

Chronicle

June – November 2018



June to November : The bells in the old bell tower called us to prayer and meals for over fifty years, yet the tower needed to be replaced since the wooden beams were weakening. The beams even needed to be reinforced for safety while the workers started their work. The five-inch galvanized steel tubes that replaced the wooden beams will serve us for many years to come. In this new construction we continue to be called to listen and respond. ■

July 7 : As part of our July celebration of Saint Benedict's weekend Cheryl and George Hooker gave an inspiring and eye-opening witness to an overflow crowd in our Visitors' Center: *Witnessing to Refugee Resettlement – The Journey of Welcoming Syrian Refugees to Rutland, Vermont*. They joined together with a broad spectrum of others in the local community, calling themselves *Rutland Welcomes*. They pooled their energy and resources to accept, welcome, and assist refugee families coming from over-crowded camps in countries all over the Middle East. *Rutland Welcomes* settled three families in the city. We are all enriched by learning more of their story, culture, and dreams for the future. "Whatever you do to the least of these, you do it to me." Matthew 25:40 ■ see fuller article following this Chronicle



Cheryl and George Hooker



Sisters Miguelina, Rosa, and Reina



Sister Rosa



Sisters Reina and Miguelina

July 18-30 : Sisters Rosa, Miguelina and Reina came from Mexico for a few days of rest among their brothers in Weston. Sister Rosa was asked by her doctor to resign as prioress of our Benedictine Sisters in order to focus her energy for the treatment she was receiving for cancer. We pray for her recovery, as we cherish the memory of a rich and simple time of brotherly and sisterly presence to one another. All three Sisters have been offering a challenging service on the Sisters' Leadership Team. ■

July 24 : We brothers also welcomed our Vermont neighbor, Carolyn Meub, for a very lively exchange about her work in Honduras and Haiti. She is the founder and Executive Director of “Pure Water for the World”. Our Mexican Benedictine Sisters were here in Weston for this conversation. They asked her many questions about the services offered by Pure Water: simple water-filtering systems, latrines and sanitation, as well as hygiene workshops in remote and impoverished communities. Carolyn even came back a few days later with a sample of their water filters for the Mexican Sisters to examine! ■



Carolyn Meub



Alicia



Elena



Elena, Alicia, and her daughter, Isabella

July 29 – 31 : Elena Ixcot and her daughter, Alicia, came to visit us when they were invited to Vermont for a conference of indigenous peoples sharing their spiritual practice and culture. It is always a delight to see them and to share the joys and deep pain of injustice their people in Guatemala continue to endure amidst the struggle to live with hope. ■

August : Brother Michael’s brother, Mark, and sister, Yvonne, and their families came from Western Canada to bring the cremated ashes of their father, George Hoveling, to be buried here at the Priory. George died on February 12, 2018. Through the love and mercy of God George is now united in eternity with his life-long spouse and their mother, Anne. Their gift to our community was their deep love for us and our way of life. ■



*front row: Yvonne Pasco, Ingrid Hoveling, Alyssa Hoveling, Ron Pasco
back row: brother Michael, Ben Hoveling, Mark Hoveling*

October through December : As the Autumn season began, work started on a new guesthouse. Just down the road, south of the monastery, this house is being built. Our friend and oblate, Tia Rosengarten, will live there and assist us in our ministry of hospitality. The new house should be finished in the new year. ■



October 27 : Our dear friend, advisor and associate, Frank “Mac” McCaffrey, died and entered a new life with God. Frank served selflessly as a judge in Vermont and with his wife, Rita, ministered to prisoners re-entering society through the Dismas Houses in Vermont. We are profoundly thankful for his life and friendship. Once asked “Do you love the law?” he responded “What I love is Justice!” The words of Psalm 116, poetically rendered, truly describe this good man “Merciful and kind, tender with us and gentle, you give strength to the humble and shelter the simple of heart... You show us the way, keep our feet from stumbling, wipe away our tears. You redeem our life... and fill us with hope.” ■



Rita and Frank McCaffrey



brother Robert Kiernan **December 14, 1921 – November 6, 2018**

OUR BROTHER ROBERT DIED PEACEFULLY IN HIS SLEEP ON TUESDAY, November 6, 2018, at the Vermont Veterans Home where he has been living and receiving care the past few years.

Brother Robert was born on December 14, 1921, and he served in the U.S. Marine Corps on active duty and then in the Reserves from 1942 to 1951 when he was honorably discharged with the rank of Major. During the years 1946 to 1951 he also worked as a stock broker and was a member of the New York Stock Exchange.

In October 1951 he entered the community of Benedictine Monks at St. Paul’s Abbey, Newton, New Jersey, and

made his monastic profession on August 15, 1955. On August 6, 1970, brother Robert transferred his monastic stability to the community of Benedictine Monks of Weston Priory.

With deep gratitude for his monastic life and brotherhood with us, we celebrated brother Robert’s faithful commitment at our Eucharist on the day of his dying to new life in God, and then at a Memorial Eucharist and burial at the Priory on Saturday, November 17, 2018. Representing our Mexican Benedictine Sisters, Sister Fidelina and Sister Rosa came from Mexico to be with us for the celebration. ■



Brother Robert’s burial procession.