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## Liturgical Press, Collegeville: A Brief History

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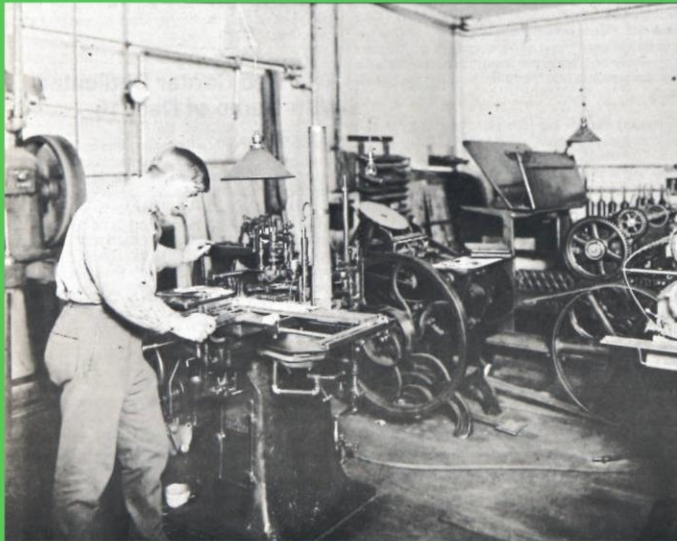
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A Brief History of The Liturgical Press, Collegetown



1918 photograph of the SJU Press  
SJU had a print shop for many decades before the Liturgical Press began.

1988-01-21 *The Record* p.14 – photo from Abbey Archives. Caption: “The lost art of hand-setting type is depicted in this 1918 photograph of the University Press.”  
<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/CSBArchNews/id/37279>

## 2 Beginnings in 1926 with Fr. Virgil Michel, O.S.B.



from *Seventy-Five Years of Grace: The Liturgical Press 1926-2001* by Mark Twomey

The Liturgical Press traces its roots to April 1926 and the publication of five thousand copies of a booklet entitled *Oriteramus*, which contained the Ordinary of the Mass arranged for congregational participation. That was followed in July with three thousand copies of *The Spirit of the Liturgy* by Abbot Caronti and a month later with two thousand copies of Dom Beauduin's *Liturgy and the Life of the Church*. The publication of these booklets was directed by Fr. Virgil Michel, O.S.B.

(1890-1938), who is revered as a founder of the Liturgical Movement and who had studied in Europe in the early 1920s and was familiar with the deep liturgical life at such abbeys as Mont César, Maredsous, Maria Laach, Beuron, and Solesmes.

Father Virgil recognized that the Liturgical Movement in the United States would not become a part of parish life if it remained merely a theoretical idea described in the pages of *Orate Fratres*, which he was organizing. There were no publishing houses at that time which printed liturgical titles, and thus it seemed reasonable to establish a house at St. John's Abbey




Text from *75 Years of Grace*, p. 9; Virgil Michel photo, p. 10, from Abbey Archives.

LITURGY. The addition of so many liturgical magazines was symptomatic of the spirit of St. John's at the time. Father Virgil Michel, O.S.B. (the same who was urging the educational advancement of the school) founded the internationally-known magazine, Orate Fratres, in November, 1926, as an organ for the liturgical movement in the United States, of which he was one of the founders and most enthusiastic guides. About the same time he established the Liturgical Press at St. John's, in order to make available the texts and handbooks that would be necessary if the liturgy were to become once more a vital part of the parish life of the Church. Both Orate Fratres and the Liturgical Press flourished within the limited sphere in which they labored, and played a leading role in the liturgical movement in this country.

*St. John's University Library: An Historical Evaluation* 1953 Thesis by Ronald Roloff, OSB, p. 168

*St. John's University Library: An Historical Evaluation* Thesis by Ronald Roloff, OSB, p. 168

<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/SJUArchives/id/6490>



### 3 The Years Following Fr. Virgil's Death in 1938

Father Virgil, age forty-eight, who had scarcely paused in the last five years from his schedule of teaching, writing, lecturing, translating, and editing, died in the St. John's Infirmary after a brief bout with pneumonia and infection in November 1938.

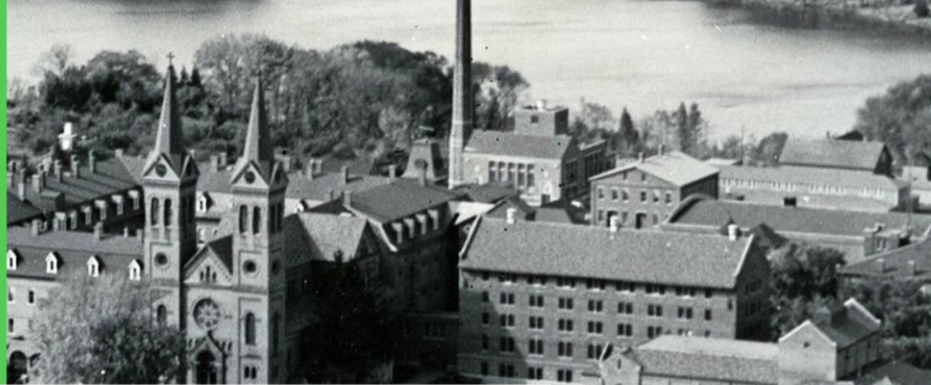
Text from *75 Years of Grace*, p. 15; Virgil Michel photo, p. 10, from Abbey Archives.

The first space other than Father Virgil's office dedicated to the apostolate of The Press was a room opposite the wine cellar in the basement of the main quadrangle at St. John's.



1956 aerial view <http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/SJUArchives/id/6311>  
Text from *75 Years of Grace*, p. 17

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As the business increased, the need for more space dedicated to The Press continued. The original space in the quadrangle was abandoned in favor of space in the basement of the auditorium building on the campus.

From *75 Years of Grace*, p. 17

its basement houses the Liturgical Press, the Bookstore, Typing Room, the Treasurer's Office, Shoe Shop, and various storerooms.  
--1942 *Scriptorium*

1956 aerial view <http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/SJUArchives/id/6311>  
Text from *75 Years of Grace*, p. 17; bottom text from 1942-05 *Scriptorium* Volume 02 Number 04, p.9, <http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/SJUArchives/id/350>



### *Orate Fratres*

Thus, with three titles in inventory, Father Virgil in November 1926 published the first issue of *Orate Fratres* with eight hundred subscribers. Named after the prayer of the Mass when the priest turned to the people and said "*Orate, fratres*" ("Pray, brethren"), the journal had 1,680 subscribers by October 1927 (a year's subscription for the twelve issues of forty-eight pages each was \$2.00), including subscribers in Canada, England, Australia, and New Zealand.

By 1930 *Orate Fratres* had subscribers in twenty-three countries. Seventy-five years later *Orate Fratres* is still being published, now under the name *Worship*.

The famous Catholic artist-critic Eric Gill designed the first covers of the magazine, which depicted the motto "To reestablish all things in Christ." In the 1930s and 1940s the covers were designed by Fr. Joachim Watrin, O.S.B.



*75 Years of Grace*, p. 11-12

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In the 1930s and 1940s the cov-  
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(a ca. 1991 photo of Father Godfrey as we remember him, smiling)

*75 Years of Grace*, p. 11-12

Abbey photo on left; on right: cover of 1991 Winter *SJU Alumni Mag* v.30 n.1, <http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/SJUArchives/id/9635>

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Frank Kacmarcik designed every cover for over 50 years.



