



# Pilgrimage Churches: Mount Saviour Monastery

By Father Robert F. McNamara

In designating auxiliary pilgrimage churches and chapels for the Holy Year pilgrimages within the Southern Tier, Bishop Hogan appropriately chose a spot that has already become a place of pilgrimage in its own right: Mount Saviour Monastery, near Elmira.

Mount Saviour is the only Benedictine monastery in New York State. Furthermore, it is independent of every other Benedictine foundation in the United States. The Benedictine Fathers who planned it in 1950 received permission for their monastery to be directly subject to the Benedictine Abbot-Primate in Rome until it was ready to become a full-fledged religious

house with its own superior. Their aim was to have a monastery of a strictly contemplative, spiritual pattern of life, in keeping with the ideal interpretation of the Benedictine Rule.

The four monks who founded the new monastery were led by Father Damasus Winzen, a monk of Maria Laach Abbey in Germany. On Aug. 16, 1950, they decided to establish their new home on the 400-acre Nagle Farm, located on a hilltop overlooking the Chemung Valley, about eight miles northwest of Elmira.

The four founders and three novices arrived in the following spring and took up a frugal residence in farmhouses already on the property. Here they started

their liturgical life as a community, and began experimenting to discover what sort of farming would enable them to become self-supporting. Dairy farming was the final choice.

Permission to make the foundation had been received on Oct. 11, 1950, feast of the Motherhood of Mary. Having made a vow to do Our Lady special honor at the new monastery in thanks for her intercession, Father Damasus gave priority to a permanent chapel dedicated to Our Lady Queen of Peace. Bishop Kearney of Rochester broke ground for it on Aug. 6, 1951. Octagonal in design, the chapel was planned by the New York architect, Joseph Sanford Shanley, with a special eye to its blending with the beautiful hilltop terrain. The monks did much of the construction themselves, as well as a good deal of the art work. Focus of the shrine in the crypt was a statue of the Blessed Virgin — a fifteenth-century French Gothic Madonna donated by Mr. and Mrs. Otto L. Spaeth of New York.

The blessing of the building took place on Oct. 4, 1953.

Slowly but surely, the number of monks grew, and the reputation of Mount Saviour as a shrine, a retreat house and an ecumenical center increased. On Nov. 19, 1957, the monastery was given the rank of an independent priory, and Father Damasus was named the first conventual prior. He now started the building of a real monastery, designed by Ronald Cassetti, Elmira architect.

Bishop Kearney dedicated the stark but graciously simple monastic buildings on Sept. 14, 1964. The construction project also involved the enlargement of the chapel by the addition of four wings in the same architectural style. The founding prior lived seven years to enjoy the completed monastery. After his death on June 26, 1971, the present prior, Father Martin Boler, was elected to succeed him.

Holy Year pilgrims who choose Mount Saviour as their destination, will find in its chapel an atmosphere of deep devotion that will make their pilgrimage a true religious experience.

the hand... all hints of racism will be erased from the American Church so that it be truly catholic as well as Catholic. Frank Sinatra will be banished to Australia but leave his voice behind. membership in the Bishop Sheen Housing Foundation will swell. Howard Cosell will retire.

Airplanes will be outlawed... or at least American males of Italian-Irish extraction born on July 31 with the last name Viglucci will be banned from all flights. Martin Luther King Day will become a national holiday. George Beahon will continue to shake things up on the local television front. Earl Butz will join the Trappists (we made this wish for Spiro Agnew three years ago and look what happened to him).

Earl Caldwell will come "home" for a drink at Billy Mitchell's White Tavern. Local television talk shows will realize that right here in Rochester they have one of the for most (if not THE foremost) experts on Rachmaninoff in the world. In fact right here at the Courier-Journal, our circulation manager, Frank Crociata. Every insurance agent will be as capable as John Canepa (although a little nicer).

And you and yours will have a Christmas full of joy and a year of peace.

**THE  
SLOT MAN**

**Carmen Viglucci**

If I have my way this Christmas then next year:

A cure for cancer will be found. Margie Insalaco will have her poetry published. Patty Hearst will return. The economy will end its nose-dive. The government will spend less on armament and more to erase world hunger. Public vehicles will be made more accessible to the handicapped. My wife will begin to appreciate televised sports.

More people will adopt hard-to-place children. Abortion will be outlawed. The new Pastoral Council will get off to a resounding start. Sister Mary Margaret Hammer, OP, will enjoy her new role as prioress at the Dominican monastery in Elmira. And nuns everywhere will get recognition for their service. Pope Paul's efforts in behalf of the world's underprivileged won't be tainted by half-witted remarks by officials of rich countries.

Looking ahead to the bicentennial will serve to unify our great nation. Ecumenism will be revived. The Vatican will reverse itself on Communion in

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## 'Full, Civil Rights' for Women Advocated by Pope Paul

Vatican City [RNS] — Pope Paul has urged that women, everywhere, be accorded "full civil rights" on a par with men, so that they might exercise "professional, social, and political" functions in accordance with their capacities

tionally different," they were "identical in nature," and insisted that the dignity of a woman's "personhood and status" should be recognized whether the woman be "spinster, wife, or widow."

Speaking at an audience with participants of a national convention of Italian Catholic Jurists, the Pope stressed that although men and women were "func-

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