



BENEDICTINE MONASTERY OF HAWAII

UNDER THE PATRONAGE OF

Mary, Spouse of the Holy Spirit

Olivetan Sponsorship of Benedictine Monastery of Hawaii to End

The community of the Benedictine Monastery of Hawaii and Fr. David Barfknecht, the superior, would like to address our oblates, friends, benefactors and families as well as the general public about a recent letter of intent to close the Benedictine Monastery of Hawaii issued by the Abbot General of the Olivetan Benedictine Congregation to which we have belonged since our founding in 1983.

Our monastery belongs to the Olivetan Benedictine Congregation, an international monastic congregation of monasteries with its headquarters in Italy. In November, the Abbot General of the Congregation with his council decided that some monasteries needed to be closed because of the number and ages of members and lack of vocational prospects. In the United States, two monasteries were designated to be closed including our monastery. The date for the members of the U.S. monasteries to choose another monastery was set for March 21, 2013.

The community here is formulating a response to this unexpected turn of events and discerning what we will actually do. We are in the process of investigating and assessing our options, especially what avenues exist to keep the monastery in Waialua open and the community intact. In general, the community does not want to cease or to leave our monastic life of prayer and ministry here in Hawaii.

The first priority is to request that the Abbot General withdraw the present deadline to allow more time and a process for discerning and accomplishing what needs to be done. That effort is already underway.

We have legal and canonical counsel available to us and Bishop Larry Silva of the Diocese of Honolulu has been personally very kind and supportive to us.

For the moment we intend to sort through the issues and to discern what God is asking of us, and allowing for us, as a community. We expect to continue to live and function as we have been until there is clarity about what comes next. There is not much more to be said at this time, but we will keep you informed periodically as plans develop.

We certainly count upon your prayers and your continued support and encouragement.

Trusting in the intercession of Mary, Spouse of the Holy Spirit,

The community of the Benedictine Monastery of Hawaii
Fr. David Barfknecht, OSB - superior
February 3, 2013