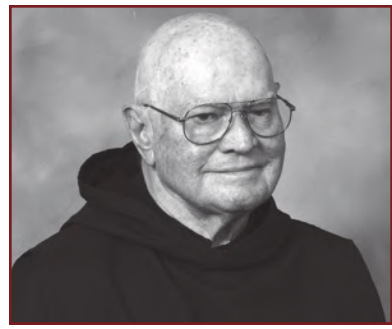


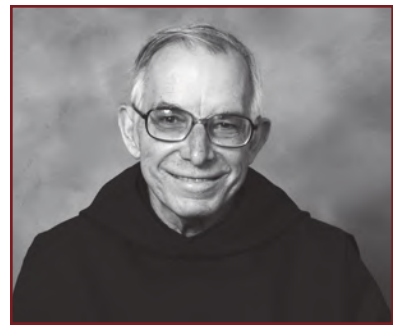
The Class of 1980 welcomes you to Alumni Day



Fr. Jude ordained by Archbishop Gregory Aymond



Fr. Raphael Barousse, 60 years; Br. Joe Webre, 50 years; Br. Anselm Hollingsworth, 50 years



## ALUMNI NOTES

Save the dates and register online!

**91st Annual Homecoming**  
Easter Friday, 29 April 2011  
3 p.m. registration

**Golf Tournament**  
Thursday, 12 May, 10 a.m. tee-off  
Covington Country Club

**Acadian Alumni and Friends Social**  
Thursday, 17 February  
The Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist  
L'Évêché, Lafayette  
Vespers at 6 p.m.; supper follows

register and pay on the web  
www.sjasc.edu  
or call the Development Office  
985 867-2242

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

### DEO GRATIAS 2011

**COVINGTON**  
Friday, 4 November  
Follows 6 p.m. vespers – 11 p.m.  
Saint Joseph Abbey + Seminary College  
Saint Benedict, LA  
This is our on-campus premier fundraiser for the seminary college. We'll have great food, music for all and wonderful raffle and auction items. It will be a night you definitely don't want to miss.

**BATON ROUGE**  
Sunday, 2 October  
Follows 5:30 p.m. vespers – 9 p.m.  
Catholic Life Center  
Baton Rouge, LA  
This is our sixth anniversary Baton Rouge celebration supporting our seminary college. We'll have a delicious buffet supper, a Schola performance and auction items.

[more information](#)  
Event tickets: \$75 per person  
Sponsorship opportunities available  
contact Vanessa Crouere  
985 867-2242  
vcrouere@sjasc.edu

## FR. JUDE'S ORDINATION

by Fr. Jude Israel

Fr. Jude Israel, O.S.B., was ordained to the priesthood on Saturday, 4 December, at the abbey, by the Most Reverend Gregory M. Aymond, Archbishop of New Orleans. Fr. Jude, who is 53 years old, is the son of Thomas Israel of Picayune, and Joy Barreca of New Orleans. Fr. Jude has been at St. Joseph Abbey since 2002, making first profession in July 2003 and solemn profession in July 2006. He presently serves as vocation director and novice master as well as guest master for the abbey. He also teaches in the theology department of the seminary college. He received his undergraduate education at Loyola University in New Orleans, earning a B.S. degree in education. He has done graduate work at the University of New Orleans, receiving a M.Ed. degree in educational administration. He did his theological training at Saint John's University in Collegeville, Minn., receiving a M.A. degree in theology, and continued his theological studies for the priesthood at Notre Dame Seminary in New Orleans and at Saint John's.



Brs. Joachim Bernard and Emmanuel Labrise

## TWO MAKE FIRST PROFESSION

by Fr. Jude Israel

Benedictine Br. Joachim Dustin Bernard made his first profession of monastic vows on 4 October at the abbey. Br. Joachim, 26, is the son of Stacy Ardoin and Gus Ardoin and was a member of Saint Peter parish in Carencro, La. After making profession, Br. Joachim will continue his undergraduate studies at the seminary college and is also assigned to Saint Joseph Woodworks. Currently, he is attending a seminar in the art of iconography.

