

THE ABBEY VOICE

dies xix **Martius** anno Domini MMX



Letter from the Abbot

Each year, the monks at the abbey look forward to spring. Our friends, too, when they cross the bridge in the spring, are struck by the azaleas and the concert of color against the fresh green leaves. It is a spectacular vision of nature coming to life.

And we have many new things this spring to celebrate and give thanks for: Abbey Art Works just got a great write up in Louisiana Life; the cemetery expansion has taken off; and the Benet Hall restoration project just completed it's first fund-raiser - with exciting promise. We're hoping to see some new growth on these sprouting projects in the coming year.

In addition to his new duties as pastor of Saint Benedict Parish, Fr Adam has written a book on the paintings of Dom Gregory de Wit. The book is illustrated with photos by Tom?? Cunningham, who restored the paintings, and David Spielman, who has been professionally photographing them for years now.

And, finally, I'd like to congratulate Bishop Ronald Herzog, who has been newly installed as bishop of the Alexandria diocese. We look forward to working with a friend and a supportive alumnus.

Thank you all for your help and your prayers.

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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Cover photo of Saint Joseph and Jesus: Davild Spielman

Alexandria

Bishop Ronald Herzog tells Br Angelo Lupinetti what it's like to be a newly elected bishop

Saint Joseph Abbey was honored this past December when Bishop-Elect Ronald Herzog spent several days here on retreat before his ordination to the episcopacy on January 5, 2005. Bishop Herzog hails originally from Ohio, but his family moved to Mississippi when he was an adolescent. He attended Saint Joseph Seminary for six years ('56-'62), and then studied theology at the Josephinum. Upon completion of these studies he was ordained for the Diocese of Natchez-Jackson. When the diocese was split in 1977, he incardinated into the newly formed Diocese of Biloxi.

Bishop-Elect Herzog, it's a privilege to speak with you today. Congratulations on your recent appointment as bishop of Alexandria. You may not know it, but you have been my recent claim to fame. You baptized me when I was a little babe. As a test of your pastoral skills, do you remember that day?

Actually, because your family name is not a common one around here, I do remember the connection from when I was at Sacred Heart in Hattiesburg. Of course, I had many baptisms there so I don't remember the specific day.

That's not bad, I'm going to call the Pope and tell him you remember more than I thought for twenty-five years ago.

Good! Ha!

On a more serious note, how does a priest find out he's been selected to become a bishop and what happened to you?

Presuming my case was typical, this is what happens. On a Wednesday morning in October, I was working in my office. The phone rang and when I answered a fellow promptly said, "Would you please hold for Archbishop Montalvo." I thought why is he calling me? He came on almost instantly and said, "Congratulations. The Holy Father has appointed you the new Bishop of Alexandria." It was just straight out. Very unexpected.

Amazing. Entering into the Apostolic succession will be a challenging transition. What do you think will be the biggest change in your life and ministry?

That's tough to say because I haven't begun it yet. The closest comparison I can come up with at this point is my experience as a chaplain in the Army National Guard. I was in for 30 something years and experienced

a progression from when I was a battalion chaplain and had a lot of hands-on ministry with the soldiers to the end of my career in the Guard as state chaplain when I had a largely supervisory role. At that point my role was enabling the ministry of other chaplains. In some respects, whereas a priest has a focused ministry, the role of a bishop is to enable the ministry of a much larger dimension of the Church and get pastoral ministry to a wider body. It will be different for me in that I probably will not have as much face to face ministry with the people of the diocese.

Aside from the old joke that no matter how few vocations to the priesthood there are, we will never have a shortage of vocations to the episcopacy, Do you think that there is such a thing as a vocation to be a bishop?

That depends on how you define vocation. If you look at it in terms of ordained ministry what determines vocation is when the one who has the right to make the call, calls. Someone may have a calling or feel an inclination to a ministry, but it's not until the Church says, "You are called," that the vocation becomes a reality.



