

ABBEY HOSTS 2019 BENEDICTINE JUNIOR SUMMER SCHOOL

In June, Saint Joseph Abbey welcomed about two-dozen Junior Monks from around the country for the 2019 Benedictine Junior Summer School, hosted annually by a different monastery. Junior Monks (those who have made their first profession but not yet their solemn vows) gather together for two weeks to take classes in various aspects of monastic life, pray together, form friendships and explore the surroundings of the particular host monastery. The Junior Monks also spent a day in New Orleans, went on a swamp tour and attended a lecture by Lyn Taylor at Saint Joseph Abbey Art Works.



ABBEY ART WORKS CLASSES DESIGNED FOR ALL SKILL LEVELS

"We paint to let our souls know that we are listening." This is the rallying cry of Lyn Taylor, artist-in-residence at Abbey Art Works, who, on the Feast of Saint Luke in October 2016, stood with Abbot Justin Brown, O.S.B., and the monastic community to bless Abbey Art Work's permanent home, a beautifully renovated chicken coop.

Since then, Taylor has brought in several professional artists, university professors, and nationally acclaimed experts in their field of interest as instructors. They include Pastel Society of America's Hall of Fame honoree Alan Flattmann; master printmaker Phillip Sage; professional artist Robert LaBranche;

abstract painter Billie Bourgeois; and wildlife portraitist Carolyn Brewer LeBlanc. Abbey Art Works even offers open studio time.

Each instructor offers courses to students of all skill levels, something Taylor touts as a major incentive of the programs.

"Abbey Art Works welcomes and works with anyone who simply has an interest in learning to paint. Our oldest student is 97 years old! It is never too late to begin," Taylor said.

For more information on classes or to register, visit www.saintjosephabbey.com/abbeyartworks/classes.

SAVE THE DATE

LAUDATO SI CONFRONTS CLIMATE CHANGE 2020 - Each Tuesday, Oct. 8-29. Hospitality Center, Seminary College. Free. This lecture series will closely examine the challenging environmental encyclical of Pope Francis, "Laudato Si: On Care for our Common Home." Presented by Matt Rouso, Director of Maryknoll Mission Center. Visit www.saintjosephabbey.com/environmental-lecture for details and to register.

DAY OF RECOLLECTION FOR OBLATES - Saturday, December 14

MONK RUN & WALK - Saturday, March 14, 2020. Proceeds from the annual 1-mile / 5k trail run and walk help support the maintenance and preservation of the Abbey forest.

ABBEY YOUTH FEST - Saturday, March 21, 2020. For details, visit www.abbeyyouthfest.com.

For up-to-date information about these and other events at SAINT JOSEPH ABBEY AND SEMINARY COLLEGE please visit our website at:

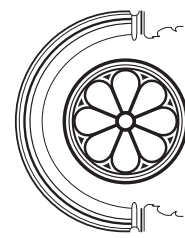
saintjosephabbey.com

[/saintjosephabbeyseminary](https://www.instagram.com/saintjosephabbeyseminary)

[/saintjosephabbey](https://www.facebook.com/saintjosephabbey)

[/saintjosephabbey/SJASC](https://www.youtube.com/saintjosephabbey/SJASC)

[/saintjosephabbey/albums](https://www.youtube.com/saintjosephabbey/albums)



SAINT JOSEPH ABBEY + SEMINARY COLLEGE

Giving Opportunities

Your financial support is greatly appreciated. Donations can be made online at:

www.saintjosephabbey.com/donate or by mail at:

Saint Joseph Abbey and Seminary College
Department of Institutional Advancement
75376 River Road

Saint Benedict, LA 70457
For information, call: (985) 867-2264
or e-mail ddenoux@sjasc.edu

Your gift of time and talent is also welcomed. Please consider joining our Volunteer Program.

For more information, please contact:

Kathy Nastasi at (985) 867-2284 or knastasi@sjasc.edu



Scan QR code with your phone to see photos from this issue of Abbey Voice.



You can also make a donation by scanning this QR code with your phone.

