Cistercian Spirituality: An Overview

by: Fr. Abbot Denis Farkasfalvy

Theological and spiritual legacy of St. Bernard of Clairvaux, which exercised immense influence on both Christology and anthropology. His older friend William of St. Thierry (who was later canonized) exercises influence as St. Bernard of Clairvaux, a towering figure of Cistercian spirituality. A happy surprise is the approach of the liturgical legacy of St. Bernard: which he cared to speak with jurisdiction.

It emphasizes simplicity of life and service to God that the Cistercian Fathers make a difference at the University of Dallas. The Abbey Church Services offer a variety of masses throughout the week, including daily Mass and evening prayers. The Cistercian Abbey Our Lady of Dallas is located at 3550 Cistercian Road, Irving, Texas 75039.

Let Us Rejoice & Be Glad

Four Members of the Abbey are Ordained

by: Fr. Brian Magee

This summer Our Lady of Dallas was again blessed. On Sunday, August 19th the Abbey celebrated the ordination of Fr. Lawrence Farrell to the Order. On the very next day both young men were ordained deacons by Bishop Kevin Farrell of the Diocese of Dallas. Only a few weeks later, on September 8th Fr. Stephen celebrated his First Mass on Sunday, September 9th, while Fr. Anthony celebrated his First Mass on Sunday, September 9th. Large crowds attended all the events, filling the church and making us proud and grateful the Cistercian community is to see the “very presence” of the Abbey’s mission in our midst.

For Fr. Anthony, the presence of so many students from the Prep-School was a true blessing. It is a gift to see the joy of the students and their families present at the Mass was overwhelming. The support of the school community has been overwhelming, and I look forward to dedicating my life to teaching and ministering to them.” This year will see Br. Anthony teaching at the Prep-School in a variety of ways, most significantly as a religious teacher.

Cistercian Fathers make a difference at University of Dallas

by: Fr. Joseph Van House

At the University of Dallas, the Abbey continues to foster a community of faith, prayer, and ministry that reflects the Charisms of the Cistercians. As a happy surprise, the abbey church services offer a variety of masses throughout the week, including daily Mass and evening prayers. The Cistercian Abbey Our Lady of Dallas is located at 3550 Cistercian Road, Irving, Texas 75039.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Christmas Eve Vigil Mass
Dec. 24th, 7:30 pm
Christmas Morning Mass
Dec. 25th, 9:00 am

DAILY SCHEDULE

Office of Readings & Morning Prayer
6:30 am
Evening Prayer & Office of Readings
9 am
Mass (Mon-Sat)
6:30 am
First Friday Mass
7:30 pm
Office of Readings & Morning Prayer

LET US REJOICE & BE GLAD

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Please accept the wishes and prayers for Advent and for this world.

aeterna lux credentium,/Christe, redemptor omnium

[...]

The poet is also a man of faith: food on one’s table comes from the work of one’s hands and the blessings of favorable weather. The poet addresses Christ as the God of Light, shining into the darkness that seems to be overtaking the world. During Advent we begin our evening prayer with the Latin "Veni, Creator Spiritus." This is an ancient prayer which the 7th-century poet is attuned to the seasons. He knows that the days are lengthening, that darkness seems to be overtaking the world. "Illumine die nocturnae," he says in the second stanza, the world’s own evening descending. ‘ (Loving Creator of the Stars).

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For Fr. Lawrence his ordination carried a sense of completion and a reassured sense of belonging to the community. While Stephen and I were knowing and Bishop Farrell was completing the ordination process, I remember thinking, "Wow, I’m a priest." It was hard to believe that after all the years of discernment and formation and struggle in a brief, quiet moment we were ordained priests and were entering into a new way of life. It was very moving to exchange the sign of peace with all the other priests in the community, from those younger than I to elderly fathers who could hardly walk. It was like being the community all over again.

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TF. Lawrence reached another major goal this summer. I had prepared for qualifying exams in the doctoral program in mathematics at the University of North Texas. In addition to celebrating mass for the freshman class in the Prep school and assisting in parishes, Fr. Lawrence will continue his full-time pursuit of a PhD in mathematics.

Please join the Cistercian community in celebrating these young vocations to Our Lady of Dallas, praying that they might faithfully and fruitfully exercise the ministry to which God has called them.