

---



# aim usa

---

The United States Secretariat of the Alliance for International Monasticism

[www.aim-usa.org](http://www.aim-usa.org)

Volume 22 No. 2 2013

[aim@aim-usa.org](mailto:aim@aim-usa.org)

---



*From  
God's  
fullness  
we  
have  
all  
received,  
love  
following  
upon  
love.*

John 1:16

## New Leadership at AIM International

On September 1, 2013, Jean-Pierre Longeat, OSB, retired abbot of Ligugé, succeeded Fr. Martin Neyt, OSB, as President of AIM International. Fr. John-Pierre Longeat was ordained a priest in 1986 and became abbot in 1990 at the Abbey of Ligugé, France. During his years as abbot, he was a longtime advisor to the Abbot President of the Congregation of Solesmes and made many regular canonical visits around the world.

He is the author of three books on monastic life and an accomplished musician who has recorded two CDs of oboe music. After 23 years of service as abbot of Ligugé, Jean-Pierre is now beginning a new ministry as President of AIM International. He has been a member of this organization for over ten years. He will continue to function as President of the Conference of Religious of France until 2016.



Fr. John-Pierre Longeat

## June 2013 GRANTS

### AFRICA

#### Benedictine sisters in Twasana

–travel expenses of 3 superiors to meeting in Tanzania

#### Benedictine monks in Madagascar

–printing the *Rule of Benedict* in the local language

#### Cistercian sisters in Nigeria

–tuition for one sister

### LATIN AMERICA

#### Benedictine sisters in Brazil

–participation in Formation course in Rome

#### Benedictine monks in Peru

–water pump and purifier

### ASIA

#### Benedictine sisters in the Philippines

–participation in Leadership course in Rome

#### OCIST monks in Vietnam

–study for one monk in Paris

Cover art: from Mosteiro Nossa Senhora da Paz, Brazil

## AIM USA ANNUAL BOARD MEETING

The AIM USA Board of Trustees gathered for its annual meeting on October 29, 2013, at Mount Saint Benedict Monastery in Erie, Pennsylvania. The AIM USA staff reported on the accomplishments and challenges of the past year. Discussions revolved around new ways to generate income to assist the mission monasteries and creative ways to expand the alliances. Since this was the first visit to Erie for a number of the board members, a tour of the AIM office and book warehouse was provided. They were amazed at the quantity and quality of the books that have been donated to AIM. These books are shipped bi-monthly to mission monasteries.



### AIM USA BOARD

Front seated (left to right)

Sr. Mary White, OSB (St. Paul, MN), Abbot John Denburger, OCSO (Piffard, NY), Sr. Stephanie Schmidt, OSB (Erie, PA), Abbot John Klassen, OSB (Collegeville, MN)

Back row: Sr. Karen Joseph, OSB (Ferdinand, IN), Abbot Paul Mark Schwan, OCSO (Vina, CA), Sr. Pia Portmann, OSB (Norfolk, NE), Sr. Anne Shepard, OSB (Atchison, KS), Sr. Anne Wambach, OSB (Erie, PA), Sr. Susan Hutchens, OSB (Rock Island, IL), Abbot John Brahll, OSB (Aurora, IL)

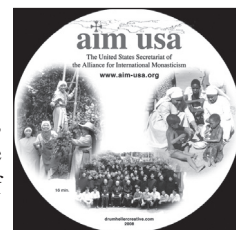
Your monetary gift to AIM USA  
will give hope in the New Year  
to Benedictine and Cistercian  
monasteries around the world.

*Thank You!*

To see any issue of the AIM USA newsletter in full color go to our website: [www.aim-usa.org](http://www.aim-usa.org)



Our 16-minute DVD on the works of AIM, especially the USA secretariat, is available at no cost, to groups and individuals. If interested, please call, write or email us.



