

## SAINTJOSEPHABBEY.COM

Br Simon Stubbs, communications director

Daniel Kedinger is a recent graduate of Saint Joseph Seminary College. About nine months ago, he began an internship at the Abbey to help us get our new web site off the ground. Since then, he has taken the Abbey web account to his new company, Crucé Design, in Lafayette. His business partner, Jamie Orillion, is the youth minister at Saint Joseph Catholic Church in Rayne, La.

Br Simon: How did y'all get started?



Daniel: In seminary, I did a lot of design work for my diocese and friends. Crucé Design grew out of a web site project for my home parish. Jamie was youth minister at the parish.



Jamie: I called Daniel and we met to work on the stjoeifeteen.org web site to try to get it active and working again. At the time I thought... "web design, how hard could it be...?" Since then, I've backed away and let Daniel do the web coding.

D: We found we had a lot in common and from that we started working on little projects... a couple of weeks later, we thought of a business name, Crucé Design, and that night we registered it as a domain name. When I left Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., we picked up more clients, including the abbey web account...

S: How many web sites have you designed?

D: After about a year in business, we're promoting 13 in our portfolio. We do more than just web work, though. We design for print, T-shirts, product packaging, photography...

S: Jamie, how did you get started in photography?

J: I took a class at University of Lafayette, but that was more technical, not composition. I had an ongoing contract with a client that was kind of point and shoot. But then, when we started designing for a band, we found that our design was suffering because of bad photography. We realized that our design and the photography should mesh together into one vision, one solution. About a year ago, we bought Crucé's first digital camera... about six months later, more photography equipment. And then we moved to a few laptop Macs and then a Mac Pro for the studio and we were on our way.

S: What's your favorite feature about the Abbey web site?

D: I'm a big fan of the pictures, the media gallery. So few people ever get a glimpse of a monastery and a seminary college. People always ask me "what is it like?" The photos give them a glimpse into that world. The other feature is the back end – the system that allows the abbey and seminary community to manage content themselves.

S: What is the goal of the web site?

D: To build an online community for the people who live and work at the Abbey and for those who support the Abbey. I'd like to create a place where outside people can be nourished by the spirituality of the monastery.

J: One thing I like on the site, from an outsider's perspective, is that it's not intimidating. There's a lot of content, but when you come to the site, you don't think "it's so huge, I'll never be able to find what I'm looking for." All the categories make it easy. It feels alive and easy. Things are updated every few days. And the bread looks good...

S: We've discussed the relationship between the internet and vocations before...

D: Eighty percent of vocations now begin on the internet. A vocation prospect might be a little scared to call the diocese vocation director, but on the net he can do some research first. It's important – especially for a "semicloistered" monastic community – to be accessible to people looking for all kinds of information.

S: Speaking of vocations, you just finished the Abbey Youth Festival site.

D: I spent four years at the abbey; I'm invested in making sure their mission and purpose keep going. When the director of the Abbey Youth Festival, Mimi Kelly, approached us with the prospect of creating their web site, we wanted to redesign it and give their site a fresh new look...

J: ...as a youth minister, I come to these things with this question: What's going to pull me in? I get a lot of promotional mail at work: What I consider most is the design – if the design is good, I can tell that they are a little more passionate... it's thought out. It's like window-shopping... people walk by, see it and want to walk into the store. The Abbey is no different; if you have a good media presence, people are going to take you a little more seriously than they would if the graphics are cheesy.

## ABBEY-RELATED WEB SITES

[saintjosephabbey.com](http://saintjosephabbey.com)  
[sjasc.edu](http://sjasc.edu)  
[clcabbeey.com](http://clcabbeey.com)  
[benethall.com](http://benethall.com)  
[penniesforbread.com](http://penniesforbread.com)

## VOCATIONS



Br Jude Israel, vocations director

The Abbey vocations office, under the direction of Br Jude Israel, OSB, is in the process of developing a Monastic Experience Program. This program will allow men between the ages of 21 and 45 to live in the monastery for a period of time to explore the possibility of a monastic vocation. The program will sponsor weekend stays several times a year along with two extended periods – five or more days – twice a year. Br Jude is putting together the calendar of dates for this year's program and these dates will be posted on the vocation page of the Abbey web site.