How will receiving the fullness of the priesthood of Jesus Christ alter your relationship with God?

I'm not sure it will. It's still the same relationship, just a different role that has been entrusted to me. But, no matter how much I think nothing will change, it probably will.

Did your years as a seminarian here at St. Ben prepare you for the priesthood and will they aid you as bishop?

They certainly prepared me for priesthood. That's beyond question. The emphasis on the liturgical life of the Church and the seminarian's participation in it from day one are an integral part of the Benedictine tradition. Also, it wasn't just academics. You ended up doing a lot of things, like driving dump trucks with Fr. Paul. That wasn't on any faculty syllabus, but it sure made driving a school bus awful easy. I'm sure it will apply the same way to the episcopal ministry.

In your new authority as teacher, what do you think is the most important element in the education of a seminarian?

Pastoral experience. Particularly by the time of Theology. It is extremely valuable. Having this gives a man something to fall back on when he is ordained. It's so easy to assume that success will come with the grace of orders; but, it is not good to presume such things.

What are you going to miss most about Biloxi and what are you looking forward to about being in Alexandria?

The same thing in both cases. I will miss the priests and people I got to know and I'm looking forward to those I will get to know. Church is essentially a community of believers. It's the same ingredients – people. That's the commonality.

Do you think that as a bishop you will eat well?

I've heard several people say, "You'll never get a bad meal!"

St. Paul lays down the qualities of a bishop in the First Letter to Timothy. Do you think you will be able to fulfill these requirements?

Does that mean I have to go and get married!? St. Paul was talking about a cultural setting different than ours and what he actually lays down is a job description for all the baptized. It is a call to be part of the faith community. Those terms are not unique to the ministry of bishop, St. Paul was simply looking for someone doing what every member of the community should do. In a sense a bishop doesn't do anything different from others, just more specific things in a different way. Paul gave a Magna Charta for Christian living, and it applies across the board.

THE HOUSE ON THE HILL



Fr Dominic Braud, OSB

The following is an excerpt from the Abbey Chronicle, March 1972, regarding the infamous “house on the hill,” an historic structure that was situated on the property when the monks from Gessen purchased it . Since it is the subject of much curiosity today, we have decided to rerun the story. The future of the structure remains uncertain; due to financial constraints, the Abbey can only attempt to save it from deterioration. If you’d like to help, contact fr Matthew Clark at 985 867-2234.

THE HILL: Robert Neuann, an archeologist from Louisiana State University specializing in prehistoric remains, visited us in early March (1972). In his opinion, the hill is not an Indian mound in the sense of being built by Indians. He feels it is a natural hill, formed into its symmetrical shape by flood waters over thousands of years. He assures us that the Indians have lived on the hill as long as they have been in the vicinity, for it is the highest spot near the junction of a creek and river; the only sure dry place in time of flood.

Following his directions we dug a five-foot square near the north side of the house and recorded our findings for every six-inch level, sifting every shovelful of earth. We went down 30 inches and found many flint chips, small pieces of pottery and one big, primitive-looking spear point. Neumann tells us that most of the points on the property date anywhere from 3000 B.C. to 1100 A.D. - no later - and more probably 5000 B.C.

THE HOUSE: The current house has been dated to the 1840s. Under this house we made an exciting discovery: the ruins of a previous house that had burned down. We have laid bare the foundations of two brick chimneys, and dug up much burnt wood and broken china; also burnt, melted glass; metal hooks and holders that fit into the chimney; handfuls of square nails; and food particles - corn cobs, hickory nuts and eggshells - all under a mound of bricks. We’ve yet to determine the age of the previous house.

The court records have many old documents pertinent to our research. From these we’ve put together the following list of the people who have lived on this land.

Duncan McIntyre, the first settler, laid out the diamond-shaped tract in 1805, claimed it from the Spanish government then in control, and set up a sawmill on the river. He sold it to David Coalter, from South Carolina, in 1812.

