



Baton Rouge: 2 October | Covington: 5 November

## ACADIANA ALUMNI

by Fr. Matthew Clark

The Acadiana Alumni and Friends Social was held on 17 February at l'Évêché, the rectory and parish hall at Saint John the Evangelist Cathedral in Lafayette, La. The very successful event marked a turning point in our ongoing efforts to organize the substantial body of Saint Ben's alumni in the Acadiana region, a goal long shared by many South Louisiana alumni. The almost 50 in attendance included many alumni, a few supporters of the seminary college and several parents of current Lafayette and Lake Charles seminarians.

Special thanks go to Fr. Chester Arceneaux, '87, and his parish staff at Saint John's for hosting the event. Our thanks as well to Sonny Launey, '64, Gene Lognion, '78, Raymond Hebert, '89, and Fr. Jason Vidrine (ask June), who took the lead in organizing this successful effort, along with our many friends and supporters who helped.

The alumni association's executive committee has encouraged the Acadiana alumni to organize into a formal committee in order to further our efforts in the region. For next year, we will attempt an outreach to Avoyelles Parish.

If you have an interest in organizing Saint Ben's alumni in your region, please contact our Alumni Office at 985 867-2245.

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

## DEO GRATIAS 2011

### 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.

### COVINGTON

Saturday, 5 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.

### more information

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



Brs. Ephrem Arcement and Elias Eichorn

## TWO MAKE FIRST VOWS. . .

by Fr. Jude Israel

On Sunday evening, 10 July, during First Vespers of the Solemnity of Saint Benedict, two men professed simple vows, committing themselves for three years as Benedictine monks. In the presence of Abbot Justin Brown and the monks of Saint Joseph Abbey, Br. Elias Joseph Eichorn and Br. Ephrem Kyle Arcement publicly committed themselves to obedience, stability and fidelity to monastic life.

Br. Elias, the son of James and Trudy Eichorn, of Bayou Dularge, La., graduated from Ellender Memorial High School in 2005. He is a 2009 magna cum laude graduate of Saint Joseph Seminary College, having earned a B.A. in philosophy. He entered the postulancy 8 January, 2010, and began novitiate 10 July of that same year. After profession, Br. Elias will be assigned to Saint Joseph Woodworks and will be assisting in the vocations office of the abbey. Additionally he will begin graduate theological studies at Saint John's University in Collegeville, Minn.

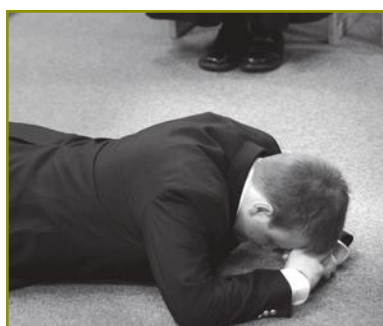
Br. Ephrem, the son of Warren and Nancy Arcement, of Houma, La., is 37 years old and graduated from Central Lafourche High School in 1992. He is a 2001 graduate of Saint Joseph Seminary College, having earned a B.A. in philosophy. He has an M.A. in practical theology from Regent University in Virginia Beach. He also has an M.A. in theology from Notre Dame Seminary and has completed all the coursework for a Ph.D. in Christian Spirituality from the Catholic University of America. After profession, Br. Ephrem will work toward completing his dissertation and will be assigned to the Christian Life Center as part of the retreat team, as well as working in guest services for the abbey.



Novice Kent Authement

## AND ONE ENTERS NOVITIATE

On 9 July, in a private ceremony in the monastic chapter room, Kent Authement, 23 years old, the son of Gordy and Cindy Authement of Bell City, La., became a novice. Kent is a 2006 graduate of Bell City High School and earned a B.G.S. from Nicholls State University in 2010. Kent entered the postulancy in the spring of this year. Kent has worked as organist and choir director at Saint Bernadette Catholic Church in Bayou Vista, La., and Saint Stephen's Church in Berwick, La., before entering the monastery.



Novice Kent and Brs. Ephrem and Elias at their ceremonies. Abbot Justin holds The Rule of Saint Benedict.



