

# The Hawaiian Benedictine

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

Spring 2015

Issue #120

### EASTER ALLELUIAS

by: Marie E. Barfknecht

Easter morning sunshine, and an impromptu reading of the Resurrection stories in all four of the gospels, leads to a joyful understanding. Read together, they seem a study of the women in Jesus' life. These are the ones who supported the mission band as they tramped the dusty roads of Palestine. They are the women who listened, who waited, who served, who wept.

Here they are, on this day of days, longing to be of service once more. They are confused, doubtful, and yet willing to be involved. Although the scoffing of the soldiers guarding the tomb, maybe even the eleven, is a concern to them, they are not deterred from carrying out their task of love.

Early in the morning they go alone to the place where their beloved Jesus lay. They do not know how they will move the stone. That does not stop them.

They will do what they need to do. Love demands it.

What amazement, fear, awe, wonder, grips them in close succession as they see first the open grave, then hear the frightfully beautiful messengers, "He is not here!" "Do not look for the living among the

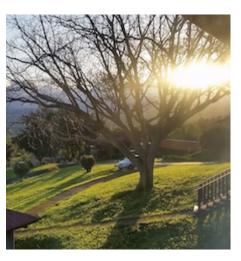
dead." Living? The heart leaps! Living? He is living?! Now belief, exaltation, begin to drive out anxiety and sorrow. They run, according to Matthew; or leave silently, according to Mark...or stay silently and wait, as John tells us of Mary Magdalene. In actuality, I wonder, did they not each respond in her very own way, with tears, with running, with laughter, and with silent joy?

Bursting with their good news upon the grieving apostles, they are met with male brusqueness. Pure nonsense! Luke says. However, Peter and John do run to see with their own eyes. John, more quickly,

as he himself recounts, although he gives way to Peter to be first to go into the very place, "where he had been laid." Peter rushes in and stands aghast at what he finds: no one, nothing, only the burial cloths. Curiously enough, much is made of the fact that the face covering is laid aside, neatly folded, by itself. What hidden meaning does this have, I wonder? John's account of Mary Magdalene is also a puzzlement. According to John she went alone to the grave. So early in the day? Without an escort? Just to be near the one she

loved? Perhaps. It would serve a woman's need; just to be there.

Mary's encounter with Jesus, so unexpected when she believes she is speaking to a stranger, "the gardener," seethes with emotion.





ON MY MIND

Dear Friends,

As we come to the end of Lent and enter final preparations for the celebration of Easter, we are reassured that the love of God for us gains us victory over every challenge that confronts us in life. We enter into a celebration of thanksgiving and gratitude for God's promise and provision for us in Christ Jesus.

We continue to give thanks for the support of our Bishop Larry Silva, priests and people of the Diocese of Honolulu, as well as our Oblates and our many friends and volunteers. Now more than ever, we realize daily that we could not continue on without that help and support. We are encouraged by the recent interest of a couple of potential candidates who are discerning their call to join the community. We ask your prayers for them and for us.

The challenges to our health become a little more obvious each day. We are grateful for God's providence in providing good doctors and therapists to care for our needs and for the health and strength for our elders in their 80's. Pray for Fr. Michael as we celebrate his 90th birthday on April 11.

May your Easter Season be full of hope and joy. Fr. David

(Easter, cont. from pg. 1)

Alone in the garden, Mary weeps. She looks into the tomb. So distraught is she that she is undismayed at the sight of the angels. Weeping, she does not recognize Jesus until he speaks her name. "Mary," Jesus says. Who can fail to hear in this tender naming the fullness of love and encouragement: "Mary" and her breathless response, "Rabbouni!"

Here is life! Life in its fullness! This exchange of names; the encounter which says, "I see you. I know you." This recognition of unique personhood enters into intimacy of the purest kind. You are accepted and acceptable. I see you and receive who you are fully. A great mystery, humanity's essential need to belong lies here. If only we could fathom it and live it in our lives! It is the Easter mystery encapsulated in a simple exchange.

"Go," we are told, "and do in like manner." Receive your brothers and sisters in this way: Openly, lovingly, compassionately. Yes. On this sunny Easter morning, I say "Yes." I will go. Go with me, Lord. Amen. Alleluia!



The community of Mary, Spouse of the Holy Spirit Monastery wishes you a Blessed and Glorious Easter. May the light of the Risen Christ shine upon you and your families.

### Adopt a Station of the Cross!!

Again this Lent there has been interest in friends coming up to the monastery to pray at our outdoor set of stations of the cross that were constructed ast year along the path that goes from the terraces o the grotto of Mary. Since Lent always comes in he Hawaii rainy season, we have come to realize hat keeping up with the grass and brush that grows so prolifically is a big challenge.

Dur solution is to offer an "adopt-a-station" program wherein a family or BCC cell group or Knights of Columbus council etc. can volunteer to ake over the ongoing maintenance of one of the 14 stations. This would include keeping the grass and weeds down around that station, clearing fallen pranches, and generally keeping that station's mmediate area clean and neat for the benefit of hose who come to pray the stations of the cross. We will develop a set of guidelines so that we naintain some sense of consistency throughout the whole set of stations

We are off to a good start as it happens that station #2, Jesus Takes Up His Cross, has been adopted by the Ron and Theresa Gochenhouer family. Station #4, Jesus Meets His Mother, has been adopted by Rich McGough (one of the men who helped erect the stations in the first place). So that leaves 12 other station still available for adoption.



