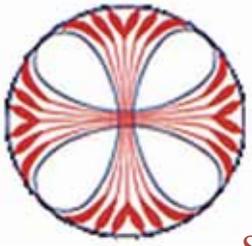


VOLUME 3, ISSUE 4
FALL 2014



OUR JOURNEY

SAINT ANDREW ABBEY · BENEDICTINE ORDER OF CLEVELAND



*Abbot Gary A. Hoover, O.S.B.
Elected August 6, 2014
Seventh Abbot of St. Andrew Abbey*

About the Abbot, Rt. Rev. Gary A. Hoover, O.S.B.

Interview by Kieran Patton and Debbie First



What does an Abbot do?

The name Abbot in Latin, Abba, means “Father.” As the Father of a Monastic Community, I am called to be Christ-like and guide the Community on our journey to Heaven. My goal is to guide and support each individual Monk by being compassionate in my guidance so that I may understand each person as an individual and minister to them personally.

When did you know you wanted to be a Priest?

When I was in 2nd grade at Mass, I was struck that whatever happens on the Altar is something very special and that

through the Holy Spirit, Jesus becomes truly present in the Consecrated Host and Wine. I knew then that I wanted to be a priest so that the Holy Spirit would work through me at the Altar allowing me to be an instrument of God.

What are your concerns for the position?

I hope to reach each Monk and help guide them on a deeper spiritual journey. Every Monk as an individual has his own strengths and weaknesses. By our allowing the Spirit to use these strengths and weaknesses, each Monk shares in the building of our Community. Our individual strengths build up the Community and our limitations allow us to realize our need for one another. When we recognize our limitations we allow others to journey with us toward God.

For Benedictine High School, one of my goals is to unite the faculty and staff as a Family of Faith working with the new administration to provide an atmosphere where people not only enjoy, but celebrate the gift of each other and treat “All as Christ.”

What are your hopes for the Benedictine Community in Cleveland at large?

Through the guidance of St. Benedict and his Rule, I envision personally to

reach out to each person where they are in their relationship with God to help them deepen their faith experience of God and more fully understand His love for them and experience His love in their lives.

I want to be a very good listener. It is important for me to hear what people need in order to be the best person that God has called them to be and develop those avenues that they need to get to that point. This encompasses the Monks, those involved in the Slovak Ministry and Parish and Retreat Ministries. I want to bring forth everyone’s strengths to the front. I strongly want joy to be felt by all who enter this property.

How will you continue the great Benedictine traditions?

I will continue the mission of reaching out to the Slovak community through Sacramental and Spiritual formation. Also, I want to further our commitment to the education of young men on their core values of the Gospel of Jesus Christ Our Lord, so they can radiate the faith. Lastly, we must continue our commitment to the Cleveland Diocese Sacramentally in our various other Retreat Ministries.

Our Journey is published four times per year by the **Benedictine Order of Cleveland, St. Andrew Abbey**, for our friends, oblates, and sponsors.

Publisher

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www.standrewabbey.org

Abbatial Blessing
October 5, 2014 ♦ Mass at 5:30 p.m.

Assumption Church in Broadview Heights
Reception to follow at Michaud's Town N' Country in Strongsville, Ohio.

All are welcome, but reservations are required.
Visit www.cbhs.edu or call 216-721-5300 extension 207

All Are Called to a Vocation in Response to God's Call and Grace

"Late have I loved you, O Beauty ever ancient, ever new, late have I loved you! You were within me, but I was outside, and it was there that I searched for you."

This quote from St. Augustine of Hippo is one that we can often refer to when reflecting on our lives. When we look at this and seeing our vocation be it to the priest, religious, married, or single life the time to start is always in the present moment. When we look at vocations this is also something that we have to consider and respond to. All are called to a particular vocation in response to God's call and grace. Vocations then develop over time, but must come in response to God's presence and grace in the moment. The one who is ever ancient yet ever new knows when that moment will come and it is only by being present that we are given the opportunity to begin again. When we enter into the religious life we find a rhythm that allows us to settle into life while never settling in how we live our life striving to find God in all we do.

