

**SAINT JOSEPH ABBEY + SEMINARY
ONE HUNDRED TWENTY-FIVE YEARS**

Schedule of Remaining Events:

September 26, 2014 - 7 pm
Lecture: Luke Timothy Johnson
"The Prophetic Role of Monasticism Today"
Benet Hall - Public Invited

September 28, 2014 - 3 pm
Musica da Camera
Abbey Church - Public Invited

October 4, 2014 - 11 am
MAIN CELEBRATION

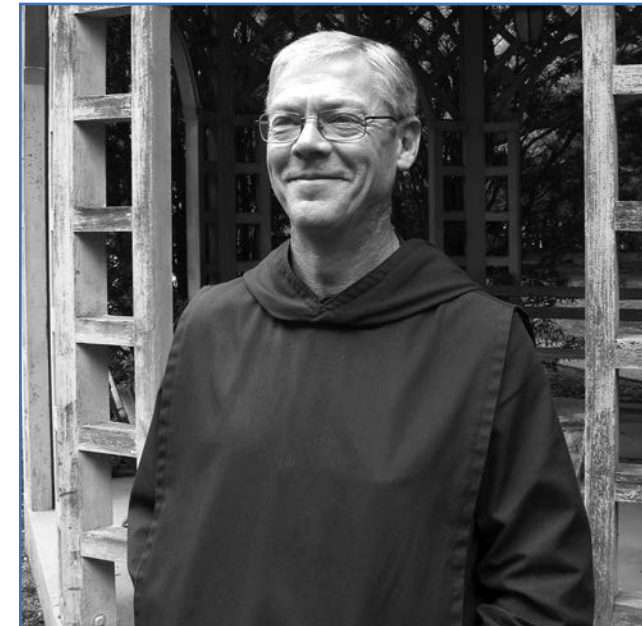
October 5, 2014 - 3 pm
Organ Concert: Mr. Robert LeBlanc
Abbey Church - Public Invited

November 1, 2014
Deo Gratias: Covington

November 9, 2014 - 3 pm
Schola Cantorum Recital / Lecture
Fr. Aelred Kavanagh, O.S.B., Lecturer,
Mr. Colby McCurdy, Music Director,
Fr. Seán Duggan, O.S.B., Accompanist

November 30, 2014 - 3 pm
Musica da Camera
Abbey Church - Public Invited

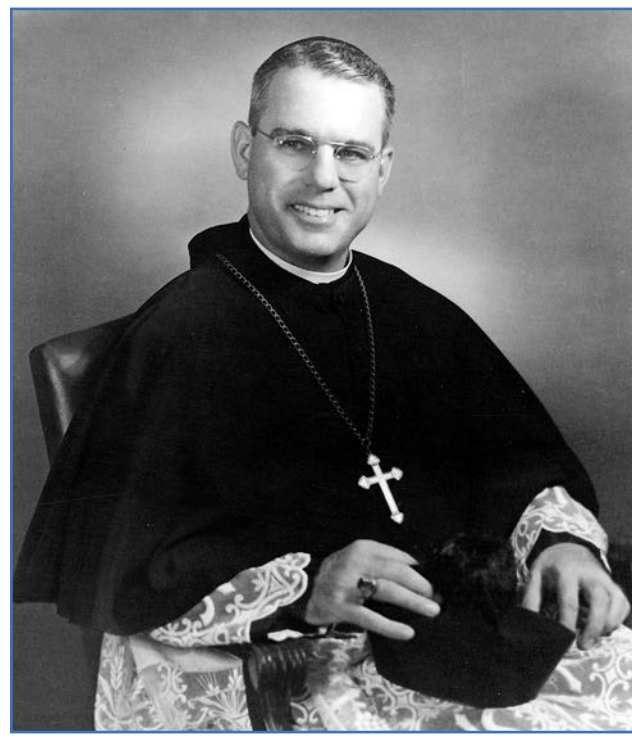
January 28, 2015 - Closing Vespers



BR. BRIAN CELEBRATES JUBILEE

At the Mass on 23 May ending the community's annual retreat, Br. Brian Harrington, O.S.B., celebrated the 25th anniversary of his monastic profession. Originally from Abbeville, LA, Br. Brian, son of the late Mr. Mark Harrington, Jr. and Mrs. Gloria Harrington, is an '86 alumnus of Saint Joseph Seminary College. Following graduation, he studied at Loyola University in New Orleans. He entered the monastery in 1988, professed simple vows in 1989, and then professed his solemn vows in 1993.