THE ABBEY VOICE

Volume 42: Fall 2019

SAINT JOSEPH ABBEY
AND SEMINARY COLLEGE
75376 River Road
Saint Benedict, LA 70457

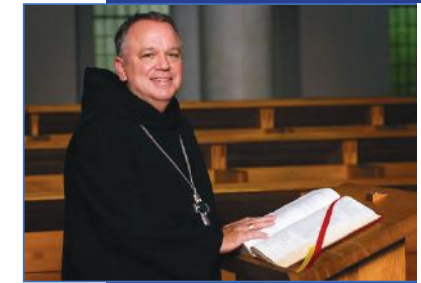


ABBEY VOICE

VOLUME 42 • FALL 2019

ABBOT'S GARDEN - PHOTO BY FR. AUGUSTINE FOLEY, O.S.B.

ABBOT'S LETTER



Abbot Justin Brown, O.S.B.

One of the most joyous occasions in the life of a monastery is the Solemn Profession of a monk. Last summer on July 11th, the Solemnity of Saint Benedict, we celebrated the Solemn Profession of Brother Leo França, and this summer on the same day we celebrated the Solemn Profession of Brother Jerome Aubert. Their monastic journeys began years before when they came to the monastery in the words of Saint Benedict "to seek God." This seeking of God is at the heart of the monastic life; it is the desire for God alone. It is what these men and all monks dedicate their lives to.

In a Homily during Second Vespers of the Ascension at Monte Cassino in 2007, Pope Emeritus Benedict addressed the assembled Benedictine monks and nuns on this Benedictine Theme of Seeking God. He spoke of a Patrimony of Christian ideals and principles that constitute an immense cultural and spiritual treasure bequeathed to Europe by Saint Benedict and his followers. He said, "The foundation of this Patrimony is the constant teaching of Saint Benedict that is the 'Quaerere Deum,' the quest for God as humanity's fundamental commitment." He goes on to say, "Human beings cannot completely fulfill themselves; they cannot be truly happy without God. It is your task in particular dear monks, to be living examples of this inner and profound relationship with him implementing without compromise the program that your founder summed up in: 'Prefer nothing to the love of Christ!'" In these words, Pope Benedict reminds us that it is our task to be living examples of what it means to seek God as the only source of true and lasting fulfillment and happiness in life.

Presently in our community, there are six young men in formation, the beginning of the "Holy Quest," while others have long been seeking God. But, no matter where a monk is on the monastic journey, the search never ends until according to Saint Benedict, Christ brings us all together to everlasting life.

+ Justin Brown O.S.B.

RECTOR'S LETTER



President-Rector Gregory Boquet, O.S.B.

Psalm 40:3 proclaims, "He put a new song in my mouth, a hymn of praise to our God. Many will see and fear the Lord and put their trust in him." The Psalms are all about praise and singing NEW songs to God! As we begin our fall, 2019 semester, our class of new men are from near and far and as diverse as our current community of seminarians. All in all, we have 42 new young men beginning their discernment of the priesthood, and we welcome all of them with open arms, totaling 123 seminarians this year. As with anything new and different, there is some anxiety as to what lies ahead. I say that when you find yourself in unfamiliar territory, sing a new song of praise to our God!

Our Formation Program continues to evolve to meet the needs of the young men discerning their call to the priesthood. During the summer months, with the contributions of all on our Formation staff, we have fine-tuned our Formation Program and added elements that will enhance the experience for our seminarians to bring them closer to meeting the human, spiritual, intellectual and pastoral goals that they desire. Our Seminary College will continue to provide an environment that is conducive to learning and growing in Christ.

Our senior seminarians are set to begin an immersion into their pastoral assignments which will take them to the inner city of Chicago, IL, the border town of Laredo, Texas, and the mission homes of Guatemala. As seniors, they will fully utilize all that formation has instilled in them to minister to those with whom they will come in contact. Our Mission Immersion Program is the capstone of their senior year and will allow them to experience their calling first hand as they prepare to move on to the theologate.

The seminary is blessed by many who give generously to our mission. Because of this, our physical plant is expanding and improving with plans for renovations of dormitories, classrooms, and a seminary chapel, our academic curriculum is strong, and our formation program is thriving. The funds generously donated by our supporters and benefactors will continue to keep Saint Joseph Seminary College improving and growing, and for that, I am forever grateful.

