



GESTA MONASTICA

News from the Abbey of Our Lady of New Clairvaux



Father Paul Mark Schwan, OCSO
ABBOT

FROM THE ABBOT'S DESK

Our dear friends,

Our seven-week Easter season concluding with the Ascension, followed by Pentecost, taught us that we have an eternal home waiting for us. As we journey in faith God is at our side with God's promised Holy Spirit, to guide, encourage, and support us at every step.

What hope, confidence, and joy is ours with this promise. The Providence of God guides us in the details of daily life. We are never abandoned but trust and place our lives in the hands of a caring God.

This care has been expressed throughout the months of the long pandemic by protecting us monks from the Covid. And now that we and the New Clairvaux lay staff are fully vaccinated we have been able to re-open the church and the guest house to a limited number of guests. We encourage you to obtain your vaccination.

Providence is also blessing us with new vocations. Two postulants

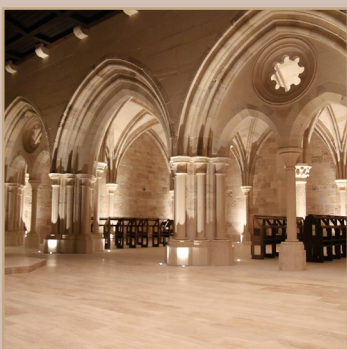
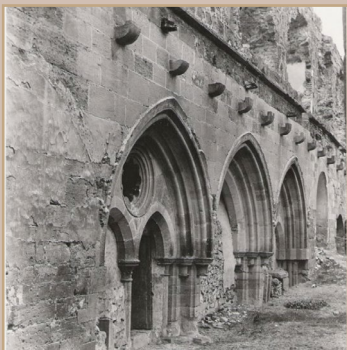
have begun their vocational journeys with us this spring and a third will join us in July. An aspirant is here on a three-month observership and our vocation director is busy with other candidates.



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Looking Back ...

The stones that were used to build the Cistercian Chapter House at Santa Maria de Ovila Abbey were shipped by William Randolph Hearst from Spain to San Francisco in the 1930s. The Depression hit and the stones sat in Golden Gate Park for years. Abbot Thomas petitioned to have the stones transported to Vina and be reconstructed on Cistercian grounds. In May 2016, the Chapter House was fully restored and dedicated as the permanent church at Vina in 2018.



Please remember these men in your prayers.

You will read about the next steps in our master site plan; the senior wing, pastoral center, library addition and renovation of the stack room to be an archives. These buildings have been carefully discerned and planned for since 2012.

Enjoy the special feature

Father Thomas gives course on Mysticism to Fordham University Students

Father Thomas Davis appeared as guest lecturer on a course on Christian mysticism to students at Fordham University. Dr. Leo Guardado, assistant professor of theology at Fordham, invited Father Thomas on two separate occasions to give a lecture on Christian mysticism to some 70 students altogether via Zoom. The students came prepared having read texts by the famed Trappist monk and author, Thomas Merton, who was Father Thomas' own spiritual director when he was a junior monk.



from our archive photo collection.

As always, we remember you in daily prayer, grateful for your friendship.

God bless you friend,

Fr. Paul Mark

Vina monks present at the annual International Medieval Congress 2021

During the Cistercian Studies portion of the Medieval Congress in May at the University of Kalamazoo, Michigan, Brother Luis and Father Thomas both made their presentations online through Zoom. Father Thomas presented a brief history of the Ovila medieval Chapter House and its reconstruction here at Vina. Brother Luis presented his paper which explores how the early foundational documents of the Cistercian Order contributed to the influence that Cistercians enjoyed in the 12th-century.



FROM OUR MONASTERY CHRONICLES



Left to right: Nhat, Curtis, Steve and Jaime

The monks of New Clairvaux are pleased to welcome two postulants and two observers during the summer with a third postulant (Eric) arriving later in July. Please pray for these men during their time of discernment.



First zucchini of the summer from our garden.



Bishop Jaime Soto gets pruning lessons from our vineyard manager during a recent retreat.



Vina monks listen to a webinar on dementia.

On-going formation of the monks here at New Clairvaux continues to be a vital part in helping the brothers grow both in self-knowledge and their relationship to God and others. Topics include health-care issues such as dementia, care-giving to seniors, as well as issues regarding racism, and empathic listening.

Looking Ahead ...

Since 2012, the monks of New Clairvaux have worked with architect Dave Richen. After Dave's passing, his colleague Dennis Thompson continued in his footsteps and worked with the monks to discern and visualize what the abbey realistically needs in order to better serve God's kingdom here on earth and witness Christ's gospel through the Cistercian way of life.



Site of future cloister development



New Senior Wing



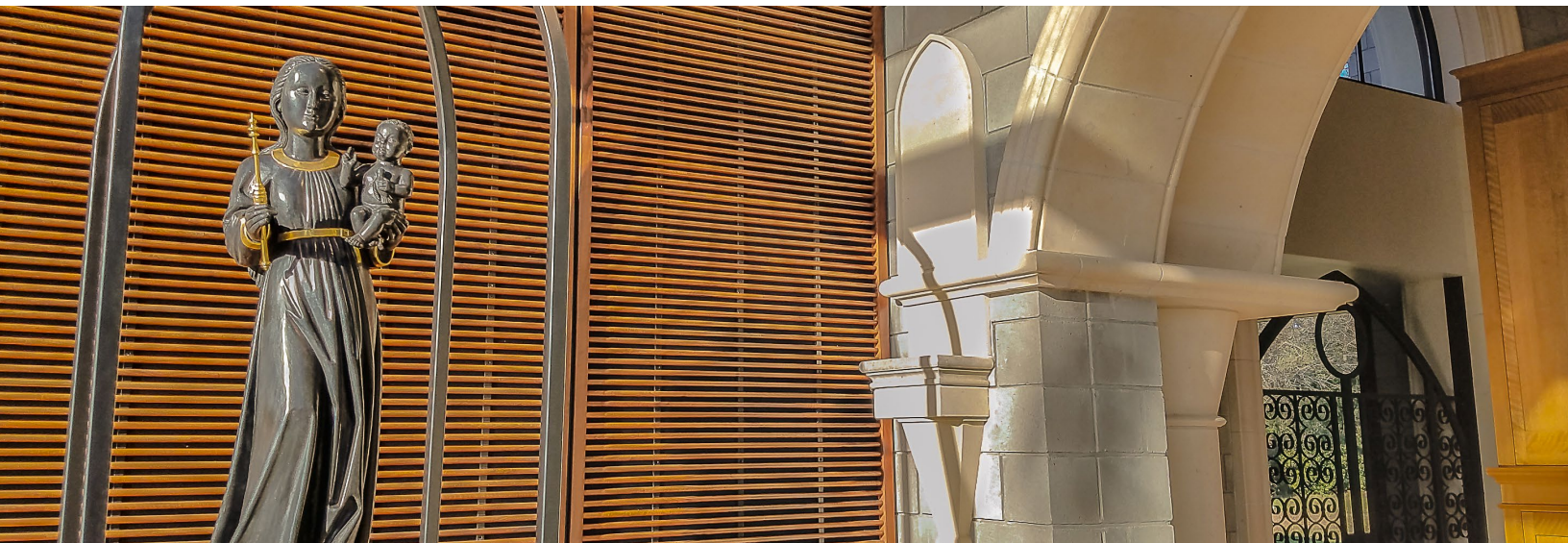
New Pastoral Center



New Formation Center

Abbey of New Clairvaux

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Gesta Monastica

NEWS FROM THE ABBEY OF OUR LADY OF NEW CLAIRVAUX

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