As I sit in my office on this autumn weekend, I find myself thinking about my ministerial labors over these 44 years as a Norbertine. I was drawn to the Norbertine community by its members, its community life, a desire for priesthood, and the hope of someday teaching high school. I also saw myself as a pastor, a spiritual director, and a minister in countless other capacities that would surface in the community and local church.

I remember well one of the vocation brochures published by the abbey. I have seen it a number of times over the years promoting the fact that Norbertines are "prepared for every good work." We as a community have been blessed with the opportunity to educate ourselves where our interests and talents lie. This discernment is always thoughtfully done with the needs of the community and local church in mind.

We as a community have supported our confreres as they sought to use their talents in response to local and even universal ministerial needs. We have had many men who have brought rich blessings to parishes and educational institutions as pastors, teachers, and professors. Others have been missionaries; some have pursued medical studies and have worked in the jungles of Peru and the prisons of Chicago. Still others serve as hospital chaplains, counselors, spiritual directors, and prison ministers. Our military chaplains have served in war zones, most recently in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Cuba. Our men work quietly and faithfully with Catholic Charities, with immigrants and their challenges, and within the areas of peace and justice.

We also share vital responsibilities within our community in addition to our external ministries. While there are formal leadership positions within, we all share the common duties of life to which our vows bind each other. We are not perfect men and we can fall short of our goals. A perpetual balancing act exists between action and contemplation.

It is good to be reminded of St. Augustine’s advice, given to young Jordan Neeck who was vested as a first-year novice on August 27: “Order your soul; reduce your wants; live in charity; associate in Christian community; obey the laws; trust in Providence. Leave a little room for reflection, room for silence too. Enter into yourself and leave behind all noise and confusion. Look within yourself.”

And there you will find the gifts that prepare you for every good work.
DEPARTMENTS

2 reflections/reflecciones
How Are You Being Called?
¿De qué maneras estamos siendo llamados?

14 the norbertine center for spirituality
A Piece of Heaven

FEATURES

4 50 years in peru
Norbertines Serve Five Decades

10 a blessed friendship
With Mother Teresa

12 relentless ministry
Upon Returning from Peru

NEWS & VIEWS

15 in formation
Two Brothers, One Calling

16 communio
Community News & Honors
How are You Being Called?

By Fr. John Bostwick, O. Praem.
Translated by Sr. Guadalupe Muñoz

In this issue of Abbey Magazine we pause to honor, celebrate, and rededicate ourselves to service to the poor. Fifty years ago the Pope called on all Catholic religious orders to serve and evangelize in regions of the world unknown to most of us. Rest assured, you need not travel across the globe to foreign lands to be of service. What foreign places and peoples exist just beyond your doorstep? Why and how are they unknown to you? How can you extend compassion and community to such people?

“We must talk about poverty, because people insulated by their own comfort lose sight of it.” — Dorothy Day

Compassion is made manifest in a multitude of ways. Compassion is the hallmark of authentic spirituality, and a truly contemplative vision builds a sense of communion.

Mother Maria of Paris who died in the death camps for rescuing Jews during WWII wrote: “The way to God lies through love of other people and there is no other way. At the Last Judgment I shall not be asked if I was successful in my ascetic exercises or how many prostrations I made in the course of my prayers. I shall be asked, did I feed the hungry, clothe the naked, visit the sick and the prisoners: that is all I shall be asked.” Piety divorced from the Works of Mercy risks being an illusion.

Pope Francis’ mantra has become “a poor Church for the poor.” Francis leads by example. His words and his actions express solidarity with people in need. The chief pastor focuses on the need for simplicity, approachability, and willingness to reach out to the poor. While these values are nothing new—we find them in the Scripture, the Rule, the teachings of the saints through history—it is always timely to renew and refocus these Gospel priorities. In short, Christians are called not only to preach good news, but to be good news, especially to the “least of these, my brothers and sisters.”
¿De qué maneras estamos siendo llamados?

Por Padre John Bostwick, O. Praem.
Traducido por Sr. Guadalupe Muñoz

En esta edición de la Revista Abbey nos detenemos para honrar y celebrar el servicio a los pobres, dedicándonos nuevamente a este servicio. Hace cincuenta años El Papa llamó a todas las órdenes religiosas Católicas al servicio y la evangelización en regiones del mundo desconocidas por la mayoría de nosotros. Tengan la seguridad, no tienen que viajar al otro lado del mundo a tierras extranjeras para prestar servicio. ¿Cuáles personas y lugares “extranjeros” existen cerca de los portales de Uds.? ¿Cómo y por qué son desconocidos por Uds.? ¿Cómo pueden Uds. extender compasión y comunidad a estas personas?

