



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,

Our harvest season has been completed here at the monastery. Throughout the harvest season our skies were filled with smoke and ash caused by the two wild fires burning on either side of the monastery, the largest fires in the history of our Golden State. But we were, and remain, safe and the smoke seems not to have caused any damage to our crops, the grapes being the most vulnerable.

Now we move into a more quiet phase of the year as we prepare for the annual

community retreat and experience the shorter, cooler days of autumn, praying that



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plentiful rains will once again bless our parched, brown land.

We sent you a survey earlier this year to ask you to share thoughts on a number of topics so we can be of better service to you. We were very heartened at the huge response. You took time out of your busy days to tell with us what was on your mind. Of the many things we monks learned from the survey the most important to me is that we monks have many friends who collaborate, share, and support who we are in our particular mission to serve Christ, to make known to the world the Kingdom of Heaven. We are truly grateful for your support. What



is apparent is that we all form a very large family united to Christ.

We remember you daily in prayer. You are not alone.

Thanks for reading,

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

AROUND THE CLOISTER

Our life in the cloister continues with its gentle rhythm of work and prayer and a quiet joy carried out in dedicated service to Christ. As a community of prayer, we continue to offer up supplications and petitions on behalf of our world.



Brother William celebrates his 75th birthday.



Father Thomas takes care of our koi fish.



Fr. Lawrence enjoys the Independence Day
cookout.



New Clairvaux Vineyard is officially Certified Organic granted
by USDA - National Organic Program - California Certified Organic Farmers.

