

Signs of Hope

Ancient Chinese wisdom teaches us to see change as an *opportunity* rather than a threat. Change calls us to live from a deeper place, and to see that community, imagination, and creativity are our greatest strengths as we move forward into the future.

In community, we brothers challenge ourselves to discern the opportunities offered to us in the actual circumstances of our life. During the past months, we have been involved in several projects which are responses to our changing times. For us they are signs of hope and newness.

NEW RAMPING IN THE MONASTERY. As the years progress, brothers' physical needs are changing. The portion of the Priory which we call the "dormitory" (our living space) was built almost forty years ago. A lovely, multi-level building, flights of stairs connect the major spaces of the monastery (chapel, dining room, community room, library, and brother's rooms). The building was designed and built when there was—understandably—not much thought about future needs and greater accessibility. Looking ahead to the future, we want to make all the areas of the monastery as accessible as possible, so that brothers can be involved in our common life as fully as possible. In late winter, we initiated the construction of ramps which will link each level of the monastery.



Late winter and spring were marked by the construction of the new ramps connecting the floors of the monastery.



ABOVE: Brothers work with Jim Grundy in installing the new solar panels. LEFT: The solar panels await the rising sun.

SOLAR PANELS. Stewardship of the earth is a value reaching all the way back to the beginning of the Benedictine monastic tradition. All of creation—each living creature, the fruits of the earth, the waterways and the rocky hills—must be revered “as the vessels of the altar.”

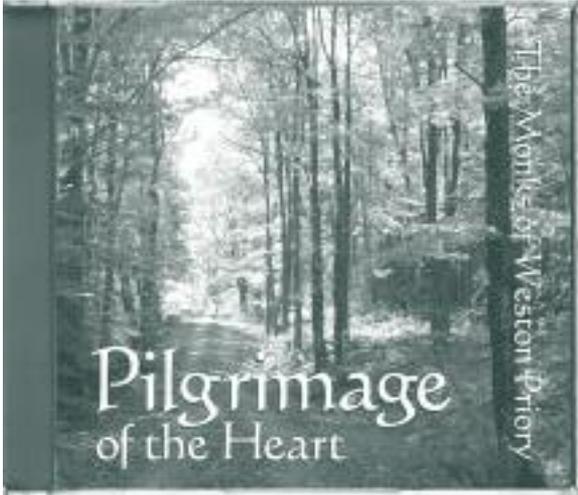
Yet we live in an age of environmental crisis: the earth is degraded, its resources hoarded and depleted, and our ecological future threatened by toxins and greed. Environmental responsibility is a central moral imperative of our time; faithful stewardship of the earth is a dimension of our faith commitment. With the generous help of our friends, Jim Grundy and Nancy Bruce, we installed solar panels on a south-facing roof of the monastery. Reducing our consumption of fossil fuels, solar energy now heats our domestic hot water. Though the ecological challenges facing us are great, hope calls us to find concrete ways to put our stewardship into practice.

Seeds of Newness

WHAT APPEARS OBVIOUS is that we need to be touched by the spirit of life, and that without amazement and enthusiasm, nothing new can begin.

DOROTHEE SOELLE
German theologian, 1929-2003

Signs of Hope, *Continued*



OUR NEWEST RECORDING, *PILGRIMAGE OF THE HEART*. Our common prayer continues to be enriched by the composition of new music. Each song is rooted in the life we share as brothers, inspired by our reading of the scriptures, and is a response to the signs of the times. For nearly four decades, we have been happy to share our music with a wider community of prayer and faith. This summer we will release our newest (our twentieth) recording, *Pilgrimage of the Heart*. We want to express our gratitude to all whose generous gifts have helped to make this recording possible, especially: John and Ann Quinn (for over 35 years of recording, sound mixing, hospitality, and love); Sister Laura Bufano, CSJ (for her friendship and musical direction); Ellen Sutherland (double bass); Joy Bufano (flute); and Susan Kokernak (oboe). ☒

Pilgrimage of the Heart **OUR NEWEST RECORDING**

Let us set out on a pilgrimage of the heart

In our broken, battered world,
our hearts hunger for the gift of hope
to lead us to the time of *shalom*,
a world transformed by the love of God,
gathering all people in a harvest of compassion,
a homecoming of peace.

Wandering in the wilderness, learning how to dance!

In this recording
arising from our life together as brothers,
we share thirteen new songs
for worship, personal prayer, and reflective listening.

***Are you God's friends and lovers?
Then this is the feast of feasts!***

With our hearts and voices
we join you in the adventure
of being God's friends and lovers,
called to redeem our times!

Pilgrimage of the Heart

COMPACT DISC • ACCOMPANYING SONGBOOK
will be available this summer.

SONGS: Pilgrimage of the Heart • You, O God, Are Justice and Love •
Are You God's Friends and Lovers? • Feast of Beauty • God of Our Lives •
Rejoice, O People • Let the Humble of the Earth • Let Us Receive Your Mercy •
Queremos Resuscitar • One Day • Praise and Glory from Dawn to Dusk •
Daughter of Zion • There Is a Way.