“Necesitamos hablar de la pobreza, porque personas de mirada estrecha por su propia comodidad – pierden vista de la pobreza.” — Dorothy Day

La compasión se manifiesta en una multitud de maneras. Compasión es el sello distintivo de una espiritualidad auténtica; y una visión verdaderamente contemplativa construye un sentido de comunión.

La Madre María de París quien murió en los campamentos de muerte por rescatar a Judíos durante la Segunda Guerra Mundial escribió: “El camino a Dios se da por medio del amor a otra gente, y no hay otro camino. En el Juicio Final no se me preguntará si tuve éxito en mis ejercicios ascéticos o cuántas veces me postre durante mis oraciones. Se me preguntará si alimenté a los hambrientos, vestí a los desnudos, visité a los enfermos y a los presos: solo eso se me preguntará.” La piedad separada de las Obras de Misericordia lleva el riesgo de ser una ilusión.

La mantra del Papa Francisco ha llegado a ser: “una Iglesia pobre y para los pobres.” El Papa Francisco nos guía con su ejemplo. Sus palabras y sus acciones expresan solidaridad con los necesitados. El pastor principal se enfoca en la necesidad de sencillez, de una disposición de acercamiento y de extenderles la mano a los pobres. Aunque estos valores no son nada nuevo—se encuentran en las Escrituras, la Regla, y las enseñanzas de los santos en toda la historia—siempre nos conviene renovar y re-enfocar estas prioridades del Evangelio. En resumen, los cristianos están llamados no solamente a predicar la Buena Nueva sino a ser Buena Nueva, especialmente para “los más pequeños, mis hermanos y hermanas.”
Fifty years have passed since the papal call went out for religious orders to send missionaries to Latin America. Urged forth by calls for evangelism in the southern hemisphere (Pope Pius XII) and for service to the poor (Pope John XXIII), the Norbertines of De Pere, WI, responded in 1963 by sending ministers of healing, teaching, and pastoral care to Peru. The Norbertines (Padres Norbertinos) first established San Roberto Parish in inner city Lima and helped open and staff a Catholic high school there.

Since 1963, the Norbertine Abbey in De Pere has sent 23 missionaries to be of service in both urban and jungle settings in Peru; yet today, only one Norbertine remains. Father Jack MacCarthy, O. Praem., MD and medical director of the Centro de Salud Santa Clotilde, marks his 28th year in Santa Clotilde, Peru, in 2013. In this issue, we honor his extraordinary work and dedication and those special devoted people who work alongside him, each of them responding to the larger and timeless call to create a community of healing and love.

The Call
Norbertines Serve

Pneumonia. That's what started it all. A young Jack MacCarthy was bedridden with pneumonia in 1959 during his high school football season at Prémontré High School in Green Bay. Coach Dingo Hrubeski sent home a stack of books with instructions to follow doctor's orders, stay in bed, and read. In that stack was the complete trilogy by Dr. Tom Dooley, a physician, humanitarian, and political activist in Southeast Asia during the late 1950s. Dooley authored three popular books that described his work to battle disease and communism in Vietnam and Laos: Deliver Us From Evil, The Edge of Tomorrow, and The Night They Burned the Mountain. Today, 44 years after his priestly ordination and 36 years after earning his medical degree, Father Jack MacCarthy credits Dr. Dooley with lighting a fire in his heart to become a missionary doctor.

First, however, was Jack's zeal to attend college and answer the call to priestly life. He

The following Norbertines have served in Peru:
would earn his degree in 1967 in pre-med and philosophy from St. Norbert College in De Pere, WI, and go on to take his theological training at Catholic Theological Union in Chicago. Ordained a Norbertine priest in 1969, he taught chemistry and religion at Prémontré High School in Green Bay, WI, before enrolling in medical school at Loyola Chicago, earning his MD in 1977. Father Jack worked on the Caribbean Island of St. Lucia, Wisconsin’s Menominee Indian Reservation, and took intensive Spanish language training in Mexico before being asked in 1985 to serve in the jungles of Peru.

At the time, two nuns were running a small clinic in Santa Clotilde, a small Peruvian village on the Napo River of the Amazon basin, located a full 300 kilometers from the nearest road. The sisters were in need of a doctor, an administrator, and a priest. They were sent Father Jack, a three-in-one deal. Today, nearly three decades later, Father Jack MacCarthy continues to embody a holy physician who tends to the region’s many ills—disease, poverty, and societal forces that keep people impoverished in body and spirit.

How Do You Get There?

The journey from Wisconsin to Santa Clotilde in the Peruvian state of Loreto takes three days with the final leg being a six-hour, 320-kilometer boat ride from Iquitos, Peru, to the village. No overland transportation system in the area, as the waterways are the highways and canoes are the most common form of transportation.
Upon his arrival in Santa Clotilde in 1985, Father Jack encountered a small U-shaped building that housed one exam room that doubled as a delivery room, a small lab, and a pharmacy. The small clinic was run entirely by a Peruvian and a Canadian nun, both nurses.