*Orate Fratres*

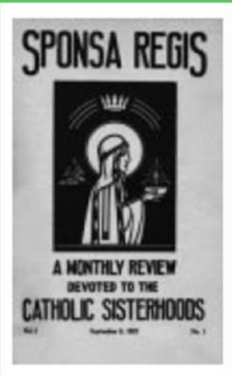
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*75 Years of Grace*, p. 11-12

Abbey photo on left; 1964 photo from SJU Archives on right.




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*Sponsa Regis* (later *Sisters Today*)

The first issue was published in September, 1929, with a subscription fee of \$1.00 per year. Its subscription list quickly outpaced that of *Orate Fratres*.

(The number of sisters was much greater than the number of priests.)

*75 Years of Grace*, p. 11-12

Friday, December 4, 1953

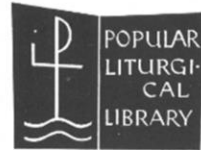
## Worship Out In New Format

● Changes in format marked the appearance of the December issue of *Worship*, St. John's monthly liturgical review.

A less deeply tinted "text" paper is now used for the body of the magazine, which is set in Times New Roman, a graceful type-face famous for its readability.

New initial letters, especially designed for the magazine by Frank Kacmarcik, introduce the separate articles. At the same time, changes have been made in the page margins, which are now similar to those of the latest issue of the University Bulletin.

As before, the color of the covers will vary with season and feast, and the decorative cover symbols will be retained. The



THE LITURGICAL PRESS  
Collegeville

1954 *Sagatagan* ad

*The Record* 1953-12-04

1953-12-04-0-004 *The Record*

<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/CSBArchNews/id/31235>

1954 *Sagatagan* p.206

<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/SJUArchives/id/34680>

The possibility emerged of the liturgy forming a bridge, as it had already become in such countries as Germany, between American Catholics and their separated brethren of the Christian community. The Baltimore *Catholic Review* as early as 1930 took editorial notice of the missionizing possibilities of the liturgy and observed:

“For this progress much credit is due the Benedictine Fathers. The world over they are teaching a love of the Mass, the love of sacred music and an appreciation of religious art and architecture.

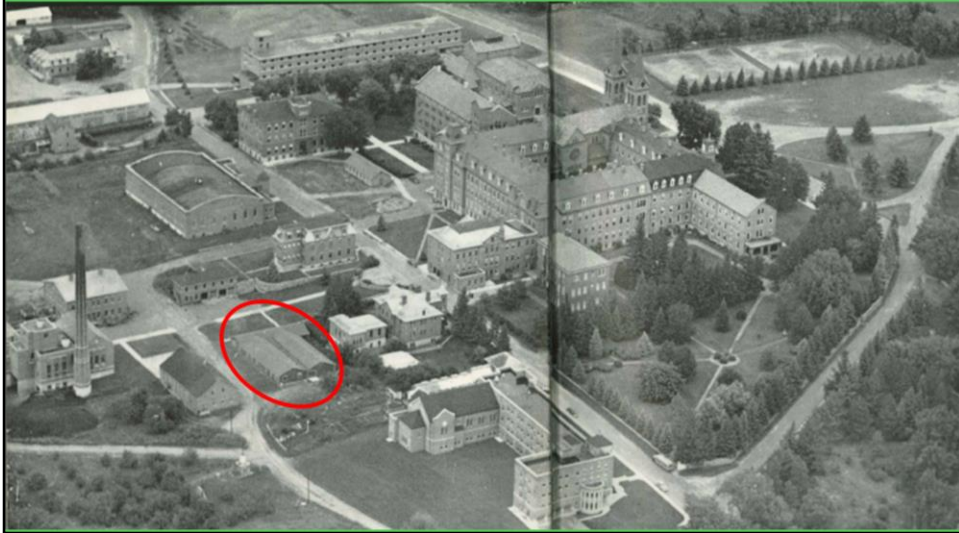
“If all of us could catch the enthusiasm of the Benedictines in making known the meaning of the Mass, of making liturgical music appreciated by revealing its beautiful lessons, of arousing a greater appreciation in artistic statuary and captivating architecture, the Catholic Church would be more admired and appreciated by our non-Catholic friends.

*Worship and Work* p. 270

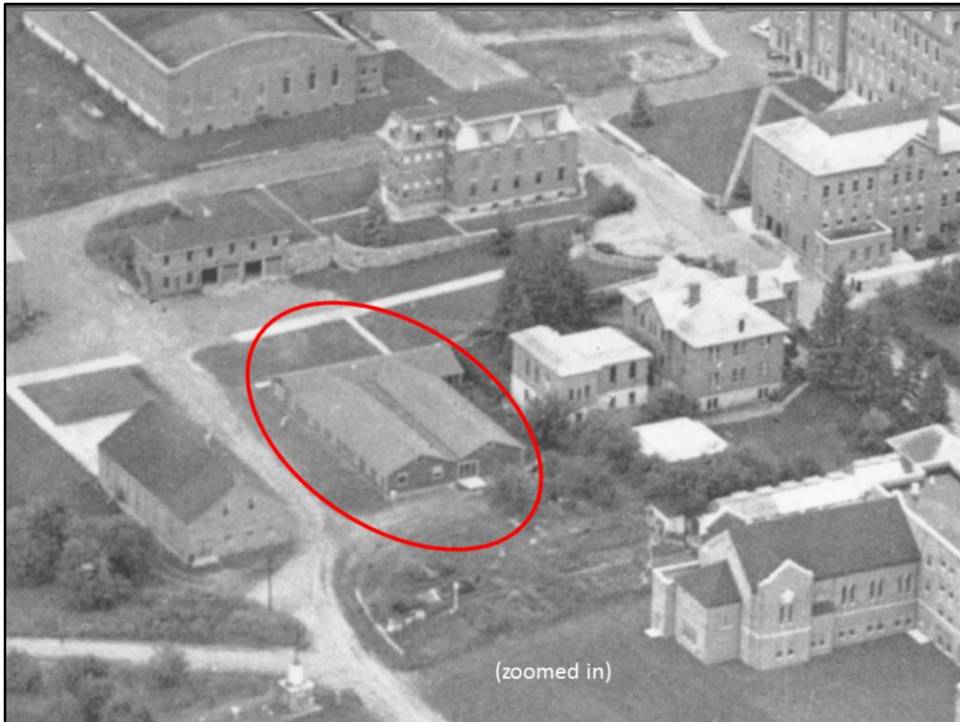
*Worship and Work* p. 270

<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/SJUArchives/id/11212>

Then in 1951 both the abbey print shop, where some of The Press's printing was done through the years, and The Press moved into two reconditioned army barracks that were reconstructed on a concrete slab on the western edge of the Collegeville campus, a space that, while not elegant, was serviceable.



