



OUR LADY OF THE ANNUNCIATION OF CLEAR CREEK ABBEY

Benedictines of the Solesmes Congregation

Ecce Fiat

Fall 2012

Fourteen Years into the Adventure . . .

Dear Friend of Clear Creek Abbey,

It was on the feast of the Assumption in 1998 that His Excellency Bishop Edward J. Slattery of Tulsa signed a charter of foundation, welcoming a group of thirteen Benedictine monks from Notre-Dame de Fontgombault Abbey in France to his diocese. Fourteen years later forty monks occupy several large buildings designed by Professor Thomas Gordon Smith, including a partially completed Romanesque style abbatial church. It is a story of the grace of God, but also of the immense help received from our Friends along the way. We hope you will enjoy seeing a few pictures of this story still in progress. It has been our dream—and more than a dream: our prayerful hope—to ‘build something beautiful for God’



Above: 1977: The pre-history. Americans at Fontgombault

Left: 1999: First days of the foundation. With Abbot of Solesmes on Eagles' Bluff

Right: Laying of the first stone of Our Lady of the Annunciation of Clear Creek Abbey – November 21st, 2003





2004: Construction of stone bridge and road



2007: Crossing Clear Creek on recreation



2010: Easter Vigil, the new fire



2010: Snowball Fight

Brief Chronology:

- August 15, 1998: Signing of charter of foundation*
- August – September 1999: Arrival of founders in Oklahoma*
- February 11, 2000: Official inauguration of monastery*
- November 2003: Stone bridge completed; blessing of the first stone of the church*
- January 2008: Transfer to permanent buildings*
- April 2008: Blessing of new monastery residence*
- February 2010: Clear Creek established as an independent abbey*
- April 2010: Blessing of first abbot*
- April 2012: Substantial completion of the first phase of the church*



2008: Pumpkin Harvest



2011, March: Aerial view of construction of church



2011, Work site from portal



2010, February: Ringing of bells, when Clear Creek became abbey



2008, April: Community Photo



2007, December: Walking toward monastery



2011: Palm Sunday

To date we have completed about one third of the entire building project. Our architect is busy at present perfecting plans for the Chapter House and the Refectory, not to mention the upper portion of the church. It is an immense endeavor that will surely take many more years to complete. But why not risk something for God? We are outgrowing our living quarters and having at present to put monks into used trailers and other low-cost housing. But we must forge ahead. Will you be a part of the next fourteen years? May God bless you and yours, and may Our Lady smile upon you. I send my blessing.

+ br. Philip Anderson, abbot

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2011, September: Novices and Brothers before portal of church