David Coalter sold it about 1815 to Rosalie Maxent, free woman of color, common-law wife of Joseph Baam, one of the Mobile aristocrats who founded Madisonville. She sold it in 1819 to Jeremiah Miller, major in the Revolutionary Army.

Jeremiah Miller greatly enlarged and improved the sawmill and called the place Milhaven. Miller sold it to James Hosmer of Massachusetts in 1822.

James Hosmer was a close friend of John Wharton Collins, founder of Covington and of General David Morgan of Madisonville, second in command under Jackson at the Battle of New Orleans. Hosmer’s widow, (he died in 1831), Arsène Olivier, married Thomas Jefferson Mortée, who ran the sawmill, called Mortée Mill, until it closed in 1864.

The Abbey’s part of the land - the western corner bounded by the creek, river and part of the western line - was permanently separated from the rest of the tract in 1844, when Arsène Clair Hosmer lived there with her husband, William Hinds Kirkland, and three children. After her death in 1847, her brother, William Boswell Hosmer, moved into the house. His son, James Rubin Hosmer, (b. 1840) is the man who added the present Abbey property to the 83-acre tract and developed “the prettiest farm in Saint Tammany.” J.R. “Boy” Hosmer had gone to Annapolis, fought the Indians with the Tobins Scouts in Texas, and the Yankees with Nathan Bedford Forrest’s unit in the Civil War.

In 1901, his son, Charles, sold the 1,100-acre property to the monks of Gessen, La., for \$5,000.

THE ABBEY FOREST

Fr Augustine Foley, OSB

Saint Benedict counsels that those in charge of the care of monastery properties should “regard all utensils and goods of the monastery as sacred vessels of the altar, aware that nothing is to be neglected” (Rule of Benedict 31.10). Benedictine spirituality is a very incarnational one. We meet Christ in the Divine Office as well as in the abbot, the guests, the sick, & the poor and ought to regard the ordinary things of everyday living as we look at the ‘sacred vessels of the altar’. This good stewardship is also applied to our grounds and forest care.

We consider a good stewardship of the abbey forest in both responsibly using our forest as a source of income to help us maintain our way of life and our many ways of serving the local church, as well as preserving it as a viable green space in a rapidly developing area of the state. Good forest management does not exclude harvesting and maintaining a rich biosphere. A forest properly maintained provides a much richer forest and wildlife habitat as well as a source of income. The abbey has contracted a forestry and wildlife consultant, Mr. Tim Byrd of Bogalusa, La., to help us.

When I first started coming to Saint Joseph Abbey and Seminary in 1961 to visit my brother, Dan, then a student in the high school seminary here, there was only one or two gas stations and one hamburger joint from the Causeway to Covington. The long stretch from the Causeway to the Abbey was a ride through the Emerald Forest of St. Tammany. Now that same stretch of road is beginning to look a lot like Veterans Highway with one fast food establishment and place of business after another. The suburban sprawl is now beginning to move up from Covington toward Folsom along highway 25. We are now practically walking distance from a Winn Dixie, two dollar stores, a Burger King, a McDonald’s, a Blockbuster, and in the near future a Walgreen’s and Wal-Mart!

We see our good stewardship of our 1100 acres as being a way to save a significant green space in the middle of this rural suburbia, providing better air quality as well as habitat for wildlife.

Our forest houses a significant Longleaf Pine forest. It also has some old growth mature Loblolly as well as some younger Loblolly plantations. We have significant hardwood areas in the transition zones primarily along the Bogue Falaya river and two small creek beds. Along the river banks we also have the beautiful Spruce Pine. This diverse forest provides habitat for much wildlife. We have a good size herd of Whitetail deer. In recent years, due in part to some clear cutting of the forest, our Wild Turkey population has grown enormously. Beaver and otter live along the Bogue Falaya and the two small creeks. The Beaver have also built some additional wetlands with their dam building. Our Longleaf Pine savannas contain several areas of Pitcher Plants as well as several native Orchids. In recent years we have built several new ponds and we have spotted Osprey fishing there as well as a Bald Eagle and an Anhinga, besides a variety of herons, egrets and several large flocks of Wood Ducks. Both Mississippi and Swallow-tailed Kites hunt insects over the abbey fields.