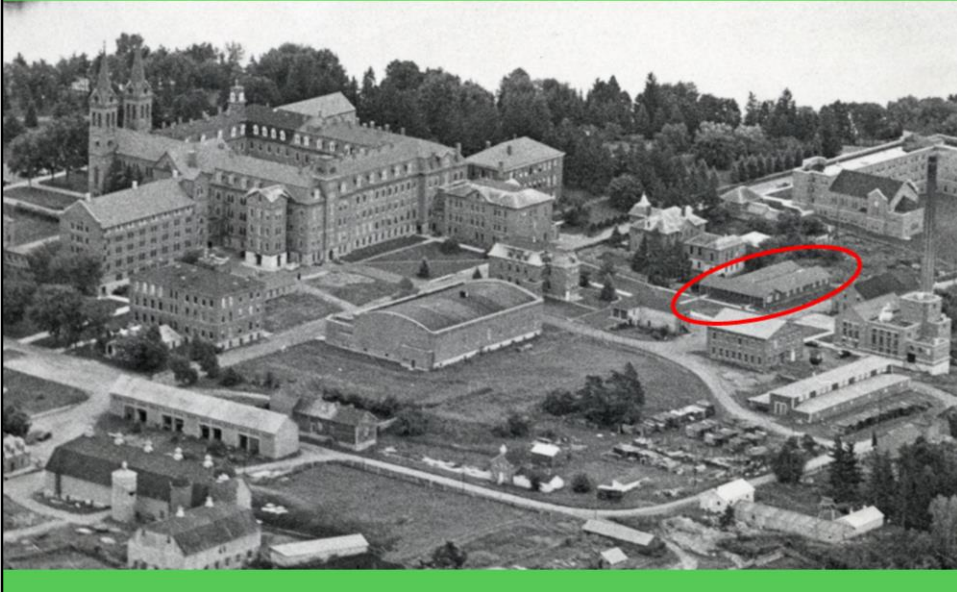
Aerial view from the 1953 *Sagatagan* yearbook,  
<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/SJUArchives/id/96>  
Text from *75 Years of Grace*, p. 17



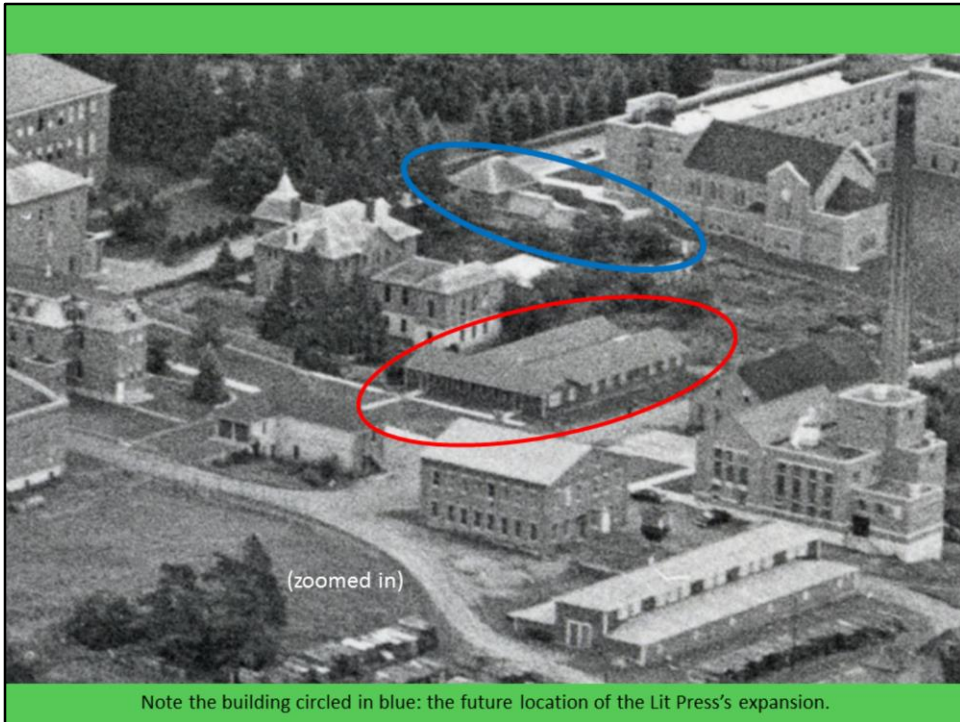
Aerial view from the 1953 *Sagatan* yearbook,  
<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/SJUArchives/id/96>  
Text from *75 Years of Grace*, p. 17



1952: from the northwest

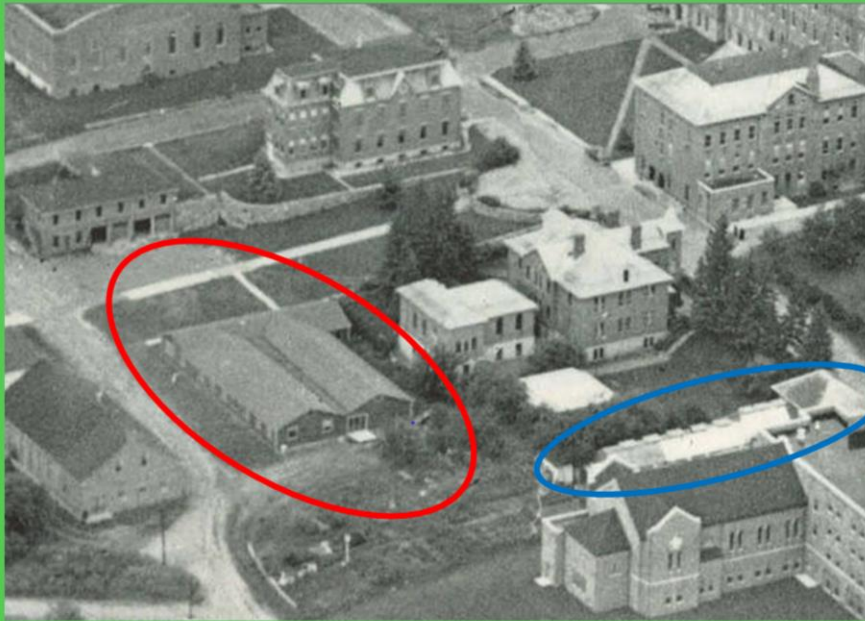


1952 <http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/SJUArchives/id/6310>  
Text from *75 Years of Grace*, p. 17



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Text from *75 Years of Grace*, p. 17

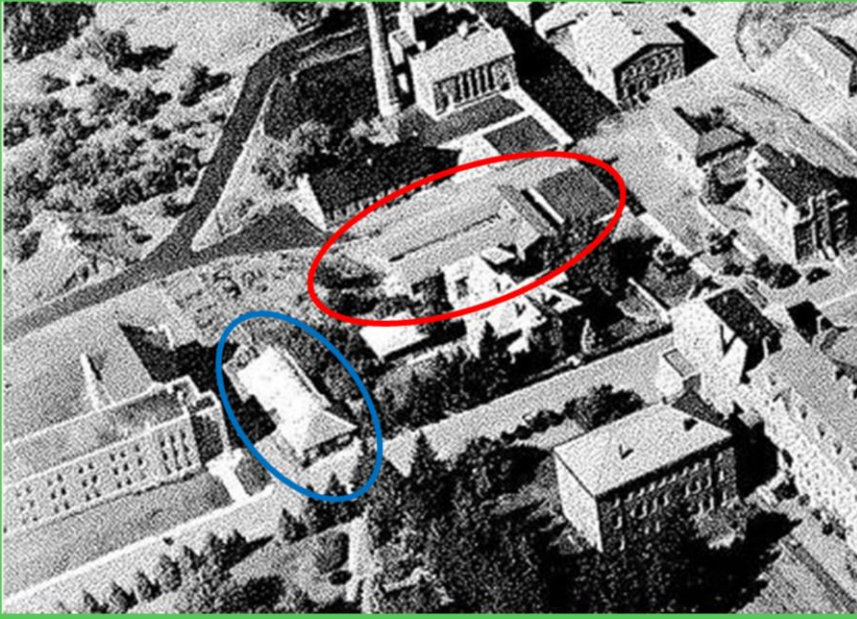
1952: from the previous angle (from the southwest)



Note the building circled in blue: the future location of the Lit Press's expansion.

aerial photo from 1953 (p.2-3) Sagatagan yearbook  
<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/SJUArchives/id/96>

1954: from the east/southeast



Aerial photo from 1954 (p. 26) Sagatagan yearbook  
<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/u?/SJUArchives,41927>



A close-up of that building, the greenhouse, ca. 1927

LP022.Greenhouse, Aschman photo collection, SJU/SJA Archives

## Work Begins On Lit. Press, Print Shop Bldg.

●In mid-October a crew of men from the Strack Construction Company began work on an addition to the Liturgical Press and print shop building.