## SOLEMNITY OF SAINT BENEDICT: DEPENDABLE RELATIONS

homily by Abbot Justin Brown, OSB

At supper in our refectory we are reading Abraham Heschel's book "God In Search of Man-A Philosophy of Judaism." In chapter twenty-three entitled "Israel's Commitment", he writes, "It is a supreme necessity for human beings to live in more or less permanent and dependable relations to each other. There is a variety of such relations, as, for example, marriage, friendship, professional organizations and international conventions." He goes on to say that "These relations can only endure if we remain loyal to the promise we have made or to the organizations into which we have entered. They collapse when our loyalty ceases."

To these permanent and dependable relations we may add monastic life as envisioned by Saint Benedict in his Rule for monks. At a time when social institutions were crumbling and the social order was in chaos, Benedict sees clearly the supreme necessity for the cenobitic life, a life built on the orderly living together of men in community with the common purpose of seeking God. The rule maps out how these permanent and dependable relations are to be lived in what Saint Benedict refers to as the school of the Lord's service by setting down regulations neither harsh nor burdensome, but sometimes a little strictness is necessary to amend faults and safeguard love. The cohesive force behind this community is Divine Grace which Saint Benedict calls upon when human nature is powerless. What else could keep a community of different personalities and dispositions together in relative harmony except the grace of God and the desire in the heart of each monk to faithfully carry out the promises he made when he gave his life to something greater than himself.

To know what this life is about is to know the Abbot who wrote its Rule. In the Dialogues, Saint Gregory states, "He wrote a Rule for monks that is remarkable for its discretion and clarity of language. Anyone who wishes to know more about his life and character can discover in his Rule exactly what he was like as an abbot, for his life could not have differed from his teaching."

In chapter seventy-two, The Good Zeal of Monks, a spiritual gem of his teaching, Saint Benedict reveals himself and the type of community his Rule seeks to create. He is the one filled with that Good Zeal monks must foster with fervent love. He supports his brothers' weaknesses of body and behavior and competes in obedience by faithfully living out the Rule he wrote. He pursues what he judges as better for others rather than for himself; in fact, he has forgotten about himself in his search for God and life in community. He shows to all the pure love of a brother and to God a loving fear. He embodies in his life and teaching what it means to prefer nothing whatever to Christ. Unlike the rich man in the gospel, Saint Benedict does not go away sad. He joyfully leaves all behind to follow Christ and makes it clear that those who seek to join him in a permanent and dependable relation must do the same and must let go of everything, even one's own life, if they truly want to be a member of Saint Benedict's Community.

May all of us find true life and peace, like Saint Benedict, in whatever permanent and dependable relations we have committed ourselves to. But do not be surprised if in order to find life and peace we must first lose everything we possess, preferring nothing whatever to Christ. May he bring us all together to everlasting life!



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So join us in vivid color and stereo. Tell your friends. Save a tree and save us a little green, too.



Abbot Justin Brown, Jeff Rowes, Scott Bullock

## WOODWORKS FREE TO SELL

press from The Institute for Justice: www.ij.org

To order a casket, please call 985 867-5161.

21 July: A federal court today ruled that Louisiana's government-imposed monopoly on casket sales in the state is unconstitutional, closing the lid on the economic protection scheme and resurrecting an opportunity for local monks to provide for themselves by creating and selling their handmade caskets. The monks of Saint Joseph Abbey of Saint Benedict, La., and the Institute for Justice, which represents the order in court, had filed suit to fight Louisiana's government-imposed casket cartel.

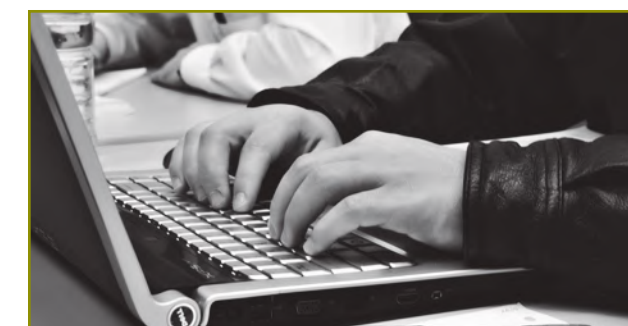
Under Louisiana law, it was a crime for anyone but a government-licensed funeral director to sell "funeral merchandise," which includes caskets. To sell caskets legally, the monks would have had to abandon their calling for one full year to apprentice at a licensed funeral home and convert their monastery into a "funeral establishment" by, among other things, installing equipment for embalming.

