

ABBOT'S MESSAGE 2016

*“... and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God”
(Isaiah 52:10)*

In any time capsule, fifty years is symbolic. The closure of the Second Vatican Council in 1965, which was more than a breath of fresh air for the Catholic Church, was marked globally in 2015. We at Mount St Benedict also had two fiftieth anniversaries of monastic profession to celebrate in 2016: Brother Marius Williams on 06 January and Brother Paschal Jordan on 08 September. Significant milestones remind us of God's continuing love and faithfulness in spite of our own frailties. In 2017, Mount St Benedict will thank God for one hundred and five years of monastic presence in Trinidad and Tobago. We cannot help but rejoice at God's steadfast love which He has shown to us since the arrival of the first monks from Brazil on 06 October 1912. The pioneering monks, the faithful pilgrims, the dedicated workers, the oblates, friends, benefactors, volunteers and more – all contributed in one way or another in making Mount St Benedict what it is today – a place apart, where persons on life's journey seek for and find meaning in life, the transforming power of silence and the witness of a praying community of Benedictine monks. As we look forward to Christmas 2016, we rejoice that the God who created us is the same God who came to save us. His vulnerable appearance to us as a frail babe in a crib foreshadows his final vulnerable appearance to us as a condemned criminal on a cross. Such is the nature of our God! Our God is vulnerable, frail and weak on the one hand, yet powerful, strong and mighty on the other. For this frail babe Jesus is the Lord who “bares his holy arm in the sight of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God” (Isaiah 52:10). Abbot John and Community greet you during this Christmas season with thoughts of peace. May we all discover and see the salvation of our God!



Mount St Benedict Abbey
Tunapuna
Trinidad and Tobago
West Indies
Tel: (868) 662-2259/5286
Fax: (868) 645-8478
Email: mountstbenedict@gmail.com
Website: www.mountstbenedictabbey.org



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