While helping in the annual St. Ben Golf Open in City Park in New Orleans, I am always amazed at how much wildlife can be seen in an urban park with its combination of fields, ponds, and trees. That led me take heart that if we maintain our 1100 acre green space we can provide habitat for a lot of wildlife even as progressing development takes place around us.

The monks are very proud of our forest and those who live in it, including ourselves! We pledge to be good stewards of it and pray it will be around for a long time to come!

[click on the web site: www.SJASC.edu](http://www.SJASC.edu) for updated info

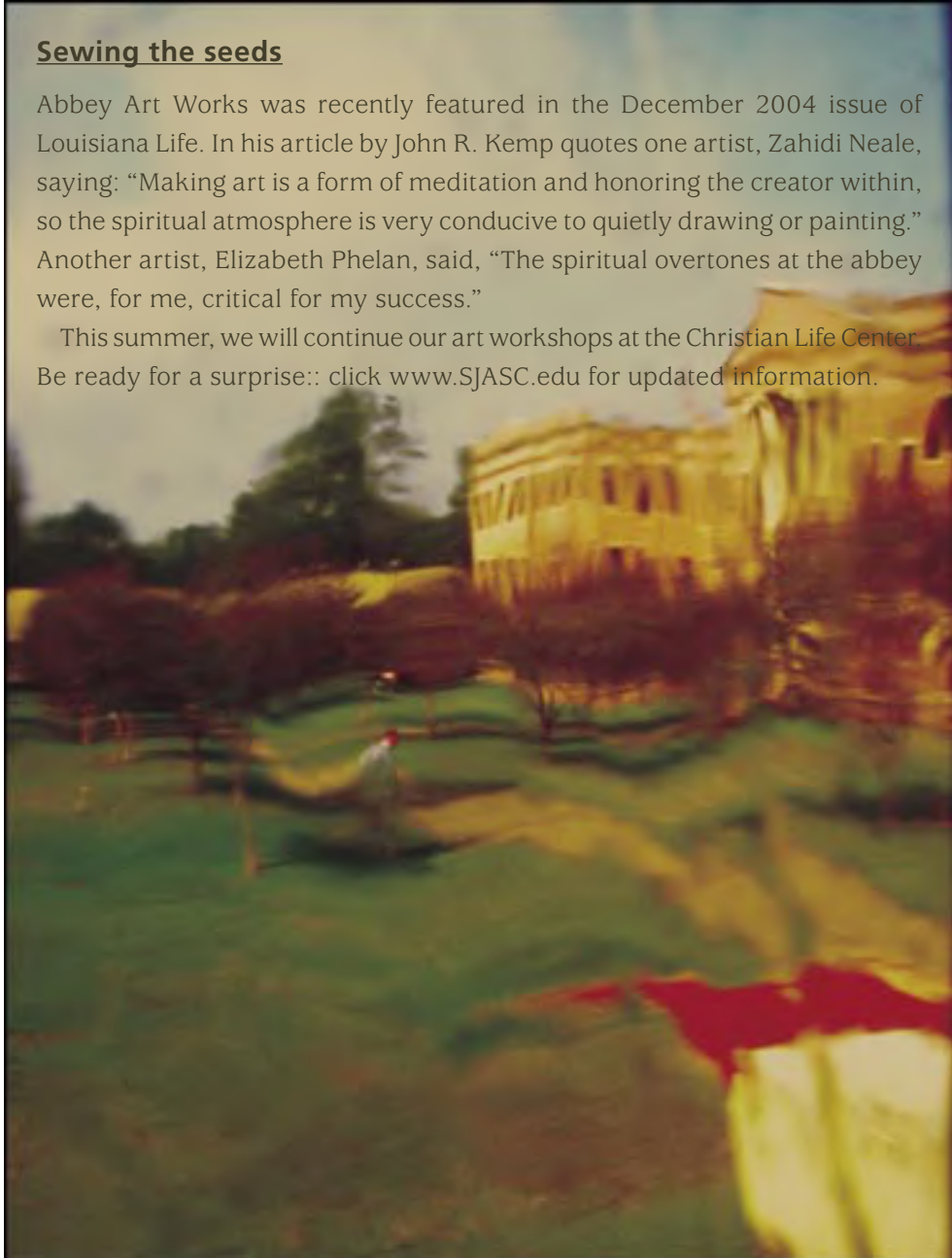
Abbey Art Works: Summer!