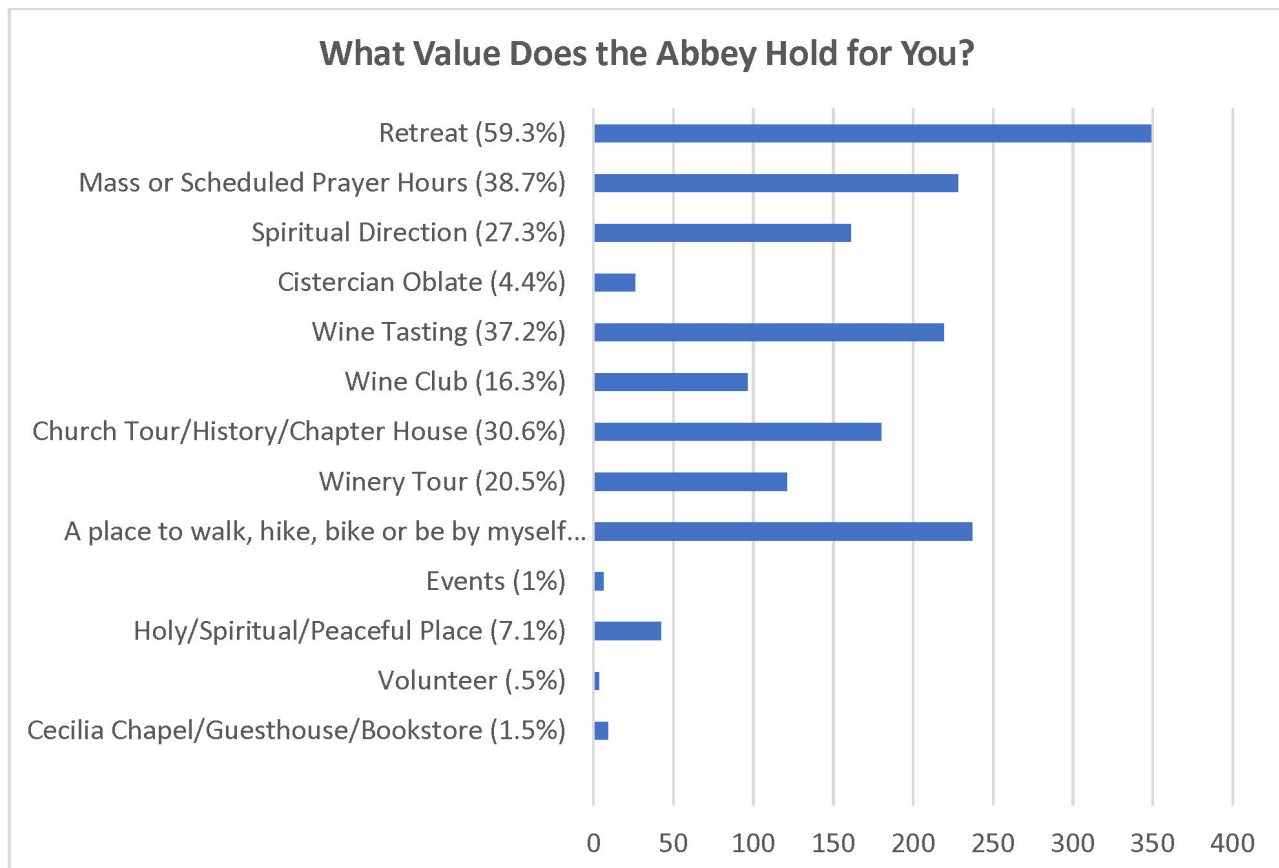
DONOR SURVEY RESULTS 2020

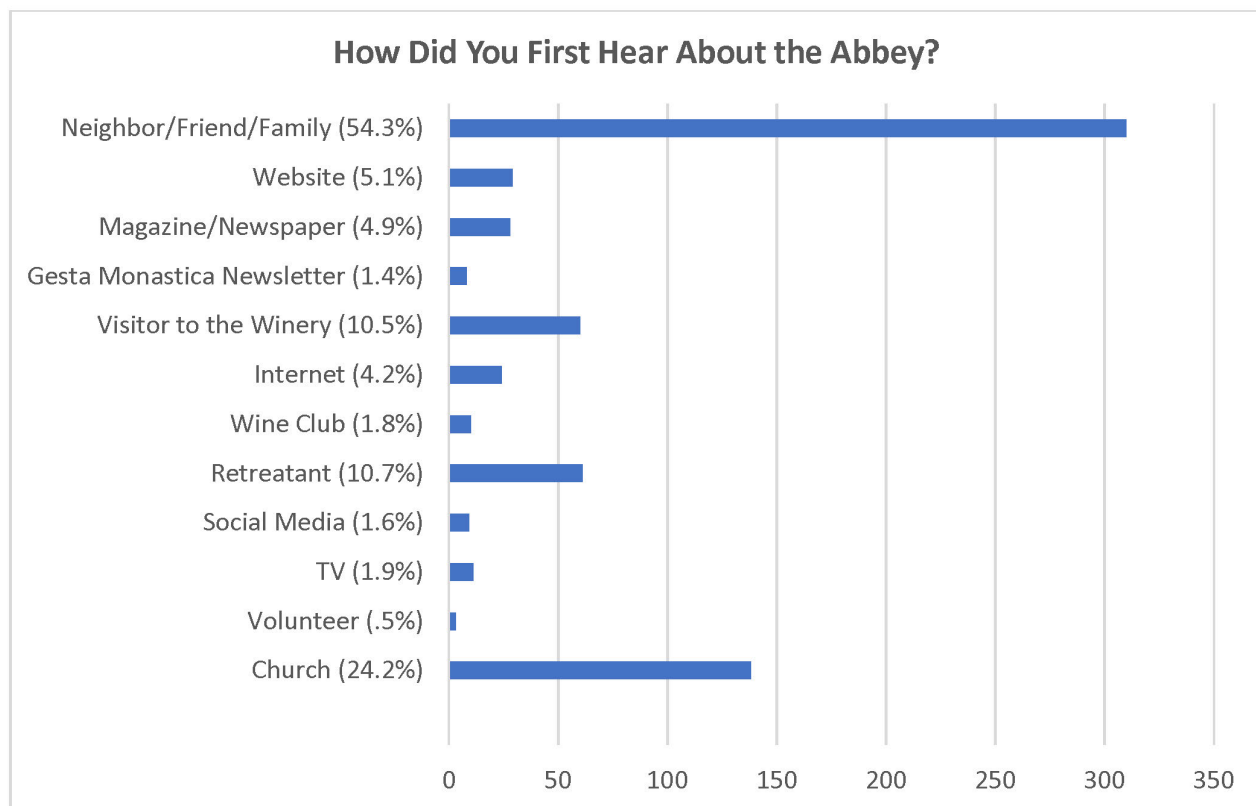
Last March, we mailed a survey to 6,347 donors, friends and visitors to the Abbey. As of July 28, 2020, 638 of you responded - a 10% survey return. Although not requested, many returned the survey with gifts and a promise of prayers. Father Paul Mark and his brothers remain humbled and grateful for your generosity.

