



THE ABBEY OF OUR LADY OF
NEW CLAIRVAUX
VINA, CALIFORNIA

GESTA MONASTICA

News from the Abbey of Our Lady of New Clairvaux



Father Paul Mark Schwan, OCSO
ABBOT

Welcome!

MISSION STATEMENT

Seeking God at this place of New Clairvaux, we are a community of Cistercian monks living the Rule of Saint Benedict. We witness God's love for the world according to the Gospel of Jesus Christ by a life of prayer, labor and sustainable stewardship of our resources in simplicity and openness to the signs of the times. Our monastery welcomes all people in a spirit of hospitality, and engages others in collaborative relationships.

FROM THE ABBOT'S DESK

Dear friends,

The frost is on the pumpkin (almost!). The season of fall greets us with its array of vivid colors, azure skies, and cool mornings. The sounds of geese, sandhill cranes, and flocks of song birds are the music of autumn as these feathered friends return to their winter home here in the Sacramento Valley. For me it is a time of change, to assess the activities of spring and summer and to move inward to listen with an attentive heart to God's call to me. This call invites me to respond in new ways to the Gospel

command for daily conversion to serve more generously and graciously.

Around and about the



Bonzai tree in autumn.

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monastery we began the grape harvest in August and then moved into the prunes and walnuts. The tonnage of all three crops is down, in part due to the unstable weather this past spring. And now the orchards and vineyards take a well-deserved rest with the



hopes of a more productive year in 2020. And on September 8 we celebrated with great joy and gratitude the solemn profession of our Brother William Chng joined by family

and friends from Brother's native Singapore.

Among the items you will read in this issue of the Gesta you will find naming opportunities available for your consideration. I also mention that a few remaining choir stalls from the old church, with the names of the monks who last used them, handmade by our carpenter monks in 1960, still wait to be claimed.

Our daily rhythm of prayer, work, and liturgy reminds us to be grateful to God for all the good things God does for us. And having celebrated our national holiday of THANKSGIVING, one of the things we are most grateful for is your friendship and generous sharing in our mission that in all things God may be glorified.

God bless you,

Fr. Paul Mark



DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

Email: development@newclairvaux.org Telephone: 530-839-9936

DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT - Mike Prym

DONOR SERVICES ASSOCIATE - Kathryn Richards

SACRAMENTO REGIONAL DONOR RELATIONS OFFICER - Sue Schuttinger (530-567-1991)

Honoring our Dedicated Volunteers - Volunteers Appreciation Banquet 2019



CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE 2019

DECEMBER 24

10:45 P.M. - **THE OFFICE OF VIGILS OF CHRISTMAS**

DECEMBER 25

12 MIDNIGHT - **CHRISTMAS MASS OF MIDNIGHT**

10:30 A.M. - **CHRISTMAS DAY MASS**



ABBEY TOUR INFORMATION

Guests are welcome to take a self-guided tour any time between 2:30 PM - 5 PM. We are open weekdays and Saturdays but closed on Sundays. A guided tour can be arranged through the Development Department for groups of 10 or more. A suggested donation of \$10 per person supports the ongoing care and maintenance of our new abbey church. **For information contact the Development Department at 530-839-9936 or visit our website: www.newclairvaux.org.**

DECEMBER 2019

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
						1 1st SUNDAY ADVENT
2	3 Memorial of St Francis Xavier	4	5	6 Memorial of St Nicholas	7	8 2nd SUNDAY ADVENT
9 IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BVM solemnity	10	11	12 OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE feast	13	14 Memorial of St John of the Cross	15 3rd SUNDAY ADVENT (Gaudete Sunday)
16	17 "O Sapientia"	18 "O Adonai"	19 "O Radix Jesse"	20 "O Clavis David"	21 "O Oriens"	22 4th SUNDAY ADVENT "O Rex Gentium"
23 / 30	24 / 31	25 CHRISTMAS DAY	26 ST STEPHEN FIRST MARTYR feast	27 ST JOHN THE APOSTLE feast	28 THE HOLY INNOCENTS feast	29 THE HOLY FAMILY feast



Support the Abbey through your AmazonSmile purchases.

