



The Hawaiian Benedictine

Newsletter of the:
Benedictine Monastery of Hawaii

With the canonical title of:
Mary, Spouse of the Holy Spirit Monastery

Spring 2014

Issue #117

HOLY WEEK??

You have to be kidding. What is so “holy” about being beaten, carrying a cross, being nailed to it, and hanging there for three hours? Read a bit more, my friends. Look at the ending! Who is that walking into a locked room? Whose hands and side did your fingers probe, Thomas? Magdalene, that was no gardener you were talking with! Fellows from Emmaus, whom did you see in the “breaking of the bread”?

Lent is generally not our favorite time of the year, is it? Forty days and nights of fasting, abstaining, giving up, doing more for others, etc. The list goes on and on. We begin on Ash Wednesday and walk around with ashes on our foreheads. We agree to change our ways, do we not? Why would that be important? Because HE asks us to do so! Who is HE? The Son of God who takes on our human life in order to offer it in reparation for our sins.

One year I asked my junior high students to write an oxymoron. They loved the idea...a moron...yea! I gave them the words...Lenten Joy. They looked at me in horror. Lent is not a joyful time! “Look at the end of the story,” I replied. In the eyes of the Church, it is a positive time for each of us!

I have gained some weight lately and hope to dispense with it soon. I have also been addicted to self-centeredness, to give less to others, to avoid my areas of weakness, and to break free from the stickiness of my life! It is a time

for me to sit with HIM and look at areas of my life that hold me back from the benefits of HIS sacrifice for me. It is a time to return HIS love.

Has Death entered your life? I lost my mother years ago, then my sister, my dad, my husband, my little granddaughter and my brother. I have taught students who have died...what difficult funerals. What was our Mother Mary thinking as she watched her Jesus die? How could lent be a time of joy?

Lent is a special time of forty days and nights. It is a time to look within and focus on setting ourselves free of our sinfulness. It is a time of reconciliation and newness.

Holy Week brings us to the end and the beginning of our story as it joins with the Son of God’s Life. We celebrate Palm Sunday and wave our palms in triumph. We go to Mass daily if we can or we read the liturgy of the day as we prepare for Thursday. We call it Holy Thursday and celebrate the Eucharist and the priesthood of all those who have served the Lord alone over the ages. We allow our feet to be washed and our sins to be forgiven.

As a child, my mother sent my sister and me to church every Good Friday to sit in quiet before the LORD. We sat beneath HIS cross with Mary and John. We knew who we

were and asked for forgiveness as HIS blood fell upon us. These days we go forth to kiss HIS cross, to receive HIS BODY, and to go home in silence.



(Cont. on pg. 2)



ON MY MIND

Dear Friends,

This issue is late, as I have not kept up with things, and maintenance/construction stuff gets my attention easier than writing/editing. I apologize to our readers and to those who contributed content. The saving grace is that the Easter Season goes for 50 days.

One of the highlights of the last few months was a visit, at the end of February with the monks of Conception Abbey and the Benedictine sisters at Clyde, MO. I spent 3 days visiting with Abbot Gregory and a number of the monks in the interest of establishing an informal relationship with their community as a link to stay connected with the rest of the Benedictine world. It is our hope that the sisters at Clyde will also enhance that kind of connection.

I then went on to attend a 4 day workshop with Benedictine Abbots and Priors, from around North America, held at St. Bernard's Abbey in Cullman, AL. It was a wonderful experience of fellowship and insight on the theme of "the new evangelization." It was also a great way to connect with other Benedictines, a few of whom I already knew.

It was a real blessing to have the stations of the cross completed and able to be used during the latter part of lent this year. I want to also acknowledge Joseph Ornellas who helped get the little road to Mary's Grotto built as his Eagle scout project and his next younger brother Anthony (5 total), who helped locate and clear the sites for the crosses and set up the benches as his Eagle scout project. They both did marvelous work directing their projects. We thank all the scouts and their fathers who participated, as well as the men from Resurrection of the Lord parish.

As we celebrate Jesus' Easter triumph.

Love and Prayers,

Fr. David

HOLY WEEK?? (Cont.)

We felt alone and silent on Saturday. Once more we trooped to church to see the tabernacle open and empty. We, too, felt empty. It was not a day to play, but to pray. We sat in silence once more. I kept wondering how our Mother Mary must have felt. As years went by and grandparents and relatives died, we again felt the emptiness...but with a new ending.

Easter morning we jump to see what the Easter Bunny has brought us...or we laugh in delight to see the little ones cry in joy. What are we celebrating?

As we enter church once more we see the lights, the candles, feel the joy that permeates that same place of death! Why? HE IS RISEN! Alleluia! He has returned to life, just as we hope we have during these days of lent.

Does this change our lives? You bet it does! When the time arrives, I will be with my loved ones once again. I will see the radiant face of my Lord and Savior Jesus. I will be engulfed in the glory of my God. I will give Mother Mary and the saints a hug and kiss. Look forward to the Joy of Holy Week...to the joy of Life Everlasting...to the End of the Story!

-Gerry Keirnan

***A BLESSED EASTER SEASON TO ALL OUR FRIENDS,
OBLATES AND FAMILIES.***



STATIONS OF THE CROSS COMPLETED FOR LENT 2014

On the 3rd Sunday of Lent, March 23, we had a group of about 30 friends join us to bless and pray our new outdoor stations of the cross for the first time. Some of the men who helped construct our outdoor stations joined us for the occasion.

The 14 crosses are arranged along either side of the little road that goes up the ravine from the end of the monastery orchard terraces to the grotto of Mary and the columbarium.



Sheree Pokipala (to the left, with Fr. Michael, at station 3) created the mosaics mounted in the center of each cross and was able to be present. She shared with us about her powerful spiritual experience while creating the mosaics.

