

# SAVE THE DATE

ABBEY YOUTH FEST  
SATURDAY, MARCH 12  
Register online at [abbeyyouthfest.com](http://abbeyyouthfest.com)

96TH ANNUAL ALUMNI  
HOMECOMING  
FRIDAY, APRIL 1  
Register online at [sjasc.edu](http://sjasc.edu)

MUSICA DA CAMERA  
THE RED BOOK:  
Songs & Dances of the Shrine of  
Montserrat – with Vox Feminae  
SUNDAY, APRIL 10, 3 P.M.  
ABBEY CHURCH  
Free and open to the public

MONK RUN  
SATURDAY, APRIL 23  
Our annual 1 mile / 5k Trail walk/Run is open to all ages.  
Registration forms available online at [sjasc.edu](http://sjasc.edu).

ST. BEN'S ALUMNI GOLF OPEN 2016  
THURSDAY, MAY 12, 10 A.M.  
COVINGTON COUNTRY CLUB  
Contact *Michelle Boullion* at [mboullion@sjasc.edu](mailto:mboullion@sjasc.edu) for more information.

COMMENCEMENT  
FRIDAY, MAY 13  
VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION LUNCHEON  
SUNDAY, JUNE 5, 12 P.M.

OBLATES DAY OF RECOLLECTION  
SATURDAY, JULY 16  
Visit [www.saintjosephabbey.com/oblates](http://www.saintjosephabbey.com/oblates) for more information.

DEO GRATIAS 2016  
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 29

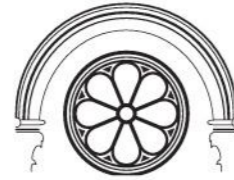
For up-to-date information about these and other events at SAINT JOSEPH ABBEY+ SEMINARY COLLEGE please visit our website at:

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

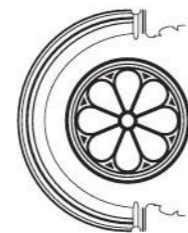
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**SAINT JOSEPH ABBEY MISSION STATEMENT**  
The mission of Saint Joseph Abbey is to foster Benedictine monastic life by embodying a communal life of sacrifice through prayer and work, serving Christ in each other, the Church, and all people.



**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.



SAINT JOSEPH ABBEY + SEMINARY COLLEGE

## Giving Opportunities

Your financial support is greatly appreciated.  
*Donations can be made on-line at:*

[saintjosephabbey.com](http://saintjosephabbey.com), then click "giving" then choose "donate" or by mail at:

Saint Joseph Abbey + 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

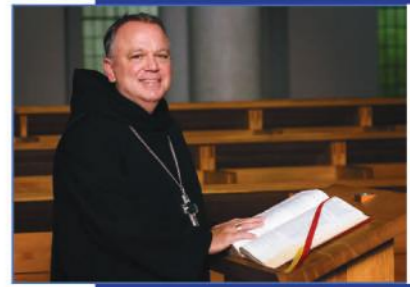
volume 37: spring 2016

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

# ABBHEY VOICE

VOLUME 37 • SPRING 2016

In chapter 36 of the Rule of Saint Benedict "The Sick Brothers," we read "Care of the sick must rank above and before all else, so that they may truly be served as Christ." It is the responsibility of the Abbot to ensure that the sick are not neglected. Here at Saint Joseph Abbey the sick have been very well cared for in past years by Brother Raphael and Father Augustine and today by Father Killian and Brother Leo. I have been edified by their dedication and compassion, and the way they witness to the teaching of Saint Benedict found in chapter 72 of the Rule "The Good Zeal of Monks," "supporting with the greatest patience one another's weakness of body and behavior." But I am also edified by the example of our sick and elderly brothers whose patience and acceptance in bearing their suffering is truly a witness to Saint Benedict's final words in the Prologue to his Rule. "Never swerving from His instructions, then, but faithfully observing His teaching in the monastery until death, we shall through patience share in the sufferings of Christ that we may deserve also to share in His Kingdom."