In addition, Br Jude is encouraging anyone who may have an interest in monastic life to contact him through e-mail ([brjude@sjasc.edu](mailto:brjude@sjasc.edu)) and he is encouraging friends of the Abbey to cultivate interest in the monastic life by praying for vocations. Presently, the Abbey has one postulant and four monks in temporary profession. The monks in formation work in various apostolates of the Abbey and are guided by Br Jude, who has been recently appointed novice master and formation director.

## FACULTY NEWS



Dr Russ Pottle, academic dean

Administration and staff of the Rouquette Library participated in the national conference of the American Library Association held in June 2006 in New Orleans. Bonnie Bess Wood, director of the library; Dr Susan Blalock, assistant librarian; and Br Bede Roselli represented Saint Joseph Seminary College in the "Libraries Build Communities" effort to help clean up libraries damaged or destroyed by Hurricane Katrina. Ms Wood, Dr Blalock and Br Bede worked on the library at Benjamin Franklin High School, and Ms Wood returned after the conference to work on the Nora Nova Branch of the New Orleans Public Library. The ALA meeting was the first major convention to be held in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina.

Josette Beaulieu-Grace, senior professor of language, wrote an article entitled "Katrina: Two Perspectives" for the winter 2006 edition of the Louisiana Association of Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages' publication *LaTESOL Newsletter*. The article is a first-person account of living and teaching in Mississippi and Louisiana in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

Photos taken by Ms Beaulieu-Grace were included in a photographic essay on Katrina's aftermath published in the same newsletter.

Fr Thomas Gwozdz, SDB, Ph.D., Malachy Burns Alumni Professor of Philosophy, attended two programs devoted to philosophy and theology. In June 2006, Fr Gwozdz attended the Bernard Lonergan Workshop held at Boston College, in Boston, Mass. The theme for this workshop was Lonergan's thought as reflected in the writings of such famous Jesuits as Karl Rahner, Joseph Marechal and Raymund Schwager.

Fr Gwozdz also attended a series of lectures on evolution and intelligent design held in December 2006 as part of the President's Forum on Contemporary Issues and Controversies sponsored by Loyola University in New Orleans. Panelists for the lectures included the theologian John Haught of Georgetown University; the intelligent design advocate Paul Nelson of Biola University; and the intelligent design critic Barbara Forrest of Southeastern Louisiana University.

Financial support for Fr Gwozdz's activities comes from the Malachy Burns endowed professorship, created by generous donations from alumni of Saint Joseph Seminary College and matching funds from the Louisiana Board of Regents.

Lin Jackson, junior professor of language, presented a workshop entitled "Poems for Pronunciation and Vocabulary" at the 25th Annual Conference of the Louisiana Association of Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages, held in November in Baton Rouge. The workshop centered on using music and student-centered poetry to improve pronunciation by students in English as a Second Language programs.

Nancy McKeand, senior professor of language, made two conference presentations during the fall 2006 semester. The first, entitled "Technology and Writing," was made at the Southeastern Louisiana Writing Project's "Showcase of Best Practices," held at Southeastern Louisiana University in October. The second, entitled "Cool Online Tools Anyone Can Use," was made at the 25th Annual Conference of the Louisiana Association of Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages, held in Baton Rouge in November.

Dr Russ Pottle, academic dean and senior professor of literature, contributed a chapter to *The Traveling and Writing Self*, edited by Tilar Mazzeo of Colby College and Marguerite Helmers of the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater. Entitled "Firebrand and the Cat: The Impossibility of Closure and William Byrd's Histories of the Dividing Line," the chapter theorizes a relationship between travel writing and autobiography through analysis of Byrd's histories of boundaries dividing the Virginia and North Carolina colonies. Published by Cambridge Scholars Publishing, *The Traveling and Writing Self* was issued in January 2007.

Dr Pottle presented a paper entitled "False Sympathy" in Eric Hansen's *Stranger in the Forest* at the Fifth Biennial Conference of the International Society for Travel Writing, held in Denver, Co., in September 2006. The paper compares rhetorical approaches to constructing an "American" identity in travel writing by the contemporary author Eric Hansen and the 19th-century literary giant Herman Melville.

## DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES



Fr Matthew Clark, alumni director  
Vanessa Crouere, development director

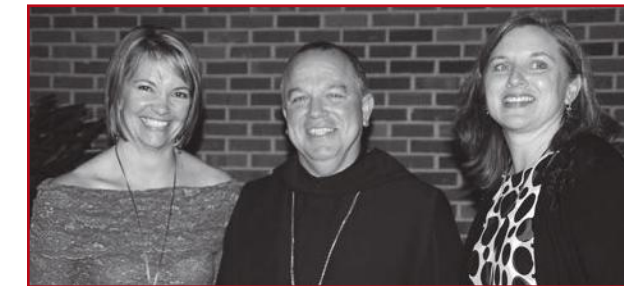
Class of '57 prepares for their 50th Reunion!

The Saint Joseph Seminary Class of 1957 is looking for its classmates! This includes anyone who attended between 1951 and 1957 with an anticipated graduation date of spring 1957 – yes even if you did not complete your studies here at St Ben's. The guys are looking to get as many as they can for a gathering during the 87th Annual Homecoming festivities planned for Easter Friday, 13 April 2007.

For those of you who have not attended in the past, Homecoming festivities are quite lively, with ample opportunities to reconnect and remember with those who share a common history of time spent at St Ben's. The reunion committee is evaluating different options for the "Big 50th." Please let us know if you are one of those celebrating this upcoming milestone, contact

Vanessa Crouere	"Mac" Charitat
Office of Development	Class of 1957
985 867-2242	985 893-2841
<a href="mailto:vcrouere@sjasc.edu">vcrouere@sjasc.edu</a>	<a href="mailto:andredurel@yahoo.com">andredurel@yahoo.com</a>

You may also check our web site at [sjasc.edu](http://sjasc.edu) for additional details and information.



Deo Gratias...Thanks be to God

Our new format for the annual Saint Joseph Abbey + Seminary College patron party was a great success! The 28 October gala hosted more than 600 friends and supporters for an evening of music, food, dancing and celebrating under the stars. Our 2006 co-chairs Suzy Neal and Puddy Robinson (pictured above, with Abbot Justin), as well as our dedicated committee members, worked tirelessly to make the event special and memorable. We look forward to another wonderful event tentatively scheduled for 27 October 2007 So mark your calendars and save the date!

## CAMP ABBEY

Fr Charles Benoit, procurator

We read in Ecclesiastes that for everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven (Ecclesiastes 3:1). On 11 October, after years of private conversations, discussions with various consultants and, most recently, a vote by the monastic chapter, Abbot Justin announced

the painful decision to close Camp Abbey on 20 November. The reasons centered around maintenance expenses, which were beginning to exceed the abbey's capacity to cover, and the risk and liability of running a youth camp.

This decision brought to a close an era that offered a unique camping experience for boys and girls from the Gulf South, providing a wholesome camp atmosphere with a program based on love and fellowship with Jesus at its center.

In 1958, the Knights of Columbus, the Archdiocese of New Orleans, and Saint Joseph Abbey began discussions on the establishment of a camp on the Abbey's grounds for the promotion of Christian living and religious vocations. The plan was to run the camp for nine consecutive weeks, with four weeks allotted for female campers, and with an anticipated attendance of 50 campers each week, all paying a fee of \$12.

Since its opening in 1960, Camp Abbey saw not only changes in its landscape, facilities and sponsorship, but most importantly, changes in the faces and lives of children who had the opportunity to experience summers at the camp.

Our deepest appreciation goes out to all who have been part of our camp over the years, and we especially thank the administration, staff and campers for their love, loyalty and devotion to Camp Abbey.