In the community, Brother Brian served first in the Seminary College as a prefect and then as Dean of Students. In 2003, he was named Subprior of the community and in 2008 became the Prior. Currently, he also manages the Saint Joseph Abbey Cemetery.



1957

Abbot David Melancon, the first Louisiana native elected as Abbot, served from 1957 - 1982. During that time, he also was elected president of the Swiss-American Benedictine Congregation, a post he held for 13 years, and in which he served as a voting member of the Second Vatican Council.



1958

The Church of El Cristo Negro, Esquipulas, Guatemala. Saint Joseph Abbey sent three monks to found this mission to provide care for the shrine, its pilgrims, and the people of the surrounding area. In 1982, the monastery became independent and was named the Abbey of Jesus Christ Crucified.



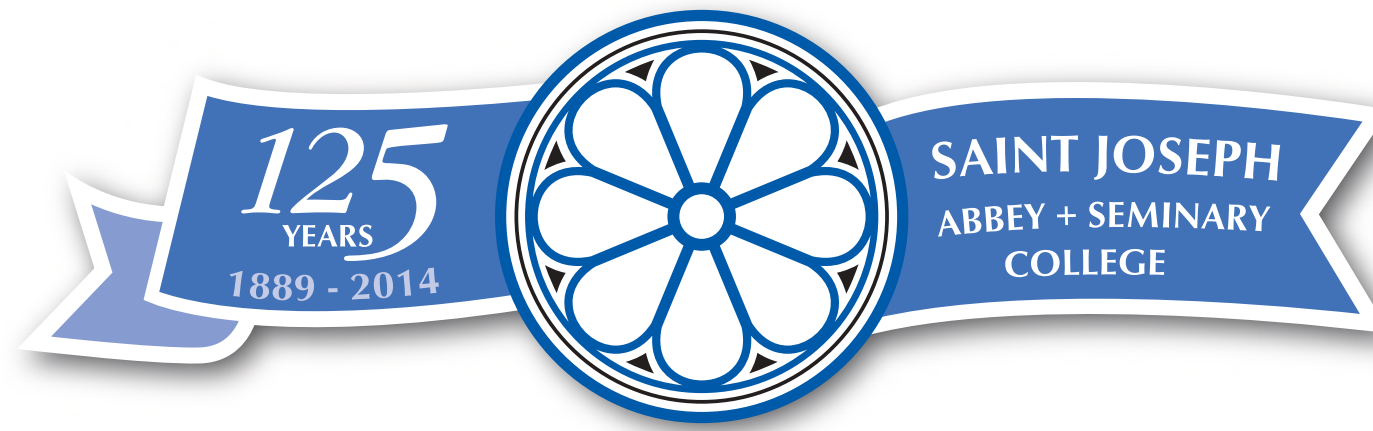
1960

In cooperation with the Knights of Columbus, the monastery established the 200 acre K.C. Abbey Youth Camp. In 2006, the community decided to close the camp and, in 2011, transferred it to the Archdiocese of New Orleans for its use.



1960

On 5 October 1960, Archbishop Joseph Francis Rummel of New Orleans blessed a new seminary with dorms, classrooms, administrative offices, a chapel, and Benet Hall Auditorium. The annex to the north side of the church was added at this time.



SAINT JOSEPH ABBEY CELEBRATES 125 YEARS OF SERVICE

In this glimpse of the main events during the second part of our 125 years, we start with the election of Father David Melancon as Abbot in 1957, beginning a period of expansion which has continued during the years of Abbot Patrick Regan and present Abbot Justin Brown. New ministries, new buildings and renovations of old ones are external expressions of the changes necessary for the monastic community and the Seminary College to meet present-day needs. We recognize that all is evidence of God's blessing, on which we rely as we move into the future.