Benedict saw the entire world in a single ray of light. (Dialogues)

# EMLA XI | The Eleventh Latin American and Caribbean Monastic Encounter, Mexico, 2013

by Patricia Henry, OSB, Prioress: Torreón, Mexico

From July 22 to 29th over one hundred monastics from Latin America and the Caribbean gathered at a retreat house on the outskirts of Mexico City to share liturgy, reflections and life experiences with one another at EMLA XI (Encounter of Monastics in Latin America). Cistercians and Benedictines, women and men,

Latin American and the Caribbean today. From there we went on to reflect on our Benedictine and Cistercian life as we celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Vatican Council II. We named some of the specific challenges that we are facing today and pondered the significance of establishing or keeping the dialogue going



between our monastic values and the values prevalent in today's society.

In the midst of all the beautiful reflections that we shared, one image has stayed with me as especially meaningful for our time. The President of the CLAR (Latin American Conference of Religious Life), herself a religious from an Apostolic Congregation, addressed us and gave us her impression of what Benedictine Life has to give to our Church and world today. She had read the Dialogues, and reflected back to us that just as the young Benedict had made the broken sieve whole and sound through his prayer and concern for others, so we are called to take the broken relationships, broken families, broken social structures, broken lives that surround us, and through our prayer and care of others, draw them into wholeness.

young and not-so-young met to reflect and dialogue on the topic, *Monastic Life at this Time of Cultural Transformation*.

Much has changed since the first EMLA held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in 1972. Then we were grappling with the renewal of monastic life called for at the Second Vatican Council. We hardly knew each other and there was a certain tension and distance among us, especially among Benedictine nuns and sisters. I sense that those of us who remember those early post-Vatican Council years, have grown in humility, wisdom and charity. This time there was a warmth and deep joy as we met old friends and discovered new ones.

The broad diversity in our ways of living the monastic charism no longer seems threatening or a cause for unfavorable comparisons, but is rather perceived as a multi-colored tapestry that enriches our own understanding and appreciation of Benedict and Scholastica's gift to the larger church.

An outstanding characteristic of this gathering was the presence of many monks and nuns of the "new generation." Sisters and brothers in the under-forty age group made their presence felt in their laughter, their sincere desire to dialogue and get to know each other and their deep commitment to the monastic way of life. One of the highlights of our meeting was a large circle "panel" of this younger generation at which they were given the opportunity to express the challenges they face in monastic life today and the causes for hope they find in their communities.

The first day we began by considering the implications for us as monastics, of our socio-economic and political reality in

relationships, broken families, broken social structures, broken lives that surround us, and through our prayer and care of others, draw them into wholeness.

We alternated celebrating Liturgy in Spanish and Portuguese and were united in prayer with the millions gathered at World Youth Day with Pope Francis in Rio de Janeiro.



We are deeply grateful to AIM International for their encouragement and for the financial aid that was used to help with travel expenses, accommodations and program expenses.

## Monastery of St. Gertrude— Cottonwood, Idaho

### —Where Past and Future Meet—

*“As we seek to serve the needs of our time may our service be as faith-filled, visionary, generous and courageous as that of our foremothers.”* —Prioress Sister Clarissa Goeckner

This historic monastery is a resource for North Central Idaho history, a community committed to social justice, a haven for peace and contemplation, a community in a rural setting stewarding the land, and the home of an array of ministries committed to meeting the needs of our time.

The Benedictine Sisters are active in a variety of ministries that express their core values: healing hospitality, grateful simplicity and creative peacemaking. The Idaho State Historical Society recently included the Monastery of St. Gertrude in a special exhibit, “Essential Idaho: 150 Things That Make the Gem State Unique.”

The community began with three Sisters who arrived from Sarnen, Switzerland in 1882. As the community expanded, they established schools in Uniontown and Colton, Washington and then throughout Idaho. Eventually they provided three hospitals in response to the needs of the pioneer families. Many Sisters continue to work as healthcare professionals; some continue to minister as educators; others are pastoral care providers, retreat directors, artists



and artisans, social workers and more. Their reach goes beyond the Monastery through the work of Sisters on mission in Idaho, Washington, Minnesota and California.