The newness of life with new starts, a new school year, and seasons allow for a fresh start when we begin anew. With each new year there is an opportunity to try again and perfect our prayer and work. With each year then there is a chance to delve deeper into rhythm and relationship with God, community, and self. The rhythm is meant to help us in stability, which is one of the vows taken by Benedictine monks. Roots are an important part of who we are as monks and our work in the monastery and diocese. We remind ourselves of this each evening as the community has a vocation prayer where we pray recognizing that God is the "source of our vocation" and that "by the inspiration of your [Holy] Spirit and by our example they may be encouraged to enter the school of the Lord's service." Praying this daily with the Divine Office allows a repetition a daily reminder of the presence and God's word. Reminding ourselves then that we are responding to God's call but also that we need to provide the example, through God's grace, for others is how we come to live fully the monastic life.

The presence of our lives to truly live our life and therefore our call to the fullest can only come through living in the presence of Christ. The beginning of August provided us a chance to live this in different ways. The Fest, which is an annual event sponsored by the Diocese of Cleveland, invites religious communities to set up a table with information to meet and greet those who pass by. There were many orders present and we had the opportunity to pray together as well as support one another in our vocations before meeting all those who passed through in their own moments. It is opportunities like this that provide those of us who were at the Fest to be a presence, and a reminder of who we are as a part of the larger Church.

It was only a couple of days later that the community gathered together and elected Abbot Gary Hoover as the seventh abbot. The abbot St. Benedict reminds us in his rule holds the place of Christ in the monastery. Reflecting after the election Abbot Gary saw Christ's presence fostered not only his entrance into the religious life, but has been the source of continual grace that has strengthened his own vocation. This presence of Christ was found in his family home through his mother Dorothy Miho Hoover who set an early example through her quiet faith as seen in her daily recitation of the rosary. Mrs. Hoover worked as a secretary for Benedictine High School which brought the example of the monks, in particular Abbot Jerome, more into the family's life. Although the desire to be a priest began in grade school this continual example at home and the monastic presence while attending Benedictine High School which led to him entering the Benedictine Order. Once one enters the religious life the response to God's call does not end. The continual formation through the prayer and work has helped the monastic life has helped it grow, but it is the presence of Jesus in the Eucharist that has allowed the life to foster. Spending time with our Eucharistic Lord has been the source of strength and faith that has allowed Abbot Gary to grow. The desire is as the Abbot noted that through Jesus' presence we are

able to be grounded more in our lives, the stability offered in the monastic life. This grounding then allows us to let go of that which would take us away from Christ and also the love of brother. Living and reflecting the presence of Christ, whom the Abbot represents, is brought to those both in the community and those we work with as seen in one of the signs of the office: the pectoral cross. Abbot Gary has seen St. John Paul II and his own prayer before the sacrament as a model to follow.



Our booth at The Fest, an annual event sponsored by the Diocese of Cleveland.

For it was this prayer that St. John Paul II would say gave him the strength to carry his own pectoral cross bearing in mind the true cross that he was responsible to carry to those both in and outside of the Church. This life of prayer through presence both before God and with those living examples of His grace has helped develop a source of faith and a realization of bringing that faith to those in the community, school, and those in the world.

Please continue to pray for vocations to the monastic community as well as for all those discerning God's call in their lives. May we all be the presence through God's grace to help foster and encourage that love of God. St. Benedict...pray for us.

– Fr. Finbar Ramsak, O.S.B.



CAMPERS LEARN ABOUT MONASTIC LIFE AT CATHOLIC YOUTH SUMMER CAMP

Bro. Paul attended the Catholic Youth Summer Camp (cysc.com) for a second year. This camp is for middle and high school students who want to experience a week of high adventure faith. The day starts with mass and continues with activities such as rock-wall climbing, zip-lining, paintball, go-carting, sacred art and much more. During the day they also practice Lectio Divina and for high schoolers they break up into men and woman groups where they are taught Theology of the Body. Thursday is water day in which the campers go jet skiing and tubing.