As you review the results below, please note the following observations:

- Some data questions with multiple responses created percentages not always equal to 100%
- Not all questions were answered
- Gesta Monastica newsletter suggestions and comments for the monks are identified by interest topic frequency, i.e., the number of individual responses, e.g., (5)
- The 2021 Abbey River Cruise has been cancelled in the hope it can be rescheduled for 2023.

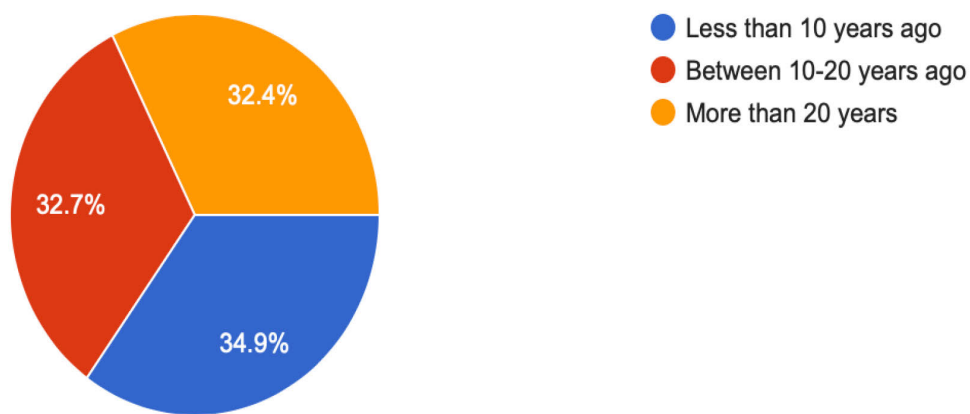
Thanks to all of you who participated in the survey. As always, we welcome your comments and suggestions on how we can serve you better and honor the monks' mission and ministry to welcome all as Christ.





How long ago?

