



Norbertine Community News

From the Prior's Desk The Importance of Pausing to Celebrate



Anniversaries, ordinations, and birthdays are times of celebration. They are celebrations that honor and mark special days in our individual lives and in our life as a religious community.

Recently we have had a cluster of celebrations at our priory that have been quite joyful. Some look to the past, others to the future.

Each year on the Feast of St. Augustine on August 28, we celebrate the feast of a brilliant bishop and writer whom Norbertines consider a spiritual father (along with St. Norbert) of our almost 900 year spiritual tradition. St. Norbert chose the Rule of St. Augustine when he founded the Norbertine Order in 1121 A.D..

St. Augustine's feast is the day when virtually every American Norbertine was initiated into the Order and received the white habit of our community. It is also the day on which we professed our vows to God and to one another. This year at our priory our senior member, Fr. Vincent DeLeers, marked his 62nd year of professing his solemn vows and brother Robert Campbell marked his second year.

The other Norbertines in New Mexico marked anniversaries that fall somewhere in between these two men. We celebrated the Eucharist and shared a special meal together to acknowledge the importance of this day.

On September 2, Brother Robert Campbell was ordained to the transitional diaconate by Michael Sheehan, Archbishop of Santa Fe, at a

Sunday Eucharist at Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary Parish in Albuquerque. Brother Robert and his community look forward to his ordination to the priesthood at St. Norbert Abbey in Wisconsin on the Feast of St. Norbert, June 6, 2008.

The day before Brother Robert's diaconate ordination, September 1, four New Mexican Norbertines celebrated anniversaries of their ordination to the priesthood: Fr. Rod "Roberto" Fenzl, his 52nd; Fr. Francis Dorff, his 47th; and Frs. Larry Mayer and Joel Garner, their 42nd.

On Thursday, September 6, Fr. Larry Mayer marked his birthday at a luncheon at a nearby restaurant, surrounded by his Norbertine brothers. His birthday gathering had a bitter-sweet quality, because Fr. Larry is dying of cancer. Fr. Larry's great gifts to our Order have been his love of liturgy and the landscape. A trained liturgist who attended to the quality of our prayer together, Fr. Larry has also made a significant contribution to shaping the landscape and the external environment at Daylesford Abbey in Pennsylvania, St. Norbert Abbey in Wisconsin, and our Santa Maria de la Vid Priory in New Mexico. These are contributions that will last.

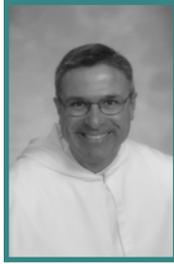
Taking time to pause and acknowledge these anniversaries are important ways to reinforce our vocations and our brotherhood in Christ and in Norbert. While remembering our past they also point us to the future in our service to the church of Santa Fe.

Fr. Joel Garner, O.Praem.



Norbertine Priests, Brothers, Oblates & Affiliates on the Feast of St. Augustine

From Norbertine Brother to Norbertine Priest



By **Br. Robert E. Campbell, O. Praem.**

When I served as department chair of theology at Saint Pius X High School, I designed and taught a course on vocations. I brought in lots of guest speakers from all the vocations of the Church: married, single, religious brothers and sisters, and religious and diocesan priests. Some spoke of an easy discernment and a clarity they had since childhood. "I always knew I was called to be a priest." "I knew I wanted to be a mother and when I met my husband I had no doubts I would spend the rest of my life with him." Others told of a long process of vague yearnings which clarified only after years of prayer and wondering. My process has followed the latter route.

I first entered the Norbertines as a priesthood candidate. In my mind the notion of religious life and priesthood were linked. One came with the other. But as I proceeded through my formation, I saw them as two separate discernments. As I fell in love with Norbertine religious life, I became less sure of priesthood. In the final year of my theological studies I

made the choice to profess solemn vows as a non-ordained brother. I was, and remain, quite happy with that choice. As a brother my ministry and service in the Church have been fruitful, both as a teacher and, most recently, as a lay chaplain at Presbyterian Hospital in Albuquerque. However, it was my experience as a chaplain which led me back to the discernment of priesthood.

