

# After The *FIRST GENERAL MEETING* of The *ITMS*

by **Robert E. Daggy**, Editor

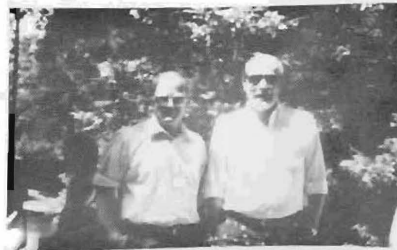
The *International Thomas Merton Society* (ITMS) held its First General Meeting from 25 to 28 May 1989, meeting at Bellarmine College in Louisville the first three days and at the Abbey of Gethsemani on Sunday. The Meeting was well attended: banquet served to 380 on Thursday evening; nearly 500 at Robert Giroux's keynote address on Friday; and 400 at Mass at Gethsemani on Sunday. Election of new officers was held at the Business Meeting on Saturday. Elected were:

Robert E. Daggy, Louisville, Kentucky  
Bonnie B. Thurston, Bethany, West Virginia  
Christine M. Bochen, Rochester, New York  
E. Glenn Hinson, Louisville, Kentucky

*President*  
*Vice President*  
*Corresponding Secretary*  
*Treasurer / Recording Secretary*

It was also announced that the Second General Meeting of the ITMS will be held at Nazareth College in Rochester, New York, in 1991.

We feature in this issue of *The Merton Seasonal*, which is fittingly perhaps the largest issue yet published, some of the materials from the ITMS General Meeting and two items inspired by the meeting: William H. Shannon's presidential address, delivered at the opening banquet on Thursday, 25 May, *The Farmer from Nelson County* (pages 3-7); *Two Homilies from the ITMS General Meeting*: Abbot Emeritus Flavian Burns's "Do This In Memory of Me", given at Gethsemani on 28 May for the Feast of Corpus Christi commemorating Merton, and Father Paul J. McGuire's *Merton's Secret*, given at Bellarmine College on the Fortieth Anniversary of Merton's Ordination, 26 May 1989 (pages 8-12); a poem written after the opening banquet, Martha Bartholomew's *Seeds for Generation* (page 13); Rusty C. Moe's *Pants, Breath & the General Dance: Thomas Merton's Ordinary Grace*, an essay prompted by his upcoming attendance at the Meeting (pages 14-17); three reviews of recent books: Jodi Patterson's "I Am Here in Answer to Someone's Prayer", review of *Thomas Merton in Alaska*, the trade of edition of *The Alaskan Journal* (pages 18-20); Paul Pearson's (who came from England to attend the ITMS Meeting) *From a Brother of Another Communion*, review of *Soul Friends: A Journey with Thomas Merton*, by Brother Ramon, S.S.F. (pages 20-21); and Patrick F. O'Connell's *A Caravan for Merton*, review of *The Thomas Merton Poems*, by J. S. Porter (pages 22-25); for those who visited Gethsemani and saw the newly renovated guest-house and entrance, we have Bill Biddle's poem for Robert Lax, *Hours: Gethsemani*, inspired by the construction in the summer of 1988 (page 25); finally two regular features: our "running bibliography," *Publications by and about Thomas Merton* (pages 26-31); and Theses Acquired by the Thomas Merton Studies Center (page 28).



**DEANE G. KELLER & ROBERT E. DAGGY**  
ITMS General Meeting (Gethsemani)

Photo by Dorothy Bosch Keller