- 1) Access the following: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/94-1516317>
- 2) Your future purchases qualify for the .05% Abbey donation.

DID YOU KNOW

From December 17th to 23rd, the monks chant what are known as the "O Antiphons" at Vespers. The origins of this tradition date to as early as the 6th century. Each antiphon highlights one of the 7 Messianic titles: Emmanuel (God with us), Rex (King), Oriens (Eastern Dawn), Clavis David (Key of David), Radix Jesse (Root of Jesse), Adonai (Lord), and Sapientia (Wisdom).

VOLUNTEERING AT THE ABBEY

By Brother Christopher, Volunteer Program Director

From the very early days of the community's foundation in Vina we have been richly blessed with generous people who have volunteered their time and talents in many ways. In recent years the abbot felt it was time to formalize this gift into a structured program in order to make best use of volunteer help and to make it a more enriching experience for those who support us with their service. Especially with shrinking numbers of monks the help of our volunteers is truly appreciated.

My role as Volunteer Program director is to oversee the program, process volunteer applications, to make known volunteer opportunities and match interested persons with specific departments in need of help. The volunteers then work directly under their department head. For instance, we have volunteers helping out

as docents giving tours of the monastery grounds and new church, doing clerical work, landscaping, and cataloging in



our archives office.

The first step is filling-in an application for the program, which can be found on our website. This gives us a chance to get acquainted with prospective volunteers, their talents and interests. In

their kindness, many offer their services but if someone is interested in volunteering we ask them to check out our current volunteer opportunities listed on our website to see if we have a current opening for service. Also, unless specified otherwise, for practical purposes we limit our Abbey volunteers to those in our local Chico/Red Bluff area.

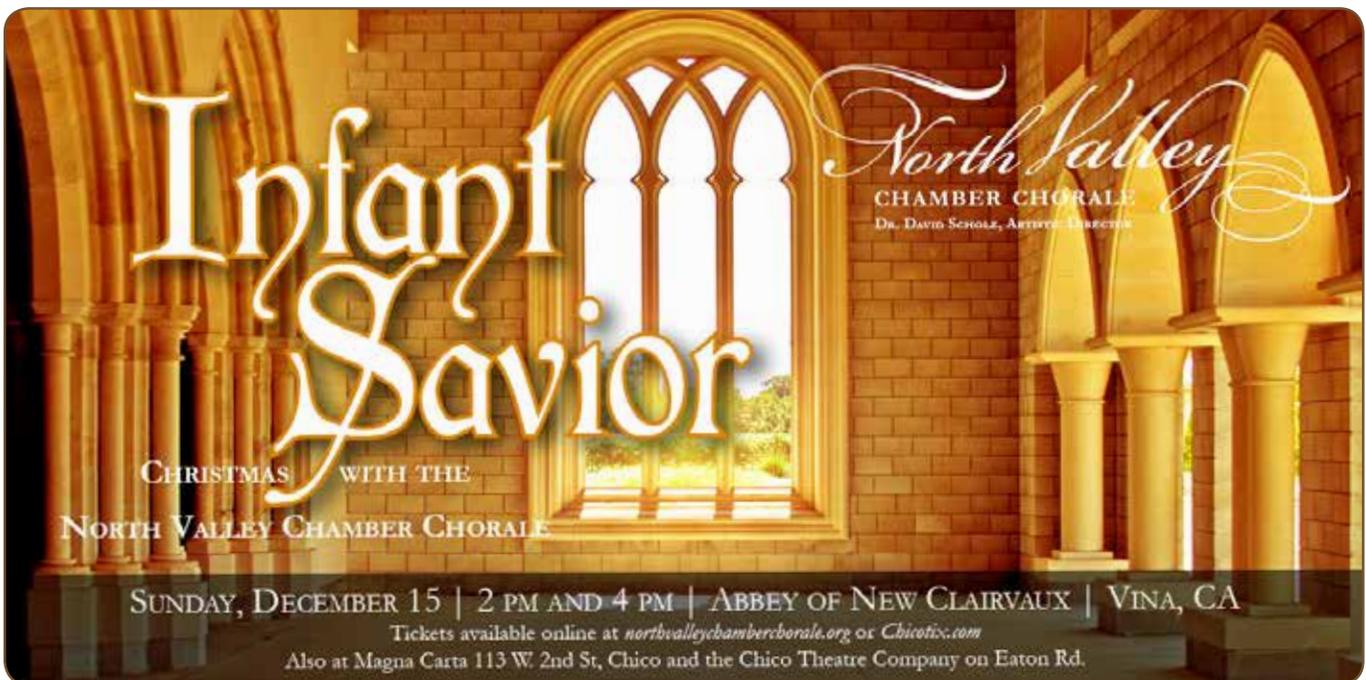
The monastery is meant to be a Place of Christ. This is maybe not the first thing one expects to hear in an article about a volunteer program, but for us it is of the essence. While the praying monastic community is at the heart of this endeavor, we cannot do it alone. We wish to involve the larger community, to invite a widening circle of friends to form an extended community of supporters and helpers to share in and be partakers of this exciting mission to be a particular Place of Christ in our world.