The evenings are probably the favorite time (next to mass) by the campers as they go to Club. This is where they jam out to praise and worship music, participate in activities and skits, learn about the Catholic faith and traditions, watch run on skits and serious faith building skits. Two or three times during the week they have adoration and on Wednesdays confession is available to the campers.

Bro. Paul's presence allows the campers to learn more about the monastic life, as well as see the human side of Consecrated Religious. He participates in all the activities and makes himself available for spiritual direction and one on one questioning. The campers love to see Religious Orders and Priests and it is a great way to plant the seeds for vocations to do God's work. And by the looks of the pictures, Bro. Paul has just as much fun as the kids!



Oblate Corner

The election of an abbot is always big news. Most especially for the monastic community that he serves and that elects him. However, we might ask the question, what does the role of abbot play in the lives of oblates? Why should the election of an abbot have an effect on the lives of oblates and their commitment?

Unlike the superiors of most other religious orders who are elected for terms of 4-6 years, an abbot is elected for a longer period of time. In the American-Cassinese Congregation of Benedictine monasteries, the constitutions declare that an abbot should be elected to serve to the age of 75 or 8 years, whichever is longer. The reason for this is that the theology behind the abbot's role is for the long term. He is to serve the house in a capacity through stability and growth in holiness for the long term.

This connection with stability is clear and important. This weighs on the decisions of the abbot and the senior council: their decisions must take the long-term into effect. The work of the community in conjunction with the abbot is to be directed toward slow, but steady growth. It is not just about putting our new policies and changing things around just to "burn out" in a few years, or to have another superior "undo" things quickly and without effect.

The work of the abbot and his monks is of vital importance to the community. It is also always linked with the development of the soul. St. Benedict wisely outlines in the Rule that the goal of the abbot is profit for the monks and not "preeminence for himself." This means that change will happen slowly, but surely. For this to happen, the abbot must have a number of years of service in outlining and following-up a future plan for the monastery.

This stability is essential for oblates also. Connected to a stable, growing, and spiritually grounded community will enable the oblate to grow in his/her own spiritual quest. It will ensure that the solid community foundation will build a community of more oblates and provide the continuous spiritual oasis for the renewal of oblate hearts, minds, and souls. Although the oblates do not usually have direct contact with the abbot in obedience—as do the monks—close contact with the monastery will ensure that the work of the abbot and his concern for all aspects of the community bear fruit for the abbey's oblate program.

Connected to a stable, growing, and spiritually grounded community will enable the oblate to grow in his/her own spiritual quest.

– Fr. Michael Brunovsky, O.S.B.

Prayer Schedule

All are welcome to join us.



Daily Monastic Schedule - Monday through Friday

Lauds (Morning Prayer / Conventual Mass - 6:10 AM
Midday Prayer - 11:40 AM
Vespers (Evening Prayer) 5:20 PM
(on Wednesday Vespers begin at 5:00 PM)
Vigils - 7:05 PM

Saturday & Sunday Schedule

Lauds (Morning Prayer / Conventual Mass - 7:10 AM
Midday Prayer - 11:40 AM
Vespers (Evening Prayer) - 5:20 PM
Vigils - 7:05 PM

The Slovak Institute has the following available for purchase:

Books in ENGLISH about Slovaks

Let's Learn Slovak by Philip A. Hrobak, 4th edition, 1990.

