

PURE RELIGION

Our Daily Bread

Nestled in a small valley near Huntsville, Utah, rests the Abbey of Our Lady of the Holy Trinity. Twenty-two monks, who have dedicated themselves to an austere and simple life of prayer and manual labor, currently reside in the Trappist monastery.

Among other things, those at the monastery raise cattle and tend hives of bees from which they make flavored honey. They use the honey for food and also sell it at their small shop near the monastery. For years, the monks enjoyed this honey on fresh-baked bread made on the premises, but two years ago the bakery equipment failed and, not having the funds to replace or repair it, the monastery was forced to purchase their bread from an outside source.

Horace Snyder, a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints who had worked closely with the monks over the years to establish irrigation for their fields, and other Welfare Services staff were aware that the Church's Deseret Bakery at Welfare Square was undergoing renovations. These renovations would include purchasing new bakery equipment. Could the machinery that was being replaced possibly be of use to the monastery?

It wasn't long before bakery experts from Welfare Services traveled to the monastery to inspect the faulty equipment and confirm that indeed, the equipment from the old Deseret Bakery not only could work but would fit perfectly in the space provided.

Jim Blake, Welfare Square bakery manager, supervised the installation of the equipment at the monastery. With some tweaking and adjustments, it wasn't long before the monks

were once again enjoying the smell and flavor of freshly-baked bread.

Other members of the Church travel to the monastery to administer service as well. Members of the Church who are dentists and doctors regularly visit to attend to dental and medical needs. People also drop by from time to time with armloads of fresh fruit and vegetables.



The help doesn't only go one way, however. Years ago, a farmer who lived nearby had hurt his back and was unable to rise from his bed. To make matters worse, it was harvest season and his hay would go to waste if not harvested soon. The next morning before dawn, the monks from the Trappist monastery descended on his fields, harvested his hay, and irrigated his fields.

Father Alan, one of the monks at the monastery, visited Welfare Square. "It was an edifying experience to see how the members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints reach out to care for others," he recalls of that experience. "It's so beautiful. I wonder if the people who volunteer in the welfare farms and facilities realize how they are blessing the lives of so many others?"

"Cast thy bread upon the waters," the scriptures teach us, "for thou shalt find it after many days" (Ecclesiastes 11:1). The bread that was cast upon the waters of a small Utah town has returned a hundredfold in the form of increased trust, friendship, and understanding between members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and the Trappist monks of the Abbey of Our Lady of the Holy Trinity.