When the Idaho Benedictines looked at their future direction in the fall of 2004, they expressed a desire that social justice be at the heart of their lives. Since then, the community has focused on health care, local food insecurity, poverty, human trafficking and violence against women and children; in 2012 they joined the Northwest Coalition on Human Rights to share a common belief that all persons are created equal and that the dignity and worth of each human being is inviolable.

In 2005 the community was recognized as Tree Farmers of the Year; in 2008 it received the Kessler Keener Extraordinary Witness Award for its impact on human rights, peace and justice and living out its faith to change the way the community and others see the world; and in 2013 the community was cited for its contributions to health care and education in Idaho’s past and was recognized for its stewardship of the land, its forestry program, and its efforts to care for the earth.



### Historical Museum

In the spirit of Benedictine hospitality, the sisters invite visitors to learn about Idaho’s past through their Historical Museum, founded over 80 years ago by one of Idaho’s foremost historians, Sister Alfreda Elsensohn. In addition to its artifacts, the museum has been a catalyst in hosting three Native American Symposia to foster understanding between Native Americans and other peoples; it has also sponsored healing ceremonies at the Snake River site of the 1887 massacre of 34 Chinese gold miners. The healing ceremony was part of “Chinese Remembering,” a Lewiston history conference. Its purpose was to bring healing to racial violence and celebrate the influence of the Chinese in Idaho.

### Spirit Center

With a tradition of welcoming people of all beliefs, Spirit Center offers retreats year-round in Benedictine spirituality and the arts. The serenity and beauty of the retreat center surrounds the retreatant with the silence necessary in which to re-imagine and renew his/her life. Retreatants are invited to delight in God’s gift of nature, meet with a spiritual director, dine with the sisters, schedule time at the Healing Center and more.

### Inn at St. Gertrude

The monastery’s own bed and breakfast is its most recent provider of Benedictine hospitality for the modern seeker. Opened in 2010, the Inn at St. Gertrude is a wonderful way to experience the monastery and the surrounding Camas Prairie.

The monastery was founded by creative, courageous, pioneering women. We now blaze new trails living Benedictine values in a world hungry for meaning. We move into the future knowing that our presence, our ministry, our faith, and our prayer witness to the transforming power of a way of life centered on God.

**Learn more about all of the ministries of the Monastery of St. Gertrude at [www.StGertrudes.org](http://www.StGertrudes.org).**

## Meet a Mission Monastery

### “Torapisuto Shudojin” — Trappist Monastery in Hokkaido, Japan

Trappist Monastery is located on the northern island named Hokkaido, one of four main islands of Japan. Hokkaido is cool in the summer compared to the other three islands. Many Christians and other tourists visit the monastery to make retreats and to sightsee.

In 1896, nine Trappist monks – eight European (five French, two Dutch, one Italian) and a Canadian monk - arrived in the area to found the monastery. Its founder was Dom Gerard Peuiller from Bricquebec, France; he later gained Japanese citizenship and he was named OKADA FURIE. He was a real pioneer and a strong minded man whose Japanese name was very appropriate for him.

At the time of the monks' arrival, the area was very desolate with lots of rocks, and it was covered with Veitch's bamboos. In the midst of such adverse conditions the monks, led by their abbot, confronted numerous challenges. They opened up the barren wilderness by constructing a road and flattening small foothills which overlapped one another along the mountains' skirts. By filling up certain areas the valleys became flat lands. The area is now a fertile farmland and a pretty meadow.

In keeping with tradition their livelihood was sustained by agriculture and dairy farming. The monks gave praise and thanksgiving to God as they lived in prayer and silence and cultivated the land and took care of cattle.



Trappist Monastery's methods contributed to dairy farming in all of Hokkaido. When you trace the origin of dairy farming in south Hokkaido people say that it is “Trappist”.