The new structure will be used jointly by the Liturgical Press and the print shop. It will house the addressograph machinery and files, provide storage space and will serve as a shipping section for the Liturgical Press.

The present Liturgical Press building will be used for offices and for storage. Up to now, storage has been kept in the monastery and the auditorium basement.

The addition will measure 72 x 121 feet when completed in early January, and will cost approximately \$60,000. Plumbing is being installed by Brother Edward Zwack, OSB, and Brother Victor McMahan, OSB.

The structure will be one-story high and fire proof. It will be made of red brick with concrete pillars and will have a flat roof. It is being built with an eye for further expansion. Architecturally it will serve as a "bridge" between the seminary and powerhouse and the contemporary design of the new monastery wing.

*The Record*  
Nov. 23, 1956

1956-11-23-0-004

<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/CSBArchNews/id/31220>

The Record Dec. 7, 1956  
featured the Lit Press  
and some of its staff

LITURGICAL MOVEMENT COMES

TO AMERICA VIA ST. JOHN'S

By Jim Coyne  
Not very long ago, people in the United States didn't know what a missal was. That was in the days before Virgil Michel and the Liturgical Press.

Father Virgil Michel, OSB, a monk of St. John's Abbey, knew that the Liturgical Movement had been progressing in Europe for some time. It was 1928, and Father Virgil wanted to help bring

America into the Movement, too. So he began editing and publishing a magazine he called *Osses Fideles*, as a journal of expression to advance the growth and information of the Movement among American Catholics.

Thus was founded the Liturgical Press. Maintained by St. John's Abbey for the purpose of furthering the growth and popularity of the Movement through publications on the Liturgy, the Press has continued to enlarge and expand operations in order to meet public demand.

As interest in the Liturgical Press mounted, the Press was consequently kept abreast of the growth. In 1929, *Sponsa Sponsae*, a magazine for nuns, was introduced by Father Joseph Kreuter, OSB, to add to the original publication by Father Virgil.

Soon reprints from the original magazines were printed in pamphlets. Then full-length manuscripts, submitted to the editors or solicited by them, began to be published in book form. Now the Press also publishes holy cards and religious prints, and Christmas cards, which accounts for the rush of bustling activity going on these days in the little brown building behind the monastic quadrangle.

The art work on Press publications has come into a great deal of praise in its own right. The work is done by commissioned artists.

The Press has enlarged until it now embraces a staff of 12 full-time workers. In peak seasons, part-time helpers, including some students, raise that number to around 18 people. The longest-term employees are Hildebrand Beecher and Clarence F. Gaiser, both with the Press for 13 years. Mr. John Dwyer is business manager.

The bulk of the work at the Press is conducted on a direct mail basis. Liturgical Press publications may be found in homes from Hong Kong to Stockholm;



1956-12-07-0-002

<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/CSBArchNews/id/30883>

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Bob Becker and Herb Pflueger

1956-12-07-0002

<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/CSBArchNews/id/30883>



Fred Reker



Processing, filling, packaging and mailing orders keep Bob Becker, Herbert Pflueger (above) and Fred Reker (below) flooded with business during the Christmas rush.

South that we understand their problems or induce them to accept our guiding hand.

The fact that integration has been successful in certain instances is encouraging, but not conclusive.

As you say, it is certainly for us to do something about it. However, before

we can hope to change the practice of segregation, we must change the mental attitudes from which that practice stems.

We can hardly change something we know little or nothing about.

The only other alternative is forceful imposition of desegregation, a rather dubious solution.

## ANDEMONIUM

nection with the shop was, Prof. Heininger replied that no precise policy had ever been laid before him. But he surmised it to be to insure that proper books be stocked, that the *Index* be closely abided by, and that the administration, faculty, students and the

Bernie arrived at SJU a few days early in order to redecorate the paint-peeling, unattractive shop. With the valuable assistance of Mr. Paul Dufour, art instructor, Galm proceeded to work paint, rugs, clothesline and prints in a very modernistic fashion. The re-

and religious prints, and Christmas cards, which accounts for the rush of bustling activity going on these days in the little brown building behind the monastic quadrangle.

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The bulk of the work at the Press is conducted on a direct mail basis. Liturgical Press publications may be found in homes from Hong Kong to Stockholm; shipments are sent to regular dealerships established in countries throughout the world except those behind the Iron Curtain.

Some of the Press' original publications are still being published today—a fine tribute to the vision of Father Virgil. Upon his death in 1938, his place as editor of *Orate Fratres* was taken by Father Godfrey Diekmann, OSB, recognized today as one of America's outstanding liturgists. Since 1951, *Orate Fratres* has been known as *Worship* magazine.

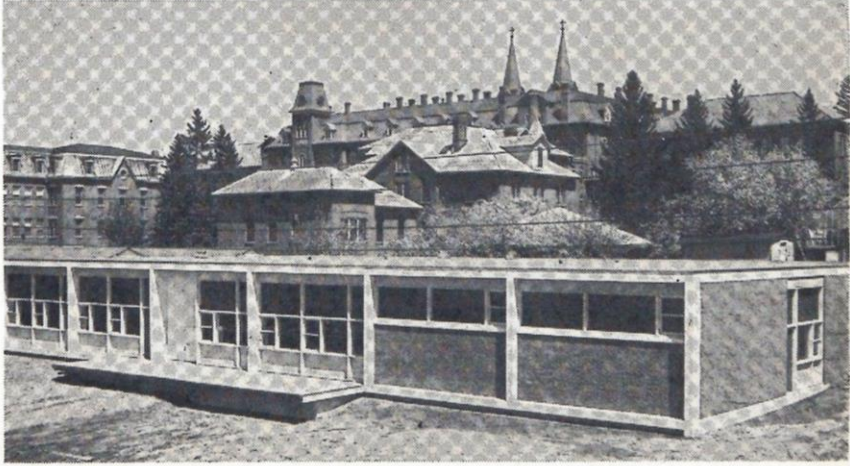
*Sponsa Regis* is now under the editorship of Father Paschal Botz, OSB, professor of dogmatic theology. Both magazines are known and read throughout the world.

Among the publications which have been most popularly received are the *Short Breviary* and, last year, *The Masses of Holy Week*, the new Liturgy for Holy Week as decreed by Pope Pius XII. Both works are indicative of the apostolic character of St. John's Ab-

1956-12-07-0-002

<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/CSBArchNews/id/30883>

*First Building of the Second Century*



The first building erected during St. John's second century and the second stage of the one hundred year building plan is this new home of the St. John's printing department and the Liturgical Press. The print shop occupies one half of the structure while the Press has moved its shipping department, addressograph equipment, and part of its stock room into the other half. The frame building attached to the north end of the new building will be used by the Press for offices and storage space.

1957

1957-06-14-0-004 *The Record*

<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/u?/CSBArchNews,30812>

## More Construction Underway As Church Progress Continues

By Norm Vining

● Building construction at St. John's recently hit an all-time high as work was begun on the Liturgical Press addition, while construction continued on the Church and Chapter House. Construction engineer Ted Hoffmeyer reports that the buildings are moving ahead on schedule.