Br. Emmanuel John Labrise made his first profession of monastic vows on 8 December at the abbey. Brother Emmanuel, 46, is the son of Josephine Labrise and the late John S. Labrise and was a member of Saint Alphonsus parish in Wexford, Penn. He graduated from Saint Alphonsus Elementary School, Quigley Catholic High School, and Saint Vincent College before completing studies in philosophy at the Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus, Ohio. He also studied theology at Saint Vincent Seminary before entering Saint Joseph Abbey in 2009.

## "DO YOU LOVE ME?" THREE JUBILARIANS ANSWER, "YES, LORD"

homily by Abbot Justin Brown, OSB

In a familiar, ordinary place, the Sea of Tiberias, the risen Christ reveals himself to Peter and the other disciples, and even eats breakfast with them. Here on the seashore, Jesus asks Peter three times, "Do you love me?" and three times Peter responds, "Yes, Lord, you know I love you" to which Jesus answers, "Feed my lambs; tend my sheep." Nowhere else is it recorded in the Gospel where Jesus explicitly asks such a question of a disciple. Yet we know that every call to discipleship is a call first of all to love Jesus in a unique and special way. Every disciple hears in the depths of his heart this piercing question, "Do you love me?" For Jesus knows that love alone is the true and lasting motivation for discipleship and its sustaining force. "As the Father has loved me, so do I love you; live on in my love."

Each of our jubilarians in his own unique way heard this same piercing question of Jesus, "Do you love me?" and they answered and continue to answer, "Yes, Lord I love you through 60 and 50 years of monastic profession."

Throughout 60 years of monastic life, Father Raphael has lived out his answer to Jesus in many ways: feeding the lambs and tending the sheep as teacher, associate pastor, chaplain, guest master, weekend assistant in parishes, Mass intention recorder, confessor, and missionary. . . to name some of his ministry over the years. Fr. Raphael has always shown love and care for the poor and marginal, the outcast and lonely — the favorites of Jesus. That is why today he still speaks of his years in Guatemala with a sparkle in his eye and feeling in his heart. That is why he is not only the pastor, but also the friend of many at Southeast Hospital. That is why he is attentive to the needs of all who come to the door or call the Abbey during his service as porter. I often hear that we no longer have characters in the community, but then I look at Fr. Raphael and realize we still do! Thank God.

Fifty years ago, Brother Joseph began living out his answer to Jesus as a monk of Saint Joseph Abbey, generously and faithfully serving the community wherever we needed him, from the dairy, to the kitchen, to car and grounds maintenance, to the farm, and lastly, to the bakery. Br. Joe baked and delivered bread to the poor neighborhoods of New Orleans for 18 years, like the mailman, we joke, in rain, hail, sleet and floods, becoming a friend and a welcome sight to the poor and homeless, literally feeding the Lord's sheep. Always exhibiting a great capacity to give along

the bread route, Br. Joseph had a great capacity to receive, often returning home with leftovers from the homeless shelters — to the great dismay of our kitchen manager Br. Martin. Today, Br. Joseph patiently embraces the cross of diminished health and physical ability, but he rarely, if ever, complains. In these last few years, Br. Joseph has learned a lesson we all must learn: how to be and not just do. His faithfulness to daily community prayer and enjoyment of the simple things of life in community is his answer to Jesus today.

Br. Anselm also responded to that piercing question of Jesus 50 years ago, leaving behind a career as a jazz musician. One thing that has characterized his life these 50 years and continues to do so is fidelity — to prayer and holy reading, and to his work. Br. Anselm continues to serve as porter, as he has for 50 years. That's a lot of phone calls and door bells. He also served as assistant treasurer for 20 years, seminary bursar for 14 years, climatologist for 49 years — almost as long as Nash Roberts — organist/composer for 38 years, and secretary to two Abbots for 16 years and counting. Through these 50 years he has been a good listener to those who come to the monastery door and a faithful companion to many guests on walks through the woods — he is still in search of the elusive cougar. His life reflects a deep love for monastic life and through his creative spirit he has shared that love through his music and continues to share it through his poetry.