fostering art and spirituality in a serene setting

Sewing the seeds

Abbey Art Works was recently featured in the December 2004 issue of Louisiana Life. In his article by John R. Kemp quotes one artist, Zahidi Neale, saying: "Making art is a form of meditation and honoring the creator within, so the spiritual atmosphere is very conducive to quietly drawing or painting." Another artist, Elizabeth Phelan, said, "The spiritual overtones at the abbey were, for me, critical for my success."

This summer, we will continue our art workshops at the Christian Life Center. Be ready for a surprise:: [click www.SJASC.edu](http://www.SJASC.edu) for updated information.



Benet Hall at Saint Joseph Abbey presents

Abbey Community Concerts

9 april 2005 at 7:30 pm. Info, call 985 867-2269 or click www.SJASC.edu

\$20 tickets available at www.Ticketweb.com or Abbey Gift Shop

An overzealous ballerina. A wacky chef. An accountant in overdrive. A British inspector. A corpse. Four murder suspects. All expertly played to the hilt by improvisational comedian Robert Post. With remarkable physical dexterity, playful satire and wit, Post creates an unforgettable host of character changes, even different roles for different body parts. He has created more than 30 works since 1973, for which he has received numerous awards and fellowships. Post has toured his one-man performance to 45 states, Canada, Mexico and Japan. Since 1994, Post's work has been seen across the US and Canada on national television (PBS) in an award-winning special, Robert Post – In Performance.

Robert Post: 9 april



Saint Joseph Abbey + Seminary College are proud to sponsor


Abbey Youth Festival

9 April 2005 in the old Abbey baseball field

fr Adam Begnaud's new book on the de Wit paintings


Living in Salvation

with photos by David Spielman. Available in the Abbey Gift Shop, 985 867-2227.