Today when you reach the main village of 2,500 people, you’ve only seen a small portion of the people served by the mission’s doctors and priests and nuns, as 100 more small villages are spread along a 400-mile stretch of the Napo River. Five specific ethnic groups live in this region, each with its own language. Most men tend also to speak Spanish, although the women do not. Many villages consist of 10 to 20 families, yet two settlements have grown to populations of more than 500.

After 28 years under the direction of Father Jack, today’s clinic has evolved into a sprawling compound called the Centro de Salud Santa Clotilde, including a hospital of 30 patient beds; five cribs; a tiled operating room with air conditioning; delivery room; dentist’s office; outpatient clinic and ultrasound machine. Malaria, cholera, malnutrition, snake bites, and many other maladies are treated here.

Expectant mothers receive prenatal care, including ultrasounds, at the clinic.
bites, machete accidents, and tropical diseases unknown to most Americans are treated by Father Jack. Pediatrics, prenatal care, and childbirth earn him the name “Jack of All Trades.”

An average of 16,000 individual patient visits occur per year, attainable on a remarkably limited budget. The hospital’s annual costs are approximately $550,000 (U.S.) and are funded one-third by the Peruvian government and two-thirds by the Church, the Norbertines, the Canadian Oblates, and private donors. Most recently, Father Jack celebrated the arrival of the hospital’s first basic X-ray machine, capable of showing large bone fractures and helping with tuberculosis treatment.

Father Jack and Father Maurice Schroeder, OMI, MD, a Canadian Oblate priest and physician, have worked together since 1986 in the clinic. Father Maurice recently retired from his medical practice and serves as the Oblates’ Superior of the Peruvian delegation in Lima. Father Lambert Baeten O. Praem. was the pastor of the Norbertine mission since the 1980s, and he sadly passed away in 2008. “I’m the last duck on the pond,” Father Jack said recently during a visit to the Abbey in De Pere, WI, referring to his longevity in the job and the decrease in Norbertine involvement over the years.

Apart from his priestly partners, the Loyola University Stritch School of Medicine in Chicago has sent more than 50 medical students to assist its revered alum and friend. The University of British Columbia in Vancouver has sent more than 30 students, most of whom stay for one month. “It’s a very difficult post,” Father Jack said. “The best situation is to find an ordained doctor to take my place, and that’s nearly impossible. Young doctors who want to raise their own children will most likely leave. My concern, now, is the sustainability of the hospital.” As Father Jack begins to think about retirement, he looks to the Canadian Oblate Delegation in Lima and PANGO, a Peruvian American NGO (non-government organization) for help and consistency.
Doing God’s Work: Vocational Training

At one time, a novitiate in Santa Clotilde was established to form young Peruvian men into Catholic priests. Financial, personnel, and political pressures caused the closure of the novitiate in 2005, and some still lament the loss of traditional religious vocations. But talk to Father Jack about the 85 people on staff at his hospital and its 13 outlying clinics who have dedicated their lives to learning, listening, and healing, and it’s obvious no shortage of blessed vocations exists in Santa Clotilde.

“I specifically recall a rainy Saturday night C-section, and I looked up and thought, ‘I’m the only person here whose formal training has gone beyond high school,’” said Father Jack. “Our people listen, learn, and ask questions. They are very proud of what they can do and are sincerely appreciated by the patients and the community.”

The nursing department has been operated since 1986 by Lily Ruiz and Neoyorquina Flores, two skilled and highly capable local women who function far beyond their formal schooling. There are 10 technical nurses who staff the inpatient service. Local carpenters, mechanics, electricians, administrative personnel, cooks, and laundresses help staff the health service.

Advocating for the Poor of Peru

Father Jack has seen drug trafficking, illegal lumbering, big international petroleum concessions, and gold mining invade the traditional way of life of the people who live along the Napo River. Physical harm, sexually transmitted diseases, stolen land, and cultural death follow in the wake of these incursions.

He’s dutifully toured government officials around the region, explaining the specific needs of the people, only to have those needs completely ignored, sacrificed to petroleum and lumber companies, or inappropriately addressed. “Every single meter of land has been sold in long-term concessions to oil companies, and none of these concessions make any mention of traditional ancestral lands. They know nothing of the people who live here.”