Fr. Raphael, Br. Joseph, Br. Anselm, while each of you has lived out and continues to live out your answer to Jesus in different ways in service to this monastic community and to the Church — for which we are most grateful — your answer came from the same place, deep within each of your hearts, through years of prayer, reflection and sometimes struggle with the ways of the Lord. Sometimes your answer was loud and clear; other times it was a faint whisper. Like Peter, you had no idea of what loving Jesus would mean or demand, but, like Peter, you were given the answer every time you faced the cross, every time you were led where you did not want to go; yet you went in faith and hope. Your years in this school of the Lord's service has taught you that the way you have undertaken is the only way for you to find fulfillment in this world and life in the world to come. In this familiar, ordinary place, your fidelity to monastic life is your answer, "Yes, Lord, you know I love you."

**BIGGER, BETTER, BRIGHTER PHOTOS  
AVAILABLE ON OUR WEB SITE MEDIA PAGE  
WWW.SAINTJOSEPHABBEY.COM**



Abbot Justin Brown, Jeff Rowes, Scott Bullock

## SAINT JOSEPH WOODWORKS

by Jeff Rowes, senior attorney

*Jeff Rowes in an Institute of Justice attorney. Like all its clients, IJ represents the Abbey at no charge.*

You know that no one is safe when the bullies of the world start going after monks. But that's what's happening to the brothers of Saint Joseph Abbey, and that's why the Institute for Justice (IJ) has returned to Louisiana to defend economic liberty.

As you may know, the monks of the Abbey follow an ancient tradition of self-reliance, working to put food on their table just as any other family would. And, like families across America, they want to run a small family business to do so.

These "artisans of the monastery"—as Saint Benedict described entrepreneurial monks—decided to sell the plain handmade wooden caskets that they have been building for themselves for more than a century. Caskets sales help the monks remain self-sufficient and provide the faithful with a symbol of the monastic belief in the unity of life and death.

But the State Board of Embalmers and Funeral Directors—which is dominated by funeral directors—shut the monks down. In Louisiana, one must be a government-licensed funeral director to sell caskets, and funeral directors don't want competition from anyone—not even monks. Last March, the State Board threatened Abbot Justin and Deacon Mark Coudrain with huge fines for the "sin" of selling caskets without a license. They even face up to 180 days in jail.

But there's no reason to license casket sellers. A casket is just a box. It serves no health or safety purpose. You can be buried in a sheet if you want.

The reason for this law is money. Caskets are the most expensive part of a funeral. Funeral directors in Louisiana, and elsewhere across the country, have lobbied for these laws because they drive up prices by driving out competition.

Neither monks nor anyone else should go to the slammer for trying to earn an honest living. That's why IJ joined the Abbey on 12 August to file suit in federal court in New Orleans to defend the economic liberty of all hardworking Americans. This David vs Goliath story sparked outrage across the country.

IJ's defense of Saint Joseph Abbey is a strategic part of our national campaign to restore economic liberty from coast to coast. One of the most important unsettled constitutional questions is whether the government can keep people from earning an honest living merely to protect the profits of industry insiders. The Abbey's lawsuit has the potential to go all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court to resolve this question and make economic liberty the constitutional law of the land.

The monks of Saint Joseph Abbey have teamed up with IJ to secure the blessings of economic liberty for everyone. The State Board doesn't have a prayer!



Boating campers from summer 2006

## ARCHDIOCESE LEASES CAMP

by Fr. Charles Benoit

On 26 October, the abbey and the Archdiocese of New Orleans signed a long-term lease for the Camp Abbey property. The archdiocese is committed to complete a multimillion dollar renovation of the camp facilities and will reopen the camp as a youth retreat facility sometime in autumn 2011, with summer camp programs beginning summer 2012.

