



## ABBEY ART WORKS FLOURISHING IN OLD CHICKEN COOP

On October 18th, 2016, the feast of Saint Luke, the patron saint of artists, Abbot Justin Brown, O.S.B., in the presence of the monastic community, blessed the new home of Abbey Art Works, formerly known as the Old Chicken Coop.

Out of the strong desire to ensure countless others get to enjoy the unique experience of finding a deeper connection to oneself and the world through art, Lyn Taylor, Abbey Art Works artist-in-residence, created the Guild of St. Luke. The Guild is an outreach of Abbey Art Works, which hosts numerous workshops and classes throughout the year.

The Guild will create opportunities, under the proper guidance, to lead artists of all skill levels to reap the rewards of being amongst the Benedictine community.

The Guild is a yearly membership program open to all, including arts organizations, professional artists, teachers, collectors, and historians.

Surrounded by the monks and renowned murals of Dutch artist Dom Gregory de Wit, Guild members will benefit from the teaching of traditional principles of drawing and painting, special classes and speakers, camaraderie amongst peers and tutors, and the peaceful presence of the monks of Saint Joseph Abbey.

For more info, visit [saintjosephabbey.com/guild-of-st-luke](http://saintjosephabbey.com/guild-of-st-luke).



## CHRISTIAN LIFE CENTER RE-OPENS THIS JANUARY

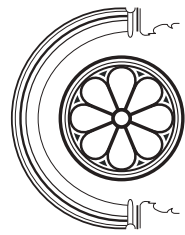
For more than 50 years, the Christian Life Center (CLC) has offered men, women and married couples the opportunity to step back from their busy lives and find quiet time for reflection and prayer on the beautiful 1,100 acres of Saint Joseph Abbey.

Although the 2016 flood delayed the intended renovations of the CLC's bedroom wings, now the whole facility is undergoing a \$3.9 million overhaul. Scheduled to reopen this coming January, improvements to the retreat center will include new, larger bedrooms. Each bedroom will have a queen-size bed and pullout sleeper sofa in the event someone would like to share a room, a larger private bathroom and an independent air conditioning/heating thermostat. Furthermore, all of the windows in the CLC will be upgraded to double-insulated glass and the building will incorporate the original roof design in order to qualify for historic tax credits.

While the Abbey seeks to raise the final \$700,000 for renovation costs, Abbot Justin Brown, O.S.B., is grateful for the continued prayers of those who have supported the CLC for so many years.

"We look forward to seeing everyone again and welcoming them back to our newly renovated Christian Life Center as we rebuild for the next fifty years," said Abbot Justin.

Registration for retreats starting in January is now available at [saintjosephabbey.com/about-the-clc](http://saintjosephabbey.com/about-the-clc) or by calling Lynette Kendall at 985-892-3473.



SAINT JOSEPH ABBEY + SEMINARY COLLEGE

## Giving Opportunities

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

[helptheabbey.com](http://helptheabbey.com)

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](mailto: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](mailto:knastasi@sjasc.edu)

## THE ABBEY VOICE

Volume 39: Fall 2017

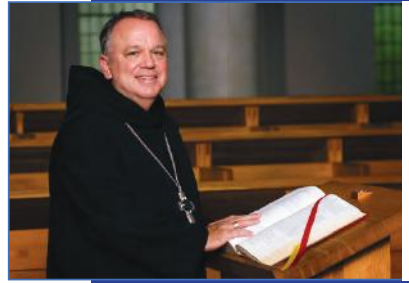
SAINT JOSEPH ABBEY  
AND SEMINARY COLLEGE  
75376 River Road  
Saint Benedict, LA 70457



# ABBEY VOICE

VOLUME 39 • FALL 2017

## ABBOT'S LETTER



Abbot Justin Brown, O.S.B.