As I visited with Catholic patients, I saw their need for the sacraments as part of their healing. I believe that severe illness challenges our spirit as well as our body. Eucharist, reconciliation, and anointing of the sick are integral components of the healing process, and I have seen the power of these sacraments in action. The sacrament of anointing, in particular, bestows special graces to help us in our healing, or as part of the last rites, gives us the grace for our final transition into God. I observed how this sacrament transformed a patient's spirit from distress to peace, from fear to hope. This touched me deeply. I felt God leading me to take another look at priesthood, asking me if I might help meet the tremendous need for sacramental ministry. I have

decided to say yes. Ordination to priesthood will allow me to bring the sacraments to people who hunger for grace and the real presence of God in their lives.

However, I will always be a religious brother because brotherhood is the paradigm for our lives as Norbertines. I do not see myself as abandoning my vocation as a brother at all. Norbertines are all brothers first and foremost. We take our solemn vows as brothers first, before any ordination to holy office, and our lives are primarily shaped by our Norbertine charism of living together as brothers in community. This is our way to holiness as we witness to the transforming presence of God in our midst, and this charism will never change.

In my movement toward priesthood I am finally enjoying clarity in my vocation and a completeness I never had before. The call of God to our vocation is a loving divine desire to be true to our innermost self where we encounter God's divine love. My priestly ministry will empower me joyfully to help others experience and respond to God's love.

Brother Robert Campbell Ordained a Deacon

Brother Robert E. Campbell, O.Praem., was ordained to the transitional diaconate by Archbishop Michael Sheehan on September 2, 2007 at the Church of Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Brother Robert professed his solemn vows of poverty, celibacy, and obedience on the Feast of St. Augustine, August 28, 2005, at the priory of Santa Maria de la Vid in the South Valley. The Priory is a daughter house of St. Norbert Abbey; an order of Canons Regular following the rule of St. Augustine.

Born in Massachusetts, Brother Robert holds a B.A. in Philosophy from Stonehill

College, a M.A. in Education from Columbia University in New York, and a Graduate Certificate in Spiritual Direction from St. Thomas University in Miami, Florida. Subsequently, in Miami he worked as the director of a rehabilitation program for adults with developmental disabilities before entering the Norbertine Novitiate in 1999.

In June, 2004, he graduated from Catholic Theological Union in Chicago with a Master of Divinity Degree and a Certificate of Biblical Spirituality. Brother Robert taught and chaired the Theology Department at St. Pius X

High School in Albuquerque for two years. This past year he participated in a Clinical Pastoral Education Program at Presbyterian Hospital. He will be ordained to the priesthood in the spring of 2008.



Fr. Joel Garner: Honored for Ecumenical Ministry

As the New Mexico Conference of Churches hosts its annual benefit dinner on October 19 this year, it will honor Fr. Joel Garner, O.Praem., with the 2007 Turquoise Chalice Award.

Since 1985, Fr. Joel has been in pastoral leadership at Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary Parish in Albuquerque as well as the prior of the Norbertine Community at Santa Maria de la Vid Priory.

Prior to coming to New Mexico, he was a member of the religious studies faculty and pastor of the campus parish at St. Norbert College in Wisconsin. He also directed a summer Theological Institute at the College for 15 years. Later he became director of formation for the seminarians and founding director of the Norbertine Spirituality Center at St. Norbert Abbey.

Fr. Joel has been involved in a number of ecumenical activities in Albuquerque. He chairs the board of the Ecumenical Institute for Ministry, the educational efforts of which include, in cooperation with St. Norbert College, a Masters Degree in Theological Studies. He is also a member of the project team of Called Back to the Well, an ecumenical program for clergy spiritual renewal funded by the Lilly Endowment.

He has been a clergy participant in Albuquerque Interfaith, a broad-base community organizing effort which teaches people to be active, effective citizens in working toward the improvement of the quality of life in their neighborhoods and city.

Fr. Joel holds a Masters Degree in Theology from Marquette University in Milwaukee and a Doctorate in Religion and Education from Union Theological Seminary and Columbia University in New York City.

Providing entertainment this year at the Turquoise Award and Benefit Dinner will be *de Profundis*, a thirteen voice a cappella men's group. Over twelve years, *de Profundis* has created a repertoire ranging from Gregorian Chant to Folk Songs to new works. *De Profundis*, under the direction of David Poole, has recorded two of its CDs in recent years at the Norbertine Church of Santa Maria de la Vid.

