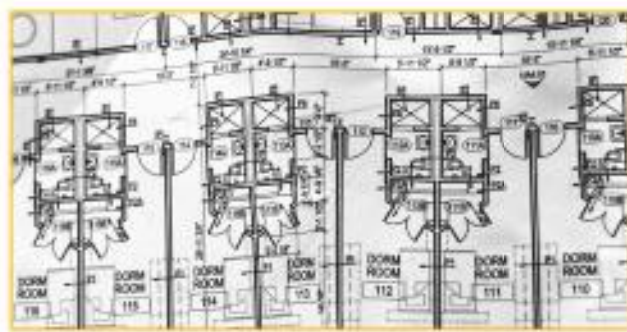




modern rooms will help alleviate student overflow: our enrollment has increased 20% in two years



## VIANNEY HALL PROJECT: KEEPING CONSTRUCTION ON SCHEDULE

for more information, contact Vanessa Crouere at 985 867-2242 or vcrouere@sjasc.edu

### CONSTRUCTION UNDERWAY

In response to a dramatic surge in the number of seminarians, Vianney Hall is undergoing a complete renovation to provide housing for 40 seminarians and two resident priests. To pay for the \$4.9M renovation, the seminary launched the Vianney Hall Fund Drive in October 2012.

As of 14 June 2013, the funding initiative has secured gifts and written pledges from nearly 300 donors totaling \$4.1M. Of that amount, we have received cash payments totaling \$3.5M. "At this point, we're feeling a real sense of urgency to complete the fund drive," explained Fr. Gregory Boquet. "To keep construction on schedule, we need to raise the final \$800,000. Being this close to goal, I am inviting people to donate now."

### BLESSED WITH VOCATIONS

For more than 120 years, the monks of Saint Joseph Abbey have operated Saint Joseph Seminary College, serving dioceses from Atlanta, Ga., to Corpus Christi, Texas. The seminary is an undergraduate institution, what used to be called a "minor seminary," and prepares young men for graduate work at "major seminaries" where they complete their education and formation.

To better serve the church, Saint Joseph Seminary completed a Strategic Plan in September 2011 that aimed to increase and sustain student enrollment and improve physical facilities. The plan has already begun to bear fruit. The 2011-12 academic year concluded with 80 seminarians, the largest enrollment in 25 years. In August 2012, we welcomed 110 seminarians, with at least that number expected in August 2013. After years of praying for vocations, we have been blessed with an outpouring of young men willing to answer the call to the priesthood.

**VIANNEY RENOVATION AND THE MASTER PLAN**  
The initial generous response to the Vianney Hall Fund Drive has allowed facility planners to supplement the original plan with a central-chill water plant to meet the AC needs of several buildings. Though it increases the original projected cost of the Vianney project to \$4.9M, the long-term savings in maintenance and energy efficiency for a number of buildings will more than pay for itself over time.

The central-chiller plant dovetails with the Seminary's Master Plan for Facilities. Over the next several years, the seminary intends to continue beyond Vianney Hall with a multi-phase, multimillion-dollar renovation of the campus.

### DONATING IS AFFORDABLE!

The formation of future priests is the main apostolate of Saint Joseph Abbey, but we are all responsible for the future of our Church. Truly, our success depends on your generosity. We invite you to share in the formation of our future priests by setting up a monthly donation, and committing to it for five years. Making a substantial gift is surprisingly affordable when it's spread out over 60 months. Take a look at the payment schedule on our web site: [www.sjasc.edu](http://www.sjasc.edu).

### RECOGNITION OPPORTUNITIES

As the renovation of Vianney Hall proceeds, Saint Joseph Seminary College plans to recognize special donations with door plaques. Not only do we wish to express our gratitude for your generosity, we also consider these plaques to be a witness to your faith and an inspiration for others.

We invite you to consider a Recognition Opportunity for yourself, your family, your business, a loved one, or in thanksgiving for God's graces. We have five opportunities available for furnishing, sponsoring and naming rooms. Pledges may be paid over five years.



Gungor highlighted the Abbey Youth Festival

## THE 12TH ANNUAL AYF

the largest crowd yet: see photos at [www.sjasc.edu](http://www.sjasc.edu)

On Saturday, 9 March, Saint Joseph Abbey and Seminary College hosted its 12th Annual Abbey Youth Fest, a day of prayer, talks and music for Catholic youth from the Gulf South area. Designed to provide young people with an opportunity to experience a day of prayer and faith formation and exposure to our Benedictine tradition, the Fest has grown from an attendance of 1,200 in its first year in 2001 to nearly 4,000 participants this year.

