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Fr. Athanasius Buchholz, O.S.B. (1928-2018)



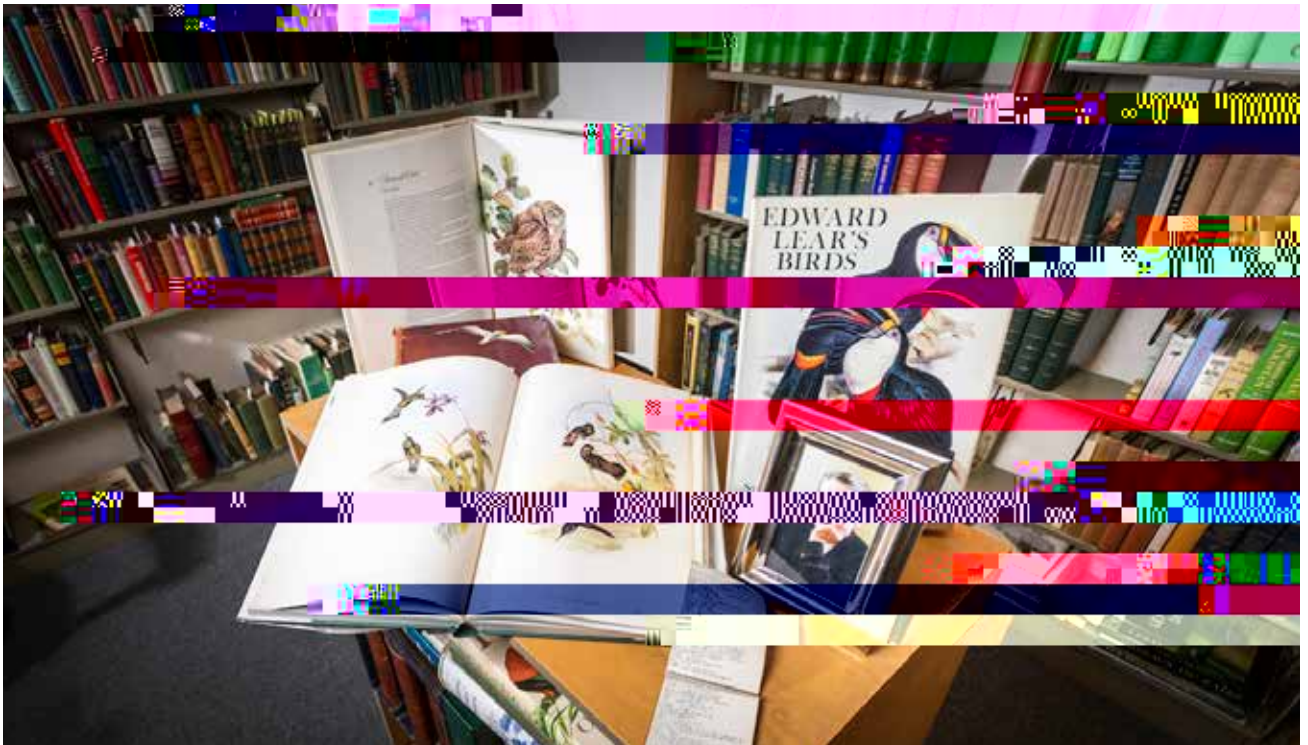
Fr. Athanasius Buchholz, O.S.B., Upon his return from Europe, Fr. Athanasius taught passed peacefully to the Lord on languages in the seminary, but much of his time and February 22, at the age of 90.

Born in Mt. Angel, Oregon, Fr. Athanasius made his monastic profession of vows in 1949. After his solemn profession in 1952 he was sent to Rome to study theology at the Benedictine

attention over the years was devoted to the Abbey's library and to the books for which he had such great love, especially as a collector of rare and beautiful works on plants and birds. When he became interested in a subject, he studied it and became an expert, as with his award-winning passion for growing da odils.

College of Sant' Anselmo, and in the following year he was ordained a deacon at Mount Angel's motherhouse Engelberg Abbey in Switzerland. Solesmes Abbey in France was the site of his ordination to the priesthood in 1954.

In his eulogy of Fr. Athanasius, Abbot Peter Eberle lauded him as "a lover of opera, a horticulturist, a bibliophile, and an eccentric, a cantankerous but always delightful curmudgeon . . . (but) overarching everything was Fr. Athanasius the monk, a faithful pupil in the school of the Lord's service."



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Community

News about Mount Angel Abbey



Reflections on a Holy Land Pilgrimage

I've been privileged to be the spiritual guide on a few pilgrimages to the Holy Land in recent years. Most recently, in May I accompanied a group of about 40 – including several of our Benedictine Oblates. To walk in the footprints of Christ is an incredible experience. I'll be back home reading the bible and find myself thinking, "I remember when I was there!"

