**Communications Report**

*Br. David, OSB, Br. Florian, Obl./OSB, Br Jude Thaddeus. Obl./OSB*

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| **Opus Dei & website** | Opus Dei is not only used for our online services but is popular for private devotions as well. But, as you may recall, in the fall of 2022 the site failed. A new contractor was selected in Q1 2023, so the repair of the site was completed in a timely fashion. As with anything involving programming, we discovered ‘bugs’. These were repaired as soon as possible. In addition, the special Benedictine rites have been incorporated into the Divine Office.  Masses for convocation were added to the site this year. This allowed us to use the site for all of our services during convocation. This minimized the need to print documents, reducing costs and allowed people attending the services virtually access to the service bulletins. In 2024, the Divine Office will be further updated, and any hidden bugs found and fixed.  With the help from the formation and outreach committees, our website and the e-booklet of reflections that are sent to inquirers will be updated in 2024. This is an important process because the site needs to keep the information fresh. |
| **List\_Serv and Convocation communications** | Br. Florian has no plans to change the list service. Our account is paid up until January 2025. The only known issues deal with those members who are using Apple based email. The problem seems to be with their mailboxes being full or their computers not being up to date. We all need to apply updates as soon as possible.  On the convocation front we will be adding streaming via YouTube. The only issue is that with YT, you cannot answer back like with Zoom. We will be streaming all services. The cameras have been updated, so we will be using church style ‘PTZ’ remote control cameras. The cameras produce a good image, and there will be one at the front of the chapel facing members and two in the rear facing forward to the altar. The cameras connect to a video switcher and small sound mixer controlled by Br. Florian. A couple of wireless microphones will be used, since some of our church voices can be very hard to hear.  Br. Florian will still have a stand-by hot spot available, since the abbey WIFI sometimes has issues with getting up and running in the morning. |
| **Facebook** | Br. Jude Thaddeus has taken over management of both FB sites. Our public FB page has grown tremendously this year with over 390 members. This is a important outreach effort that needs support from CSL brothers and sisters because it demonstrates that we are a dynamic, healthy Benedictine community.  Our private FB page also needs more community support. It is offered as a place for members to share news, stories, prayers, and readings with each other. Please continue to support this page as another way to strengthen relationships between members.  Contact Br. Jude Thaddeus to ask questions or for guidance using FB. |

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| **Newsletter** | The newsletter was only sent out in the spring of 2023. This was due to the loss of members assisting Sr. Toni in soliciting articles. We need at least two people to help her in finding people to contribute articles and helping to maintain the newsletter so it can be distributed on a regular schedule. |
| **Membership Directory** | Br. David has maintained the directory for many years. He will update the current directory in February. He will discontinue doing this work after the winter release. He will transfer the file and help another member do this work beginning in July 2024. Please advise Abbess Martha if you wish to take on this project. |