The theme, Hidden and Revealed, continued the long-established aim of the Fest, the promotion of vocations to the priesthood and religious life. The day, dedicated to Our Lady of Guadalupe, began with a procession in her honor. Keynote speakers were:

**Rev. Augustino Torres**, the Director of Evangelization for the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal, co-founder of Catholic Underground, Founder of Corazon Puro and Executive Director of Casa Juan Diego, an outreach to the poor in Yonkers, New York. He is known for his ardent zeal in bringing the light of Christ to youth all around the world.

**Jason and Crystalina Evert**. Jason Evert, after giving presentations on chastity alone for several years, teamed up with Crystalina. The two married in 2003, and have spoken to more than one million teens on five continents, including World Youth Day in Spain and Australia.

**Mary Bielski**. Originally from Indiana, for the last eight years Mary has traveled the U.S., speaking to Catholic teens about the awesome power of God through engaging talks and humorous skits.

Archbishop Aymond celebrated the Vigil Mass with the assistance of Bishop Robert Muench of Baton Rouge, Abbot Justin Brown of Saint Joseph Abbey, and more than 25 visiting priests. At the end of Mass, Archbishop Aymond invited all those who were considering a call to the priesthood or religious life to come forward. After sunset, the participants concluded the day with Vespers, the Evening Prayer of the Church. Music for the day was provided by the seminarian band Covenant 7, the Christian Rock group, Gungor, Chris Cole and Sarah Kroger.

Much credit for the success of the fest is due our seminarians who, under the direction of the seminary coordinator for the event, Ms. Kit Friedrichs-Baumann, and Mr. Brian Butler, of Dumb Ox Productions, work throughout the year for the event. This year's student committee, under the chairmanship of John David Matherne (Houma-Thibodeaux), included Payton Bourque (Lafayette), R. J. Regalado (Corpus Christi), John Souder (Lake Charles) and Bradley Hollingsworth (New Orleans).



the real-deal gospel choir, straight from Saint Roch

## LADY STAR GOSPEL CHOIR

monks and seminarians alike moved by the liturgy

Saturday, 23 February, music director Richard Cheri and Our Lady Star of the Sea choir treated the seminarians to an authentic gospel Mass, straight from the heart of the Saint Roch neighborhood in New Orleans. Mr. Cheri is an alumnus of the seminary college and, briefly, a member of the monastic community in the late 1970s. Presiding Fr. Chuck Andrus, SSJ, a Josephite pastor of Blessed Sacrament and Saint Joan of Arc Church in New Orleans, hosted the Mass at the invitation of the seminary college. He delivered a very moving homily, which can be found on our web site, along with photos.

The abbey and seminary communities thank everyone for their hard work, for their efforts to expose our seminarians to a wider perspective of the Church, and for educating them in the beauties of our global liturgies.



acrobatic lion stepping in the Vietnamese New Year

## TET: THE YEAR OF THE SNAKE

teaching fellow seminarians how to Lion Dance

Since the late 1970s, when the seminary college first received Vietnamese students, the annual celebration of Tet, the Vietnamese New year, has been a much-awaited campus event of the student body. This year, the Year of the Snake, opened on 16 February, with Mass celebrated for all guests by Bishop Dominic Mai Thanh Luong, Auxiliary Bishop of the Diocese of Orange. This was followed by a traditional lion dance accompanied by firecrackers.

The lions then led all to the refectory for a feast of all kinds of Vietnamese food, prepared by Mrs. Thi Nguyen of South Carolina. Keeping a traditional custom for Vietnamese people on this occasion, Fr. Gregory, President Rector, and Fr. Jude, Dean of Students, gave the Red Envelopes to the guests.

After the dinner, the lions again led all of the people to the gym for some traditional Vietnamese games and raffles. More than 250 guests, including students, faculty, Notre Dame students, and families, took part in the celebration, directed by Thuc Nguyen of Diocese of Galveston-Houston. Hispanic and American students joined the Vietnamese students as the dancing lions.



Jeff Horchoff and his mom at the Monk Run

## MONK RUN 2013

students honor the Empress of the Americas

The life of a monk is focused on seeking God. We live our lives in pursuit of a deeper relationship with God that is found in prayer and community life. We seek something beyond ourselves that we pursue through our faith in God.

Running is not much different. Runners seek a goal beyond themselves. That goal may be fitness, distance, speed, or the pure enjoyment of the run. Running calls for sacrifice and hard work to reach one's goals; it takes commitment.

With these varied goals in mind, more than 500 participants showed up on 13 April to enjoy the 1,200-acre pine forest of our monastery. The runners chased their goals over either a one-mile or five-kilometer course - or, for some, both courses - in almost ideal weather, over picturesque trails and views that astound. The course winds through the acreage of the Abbey forest and makes a loop through the property. The celebration after the race is a major part of the day. With Abita beer and root beer, hamburgers, hot dogs, gumbo, and other post-race goodies, the racers spent time under the blue skies in an open field enjoying it and the company of friends.