The Honorable Stanwood Duval of U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana ruled, "Simply put, there is nothing in the licensing procedures that bestows any benefit to the public in the context of the retail sale of caskets. The license has no bearing on the manufacturing and sale of coffins. It appears that the sole reason for these laws is the economic protection of the funeral industry which reason the Court has previously found not to be a valid government interest standing alone to provide a constitutionally valid reason for these provisions."

In its ruling, the court wrote, "The Court finds no rational relationship between the Act and 'public health and safety.' No evidence was presented to demonstrate that requiring the purchase of caskets from licensed funeral directors aids the public welfare."

The decision continued, "The provisions of the Act as they relate to the retail sale of caskets by persons other than funeral directors do not protect consumers; the prohibition against Plaintiffs' selling caskets does not protect the public health and welfare. The provisions simply protect a well-organized industry that seeks to maintain a strict hold on this business. . . . Likewise these laws violate the Equal Protection Clause, since the Act in essence treats two distinct and different occupations as the same."

Finally, the ruling stated, "In sum, the arguments made by defendants [those defending the casket cartel] are hollow. . . . There is no relation between the obtaining of a funeral license and the ability to manufacture and sell a casket. The only protection afforded by the Act is the economic protection of the funeral directors which this Court has held not to be in and of itself a rational basis for the Act under the Constitution of the United States for the reasons stated in its previous order."



Smart Boards installed in Borromeo classrooms

## REGENTS TECHNO GRANT

by Dr. Jude Lupinetti

Thanks to the efforts of faculty and grant writers, Saint Joseph Seminary College has received more than \$20,000 from the Louisiana Board of Regents to fund Smart Boards in the four main classrooms in Borromeo Hall. This grant will enable SJSC to install a white board projection system in each classroom with wireless internet connections.

This technology will allow students to access a large bank of proprietary teaching materials. Students will use a hand-held controller that will allow them to navigate lessons from their desks, take tests and complete class exercises at their own rate. Instructors will be able to craft both whole-class and individual lessons as needed and to add teaching materials they've developed on their own.

This addition to the college's technology brings the school more in line with modern teaching methods and allows other possible advances such as ties in with library databases. Systems will be installed during the summer.



## NECROLOGY

pray with us for those who have passed away

- Sidney V. Arbour Jr., father, Peter W. Arbour, '70
- Joseph S. Bechel Jr., father, Joseph S. Bechel III, '60, deceased
- Frank Bologna, friend
- James F. Burnett Jr., father, Timothy Burnett, O.S.B., '74
- Leo A. Cavell, father, Rev. Lawrence A. Cavell, '78
- Kevin Cole, friend
- Joffre Crouere Sr., friend
- Louis B. d'Aquin, '41
- Mr. Felix Frederick Jr., '51
- Marguerite Scholastica Netto Good, Oblate
- Joseph Heap, friend
- Russell Henderson, '69
- Emmett G. Keller Jr., '64
- Marjorie Longmire, mother, John P. Longmire III, '64 and Thomas P. Longmire, '69
- Dorothy D. Lorio, friend
- Leroy Modenbach, '61
- Phillip F. Salles, friend
- Rev. Lee J. Saloy, '66
- Albert Saputo, friend and CLC retreat captain
- Rev. Charles L. Soileau, '51
- Edward Standige, '61
- Pearl D. Underwood, mother, Scott Underwood, O.S.B., '69
- Rev. William Vollor, '55
- Frank H. Walk, friend
- James M. Watts, '57
- Patricia Zebley, wife, Robert A. Zebley, '62





Saint Joseph statue and the new renovations

## CHRIST COURT RENOVATION

by Br. Simon Stubbs

The renovation of the entry-level offices in Christ Court began with a study by Bani Carville and Brown Architects of Baton Rouge in 2007. They divided their report into two distinct assessments: maintenance work essential to keeping the buildings open and habitable; and immediate and long-term renovations of the existing buildings.