Father Jack continues his work in Peru because he doesn’t want to lose the toehold he’s carved out for the Peruvian people he’s come to love. His next ministry will be advocating and fundraising for his adoptive home and its people. After so many years on a tributary of the mighty Amazon, Father Jack has yet to cross a most difficult river—the handover of day-to-day operations of El Centro de Salud Santa Clotilde to the next generation. That will take a powerful leap of faith.
River Medicine

“La Barcaza,” a 47-ton, 50-foot, steel-hulled boat built in 1973 by the Franciscan Brothers, departs from Santa Clotilde for 10-day trips upriver to 10 villages. It typically carries a vaccine team, a lab technician, and several local members of education, agriculture, police, and multi-sectorial committees. This big boat will tow a smaller metal power boat with a 60-horsepower outboard engine which is used to transport patients from the villages to Santa Clotilde if needed.

A long wooden “vaccine boat” carries a crew of about 10, including doctors, nurses, vaccines, a midwife, and lab techs for examining malaria slides and stool specimens. This boat, both a clinic on water and a dormitory for staff, sails downriver at roughly the same time as the big boat sails for villages upriver. Visits to the 100 villages to offer infant vaccines, prenatal exams, pap smears, and tuberculosis control require 800 gallons of gasoline. Each year the team completes three tours with vaccines and some regions require a fourth visit. Each cycle of vaccines takes six weeks to complete. Since little refrigeration exists in the Amazon, boats are needed to ferry blocks of ice to allow the vaccinators to keep moving. Thirteen smaller clinic outposts are interconnected via a radio communications system that utilizes a system of nineteen 90-meter relay towers.

A speed boat is utilized as a river ambulance, rushing patients to the Regional Hospital in Iquitos. Depending on weather conditions, the time from leaving Santa Clotilde to entering the ER in Iquitos is eight hours one way. Going upriver to receive patients from the outlying villages often requires two days and consumes 120 gallons of gasoline.

Dig Deeper

www.pango.pe
The website for the Peruvian American Partnership, an NGO working to establish sustainable health care in the Napo River region of Peru.

http://doctorsinperu.blogspot.com/
Follow a pair of missionary doctors as they blog about their service trip to Santa Clotilde.

Donations to the Norbertine Peruvian missions are greatly appreciated.
Checks can be made to: St. Norbert Abbey.
On the memo line include: Peru missions.

Donations can be sent to:
St. Norbert Abbey
Attn: Treasurer
1016 N. Broadway, De Pere, WI 54115

* Please know that 100% of your donation goes directly to the missions with 100% of your donation tax deductible.
A Blessed Friendship

By Gina Sanders Larsen

Blessed Mother Teresa and Father Richard Mulroy, O. Praem., came together in Lima, Peru, nearly 50 years ago to serve the region’s poor and marginalized. A cherished friendship is well-documented in their letters and photos saved in the Norbertine archives.

Father Richard Mulroy, O. Praem., was another energized member of the Padres Norbertinos who travelled to Lima, Peru, in the 1960s in response to the papal call to serve and evangelize in South America. After language studies at Catholic University of Puerto Rico, he worked for 19 years in service to Lima’s indigent and imprisoned.

Father Mulroy penned a personal letter to Mother Teresa of Calcutta in 1972, inviting her to “come to a poor city that needed her” to increase the mission’s physical and spiritual impact. She arrived in Lima soon after and started a home for the elderly, mentally ill people, and abandoned infants. Father Richard became chaplain to the Missionaries of Charity in Lima. Many treasured letters in the Norbertine archives attest to Mother Teresa’s and Father Richard’s decades-long friendship.
Mother Teresa’s letter to Father Mulroy (1973) after setting up the very first house in Peru served by the Sisters of the Missionaries of Charity. She insisted that the sisters be served by priests who would “oversee their growth in holiness,” a mission to which Father Mulroy was fully committed.

Father Mulroy spent 19 years serving the poor and imprisoned in the slums of Lima, Peru. Mother Teresa joined forces with him in 1973. The Sisters of the Missionaries of Charity eventually established four homes in Peru: Lima, Juli, Cuzco, and Chimbote. Today these homes help more than 500 men, women, youth, and handicapped children.

“He is the purest physician I know,” said Dr. John Gray, friend, physician, and visitor to Father Jack MacCarthy, O. Praem., MD, in Santa Clotilde Mission, Peru. “He does all of his diagnoses by physical exam and listening. Don’t get me wrong, he would love to have more (technology), but he simply doesn’t.”

Gray is a devoted caregiver and care coordinator to the elderly retired priests of the Norbertine Abbey in De Pere. Notably, he’s also serving his 21st season as the primary care physician for the Green Bay Packers while simultaneously maintaining a family medical practice for Aurora Health Care. His work ethic is strongly influenced by Padre Jack, as Father Jack is known in his village in Peru. “He’s 69 years old, works 100-hour weeks and is on call every other night. At one time, he was also the primary parish priest who said daily Mass,” Gray said of his friend, the Peruvian-missionary-medical-doctor-Norbertine-priest.

