

**Dear Associates and Friends,  
The Lord be with you!**

**In mid June, the American Trappist superiors of our five monasteries of nuns and twelve monasteries of monks gathered for a Regional Meeting at the Holy Spirit Abbey in Georgia . Their meeting prepared for the whole Order's General Chapter in September. Our House Report told of our community vote to dissolve in favor of our Vietnamese Cistercian monks establishing a new foundation here in Assumption Abbey. The superiors were very affirming in their recognition of our progress so far, as we blend and prepare for that transfer.**

**Our superior Fr. Alberic drove to Georgia on Friday, June 9<sup>th</sup>. We received a phone call Saturday morning from Holy Spirit's guest master, asking where was Fr. Alberic. Later he phoned again to say that someone had been told that Fr. Alberic would not arrive there until the next Tuesday. On Wednesday he had still not shown up, so we filed a Missing Person's report through our sheriff's office. Finally, Thursday morning a rather embarrassed Fr. Alberic phoned from Holy Spirit, asking if we had been worried. He had been spending time with family connections in Atlanta and had not advised us of the change in plan.**

**That same week five of our monks drove to Texas which left a quite small group here to celebrate the Solemnity of *Corpus Christi*. Fr. Paul was designated main concelebrant. That Sunday our Church was filled with the Nazareth Hermits, the modest number of regular Mass attendants, and an unexpected crowd of vacationers. Fr. Paul gave a lively homily about the Procession of the Blessed Sacrament. The end result was a full escort of worshippers going ahead of Our Eucharistic Lord around our inner courtyard, and then many remaining in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament on the altar afterwards.**

**Fr. Leon continues living in our infirmary under Hospice care. He is gradually improving physically, and has begun offering Mass again with assistance. The hermits attend his Mass in our infirmary day room. He goes around our hallways with his walker a couple of times daily.**

**Maintenance, of course, is a never ending chore in the monastic complex. Fr. Paul recently restored and/or replaced ceiling panels in our Church entrance hall and in our large mailing area. The leaking roof problems were at last fixed, so he could improve the appearance.**

**Gary Hunter, a former candidate, decided to spend a few weeks with us. Jill put him to work on the guest house windows. The wood frames had deteriorated badly and the air conditioners needed attention. Gary and Fr. Thaddeus have been working together on that project.**

**Elmer and Br. Ambrose have been constructing a strong pipe barrier for our three large propane tanks located near our infirmary. The original wood barrier was put up mainly for appearance. It blew down during a bad wind and rain storm. Then we learned that a steel barrier is required.**

**A visiting teacher from Ava gives our new Vietnamese monks classes in English on Friday afternoons. A gradual growth in the ability of understanding and speaking our language is the good result.**

**Our Family Brothers have been coming for renewal and deepening their share in the monastic way. The two Johns from Texas, Dick and Dave from Oklahoma, Vince from Louisiana, Dane from Arkansas, and Wayne from Ohio have each spent some time living within our community recently.**

**The 4<sup>th</sup> of July was a rainy day which made this year's picnic cool and free from insects, as we celebrated the meal in the shelter of our open-air and covered courtyard. The Nazareth hermits and some Vietnamese Sisters of Mercy from Springfield added to both the food and the number of participants.**



# TO KNOW THE ONLY TRUE GOD

**Our Lord declared during His public ministry that no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son, and those to whom the Son reveals the Father.**

**At the Last Supper Philip asks Jesus to show them the Father. Our Lord replies that if they see Him, they see the Father. So how can we know the Lord Jesus better?**

**Fortunately Our Lord did not leave that question unanswered. He said that the Paraclete, the Holy Spirit, would come, and would lead us on to all the truth.**

**The Holy Spirit inspired Mark, who had served as secretary for St. Peter, to write a Gospel account of Jesus. Seen through the eyes of Peter we find a very human Jesus in the Gospel of Mark—a Man among men—the Son of God truly become a Son of Man.**

**Next the Holy Spirit inspired the Apostle Matthew to collect many teachings of Jesus, and to have a disciple of Matthew compose a second Gospel account of Jesus. His great concern is to show that Jesus is truly the promised Messiah, so in Matthew's Gospel we find Jesus giving five separate sermons, as a New Moses giving a New Law. Matthew also points out how often Jesus fulfills an Old Testament prophecy.**

**The Holy Spirit again inspired a different man to compose another Gospel account of Jesus. This man, Luke, was a Gentile. He was careful to research and interview eye-witnesses, but he became a Christian through the preaching of St. Paul, who also had not known Jesus in His earthly life. Paul and Luke and gentile Christians received Christian faith, and experienced the presence and action of Christ mainly through the action of the Holy Spirit. So Luke in his Gospel shows Jesus as personally filled with the Holy Spirit and acting in the Holy Spirit. Then He sends the gift of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost to dwell in His disciples, as they spread the Good News of Christ to all peoples.**

**Finally, the Holy Spirit inspired John, the beloved disciple, in his old age to direct one of his own disciples to compose a fourth Gospel account of Jesus. John had pondered his experience of Jesus for such a long time that in the light of faith his Gospel pictures the divinity of Our Lord shining very clearly through His humanity. "In the beginning was the Word...and the Word became flesh and among us."**

**So we hear the Son telling us that He comes to reveal the Father, and that He sends the Holy Spirit to reveal more fully to us who the Son is. The Holy Spirit began that more full revelation of the Son in the first Christian century by inspiring the four Gospels. The Holy Spirit continues revealing the Father and the Son always more fully during the lifetime of the Church and during the lifetime of each of us, until in the end the Father, Son and Holy Spirit becomes all in all.**

**In the Sacred Heart,**

**Your Ava Monks**