The excavation of the ground to the west of the Liturgical Press has been completed and at present the forms for the foundation wall are being erected. The pouring of the foundation will begin shortly.

Plans for the 147 x 42 foot structure were designed by Traynor and Hermanson, architects from St. Cloud, to match the existing building. When finished, the addition will extend east and west and will be faced with red brick.

Progress on the Chapter House, located to the east of the new abbey church, contin-

with granite and soon the work of removing the scaffolding and washing down the building will begin. After this the millwork and furnishings will be placed in the church. In the lower chapel one wall of St. Peregrin's shrine has already been raised. When completed this wall will be bush-hammered to show the black and white marble aggregate in a white sand-and white cement base.

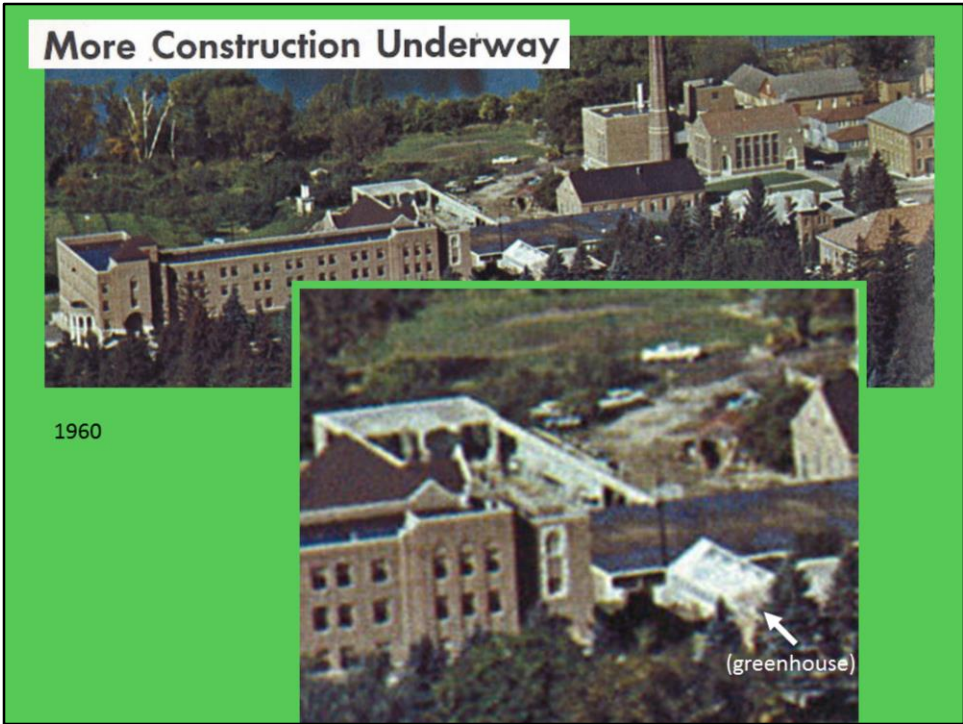
Three of the 17 altars of the chapels on the east side have arrived and have been installed. When all the altars for the east side arrive, there will be 17 different designs; the west side altars will be duplicates of those on the east side.

The steps in front of the church have also been completed. These steps are unique in that they have pipes running beneath them which can be filled with hot water in the winter. This will keep the

*The Record*  
1960-08-26

1960-08-26-0-002

<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/CSBArchNews/id/31695>



Aerial view ca. 1960 <http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/SJUArchives/id/517>

## New Addition To Lit Press

●A new addition to the Liturgical Press building is now nearing completion. The 150' x 40' concrete block wing, constructed on architectural principles similar to that of St. Thomas Hall, extends west from the rear of the present building.

The McGough Construction Co., which is also building the abbey and university church, began the structure in mid-August and will give the wing its finishing touches by Nov. 15.

Mr. John Dwyer, Liturgical Press manager, reports that the new wing will serve as a storehouse for publications. This will allow the room now used for storage in the present building to be used for the increased volume of printing the Liturgical Press is engaging in.

# The Record

OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF ST. JOHN'S UNIVERSITY AND ORGAN OF THE ALUMNI  
COLLEGEVILLE, MINNESOTA, FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 1960

Nov. 4, 1960

## Press Begins Work on Wing

A new wing is currently being added to the Liturgical Press building. The two-story structure, being constructed between the convent and the seminary, is connected to the print shop and will be utilized for storage of stock and for office space.

The bottom floor will be used as a stock room for the many books and articles that the press publishes. The top floor will house many of the offices that are in the present building.

August 24, 1962:  
yet another  
addition

*The Record* 1960-11-04-0-001

<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/CSBArchNews/id/31515>

*The Record* 1962-08-24-0-003

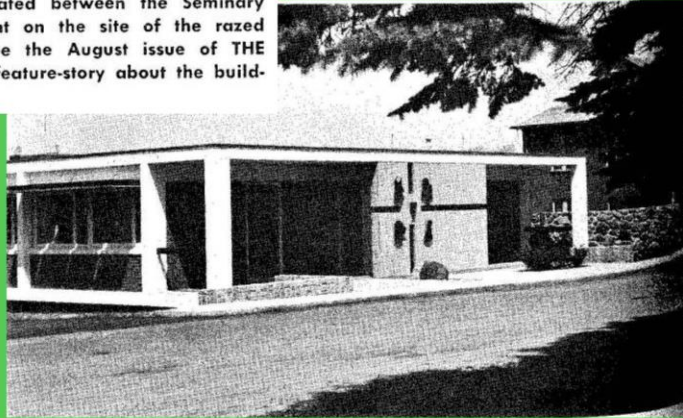
<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/CSBArchNews/id/33260>



Photo: July 1963 SJU Alumni Magazine\_Volume\_03\_No\_03\_Page\_01  
<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/SJUArchives/id/1517>  
Text: 1963-07 SJU Alumni Magazine Volume 03 Number 03 July 02  
<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/SJUArchives/id/1518>

**The Cover:**

The four Evangelists and the chalice of the Mass (Bible and Liturgy) was executed by Brother Placid Stuckenschneider, OSB. The work adorns the entrance of the new Liturgical Press office building. The new structure is located between the Seminary and the convent on the site of the razed greenhouse. See the August issue of THE RECORD for a feature-story about the building.



July 1963 *SJU Alumni Magazine*

1963-07 SJU Alumni Magazine Volume 03 Number 03 July 02  
<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/SJUArchives/id/1518>

## From Display To Storage

## New Liturgical Press is Complete

Twenty years ago the Liturgical Press occupied three rooms in the back of the basement of the old-fashioned, Tudor, with its three buildings, it covers an area which runs from the road behind the library to the apple orchard beside the power plant.

Last May, when the new office wing was occupied, the growth of the liturgical movement in the United States was evidenced in the exact expansion of the press at St. John's. The office wing was the last of the complex of three buildings to be constructed. This two level building houses offices and display room, on the top floor and storage space in the basement.

## "Do-It-Yourself Holy Land"

The display room faces the road that goes from St. Thomas hall to the sanctuary. As you enter the all-glass door you are surrounded by three walls of liturgical publications displays. Two of the walls are five shelves high. Here you can buy everything liturgical from a "Do-It-Yourself Holy Land" to a copy of *Worship of a Liturgical of the Sacred Heart*.

Beyond the old paneled wall and through the door behind the large receptionist is the business office where the orders from customers around the world are handled. Amidst the calculating IBM machines and the whirr of Teletype equipment, the secretaries and desk clerks add, subtract, open letters, and stamp orders.