It was Gray who chided MacCarthy about his own need for a complete physical back in 2007, a divine intervention that would lead to MacCarthy’s multiple heart bypass surgery in Green Bay, just as he had been planning to hop a flight back to Peru. “He failed his stress test and we had him on the (operating) table the next day,” said Gray. Saving MacCarthy’s life wasn’t a one-time deal, however. Upon his return to Peru, he developed a life-threatening complication called Dressler’s Syndrome, an inflammation of the outer lining of the heart, that caused him to collapse and set in motion a dramatic chain of events.

Father Rod Fenzl, O. Praem., knows well the story of that terrible day. Sent as a high school teacher and priest to San Roberto Parish in inner city Lima, Peru, by Abbot Killeen in 1967, Father Rod met Father Jack in 1985 when he was on his way to serve in the remote Santa Clotilde Mission as its first medical doctor.

The oldest living original member of the Padres Norbertinos who were sent to Latin America in the 1960s to answer Pope John XXIII’s call to evangelize, Father Rod lived and served for 34 years in the slums of Lima alongside Blessed Mother Teresa’s Sisters of the Missionaries of Charity.

One of the sisters in Santa Clotilde that day told him that, “Padre Jack esta en coma!” (Father Jack is in a coma!) flew through the village of 2,500 people. She remembered, “We didn’t know what to do, so we went up to the church and rang the bell. We exposed the Blessed Sacrament and started to pray.”

Father Jack was rescued by air ambulance, an extraordinary gesture in such a poor and remote region. He was waved off by hundreds of people who came to the docks out of concern and curiosity, all of whom prayed for his safe return to the community he had called home for 22 years. After months of recuperation in the United States, he was indeed overjoyed to return in 2008.
“Jack has never been afraid to go out into the tall and uncut,” Father Rod reminisced. Detrimental to his own safety, he has stood up to drug traffickers, lumber barons, and gold mining companies as they introduced deadly contamination and disease to the Amazon jungle and its people.

In keeping with the preferential option for the poor, a primary tenet of Catholic social teaching, the Church believes that the causes of poverty are entire systems and societal structures that promote, encourage, and reward certain behaviors over others. It is wrong to consider what a person produces or consumes as the measure of his or her worth.

After nearly four decades in Peru, Father Rod, too, remains an activist on behalf of marginalized people. His pastoral focus is now prison ministry to Hispanic inmates in Green Bay, many of whom are incarcerated for “drugs and documents,” he explained. The main concern is to circumvent the influence of prison culture on these non-violent offenders to prevent them from becoming hardened criminals.

Father Rod’s language and intercultural skills are also highly valued at St. Willebrord Parish, a primarily Hispanic parish in downtown Green Bay. Led by Father Andy Cribben, O. Praem., who lived with Father Jack from September to December 2007, it was the first parish to welcome and dedicate itself to serving the Hispanic Catholic community of the Green Bay area back in 1991. In Peru, Father Andy would pick up much of his Spanish language skill, a necessary preparation for his leadership role at St. Willebrord.

Father Andy describes Padre Jack as an intellectual, a voracious reader, and a gifted conversationalist in countless arenas of medical, theological and sociological thought. But that does not remove him from the daily struggles of his friends, co-workers, and neighbors in Santa Clotilde. “He was formed during the 1960s, and has always been very moved by the idea of a worker-priest. ‘You must smell like your sheep,’ Pope Francis tells us.”

This, too, follows the teaching of the preferential option for the poor, which requires friendship and presence with the poor before any attempts to work for what may be an ethnocentric sense of justice. “Jack sees their lives, the depth of these people. He can say, ‘I know from whence you came,’” said Father Andy. “He works in an area where the primary industry is survival.”

It is Father Jack’s solidarity with the marginalized, partnered with his gifts of knowledge, wisdom, and activism, which powerfully influence Father Andy.

“My experience with Jack helps me to appreciate the necessity of relentlessness. There are needs to be addressed, systems to be changed, persons to be cared for, injustices to right, rights to be lifted up, duties to be fulfilled, injuries to be remedied – relentlessly!”
FR. JOHN TOURANGEAU, O. PRAEM., was 35 years old when he experienced a massive heart attack. The emergency room doctor told him he had better make peace with his God, because he did not know if he could save him. For a moment, the doctor was correct. Fr. John experienced death, but within moments was returned to life.

Today, Fr. John, 55, pastor of St. Norbert College parish, discusses his experience and the concept of Heaven in a compelling presentation, *Heaven, Is It For Real?* When asked about the personal impact of his after-death episode, Father John shared, “My experience gives me hope. It strengthens my faith and encourages me to develop relationships that are healthy and holy.”

Given the fact that he has offered the presentation at the Center three times with standing room only, and he will be offering it again on April 3, 2014, Fr. John attributes its popularity to one fact. “Most people have lost someone they love and want to know that their loved one is at peace and that we, ourselves, are on the right track.”

