

priory. We can accept novices and have our own clerics. We have two novices this year and we hope to have more. We will have to erect some buildings for them. For the time being, we are grateful for the hospitality of well-established American Benedictine abbeys in accepting our young generation. Our first two novices made their novitiate at St. John's Abbey.

Father Christopher: We are thankful for our rapid growth but often think it is not quick enough. We are pressed by our needs. As we added new classrooms, we needed new classrooms. Actually we plan the second dormitory for this year. We also received a rather substantial grant of \$45,000 from a corporation for a new science hall.

Father Prior Egon: We joke among ourselves that divine providence helps us always on the twenty-fifth hour. We were stopped several times with our plans. For example, in September of 1958, during the second school year, one week before the opening of school we did not have any place for twenty boarders. We had room for only six boarders and had accepted twenty-six boarders. Our plan was that we would obtain a loan during the summer months, start to build during the summer, and by September the new dormitory would be ready. We did not get the loan until August 1. Construction started only at the end of August so that by the beginning of September we had nothing for the boarders. Then Father Leopold discovered that there was an army barracks for sale in San Francisco's Golden Gate Park. We bought that barracks for thirty-five dollars, and in one week—Monday was Labor Day—from Tuesday until Saturday the building was moved here in pieces, erected, and the area around it cleared up. The fathers worked Saturday night, were out Sunday morning assisting in parishes, and then continued to clear up the place Sunday afternoon. Later that Sunday afternoon parents arrived with the students.

There were twenty beds in this army barracks. The health department then stepped in protesting that the army had let us have it for a classroom. The army barracks had such a small window there was not air for twenty boys. So Father Leopold assured them that there would be plenty of air because we did not as yet have windows or doors in the building.

The boys enjoyed it very much. They used the showers of already

existing classrooms. By December the new dormitory was ready and it was occupied on December 8. On December 9 we carried the desks from the monastery room which had been used as a classroom into the barracks. And at 9:15 a.m. the students could occupy the barracks as classrooms. They were only in the classrooms ten minutes when an army inspector arrived at the door to check on the purpose for which we were using the army barracks. The boys enjoyed this very much as class had been held there for only ten minutes. So you can see divine providence helps us.

We have other plans but we can realize them only slowly. For example, this year we have to relax and evaluate how fast we have been growing during the past years. We cannot do too much because the loans and mortgages are becoming a little bit heavy.

Before we began to come together as a community, I had a very nice conversation with a Benedictine father who was also a pioneer in school work. He admonished me that we have to be careful during the period that the community is too small and the work too much. Many financial problems are also arising. It will show its effects on the whole life of the community. The financial burden lies not only upon the shoulders of an individual, as in a larger abbey where the abbot or procurator and staff take care of this responsibility. Here everybody experiences the difficulties of our beginning: how to get money? how to continue construction? how to pay the debts? Everyone has to share a great deal of the physical and manual labor. We have only one brother for the time being, and one cook who is our only existing extra help. So everybody has to take care of a great deal of the manual work of the community. Psychologically, as a result, all are a little bit tired and do not have sufficient time to prepare for class-work and Sunday missions.

On the other hand, every new foundation has special joys and those who can be part of a new foundation enjoy those special pleasures which I already mentioned. The great help of divine providence encourages our faith and our conviction that Benedictine monasticism can flourish in the twentieth century. That is very important to us. Although through tragic historical circumstances our teaching activity in our home country was taken from us and our beautiful schools and colleges were closed, some of us are now able through divine providence to dedicate our lives in a different country and in a different language for the advancement of the kingdom of God. We can