In 1903 the first wooden monastery was burned down. In 1907, construction work started on the main two-story red brick building. It was completed in 1908. However, the main building was not complete as a monastery since it had no chapel. The erection of the chapel was the monks' long-term dream. Although the monks had planned to build a chapel more than once, they discontinued



carrying out the plan due to World War I and World War II which put the erection of a chapel beyond their control.

In 1974, the year of the 78th anniversary of the foundation, a beautiful chapel was completed in harmony with the main building. And it, the new abbey Church, was consecrated by Bishop Tamizawa.

Prior to the Showa era (1926 -1989), candidates to the community came from a relatively hidden Christian area of Nagasaki. During the Showa era, as candidates began coming from many other areas, the number of monks increased and their dairy farming became well established. In 1935 their monastery was officially raised to the status of an abbey.

After World War II the monastery maintained a stable number of monks and achieved economic self-sufficiency. The dairy farming project had developed even more as the Japanese standard of living improved. Butter made by the monks became more and more popular; it was branded as “Trappist Butter.” Also, the monks started to produce cookies and candy using pure butter as one of the dairy products.

In 1980, in commemoration of the 1500th anniversary of the birth of St. Benedict, whose Rule the monks follow, they founded a community in Hiji, Oita. Seven members from Hokkaido monastery started the new foundation. At present there are 31 monks in Hokkaido and 12 monks in Hiji, Oita.



# Monastery to Monastery — 2013

Seventy-nine Monasteries and one oblate group joined the program for 2013 (as of October 25).

Membership donations are used to fund grants for Benedictine and Cistercian communities in developing countries.

MONASTERY	CITY	STATE
Mount St. Scholastica Monastery	Atchison	KS
Christ in the Desert Monastery	Abiquiu	NM
St. Benedict Monastery	Bakerstown	PA
Holy Cross Monastery	Beaumont	TX
Our Lady of Grace Monastery	Beech Grove	IN
Belmont Abbey	Belmont	NC
New Camoldoli Hermitage	Big Sur	CA



Annunciation Monastery	Bismarck	ND
St. Scholastica Monastery	Boerne	TX
St. Benedict Monastery	Bristow	VA
St. Benedict Monastery	Canyon	TX
Our Lady of Guadalupe	Carlton	OR
St. Scholastica Monastery	Chicago	IL
Benedictine Monastery.	Clyde	MO
St. John's Abbey	Collegeville	MN
Benet Hill Monastery	Colorado Springs	CO
Conception Abbey	Conception	MO
Monastery of the Holy Spirit	Conyers	GA
Monastery of St. Gertrude	Cottonwood	ID
St. Walburg Monastery	Covington	KY
Mount St. Benedict Monastery	Crookston	MN
Our Lady of the Angels Monastery	Crozet	VA
Sacred Heart Monastery	Cullman	AL
Our Lady of the Mississippi	Dubuques	IA
St. Scholastica Monastery	Duluth	MN
Mount St. Benedict Monastery	Erie	PA
Monastery Immaculate Conception	Ferdinand	IN
St. Scholastica Monastery	Fort Smith	AR
St. Lucy's Priory	Glendora	CA
Glastonbury Abbey	Hingham	MA
Abbey of the Holy Trinity	Huntsville	UT
Oblates of St. Martin's Abbey	Lacey	WA
St. Martin's Abbey	Lacey	WA
St. Vincent Archabbey	Latrobe	PA
Sisters of St. Benedict Priory	Littleton	CO
Emmanuel Monastery	Lutherville	MD
St. Anselm Abbey	Manchester	NH
Dwelling Place Monastery	Martin	KY