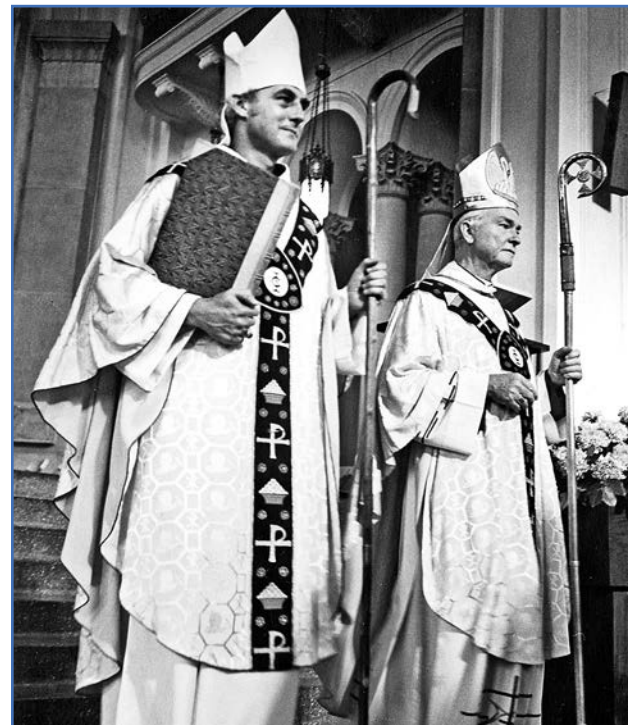
1965

The Abbey Christian Life Center opened under the direction of Fr. Hugh Baumann, and still continues to offer retreat programs for both clergy and laity.



1973

In the early '70s, the monastery, with much of the work being done by the monks, was renovated to include badly-needed accommodations.



1982

Father Patrick Regan, a noted liturgy scholar and professor in the Seminary College, was elected the fourth Abbot, serving in this position for almost twenty years.



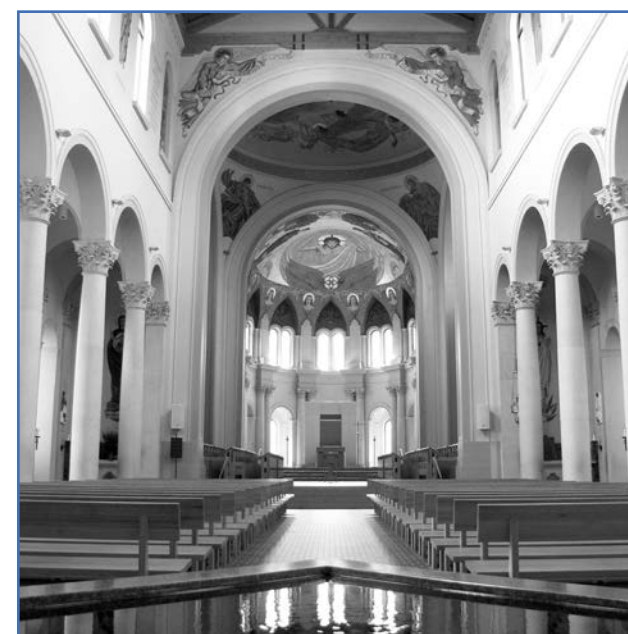
1990

A bakery was built in the old milking barn, and Pennies for Bread & the Abbey began providing bread at no charge to charitable organizations in the metro area that feed the homeless and hungry.



1990s

The community opened a small gift shop, now known as the Abbey Gift Shop, a much-visited place to purchase books and religious articles, and obtain information about the Abbey.



1996 - 1998

Major renovations were made to the Abbey Church interior, including work on Dom Gregory deWit's paintings in order to better preserve them. A new altar and sanctuary, organ, choir stalls, and pews were installed, enhancing the beauty of the original structure.



Mid-1990s

During these years, the Abbey completed a major enlargement and landscaping of the cemetery, and opened burial sites to relatives and friends of the monastic community.



2001

Father Justin Brown, the Prior of the community and an instructor and spiritual director in the Seminary College, was elected the fifth Abbot of Saint Joseph Abbey.



2001

In 2001, the Abbey and Seminary College hosted the first Annual Abbey Youth Fest, a day of prayer, talks and music for Catholic youth from the Gulf South area. From an attendance of 1,200 that first year, it has grown to over 4,500 participants, making it one of the largest Catholic youth events in the SouthEast region.



2007

The community opened Abbey Woodworks, a coffin-making enterprise related to the availability of wood from the Abbey's land. Shortly after, persons in the funeral home business in Louisiana challenged the Abbey's right to engage in the sale of coffins. In a long-lasting legal battle which had world-wide publicity, the matter was finally settled in the Abbey's favor.



2011

With the production of soaps of various scents, MONK SOAP began its rise in popularity through sales in the Abbey Gift Shop and in local specialty shops.



2012

In an early morning in the fall of 2012, the monks and students awoke to fire on the second floor of Pius X Hall. The damage would necessitate a complete renovation of the northwest section that houses the administrative offices, including all the computer equipment where the fire had started.