## Offices and Lunch Room Add a Flair

Along the south wall of the large business area there is a string of smaller offices for editorial work. There is also a conference room, an office for the accountant and a room used to lay out designs for the forthcoming publications.

Facing the kitchen used by the employees for lunch and coffee breaks, you go down the back

stairs to the storage room. The storage area opens onto the abbey print shop. The print shop fills half the wing which is north of the main office building. The other half of this one-level wing is used as the shipping room. Until two months ago, the address-graph room was also in this area, but this has now been moved to the space left vacant when the offices moved out of the old, brown, barracks building.

## Look In the Storage Area

West of the shipping room is more storage area. Here you are greeted by volumes of books and stacks of pamphlets two or three shelves high. When you have made your way through the labyrinth of stock you come to three more editorial offices and work rooms. At this west end, overlooking the apple orchard, there is also a lower level with an editorial office and garage.

From these buildings come Miss Pynch's *Tree of Green*, the *Short Seasons*, *The Bible Today*, commentaries on the New Testament, dozens of liturgical cards and wall papers, Christmas kits, Christmas cards, *Our Period Prep and Skip*, *Holy Week Booklets* and even language records of the St. John's monks singing Gregorian chants. The busiest day of the month is the day set aside for shipping out the *Bible and Liturgy* *Ready, Willing*.

## HERE is Post Office

The volume of mail from the Liturgical Press has been enough to get Otago (City code 0801) post office a rating of first class.

When you watch the busy men and women of the Liturgical Press, under the direction of Father William Reilly, O.S.B., and Mr. John Dwyer, you realize that the Liturgical apostolate in America is a long way from the three rooms in the subterranean basement and the few pamphlets that the abbey press printed for Father Hugh Mitchell, O.S.B., the man who started it all.



Surrounded by shelves of pamphlets and pictures, Miss Jane Pynch, the Liturgical Press receptionist, receives orders for processing. The display and recep-

tion area is at the east end of the three building complex and faces the road which separates it from the monastic garden.

The Record  
August 23, 1963

sjr-1963-08-23-0-002

<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/CSBArchNews/id/33260>





Surrounded by shelves of pamphlets and pictures, Miss Jane Pflueger, the Liturgical Press receptionist, readies orders for processing. The display and recep-

tion area is at the east end of the three building complex and faces the road which separates it from the monastic gardens.

"Miss Jane Pflueger" in the Lit Press – later known as Jane Simon in the Registrar's Office



1966 <http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/SJUArchives/id/14295>



75 Years of Grace, p. 18-19

## 4 The Years 1949 to 1978

Fr. William Heidt, O.S.B., appointed director

Fr. William G. Heidt, O.S.B., who had earned a licentiate in Oriental languages and a doctorate in sacred Scripture from The Catholic University of America and who was a popular and talented professor of Scripture, was appointed director of The Press in the summer of 1949 for one year and then again in September 1951. He held this position for twenty-eight years, until June 1978. It was a time of tremendous growth for this publishing apostolate, particularly during the years immediately following Vatican II.

### Fr. Daniel Durken named Liturgical Press Director

Fr. Daniel Durken '52, OSB, has been named director of The Liturgical Press at St. John's Abbey and University. He succeeds Fr. William Heidt, OSB, who served as director since 1949. Announcement was made June 26 by Abbot John Eidenschink, OSB.

Fr. Daniel, an associate professor of theology at St. John's University, also serves as editor of "Sisters Today," a Liturgical Press publication. He is a former dean of men at the University and former novice master at St. John's Abbey. Fr. Daniel said that The Liturgical Press will rededicate and renew its efforts in the liturgical, biblical, sacramental and family life apostolates by building on the foundation established by Fr. William and the late Fr. Virgil Michel, OSB, founder of the publishing house.



Sept. 1978 SJU Alumni Magazine

**??? NOT 18/2 Winter 1979:p.20, which is what it says in the Periodicals in-house index**

1978-09 SJU Alumni Magazine Volume 18 Number 01 Fall

<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/SJUArchives/id/6278> and

Durken photo 1986-07 SJU Alumni Magazine Volume 25 Number 04 Summer p. 3

<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/SJUArchives/id/9289>



### 'Creative catalyst,' John Dwyer retires at Liturgical Press

by Daniel Durken, OSB

Once upon a time when Saint John's seniors were a macho lot and freshmen were cowering "slaves" during the fearful weeks of initiation, an upperclassman handed a pair of wrinkled trousers to his flunky-for-a-month and told him, "Take these pants to The Liturgical Press and tell them to put in the crease!"

John N. Dwyer, SJU '50, may not have been either the senior nor the freshman in that story, but he is one alumnus who has learned that The Liturgical Press is not the place to get your pants pressed.

Two years after his graduation with a degree in the social sciences, John left a teaching position in Wisconsin to return to Collegeville when Father Godfrey Diekmann, OSB, then editor of *Worship* magazine (the flagship publication of The Press), called to invite him to become the business manager of Saint John's publishing house. For the next 34 years until his recent retirement John held this position. You might say that's an imPRESSive record of loyalty and leadership.

When John began his managerial work in 1952, The Liturgical Press had been in operation for just over 25 years. Established in 1926 by the Benedictine leader of the American liturgical movement, Father Virgil Michel, The Press was publishing such products as two monthly journals, *Worship* and *Sponsa Regis* (now known as *Sisters Today*), along with the very practical and popular *Short Breviary for Religious and Laity*, which in-

July 1986 *SJU Alumni Magazine* p.3

1986-07 SJU Alumni Magazine Volume 25 Number 04 Summer p. 3  
<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/SJUArchives/id/9289>

A symposium  
in honor of  
Virgil Michel  
was  
announced  
in January  
1988...

*Abbey  
Quarterly*  
January 1988



Commemorating the centenary of the birth and the fiftieth anniversary of the death of Virgil Michel, O.S.B., (1890-1938) and the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Constitution on the Liturgy

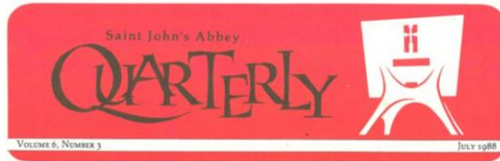
The Legacy of Virgil Michel  
and the Future of the Catholic Church in America