627 responses

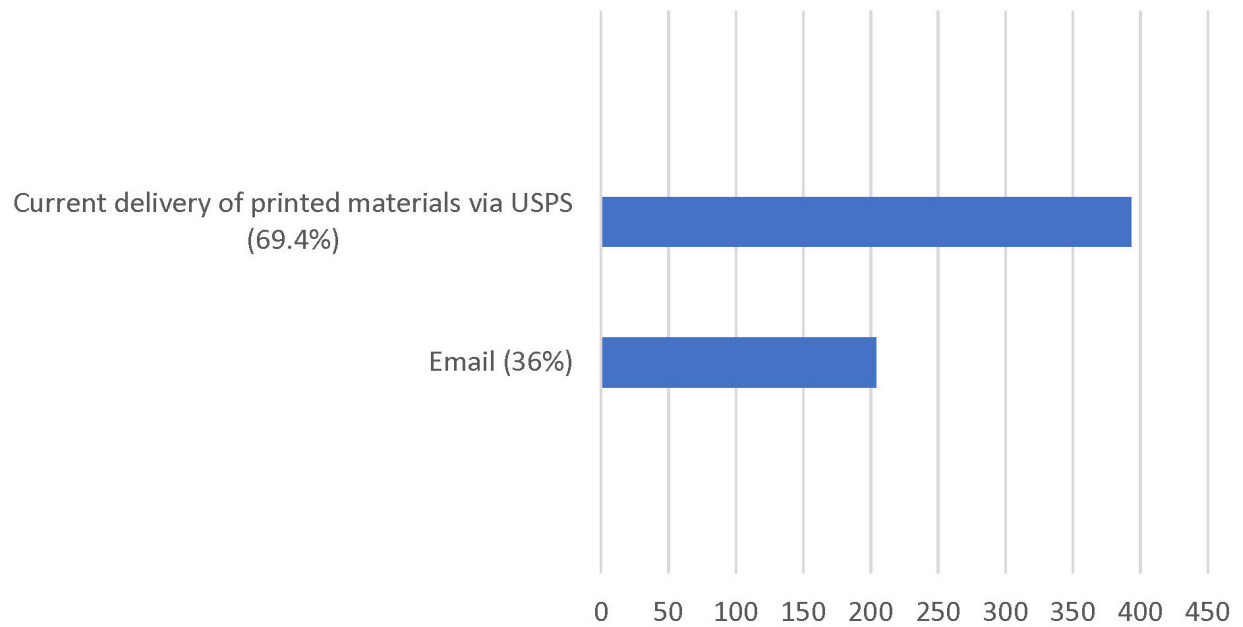


PRAYER DURING A TIME OF GLOBAL CRISIS

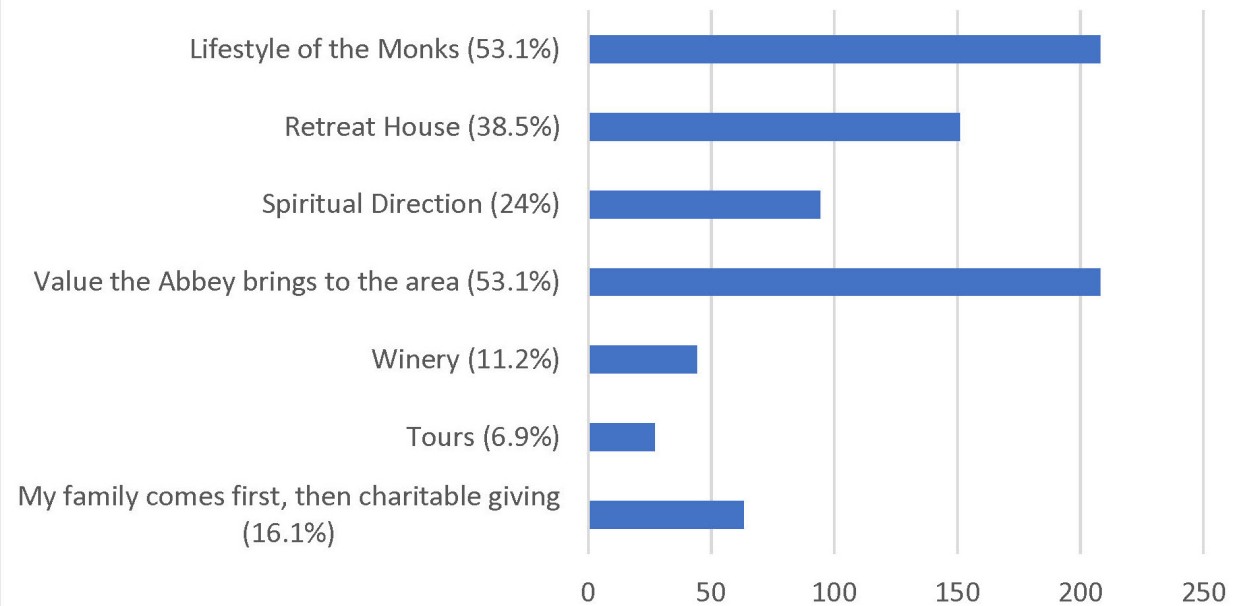
May Our Lady of New Clairvaux, queen and guardian of this Cistercian Abbey, stand together with us in the shadow of her Son's cross so that we might come to know the joy of His glorious resurrection. May her tender intercession bring healing to all who are afflicted, eternal rest to those who have died and comfort to all those who mourn. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.



