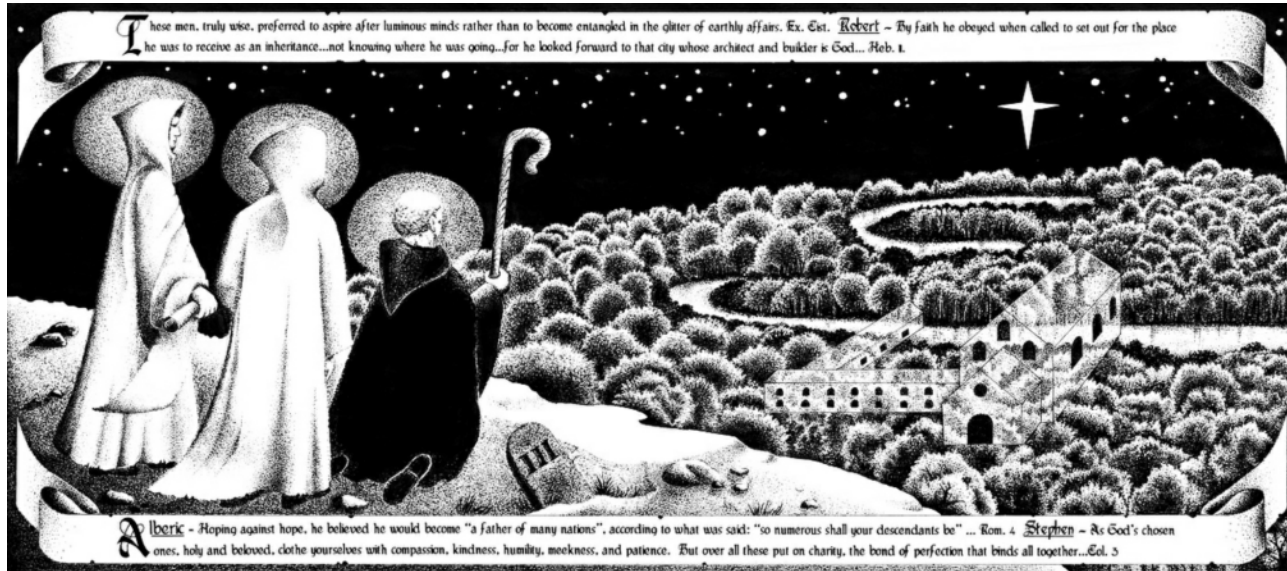


January 26: Founder's Day: Saints Robert, Alberic, & Stephen



Original drawing by a nun of Valley of Our Lady Monastery

“By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went... for he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God.” -Hebrews 11:8, 10

Celebrating our Cistercian Founders

Today is the Solemnity of Saints Robert, Alberic, & Stephen. Zealous to serve God with greater fidelity to the Rule of St. Benedict, our founding fathers began a new monastic community in 1098. This community was first known simply as ‘the New Monastery’ – from which we gleaned our project title. As we honor them today and are grateful for their legacy, we implore their intercession as we move forward with our own New Monastery project.

Matching Challenge update

We remain humbled and grateful for your generous support of our community and life of prayer. We had a matching challenge at the end of 2023 to help raise the funds to meet our budget. Thanks to your help – we met the match, and just in time! Thank you for your generous gifts toward the challenge.

Delayed community relocation

We had hoped to transfer the community to the New Monastery by February 1st. While much progress has been made on the buildings and we expect to have the occupancy permit by February 1st, we prayerfully discerned that a delay would be most prudent. There are some changes we have requested in order to help enhance the safety and functionality of the building for our elder nuns, as well as some errors to be corrected. This further work would be disruptive to our life of prayer, difficult on our older members, and not ideal for our monastic enclosure, not to mention an added challenge for the construction workers if we were present. God willing, we will relocate the first week of March when these final preparations are complete. All in God's time! Visit our [news page](#) for updates, photos, and videos.

Altar bread bakery relocation

We have already begun the relocation of our altar bread bakery! Technicians from the manufacturer of our baking equipment in France are currently here. They have disassembled our two bakers and are in the process of reassembling them. A crew of sisters will go to the Communion Wafer Workshop next week to test-bake before the men return to France. We plan to relocate the remainder of our altar bread equipment at the end of February and hope to be up and running again soon thereafter. You can find photos of the bakery equipment adventures on our [news page](#).

Construction update

Construction on the Chapel and North range are still on track to finish in late March or early April. We will have a temporary chapel at the New Monastery in the interim (which, sadly, does not allow for much guest seating). Stay tuned for information about the Dedication of the Oratory this summer and opportunities to tour part of the monastery.

Please continue the prayers for the project and for a peaceful and smooth relocation for our community, as we learn a deeper trust in God's providential care.

“The Lord will guard your coming and your going, both now and forever.” -Psalm 121:8