EMBRACE
+ the faith

living catholic today

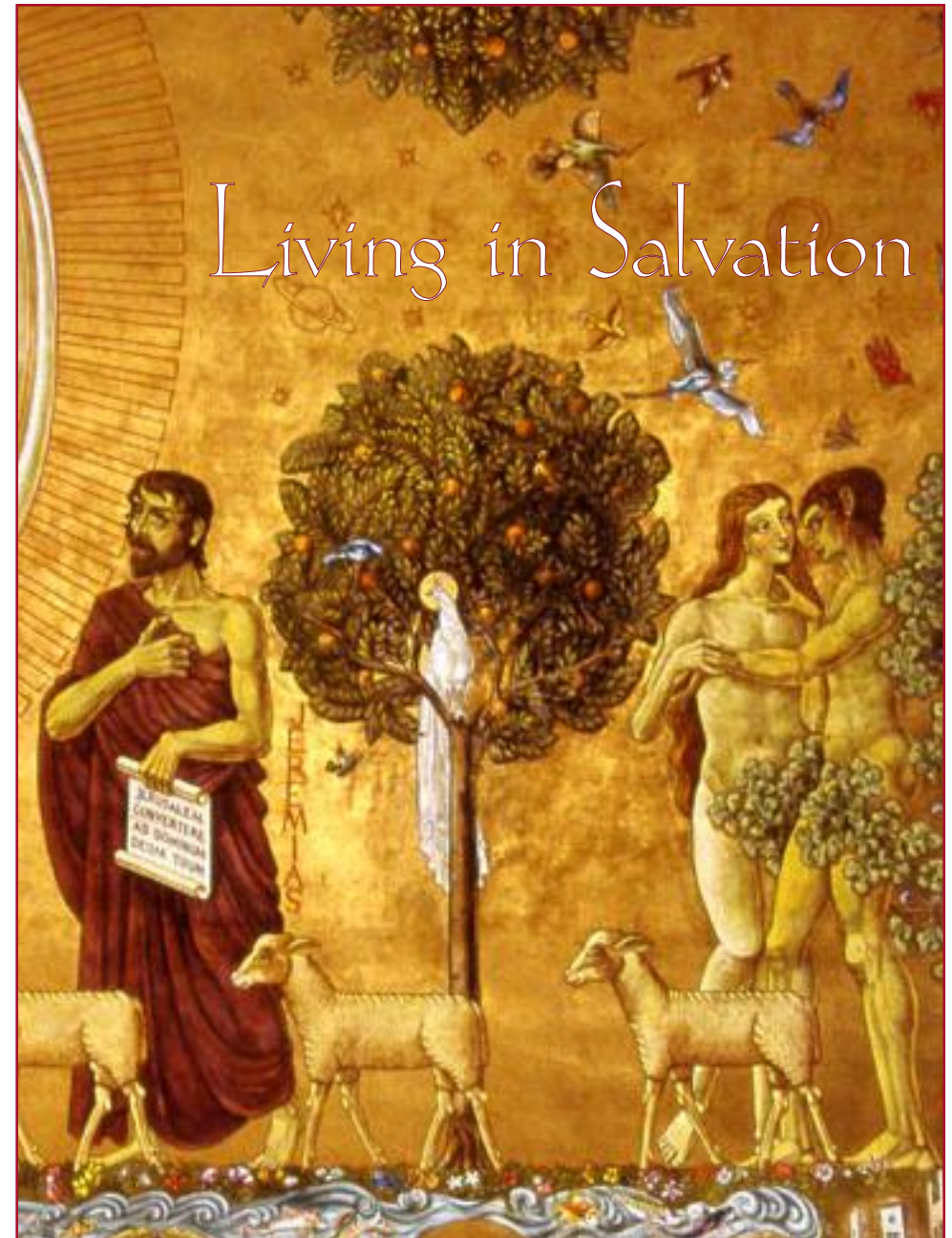


Speakers Include
Emcee Brian Butler, Dave Sloan, Fr. Beau Charbonnet,
Todd Sylvester, Danny Wilson, Kara Klein

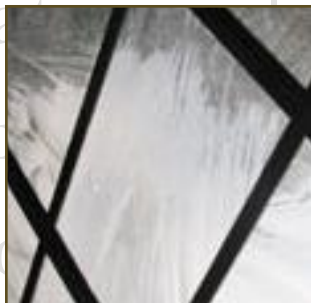
Christian Rock Bands
Dismas, Remembering December, and Covenant 7

Praise + Worship Music
Seraphim

www.Abbeyfest.org



the holiday season



binge, brannigan, **celebration**, cheer, cocktails, EPIPHANY, dinner, etc, fun, get-together, function, gala, hop, hullabaloo, jig, j

shindig, social, splurge, spree, tea, tear, time, ble



requital, response, responsiveness, thankfulness, thanks, thanksgivi

REGENTS ENDOWS MELANCON?? FELLOWSHIP



Dr. Joseph Savoie of the Louisiana Board of Regents presented an \$80,000 check to Fr. Gregory Boquet, O.S.B., president/rector of Saint Joseph Seminary College at a luncheon held at the seminary's refectory on 10 November 2004.

