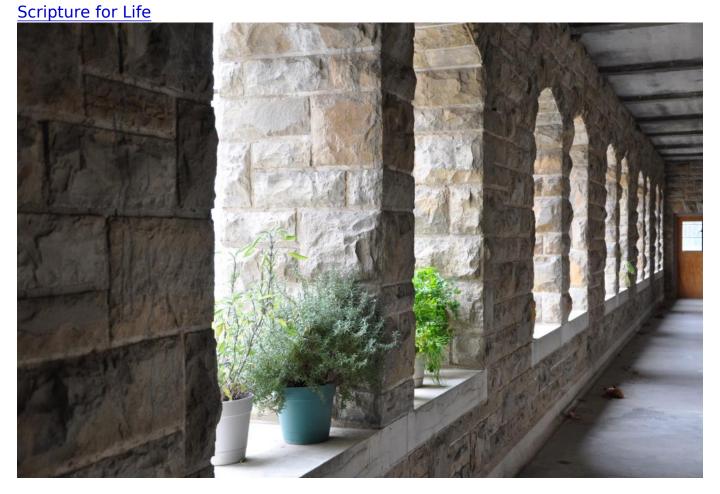
<u>Spirituality</u>



(Benedictine Abbot Barnabas Senecal)

by Barnabas Senecal

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"Your house and your kingdom shall endure forever before me."

— Samuel 7:16, Feast of St. Joseph, March 19

"He will come to us like the rain, like spring rain that waters the earth."

— Hosea 6:3, March 17, Lenten Weekday

A hint of warmth, a hint of growth,

a welcome return of spring;

formed in stone, an arch for March,

a month of madness, and of gladness.

Madness is in the fever for sport,

gladness is in the faithful heart;

gladness arises from green and sun,

from a soon-to-be Risen One.

March is anticipated, awaited,

a need to qualify, a need to win,

even Christ knew anticipation,

He awaited possible defeat.

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Many were those who doubted,

friends even denied knowing him;

Christ had strength to overcome,

it's that strength we celebrate, gladly.

Kansas stone built this monks' wall,

segments of color, mortared as one,

durable, perhaps everlasting,

holiness, wholeness, a possibility.

Not the stone rolled to the door,

not a stone to seal us off,

but stone to give us confidence,

to endure, to arise, even daily.

Editor's note: This reflection was originally published in the February 2012 issue of Celebration. Sign up to receive daily Lenten reflections.

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