



Visit of Brother David Steindl-Rast osb

On Saturday 30th May we welcomed back to our diocese someone who twenty-six years ago made a lasting impression on our Sisters: Brother David Steindl-Rast OSB. Along with our Sisters, priests, other religious, people from throughout the diocese, the wider Christian family and other religious traditions attended talks given by Brother David in the Victor Peters Suite at Hamilton.

Brother David was born in Vienna, followed his family to America in 1952 and joined the newly formed the Mount Saviour Benedictine Monastery the following year. Having pursued wide and intensive studies before and after joining the Benedictines, he is now a senior member of that Monastery. He brings to his talks and writings a wealth of distilled wisdom from a life divided between periods as a hermit and extensive lecture tours on five continents.

While Brother David's books and his website (www.gratefulness.org) are of great value, being present for his talks was a particular gift, leaving much to ponder along with his words. The themes of Brother David's talks of our day were *Can we still believe in God, Prayer and Gratefulness*. With clarity, precision, ease and a sense of wonder, he condensed these mighty topics, each of which could have had at least day, into the small space as one talk.

As Sr Ruth Long said in introducing Brother David, *Brother David is a bridge builder: a builder of bridges between the ancient roots of tradition and the new growth of religious renewal, between different cultures and between divergent spiritual traditions. It is his special gift to touch the contemplative heart of people - and he does so with amazing facility with words and with the heart of the poet.*

Interviews with Brother David and Anthony Chavez will be broadcast on ABC Radio "Sunday Nights with John Cleary" June 21 and 29. <http://www.eremos.org.au/news/br-david-steindl-rast-tours-australia-from-21st-may-2009>

See website <http://www.gratefulness.org> for numerous articles and talks by Br David

Books by Brother David:

- *Words of Common Sense for Mind, Body, and Soul*, Templeton Foundation Press
- *A Listening Heart: The Spirituality of Sacred Sensuousness*, Crossroad/Herder; Revised Edition; 1999
- *Music of Silence: A Sacred Journey through the Hours of the Day*, Ulysses Press
- *Gratefulness, the Heart of Prayer: An Approach to Life in Fullness*, N.J. Paulist Press, 1984
- *The Ground We Share: Everyday Practice, Buddhist and Christian*, Shambhala Publications, 1996
- *Belonging to the Universe: Explorations on the Frontiers of Science and Spirituality*, Harper
- *Common Sense Spirituality*, Crossroad Publishing Co., 2008