For additional information, or to receive a program guide, visit norbertines.org or call the Center at (920) 337-4315

**Mark your calendars! On Saturday, March 29, A Day for Men** will convene with Joe Lombardi, New Orleans Saints quarterbacks coach and grandson of Vince Lombardi, tentatively scheduled to offer the opening reflection. Watch for details in the Winter/Spring 2014 program guide.

This quote from Jeremiah 18 formed the basis of FR. TIM SHILLCOX, O. PRAEM.’s weeklong pottery retreat held in June at the Norbertine Center for Spirituality at St. Norbert Abbey. Seventeen retreatants aspired to grow closer to Jesus through this form of spiritual exercise.

“The parallels between the potter’s process and growth in our spiritual lives are many,” said Fr. Tim. “Bible references to clay, dust, pottery, vessels, cups, and that sort of thing are more numerous than I had first imagined.”

To view a full photo gallery from the pottery retreat, visit norbertines.org.
Like most siblings, FRATER MICHAEL BRENNAN, O. PRAEM., and his younger brother Christopher Brennan, C.S.C., have their differences. “Chris is stronger but I can run a lot farther,” said Frater Michael, tennis player and basketball coach. “Despite being smarter [and] more handsome...” began football player Christopher, laughing, “I’m probably more of an introvert.” Regardless of their contrasting hobbies and personalities, these brothers have something very special in common.

On August 28, the Feast of St. Augustine, De Pere Norbertine Frater Michael professed Simple Vows at St. Norbert Abbey. Less than four weeks previous on August 3, Christopher, of the Congregation of Holy Cross, professed First Vows at his Novitiate in Cascade, CO. Despite their 12-year age difference, the Brennan brothers are both on track to become priests within the next few years.

The brothers have strong Indiana roots, born and raised in the Hoosier State. Reflecting on their religious lives growing up, both remember praying at meals, participating in the Stations of the Cross every Friday during Lent, and going to Church regularly. “I knew I was going to be a priest since I was seven years old,” said Frater Michael. Christopher knows that passion for becoming a religious got passed on. “It made for an environment in which a vocation for priesthood was a normal thing to consider. Mike’s discernment is a big part of my story,” he said. The men’s Uncle Ted (their mother’s brother) will also celebrate his 50th year of priesthood in May 2017. Frater Michael graduated from St. Norbert College, De Pere, WI, the only Norbertine college in the world, in May 1999. The following month, he began the Alliance for Catholic Education Program (ACE) at the University of Notre Dame. As part of his Masters of Education program, he taught and coached in Louisiana, Chicago, and Atlanta for several years.

He returned to De Pere, WI, as a novice at St. Norbert Abbey in August 2011 and spent his novitiate year at Holy Spirit House of Studies, the Norbertine house of formation, in Chicago, IL. Frater Michael spent his Second Year Novitiate and Apostolic Year at Notre Dame de la Baie Academy in Green Bay, WI, teaching math and theology to area high school students.

Christopher followed a slightly different path than his older brother. He entered the University of Notre Dame not only as a college student, but also as an undergraduate seminarian at Old College, the Congregation’s formation and discernment program. After a year-long postulancy at Notre Dame as a senior, Christopher graduated in 2012 and spent the next year at the Congregation’s Novitiate in Colorado.

Both Frater Michael and Christopher agree that, while being blessed with a vocation to priesthood and religious life is wonderful, starting to recognize a particular religious community as “home” is even more special.

As he takes his next step toward becoming a priest, Frater Michael will return to live at Holy Spirit House of Studies, where he will prepare for the priesthood at Catholic Theological Union, starting by earning his Masters of Divinity and a Masters of Theology with a concentration in ethics. Christopher will begin his Masters of Divinity at Notre Dame, living at Moreau Seminary.

Frater Michael said he feels passionately about serving others and learning from those who may have much to give but lack the necessities of food, clothing, and shelter. At the heart of his vocation is the Eucharist. “The Eucharist is why I’m Catholic, and why I’m drawn to the priesthood.

“I’m truly blessed to be in formation at this time,” said Frater Michael on the day he professed his Simple Vows. The journey toward priesthood is one he is sharing with not only his blood brother, but also his community brothers, the men in formation with him.
**News, Honors, and Distinctions**

FRATER MICHAEL B. BRENNAN, O. PRAEM., participated in the Bank of America Chicago Marathon as a Heartracer of Misericordia Heart of Mercy charity runner on October 13 and raised nearly $1,980 for his marathon.

FR. ANDREW CIFERNI, O. PRAEM., returned to De Pere from Daylesford Abbey in Paoli, PA, to assume leadership of the Center for Norbertine Studies at St. Norbert College, De Pere, WI, beginning in August.