MONASTERY	CITY	STATE
Holy Wisdom Monastery	Middleton	WI
Mepkin Abbey	Moncks Corner	SC
St. Mary's Abbey	Morristown	NJ
Queen of Angels Monastery	Mount Angel	OR
St. Peter's Abbey	Muenster	SK
House of Bread Monastery	Nanaimo	BC
Newark Abbey	Newark	NJ
Immaculata Monastery	Norfolk	NE
New Melleray Abbey	Peosta	IA
St. Bede Abbey	Peru	IL
Abbey of Genesee	Piffard	NY
Mount Saviour Monastery	Pine City	NY
Woodside Priory	Portola Valley	CA
Abbey of St. Gregory the Great	Portsmouth	RI
St. Martin Monastery	Rapid City	SD
Assumption Abbey	Richardton	ND
Sacred Heart Monastery	Richardton	ND
Monastery of the Good Shepard	Rio Grande City	TX
St. Mary Monastery	Rock Island	IL
Christ the King Priory	Schuyler	NE
St. Gregory's Abbey	Shawnee	OK
Santa Rita Abbey	Sonoita	AZ
St. Joseph's Abbey	Spencer	MA
St. Benedict's Monastery	St. Joseph	MN
Holy Name Monastery	St. Leo	FL
St. Louis Abbey	St. Louis	MO
St. Meinrad Archabbey	St. Meinrad	IN
St. Paul's Monastery	St. Paul	MN
New Subiaco Abbey	Subiaco	AR
Abbey of Gethsemani	Trappist	KY
St. Joseph Monastery	Tulsa	OK
St. Andrew's Abbey	Valyermo	CA
Our Lady of New Clairvaux Abbey	Vina	CA



Queen of Heaven Monastery	Warren	OH
St. Anselm's Abbey	Washington	DC
Mother of God Monastery	Watertown	SD
Weston Priory	Weston	VT
Redwoods Monastery	Whitethorn	CA
St. Benedict's Monastery	Winnipeg	MB
Mt. St. Mary's Abbey	Wrentham	MA
Sacred Heart Monastery	Yankton	SD



*Benedict saw the entire world in a single ray of light. (Dialogues)*

# Letters—Worth Noting...Worth Quoting

## AIM BOOKS TRAVEL THROUGHOUT THE WORLD

We received the books you sent us yesterday. Thank you very much for taking the trouble to send us so many good books. I am very happy to get the commentary on the Rule of St. Benedict for Oblates by Benet Tvedten. This will be very helpful here.

Thank you once again and may God bless you!

Fr. D. Michael Ekanayake OSB  
Adisham, Haputale, Sri Lanka

I am happy to inform you that the books you sent recently have arrived. The books are in good condition. They are all useful for us as Kappadu is predominantly a house of formation. We have here our novices, our students of Philosophy and our students of Theology. Naturally we need plenty of books. Yes, books are terribly expensive; so much so that a young monastery still in the making like Kappadu can hardly think of buying them!

Yours in the Lord,

Abbot John Kurichianil OSB, Kerala, India

Dear friends at AIM-USA—Greetings from Mtwara and Ndanda!

With gratitude I'm writing to thank you for the books we have just received! It was such a lovely surprise from AIM.

We are all happy that this year has been blessed with new life, because we have enjoyed new corn, pumpkins, cucumbers, watermelon and fresh peanuts! Thanks for your prayers because we had enough moisture, so we expect to harvest a lot of corn and rice.

In March we welcomed six girls into the postulancy, which is really God's blessing.

Thank you very much for all you are doing to help us. With love and prayers,

Sr. Auxilia Hokororo, OSB  
Mtwara, Tanzania

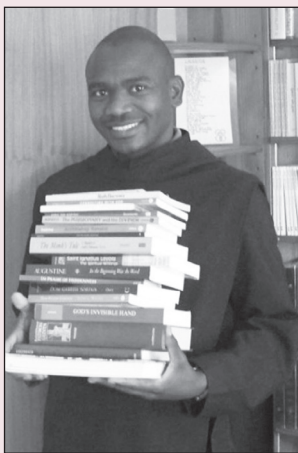
Your parcel with the books from AIM arrived at Inkamana on October 11. What a pleasant surprise to receive so many books! We owe you a BIG THANK YOU! There was certainly a lot of work involved for you: getting the books, sorting them out, packing them nicely, and forwarding them to us!

