.

"In an era when monastic publications tend to disappear, this new journal is a notable exception." —Kardong



*Dilatato Corde*

**Rippinger, Joel, OSB.** Book Review: *Across God's Frontiers: Catholic Sisters in the American West, 1850-1920*, by Anne Butler, 2012, in *ABR* 65:1 (March 2014) 110-112.

**Shannon, Martin.** "Monasticism 'Old' and 'New,' and the Cause of Christian Unity." *ABR* 65:1 (March 2014).

**Sutera, Judith, OSB,** "No Lasting Home: The Journey of the Nuns of Flavigny." *Magistra* 19:2 (Winter 2013) 65-91.

\_\_\_\_\_ Book Review: *Flesh Made Word: Medieval Women Mystics, Writing, and the Incarnation* by Emily A. Holmes, 2013, in *Magistra* 19:2 (Winter 2013) 96.

\_\_\_\_\_ Book Review: *Enduring Lives: Living Portraits of Women and Faith in Action* by Carol Lee Flinders, 2013, in *Magistra* 19:2 (Winter 2013) 97.

\_\_\_\_\_ Book Review: *Women, Manuscripts, and Identity in Northern Europe, 1350-1550* by Joni M. Hand, 2013, in *Magistra* 19: 2 (Winter 2013) 98-99.

\_\_\_\_\_ Book Review: *The Fabric of Marian Devotion in Isabel de Villena's Vita Christin* by Lesley K. Twomey, 2013, in *Magistra* 19: 2 (Winter 2013) 99-100.

**Swan, Laura, OSB.** Book Review: *There Were Also Many Women There: Lay Women in the Liturgical Movement in the United States, 1926-1959* by Katherine E. Harmon, 2012, in *Magistra* 19: 2 (Winter 2013) 92-92.

\_\_\_\_\_ Book Review: *Veiled Desires: Intimate Portrayals of Nuns in Postwar Anglo-American Film* by Maureen Sabine, 2013, in *Magistra* 19: 2 (Winter 2013) 93-94.

## Presentations

**Ephrem Hollermann, OSB,** will present, "What Ever Happened to Sunday? Reflections on Sabbath Rest from Scripture and the *Rule of Benedict*," Sunday at the Abbey Series, Saint John's Abbey, March 16, 2014.

**Kathleen Norris,** presented weekend programs at two retreat centers: The Anglican Sisters of St. John the Divine in Toronto; Benedictine monks at Schuyler, Nebraska.

\_\_\_\_\_ "Taking Up The Cross in the 21st Century: Self-denial and the Ordinary Christian, " Huffington Ecumenical Institute, Loyola Marymount, Los Angeles, CA.

**Joel Rippinger, OSB,** will present "Transmitting a Common Core of Benedictinism," at the ABA Convention, Conception Abbey, Conception, MO, July 24, 2014.

### Notice

**Next MR Newsletter, June 2014**  
**Compiled and edited**  
**by Ephrem Hollermann, OSB**  
**Saint Benedict's Monastery, St. Joseph, MN**  
**Comments/suggestions welcomed**  
**ehollermann@csbsju.edu**

### ABA Biennial Convention

**Benedictine Monasticism:**  
**The Past Receiving**  
**the Future**  
**July 24-27, 2014**  
**Conception Abbey, Conception, MO**

