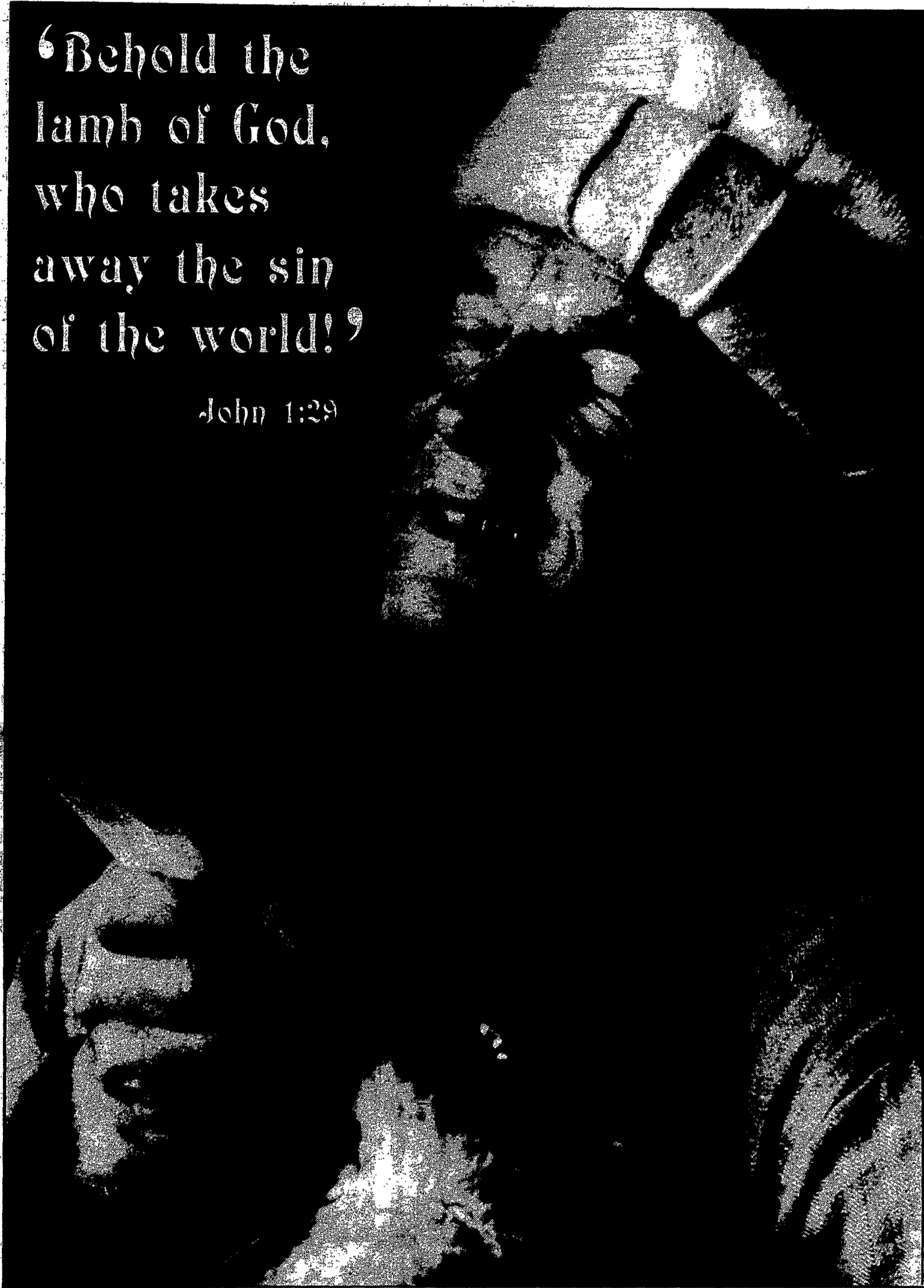


‘Behold the
lamb of God,
who takes
away the sin
of the world!’

John 1:29



Jeff Goulding/Courier-Journal

Easter reflections: A long day's journey into monastic life

By Emily Morrison

Vigils

Just before the crack of dawn, Father Placid Cormey walks with measured footsteps into the crypt of Our Lady Queen of Peace Chapel, leaning heavily on his cane. At 4:45 in the morning, few of us seriously consider stirring from bed — I speculate as I sit sleepily with head bowed, listening to his difficult gait — with the notable exception of farmers, insomniacs and monks.

The occasion is Thursday morning Vigils at Mt. Saviour Monastery, three days before Palm Sunday. Father Placid, one of the community's founding members, has made the daily trek this morning, despite a painful leg injury acquired during a fall. Now 83, he's risen before daybreak nearly every morning during the half-century he's spent as a professed Benedictine monk.

A handful of venturesome guests sits quietly along the back wall of the small chamber at the rear of the crypt, watching the monks file past the shrine of Our Lady to begin their day.

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