You can rest assured that the books you sent to us will not end up on the shelf, gathering dust. They will be read! We have at present five novices at Inkamana and 33 professed monks. We are very grateful to all of you at AIM.

Thanking you once more for your kindness, I remain,

Yours sincerely in Christ,

Abbot Godfrey Sieber OSB, Inkamana Abbey, South Africa



**Fr Boniface Kamushishi, the novice master of Inkamana Abbey**



**The community at Lamanabi**

We were very happy to receive your parcel of books. It was such a joy to open the box and find “the hidden treasures” inside. We send our sincere and deepest thanks to you and to all the benefactors. We also send a photo of our community with Dom Mark Butlin, OSB—in front of our chapel, under the statue of St. Benedict—at the close of our annual retreat, given by him.

Mikael Santana, OCSO  
Lamanabi, Indonesia

Pax! I received the books that you sent to us. Thank you very much. We immediately started to read them. It is a great help to all of us for our spiritual reading and lectio.

You are really good Samaritans. I can't express how deeply I am moved by your generosity.

Wishing you all the best. God bless,  
Sr. Leah, OSB  
Tiberias, Israel

Loving greetings from the Philippines!

We are deeply grateful for the money you sent us for Mass stipends. Rest assured that the Masses will be offered for the donors' intentions in our monastery church. Some of the money will be used for the needs of the young boys in our village being trained as altar servers of the monastery. May God reward and bless you and the donors. We do remember them in our daily prayers before the Blessed Sacrament.

Likewise, we want also to express our gratitude for the box of books we received. Books on Benedictine Spirituality, Scripture commentaries, Lives of the Saints and other monastic books are indeed treasures and very useful for the formation of our young sisters.

Thank you very much for always thinking of us and sharing God's goodness.

Ever grateful in our Eucharistic Lord,  
Mother Mary Nathanael Pesigan, OSB  
Mindoro, Philippines



United States Secretariat—Alliance for International Monasticism

Non-Profit  
Organization  
US Postage  
PAID  
Erie, PA  
Permit No. 888



*Benedict saw the entire world in a single ray of light. (Dialogues)*

Talk of the new cosmology is everywhere these days. You've probably heard it, too—it goes by many names: the new universe story, quantum physics, evolutionary consciousness, the collective emergence, and more. This “new story” calls us to break free from the old mechanistic worldview of static perfection and enter into the flow of a universe that continues to evolve in love, a universe where the Divine pulsates in and through all of creation.

Despite the sophisticated terminology, the message I hear is both simple and profound: everything in the universe is interconnected; nothing exists in isolation; separateness is an illusion. We are all part of this evolutionary story, works in process called to manifest the love and glory of God.

It strikes me that AIM was about celebrating our connectedness with our brothers and sisters all over the world before it was common parlance. The good works we read about in the monasteries of Japan and Idaho echo around the world because we truly are all bound together in the heart of a loving God, and we are all evolving deeper into the heart of this God.

Over 50 years ago, Teilhard de Chardin used his scientific insights to describe the Cosmic Christ as the fullness of God's creative and evolutionary force in the universe. Chardin saw

God as the love energy driving everything in creation to greater wholeness and beauty.

Jesus, the ultimate expression of this love energy walking on our earth, gave us the blueprint for our lives in his life of compassionate, forgiving, inclusive love and in his quest for peace and justice.

The miracle of Christmas is that we have a God who draws us into Oneness whoever we are, wherever we are. We are in God and God is in us for

*From God's fullness  
we have all received,  
love following upon love.*

This is truly something to celebrate!

*Stephanie Schmidt, OSB*

Stephanie Schmidt, OSB  
Executive Director, AIM USA  
director@aim-usa.org