With each pilgrimage group, we have a prayer that we say every morning. It begins, "If some things do not happen as they are scheduled, Lord, may I remember that I am a pilgrim, not a tourist!" If the bus breaks down or we have a bad situation, we say the prayer. If someone's luggage is lost, or if someone else buys the last item on the shelf, we say the prayer: "Remember that I am a pilgrim, not a tourist."

If I look at life as a pilgrimage, I can face it in the same way. I remember, I'm heading to my ultimate destination, and that's what's important. I'm a pilgrim, not a tourist.

Joining the monastery is a bit like a pilgrimage. At Mount Angel, we have a keen awareness of not journeying alone. We walk in the footsteps of Christ. Jesus ~~saved us~~ until he walked the earth as we do, as one of us. God took a pilgrimage on this earth, and he traveled with us. Now, it's our job to make our pilgrimage in this place so we may, at the end of it, join God.

– Fr. Ralph Recker, O.S.B.



The annual Feast of Saint Benedict, this year celebrated on July 7, invites participants to “make a pilgrimage to Mount Angel Abbey.”

As they prepared for the festival, a few of the monks

monastic life is by the community itself. We always have had a keen awareness of being a part of the Mount Angel community, and all these monks I live with are my brothers.”

In speaking of life as a journey, Abbot Peter added, “When I was elected abbot, I didn’t have a motto. But if I had, I think it would have been: ‘All together to eternal life.’ And that is,” he said, “a journey sort of statement. I’ve always envisioned life as putting one foot in front of the other, the path I’m on at the moment.”

Being in the moment is also an important aspect of spiritual pilgrimage for Br. Justin, another of the Abbey’s junior monks. “My pilgrimage in life has been a series of steps toward God,” he said. “First when I became Catholic, at the age of 22. Then I came to the seminary at age 24, and to the monastery when I was 27. But I realized that was just another beginning. And on this earth, it’s not about the destination but the journey.”

“...the reasons you come to the monastery are not the reasons you stay. The reason you stay is that you have found others.”



Fr. Pius, who celebrated his 25th anniversary of priestly ordination in May, reflected that men often come to the monastery in search of something. “Stability of life, beautiful liturgy, the silence and solitude,” he said. “But over the years, life being what it is, you may not find that. And the reasons you come to the monastery are not the reasons you stay. The reason you stay is that you have found others.”

Another reason men find themselves remaining at Mount Angel Abbey is the sheer beauty of the place. This is what struck Fr. Aelred when he first arrived. Fr. Aelred, who is also celebrating 25 years of priestly ordination this year, said, “I notice many people speak of peace when they come to Mount Angel Abbey. The physical situation of the monastery is important. It’s restful here, with the gentle architecture combined with the beautiful views. The rock that Mount Angel sits on,” he continued, “symbolizes stability, and the rock-like quality of God whom we long to see.”

In his role as guest master at the Abbey, Fr. Pius is keenly aware that many people come to this sacred place to

find peace, to find God. “Everyone who comes to the Abbey arrives as a pilgrim,” he said. “They’re all on a pilgrimage in life, and they’ve all made a pilgrimage to Mount Angel, whether that be for a day, a week, or a lifetime.”

At a sense of sharing their journey with all who come to the Abbey, of welcoming all as Christ, is pervasive at Mount Angel Abbey. It’s a place of hospitality for pilgrims even while it’s a community on pilgrimage. That seems

an daunting task at times, Fr. Pius said. “We come to the monastery thinking that the Lord is going to ‘remove the thorns from our side.’ But he doesn’t.

“We are who we are,” he continued. “His grace is enough for us. And the most significant contributions that we make to the monastery are not our perceived strengths, but our weaknesses that call forth the charity of others. And we will supply for the weakness in someone else.

“But we don’t have to be perfect,” he said. “We just have to be faithful. Christ’s grace is enough. It’s the sacramental encounter with grace that keeps it all moving.”

—Ceresa Myers

Formation

News about Mount Angel Seminary

Commencement at Mount Angel Seminary

The students of Mount Angel Seminary's graduating class of 2018 celebrated their Baccalaureate Mass on Friday afternoon, May 11, and Commencement exercises the following morning. Most Reverend Robert W. McElroy, Bishop of San Diego, presided at the Mass and gave the Commencement Address.

Bishop McElroy began his talk with the inspiring story of the 2015 free ascent of El Capitan by Kevin Jorgeson and Tommy Caldwell. The successful completion of the ascent was almost anti-climactic compared to the struggle of Jorgeson to conquer the 15th pitch and the steadfast accompaniment of his teammate, Caldwell, who refused to continue the ascent without his partner.