Fr. Anthony Maes to St. Pius X High School



Archbishop Michael J. Sheehan, Archbishop of Santa Fe, appointed Fr. Anthony Maes to St. Pius X High School beginning with the 2007-2008 school

year. He will also continue his duties at the Norbertine parish of Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary in Albuquerque. Fr. Anthony will celebrate the Eucharist, oversee the Catholic identity of the school, and work with each department to help infuse a sense of Catholic identity throughout the curriculum. He will manage the implementation of the Theology curriculum developed by the Conference of Catholic Bishops, which will be available in November of this year.

Fr. Anthony was born in Albuquerque and graduated from Immaculate Heart of Mary Seminary in Santa Fe. He holds graduate degrees from the Oblate School of Theology in San Antonio, Texas, and was ordained a priest of the

Archdiocese of Santa Fe in 1982. He entered the Norbertine order in August, 2006 and made his novitiate at Holy Spirit House of Studies in Chicago, Illinois, before returning to the Norbertine priory of Santa Maria de la Vid in Albuquerque. He is the son of Maria and the late Henry Maes of Annunciation Parish in Albuquerque.

Comings and Goings...

Fr. Xavier Colavechio of St. Norbert Abbey in De Pere, Wisconsin, arrived in Albuquerque in early September to teach an ethics course in the Master of Theological Studies Program run by the Ecumenical Institute for Ministry in conjunction with St. Norbert College in Wisconsin.... Fr. Francis Dorff will return at the end of September to the priory from an over-year-long writing sabbatical in California.... In the middle of June, three more New Mexicans graduated from the local campus of St.

Norbert College's Master of Theological Studies Program. The graduation ceremony was held at Santa Maria de la Vid Priory Church. Dr. Howard Ebert, the director of the program in De Pere, Wisconsin, was present to give the commencement talk and to award the diplomas.... Fr. Rod "Roberto" Fenzl spent much of the summer preaching for the Norbertine missions in parishes especially in California. Fr. Fenzl himself spent 34 years as a missionary in Lima, Peru.... The parish of St. Anne, pastored by Fr. John Tourangeau and Fr. Bijoy Francis, enjoyed a very successful annual Fiesta at the end of July. Fr. John reports that it brought about \$30,000 into the parish.... Fr. James Herring, prior at St. Norbert Abbey, and Fr. David McElroy, director of development visited us a few times this summer, most recently for the ordination of our brother Robert Campbell to the diaconate.... Fr. Bijoy Francis and Fr. Binu Joseph, returned to India for a month this summer to visit family, friends and their Norbertine Community.... Fr. Binu Joseph began his participation in the Clinical Education Program at Presbyterian Hospital at the beginning of August.

**NORBERTINE COMMUNITY OF
NEW MEXICO**

Santa Maria de la Vid Priory
5825 Coors Road, SW
Albuquerque, NM 87121-6700

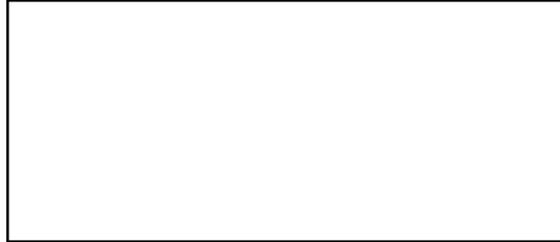
Phone: 505-873-4399

Fax: 505-873-4667

Email: norbertines@norbertinecommunity.org
www.norbertinecommunity.org

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that our work may
continue...

Phase II Development at the Priory



The new St. Norbert Cloister, a residence-living center for twelve Norbertines, was completed at the end of the summer. Norbertines moved into the building at the beginning of September and it was blessed during the visit of Abbot Gary Neville of St. Norbert Abbey. The building where the Norbertines previously lived, a former retreat house dormitory, will again be used for retreatants, for Norbertines in formation, and for guests of the community.



The Norbertine Library, the second building of the Phase II development at the priory, is presently under construction and will be finished by the end of the year. The Library is intended to be a theological resource for the New Mexico faith community. It will also contain a reception area and priory offices, three spiritual direction and counseling rooms, a seminar room, and archives. It will be capable of housing between twenty and twenty-five thousand volumes.