

Mepkin Abbey Garden Newsletter

May 2020



Coronavirus Candle in Cloister

As you are aware, the Director of the Gardens and Grounds, Capps, the mowing staff, and the Volunteers were asked not to come in the gates on March 18th. Father Joe said the health of the older Brothers was first and foremost a priority. Since then, I have been graced by Father Jonas to receive photos of the various activities and wonderful photos of the various areas in bloom. Last month, I was overcome with the number of emails I received after sending out the Newsletter. I think we all want and need a connection to Mepkin during these stressful times. It is a rock in the storm.

The Candle above was Father Jonas' idea to use large segments of old Paschal Candles to create an "eternal flame" within the tower for the growing number of global victims of the coronavirus pandemic. The candle was dedicated after the short evening service on April 2nd.



April is one of the highlights of the Liturgical Year. The Brothers celebrated Palm Sunday alone, but with the beauty and eloquence as usual.



Church on Palm Sunday. Note the flowers are from the property.



Father Guerric as Celebrant. Note palm fronds held.

The next week came Holy Week, beginning with Holy Thursday.



Father Joe prepares to take the Host to the Tabernacle to repose there.



Here the Brothers adore the Blessed Sacrament as it is put in repose
Good Friday comes the next day:



The Passion of Our Lord

Saturday evening the Vigil starts in the courtyard by the Business Office:



As in the Middle Ages, a bonfire is lit and the new Pascal Candle is prepared by the Superior. The Brothers process to the Church by individually held candlelight to the Vigil Service.



The Church after the Vigil Service. The Monks retire to a Reception in the Refectory.

Easter:



Easter Sunday. Note that Father Guerric did his usual wonderful job of decorating throughout Holy Week.

On April 12th, the area had tornados in Moncks Corner and along Dr. Evans Road. First reports were that the Abbey was spared. Then I received word there was some tree damage. Here is the result:



The wonderful Twisted Live Oak at the upper gate at Luce Garden lost a large limb.



Large twisted Live Oak without Limb



Limb that fell



Other tree damage. There are two other areas that had tree damage also. Currently, the Abbey is using the 6 new Postulants to mow, edge and clean up the debris. Other brothers helped with the clean up after the storm.



Father Columba hauling debris



Close up of other tree damage at Luce

The other photos Father Jonas sent are of blooming shrubs and trees all over Mepkin. He wanted us to know how much they have enjoyed this beauty this month. Let's take a tour:



Dogwood on Mepkin Abbey Road



Azaleas at Mepkin Abbey Road and road to Visitors Center/Store



Azaleas at Labyrinth on Mepkin Abbey Road



Fringe Tree on Farm Road

Orchard:

We made the mistake of leaving the yurts in place in case we had another frost in March. Of course summer came early. I hope we will find the citrus alive despite the minimum amount of sunlight.

I have been working with my citrus and persimmons at home and wondering how Mepkin is doing!

Howard



Azaleas on road to Luce Garden and Columbarium



Azaleas outside St. Clare



Azaleas at St. Gerard (Business office)



Father Francis Kline Azaleas at walk up to the Breezeway



White Azaleas at 10 man cottage and Pink Azaleas at Old Dorm



Rose bed between Church and 10 man Cottage



Herbs, Vegetables and Flowers in raised Beds.



Azaleas in Cloister at Refectory Entrance



Early blooming Iris in Cloister given us by Pam and Ted Russo



Hawthorne blooming at right side of Church



Redbud blooming out at Library



Azaleas on Walk to Church



Chinese Fringe blooming on Walk from Church



Azaleas between the Library and 12 man Cottage

Odds and Ends

Bees:

Here the bees are gathering nectar from a gorgeous Azalea.



A new comparison I have not thought about is the blooms on the various Palmetto on the property. Here are various examples that Father Jonas photographed:





My thanks to Howard for the Orchard Report . I could not have put out this Newsletter without Father Jonas. Truly, a kindness to all of us who miss Mepkin so. I continue in total quarantine with my children/grandchildren taking great care of me.

The uplifting part of all of this is to see families eating and playing together, to see people helping each other and to understand WHO is really in charge.

For inspirational articles and more details of what is happening at Mepkin Abbey, please see www.mepkinabbey.org .

Blessings, dottie