We are so grateful to Sheree and the volunteers (most appear in the photo above) who gave so many hours and hard work to bring Fr. Michael's vision to life. We trust that many of our visitors and retreatants will be blessed by praying these stations in the years to come.

BY THE WAY...

□ Fr. Timothy Ottman's memorial service was graciously hosted by Fr. Chris Keahi and St. Michael's Parish on Jan 4. Bishop Larry presided with 10 priests and 2 deacons attending. Oblate Bernadine Zimbra and her sons David and Daniel joined Sr. Mary Jo and Sr. Geralyn providing music. Sr. CC coordinated meal, program and Mass cards with the help of parishoners and friends. Ed Leomo gifted us with his photography on this special celebration honoring the life and passing of Fr. Tim. His urn now rests in the crypt beneath the tabernacle in our chapel.

□ Sr. MaryJo and Fr. Michael welcomed 35 Army Chaplains on Feb. 20, focusing on "Caring for the Care Givers." After his talk Fr. Michael was presented a commemorative medal from the chaplains. As the result of his sharing with the chaplains on this day, Fr. Michael has been asked to give similar sharing at two events on June 5 and June 6, 2014, celebrating the 70th anniversary of "D-Day." Fr. Michael was 18 years old when his unit landed on the beach in Normandy 3 days after D-Day.

□ ABBOT DAVID'S SCHOOL FOR SPIRITUAL DIRECTORS program is offered each summer. Established by the late Abbot David Geraets, OSB, and continued by Marie DiSciullo-Naples, Ph.D. with faculty, staff and graduates & friends of Abbot David.

The next Session will be July 18 - August 1, 2014 at the Mission Renewal Center at Old Mission Santa Barbara, 2201 Garden St., Santa Barbara, CA 93105.

For more information, see:

www.mrcschoolforspiritualdirectors.mynetworksolutions.com

or contact Dr. Marie DiSciullo-Naples, at joyologist@gwi.net or call: 207-491-7524.

FROM THE DAILY LOG:

MS- Fr. Michael Sawyer AC- Sr. Ann Cic
TO- Fr. Tim Ottman GS- Sr. Gerilyn Spaulding
DB- Fr. David Barfknecht CC- Sr. Celeste Cabral
MJ- Sr. Mary Jo McNenry

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Jan 3 CC and Dallas Carter are Co-Keynote Speakers for Youth Rally on Lanai.

Jan 4 Memorial service for Fr. TO celebrated at St. Michael's Parish in Waialua.

Jan14 DB holds first meeting with Finance Council under new monastery status.

Jan18 All Membership BCC Retreat is held at the Monastery. Fr. Gary Secor and Betty and Ed Coda present "Theology of the Body".

Jan25 MJ, AC, GS, CC attend Right To Life March at the State Capitol.

Feb 1 GS & AC attend World Day for Consecrated Life Eucharist at UH Newman Center.

Feb 8 MJ speaks to Holy Name Society & Knights of Columbus at OLCG. Proceeds go to Pearson Foundation Pregnancy Crisis Centers.

Feb 17 Presidents' Day Great Aloha Run - CC runs with Diocesan Youth and Young Adults for Vocations.

Feb 20 35 Army Chaplains come to Monastery for a Day of Prayer. MJ and MS speak to them.

Mar 8 CC speaks at Life in the Spirit Seminar at Star of the Sea. She also speaks at the Awakening Retreat at Chaminade University.

Mar 23 Stations of the Cross on road to the grotto are blessed and prayed officially for the first time.

Mar 27 GS, AC and volunteers attend Diocesan Production of "The Passion of Christ" at the Paikuu Theatre, Windward Community College. (Parents and children from Catholic Homeschool Families, who meet at the monastery regularly with Sr. CC, participated in the production.)

Mar 30 GS, AC and friends see: "Life Without Limits" with Nick Vujicic, at Aloha Stadium. 7,000 attend to hear his message of trust in God. MS & MJ see "The Passion of Christ" play.

April 2 CC gives 2-day Lenten Parish Mission on Kauai.

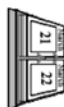
April 10 Community and friends celebrate MS's 89th birthday with Mexican food and the movie "God's Not Dead."

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JESUS CHRIST IS LORD

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CALENDAR

APRIL

26

Terry Hershey-Inspirational speaker for Diocesan Youth & Young Adults. 9am-1pm at the monastery.

MAY

3

Diocesan Jubilee Celebration: Fr. David's 25th anniversary of ordination.

4

Oblate Day at monastery 2-6 PM. Pot-luck supper. Novice class begins at 1 PM. Gerry Keirnan speaks on May: Our Lady's month. Diocesan Priests' Convocation-Turtle Bay.

4-9

150th anniversary of St. Damien's arrival in Hawaii - Blaisdell Convention Center.

9

Sr. CC speaks at St. Michael's 8th grade Graduation Dinner and Ceremony.

15-16

JUNE

1

Oblate Day at monastery 2-6 PM. Pot-luck supper. Novice class begins at 1 PM. Sr. CC speaks on ministry to young adults.

8

1:30pm celebration for Fr. David's 25th anniversary of ordination and 65th birthday.

14

Knights of Columbus St. John's Milliani retreat day at the monastery 9am - 2:30pm. St. Damien Military Parish-Married Couples Retreat at the monastery.

14

JULY

6

Oblate Day 2-6 PM. Pot-luck supper. Novices begin at 1pm. Dallas Carter speaks.

12

BCC Youth Pre-retreat Monastery 8:30 am. BCC Youth Retreat-St. Anthony Retreat Ctr.

18-20

The Hawaiian Benedictine is distributed quarterly by the Benedictine Monastery of Hawaii free to benefactors, friends and anyone who requests it.

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