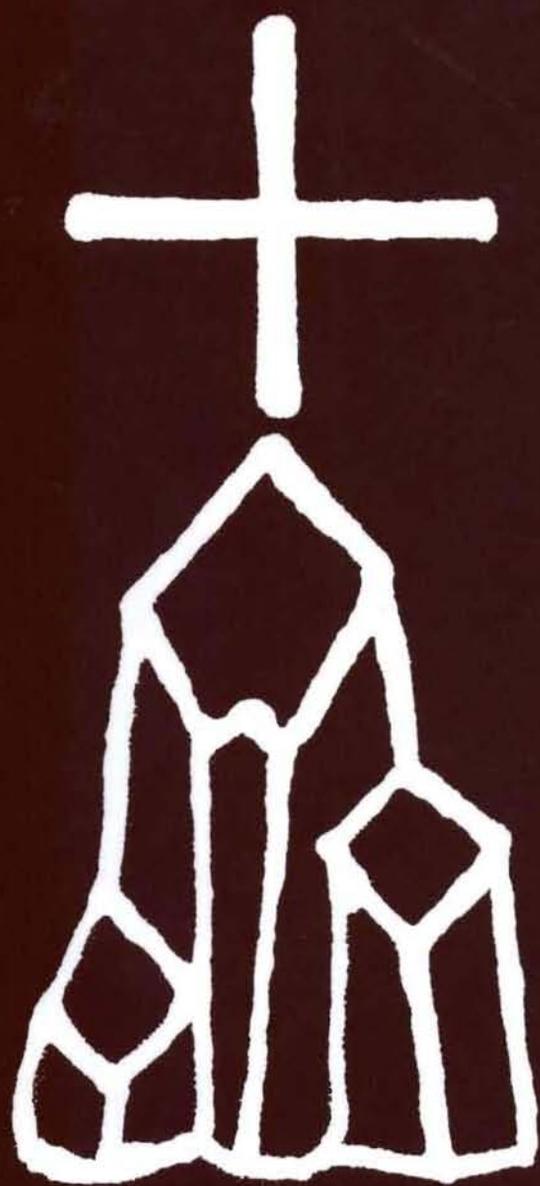


The Contribution of Monastic Life
to the Church and the World

*Essays in Celebration of the Fiftieth Anniversary
of Mount Saviour Monastery*



Edited by Martin Boler and Anthony J. Cernera



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Preface

MARTIN BOLER

The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure buried in a field which a person finds and hides again, and out of joy goes and sells all he has and buys that field. (Matthew 13:44)

As we celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of Mount Saviour Monastery, and as we read this passage from Matthew's Gospel, probably nothing better describes the situation of Fathers Damasus, Gregory, Placid, and Bernard when they founded Mount Saviour in the fields of the Hofbauer farm—joy. They experienced true joy which prompted all that followed. Their joy was the joy of the Paschal Lord which he wishes to share with us: "That my joy may be in you and your joy may be complete" (John 15:11).

One of the Psalms observes that seventy years is our allotted life span, and eighty for those who are strong. In the experience of our Founders and our subsequent experience, there has been an amount of emptiness and pain, but such has certainly not been the majority of our experience. Underlying our human angst, the Paschal joy of the Lord, with its source in the agape of the Father has been and is the underlying theme of our common life. It is our hope that in these pages something of the joy of the Lord may be evident in what is said of Mount Saviour as well as in the accounts of Benedictine life in general. Monasteries may be autonomous but our shared vision and interrelatedness is real.

We are especially grateful at this time for those who presented the papers on the occasion of our fiftieth anniversary included in this volume and who spent some time with the community telling us about their life and work. Some lectures originally presented on that occasion are not included here at the speaker's request and

others included here were given on a different occasion. They all pertain to the theme of "The Contribution of Monastic Life to the Church and the World."

A special word of thanks is due to Anthony J. Cernera, president of Sacred Heart University, for his constant support and friendship, and for his invaluable assistance in editing and publishing these essays through Sacred Heart University Press.

The monks of Mount Saviour, our Oblates, and our friends are grateful for our first fifty years, and honored that we can share with you a small measure of our joy. May all who read these words grow closer to our crucified and risen Lord and to each other in His service.