Speaking on behalf of the board, Dr. Savoie praised the college's alumni and supporters for raising the \$120,000 that triggered the state's matching grant. Named for Abbot David Melancon, the endowed professorship will generate additional funds for the college that may be used to offset professor salaries, provide additional teacher training, or advance educational pursuits of the college's teachers.

This professorship marks the third time the seminary has secured the endowment through the Alumni Association's annual Phone-A-Thon. Alumni Association President Brian Landry credited the commitment of its alumni to enhance seminarian education with the push to secure the funds. He added that the 2004 Phone-A-Thon is well on its way to securing a fourth matching grant from the state next year.

Also on hand at the seminary event, were Abbot Justin Brown, Phone-A-Thon Chairman Frank Morton, Alumni Executive Board members O. Franklin Morton, Kevin Eriksen and Walter Serrat, along with alumnus Warren Berault.



The Board of Regents is a state agency that coordinates all public higher education and university members of the Louisiana Association of Independent Colleges and Universities.

HOMECOMING 2005: APRIL FOOLS!



The Saint Joseph Seminary College Alumni Association invites all alumni to their 85th annual homecoming, honoring- but not limited to - the classes of '45, '55, '65, '75, '80, '85, '95 and '05. Registration begins at 3 pm on Easter Friday, 1 April 2005. It will be followed by the traditional schedule: the association meeting, mass in the Abbey church, a social in Christ Court and, finally, dinner in the student refectory.

The 2005 alumni dues may be paid at registration desk. They are \$20 for clergy and lay alumni and \$5 for student alumni. The social and dinner are separate fees: \$30 for clergy and lay alumni and \$15 for student alumni.

The association will also honor O. Franklin Morton, (pictured, right), Alumnus of the Year. Mr. Morton, president of Turner Services Inc., has served the Abbey over the years as Saint Joseph Seminary College Alumni Association board member, Alumni Development Committee chairman, Saint Joseph Abbey oblate, Pennies for Bread committee member, President's Council member and Development Strategic Planning committee member.



SAINT BEN'S GOLF OPEN



Saint Ben's Golf Open will be held Thursday, 19 May at 10 a.m. in the West Course of City Park in New Orleans. The game fee is \$75; please pay by 1 May 2005, as priority will be given to fully paid teams.

The game fee includes green fees, golf cart, food and refreshments. The format will be a team scramble with prizes awarded for low gross, low net, closest to the hole on each, par three and longest drive; other prizes will be raffled off. Mulligans will be sold at registration.

For more information or to register, contact the alumni office secretary, Claudette Arcement, at 985 867-2235 or at developsec@sjasc.edu.

Funds generated by the alumni association are dedicated to financing special projects for the seminary college that are not covered by its operating budget.

FACULTY NEWS



For the 4th Biennial Conference of the International Society for Travel Writing held in October in Milwaukee, Dr. Russ Pottle, Academic Dean and Senior Professor of Literature, organized a session sponsored by the Society for American Travel Writing and presented a scholarly paper entitled “Firebrand and the Cat: The Impossibility of Closure and William Byrd’s Histories of the Dividing Line.” Entitled “Hands Across the Sea: Anglo/American Explorations of Representation,” the session hosted papers that focus on modes of representation in American and British travel writing in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Dr. Pottle is Vice President of the Society for American Travel Writing, a member society of the American Literature Association.

In June, Dr. Pottle presented a paper entitled “Hemingway, Celebrity, and the Carnavalesque: Key West in Michael Palin’s Hemingway Adventure” at the 11th Biennial International Conference of the Ernest Hemingway Society, held in Key West. He also chaired a session entitled “The Garden of Eden: Psychoanalytical Perspectives.” This spring, he will present a paper on Tim Gautreaux’s novel *The Clearing* at the 35th Annual Conference of the Popular Culture Association, scheduled to be held in San Diego.

