

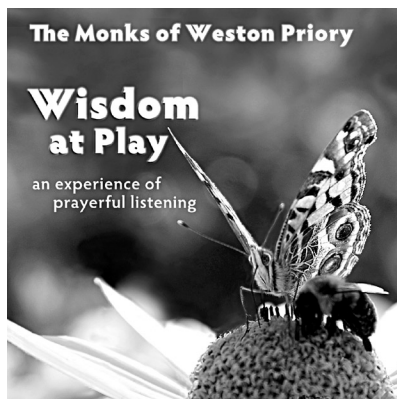


Brothers recording in St. John's Craft Building.

Life Together in One Heart

OUR COMMUNITY LIFE OF PRAYER AND SONG CONTINUES to be a journey of surprise and growth for us. We have recorded some of our recently composed songs in an entirely new format, both vocally and instrumentally. We offer it as an opportunity to share in our experience of prayer. This new recording: "Wisdom at Play: An Experience of Prayerful Listening" reflects prayer as creative and play filled. The compact disc will be available this summer.

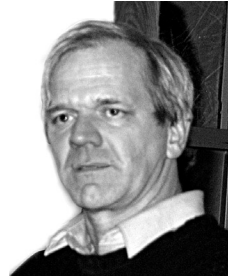
John Quinn, our good friend and professional sound engineer who has faithfully accompanied us from the first of our recordings, retired a few years ago. We have now ventured into digital recording here at the monastery. Generous and gifting friends have encouraged and assisted us in this effort: Sister Laura Bufano, CSJ, with musical expertise and coordination; Maria Guarino with talented flute accompaniments.



November 2010

During the last week of November a good friend and fellow Vermonter, Will Hunter, shared with us his dream to establish a transitional home for persons leaving Vermont's correctional centers. Many are living with debilitating addictions yet hope to begin a new life and reintegrate into society.

With help from the Lutheran diocese of New England and other encouraging friends, Will is trying to establish such a transitional home in south central Vermont. In January, we brothers had an opportunity to visit Will and a group of men who are refurbishing an unused lodge that may someday house this work of mercy.



Will Hunter.

December 2010

Richard and Stephanie Bower, friends with a longstanding commitment to the people and the church in Latin America, came to the Priory in early December to keep us abreast of their present ministry. Richard, an Episcopal priest, and Stephanie have worked as a married couple in El Salvador for many years and, now in retirement, continue their solidarity with the poor of Latin America. They shared many beautiful, heartfelt stories about their work with residents of the L'Arche Communities in those countries.

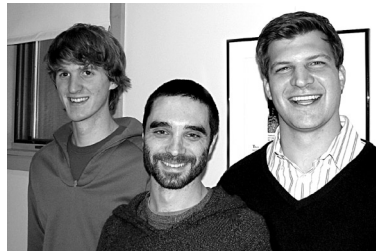


Stephanie and Richard Bower.

January 2011

Monastic Experiences

The month began with our semiannual offering of an Experience of Monastic Living from January 3 to 9. We welcomed three men for the week-long encounter and exploration of monastic values: Nathan Strunk of Cambridge, MA; John Paul Rodier of New York City; and Wesley Davis of Mount Holly, VT. Reading, reflection and discussions on the topics of monastic community, prayer, work and hospitality offered opportunities for sharing common interests and opening pathways for the future.



(l to r) Wesley, John Paul and Nathan.

Also, a group of students came for a weekend from the Newman Center at Middlebury College in Middlebury, VT where Fr. Bill Beaudin is the pastor and chaplain.



Brothers and Sisters at the Human Rights Commission in Tlaxcala.

Trip to Mexico

The first part of the community winter retreat was spent in Mexico with our Mexican Benedictine Sisters. The time was divided between the Guadalupe Center in Cuernavaca and the Casa Central (the Sisters' Motherhouse) in Mexico City. The brothers joined with the Sisters for times of prayer, lively discussions and recreation, as well as delicious meals.