Begun as an effort to help with the cost of the maintenance and upkeep requirements for our land and its beautiful forest, the race also provides our neighbors with the opportunity to enjoy our monastery grounds. Racers can see areas of the monastery grounds that are not often available to the public.

We are grateful to all the volunteers and donors who helped to make the day a success.

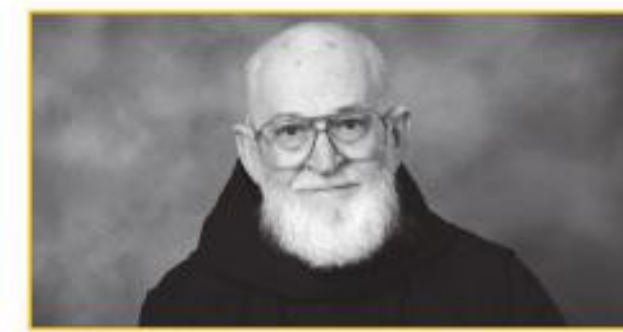


## BR. CYPRIAN MAKES VOWS

will manage Pennies for Bread

On Thursday, 11 July, during the First Vespers in the Abbey church celebrating the feast of Saint Benedict, Novice Ricky Coté, son of Rick and Cyndi Coté of Austin, Texas, professed his first vows. During the ceremony, Novice Ricky received the name Cyprian, by which he will be known in religion.

He entered the monastery and became a novice in July 2012. He is a 2004 graduate of McNeil High School and earned an Associate of Applied Sciences from Texas Culinary Academy in 2007. From 2005 to 2008, Br. Cyprian served as a Eucharistic minister, worked with the homebound ministry at Saint Vincent de Paul Parish in Austin, and also taught confirmation classes there.



Fr. Ambrose: scholar, artisan, president-rector

## FR. AMBROSE, 1931-2013

from the Office of the Abbot

Father Ambrose Gerald Wathen, O.S.B., died in the abbey infirmary on Wednesday morning, 3 July 2013. He was 81 years old.

Son of the late Henry and Lillian Wathen, Fr. Ambrose was born in Evansville, In., on 10 December 1931. He made his profession as a Benedictine monk on 21 August 1959 and was ordained a priest on 28 August 1965. He was preceded in death by his parents and his sister, Anna Mae Wathen Lewis, and is survived by his brothers Melvin Wathen and Jim Wathen.

Fr. Ambrose's 53 years as a monk were marked with the love of learning and the desire for God, serving his fellow monks, the Benedictine Order, and the greater Church in numerous capacities. As a talented artisan, he served his brother monks in the kitchen, sacristy, and tailorshop. A gifted scholar, Fr. Ambrose published numerous articles on monasticism and served as seminary professor, formation director, professor in the Monastic Institute at Sant Anselmo in Rome, and was the fourth president-rector of seminary college.

Fr. Ambrose's body was received on Tuesday, 9 July, at 5:30 p.m. at Saint Joseph Abbey, followed by the singing of Vespers. Later that evening, at 7:15 p.m., a funeral vigil was held in the Abbey Church.

The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on Wednesday, 10 July, at 11:15 a.m. in the Abbey Church, followed by burial in the Abbey Cemetery.

Priests are invited to concelebrate. In lieu of flowers, donations to the Abbey's Education and Retirement Fund will be appreciated.

## NECROLOGY

pray with us for those who have passed away

- Claude Baehr, '63
- Ignatius Barreca, '47
- Fr. Warren Chassaniol, '60
- Roy Coleman, friend of the Abbey
- Edward DeFrange, father of Fr. Jonathan, O.S.B.
- Marguerite Foley, mother of Fr. Augustine, O.S.B., '71
- Msgr. Howard Hotard, '49
- Catherine Kavanagh, stepmother of Fr. Aelred, O.S.B., '66
- Fr. Michael Nguyen, '82
- Janice Martinez, wife of Charles Martinez, '57
- Eugene Miller, '63
- Msgr. Winus Roeten, '43
- Clements Roux, brother of Fr. Randy Roux, '74
- Irene Miranne Stokes, sister of Fr. Paul Miranne, O.S.B., '41

## DEO GRATIAS NEEDS YOUR HELP

THE MATH: \$6,500 GAP PER STUDENT X 121 STUDENTS = \$HELP!