The three major areas of immediate concern were re-roofing four buildings; replacing the hot-water loop serving all the major buildings; and replacing the HVAC system in the Pius X first-floor offices. In order to meet these concerns, the seminary secured a loan from the Knights of Columbus for \$1.5 million.

In 2009?, Fr. Gregory and Abbot Justin requested a proposal from Steve Rome of the architectural firm Verges/Rome. He designed a plan that maintained the Regional Modernist style of the original architect John Lawrence and updated the interior to fit the seminary's needs and new code requirements.

Work began in May 2010. The north suites provide offices for the academic dean, registrar, and academic assistant and a faculty workroom. The large central hallway provides public access to the newly-renovated restrooms. The south suite houses a secure file room, a secure graduation storeroom, a faculty/staff break room and the adjunct faculty workroom. The faculty workroom is equipped with wifi, four desks and space to meet with students outside of class.

The bookstore annex was originally slated as a secure file room. Instead, it was converted into a conference room. It is currently unfinished, but plans include a drop-down screen and a large conference table. This will be used for seminar classes, abbey events and external public meetings.

Newly installed glass windows have preserved the integrity of the structure, but they are energy-efficient and prevent the condensation that the old glass did not. To maintain a sense of continuity, Verges/Rome chose floor tiles that appear in other buildings, namely the Abbey Church and the hospitality center. The original 1960s vintage furnishings by Herman Miller and Thonet have been retained as much as possible.

The patio on the east side of the offices has been modified with a gate to provide additional public access to the restrooms. It will be furnished with outdoor seating surrounding the landscaped rose garden.



Dr. Ann Nauman and Sr. Jeanne d'Arc Kernion

## DR. NAUMAN NAMED EMERITA

by Sr. Jeanne d'Arc Kernion

At the 120th Commencement Exercises. Father Gregory Boquet, O.S.B., President-Rector, conferred the honor of Professor Emerita of Saint Joseph Seminary College on Dr. Ann K. Nauman. Dr. Nauman was retiring from the faculty after having served as Professor of History for thirty years.

Dr. Ann, as she was known on campus by students and colleagues over her many years on the faculty, was recruited by Dr. Howard Nichols, another Southeastern Louisiana University professor who served as an adjunct professor of history at St. Ben's for many years. Beginning with the teaching of the World History Survey course in 1980 when Fr. Pius Lartigue was President-Rector, Dr. Nauman was to remain on the faculty long enough to serve under four President-Rectors. Over the years, she taught a variety of courses, including Latin American History, Anthropology (her minor), Renaissance/Reformation, Medieval, and Graeco-Roman histories, one on the 20th Century World, and, most recently, a course on the History of Religion in the United States. In 1993 she added a course in Enlightenment History to the curriculum to fill a historical gap.

During her years at the college, Dr. Nauman served in a number of capacities. She began in 1983 as Interim Chairperson of what was then the Department of Social & Behavioral Sciences and then was named chairperson a year later. When the college changed from departments to divisions, Dr. Ann became Chairperson of the Division of Social, Behavioral, and Natural Sciences, a position she maintained until 2008, when she was named Interim Academic Dean of the college for that academic year.

While on the faculty at the Seminary College, Dr. Ann continued her long and varied positions on the faculty of Southeastern Louisiana University. Holding four other degrees in addition to her doctorate in history from Louisiana State University, she also has wide experience in Spanish Education and Library Science. The list of her contributions in scholarly writings is most impressive. Dr. Ann also brought to her students, through her widespread world travel, firsthand knowledge of other cultures and their history.

"Professor emerita", the female form of "professor emeritus", is a title given to a female professor who has retired in honorable standing but still keeps the title of "professor". For Dr. Ann, it is especially an award of merit bestowed after years of service, generosity, and commitment to the Seminary College. Dr. Ann is only the second lay faculty member to receive the honor. Mr. F. Gary Fournet, another beloved faculty member, was the first.



## ABBOT'S LETTER

Abbot Justin Brown, OSB

On Monday, 6 June, I found myself in an unlikely place, especially for a Benedictine monk: federal court.