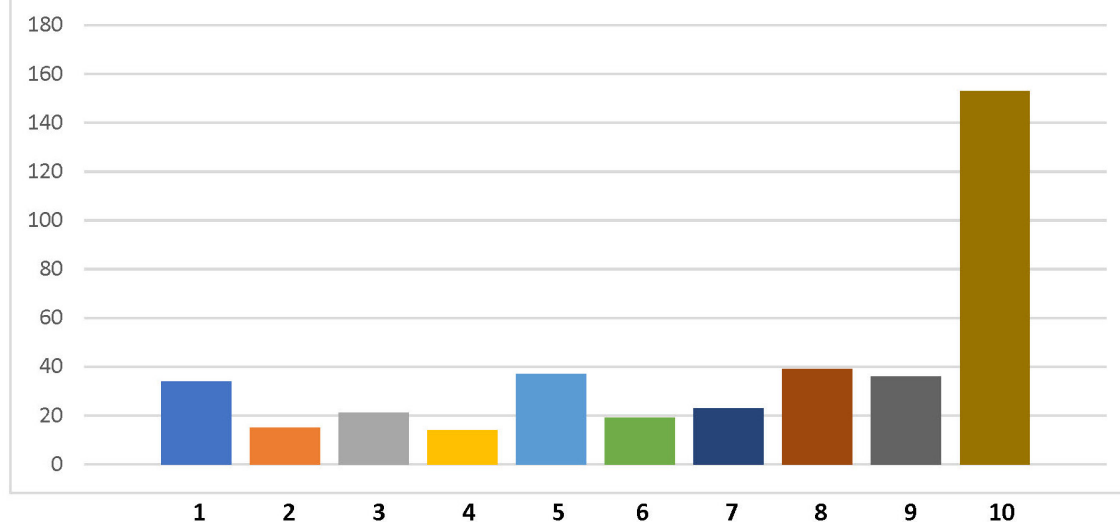
What is Your Preferred Means of Communication?



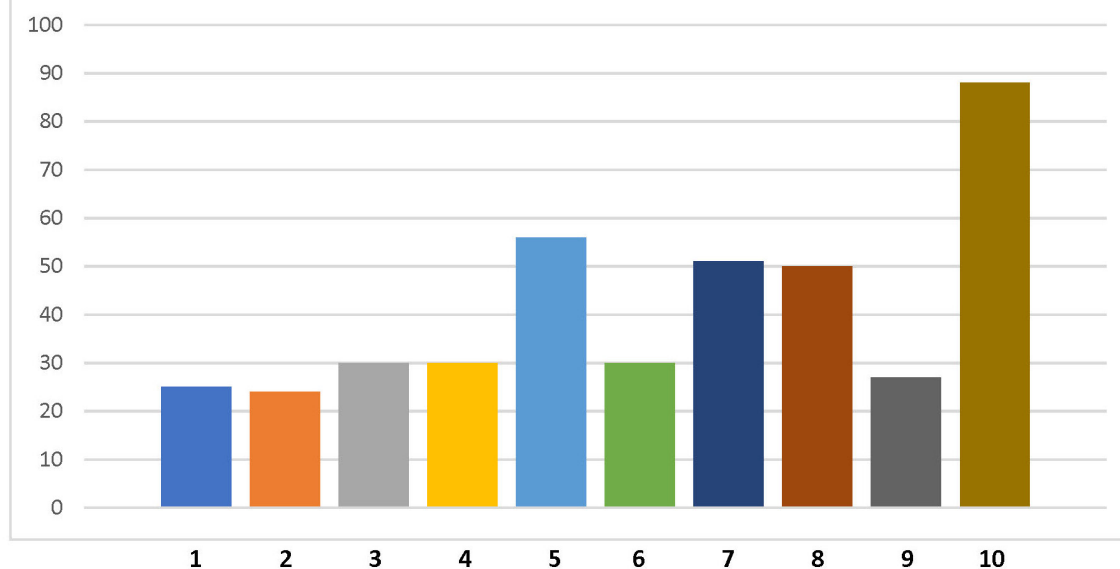
What Motivates You to Give as Often as You Do?