Recently, as in the past, many of those who have attended Saint Joseph Seminary College have visited our campus and recounted with me the many happy and important memories they have made here. As I enter into my 23rd year as Rector here at the Seminary College, I look back at how truly blessed I am to have been a small part of the lives of so many of our young priests. I am humbled by their accomplishments. As I look forward, I pray that I will enjoy many more visits from those who currently walk the grounds of Saint Ben's once they have moved on to the priesthood.

J. Gregory Boquet O.S.B.

ABBEY AND SEMINARY NEWS

MONKSWEETS NOW AVAILABLE IN ABBEY GIFT SHOP



MONKSWEETS, a new lineup of candy and sweets, made its debut this past spring at the Abbey. Created by Br. Leo França, O.S.B., in a small, refurbished building near Pennies for Bread, the first product is called **Peanut Bliss**, a candy typical of the regional cuisine of Br. Leo's native Brazil. The candy is known for its distinct dry texture and sweet taste. He followed it up with **Bliss With a Twist**, which has dark chocolate over peanuts.

Several volunteers have been assisting Br. Leo with the candy production, including Deborah Rivault, Kay Erwin, Susan Vaught, Rita Levy, Marilyn Dufrene, Mal Phillippi, Janet Markey, Kathy Johnson, Rose Hardouin, and Dianna Perret.

Additional MONKSWEETS products are planned. MONKSWEETS are available for purchase in the Abbey Gift Shop, which is open Monday through Saturday from 9-11 a.m. and 12-4 p.m. and Sunday from 12-2 p.m.



UNIQUE STYLE OF CREMATION NICHES NOW AVAILABLE AT THE ABBEY

Construction of cremation niches was recently completed in the Abbey Cemetery. New to the Abbey, the niches, also known as columbariums, are \$3,000, and like the cemetery plots, include perpetual care and prayer by the monks at the Abbey. Every year, the monks also bless the cemetery following the All Souls' Day Mass in November. Payment plans are available. For more information, contact the Cemetery office at abbeycemetery@sjsc.edu or 985-867-2253.



NECROLOGY

Please Help Us Pray For Family and Friends Who Have Passed on into Eternal Life

BARBARA HAMMETT BAGLEY	ROBERT GEORGE KARL	JAMES B.N. "J.B." MORRIS
EDWARD HAMILTON BOOKER '59	CLAIRE FAVROT KILLEEN	J. LLOYD "CHOPPER" MUTTER, SR.
STANLEY LOUIS BRIDGES	JOHN TRACY LABORDE, SR.	VINCENT PACIERA
IRMA LEE CESARIO CALLENDER	REV. MICHAEL KEITH LABOVE '77	RONALD "RON" JOSEPH RIVET
JAMES RAINEY COLLIGNON, JR.	PIERRE ANDRÉ LAPEYRE '54	ANNE CLAUDIA LORIO SAUCIER
WILLIAM MILTON DETWEILER, JR. '59	ATHALIE GENERES MACGOWAN	DONALD "DEE" SMITH, JR. '63
RICHARD JOSEPH DUFRENE	WILLIAM GEORGE MADARY, II	GORDON D. TAMPLAIN, JR. '94
MSGR. HENRY HERBERT ENGELBRECHT '62	DORIS HOSKINS MCCOIN	THOMAS "TOM" JOHN WALLBILICH, JR.
DENIS GANUCHEAU '73	REV. LEE STEPHEN MC COLLOSTER, S.S.B., '69	RONALD "RONNIE" LOUIS WININGER '70
JOHN CASPER GRAVES	CECELIA V. MEDLEY	

ABBEY BECOMES SECOND HOME TO VOLUNTEER



Jane Brown stands with Abbot Justin and Br. Meinrad Camargo

Faith has been a regular part of Jane Brown's life. Nearly a decade ago, she came to the Abbey for art, but a chance encounter during a time of grief brought her back to God.

Brown, an active Abbey volunteer and Oblate, first visited the Abbey as part of her duties as president of the Louisiana Watercolor Society. Abbot Justin Brown, O.S.B. (no relation to Jane), had called her and others to a meeting to discuss the feasibility of starting Abbey Art Works. The art studio has had many homes since that meeting, including Camp Abbey and Vianney Hall at the Seminary College, but eventually settled in its current home, the old chicken coop nestled behind the Retreat Center.