PRESENTATIONS	COLLOQUIUM	FOCUS SESSIONS
<p><i>Keynote Address:</i>  <b>The Prophetic Vision of Virgil Michel</b>            Archbishop John Roach            Monday, July 11, 1988—8:15 p.m.</p> <p><i>General Sessions:</i>  <b>Liturgical Renewal and the Cultural Question</b>            Mary Collins, O.S.B.            Tuesday, July 12, 1988—8:45 a.m.</p> <p><b>The Liturgy and Catholic Social Doctrine</b>            Mark Searle            Tuesday, July 12, 1988—2:00 p.m.</p> <p><b>The Vocation and Mission of the Laity: A Late Twentieth-Century View</b>            Dolores Lecky            Wednesday, July 13, 1988—8:45 a.m.</p> <p><b>Catholic Education and the Liberal Arts</b>            Alice Gallit, O.S.B.            Wednesday, July 13, 1988—2:00 p.m.</p>	<p><b>The Church's Role in Social and Economic Issues</b>  <i>Panelists:</i>            Bryan Hehir, Eugene McCarthy, and Michael Novak</p>	<p><b>Art and the Liturgy</b>  <i>Session Leaders:</i>            Patrick Regan, O.S.B., and Frank Kaczmarek</p> <p><b>Religious Education and the Liturgy</b>  <i>Session Leader:</i>            John Melloh, S.M.</p> <p><b>Ecumenism</b>  <i>Session Leaders:</i>            Patrick Henry and Thomas Strassky, C.S.R.</p> <p><b>The Crisis of the Land</b>  <i>Session Leader:</i>            Bernard Evans</p> <p><b>The Urban Parish and Social Justice</b>  <i>Session Leader:</i>            Edward Flahaven</p> <p><b>Social Justice in the Rural Parish</b>  <i>Session Leader:</i>            Norm White</p> <p><b>The Peace Movement</b>  <i>Session Leader:</i>            Mary Alice Guilfoil, O.S.B.</p> <p><b>The Church and the American Indian</b>  <i>Session Leader:</i>            Leon Cook</p>
<p><b>VIRGIL MICHEL SYMPOSIUM</b>            July 11-14, 1988            Collegeville, Minnesota</p> <p>SPONSORED BY            Saint John's Abbey            Saint John's University            The Liturgical Press</p> <p><small>Registration: Single registration fee prior to June 1, 1988, is \$150; after June 1, \$180. Group rates available. Campus housing and meals also available. For full information on registration and fee call or write Dr. Stephen Lilly, O.S.B., Office of the President, St. John's University, Collegeville, Minnesota 56321, 612-363-2249 (8:00-4:30 CST).</small></p>		

Abbey Quarterly 06/1 Jan. 1988:p.11  
<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/SJUArchives/id/19586>

...and an account about it was published in July 1988

Abbey Quarterly July 1988



## Virgil Michel's Vision, Legacy Addressed

"... the liturgy is the indispensable basis of Christian social regeneration."  
—Virgil Michel O.S.A., 1935

Fifty years ago Father Virgil Michel O.S.A. died at the age of 48. This year, from 11-14 July, Saint John's Abbey, Saint John's University, and The Liturgical Press sponsored a symposium entitled "The Legacy of Virgil Michel and the Future of the Catholic Church in America." The symposium attracted over three hundred participants from North America and Europe.

Father Virgil (1890-1938) was a monk of Saint John's Abbey and a pioneer in the liturgical movement in the United States. His work took many forms. He was a lifelong student of philosophy; he founded *Orate Fratres* (later *Worship*) and The Liturgical Press; he served as dean of Saint John's University and pastor to American Indians at Red Lake, Minnesota; and he was a writer on many subjects. Through his study in Europe, he came to see that the experience of communal worship, liturgy, is the center of Catholic life.

The symposium was planned to address the major concerns of Father Virgil: liturgy, liturgy as related to social justice, the role of the laity in the Church, and Catholic education. Interests which were undeveloped at the time of his death were also treated—liturgical art, religious education, and ecumenism. The symposium was not only a look at Father Virgil's thought

Virgil Michel continued on page 16

"What is the significance of Virgil Michel in the story of the Catholic Church? He saw and implemented in every way at his command the impulse that leads from participation in worship to involvement in the search for peace and justice in the world. In this he anticipated the spirit of the Vatican II Church and such pastoral documents as *Economic Justice for All* . . ."

"In our era characterized by pressing human problems of enormous dimensions, Virgil Michel still beckons us forward to see Christianity as a compassionate perspective on humanity and the world with resources of faith and hope to be applied to the quest for human fulfillment."

—R. William Franklin



Virgil Michel O.S.A. Drawing by Don Brown.

### *Orate Fratres*

Volume 1, number 1, November 1928

*The Aim.* Our general aim is to develop a better understanding of the spiritual import of the liturgy, an understanding that is truly sympathetic. This means that we are not aiming at a cold scholastic interest in the liturgy of the Church, but at an interest that is more thoroughly intimate, that seizes upon the entire person, touching not only intellect but also will, heart as well as mind. . . .

A sympathetic understanding of the liturgy is one that will affect the

actual life of the Catholic. The liturgical life is essential to the Catholic, for without a minimum participation in it he can not be a faithful child of the Church. This participation in the liturgical life of the Church admits of increase in its intensity as well as in its individual and corporate extent. An increase in all of these ways is our aim in promoting the liturgical apostolate, and should prove a natural result of the efforts expended on *Orate Fratres*, if these efforts will be at all blessed with success.

Abbey Quarterly 06/3 July 1988 p. 1 & 13

<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/SJUArchives/id/19602>

## ABBey NOTES

### DDD DEPARTS

At a luncheon/program on 28 June, Abbot Jerome and the staff of The Liturgical Press bade a formal, friendly, and fond farewell to Father Daniel Durken who has served as director of The Press for the past ten years (and one month). Father Daniel's numerous accomplishments, and only a few blunders, were remembered in a gentle roast and toast of the dynamic director and cherished chief of Collegeville's publishing apostolate. During Father Daniel's decade of decisions, The Press released hundreds of new titles (and only three or four dogs), completely updated its business office procedures, began its own typesetting/keylining

work, and restructured the middle management positions. Father Daniel now begins a year's sabbatical and leaves the physical plant of The Press in shambles (major renovation work began during dessert of the luncheon).

Effective 1 July, Father Michael Naughton is the new director of The Press.

### ARCHIVAL AGENDA

Father Vincent Tegeder :  
centennial conference spo  
The Catholic University of  
Washington, D.C. on 10-21



*Abbey Quarterly* July 1988, p. 12

198807 *Abbey Quarterly* Volume 6 Number 3 p. 12

<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/SJUArchives/id/19612>

**Fr. Michael Naughton, OSB**, director of the Liturgical Press, has announced the appointment of **Colleen Stiller** as production manager.

Stiller began work at The Press in 1978 as a secretary and receptionist. When the Press began its own typesetting in 1979, Stiller became the company's first typesetter. Her new work involves the supervision of the entire production of new and reprinted titles from typesetting through printing and binding. The Liturgical Press annually publishes 70-80 titles.



### **Fred Petters retires**

Fred Petters, director of the audiovisual department of The Liturgical Press, retired Feb. 1 after almost fourteen years of work at Saint John's. Before his employment at The Press, Fred had managed a family retail business in St. Cloud for twenty-eight years. In the fall of 1978 he began to work on the production and promotion of audio tapes, records, slide programs, and video training tapes for The Liturgical Press.

The Press will honor Fred for his years of service at a gathering on Friday, Feb. 21, from 3 - 4:30 p.m. in the shipping room of The Press. Friends and acquaintances are welcome to come.

Fred and his wife Rosemary now reside in Collegeville Township.

*Community* April 10 1991

Staff changes are noted in the campus newsletters



*Community* February 12, 1992

1991-04-10 *Community* p.2

<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/SJUArchives/id/22999>

1992-02-12 *Community* p.3

<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/SJUArchives/id/23638>

Photo of Fred from his obituary; photo of Rosemary from June 1978 *Saint Benedict's Today* p. 2,

<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/CSBArchives/id/3868>

Photo of 3 Petters from Summer 2003 *Saint Benedict's Magazine*, p. 21,

<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/CSBArchives/id/1239>



**Two Long-Time Employees Retire**

*Submitted by Fr. Daniel Durken, OSB*

With almost a combined century of service to their credit, two long-time employees, Harvey Botz and John Schneider, have retired.