Please Rate Your Donation Experience (1 Low, 10 High)



Where Does The Abbey Rank With The Other Charities You Support? (1 Low, 10 High)



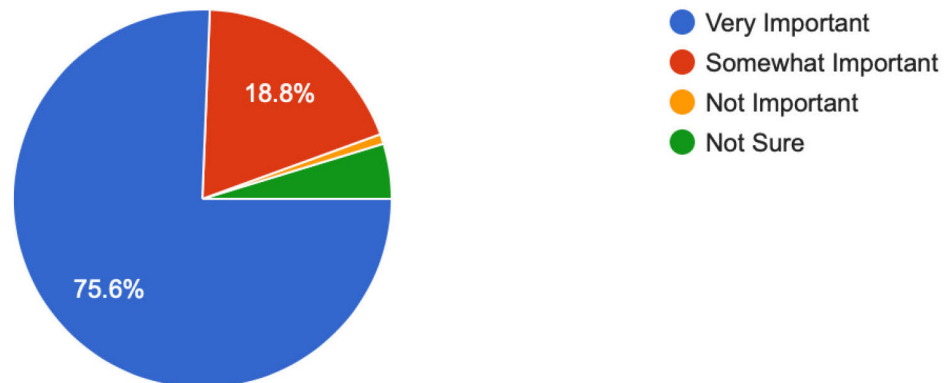
ABBEY OF NEW CLAIRVAUX BOOKSTORE

Our book and gift store has been relocated to St. Bernard's Hall across from the Welcome Center. It is open by reservation from Friday to Sunday. Please, call Brother William at 530-736-3292 to make arrangements.

Wearing of masks in public and social distancing are required.

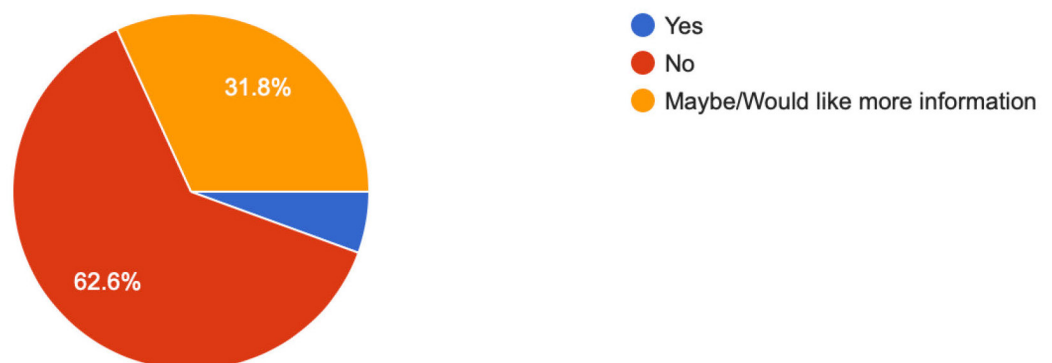
When thinking about future generations, how important is it for you that the Abbey be available to others?

595 responses



In April 12-25, 2021, Abbot Paul Mark and New Clairvaux Winemaker Aimee Sunseri will lead a Rhone River Cruise to France. It will include Abbaye Notre-Dame de Citeaux, the mother monastery of the Order, the nearby winery of Chateau du Clos de Vougeot, originally Citeaux's winery, and Lerins Abbey, a Cistercian monastery near Cannes. Is this opportunity of interest to you?

575 responses



WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO READ ABOUT IN FUTURE ISSUES OF THE GESTA MONASTICA?