Saint Benedict concludes the Prologue to The Holy Rule with these words to his disciples, "Never swerving from his instructions, then, but faithfully observing his teaching in the monastery until death, we shall through patience share in the suffering of Christ that we may deserve also to share in his kingdom." Over the last five months, four of our beloved confreres faithfully observed Christ's teaching in the monastery until death in the hope of sharing in his kingdom: for Abbot Patrick 58 years, for Brother Michael 68 years, for Father Paul 75 years, and for Brother Stephen 65 years, with 40 of those years at the Abbey of Jesus Christ Crucified in Guatemala where he died. Each of these men made a unique contribution to the life of this Abbey and Seminary and influenced the lives of many people. They modeled for us the life of self-gift every monk embraces and they remind us to remain faithful to whatever life God calls us. Each of them were examples of fidelity to His teaching in the monastery and patience in sharing in the suffering of Christ. They now share the promise of eternal life.

As we bid farewell in this life to our four brothers, we welcomed three newcomers. Two of them began the novitiate in September and one had to return to his home country of Brazil before he can hopefully return in December.

We also continue our recovery from the flood and pray with a deeper understanding for the many who have recently experienced the catastrophic effects of flooding. Life is truly a series of death and rising. The Paschal Mystery permeates our life. We cannot avoid it but as Christians we can embrace it, for in Christ, life is victorious over death as Abbot Patrick, Brother Michael, Father Paul and Brother Stephen now experience completely.

*+ Justin Brown O.S.B.*

## RECTOR'S LETTER



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

The 2017-2018 school year started on a bright and sunny day when we welcomed 145 seminarians. As we begin this year, I am reminded of the fact that we have made great progress, not only in student enrollment but in an enhancement of the physical plant as well. For example, excitement is building among students and faculty as everyone sees the columns of the new Rouquette Library being hoisted by crane and set in place. This serves as a sign and reminder to everyone that the Seminary College is forging ahead to meet the challenges of the future.

The seminary has been blessed with generous donors and benefactors walking with us and helping to build a brighter future. We can easily trace God's presence by these positive steps, and through the years we have learned how to trust in His presence even as Psalm 69:1 says, "Save me oh God! For the waters have come up to our neck." It is indeed this environment of trust and love that has made St. Ben's a home for so many and continues to be a place to educate young men for the priesthood.

*J. Gregory Boquet O.S.B.*

## SAVE THE DATE

OBLATES DAY OF RECOLLECTION – SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16  
Visit [www.saintjosephabbey.com/oblates](http://www.saintjosephabbey.com/oblates) to register.

ABBEY YOUTH FEST - SATURDAY, MARCH 17, 2018  
For details, visit [www.abbeyyouthfest.com](http://www.abbeyyouthfest.com).

98<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL ALUMNI HOMECOMING - FRIDAY, APRIL 6, 2018

MONK RUN - SATURDAY, APRIL 14, 2018

The annual 1-mile / 5k trail run and walk is an exclusive opportunity to run on the privately owned grounds of the beautiful Saint Joseph Abbey, which are not open for public recreational use.

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

[saintjosephabbey.com](http://saintjosephabbey.com)

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

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

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

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





# ABBEY AND SEMINARY NEWS



## SAINT JOSEPH NOW HAS THE LARGEST SEMINARY COLLEGE IN THE COUNTRY!

Welcoming 145 seminarians for the fall 2017 semester

## F.I.S.H. FAMILIES PROVIDE SEMINARIANS HOME AWAY FROM HOME



New seminarians at Saint Joseph Seminary College, just like anyone else leaving home for the first time, can often experience their share of excitement, loneliness, challenges, and of course, homesickness. It can be a confusing and hectic time. To help seminarians adjust to life as a stranger in a strange land, a ministry of St. Peter Catholic Church in Covington called the Families Inviting Seminarians Home program, or F.I.S.H., is providing Saint Joseph seminarians an opportunity to get away from the seminary periodically and enjoy a little bit of "home away from home."

Tony Ramirez and Francesco Mion, both seminarians from the Archdiocese of Atlanta, were paired with Ed and Gina Bergeron in Covington, who have been participating in F.I.S.H. for about six years.

The Bergeron family, which includes four kids, frequently hosts Ramirez and Mion at their home for pizza nights on the weekend, birthday parties, football games, and movies. Families and

seminarians are encouraged to visit with each other at least once a month.

"They are like a second family to me. In a way, their kids have kind of become my siblings. They are really awesome," said Ramirez.

