

ASSUMPTION ABBEY ALUMNI REUNION 2

Dear Brothers on the Way,

Here is a photo from the time of our foundation in 1950: Joe and Josephine Pierson (bow tie and fur coat), their daughter Mary Garrick (with bangs); the two men are their sons Homer and son-in-law. The other lady is Homer's wife, and the monk in front is Fr. Canice, superior, with Brother Declan farthest back.

Mary had five sons. She is now 93 and has hospice care in a Tulsa nursing home. Fr. David Garrick, retired priest and Mary's son, will come to live in our Family Guest House as host for visitors there. The house has been fully renovated this past year.

The General Chapter of 2011 voted to keep our novitiate closed another three years. We realized that decision deprived our small aging community of the time we would need to form new monks, and provide them with the added years of maturing experience required to take leadership roles. So we moved forward with Plan B.

Plan B involves inviting a community of monks in Vietnam to make a new foundation here. We in principle are willing to transfer our monastery and its assets to them, so this will become a monastery of Cistercian monks.

The second part of Plan B is to build up a group of Family Brothers. A movement of Trappist Associates has been growing for decades in many areas of our Order. Each group of associates works out its own structure and functioning. They relate to one particular Trappist community. Their purpose is to share in our Cistercian spirituality as people still living in the world.

Ava's Family Brother program is a particular form of Associate. A man may come periodically to live within our community a longer or shorter time so this way he puts roots more deeply in our monastic way, and renews his spiritual strength. Then he can return to life in the world supported by his relationship with our community.

The Vietnamese Cistercian group is the only one of the thirteen Common Observance Congregations to have remained simply contemplative. They are flourishing under the Communist regime's oppression. The 900 Cistercian monks and nuns in Vietnam outnumber all the rest of their congregations added together. We contacted the Abbot of one of their five monasteries of monks.

The Abbot and his Prior have visited us twice. After some negotiations, we all agree on the next stage of Assumption Abbey's life. Four Vietnamese monks will come here this year

and live as guests within our Trappist community. We will spend two years learning each other's language and ways. If things go well, then another four monks will come for a new two-year period. We will continue this gradual enculturation process until both sides are satisfied that it is time for transfer.

Taking care to fulfill all the canonical requirements, we Trappists will become guests here within their newly founded Cistercian monastery. We will remain until we join our fellow monks here in our cemetery. We will give our buildings, land and assets to them. The 60-year conditional clause in Joe Pierson's donation of his property and land to us was terminated in 2010.

IT IS TIME TO CELEBRATE A SONG OF ASSUMPTION ABBEY---PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

All the men who have shared in our life, as monks or candidates or family brothers, are invited to come for the 2013 Anniversary of our Foundation from Sunday, September 22 through Wednesday, September 25. Plenty of rooms in our Guest House, Monastery and Family Guest House. You are welcome to come part of the time or all of the period.

Tentative Schedule

Sunday, September 22

9 a.m. Mass

Noon meal

Relax, settle, renew friendships

4 p.m. Tour Monastery and Bakery

5:45 p.m. Vespers

6:30 p.m. Supper

Monday, September 23:

6:30 a.m. Lauds/Mass

7:30 a.m. Breakfast

9:30 a.m. Browse through old pictures/memories together

Noon meal

2:30 p.m. Tour Our Lady of Angels Friary, Nazareth Hermitage, Holy Family Guest House

5:45 p.m. Vespers

6:30 p.m. Supper

Tuesday, September 24: Foundation Day

5:45 a.m. Lauds and Mass

7:30 a.m. Breakfast

9:30 a.m. Meeting/sharing with Fr. Peter Dat Vu. He is the first Vietnamese monk to come. He has USA citizenship (refugee) so no delay for visa. Fr. Peter has been with us since spring.

2:30 p.m. Sharing Together: Past (Fr. Matthew [Jerry] Reidy's life, Fr. Theodore's, Fr. Raphael's, etc.)

Present (Lee and Soon Clevenger's life, Dale and Linda's, Bishop Dave Ricken's, etc.)

Future (Vietnamese, Family brothers, etc.)

Wednesday, September 25:

5:45 a.m. Lauds and Mass

7:30 a.m. Breakfast

Depart

Reunion 2 R.S.V.P.

I will attend _____
Name(s)

I will arrive _____

I will depart _____

Phone #/e-mail _____

Married couples in adjoining rooms in Guest House.

Please reply by September 15. Thank you.