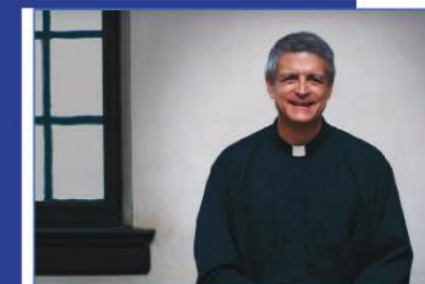
Abbot Justin Brown, O.S.B.

In his letter to the elderly, Pope John Paul II wrote, "But if the life of each of us is limited and fragile, we are consoled by the thought that, by virtue of our spiritual souls, we will survive beyond death itself. Moreover, faith opens us to a 'hope that does not disappoint,' placing us before the perspective of the final resurrection." Our elderly monks are well aware of the limited and fragile nature of life and from the early days of their monastic life have built their lives on a "hope that does not disappoint" as we sing on the day of our solemn profession. Recently two of our Brothers, Anselm and William who witnessed faithfully to the grace and mercy of Christ through their illness and suffering, died in this hope that does not disappoint. On Christmas Eve just over a week after Brother Anselm's funeral and the night before Father William's death, we heard these words of Saint Leo the Great during the Office of Vigils: "Dearly beloved today our Savior is born; let us rejoice. Sadness should have no place on the birthday of life. The fear of death has been swallowed up; life brings us joy with the promise of eternal happiness." During their illness, these two monks truly found joy in the promise of eternal happiness.

Yes in a monastery "care of the sick must rank above and before all else." For they truly embody Christ for us, not only in their sickness and suffering but in their faith and trust in God who will not disappoint them in their hope.

*+ Justin Brown O.S.B.*

## RECTOR'S LETTER



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

Enrollment for the spring semester stands at 138, which sets yet another record. This steady growth is a blessing to this institution and to the dioceses we serve throughout the Deep South. The level of commitment and enthusiasm that the seminarians possess is contagious which inspires other young men to consider discerning the priesthood. As we grow, we are seeing more and more men persevere toward ordination to the priesthood, which is a tremendous blessing.

Saint Joseph Seminary College is undergoing a transformation, which is reflected not only in a record enrollment, but also in our physical plant. In February groundbreaking is scheduled for the construction of a new library, which will meet the needs of the Seminary College well into the future. This is an historic event in that it marks the first time a new building has been constructed since the Seminary College was erected in the late 1950's.

The monastic community was able to accomplish this great feat nearly 50 years ago, as well as in the current year by the generous support of the Archdiocese of New Orleans under the leadership of Archbishop Aymond. Indeed this partnership has been invaluable in allowing us to continue providing this very valuable ministry of preparing men for the priesthood and for which this seminary and monastic community are very grateful.

In conclusion, as we forge ahead to the future, we do so with a great deal of confidence. By leaning on one another both in prayer and support, we've been able to accomplish many things. I feel confident that the Lord will continue to bless our efforts and once more thank you for partnering with us in preparing men to serve at His altar.

*G. Gregory Boquet O.S.B.*





## SAINT JOSEPH SEMINARY COLLEGE ENROLLMENT REACHES RECORD HIGH

Saint Joseph Seminary College welcomed a record 138 students this year for the Spring 2016 semester, an 84 percent increase from just five years ago, when 75 seminarians enrolled.

Fr. Gregory Boquet, O.S.B., President-Rector of the seminary college, credits not only the presence of the Benedictine community to the growing student body over the years, but also the reputation of the baccalaureate and pre-theology programs.

"Our seminarians not only have the opportunity to live, learn and grow spiritually alongside the Benedictine community, who have made this their home since 1889, but also benefit from a stellar group of faculty and staff who are dedicated to making sure students achieve their full potential," Boquet said.

"We realize the decision to attend Saint Joseph Seminary is a defining moment for students and strive to make sure everybody is on the right path. This sentiment goes a long way with our students and is a big part of the reason so many young men decide to pursue their education here," Boquet added.

