



A newsletter from  
**ST. MARY'S ABBEY**

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## August 2017

1. St. Alphonsus Liguori, *memorial*
4. St. John Mary Vianney, *memorial*
- 6. Transfiguration of the Lord (Fr. Michael)**
8. St. Dominic, *memorial*
10. St. Lawrence, *feast*
11. St. Clare, *memorial*
- 13. XIX Sunday (Abbot Richard)**
14. St. Maximilian Mary Kolbe, *memorial*
- 15. Assumption of the B.V.M., solemnity**
  - ⊕ Matins, 7:30 a.m.
  - ⊕ Mass without Vespers, 5:15 p.m.
- 20. XX Sunday (Fr. Hilary)**
21. Pope St. Pius X, *memorial*
22. Queenship of B.V.M., *memorial*
24. St. Bartholomew, *feast*
- 27. XXI Sunday (Abbot Elias)**
28. St. Augustine, *memorial*
29. Passion of St. John the Baptist, *memorial*

This calendar follows the *Order of Worship* as approved by the Congregation for Divine Worship on 22 June 1972 in Rome for the American Cassinese Congregation of Benedictine Monasteries.

**TOLLE, LEGE:** This is a Latin admonition by St. Augustine, whose feast we celebrate this month, means, "take and read." It refers to the Sacred Scriptures. The following is the schema of Sunday readings which we invite you to "take and read" as a preparation for the Sunday liturgy:

- ⊕ **August 7:** Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14; 2 Peter 1:16-19; Matt. 17:1-9.
- ⊕ **August 14:** 1 Kings 19:9a, 11-13a; Rom. 9:1-5; Matt. 14:22-33.
- ⊕ **August 20:** Is. 56:1, 6-7; Rom. 11:13-15, 29-32; Matthew 19:23-30.
- ⊕ **August 27:** Is. 22:19-23; Rom. 11:33-36; Matt. 16:13-20.

**AUGUST SAINT:** Born ca. 1090 in Fontaines near Dijon, St. Bernard was educated by secular canons and was known to be charming, witty and eloquent. At the age of 22 with 30 companions, Bernard entered the new monastic foundation at Cîteaux, recently founded by Stephen Harding. Cîteaux was one of the three monastic reforms of the 11<sup>th</sup> century reacting against the power and prestige Cluny had achieved. Several years after his arrival, Bernard was sent to make a new Cistercian (as it would be known) foundation at Clairvaux.

The Cistercian reform sought a more literal interpretation of the *Rule of Benedict* with greater emphasis on poverty. Bernard, who was a strong proponent of this reform, soon realized he needed to loosen the severe observance he imposed on his brethren. In the 1<sup>st</sup> half of the 12<sup>th</sup> century, Clairvaux made subsequent foundations in England and Ireland. Rievaulx in North Yorkshire, founded in 1132, would become well-known thanks to its young prolific abbot, Aelred, one of Bernard's protégés.

Despite the Cistercian preference for greater seclusion from the world, Bernard, charismatic and influential, soon became involved in ecclesiastical matters in the cause of reform. At the Synod of Troyes, Bernard earned recognition and wrote the rule for the Order of the Templars, a Crusade group who also cared for the sick on pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Bernard also brokered the disputed papal election of 1130 between Innocent II and Anacletus. Thanks to Bernard, Innocent was soon recognized as

the rightful pope. The Cistercians enjoyed its highest accolade when, in 1145, one of Bernard's students was elected Pope Eugenius III.

Bernard thrived on conflict and is thus known as a feisty churchman, taking on issues of heterodoxy and lax monastic observance. He was an acerbic correspondent with great scholars of the day, including Peter Abelard. Bernard was openly critical of Cluny and Black Benedictine monasticism. He even intervened in episcopal elections. His greatest failure was his ardent and eloquent support of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Crusade.

Yet Bernard is considered the last of the great Church Fathers, due to his prolific and prodigious writings, all of which greatly influenced medieval spirituality and beyond. His writings on the Virgin Mary are among his best known works. Bernard is perhaps best remembered as a man who sought a mystical union with God through monastic prayer. He was an early champion of the Cistercian reform, building on the legacy of its founders, Stephen Harding and Robert of Molesme. At his death in 1153 Cistercian houses numbered about 400 in Europe, England and Wales. He remains one of the giants of the monastic tradition and no study of monasticism is complete without him. Just 21 years after his death Bernard was canonized. His cult began before his death. He was declared a Doctor of the Church in 1830.



**BR. PAUL'S OWN:** If you enjoy fresh New Jersey-grown vegetables, be sure to keep an eye out for Br. Paul's produce inside the south gate in his beautiful student-made cart! Br. Paul prayerfully, expertly and organically grows a wide variety of vegetables often not found in local stores. As the vegetables begin to ripen, look for the daily harvests on the cart. A free-will offering can is there, and customers are on the honor system. Cosmas and Damian are watching!

#### *Retreat Center News*

In August, the Retreat Center welcomes monks from the American Cassinese Congregation for a workshop hosted by our own Abbot Elias, president of the congregation.

The Retreat Center also welcomes the Delbarton Football Team for their annual summer camp hosted by head coach Brian Bowers and the rest of his staff. We know you all join us in hoping the team has a successful season.

Aside from these two events, the retreat center will be closed during August for maintenance and deep cleaning. We are in the process of doing some major improvements to the building. We hope you'll stop in for a visit this fall.

Remember, the retreat center also welcomes men and women of all faiths for private or directed retreats, or for spiritual direction. Watch for the schedule for the 2017-2018 Academic Year! For more information, contact Paul Cocco at 973-538-3231 x2100 or via e-mail: [retreatcenter@delbarton.org](mailto:retreatcenter@delbarton.org). Visit our [webpage](#) and like us on [Facebook](#).

**JULY OFFERING:** The June collection was \$3,318. Thank you for your generosity!

**WEBSITE:** Please visit the Abbey website: [www.saintmarysabbey.org](http://www.saintmarysabbey.org) for this newsletter and more up-to-date information about the Abbey. You can also visit the school website for news and events: [www.delbarton.org](http://www.delbarton.org).