Thinking about becoming a monk? - Schedule a Discernment Visit

“Then Jesus said, ‘Let’s go off by ourselves to a quiet place and rest awhile’” (Mark 6:31). Discerning monastic life to the abbey begins with a visit. To schedule a discernment visit, contact our Vocation Director: godseeking@newclairvaux.org.

The Abbey of New Clairvaux will host the North Valley Chamber Chorale for their annual Christmas concert: “Infant Savior” on Sunday, December 15th. For more information, please visit northvalleychamberchorale.org or chicotix.com



Requirements for Joining the Order of Cistercians of the Strict Observance

Some requirements for joining:

- Practicing Catholic of at least two-years standing.
- A visit to our Abbey guesthouse for a vocational discernment retreat.
- Between ages of 22-40 (good health and psychological balance are important).

NAMING OPPORTUNITIES

The following items are available for your special patronage.

HANDMADE SILVER LITURGICAL VESSELS	
Aspersorium (Holy Water Vessel)	\$9,800.00
Thurible with Silver Chain (Incensor)	\$12,850.00
Boat (Incense Holder)	\$5,500.00
CHURCH SEATING	
Guest Seating	\$500.00 Stationary Chair
Overflow Seating	\$50.00 Folding Chair
CHURCH TILE FLOORING	
Texas Limestone for Monks' Choir	\$160.00 per tile
Travertine for Sanctuary, Gathering Space and Monks' Foyer	\$76.00 per tile



Sacramental Paten and Chalices designed by liturgical artist Joseph Aspell.



Have you thought about owning a monk's former choir stall? It can serve as a great way to remember your connection to the Abbey of Our Lady of New Clairvaux and the monks who have touched and impacted your lives.

Call or email Mike Prym
 Tel: 530-839-9936
 Email: mikeprym@newclairvaux.org

LITURGICAL VESSELS



These vessels were designed and hand-crafted by liturgical artist, Joe Aspell. For more information on his work, visit josephaspellstudio.com.

CHOIR STALLS FROM OLD ABBEY CHURCH

The old church may be gone. But the monks' choir stalls were carefully removed and are now kept safely in storage. The dimensions are 20" deep x 27" wide x 45" high. If you would like to have a remembrance of a choir stall that monks have prayed in for decades, you may be able to reserve it as a symbol of your personal connection to the Abbey for a suggested donation of \$1,000. Call the Development Office for more information: 530-839-9936.

A LABYRINTH WALK

By Brother William Chng, OCSO

On September 8, 2019 our Brother William made his solemn profession of lifetime vows as a Cistercian monk of New Clairvaux Abbey. In this article, he shares some of his spiritual preparation for this momentous decision.