A memorable event in the midst of the quiet retreat days was a bus trip to the neighboring State of Tlaxcala. A group of the Mexican Sisters accompanied the brothers to the office of the Human Rights Commission in the center of the lovely capital town of Tlaxcala. There, the coordinator of the Center described the appalling situation of human trafficking of young women, a problem that reaches far beyond the borders of this region.

From the city we continued on to visit the archaeological excavation at Cacaxtla, a national historic site dating from around 500 CE. A friendly and knowledgeable guide walked us through the elegantly ramped ruins while she described the fascinating culture of the Teotihuacan, Totonac and Maya peoples who came together at this site for trade and ceremony.



Visiting the ruins at Cacaxtla.

(Also, see the articles in this bulletin written by brother Peter and brother Michael.)

February

Brother Richard represented our community at the Joint Workshop and Meeting of North American Benedictine men and women serving in community leadership. This meeting was held at the Marywood Center in

Jacksonville, Florida. Trappist monk and author, Michael Casey offered reflections about monastic formation.

Benedictine Abbot Primate Notker Wolf, from Sant'Anselmo in Rome, participated in the meeting and updated everyone concerning the present status of the Benedictine Confederation and Benedictine monastic communities in various parts of the developing world. He especially encouraged all gathered to make evident our Benedictine legacy and gifts to the church and world of this day.

March

Our friends and neighbors, Delores Barbeau and Gloria Dawson, came to update us about the much needed and developing community outreach services available through an organization that they helped found: Neighborhood Connections: A Center of Health and Social Services, located in the neighboring town of Londonderry, VT.



(l to r) Delores Barbeau and Gloria Dawson.

This emerging community-based organization, staffed by professionals and volunteers, is serving and connecting with people in need throughout an eleven town area with amazing success. In the midst of the current national economic downturn, the Center has been able to maintain and increase its ability to direct people to already available service organizations and to bring a sense of hope and care in the lives of some of the most vulnerable people in society. (See the article in the Spring/Summer 2010 Weston Priory Bulletin)

During this month a group of students and alumni/ae from Merrimack College in North Andover, MA came to spend a weekend with us, accompanied by Padraic O'Hare, professor of Religious Studies at the college, and his wife Peggy.

April

Wood Processor

We acquired an "almost new" wood processor from a local manufacturer in Ludlow, VT, to help us process our winter wood supply.



Brother Augustine with the new wood processor.

This tool is a technological wonder. It

cuts the large logs into smaller lengths, splits them, and then loads them into our forestry truck.

The processor meets a need to “get the wood in”, but lessens for us the intense labor, time and energy to provide the winter wood supply. While reducing the consumption of fuel oil through the use of wood, we also value the opportunity to harvest nature’s bounty from the surrounding forest.

Student Visit

A group of students came for a weekend of reflection and retreat from St. Michael’s College in Winooski, Vermont, organized by Jason Moore, Assistant Director of Campus Ministry. ■

Daily Common Prayer at the Prioory

Saturday

5:00 A.M. Vigils
11:30 A.M. Eucharist
2:00 P.M. Midday Prayer
5:30 P.M. Vespers
8:00 P.M. Compline

Sunday

5:00 A.M. Vigils
11:30 A.M. Sunday Eucharist
3:00 P.M. Midday Prayer
5:30 P.M. Vespers
8:00 P.M. Compline

Tuesday

6:00 A.M. Morning Prayer
1:30 P.M. Midday Prayer
5:30 P.M. Vespers
8:00 P.M. Compline

Thursday

6:00 A.M. Morning Prayer
2:30 P.M. Midday Prayer
5:30 P.M. Vespers
7:00 P.M. Compline

Monday, Wednesday, Friday

5:00 A.M. Vigils
1:30 P.M. Midday Prayer
5:15 P.M. Vespers and Eucharist
8:00 P.M. Compline