(Limited supply), \$5 – **SOLD OUT**

Slovak Songs and Dances by Michael Sinchak, Original edition, 1942, \$7

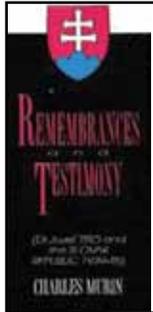
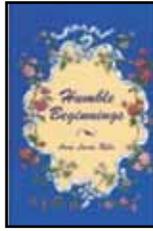
Slovaks in Florida, as researched and written by Andrew F. Hudak, Jr., \$10

Remembrances and Testimony, Dr. Jozef Tiso and the Slovak Republic 1939-1945 by Dr. Charles (Karol) Murin, Secretary for Tiso, \$18

Cleveland Slovaks by John T. Sabol and Lisa Alzo, described vintage photos, \$22

History of the Slovaks in Cleveland & Lakewood, Jan Pankuch's forty years in America, translation of his 1929 book, \$24

The Night of the Barbarians, Experiences under Communism, by Cardinal Jan Chryzostom Korec, S.J., \$28



Odporúame knihy v Slovenine

Sv. Andrej-Svorad in 1952 by Fr. Mikuláš Šprinc, \$7

Slovenské Rehole v Amerike in 1955 by Dr. František Hrušovský, \$10

VKráčoch Dediny in 1968 by Jozef A. Mikuš, \$10

Slovenská Republika (SF) 1939-1949 by Slovak Institute Member Writers, 1949, \$20

Driftwood Poems by Mikulas Sprinc, translated to English from Slovak, \$12

Various Slovakia Landspaces, Large used picture books of Slovensko or regions or cities of high interest. Your choice, \$15

Seasonal Items

Large map of Slovakia (black and white), \$10

Flag of Slovak Republic, Lg. 3'x5', \$20

Flag of Slovak Republic Sm, 3" x 5.5", \$4

Slovak Christmas cards (10 pack), \$10

Slovak Christmas cards TO CANADA, \$12 (U.S.)

ENGLISH Christmas cards (10 pack) \$10

ENGLISH Christmas cards TO CANADA, \$12 (U.S.)

Christmas Oplátky (1 env. of 3 pcs), \$1



Order now for Christmas!

ORDER FORM

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Payment Enclosed \$ _____
+ \$4.00 shipping & hndlg

Total _____

We thank you for your support of the Slovak Institute.

– Andrew F. Hudak, Director

– Joseph J. Hornack, Assistant Director

**For more information or questions,
slovakinstitute@cbhs.net**



**Please consider us when
making or revising your will.**

Our legal name is
Benedictine Order of Cleveland, Inc.

Our federal ID# is 34-0714321.

Retreats and Events at Loyola: October *Call 330-896-2315 for more information*

**PRIESTS AND DEACONS DAY OF PRAYER - OCTOBER 13,
10:45A – 4:00P**

Facilitated by Abbot Clement Zeleznik, OSB
Presentation, Prayer, Meditations, Fraternal Discussion,
Benediction and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
Reconciliation Available
Freewill Offering – Lunch Served

PRE-CANA DAYS – October 26, 10:30A–7:00P

(Mass 11:00 a.m.)

Presenters: Jason and Brooke Roberts

\$75.00 per couple with registration (includes dinner at 6:00P)

JESUS CARITAS FRATERNITY OF PRIESTS
“The Joy of the Gospel ~ Simple, Hidden, Ordinary”
October 19-24

Arrival: Sunday 7:00P - Departure: Friday 10:00A

Retreat Master: Fr. Mark Mertes

\$350.00 per person with registration (includes \$25.00 for presenter)

Annual Slovak Christmas Meal Set for Dec. 7

The Slovak Traditional Christmas Meal is held early in December each year at the Benedictine High School cafeteria. This meal, which is prepared by local members of the Slovak Radio Club and served by monks from St. Andrew Abbey, has been truly starting the Holy Christmas season for many years in this area. This is a meatless meal as was celebrated in Europe and continued here in America.

Beginning the event is Mass celebrated in the Abbey Church, a short walk on the St. Andrew Abbey grounds from the High School.

Tickets to attend are only sold in advance, to ensure food supply. Dinners are \$20.00 each. Orders may be placed by mail, with a check, sent in care of:

Saint Andrew Abbey – VILIYA
10510 Buckeye Road
Cleveland, OH 44104

For more information you can phone 216 721-5300, ext. 0 (zero) Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. until 3:30 p.m.