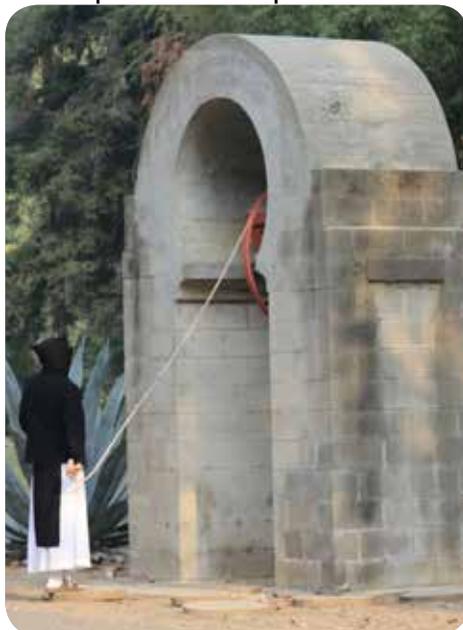
On September 8, 2019 our Brother William made his solemn profession of lifetime vows as a Cistercian monk of New Clairvaux Abbey. In this Blog he shares some of his spiritual preparation for this momentous decision:

Before I made my solemn profession, I was on week retreat at the Mercy Sisters' house in Auburn, CA. The beautiful, scenic and quiet environment was most conducive for a silent retreat, true silence that uplift and invades my spirit and soul.



The first scripture passage was from Colossians 1:9 - "We ask God to fill you with the knowledge of His will with all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives."

It was much food for thought as a start to a retreat as I meditate on the passage over and over. I was blessed with the opportunity to walk the labyrinth in the garden each evening. The labyrinth illuminates my path and was therapeutic. The path taken in



the labyrinth was similar to the circuitous monastic journey that I have embarked upon. I had time to recall and questions also arise, "Why am I here, am I ready to take my solemn vows in two weeks' time?"

I prayed fervently and asked for the grace to change myself, in Cistercian parlance it is the "conversatio morum" (the

conversion of ways). I also had more time to pray and carry others into my prayers for families, friends and sharing in their lives of sufferings, problems and joy.