The fifth station had a near disaster as a large tree fell around it. Miraculously none of the branches hit the cross and it was not damaged. Just a mess to clean up.

### BY THE WAY...

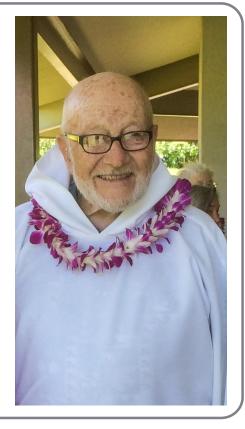
Fr. Michael Sawyer will be celebrating his 90th Birthday (and his 65th anniversary of monastic vows) on April 11 this year. The celebration begins with Mass at 10am at the monastery. - - All are welcome!

Born and raised in Northern Wisconsin, upon graduation from High School in 1943, he entered the army. After basic training in Texas he was shipped to England and entered France at Normandy Beach on June 8th (D day + 3) with a replacement unit and joined the 9th infantry. He was wounded twice in France and again as they crossed into Germany.

After the war and two years of college he entered St. Benedict's

Abbey at Benet Lake, WI in 1948. He made his first profession Jan. 1950. A brother for many years, he was in charge of the dairy farm, thousands of chickens, and was monastery procurator at various times. In 1969 he went with 3 other monks from Benet Lake to their monastery in Pecos, NM. While there serving the Charismatic Renewal, he was ordained a priest in 1974.

In September of 1983 Fr. Michael came to Hawaii as founder of the Benedictine Monastery of Hawaii, later named Mary, Spouse of the Holy Spirit. Beginning in 1985 he was until recently spiritual director for the Basic Christian Community of Hawaii. He continues to serve in various ways.



# FROM THE DAILY Log.

MJ- Sr. Mary Jo McEnany DB- Fr. David Barfknecht MS- Fr. Michael Sawyer GS- Sr. Geralyn Spaulding CC- Sr. Celeste Cabral AC- Sr. Ann Cic

Jan 13: Matt and Theresa LaGrave help us to Gomes on the theme "Powered by the Holy Spirit for the monastery draws 125 together to hear Fr. Herman Jan 10: BCC 30th Year All Membership Retreat at

Christian Unity at the Newman Center chapel. babies. They later attend the Taize Prayer for lighting of luminaries at the State Capitol for aborted "undecorate" from Christmas. Many Thanks! GS and friend attend Prayer Service and the

Steve Paty to hear guest speaker, Carl Mueller. Jan 31: 15 AA men meet at the monastery with Cathedral of St. Theresa. Very beautiful occasions! Tom attend Deaconate Ordinations at the CoJan 30-31: DB, MS, MJ, AC, GS, & Volunteers Val &

Feb 2: Jacqueline King, from Temecula, CA, arrives lowa, arrive for their five day private retreat. Feb 1: 3 priests from the Diocese of Des Moines,

slammed a heavy door on it. AC's finger that was broken when recent high winds neighbor, welcomes GS and AC to his clinic to x-ray Feb 3: Dr. Clay Everline, Oblate and Waialua to offer her gracious assistance for the next 3 months

Feb 5: Benjamin Martinez arrives from Miami, FL, to piano. Its Kaput - No repair parts are available visits to assess the condition of our broken electronic Feb 5: Expert in electronic piano repairs, Val Vanga,

Consecrated Life" Mass at St. Theresa's CoCathedral Feb 7: AC and GS attend the "Annual World Day for stay for 3 weeks discerning a possible vocation.

at the monastery and celebrate Valentines Day Feb 12: Catholic home schoolers attend monthly day

Anthony's Retreat Center. Feb 13-15: MJ attends BCC Youth Retreat at St

cook "Jumbalaya" for the community on Mardi Gras. Feb 17: GS and volunteer Tom (from New Orleans) Pastor Herb Franklin and 35 military

Mar 1: GS assists Bernadine Zimbra in presenting Chaplains here on retreat for the day. the Annual Oblate Retreat Day.

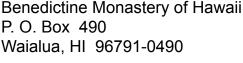
for their BCC Cell Group at the monastery Mar 2: Roxanne & Ray Torres host Dinner for us and

from Wisconsin for her 6 week long stay Mar 18: DB's mother and MS's sister, Marie, arrives

> Spring 2015 Issue #120 JESUS CHRIST IS LORD

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# CALENDAR:

## APRIL:

- <u>2</u> Holy Week-Easter Sunday (No Oblate Sunday this Month)
- Fr. Michael's 90th Birthday Celebration St. Michael's Parish general council Knights of Columbus Wives (Kona) visit

- Resurrection of the Lord parish workday
- Oblate Sunday: 2pm Jason Jones Adult BCC team pre-retreat 8am-1pm Guadalupe and the Image of God" movie producer, on: "Our Lady of
- 15-17 Adult BCC Retreat # 109 St. Anthony's at the monastery Retreat Ctr. call 285-0254 for info
- 29-31 Rachel's Vineyard Retreat - for postabortion healing, call 741-3819 for info

- Knights of Columbus Retreat (Mililani)
- Oblate Sunday: 2pm Dallas Carter Youth BCC team pre-retreat 8am-1pm
- at the monastery

## July:

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- Oblate Sunday: 2pm
- 10-12 BCC Youth Retreat (ages 14-18) St. Anthony's-Kalihi call 285-0254 for info

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

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