



# 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!



**Behold I make all things new for you.**

*Rev. 21:5*

***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 last year along the path that goes from the terraces to the grotto of Mary. Since Lent always comes in the Hawaii rainy season, we have come to realize that keeping up with the grass and brush that grows so prolifically is a big challenge.

Our 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 take over the ongoing maintenance of one of the 14 stations. This would include keeping the grass and weeds down around that station, clearing fallen branches, and generally keeping that station’s immediate area clean and neat for the benefit of those who come to pray the stations of the cross. We will develop a set of guidelines so that we maintain 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 stations 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:

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

**Jan 10:** BCC 30th Year All Membership Retreat at the monastery draws 125 together to hear Fr. Herman Gomes on the theme "Powered by the Holy Spirit for 30 Years."

**Jan 13:** Matt and Theresa LaGrave help us to "undecorate" from Christmas. Many Thanks!

**Jan 22:** GS and friend attend Prayer Service and the lighting of luminaries at the State Capitol for aborted babies. They later attend the Taize Prayer for Christian Unity at the Newman Center chapel.

**Jan 30-31:** DB, MS, MJ, AC, GS, & Volunteers Val & Tom attend Deaconate Ordinations at the Co-Cathedral of St. Theresa. Very beautiful occasions!

**Jan 31:** 15 AA men meet at the monastery with Steve Paty to hear guest speaker, Carl Mueller.

**Feb 1:** 3 priests from the Diocese of Des Moines, Iowa, arrive for their five day private retreat.

**Feb 2:** Jacqueline King, from Temecula, CA, arrives to offer her gracious assistance for the next 3 months.

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

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

**Feb 5:** Benjamin Martinez arrives from Miami, FL, to stay for 3 weeks discerning a possible vocation.

**Feb 7:** AC and GS attend the "Annual World Day for Consecrated Life" Mass at St. Theresa's CoCathedral.

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

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

**Feb 17:** GS and volunteer Tom (from New Orleans) cook "Jumbalaya" for the community on Mardi Gras.

**Feb 19:** Pastor Herb Franklin and 35 military Chaplains here on retreat for the day.

**Mar 1:** GS assists Bernadine Zimbra in presenting the Annual Oblate Retreat Day.

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

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

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**JESUS CHRIST IS LORD**  
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## CALENDAR:

### APRIL:

- 1-5 Holy Week-Easter Sunday  
 (No Oblate Sunday this Month)
- 11 Fr. Michael's 90th Birthday Celebration
- 25 Knights of Columbus Wives (Kona) visit St. Michael's Parish general council

### MAY:

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

### JUNE:

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

### JULY:

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

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