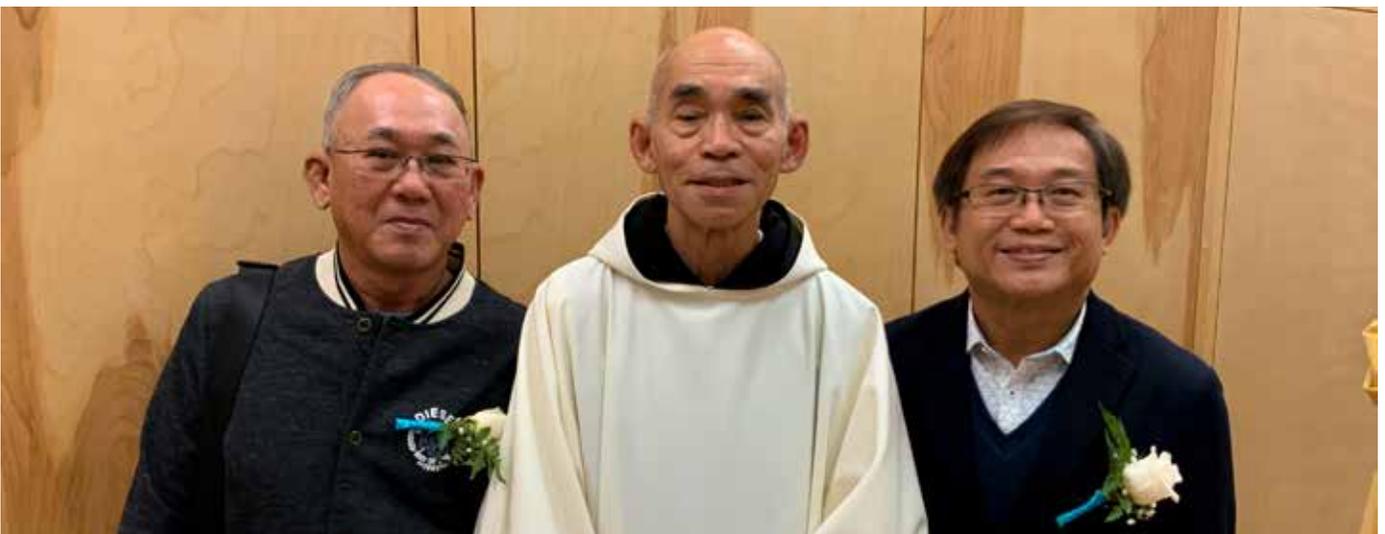
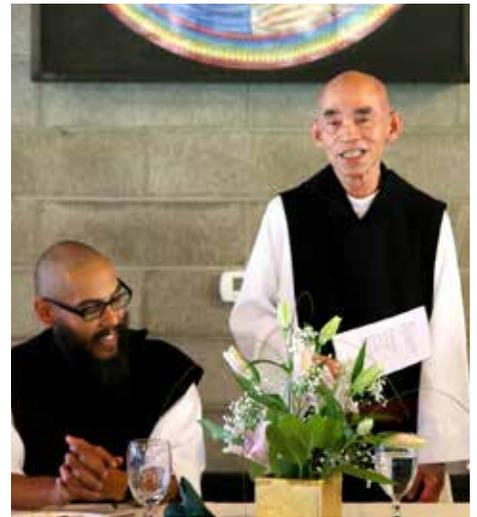
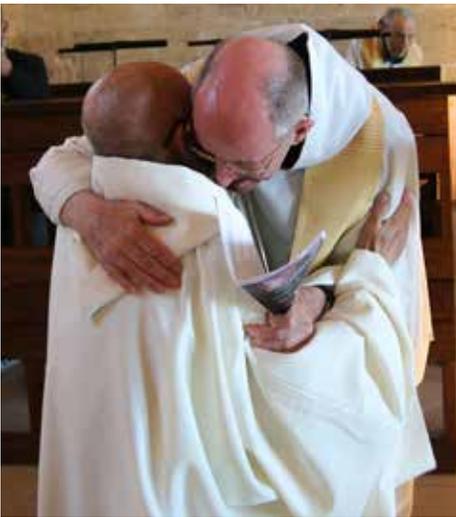
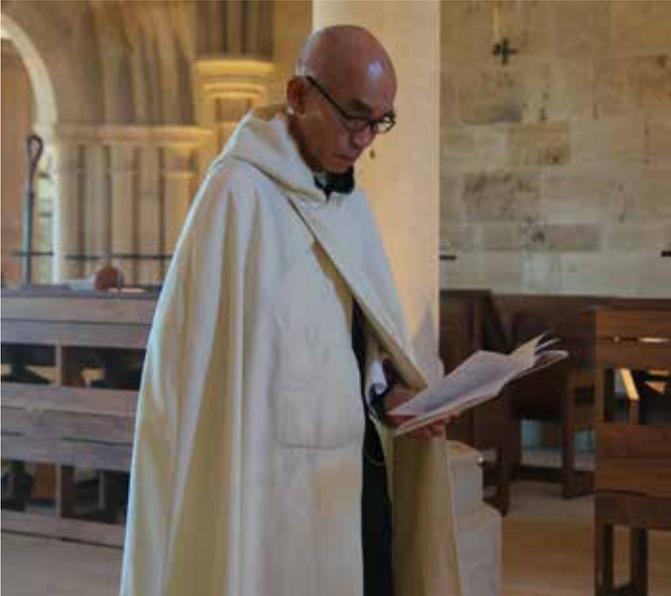
The final scripture passage was from 2 Peter 1:10 - "Brothers, you have been called and chosen, work all the harder to justify it by good deeds."

That was liberation and joyfulness. I realize that the Spirit of God was leading me and now I am ready to pronounce the profession formula as set in his Rule by our holy father Saint Benedict so many years ago:



"Receive me, O Lord as you have promised that I may live. Do not disappoint me in my hope."

SOLEMN PROFESSION OF OUR BROTHER WILLIAM CHNG



Abbey of New Clairvaux

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