FR. ALFRED McBRIDE, O. PRAEM., has been recognized in a proclamation issued by Good Will Catholic Publishers, Incorporated, that expresses the company’s appreciation of his character and service. He has served on the board of this company for more than 20 years.

FR. JACK MACKENZIE, O. PRAEM., was presented with a St. Norbert Ambassador of Peace Award from the College’s Norman Miller Center for Peace, Justice & Public Understanding in a ceremony and reception at the college in September.

FR. JOHN TOURANGEAU, O. PRAEM., has been appointed pastor of St. Norbert College Parish and continues in his role as vocation coordinator.

FR. PETER RENARD, O. PRAEM., was welcomed at Holy Cross Parish at Bay Settlement, Green Bay, WI, as its temporary pastor for the month of July. FR. MICHAEL WEBER, O. PRAEM., was welcomed as its permanent pastor as of August 1.

ST. WILLEBRORD PARISH in Green Bay, WI, celebrates its 150th anniversary on August 1, 2014, having been founded on that day in 1864. Norbertines will have served there for 82 of those 150 years. For more information go to www.stwillys.org/2014:--150th-Jubilee

Heeding the call of Pope Francis to engage in prayer and fasting for peace in the world, THE NORBERTINE COMMUNITY OF ST. NORBERT ABBEY participated in a worldwide day of prayer this September.

This summer, THE PRIORY OF ST. MOSES THE BLACK in Raymond, MS, hosted three seminarians from Notre Dame Seminary in New Orleans, LA. They performed their Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) at Veterans Hospital in Jackson, MS.

**Vocations**

Norbertine

FOUNDED 1121

The first purpose for which you have come together is to live in unity in the house and to be of one mind and one heart on the way to God.

JORDAN NEECK was vested in the Norbertine habit on August 27 at St. Norbert Abbey during Solemn Vespers. Frater Neeck is participating in the first-year Norbertine novitiate at Daylesford Abbey in Paoli, PA.

To view a photo gallery of this and more of St. Norbert Abbey’s Feast of St. Augustine celebrations, visit norbertines.org.
Three new Norbertine Volunteers have joined the Norbertine Volunteer Community (NVC) for 2013-2014. BRYAN "HENRY" NJOROGE, KATIE RIESTERER AND KATIE STIEL all hail from different parts of the nation and even the world, but these young adults have come together to live in community for a year of service and to grow in faith in Green Bay, WI. Njoroge is working in the chaplain’s office sponsored by Brown County Jail Ministries, Inc., which serves the Brown County Jail and Juvenile Detention Center; Riesterer is teaching 5–8th grade language arts at St. Thomas More School, which is part of the Green Bay Area Catholic Education System (GRACE); and Stiel is assisting with the American Foundation of Counseling Services Foster Care Program.

FR. CONRAD KRATZ, O. PRAEM., passed into God’s eternal kingdom on October 4, 2013.

Fr. Kratz was born on November 7, 1946. In 1964 he graduated from Prémontré High School and entered the Norbertine Order. He is a 1970 graduate of St. Norbert College. After completing theological studies at Catholic Theological Union in Chicago, Fr. Kratz was ordained to the priesthood on August 4, 1973. He received his Masters degree from Loyola University, Chicago, IL. Fr. Kratz was a faculty member of Prémontré High School, the superior for St. Michael Priory, Pastor at Old Saint Joseph Church and Director of Campus Ministry at St. Norbert College. He later became administrator of New Saint Joseph Church and was instrumental in the consolidation of De Pere’s west side parishes. He was later named the founding pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes.

Upon entering St. Norbert Abbey, Fr. Kratz served as a novice on August 28, 1948. He professed Simple Vows on August 28, 1950, and professed Solemn Vows on August 28, 1953. He was ordained to the priesthood on June 4, 1955.

Fr. Jacobs was a faculty member at both St. Norbert High School and Abbot Pennings High School, De Pere, WI. He served as Principal of Abbot Pennings High School from August 1973 to June 1977. In 1981, Fr. Jacobs served as Associate Pastor at St. Willebrord Parish, Green Bay, WI, and was appointed Pastor of St. Joseph Parish, De Pere, WI, in 1982, where he ministered for 10 years. In 1992, he was appointed Administrator at St. Wendel Parish, Cleveland, WI, where he remained until his retirement in 2000.

FR. GILBERT JACOBS, O. PRAEM., passed into God’s eternal kingdom on June 9, 2013.

Fr. Jacobs was born on June 30, 1930, in the Town of Lawrence, WI. In 1948, he graduated from St. Norbert High School, De Pere, WI. In 1952, he received a B.A. in Philosophy from St. Norbert College and an M.A. in Modern Foreign Languages (French) from Villanova University, PA, in 1966.