2014

The newly-renovated Vianney Hall was blessed, providing suitable housing for students who had been housed in temporary buildings.

NECROLOGY

- Claudia Adam, mother of seminarian Nick Adam, Class of 2014
- Simone "Woo" Baldwin Brown, Friend of the Abbey
- Elizabeth "Bette" Buras Coleman, Friend of Abbey
- J. Madison "Ducky" Drake, Friend of the Abbey
- Joan Drewes, sister of the late Fr. Marian Larmann
- Courtney Giarrusso, daughter of Robin Giarrusso, Friend of the Abbey
- Rev. Msgr. Ray Hebert, Alumnus, Class of '46
- Margaret Hotard, Friend of the Abbey
- Alden "Doc" Laborde, Friend of the Abbey
- Beneva Langlois, sister-in-law of Br. Michael Langlois
- William Ledet, Alumnus, Class of '54
- Norman LeGlue, Alumnus, Class of '62
- Deacon Fred Memleb, Alumnus, Class of '61
- Rev. Joseph Montalbano, Alumnus, Class of '49
- Richard "Dick" Ray, Friend of the Abbey
- Rev. Msgr. Ignatius Roppolo, Alumnus, Class of '48
- Joseph Schmidt, son of Evans and Shannon Schmidt, Friends of the Abbey
- Clarence Trippe, Friend of the Abbey
- Marie Villere, Friend of the Abbey
- Luke Walker, brother of Alumnus Matthew Walker, Class of '95
- James and Melvin, brothers of the late Fr. Ambrose Wathen



GRADUATION

On 9 May, Saint Joseph Seminary College held its 123rd commencement exercises in Benet Hall Auditorium. The Most Rev. Gregory M. Aymond, D.D., Archbishop of New Orleans and Chancellor of the Seminary College, presided. The Most Rev. Shelton J. Fabre, DD., Bishop of the Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux, and both a graduate and a Trustee of the Seminary College, gave the commencement address.

The Very Rev. Gregory Boquet, O.S.B., President-Rector, conferred the Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy and the Liberal Arts Degree on students from the following dioceses: Diocese of Austin, Jamie Louis Ford and Jose Luis Rodriguez; Diocese of Baton Rouge, Phillip Ray Gordy; Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston, Alex Pina; Diocese of Jackson, Aaron Michael Williams; Diocese of Lafayette, Payton Jude Bourque; Archdiocese of Mobile, Patrick Jennings Carter and Stephen Christopher Dolan.

Receiving the Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy and Theological Studies Degree were: Diocese of Baton Rouge, Patrick Lewis Landaiche and Carlos John Lucito; Diocese of Corpus Christi, Richard Ruben Gutierrez; Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston, Luis Miguel Garcia, Ryan Anthony Stawaisz, and Anthony Joseph Valderrama; Diocese of Jackson, Mark Hampton Shoffner; Diocese of Lafayette, Blake Stephen Dubroc, Stephen Andre Pellessier, Benjamin James Pitre, Andre Philip Schumacher, Brent Lee Smith and Joseph Kyle White; and William Edward Jarvis and Gilbert Thomas Pierre of the Archdiocese of Mobile.

Completing the Pre-Theology Program were: Diocese of Corpus Christi, Oscar Francisco Chaparro; Diocese of Jackson, Nicholas Warren Adam; and Samuel John Orsot of the Diocese of Lake Charles.

The *Esse Quam Videri* Award, in honor of the class of 1964, and consisting of a monetary prize of one thousand dollars, was presented for the first time. It is given to a graduate, who during his years at Saint Joseph Seminary College, has performed quiet service, without publicity or fanfare. Father Matthew Clark, O.S.B., Alumni Director, presented this year's award to Aaron Michael Williams of the Diocese of Jackson.

94TH ANNUAL HOMECOMING

Saint Ben's 94th Annual Homecoming, held on Easter Friday, 24 April, this year honored the classes of '54, '64, '74, '84, '89, '94, '04 and '14. During the general assembly, Fr. Gregory Boquet, O.S.B., President-Rector, presented Archbishop

cont...

cont... Gregory Aymond, D.D., '71, with the Alumnus of the Year Award, and Fr. Matthew Clark, O.S.B., Vice-Rector and Alumni Director, presented Very Rev. Joshua Rodrigue, '98, with the Son of Saint Ben Award. Fr. Gregory then inducted the graduating class of 2014 into the Alumni Association. Leading the meeting and serving their second and final year on the Alumni Executive Committee were President, Rev. Frank Giroir, '77; Vice-President, Neal Hightower; Secretary, Kenneth Richard; and Treasurer, Rev. Josh Rodrigue.