The program also shows that despite their calling, the seminarians experience the many ups and downs of daily life just like everyone else.

"What I love about F.I.S.H. is that I grew up thinking priests weren't approachable. Spending time with these young men shows they are human, too. We strive to give them a vision of what a good Catholic family looks like. We aren't perfect so they see that side of it too," said Mrs. Bergeron.

To read more about the F.I.S.H. program, visit [saintjosephabbey.com/news](http://saintjosephabbey.com/news).



Blessing of reopened monastery on July 11th with monks and New Orleans Archbishop Gregory Aymond.



Monastery renovations complete.



Some classrooms yet to be renovated.



Caskets and urns still being produced at Saint Joseph Woodworks.



Bee population thriving at ABBEE Honey.



Vianney residence hall renovations complete.



Pennies for Bread bakery reopened and providing food for needy.



New Rouquette Library set to open in 2018.



Gift Shop open for business.



Abbey tours available to public. Call 985-867-2284.



## FR. MICHAEL AND FR. LAWRENCE CELEBRATE 60 YEARS AT ABBEY

At a special mass in the Abbey Church on August 23rd, surrounded by family, seminarians and their fellow brothers, Fr. Michael Jung, O.S.B. (L), and Fr. Lawrence Phelps, O.S.B. (R), celebrated their 60th anniversaries of professing first vows as monks. Congratulations to both on this momentous occasion. Ad Multos Annos!

To see more photos, visit [flickr.com/saintjosephabbey/albums](http://flickr.com/saintjosephabbey/albums).



## BROTHER AUSTIN SIMON PROFESSES FIRST VOWS AT SAINT JOSEPH ABBEY

On July 10th, during First Vespers of St. Benedict, Marquis Simon professed temporary vows, committing himself to three years as a Benedictine monk at Saint Joseph Abbey. In the presence of Abbot Justin Brown, the monks of Saint Joseph Abbey, the seminarians, and his family, he publicly committed himself to obedience, stability, and fidelity to monastic life. He was given the name Austin and will now be known as Brother Austin Simon.

"This past year of novitiate was definitely a year of learning and growth. I feel that the experiences of community life with its prayer, work and study have played a role in the forming of who I am and who I am striving to be as a Benedictine monk. My commitment to becoming a monk of Saint Joseph Abbey is daily reaffirmed when I see my brothers striving to seek the will of God in their prayer, work and communing with one another," Brother Austin said. To see more photos, visit [flickr.com/saintjosephabbey/albums](http://flickr.com/saintjosephabbey/albums).

## SEMINARIANS VOLUNTEER AT LOCAL THERAPEUTIC EQUESTRIAN CENTER

Each week, seminarians volunteer at the New Heights Therapeutic Riding Center, a nonprofit therapeutic equestrian center, in which horses help adults and children who have physical, cognitive, and emotional difficulties. Clients include those with traumatic brain injuries, victims of human trafficking and clients with PTSD. Since horses are very responsive to human emotion and energy, the time spent at the riding center creates avenues for the clients' physical and emotional development.

The visits are part of the seminary's pastoral formation program, which sees different groups of seminarians take part in volunteer activities across the Northshore, including the Boys and Girls Club, Canon Hospice, Christwood Retirement Center, and many others.

"New Heights was a wonderful experience for me because I fell in love with the people there. Being aware of a person's needs plays a major role in the life of the priest. A priest should constantly be asking himself what the people of God, but specifically, his parishioners need, in order not only to grow in holiness but also in their personal lives as well," said seminarian and past volunteer Brent Didier.

To read more about the program, visit [saintjosephabbey.com/news](http://saintjosephabbey.com/news).



## TWO MEN ENTER NOVITIATE AT ABBEY

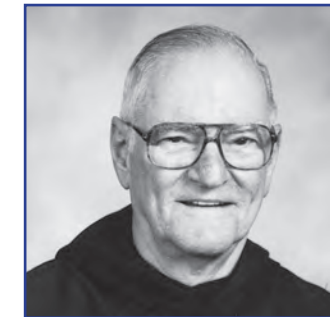
On Sept. 13th, two men took the next step to become Benedictine monks at Saint Joseph Abbey.

