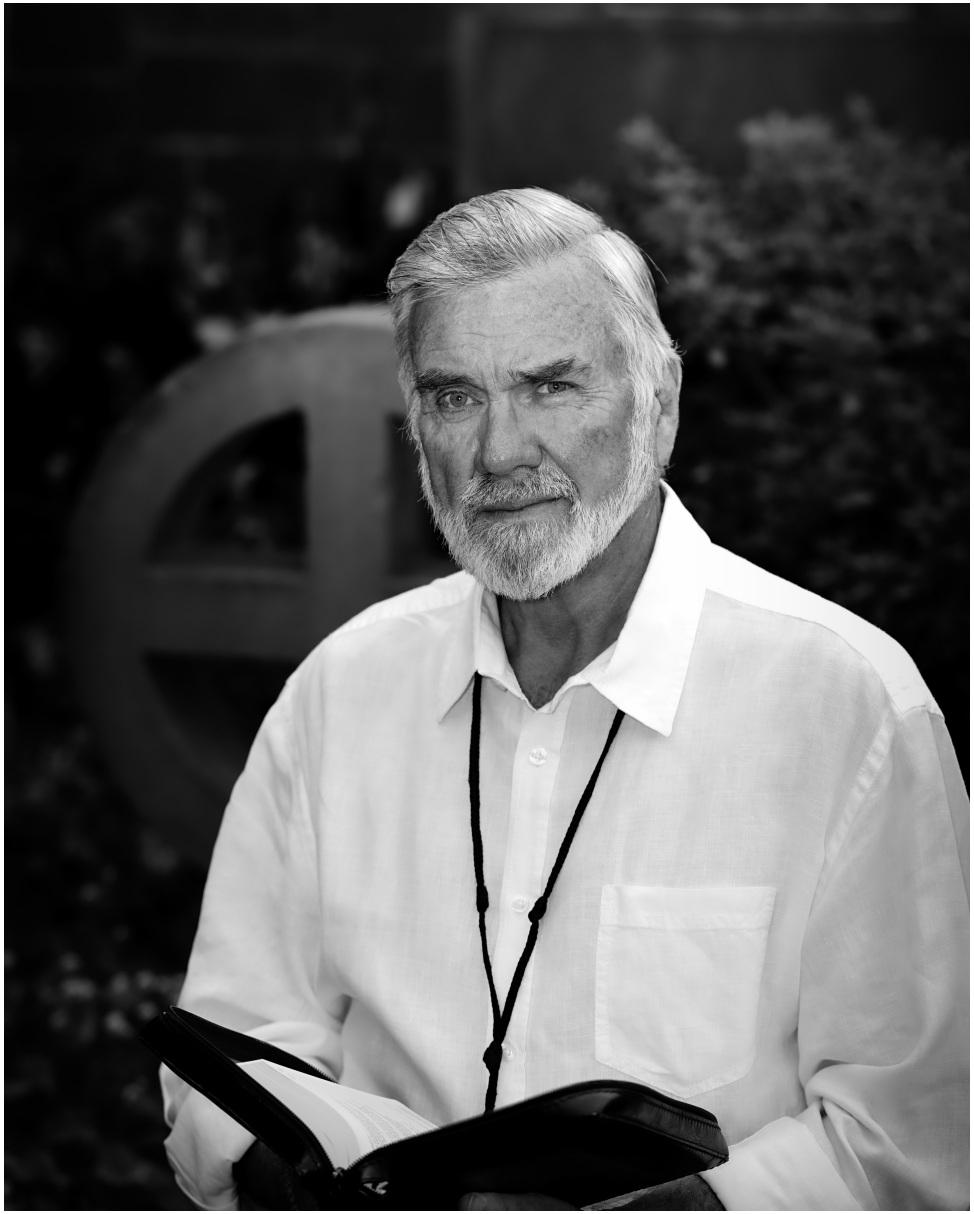
Testimony of Faith



Jamie Miller

I cannot recall a time when I was not conscious of a numinous 'other' in my life. Nor can I remember a time when I was not conscious of a sense of 'being called', of my life having purpose and of my searching for that purpose. This process has been ongoing.

God blessed Abraham so that he would be a blessing.[i] My life has been truly blessed in a thousand different ways and each blessing reminds me that God calls me to be a blessing to others. I've tried to be that blessing, failing a good deal of the time. But I know that this is my calling. And perhaps it is so for everyone. We are blessed, so that we ourselves might be a blessing to others.

As a young man I had a strong sense that God's intention was that I become a priest and a monastic. After leaving School I entered into a period of discernment and study. I am grateful beyond measure that I was able to have that time in a Monastic Priory in the company of wise and holy men who taught and advised me. Towards the end of my time with the Society of the Sacred Mission I discovered that I did indeed have a God-given vocation, but that it lay other than in Holy or Religious Orders.

A serious encounter with cancer terminated a flourishing international business career before my fiftieth birthday. As black and painful as those days were, it was to provide the basis for yet more blessings. I retired from business, and have been able to devote time and energy to my passion for life-long learning, adult Christian education and spiritual formation, issues of Social Justice and a deep involvement with the Church I love so much. Blessings upon Blessings. My heroes of the faith include John of the Cross, Thomas Merton and Benedict of Nursia. Thomas Merton wrote that "a tree serves God best by being a tree"[ii]. I have tried hard to live my life like that. I am first of all a child of God, made in God's image, I am next a husband and father, I am a Christian of a particular variety, I am a Benedictine Oblate. At 75 years of age I have discovered I really only know three things: God is; God loves me unconditionally; and because of those two things, I can come to no harm.[iii]

Jamie Miller, Obl. OSB, Feast of St. Matthias 24th February 2017

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[i] Genesis 12:2

[ii] No Man is an Island, Thomas Merton, Doubleday NY 1967 p43

[iii] After an idea expressed by David Tomlins OCSO, one time Abbot of the Order of Cistercians of the Strict Observance.

South Yarra April 2017

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