Caldwell, said Bishop McElroy, stayed with Jorgeson "even at the cost of sacrificing his own life's dream." He continued, "at example lies at the center of the formational experience which you have had here at Mount Angel. And it constitutes a pivotal foundation for the life of priesthood and all true service to the Church." Bishop McElroy reminded the graduates that Pope Francis has repeatedly called the entire Catholic faith community to accompaniment. Quoting Pope Francis, he said, "We need a Church capable of walking at peoples' side, of doing more than simply listening."

In presenting the Senior Farewell, Reverend Brent Crowe, from the Archdiocese of Portland in Oregon, noted that the commitment to accompaniment and letting oneself

be open to discipleship can be a terrifying endeavor. He likened it to a young child on a roller coaster with his mother. The mother symbolizes the Holy Spirit and is herded with joy and laughter during the wild ride. The face of the young child, instead, is filled with terror and he is hanging on tightly to the support rail.

At young child is you, Deacon Crowe told his classmates. Seminary life, at times, he commented, feels like a roller coaster ride. But in spite of having come from all walks of life and many diverse cultures, he and his classmates learned to accompany one another. "God," he reminded his friends and fellow graduates, "writes straight with crooked lines."

— Teresa Myers

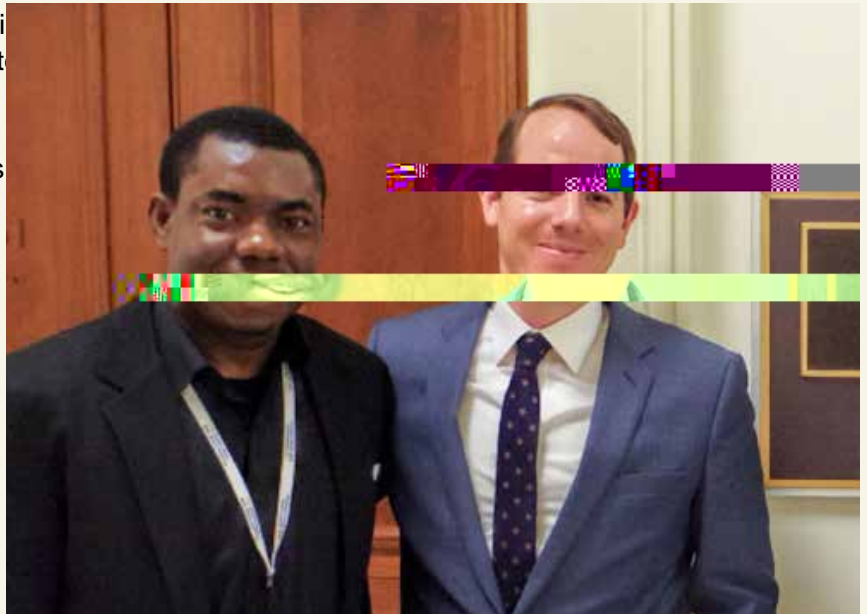
Learning to care for the people you know

In the spring of 2017, the annual Formation Symposium at Mount Angel Seminary featured two speakers from Catholic Relief Services, Mikaele Sansone and Fr. Tom McQuaid. Two years before that, the seminary had formed a partnership with CRS, whose goal is to help future priests better integrate Catholic social teaching and learn how that can be carried out in the seminary's curriculum, based on its overarching theme of Communion Ecclesiology.

The workshops held during the symposium focused on practical ways seminarians could live in communion and global solidarity in the parishes they hope one day to serve as priests and pastors.

Among those deeply impressed by the talks was Bonaventure Okoro, a theology student at Mount Angel. Mr. Okoro, from Nigeria, is sponsored by the Diocese of Fresno, for which he hopes one day to be ordained. Speaking of the symposium, Mr. Okoro recalled, "I

On the last day of the symposium, Mr. Okoro was invited to share lunch with the CRS team and Dr. Katy Leamy, Associate Professor of Moral Theology at Mount Angel, invited him to become more involved. I learned that being involved with CRS is not only about mission work overseas, but it means first and foremost the importance of helping one's neighbors and parishioners encountered every day.



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sat right in the front row, taking in everything. I already had the desire to serve the less privileged and people who are suffering. The stories and vision of the CRS speakers caught my attention."

"I lead the CRS student group at Mount Angel and participate in regular phone conferences with seminary CRS groups across the US. This is where my interest has always been: Touching the lives of those who are suffering, who are denied freedoms, who are going through pain, abandoned and neglected."

