

Happy Easter!

Dear friends of St. Paul's Abbey,

We lift our hearts in praise and adoration to Christ, who revealed the boundless depth of His love through His Passion and death upon the Cross, and who, triumphing over sin and death in His Resurrection, reigns as our Lord in glory. With hearts overflowing with joy, we proclaim: "Alleluia!" May the grace, joy, and peace of the Risen Lord dwell abundantly within you and your families. In this spirit, we are pleased to share with you some news from Newton Monastery.

Guests: From January 3 to 7, Abbot Javier, newly elected President of our Congregation last year, visited Newton on his way to the Schuyler Monastery in Nebraska to take a Canonical Visitation. During his stay, he encouraged our brothers, and we shared a joyful time. He had especially meaningful conversations with the elderly Abbot Em. Joel and Abbot Em. Justin, showing them attentive care. On January 4, the Solemnity of the Epiphany, he also celebrated Mass for our community. Despite several brothers having colds during his visit, Abbot President Javier completed his schedule in good health and, after finishing his visitation in Schuyler, returned to Europe. From January 17 to 24, Abbot Blasio Park visited Newton, bringing us much joy. On Sunday, the 18th, he met with our oblates after Mass. Even amidst his busy schedule, he listened attentively to each brother with fatherly love and encouragement, helping them overcome the challenges of living abroad. During the Paschal Triduum, Fr. Paul Tolve and Fr. Tony Ciorra, longtime friends of Abbot Joel, along with two of his sisters, joined us for the liturgies, making the celebration more grace-filled and abundant. Fr. Thomas Fallone of the Diocese of Paterson also spent time with us from April 1 to 4.

Brothers: At the beginning of the year, Subprior Br. Matthias visited Korea on vacation, which included attending the celebration of his 25th anniversary of monastic profession on January 14. Br. Matthias entered Waegwan Abbey in 1998, made his vows in 2001, and was sent to Newton in December of the same year, where he has faithfully worked ever since. He plays an indispensable role in the community, overseeing vehicles, farm machinery, building maintenance, the retreat house, and the kitchen, and serves as a model for many. He returned to Newton on February 16, and the following day, the Lunar New Year, we invited neighbors and benefactors to celebrate the New Year and his 25th anniversary. On this occasion, we also celebrated the 70th birthday of Fr. Odilo (February 28) and my 60th birthday (February 18). On January 24, Br. Theodoro, who works diligently for the monastery, was involved in a minor car accident on his way back from the airport after seeing Abbot Blasio off. Thankfully, he was not

injured. He later shared that he had felt a strong desire to receive a blessing from the Abbot that day and was grateful that the blessing may have protected him from a more serious accident.

The following day, January 25, heavy snowfall forced the cancellation of the Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul celebration. Instead, all the brothers worked until late afternoon, clearing snow. During this work, an old truck caught fire and was destroyed, but fortunately, no one was harmed. We are grateful for the Lord's protection. Br. Theodoro, who has been in Newton for nearly five years, is applying for a visa extension due to changes in immigration laws. If approved, he plans to travel to Korea in June to obtain a visa and return to Newton. I am also awaiting the permanent resident card, which I renewed in February.

From February 26 to March 9, Abbot Joel led a retreat at the Schuyler Monastery and participated in the monastery's annual retreat. Despite health challenges, Abbot Justin continues to live with his characteristic serenity and smile. He recently moved to a new room. We hope he will have better health this year.

Monastery Renovations: We sincerely thank all who continue to support the renovation of our monastery church. As the sale and lease agreements for the old monastery building across Route 206 and the seminary buildings will be completed by May 1, we expect church renovation work to begin by the end of this year at the latest. Electrical work is currently underway in the farm storage building, and most items have already been moved. Once completed, we plan to relocate the library books to one of the rooms of the barn building. We are also preparing a house for the cook and volunteers to use, and the rooms next to the reception area are being repaired, and windows will be replaced.

Dear friends and benefactors,

Thanks to your prayers, concern, and generous support, our community continues to grow step by step. Although business at our Christmas tree farm has declined due to leasing some part of the tree farm, we are focusing more on operating the retreat house, and the number of visitors is gradually increasing. We will continue to strive so that all who visit the monastery may experience the Lord's love and grace in peace and comfort. Once again, we sincerely thank you for your prayers and support. We pray that you may have a blessed life in the grace of the Risen Lord in this Easter season. Thank you.

Fr. Samuel Kim O.S.B.

Fr. Samuel Kim, O.S.B., Prior
and the monks of St. Paul's Abbey

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