## NECROLOGY

Rev. Msgr. Maurilius Bilskie, '38  
George A. Boudreaux  
Thomas P. Breslin  
Milton Broussard, brother of Vernon J. Broussard, '36  
Francis A. Broussard, '52  
Rev. David Chauvin, '59  
Msgr. Irving DeBlanc, '32  
Rev. Cyprian Devold, '74  
Ignatius DiGeorge, '32  
Albert Dittman Jr., '61  
Jerome Ducote, '48  
James T. Flanagan, '46  
Lorraine Fluitt, mother of Jan Dupuy (wife of Edward Dupuy, '80)  
Lewis Larriviere, '45  
Thelma Levy Oblate  
Ethel E. Lewis  
Bates MacGowan Jr.  
Angelina Gilberti Martin, mother of Michael P. Martin, '71  
Mary Catherine Allgeier Muench, mother of Bishop Robert Muench, '62  
Rev. Dominic Nghia  
Ann O'Brien  
Rev. Louis A. Persac, '42  
Jake Wayne Russell  
Msgr. H. William Reed, '56  
Dr. Herbert J. Roussel Jr., '51  
Ronald Sarrat, brother of Walter Sarrat, '65  
Leon Toups, '58  
Rev. Joseph Tranchina, '62



## COVENANT 7



by Kit Friedrichs-Baumann

The first time I heard Covenant 7, I was definitely not expecting to hear what came out of the speakers. An alternative rock sound with a Christian twist, a sort of gumbo of funk rock, Latin and blues stirred together, singing about Jesus in such a way that it gently seeps into your mind and then catches your soul. I sat down with the group of six seminarians (one band member, Aaron Levy, is not a seminarian and was not present) to chat about their music, their group and their mission to one day become priests.

### When did your group start?

In 2003. David was one of the original members. A couple of upperclassmen that have now graduated were practicing music in an empty storage room in Vianney Hall. They asked David if he knew of anyone who played bass and he said "yeah, ME." Everything sort of evolved in an organic way and the group decided to start a band. The alternative Christian rock lyrics and music grew out of their experiences as young men preparing for the priesthood. Kyle, nicknamed "the Colonel," now writes most of the lyrics and the basic chords. The band collaborates to write the music when they gather for practice. "Everyone adds their own sound to the song and somehow it comes together," says Brent Caffarel, a junior and the newest member of the band.

### And the name?

The name Covenant 7 relates to the seven covenants in the Bible. The seventh covenant is the cross. David, now the lead vocalist after four years in the group, says, "Covenant 7 is associated with the institution; it has become a tradition." He goes on to explain that the band changes every year depending on how many graduate and move on in their formation process. With each change come new songs, new members to fill in the missing spots and subsequently a different sound. The group sings some of the original band's songs, especially when they do a live show. However, they are currently composing new songs, which will all be featured on their second album. "The first album, *Beautiful Fear*, came about with the help of Mimi Kelly," David and Kyle explain. "Mimi got us into the Focus studios in New Orleans and she fronted the money necessary to produce the CD."

### So do you sing those songs anymore or do they change too?

"We sing some of them, but we are so bad at remembering our lyrics!" They all laugh and then sing a few bars of "The Fight," one of the songs that has become a trademark track: "He gave us our freedom. He died so we can be free." The Col-

onel explains that it is about different things that can affect us in the world and how our relationship with Christ is the most important.

Covenant 7 has played at the Abbey Youth Festival each year since their inception. They all agree that the most exciting thing for them is to sing in front of 5,000 young people who are singing along to your music. They have traveled all over the Gulf South for gigs, which mostly don't pay. They would prefer to just play and sing and share their music rather than make money.

### What's next?

"We are recording our new songs in Benet Hall," (a concert is promised for April 14). David goes on to tell me that our theatre has amazing acoustics and Kyle explains the whole recording process, including how they all donate different pieces of recording equipment. Kevin and Luke pitch in the digital software and Brent talks about how it all miraculously comes together through God's grace. The group collaborates on the explanation just like they do with their music. I am told that Jeff Starkovich is the seventh member of the band who actually engineers the recordings.

### Here's the big question: What would you guys do if you were discovered by a major record label?

They all agree that they would have to sit down and pray about it, because rock stardom does not fit into their priestly formation. David breaks the news to the group that he has plans to graduate college, get his masters and become a priest. The group concurs that the only way something as crazy as that could work would be if their music would help vocations for the priesthood. "Maybe it could be a crazy twist on apostolic work." Basically, the only dream the guys really have is to become priests. The band, the music, that's just a great way for them to sing about what is close to their hearts — God. "It's cool that the band just keeps on going," says David. "When Brent transferred here last year we needed a bass player and here he is."