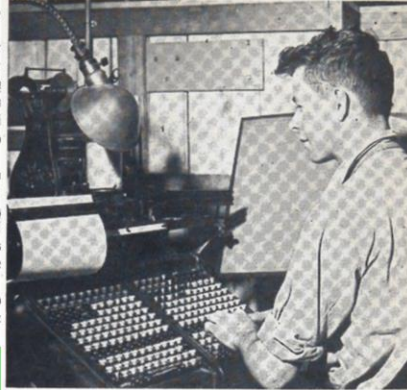
Harvey Botz, manager of the Saint John's Print Shop from 1970-85 and typesetter at The Liturgical Press, was born in the Collegeville suburb of Flynn. After doing the part-time summer work of wrapping packages for The Liturgical Press helping in the abbey's vegetable garden during his early teen years, Botz started employment at the print shop after his graduation from high school in 1948. He was then the manager of the shop, having learned the technique of the hot-lead operation of printing in 1920 from Br. Innocent Kranz, OSB.

Except for the two years (1952-54) that he served in the Army's Corps of Engineers during the Korean War, Botz was the print shop's primary typesetter for almost 30 years. He set type for and printed student publications such as *The Record* and the *Prep* journals such as the *Mission Herald*, and some of The Liturgical Press' best-selling examples, "Saint Benedict's Rule for Monasteries," "Marriage in Christ," and a series of Holy Cards designed by the late Fr. Joachim Watrin, OSB. The shop used the hot-lead system until 1979 when it converted to Compugraphic phototypesetting.

When the Sentinel Printing Company of St. Cloud assumed the ownership and operation of the print shop in 1986, Botz continued in the employ of that organization. From 1986 to the present he has worked as a phototypesetter for The Liturgical Press.

Staff changes  
 are noted in  
 the campus  
 newsletters

Friday, February 15, 1952



**HARVEY BOTZ, TIRELESS TYPESETTER** for the *Record* these three years, and son of printer Julian Botz, has done his last stint at the print shop monotype keyboard for a while. Harv reported for induction into the Army last Wednesday.

*Off To The Wars - - -*

**Record Printer Dons Uniform**

12-13-1995, p.03 *Connections*

<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/CSBArchives/id/2118>

1952 Feb. 15, p. 2 *The Record*

<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/CSBArchNews/id/30898>

**Two Long-Time Employees Retire**

*Submitted by Fr. Daniel Durken, OSB*

With almost a combined century of experience at Saint John's, Harvey Botz and John Schneider were long-time employees of The Liturgical Press. Harvey Botz, manager of the typesetter at The Liturgical Press, helped in the abbey's vegetable employment at the print shop after World War II. He was then the manager of the shop operation of printing in 1920 from 1918 to 1920. Except for the two years (1953-54) during the Korean War, Botz was shop set type for and printed student journals such as the *Mission Herald*, for example, "Saint Benedict's Rule" and "The Liturgical Press" prints, holy cards designed by the system until 1979 when it converted to a computer system. When the Sentinel Printing Company was started in 1986, Botz continued to work as a photo

John Schneider was born in Victoria, Minn., in 1931. Harvey Botz and he were classmates at Saint John's Preparatory School during the mid-to-late 1940s. After two years of college studies Schneider entered the novitiate of Saint John's Abbey in 1950 and was a professed member of the monastic community during the traditional three years of simple vows before he discontinued the monastic life in 1954.

The following year Schneider was hired by The Liturgical Press to assist in the translation from the German of Volume I of Pius Parsch's "Year of Grace," one of The Liturgical Press' most popular titles. When that project was completed, he was assigned various tasks such as opening the daily mail orders, answering customer correspondence and preparing labels in the addressograph department. Eventually his real talent was discovered, and Schneider began the editorial work that has left its error-free mark on innumerable publications.

As The Liturgical Press' senior editor, Schneider was noted for his meticulous copy-editing and proofreading. He witnessed two major revolutions in the religious publishing world. The first was the introduction of the vernacular into the liturgical rites of the Catholic church, thanks to the Second Vatican Council and its creative Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy (1965). This change in liturgical language necessitated a deluge of new English translations and publications.

The second revolution was the technological one that began at The Liturgical Press in the early 1980s with the conversion to computers and phototypesetting equipment. Before that time The Liturgical Press had only edited manuscripts and then sent them to outside printers for typesetting, keylining, printing and binding. Now, the entire operation exclusive of the printing and binding is done by skilled operators at The Liturgical Press.

**Herb Pflueger Retires After 43 Years at the Liturgical Press**



Herb Pflueger, 43-year employee of The Liturgical Press, retired on July 3. He will be honored by his co-workers on Friday, July 21, from 2:30-4:30 p.m. in the upper area of The Liturgical Press.

To view the complete story click here:

July 2000

12-13-1995 p.03 *Connections*

<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/CSBArchives/id/2118>

Pflueger snip: 20000713\_to\_20000816\_*Connections\_Online\_05*

<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/SJUArchives/id/22323>



The People of the Press – April 16, 2001



Covers of first issue of *Orate Fratres* (1929) and 75th anniversary issue of *Worship* (2001)  
 photo by Hugh Witzmann, OSB

## Awards and a New Director for The Liturgical Press

by Daniel Durken, OSB

The Liturgical Press completed another successful year of publishing when it received seventeen book, marketing and magazine awards at the annual convention of the Catholic Press Association in Dallas, Texas, in May.

The first place award in the category of professional books went to *The Changing Face of the Priesthood* by Father Donald B. Cozzens, professor of pastoral theology at St. Mary's Seminary and Graduate School of Theology in Cleveland. Since its publication last year this book has sold 36,000 copies.

Calling this publication of The Liturgical Press "the premiere North American journal of liturgical studies," the citation referred to the seventy-five years that "the Benedictines of Saint John's Abbey have sought to give voice to Virgil Michel's vision of vibrant, vital worship as the source and summit of Christian life."

Kevin Seasoltz, OSB, editor of *Worship*, was present to receive the honor.

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Abbey Banner Fall 2001 p. 4

As of July 1, The Liturgical Press has a new director, Peter Dwyer, who becomes the first layperson to head The

Press in its 75-year history. He has been its director of sales and marketing since 1989 and replaces Michael Naughton, OSB, who served as director for the past thirteen years.



Peter Dwyer

photo by David Manahan, OSB

A 1969 graduate of Saint John's Preparatory School and a 1973 graduate of Saint John's University, the new director is the son of the deceased John

Dwyer who was the business manager of The Liturgical Press from 1951-86.

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Abbey Banner Fall 2001 p. 4

<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/SJUArchives/id/23684>

## Awards for The Liturgical Press

At its annual national convention in late May the Catholic Press Association honored The Liturgical Press with awards for seventeen of its publications.

*The Bible Today* received the first-place General Excellence Award, and two third-place awards for best cover and best article. The bi-monthly magazine was recognized for its "serious and weighty approach to Bible study without being overly academic, . . . an excellent source for discussion of faith issues." Robin Pierzina, OSB, has been the managing editor of the journal for the past twenty-three years.

page 30 *The Abbey Banner* Fall 2002

Other first place awards were given to such titles as *Biblical Fundamentalism: What Every Catholic Should Know*; *Living Liturgy*; *Gifted Origins to Graced Fulfillment*; *The Word of God—The Word of Peace*; *Dictionary of Christian Biography*; and an Advent direct mail promotion piece. †



Peter Dwyer, director of The Liturgical Press, and Robin Pierzina, OSB, managing editor of *The Bible Today* photo by William Schipper, OSB

<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/SJUArchives/id/23792>



*75 Years of Grace*, p. 4 photo by Monica Bokinskie

*75 Years of Grace*, p. 4: photo by Monica Bokinskie