The monks of the abbey decided to close the camp in October 2006, when the maintenance expenses began to exceed our capabilities and we felt we could no longer carry the risk and liability of running the camp. In interviews following the announcement, Abbot Justin said: "We had three major areas in need of repairs, and we had to make a decision. We hated to do it. I loved the camp, and we're just delighted that the archdiocese has decided to reopen it."

Camp Abbey will be operated under the supervision and auspices of the CYO/Youth & Young Adult Ministry Office of the archdiocese. Questions concerning the camp can be directed to John Smestad Jr., CYO director, at 504 836-0551, ext. 3223 or [jsmestad@arch-no.org](mailto:jsmestad@arch-no.org).



## NECROLOGY

pray with us for those who have passed away

Arta Ault, mother of Gary Ault, '64  
Oblate Jim Babin  
Marilyn Brechtel  
Hubert Baudoin, '57  
Eugene Bennett, brother of Joseph Bennett, '51  
Gordon Blanchard, brother of Rev. Donald Blanchard, '63  
Msgr. Frank Boeshans, '42  
Nellie Brashear  
Rev. John Brock, '57  
Rosa Burns, grandmother of Fr. Basil Burns, OSB  
Audrey Carr, mother of Deacon George Carr, '71  
Gerald Duggan, father of Fr. Séan Duggan, OSB  
Dr. Louis Gallo  
Msgr. Robert Guste, '45  
Msgr. Thad Harkins, '49  
Russell Henderson, '69  
George LeBourgeois, brother of Msgr. Louis LeBourgeois, '55  
Don McCarter  
Msgr. Alvin O'Reilly, '45  
Rev. L. Adrian Figuerola Pijoan  
Marie Robert, mother of Br. Benedict Robert, OSB  
Joseph Rotolo Sr., '45  
Rev. Bernard Schmaltz, '72  
Rev. Donald Sherer



Cathedral of the Black Christ in Esquipulas

## GUATEMALA IMMERSION

by Br. Simon Stubbs

From 20-27 November and again from 8-15 January, President-Rector Fr. Gregory accompanied a group from the senior class on a mission immersion experience to Esquipulas, Guatemala. The program was directed by Mr. Matt Rouso, and hosted by the Abadia de Jesucristo Crucificado. Fr. Gregory explained the purpose of the trip as "an opportunity for the senior seminarians to expand their vision and appreciate the multicultural dimensions of the Catholic Church."

From the Basilica of the Black Christ, the students explored the city and were educated about the political and economic struggles in Guatemala. They visited schools, orphanages and clinics in the surrounding countryside, helping with odd jobs such as painting desks and buildings, cutting grass and organizing pharmacies. They spoke with teachers, doctors and carpenters who are helping the people in their struggles with poverty.

At the close of each day, the group gathered and discussed what they had seen. Then, they were asked the question, "what did you really see?" As Fr. Gregory commented, "the trip is designed to enlighten the seminarians about immigration and the politics and economics that are driving undocumented persons to move to the States. In reality, it prepares them for the future Hispanic church of the United States."

## BONFIRE / FOOTBALL GAME

by Br. Simon Stubbs

The Saint Joseph Ravens met the Notre Dame Hunchbacks in their 85th annual bonfire / football game held at our seminary football field on 19 November. The traditional event resulted in a 40-27 Ravens victory. The proud coaches for the 2010 team were Martin Siebold, Ruben Dykes and Brandon Jones.

The game, which is held the Friday before Thanksgiving, began with a short day of morning classes. Mass was celebrated at 2 p.m., with guest celebrant and homilist Fr. Brian McMaster, vocation director from the diocese of Austin, Texas.