Upon entering St. Norbert Abbey, Fr. Jacobs was vested as a novice on August 28, 1948. He professed Simple Vows on August 28, 1950, and professed Solemn Vows on August 28, 1953. He was ordained to the priesthood on June 4, 1955.

Fr. Coopmans served on the faculty at Prémontré High School, Green Bay, WI, for 10 years prior to being assigned as Associate Pastor at St. Joseph Parish, Madison, WI, in 1988. He served as Pastor of Annunciation Parish, Green Bay, WI; as Administrator at St. Isidore the Farmer Parish, Tisch Mills, and Norman, WI; and as Pastor of St. John the Evangelist, Gillett, WI, St. Michael’s, Suring, WI, and Chute Lake Station, WI.

In addition to serving in external apostolates of the Norbertine Order, Fr. Kratz served the Community in internal ministries: Associate Director of Formation and House Superior at Holy Spirit House of Studies in Chicago, Prior of St. Norbert Abbey, House Superior of St. Joseph Priory and a member of the Abbot’s Council. He was also Director of the Norbertine Center for Spirituality.
2013-14 Winter/Spring Calendar for St. Norbert Abbey

**NOVEMBER**

14 – Abbey Lecture Series: Paths to New Life (Fr. Tim Shillcox), 6:30-8 p.m.
17 – Taizé Prayer, Abbey Church, 7 p.m.
19 – Lord, When Did We See You Homeless and Hungry? (A discussion about homelessness in Green Bay), 6:30-8 p.m.

**DECEMBER**

7 – Advent Series: The Love of Beauty and the Desire for God (Fr. John Bostwick), 9:15-11 a.m.
14 – Advent Series: Compelled to Be: Henri Nouwen – A Spiritual Gift (Msgr. Jim Feely), 9:15-11 a.m.
15 – Taizé Prayer, Abbey Church, 7 p.m.

**JANUARY**

5 – Schola d'Arezzo Concert (Gregorian Chant of the Christmas Season), Abbey Church, 2:30 p.m.
9, 16 – Shakespeare and Spirituality (Fr. David Komatz), 6:30-8 p.m.
18 – Morning of Spiritual Renewal for Women, 8 a.m.-1 p.m.
19 – Taizé Prayer, Abbey Church, 7 p.m.
23 – The Future of the Church: Progressive, Conservative, or Evangelical (Fr. Roman Vanasse), 6:30-8 p.m.
30 – All Things Norbertine: History, Music, Abbey Ale, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

**FEBRUARY**

3, 7 – Pottery as Prayer (Sr. Gayle Bogdanowitz, Sr. Judy Miller), 10-11:30 a.m.
6 – Volunteer Fair: Making a Difference, 6:30-8 p.m.
13 – Abbey Lecture Series: Living Right with Each Other (Dr. Bridget Burke Ravizza), 6:30-8 p.m.
16 – Taizé Prayer, Abbey Church, 7 p.m.
20, 27 – Introduction to the Enneagram (Sr. Judy Miller, Kathy Welhouse), 6:30-8 p.m.
25 – Old Testament Series (Dr. Thomas Bolin), 6:30-8 p.m.

**MARCH**

8, 15, 22, 29 – Lenten Series (Fr. John Bostwick, Fr. Jim Baraniak, Sr. Ann Rehrauer, Fr. Andrew Ciferni), 9:15-11 a.m.
10-19 – Solemn Novena to St. Joseph
11 – Old Testament Series (Dr. Thomas Bolin), 6:30-8 p.m.
13 – Abbey Lecture Series: Living Right with Earth (Sr. Judy Miller), 6:30-8 p.m.
16 – The Elements of Taizé-style Prayer, followed by Taizé service (Dr. Michael Frisch), 6:15-8 p.m.
22 – Canon John Bruce Organ Concert Series (David Enlow), Abbey Church, 2 p.m.
26 – Stations of the Cross (Fr. James Neilson), 6:30-8 p.m.
29 – A Day for Men (Coach Joe Lombardi among others), 11 a.m.-5 p.m.

**APRIL**

1, 8, 15 – Inspired Beliefs: Images of Christ (Fr. James Neilson), 6:30-8 p.m.
3 – Heaven, Is It For Real? (Fr. John Tourangeau), 6:30-8 p.m.
5 – Lenten Series (Fr. James Neilson), 9:15-11 a.m.
10 – Concert of Charisms: The Depth and Beauty of the Catholic Church (Frater Matt Dougherty), 6:30-8 p.m.
17-20 – The Easter Triduum Retreat (Dr. Lee Nagel), 4 p.m. Thursday through 10 a.m. Sunday
27 – Schola d'Arezzo Concert (Gregorian Chant of the Easter Season), Abbey Church, 2:30 p.m.

For a complete list of opportunities for prayer, programs, and retreats, please visit www.norbertines.org/programs.html or call (920) 337-4315 to receive our latest program guide.