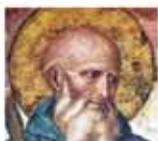
The Sunday Mass is at 12 p.m. with the meal following immediately after on Dec. 7. Along with the Mass and meal there is always traditional music and performance of dance. Exhibits and tables with sale items are also there. The abbey monks, Slovak Radio Club members and the Slovak Institute Library all work together in keeping this tradition going.

The Slovak Institute has been located in the Abbey building since 1952 and before that has always been a Slovak Library.

– Joe Hornack



The Abbey is Going Global!



St. Andrew Abbey
Benedictine Order of Cleveland

"Let them prefer nothing whatever to Christ"
–Rule of St. Benedict, Ch 72

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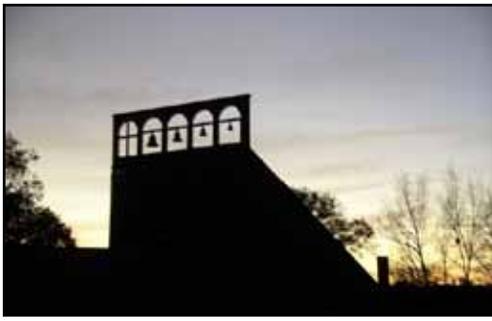
Stewardship



Recently the abbey has completed and launched their new website www.standrewabbey.org. Visitors can learn more about St. Andrew Abbey and the traditions of the Benedictine Order, enjoy pictures, news from the abbey and Vatican, calendar events and even make donations online. The readings of the day are provided so if you are unable to make it to mass, you will still be able to reflect on what God is teaching you that day. There are videos available from Fr. Robert Barron's "Word on Fire" series or see what is posted on Facebook and Twitter from the abbey.

Wait, did I just say Facebook and Twitter? Yep! The abbey has accounts on Facebook and Twitter to help reach out instantly to friends around the world. Rumor has it they will soon be on Instagram as well. The use of social media is a great tool to reach out to the youth and young adults for evangelization and for vocations. But it is for everyone, young and old alike, enabling the abbey to spread the Word of God and to give more insight to the abbey's charism and apostolates. If you don't have Facebook or Twitter accounts it's all right, you won't miss anything. Each posting and tweet is automatically updated to the website.

**So be sure to visit the website at www.standrewabbey.org,
like us on Facebook at St. Andrew Abbey Vocations - Cleveland, Ohio
and follow us on Twitter at @StAndrewAbbey.**



Saint Andrew's Abbey

- Who will receive your assets?
- Will it be the State or your Beneficiary?
- One of the most important decisions of an effective Estate Plan is taking the time to meet with your attorney to identify the people and charities you want to be the Beneficiaries.

Estate Tax now made permanent

The financial outcome of the American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012 (ATRA) was to increase the Estate Tax Rate from 35% to 40% while retaining high exemption.

For 2014 the exemption is \$5.34 million per person, and will be indexed for inflation in future years.

The new law keeps the Gift Tax and Estate Tax unified as one system and also allows a surviving spouse to use any part of the exemption not used by the Estate of the first spouse to die.

Some Key Options

- Do you have a Will?
- Have you considered a Charitable Gift Annuity?
- Do you know how a Charitable Remainder Trust would benefit your Estate?
- Do you know how you can leverage a Gift of Life Insurance?

Let our Stewardship Officers help you plan in the privacy of your home. **Call: (216) 721-5300**

Request our Free Charitable Options Brochure to start your Estate Plan

There is No Obligation.

BE A GOOD STEWARD. Use the enclosed envelope or call (216) 721-5300

Your Legacy. Your Choice. Their Future.

How we are remembered will be our choice and remembering how each of us has been blessed will be where we invest for our grandchildren's future.

Consider making an investment that will be for your children, your grandchildren, the Abbey, the Church and the World.

It's always Your choice.