Jane stayed busy in Abbey Art Works by taking classes but had to step away after a year to help take care of her husband John, who had been diagnosed with leukemia. He passed away surrounded by his family in Buffalo, New York. Shortly after, Jane returned to Louisiana to serve as the Poster Artist for Chef Soirée, as John had been the year before. She also chaired the Pirate's Alley Art Show in the French Quarter, an annual event that she often co-chaired with him.

"When I came back, I was really in a low place. I didn't want to be around anyone, but my husband loved being part of the Pirate's Alley show, so I wanted to do it for him," Brown said.

By chance one day during the festival, while waiting for some NOCCA students in front of St. Louis Cathedral, Brown ran into Abbot Justin, who was in New Orleans for a meeting.

"I took that as a sign that you can't go home and drown in grief, but this was God's way of saying get back to the Abbey," Jane added.

From that point forward, Brown started coming to the Abbey to attend Mass and Vespers (evening prayer).

"Attending Vespers with the monks is like praying with extended family. I love that I'm also surrounded by the arts here. Whether it's the de Wit murals or the beautiful organ music in the Church, I always feel the presence of God here, which puts my mind at ease. It gives you a feeling of lifting the soul," Jane said.

She eventually asked if she could help out around the Abbey. Before she knew it, she was working on Deo Gratias, the annual Seminary College gala, becoming a co-chair for the event in 2013.

Jane, who spent many years working and volunteering with the Louisiana Children's Museum, Audubon Zoo, New Orleans Ballet and Special Olympics, has a special place in her heart for the Abbey and Seminary College. She views the seminarians as her adopted grandsons and is inspired by their commitment.

"I'm filled with awe to work with such dedicated young men who are called to live a beautiful life. It's hard to believe you are on a college campus, and it is the most peaceful place I have ever had the privilege of being involved," Jane said.



During Vespers on the evening of March 21st in the Abbey Church, novice Roberto Camargo took temporary vows, committing himself to three years as a Benedictine monk. He was given the name Meinrad and will now be known as Br. Meinrad Camargo. To see more photos, visit flickr.com/photos/saintjosephabbey/albums or scan the QR code in this issue with your phone.



BR. JEROME PROFESSES SOLEMN VOWS



In the presence of Abbot Justin Brown, O.S.B., the monastic community, family and friends, Br. Jerome Aubert, O.S.B., professed solemn vows during Mass in the Abbey Church on July 11th, the feast of St. Benedict.

During a significant portion of the final vows ceremony, Br. Jerome remained prostrate under a funeral pall, which he likened to an experiential participation in the death and resurrection of Jesus.

"When the pall was lifted from me, and I could see the light around me and hear the choir singing 'Awake and Live,' I felt that I was participating in Jesus' victory over death. I understood then that all of the difficulties and trials I had endured had now led me to this moment in which God was affirming the promises he has made to bless those who love Him and to conquer suffering and death by love," Br. Jerome said.

He continues, "I was overwhelmed with joy in that moment because I was able to experience in a very definitive way that God's love for me is stronger than any obstacle I may face."

Much of Br. Jerome's spiritual growth throughout his time at the Abbey has come from developing a reflective, contemplative attitude towards life in which he has learned to discover and experience God's presence in the ordinary aspects of everyday life.

"I have learned through my time at the Abbey that I do not have to go somewhere else or do something extraordinary to find God, because God is here with me wherever I am," Br. Jerome added.

This fall, Br. Jerome will begin theological studies in preparation for the priesthood at Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology in Indiana, home to the same Benedictine monks who founded Saint Joseph Abbey in 1889.

To learn more about a monastic vocation at Saint Joseph Abbey, visit www.saintjosephabbey.com/vocations-home. To see more photos, visit flickr.com/photos/saintjosephabbey/albums or scan the QR code in this issue with your phone.

