Trappist Beer Comes to America!

For over a century, Catholic Cistercian monks have brewed Trappists beers in Europe. Eight monasteries in Europe, six in Belgium, one in Austria and on in Holland were the only recognized Trappist breweries by the International Trappist Association as authentic Trappist beer. (See book review “Brew like a Monk” on the articles page of this site). Beginning in January of 2014, the Saint Joseph’s Abbey in Spencer Massachusetts will become the only Trappist brewery in America. Following a lengthily training program in Europe two of the St. Joseph’s monks learned how to brew Trappist beer and convince there colleagues that they were worthy and able to brew this special beer in America. The multi-million dollar brewery is state of the art and represents a significant investment for the Cistercian community. After many trial batches the Brothers settled for “Refectory Ale”, a 6.5 percent alcohol golden beer with the recognizable sweet, flowery, yeasty notes typical of a Trappist beer. The beer was approved by the European colleagues unanimously, and an American distribution agreement was approved. Sales are limited to Massachusetts initially.

CQB&B extends our congratulations to the Brothers of St. Joseph’s and wish them success!