



Contact: Lorraine Santoli
LSantoli@mac.com
914.519.6005

NORBERTINE FATHERS OF ST. MICHAEL'S ABBEY

FACT SHEET

Choir Facts:

How long have the Fathers of St. Michael's Abbey been singing Gregorian Chants?

Chant has been part of the Fathers' worship since the community started in 1961.

How many priests comprise the current choir?

On the Christmas CD, there were about 12 priests and seminarians. On upcoming CD's, there will be about 20 for the chants and 16 for the polyphonic pieces.

How many priests comprise the total Norbertine community at St. Michael's Abbey?

There are 70 in the community – priests and men training to be priests.

What is the age range of the Fathers?

The age range is from 32 years-old to 93 years-old, not counting the seminarians. The median age is about 43 years-old.

How many CD's have been recorded?

Christmas at St. Michael's Abbey was the first CD; a new CD, "Anthology: Chants and Polyphony," will be released in February 2009.

How is the profit from the CD's being used?

All royalties received from the sale of the album are donated to St. Michael's Abbey Expansion Project. Having discovered that the Abbey and its other buildings on site are situated on geographically unstable ground, the community of Norbertines must relocate. A major fund-raising project, that includes the construction of a new Abbey, preparatory school, and housing facilities, is currently underway.

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ST. MICHAEL'S ABBEY

Facts about the Fathers of St. Michael's Abbey:

Cumulatively, how many years of religious life is represented by the Fathers?

Hundreds of years.

Among the Fathers, how many have college degrees and advanced college degrees?

All the Norbertines of St. Michael's have Masters degrees in Theology and several have doctorates in Theology, Canon Law and Philosophy.

What are some of the colleges attended by the Fathers?

Chapel Hill, Oberlin Conservatory of Music, Colorado College, Oxford, Chapman University, Marquette, Thomas Aquines College, University of California at Irvine, among others.

What foreign languages do some of the Fathers speak?

Latin, French, Italian, Tagalog, German, Hungarian, Spanish, Polish, Greek, Dutch.

Are any of the priests from outside of the United States?

Three Vietnamese born priests, several Filipinos and Mexicans.

What are some of the Father's hobbies?

Translating books, growing roses and gardening, bicycling, woodworking, Latin poetry, writing, stamp collecting.

Interesting fact about St. Michael's Abbey Choir

Every seminarian or priest who enters the Abbey is trained to sing Gregorian Chants by a fellow priest. Being a singer does not matter. Some have entered the Abbey with conservatory degrees and others who could not carry a tune. But all learn and all do sing the Chants.

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