Last spring, Mr. Okoro attended the Catholic Social Ministry Gathering in Washington, D.C., sponsored by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. There, he

As a seminarian in Fresno, Mr. Okoro said he has been able to assist in an area where 90 percent of the people are farmers. "With the knowledge I am getting from CRS," he said, "I know that I must play a role and advocate for their support. With CRS, I am learning to help people advocate for themselves."

A big lesson Mr. Okoro learned at the conference was that CRS is not interested in merely handing out money. "One of the presentations," he said, "was by a sister who went

to Kenya with CRS where they established a school for kids who had no hope of attending school. Then they began a small farm to feed those kids. From the food they sold, they were able to build a hospital. So now the people have education, work, and healthcare.”

To his surprise, Mr. Okoro found that he was the only seminarian attending the conference, even though CRS partners with a few seminaries in the United States. “So many bishops at the conference approached me to ask about the CRS partnership at Mount Angel,” he said. “They wanted to know how Mount Angel Seminary incorporates the CRS mission and activities into the seminary formation program and activities.”

Reflecting on his future life as a pastor, Mr. Okoro said, “Being a pastor is to be a man of communion. You must know the people you serve. You must know each of your parishioners and what they are going through. Pope Francis has said that holiness is about reaching out in solidarity with people.

“At Mount Angel,” he said, “the formation program teaches Communion Ecclesiology, which means reaching out to care for one another, to accept each person as he or she is. Being involved with CRS helps me to do that. It helps me to develop the heart of Christ.”

— Teresa Myers



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Walking pilgrimage is annual highlight

Each year my diocesan brother and I have made a walking pilgrimage from Mount Angel to some holy site in Portland, such as the Marian shrine of the Grotto or a local parish church. We were inspired to make these pilgrimages because we had both made pilgrimages in Europe prior to seminary: Luke had walked the pilgrimage from Hilaire Belloc’s “e Path to Rome,” and I had walked the French route of the Camino de Santiago. We also recognized a lack of religious pilgrimages and their spiritual sense in the United States.

of God to reach the destination. Along the way, the pilgrim builds that relationship with God and consequently builds relationships with the brothers and sisters they travel with and those they meet along the way. Prayer is the heart of making a pilgrimage, so Luke and I make a point of attending daily Mass, praying the Divine Office, and the rosary along the way. We also commit an hour to walking in silence each day for powerful occasions of encountering God.

— Peter Laughlin,
Second Year theology
Archdiocese of Portland in Oregon

Generosity

News for Benefactors & Volunteers

Historic Abbey Library Finds Cure for Climate Change



building's "envelope," and installation of ADA restrooms and an enhanced security system. ese needs, among others, were identi ed during a comprehensive master planning process funded by a generous grant from the Jean Vollum Fund, in honor of Howard and Jean Vollum's leading role in supporting the original construction of the Abbey library in 1970. Many other friends and benefactors also have contributed to the library's 50anniversary-readiness project. All are deserving of our utmost gratitude.

e Abbey library is an architectural gem in the Paci c Northwest. It is one of only two buildings in the United States (the other is at MIT) designed by Alvar Aalto – one of the early giants of modern architecture.

Completed in 1970, the library received the 2014 World Monuments Fund Award. Recently, Oregon architects voted it the second most iconic building in the state, after Timberline Lodge at Mt. Hood. Because the library represents some of the nest work of a master architect, it may become eligible for the National Historic Registry in 2020. With its improved internal climate, it will serve as a hospitable environment for monks, se2ratVyr.s, sta , visitors and scholars, as well as the collections they enjoy.

In May, Mount Angel Abbey gratefully received news that the M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust has awarded a grant of \$279,000 to help refurbish the Abbey library in time for its 50th anniversary in 2020. Especially during our increasingly hot summers extremes of temperature and humidity have taken a toll.

condition. However, the HVAC system is running at half the required air volume to provide consistent temperatures and humidity control. Installation of a new system, plus an updated electrical system, will ensure energy and cost e ciency while providing relief for the thousands who use the library throughout the year.

After nearly a half century of service the building itself is in excellent

Preparations for the anniversary include such projects as repairs to the

If you are interested in helping prepare the Abbey's historic library for its 50th anniversary celebration, please contact Jodi Kilcup at 503-845-3030.





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Weekdays

Vigils: 5:20 a.m.
Lauds: 6:30 a.m.
Holy Eucharist: 8:00 a.m.
Midday Prayer: Noon
Vespers: 5:20 p.m.
Compline: 7:30 p.m.

Sundays and Solemnities

Vigils: 7:30 p.m. (Saturday)
Lauds: 6:40 a.m.
Holy Eucharist: 9:00 a.m.
Midday Prayer: Noon
Vespers: 5:20 p.m.
Compline: 8:00 p.m.