Students this year are representing 20 archdioceses and dioceses from across the Gulf South region, including: Atlanta, Ga.; Galveston-Houston, Texas; Mobile, Ala.; New Orleans, La.; Alexandria, La.; Austin, Texas; Baton Rouge, La.; Beaumont, Texas; Biloxi, Miss.; Corpus Christi, Texas; Dallas, Texas; Fort Worth, Texas; Houma-Thibodaux, La.; Jackson, Miss.; Lafayette, La.; Lake Charles, La.; Memphis, Tenn.; Shreveport, La.; St. Augustine, Fla.; and Victoria, Texas.

## SAINT BENEDICT SOCIETY



Each July, Saint Joseph Abbey + Seminary College inducts new members into the Saint Benedict Society, which recognizes those who have made the Abbey and Seminary College part of their estate plans or who have contributed to an endowed fund. We appreciate their dedication to raising us to the level of 'family.'

# SEMINARY NEWS

## SPOTLIGHT ON PRIESTLY FORMATION

*True Leaders Empower Others*



### LIFE OF THOMAS MERTON AT CENTER OF FR. EPHREM'S RECENT ACTIVITY

Father Ephrem Arcement, O.S.B., has completed "In the School of Prophets: The Formation of Thomas Merton's Prophetic Spirituality." The book was published with Cistercian Publications/Liturgical Press in March 2015.

Ephrem was also invited to speak at a symposium at New Clairvaux Abbey in Vina, California this past summer. The symposium celebrated the 900th anniversary of the founding of Clairvaux Abbey and honored the 100th anniversary of Merton's birth. Ephrem's lecture was titled "Thomas Merton, Saint Bernard, and The Prophetic Dimension Of Monasticism In The Early 21st Century."

### 2015 DEO GRATIAS

At last October's annual seminary fundraiser, Deo Gratias, Bishop Robert Muench, from the Diocese of Baton Rouge, was presented with a framed print by Dom Gregory de Wit. Muench was honored for his dedication to Saint Joseph Abbey + Seminary College. Muench (center) was joined by Fr. Gregory Boquet, O.S.B., President-Rector of the seminary college (left) and Abbot Justin Brown, O.S.B. (right).

### LOCAL SEMINARY PROFESSORS RECEIVE GRANTS TO PROMOTE SCIENTIFIC LITERACY AMONG SEMINARIANS

The Science in Seminaries Initiative at John Carroll University has awarded a \$10,000 grant to Saint Joseph Seminary College (SJSC) and another to Notre Dame Seminary (NDS) for a collaborative effort that will join seminary professors from both institutions with expert scientists in instructing seminarians about how faith, philosophy and science intersect at the dawn of the human species. The awards come after a national competition in response to directives from papal and other official documents of the Catholic Church encouraging scientific literacy in the formation of seminarians. The awards are funded by a grant from the John Templeton Foundation.

Professor Cory Hayes of SJSC received one of the awards for a course to be titled Integral Anthropology: Evolution in Dialogue with Catholic Theology and Philosophy. Professor Chris Baglow of NDS received the other for a course to be titled The Emergence of the Image: Human Evolution from Biological, Philosophical and Theological Perspectives. Both courses will engage the same questions and will be team-taught by the two professors. The SJSC course will be offered in Fall 2016, and the NDS course in Spring 2017. Hayes and Baglow will be joined by three Catholic scientists: evolutionary biologist Don Frohlich of the University of St. Thomas; microbiologist and priest Fr. Nicanor Austriaco, O.P. of the University of Notre Dame; and evolutionary psychologist Matt Rossano of Southeastern Louisiana University. The scientists will also provide public lectures and development events for the seminary faculties.



Cory Hayes



Chris Baglow



### ABBOT PATRICK UPDATE

For Abbot Patrick Regan, O.S.B., a trip to Quebec in August 2015 for the international ecumenical Societas Liturgica conference served as a milestone for Saint Joseph Abbey's former Abbot. Not only did it mark two years since he attended the last conference in Germany,

but it also served as a benchmark on his road to recovery from leukemia, which he was diagnosed with while in Rome late that same year.