In a private ceremony held in the Monastery Chapter Room, Brent Kalar (L) and Brandon LeBlanc (R) were accepted into the novitiate, a year which will be marked by a separation from the world and an acclimation to one's new life in the monastery. Novices take classes in monastic history and spirituality and contribute to the life of the community in prayer and work.

Kalar hails from Minnesota and New Mexico. LeBlanc is from Kaplan, Louisiana. To see more photos, visit [flickr.com/saintjosephabbey/albums](http://flickr.com/saintjosephabbey/albums).



Brother Michael Langlois, O.S.B.



Father Paul Miranne, O.S.B.



Brother Stephen Grace, O.S.B.

## SAINT JOSEPH COMMUNITY MOURNS LOSS OF SEVERAL MONKS

Following the passing of Abbot Patrick Regan, O.S.B., last February, the monastic community said goodbye to three additional monks this year. To read full obituaries on each, visit [saintjosephabbey.com/news](http://saintjosephabbey.com/news).

**Brother Michael Langlois, O.S.B.**, passed away at the age of 86 on March 20th. He professed vows as a monk at the Abbey on April 17th, 1949. Throughout nearly 68 years in the monastery, he showed extraordinary fidelity, seldom missing a single community event.

**Father Paul Miranne, O.S.B.**, the longest-lived monk in the history of the monastery, passed away at the age of 94 on March 30th. He made vows as a monk on August 20th, 1942, and was ordained a priest on June 7th, 1947. Throughout his life, when old friends met him and asked what he was occupied with at the monastery, his answer was, "Trying to be a good monk."

**Brother Stephen Grace, O.S.B.**, a monk of Saint Joseph Abbey, died at the Abadía de Jesucristo Crucificado in Esquipulas, Chiquimula, Guatemala, on Saturday July 1st. He was 85 years old. He professed vows as a monk on February 23rd, 1952. A mild-mannered and soft-spoken man, ever with a warm smile, he was beloved to his brothers at both monasteries, to a throng of loving relatives, and to all whom he met. He died after a lengthy struggle with Parkinson's disease.

## NECROLOGY

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

REV. JOHN C. ARNONE '95  
MILTON BABIN '57  
BR. GABRIEL BABIN, O.S.B. '80  
BEULAH NECAISE BENIGNO  
VIRGINIA TREGRE BENOIT  
ROBERT B. BOND  
JOHN D. BROUSSARD '52  
PAUL M. BRUE '70  
ROSA MAE CANCELANNE  
MARY LOU CHAMPAGNE  
DOROTHY FRATT-COOPER  
JAMES URBAN CORKERN, JR.  
HARVEY DUPUY, SR.  
REV. LOUIS R. GIARDINO '71  
MONA GILBERT  
DOLORES D. GOMEZ  
STANLEY ALBERT GREIG  
INEZ PERRIER GRIESHABER  
MARY H. GUIDRY

SALLY THIBODAUX HARP  
GEORGE D. KEENAN, SR. '63  
REV. RALPH LANDRY  
HUEY P. LAPLACE  
NOLAN P. LECOMPT, JR. '55  
CONRAD PATRICK LEE '75  
VINCENT T. LOCOCO '54  
CODY A. LUCIA  
DALTON MANCEAUX '54  
JAMES P. MARTIN  
CAROL MARTINOUGH  
ELLEN CALVERT MERRILL  
HOWARD MOON  
HOLLIS J. MORAN '58  
MSGR. RICHARD MOUTON '50  
FLOYD J. ORDENEUX, JR.

DR. WILLIAM PARRILL  
LOUELLA PITRE  
AUBURN QUIGLEY  
ANNA LEE ROUX  
PRESTON ROYER  
ELIZABETH G. SAPUTO  
JACQUES LAMAR "JACK" SAVOY '51  
DEACON GEORGE SHARTLE  
GERALDO SIMON '50  
ROY J. SIMON, JR.  
DONALD R. SKOTTY  
RICHARD STOULIG  
W. GILBERT STROUD, JR.  
MARBLE HELEN CASSIDY TIEMANN  
CHARLOTTE TODD  
MSGR. JOHN TOMASOVICH '43  
SHARON LEE WITRY