Mass followed in the Abbey Church with Most Reverend Joseph N. Latino, D.D., '57, retired Bishop of the Diocese of Jackson, as the principal celebrant. The homilist was Rev. Roger "Jerry" Villarrubia, '50, of the Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux. Following Mass, everyone gathered in Christ Court for the evening social before a dinner held under the Pius X breezeway.

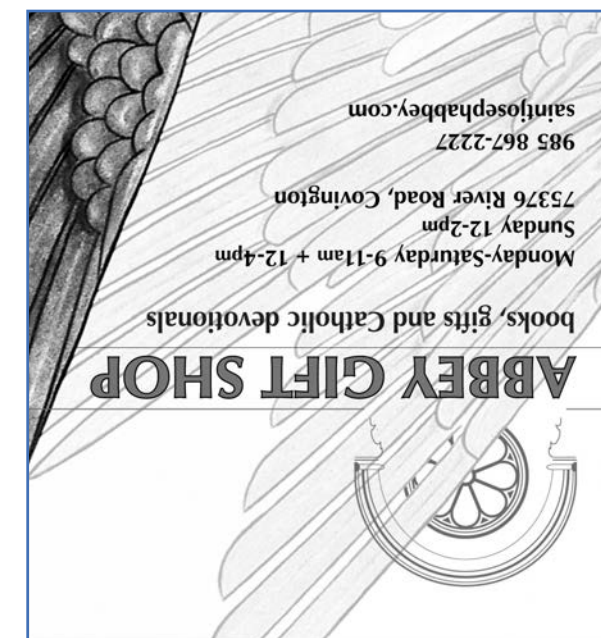
ABBEY YOUTH FEST 2014

On Saturday, 22 March, Saint Joseph Abbey and Seminary College hosted its 14th Annual Abbey Youth Fest, a day of prayer, talks and music for Catholic youth from the Gulf South area. Designed to provide young people with an opportunity to experience a day of faith formation and exposure to our Benedictine tradition, the Fest has grown from an attendance of 1,200 in its first year in 2001 to over 4,500 participants this year.

The theme, "Made for Greatness," continued the long-established aim of the Fest, the promotion of vocations to the priesthood and religious life. The day, dedicated to Our Lady of Guadalupe, began on Friday evening with a chant Mass. Key-note speakers included Dom Quaglia, a Catholic speaker and youth minister from Atlanta; Leah Darrow, former model in New York City, and now a Catholic speaker; Fr. Mark Toups, Vocation Director, Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux; Fr. Tim Hepburn, Director of Vocations, Archdiocese of Atlanta; and Co-emcees Sister Marie Protectrice de la Foi of the Servants of the Lord and the Virgin of Matara in Washington, D.C., and Nick Adams, seminarian from the Diocese of Jackson.

Archbishop Aymond, with concelebrants Bishop Robert Muench of Baton Rouge, Abbot Justin Brown of Saint Joseph Abbey, and over 25 visiting priests, celebrated the Vigil Mass. At the end of Mass, Archbishop Aymond invited all those who were considering a call to the priesthood or religious life to come forward. After sunset, the participants concluded the day with Evening Prayer. Music for the day was provided by the seminarian band, Covenant 7, musical duo Greg & Lizzy, and The Ike Ndolo Band.

Much credit for the success of the fest is due our seminarians who, under the direction of the seminary coordinator for AYF, Ms. Kit Friedrichs-Baumann, and Mr. Brian Butler of Dumb Ox Ministries, work throughout the year for the event. This year's student committee, under the chairmanship of Blake Dubroc (Lafayette), included Payton Bourque (Lafayette), Kyle White (Lafayette), Juan-Carlos Pancheco (Atlanta), and Tony Valderamma (Galveston-Houston).



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ABBOT'S LETTER

Abbot Justin Brown, O.S.B.

During this year of our 125th Anniversary, we are finding inspiration in the faith and determination of the pioneer monks who laid the foundation for Saint Joseph Abbey and Seminary College. These men were poor in material things, but rich in faith and fidelity to prayer which enabled them to trust in Divine Providence and the special protection of Saint Joseph which they experienced through every trial and tribulation. In a letter to Abbot Fintan of Saint Meinrad, Father Luke Gruewe expressed the Christ-like spirit of poverty that was lived by these monks in those early days.