- (61)** Faith/vocation stories of monks (past and present), conversion stories, lessons from parents, what inspires them every day.
- (26)** History of Cistercian Order and Spirituality, Abbey and Other Monasteries.
- (24)** Upcoming Events.
- (20)** Daily Monastic Life in a Culturally Diverse Abbey.
- (17)** Current Progress, Successes, Property Health and Master Site Plan for the Abbey.
- (15)** Cistercian Connection to Grapes, Science of Fermentation, Conditions of the Vineyard and Orchard: (Planting, Pruning Harvesting) and Tours.
- (14)** Retreat Opportunities, e.g., Farm-Work Retreats, Utilizing the Grounds for Retreat.
- (14)** Spirituality of the Monastic Life.
- (13)** History of Orchards and Vineyard and Wine Production.
- (12)** Spiritual Direction.
- (11)** Contemplative Prayer, Meditation Practice and Simplicity for the Laity.
- (10)** Special Topics: Thomas Merton, Eucharist, Saints, Homilies, Liturgical Seasons, Monastery Library, L Funds, Future of Monastic Life, Icons and Black Madonna.
- (10)** History of the Chapter House Restoration and the Vision for Its Use.
- (7)** Local and Global Charitable Impact, e.g., "Outreach to 2018 Fire Victims."
- (6)** Cistercian Teachings and Spirituality.
- (6)** Recommended Books for Spiritual Growth, e.g., Cistercian Publications.
- (6)** Volunteer Experiences, Accomplishments and Opportunities.
- (6)** Monastic Vocation, Recruitment and New Members.
- (5)** Explanation of Liturgy, Ritual and Architecture.
- (4)** Information on Mass and Tours.
- (4)** What is a Cistercian Oblate and Its Formation Practices?
- (3)** Online Offering of Vespers, Virtual Retreats or Direction possibly given this virus and its risks.
- (3)** Human Interest Stories about the Monastery and Its Operation.
- (2)** Body and Soul Wellness.
- (2)** St. Benedict and His Rule.

NEW CHARITABLE DEDUCTION AVAILABLE

The 2020 CARES Act permits eligible taxpayers who do not itemize deductions to deduct \$300 of qualified charitable contributions as an "above the line" deduction, that is, an adjustment in determining adjusted gross income ("AGI"), for tax year beginning in 2020.

Please consult with your tax advisor to understand if this opportunity may be of benefit to you in your charitable giving. By the way, the Abbey is a qualified charity for this benefit.

WHAT ELSE WOULD YOU LIKE TO SHARE WITH THE MONKS?

- (94) Thank you for your work, call, commitment and prayers for this peaceful place to hear God's voice, be a source of faith for our Church, even when several hundred miles away.
- (53) God keep blessing you with Courage, Peace, Joy, Love, Holiness and Laughter for your community in the generations to come.
- (46) Thank you for making me feel welcome and special, serving and being present to God, being kind to people and sharing in this sacred and beautiful abbey church.
- (28) You are a testament and expression of the spiritual life, the services you provide to our community [Vina], a beacon of light for our world [You changed my life].
- (27) Gratitude for your growth, how you treat the earth's eco-system and landscaping, bringing God's love to the world and for receiving spiritual direction.
- (25) You are in my prayers [for vocations] [good health] [from my "geriatric" hermitage] [spiritual needs and discernments] [from the Newman Center Students].
- (18) Retreats are enjoyed (even by non-believers), restore our faith, life changing and valued by [the Diocese of Sacramento] [I listen to the Psalms every morning].
- (14) You and Thomas Merton have helped grow my Catholic Faith, Prayer and Spiritual and Family Life - not the wine or the new church.
- (11) Nothing more but to pray for our world and us in this time of the pandemic and for healthcare workers.
- (9) I look forward to see the completed church/my next visit, retreat, Blessing of the Grapes.
- (9) Thank you monks, winery workers and Aimee for providing such a wonderful destination [in our small little town]. I love the synergism of the winery and the abbey.
- (6) Too commercial - seems money has become a driving force/The winery precludes my donation/support. /It has changed the character of the monastery. I will not return for a retreat. Solitude and sacredness of abbey are diminished. Simplicity has taken a back seat.
- (5) They need to be sure all of us who know them love them so dearly!
- (2) Please, bring back Ovila Ales. I bought many of these specialty ales to help support the Abbey. Thank you!



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.



Fr. Lawrence celebrates his 89th birthday.



Brothers Christopher and Francis recite the Divine Office during a summer picnic.



Cloister garth view as wildfires rage around California and along the West Coast.

For more information on becoming a monk

Please contact:

VOCATION DIRECTOR - Fr. Guerric Llanes

Email: godseeking@newclairvaux.org OR Direct Message on any of our social media sites

📷 [monksofvina](#) | 📘 [newclairvaux.abbey](#) | 🐦 [@godseeking2](#)

Abbey of New Clairvaux

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Gesta Monastica

NEWS FROM THE ABBEY OF OUR LADY OF NEW CLAIRVAUX

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