The long-awaited day in court had finally come. It had been ten months since we filed suit challenging a state law that prohibits us from selling our simple cypress caskets in Louisiana. Little did we know when we began Saint Joseph Woodworks on All Saint's Day, 2007, that more than three years later we would end up in federal court. All this because we wanted to help support ourselves by the labor of our own hands, which in this case was casket making. After all, Saint Benedict states in the Holy Rule "when they live by the labor of their own hands, as our fathers and the apostles did, then they are really monks."

At the end of this month, we hope to hear from Judge Duval. We pray his verdict will be favorable. That will be a historic day for us. But something happened earlier this month that is even more important. One young man, Kent Authement, began the novitiate, the time to discern his call to monastic life through prayer, study work and life in community. At First Vespers of Saint Benedict on 10 July, our two novices, Joseph Eichorn and Kyle Authement, made their first vows as Benedictine monks, receiving a new name and a monastic habit. Elias (Joseph) will continue to build caskets, as well as continue his studies, and Ephrem (Kyle) will begin writing a doctoral thesis in monastic spirituality and join our retreat team at the Christian Life Center.

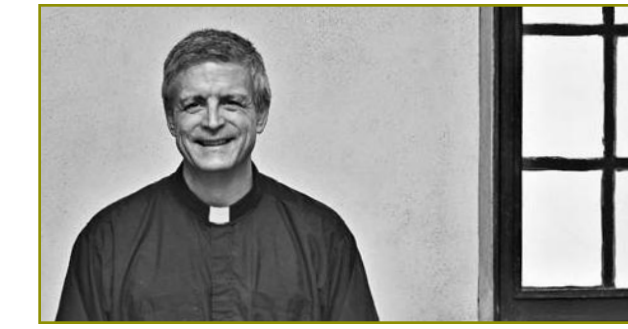
Yes, we look forward to celebrating a victory in our casket case, but even more, we look forward to welcoming our new brothers into our community. They inspire us already professed to recall that original desire to seek God that first led us to the monastery and to renew our commitment to the monastic way of life.

### 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.



## RECTOR'S LETTER

President-Rector Gregory Boquet, OSB

The story is told of two brothers that were known to be hooligans in their town. Many people thought that they were the lowest of the low. It came to pass that suddenly one of the brothers died, leaving the grieving brother with the task of making arrangements for the funeral. Since neither of them were church-goers, it was a surprise for the pastor to see the surviving brother at his doorstep. He asked the pastor if he would be willing to do a funeral for his brother who had suddenly died. He said that he would be willing to pay anything for his services, but he made one request. He insisted that somewhere in the eulogy mention should be made that his brother was a saint. The pastor thought for a moment and then agreed to do the service along with the request that was made.

The next day, as all assembled for the funeral, the pastor launched into his eulogy and began by stating "We have before us in this coffin, a man who was known to be a hooligan, a racist, an adulterer, and a man who did every kind of evil that one could imagine. However, compared to his brother, he was a saint."

How difficult it is to compare one individual to another. I dare say that we all aspire to be saints, but we know all too well how flawed others are, and more importantly how we ourselves struggle with failure. The seminary affords everyone the opportunity to struggle and confront those demons that prevent us from becoming all that God has called us to be. As a group of young men who live as brothers bonded together in daily prayer, work, and study, we need the support and understanding of one another in order to persevere.

There are many opportunities for us to exercise the virtue of patience and forgiveness, be it in the classroom, the football field, the refectory, and in the chapel as well. The highlight of the school year is the annual school retreat that takes place in the context of the Easter Triduum. During that time we are brought back to a clearer vision of how much God truly loves us and with that knowledge, we are more willing to answer His call to follow Him. The tendency at times is to allow past hurts and failures to divert our desire and our commitment to be a possible leader in the Church as one of his priests; however, He never wants us to lose sight of the fact that we are all called to be saints and seminary formation allows us the opportunity to work at those areas that will make that a reality. What the Church needs are good, holy and saintly men. You don't need to be perfect. Seeing the men that we have had at Saint Ben's over the past year, there is much for which the faithful can have hope. As you view The Abbey Voice, I am sure you will agree.

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