Since he stepped down as leader of the Abbey in 2001, a position he held for nearly 20 years, Abbot Patrick has remained busy at the Abbey researching, writing, teaching and traveling abroad. But the leukemia diagnosis stopped him in his tracks.

During a trip to Rome in late 2013 for a thesis defense, Abbot Patrick's leg swelled up. He went to the hospital where he was diagnosed with leukemia. He spent the next month in three different hospitals in Rome. He returned home and began chemotherapy at Mary Bird Perkins Cancer Center in Covington in January 2014.

"That in a way was the low point. When I came home, I didn't know how much longer I had to live, what I would do, or anything. The only sure thing was a weekly blood test. Either get a blood transfusion if the numbers are low or get chemo. Living week to week with no idea at all, with no ability to plan anything," said Abbot Patrick.

Abbot Patrick was given three options when he returned: do nothing and maybe have two years to live; repeat the treatment he received in Rome, or consult with MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston for a containment strategy.

Not only did the containment strategy work as planned, but it also brought the percentage of cancer cells down. By July 2014, a bone marrow biopsy showed his cancer cells were at 5 percent.

"With that, maybe I still have a future, maybe I can start planning things, make commitments and move forward. I got interested again in studies, going to meetings and writing," Abbot Patrick said.

By March 2015, the cancer cell numbers were less than 1 percent. Abbot Patrick was ecstatic. This incredible progress in recovery invigorated him. During the trip to Quebec last summer, he connected with many people, including the editor of Worship magazine, who will publish his paper, "The Liturgical Year as Agent of Formation: From the Pioneers through Vatican II."

The trip also led to a summer teaching position at the University of Notre Dame for 2016 and 2017 and an application for a fellowship at Yale University, which if accepted, would begin this coming August.

Given his incredible progress in such a short amount of time, it's clear that Abbot Patrick is taking advantage of every opportunity coming his way.



### BROTHER LEO FRANCA PROFESSED FIRST VOWS AT SAINT JOSEPH ABBEY

Brother Leo Franca professed first vows during First Vespers of the Solemnity of Saint Benedict last summer, committing himself to three years as a Benedictine monk at Saint Joseph Abbey. In the presence of Abbot Justin Brown and the monks of Saint Joseph Abbey, he publicly committed himself to obedience, stability and fidelity to monastic life.

Brother Leo grew up in Brazil. He is the son of Hime Franca and Elizabeth Franca. He received his bachelor's degree in physical therapy at the Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais in Brazil.

"I'm blessed to be here at Saint Joseph Abbey. It's a wonderful place," said Brother Leo, a lover of music and the arts.

In fact, the paintings by Dom Gregory de Wit, the late muralist of the Abbey church and refectory, was a draw to Brother Leo, a self-taught painter and violin player.

"I like how traditional everything is here, including the music in the church, plus the Schola from the seminary, they sing beautifully," said Brother Leo, who also plans to pursue his own artistic interests here at Saint Joseph.