"We find so many things considered essential are not necessary for eternal salvation or earthly happiness, for we are all well and happy. Murmuring is not known among us nor the students. There prevails a good spirit among us all and we cannot thank God enough for it."

In seeking to build a foundation for the next 125 years, we ask for the same spirit which filled our monastic forefathers. This is the spirit of Saint Benedict where the brothers live together in peace and cooperation, in charity and mutual obedience, found in the words of Benedict from Chapter 72, The Good Zeal of Monks: "No one is to pursue what he judges better for himself, but instead what he judges better for someone else."

This is the gift of our founders to us. We seek not only their inspiration, but also their prayers as we carry on their legacy of prayer and work. The seed they planted has grown into a majestic tree, and it is ours to care for in service to the Church in Louisiana and beyond. Like Father Luke's, our hearts, too, overflow with gladness and we join our voices to his in thanking God a thousand times over that we are the ones He has elected for this task.

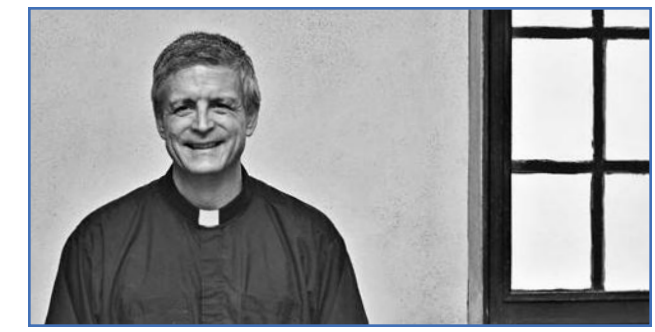
Justin

Saint Joseph Abbey Mission Statement

The mission of Saint Joseph Abbey is to foster Benedictine monastic life by embodying a communal life of sacrifice through prayer and work, serving Christ in each other, the Church, and all people.

Saint Joseph Seminary College Mission Statement

Saint Joseph Seminary College is a community of faith and learning, rooted in the Benedictine tradition, that promotes the development of the whole person. Its academic and formation programs foster the commitment of seminarians to the Roman Catholic priesthood in accordance with the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' Program of Priestly Formation. The Seminary College also supports preparation for service in lay ministries through the Religious Studies Institute, and makes available its educational and other resources to the local community.



RECTOR'S LETTER

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

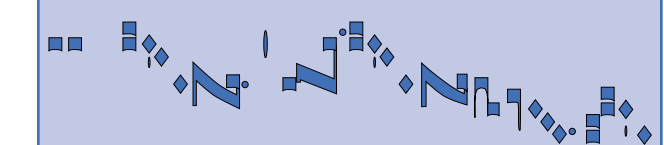
William H. Hinson tells us why animal trainers carry a stool when they go into a cage of lions. They have their whips, of course, and their pistols are at their sides. But always they also carry a stool. Hinson says it is the most important tool of the trainer. He holds the stool by the back and thrusts the legs toward the face of the wild animal. Those who know maintain that the animal tries to focus on all four legs at once. In the attempt to focus on all four, a kind of paralysis overwhelms the animal, and it becomes tame, weak, and disabled because its attention is fragmented. (from *Developing the Leader Within You* by John Maxwell)

So, too, there are four "legs" that make up the Program for Priestly Formation: Human, Intellectual, Spiritual and Pastoral Formation, which, unlike the legs that confuse the tiger, are meant for the seminarian's growth. The challenge of seminary formation is to make sure that all components are integrated in the young man aspiring to the priesthood. This must be done one step at a time, however, otherwise it would become a daunting and overwhelming task, because so much is being called for in this journey.

When a young man first enters the seminary, he is full of fire and zeal, which is the passion that paved the way for him to consider the priesthood and to take this important step. However, for growth to take place there is a need for acceptance and cooperation so that the training that the seminary seeks to impart can be fully embraced and incorporated into his life. This seminary in its 125 years of existence has been faithfully involved in this very important ministry and it is evident that with a record enrollment expected next fall, this tradition is not only appreciated, but will continue into the next 125 years.

G. Boquet

DEO GRATIAS 2014



BUY TICKETS ONLINE | www.sjasc.edu

Deo Gratias - Covington

SATURDAY EVENING, 1 NOVEMBER
Vespers with Schola Cantorum at 6 pm
Gala from 7 - 10 pm
supper by Chef John Besh

For more information contact:

Sharon Carraway
985 867-2234 or scarraway@sjasc.edu