"You can tell that God has a direction for the band," explains Brent. "When there is a blank spot then God sends someone over [to play]." David dreams of coming back to the seminary in ten years just to see how the band has evolved. "No matter what," he says, "Covenant 7 stays at Saint Joseph even after its members move on."



### band members, from left

Aaron Levy – drummer

Brent Caffarel – bass

Kevin Boudreaux – guitar

David Bayardo – lead vocals, acoustic guitar

Kyle Sanders – rhythm guitar, vocals, piano

Luke Arredondo – trumpet

Jeff Starkovich – engineer



## THE ABBEY VOICE

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Saint Joseph Abbey + Seminary College  
Saint Benedict, LA 70457

### 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.

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## ABBOT'S LETTER



Abbot Justin Brown, OSB

As we begin a new year here at the Abbey and Seminary, we remember with grateful hearts all our alumni, oblates and friends who have been a part of our life and ministry in the past and continue to be as we look toward the future. This past year has been filled with many blessings thanks to you and to all who have generously shared in all that we do at the Abbey and Seminary.

The new year marks a new format for the *Abbey Voice*, a simpler format that will enable us to share important events and news with you on a more regular basis. I encourage you also to look to our web site for more up-to-date information on the Abbey and Seminary along with the fabulous photography of Br Simon, which chronicles much of our life and current events.

We began the new year with the welcoming of a newcomer to the monastery. Bradford Fournier of New Orleans began his postulancy on 1 January. Before coming to the monastery, Bradford was working on a degree in music and math and also teaching piano to music students at Loyola University. The new year also began with a change in personnel. Br Jude Israel became novice master, replacing Fr Aelred, who continues to serve as prior and master of ceremonies. Br Jude has been studying Monastic Spirituality and History through Saint John's Abbey and University and is looking forward to serving in the area of monastic formation.

The new year also marked the growth of our Pennies for Bread and the Abbey program. We now deliver 85 loaves of bread a week to two locations in Baton Rouge: a soup kitchen operated by the Missionaries of Charity and the Saint Vincent de Paul society

We expect the number of loaves to increase as this outreach to the poor becomes known in the Baton Rouge area. On Monday, Br Isidore delivers to the Missionaries of Charity and helps the sisters around the center.

This new year will also mark the beginning of the replanting of our forest, which was severely damaged by Hurricane Katrina. Acres have been cleared and we are expecting the planting by springtime. This forest will be a gift to future generations of monks, seminarians and retreatants who find peace and solitude in the abbey woods and for the wildlife whose habitat on the Northshore is disappearing.

We are looking forward to this new year as we begin with an increase in the number of seminarians and a full schedule in our Christian Life Center. We are grateful to you for all your prayers and generous support. Be assured that you and your family have a special place in our prayers as we gather daily in the Abbey Church.

In the Peace of Christ,

*Justin*

## FROM THE PRESIDENT-RECTOR

Fr Gregory Boquet, OSB

As the year 2007 begins, the Seminary is continuing to do quite well. We were abundantly blessed with a good student body of spirited young men who have a strong commitment to seminary formation.

In my opening talk to the community I challenged the seminarians to embrace the lifestyle to which they feel God is calling them. That calling is going to be tested. An image I used was in the area of architecture, as I explained to them how formation should be understood. In architecture, form follows function. You tell me what you want a building to be used for (function) then I will build it (form). In other words, if the building is going to function as a church, it will take that form when it is built.

For people it is directly opposite: Function follows form. You look at how something is made, shaped, and developed and that explains the form. Thus, seminary formation is the milieu in which those who say they are called to priesthood — the form they feel their life is to take — have to function in a particular way in the seminary. The extent to which these young men function and surrender to the formation program will be an indication of whether they are truly formed into the model of priesthood. Our prayer this year is that all may surrender to what the formation program is calling forth.

*J. Boquet*