## NECROLOGY

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

HENRY ASCANI '46	THOMAS G. FOLEY '47	CLIFTON O. MILLS '49
Laura Kaiser Barreca <i>Friend of the Abbey</i>	LAWRENCE E. FRANCONI, JR. <i>Father of Robert Francioni '83</i>	L.E. MIREMONT <i>Friend of the Abbey</i>
BERRY BECNEL '51	YVONNE DEGRUY GANUCHEAU <i>Friend of the Abbey</i>	FRANK J. MONTALBANO <i>Friend of the Abbey</i>
MANNING F. BILLEAUD, JR. '45	PAUL J. GERACI '52	ROGER G. NAGY <i>Friend of the Abbey</i>
REV. PATRICK JAMES BONNER <i>Friend of the Abbey</i>	SEAN PATRICK GRIFFIN <i>Son of Karen J. Bezou, Oblate</i>	ALVIN J. CORSO, JR. <i>Friend of the Abbey</i>
MARVIN BORDELON '41	GEORGE GUIILLER <i>Friend of the Abbey</i>	WAYNE CARROLL PAYSSE, Sr. <i>Father of Rev. Wayne C. Paysse, Jr. '83</i>
JUDITH BOUDREFAUX <i>Friend of the Abbey</i>	MICHAEL S. HADDAD '63	EARL J. POCHE, JR. '57
MONSIGNOR CHARLES MURRAY CLAYTON '50	REV. JOHN HINTON '72	JOSEPH M. PRIBULICK '88
HENRY E. CUNNINGHAM, III <i>Friend of the Abbey</i>	ELAINE de la HOUSSEY ACEVES-FERNANDEZ <i>Friend of the Abbey</i>	J. WILLIAM PUCHEU <i>Friend of the Abbey</i>
J. MICHAEL EARLY, SR. <i>Father of J. Michael Early, Jr. '61</i>	LEONARD P. JAEGER, JR. '58	KENNETH M. ROETEN '46
ELLEN EHFF <i>Friend of the Abbey</i>	STEPHEN LABRANCHE '58	CARROLL P. ROUEN '54
H. MORTIMER FAVROT, JR. <i>Friend of the Abbey</i>	DAUNE P. LARRIEU '60	HILDA SARRAT <i>Wife of Walter Sarrat '65</i>
LAWRENCE FERRAN <i>Father of Deacon Steven Ferran of Mandeville</i>	ROGER LAURENT '64	LOUIS H. SOROE '40
DR. WARREN L. FISCHER, SR. <i>Father of Warren L. Fischer, Jr. '89</i>	MSGR. LOUIS P. LeBOURGEOIS '55	ROLAND J. TOUPS <i>Friend of the Abbey, Oblate</i>
	REV. RUSSELL J. LEMOINE '54	PEGGY TOUPS <i>Friend of the Abbey, Oblate</i>
	DORIS BARTEL LETSCH <i>Friend of the Abbey</i>	
	COLONEL LEMON B. MCHENRY <i>Friend of the Abbey</i>	



MacCandless



Hollingsworth

**Father William John MacCandless, O.S.B.**, passed away on Christmas Day at the monastery. A native of New Orleans, he was born on July 7, 1930. He began monastic life at the Trappist Abbey of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Pecos, N.M.; while he was still a young monk, the monastery transferred him in 1955 to Lafayette, Ore., where he was ordained a priest on December 7, 1958. In 1978, he entered Saint Joseph Abbey, where he made profession as a Benedictine monk on July 11, 1981. He was a gentle and good-humored member of the community, much sought as a spiritual director and confessor.

**Brother Anselm Hollingsworth, O.S.B.**, passed away on December 11 at Our Lady of Wisdom Healthcare Center in Algiers. He was born on July 6, 1933, the only son of William R. Hollingsworth, Jr. and Jane Oakley Hollingsworth. He grew up in Jackson, Miss., where his father was a noted painter, watercolorist and illustrator. He inherited his father's name and his talent as a cartoonist. His major talent was as a self-taught pianist with a gift for jazz improvisation, who, as a young man, headed his own dance band. He entered Saint Joseph Abbey and made profession as a monk on August 29, 1960. He was a model of monastic observance to his brothers, and he was noted for his ready humor.



Saint Joseph Abbey + Seminary College extends its first-ever national corporate partnership invitation to join our S.H.I.P., which is named after the four pillars of priestly formation used in teaching our young seminarians to lead a life in God's service: Spiritual, Human, Intellectual and Pastoral. S.H.I.P. is unique as a partnership in a mutual value centered philosophy and one which affirms the highest corporate aims of American enterprise.

**For details on S.H.I.P., visit [www.saintjosephabbey.com/ship-partnership](http://www.saintjosephabbey.com/ship-partnership) or call 985-867-2284.**