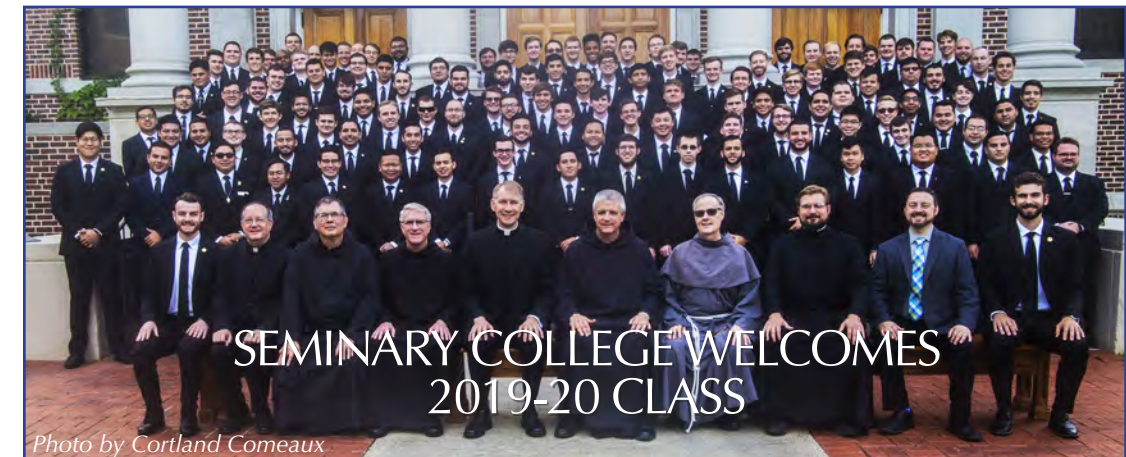


Photo by Cortland Comeaux

SEMINARY COLLEGE WELCOMES 2019-20 CLASS

New officers after the elections for the Fr. Lafleur Council #17205

FIRST SEMINARY KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS IN LOUISIANA DEBUTS AT SAINT BEN'S

The Fr. Joseph Lafleur Council #17205, the first seminary-based Knights of Columbus Council in Louisiana, was established this past spring at Saint Joseph Seminary College.

The new group was inspired to name their chapter after alumnus and native Louisianan Fr. Lafleur, who embodied the K of C principles of charity, unity, fraternity, and patriotism throughout his service as an Army Air Corps Chaplain.

Fr. Lafleur twice received both the Purple Heart and the Distinguished Service Cross for his actions on Clark Field (December 8th, 1941) in the Philippines and posthumously for the sacrifice of his life as a prisoner of war on board a sinking Japanese ship to save the lives of his fellow brothers.

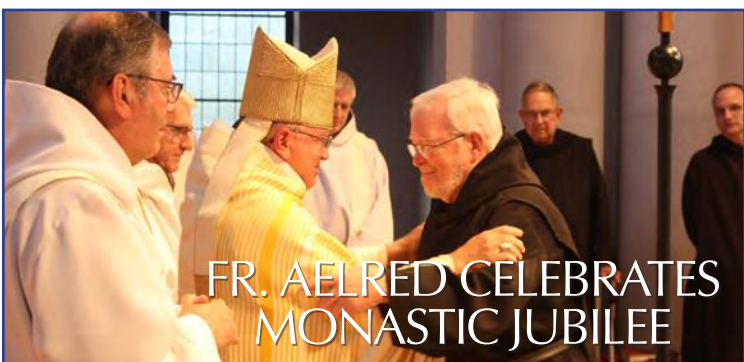
"Our goals in this council are to live out the principles of the Knights of Columbus and grow as brother knights in conforming ourselves to Christ as we continue our priestly formation. Keep our council in your prayers as we set the foundation for it to flourish within the seminary," said Jesse Schmitt, the grand knight for the council.

This past spring, the Lafleur council received a generous \$1,000 donation from the Knights of Columbus Louisiana State Council. The money will be used to support the Seminary College.



SEMINARY COLLEGE HOSTS COME & SEE WEEKEND

During the Seminary College's semi-annual Come & See Weekend in April, dozens of young men from many dioceses across the Gulf South experienced seminary life first-hand. They attended conferences on seminary formation and discernment, as well as Mass, Adoration, and Confession.



FR. AELRED CELEBRATES MONASTIC JUBILEE



Friends and family of Fr. Aelred Kavanagh, O.S.B., joined the monastic community on May 30th to celebrate his 50-year monastic jubilee during Mass in the Abbey Church. Congratulations Fr. Aelred! To see more photos, visit flickr.com/photos/saintjosephabbey/albums or scan the QR code in this issue with your phone.