Following Mass, the students assembled on the field and President-Rector Fr. Gregory opened the game with a prayer at 3:30. Fr. Killian Tolg, dean of students, and Fr. Steve Bruno, '86, vocation director for the Archdiocese of New Orleans, acted as referees. Seminarian Stephen Gadberry and alumnus Josh Johnson, '10, announced the play-by-play. New Orleans Archbishop Gregory Aymond, '71, closed the game with a prayer.

The two schools then gathered for evening prayer, followed by gumbo supper. At 7:15, the seminarians processed to the bonfire with torches held aloft by the senior class. The bonfire then was blessed by Notre Dame President-Rector Fr. José Lavastida and ignited.



seminarians at a Habitat for Humanity site

## MINISTRY: IT'S ABOUT PEOPLE

by Katie Murphy

It's all about the people, whether you're hammering nails next to someone whose home you're building or listening to a presentation on homelessness in New Orleans. It's all about the people.

This became real for seminarians in their second year of formation, as they rolled out of bed at 6 a.m. on a Saturday in early October, in order to be at the St. Tammany West Habitat Re-Supply Store in Covington by 8 a.m. There, the group joined other volunteers with whom they would be working and headed to the day's building site. Over the next eight hours, ten seminarians sawed lumber, pushed wheel barrows, and nailed board after board to form the walls of a structure one family hoped to make a home.

Reflecting on their service with Habitat the seminarians talked about the opportunity they had to actually meet and work with the people they were helping. By simply engaging in the typical tasks of building a house, they gained a deeper appreciation for the impact their service could have on individual lives and what a community of people, regardless of faith tradition or political persuasion, can do when working toward a common goal.

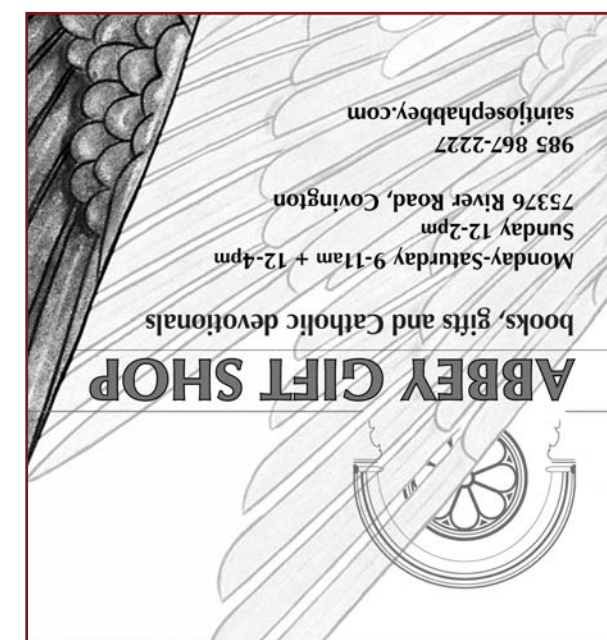
As the day came to a close, a house had been brought closer to completion. Just as important, ten young men had achieved greater class unity through the power of teamwork.

On the same weekend, on the other side of the lake, 19 seminarians participated in the Urban Awareness Weekend. This formation program aims to broaden the seminarians' understanding of life issues that will impact their priestly ministry, particularly in a multicultural urban setting.

The weekend is held at Hope House, located in the Lower Garden District since 1969. Hope House provides emergency assistance, transitional housing for homeless families, adult education and GED preparation, in addition to justice programs.

Over the course of two days, the seminarians, within the context of prayer and reflection, listened to presentations by staff members on local justice issues such as housing, homelessness, welfare and work, education, healthcare, the criminal justice system and racism. In addition to formal presentations, there were also interviews and panel discussions with Hope House neighbors directly affected by these local situations.

As they reflected on the most powerful aspects of the weekend, one seminarian after another talked about the personal witness of the people, those ministering at Hope House and those dealing with the consequences of injustice in their everyday lives. Some of these stories were heard during formal presentations, but the stories having the greatest impact were shared over a meal, in the homes of several neighborhood residents. It was within this setting that it once again became clear, it's all about the people.



NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
PERMIT #3  
Saint Benedict, LA  
Saint Joseph Abbey + Seminary College  
Volume 29: Winter 2011



## ABBOT'S LETTER

Abbot Justin Brown, OSB

As we begin the new year of 2011, we have much to look forward to: the renovation and reopening of Camp Abbey by the archdiocese, the renovation of the "House on the Hill," the building of a hermitage, and the resolution of our challenge to a state law which prevents us from selling caskets.

About a year and a half ago, Archbishop Aymond expressed interest in the archdiocese leasing Camp Abbey and reopening it as a Youth Retreat Facility and Camp. A few months ago, we signed a lease agreement, and work has begun on renovating Camp Abbey. The archdiocese hopes to reopen the facility for youth retreats in the fall of 2011 and camp the following summer. We are grateful to the archdiocese for bringing back a beloved institution, and we look forward to a renewed connection with youth ministry and the promotion of vocations through Camp Abbey.

Work has also begun on the historic "House on the Hill," the residence of the Hosmer family, who lived there until they sold the property to the monks in 1903. The renovation is being made possible by Fr. Vic Messina of the Diocese of Baton Rouge, who will live in the house as a hermitage while he continues to serve as a spiritual director in the seminary and also in the Christian Life Center. The renovation of the house will restore it to a more traditional floor plan, keeping in mind its simplicity and architectural integrity.

This year we will realize a dream of our deceased brother and former director of the CLC, Fr. Thomas Perrier, with the building of a hermitage near the CLC. This hermitage will be available for private use, and will provide another kind of retreat experience in the beautiful surroundings of the abbey grounds and forest.

As you all may know, on 12 August, we held a news conference on the steps of the Federal Courthouse in New Orleans. There, we announced that the abbey had filed suit in Federal Court challenging a state law that restricts the sale of caskets in the State of Louisiana to licensed funeral homes only. After two years of lobbying for a change in this law from both the state legislature and the funeral directors, we engaged the services of the Institute for Justice, a nonprofit firm in Washington, D.C., to challenge this law on our behalf. They have taken our case on principles of economic freedom and free enterprise. As we await a decision from the court, we continue to sell our caskets. We feel confident we will win this case.

While our day-to-day life in the monastery is rather ordinary, as Benedictine life celebrates the grandeur of an ordinary, ordered life, there are times when the extraordinary breaks in. As you can see, a few of those times are on the way this year.

Thank you for all your prayers and support of the abbey and seminary.

Justin



## RECTOR'S LETTER

President-Rector Gregory Boquet, OSB

The world has never been more connected than it is today. Something happens on one side of the planet and you see it on the news right away. And there is no place you can go where you do not find kids text messaging. However, despite connectedness, more and more people feel disconnected.

Mobility, pace and self-fulfillment all lead to loneliness. Scripture is clear in stating that we were all created for connectedness. We were meant to be connected. In the past, two, three, or four generations of people lived in the same town, or even in the same house. This no longer exists. Scripture says that it is not good for man to be alone. God created man, Adam, in a perfect environment. There were no problems at all. But God said no. Human beings were not meant to be in isolation. Not meant to be alone. Why? It is because we were made in God's image and likeness. Scripture says that God is love. In order to love, you need somebody to love. In other words, there need to be loving relationships in our lives. We need healthy connections in our lives.

Saint Joseph Seminary College is a place that thrives on building a healthy community that enables men to become excellent priests. *The Abbey Voice* illustrates well the connectedness that exists between these men who come from dioceses throughout the Deep South, but more importantly, it also reflects the spirituality that is so lacking in the lives of many in this world. Indeed, the church has a hopeful future which is reflected in the human and spiritual relationships that exist in our seminary.

Gregory

### 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.