In local activities, Dr. Pottle has presented an adult readers’ program on V.S. Naipul’s *A House for Mr. Biswas* for the Saint Tammany Parish Library and a writer’s program on Tim Gautreaux and Henry James for the Abbey Art Works.



Sister Jeanne d’Arc Kernion, Chair of the Division of Languages, Literature, and Fine Arts and a Senior Professor of Literature here at the Seminary College, continues her work with Saint Tammany Parish Library, serving as a coordinator of its Adult Reading Program. Ms. Jan Fluitt-Dupuy, a former St. Ben faculty member, and Sister Jeanne d’Arc initiated the program eight years ago with a summer study of the works of Jane Austen. Since then the program has expanded to include monthly discussions led by Sister and others,

including Dr. Russ Pottle, Academic Dean, of a variety of works of fiction. Held at the Covington branch of the St. Tammany Library, the discussions attract a faithful group of those who enjoy reading, are interested in being introduced to different authors and sharing their observations on their works.



Nancy McKeand, Junior Professor of Language and coordinator of the Seminary College’s English as a Second Language Program, made two conference presentations during the fall semester.

One, entitled *Fun and Learning the HipBone Way*, was presented at the Southeast Regional TESOL Conference in Nashville, Tennessee in early October. This conference is an annual gathering of teachers of English to speakers of other languages from all over the region.

The other presentation, *Using Nicenet in Your Writing Class*, was a poster session at the Southeastern Louisiana Writing Project’s October Showcase at Southeastern Louisiana University in Hammond. The purpose of this conference is to highlight effective practices in the teaching of writing and share them with area teachers. Ms. McKeand participated as a Fellow in the Southeastern Louisiana Writing Project during the summer and continues to be involved with the Writing Project as a Teacher-Consultant.



Dr. Ronnie Rombs, Junior Professor of Theological Studies and Director of Adult Education and extension programs has had his manuscript, *St. Augustine and the Fall of the Soul: Beyond O’Connell and His Critics*, accepted for publication through The Catholic University of America Press. It is scheduled for release early next year. Likewise, a recent article, “St. Augustine’s Inner Self: The Soul as ‘Private’ and ‘Individuated’” has been accepted for publication in the forthcoming volumes of *Studia Patristica*. Finally, Dr. Rombs has submitted

a proposal for a new English translation of Origen’s *De principiis* to the *Fathers of the Church* series.

PLEASE PRAY WITH US FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED

Mr. George Briant, oblate of Saint Joseph Abbey
Mrs. Germaine Briant, oblate of Saint Joseph Abbey
Kiernan Carr, '41, father of Rev. George K. Carr, '71
Harriet Nock Larsen Collins, mother of Chris Larsen, '65
William J. Doran, '52
Angelina Harney, friend of the abbey
Dr. Robert D. Martinez, '60
John Noonan, stepson of Jay Frey, ??



THE ABBEY EXPANDS ITS CEMETERY

For our community here at Saint Joseph Abbey, the monastic cemetery where our deceased members rest is a special place. And as we remember them daily in our prayers, we remember the others — families of the monks, former seminary professors, benefactors and many friends of the community — who are also awaiting eternity there. Among these are a number of our priest alumni, who now rest in the place that, during their years as seminarians here, was often a place of prayer and peace for them.

Because so many more of our friends on the Northshore have requested burial in our cemetery, the monastic community recently approved our expanding it. Priests may interested to know that we have included for them a new section as a separate garden burial ground.

Some of you have already arranged for a plot in our cemetery, and we want to know if you also would want your plot reserved in this new expansion. We will be happy to arrange this for you.

Should you wish to speak with us about this or need more information, please call ??? office at 985 867-2222 or the cemetery office at 985 867-2259.