The challenge is to provide funding for the Seminary College's Gap Fund, which defrays the difference between tuition and the real cost of educating students. This Fall, the seminary anticipates an enrollment of 121 students. This is wonderful news! But with a gap of \$6,500 per seminarian, per year, the Gap Fund is a large deficit that the Abbey can no longer subsidize. We are asking folks in our community to support Deo Gratias in these three ways:

BECOME A SPONSOR, DONATE AUCTION ITEMS, AND VOLUNTEER.

MORE INFORMATION

[www.sjasc.edu](http://www.sjasc.edu)

contact Sharon Carraway | 985 867-2234 | [scarraway@sjasc.edu](mailto:scarraway@sjasc.edu)



Paul-Michael Piega with Archbishop Aymond

## 122ND COMMENCEMENT

28 seniors graduate from our programs

On 10 May, Saint Joseph Seminary College conferred 26 Bachelor of Arts degrees and two Pre-Theology Program Certificates in its 122nd commencement exercises. Due to the large number of graduates, the commencement was held in Benet Hall instead of the Abbey Church. The Most Rev. Gregory M. Aymond, Archbishop of New Orleans and Chancellor of the Seminary College, presided. The Most Rev. Wm. Michael Mulvey, STL, DD, Bishop of the Diocese of Corpus Christi, gave the commencement address.

For a full listing of graduates and their dioceses, visit our web page at [www.sjasc.edu](http://www.sjasc.edu).

Fr. Gregory Boquet then conferred the title of professor emeritus on Dr. John Hebert.

Fr. Gregory then acknowledged Dr. Jude Lupinetti, who was leaving her position as Academic Dean, thanking her especially for her successful leadership during the reaffirmation process for the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

The Schola Cantorum provided a musical interlude for the ceremony, which was followed by a reception for the guests.

## NEW ACADEMIC DEAN

Fr. Charles Benoit, O.S.B., appointed to position

At their meeting on 6 March, the Board of Trustees of Saint Joseph Seminary College approved the nomination of Fr. Charles Benoit, O.S.B., as Dean of Academic Affairs, replacing Dr. Jude Lupinetti. Fr. Charles, a 1996 graduate of the seminary college, brings to the position not only his impressive academic background, but also his long history with the seminary college.

Fr. Charles, a member of the monastic community here, made his solemn profession of vows on 11 July 2000, and was ordained a priest on 21 April 2001. In May of the same year, he received an M.A. in Theology from Notre Dame Seminary in New Orleans. In 2012, he completed his studies with a Licentiate in Canon Law from The Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C.

Since 2001, Fr. Charles has served in a number of positions in the seminary college, beginning as Assistant Dean of Students and a member of the theology faculty. From 2002 to 2006, he served as Dean of Students, and then, until 2009, as procurator for both the Abbey and Seminary College, in charge of financial matters for the institutions. After completing his studies, he returned to the faculty to direct the Quality Enhancement Plan, a key part of the seminary college's preparation for re-affirmation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

Also active in his monastic community, Fr. Charles now serves as sub-prior and is on the Abbot's Council. His additional duties include serving as a chaplain for parishes and convents in the area, and his service in various capacities in the Archdiocese of New Orleans as a canon lawyer.



alumni friends rib their former prefect, Fr. Paul

## 93RD ALUMNI HOMECOMING

spotlights Vianney Hall with a tour

The classes of '53, '63, '73, '83, '88, '93, '03 and 2013 were honored this year. During the general assembly, Fr. Gregory Boquet presented Rev. Gerald H. Burns, '63, with the Alumnus of the Year Award, and Fr. Matthew Clark, O.S.B., Vice-Rector and Alumni Director, presented Dr. Daniel Burns, '97, with the Son of Saint Ben Award. Then, Fr. Gregory inducted the graduating class of 2013 into the Alumni Association.

Also included in the evening were tours of Vianney Hall, now undergoing renovation, given by James Harrington, '70, who has been very involved in the project.

More than 160 alumni returned to campus on 5 April to catch up on old times with fellow classmates. Following the meeting of the Alumni Executive Committee, the general assembly was held in the student refectory. The outgoing Alumni Association President, Raymond Hebert, '89, announced the new Executive Committee: Fr. Frank Giroir, '77, President; Mr. Neil Hightower, '94, Vice President; Mr. Kenneth Richard, '90, Secretary; and Fr. Joshua Rodrigue, '98, Treasurer. Mass followed in the Abbey Church with Most Reverend Curtis J. Guillory, SVD, Bishop of the Diocese of Beaumont, Texas, as the principal celebrant. Fr. Gerald H. Burns, '63 of the Diocese of Baton Rouge and the recipient of this year's Alumnus of the Year Award, gave the homily.

A special thank you goes to Angelo Lupinetti, 01, for directing the Schola Cantorum, consisting of members both current and of old.

## DR. HEBERT NAMED EMERITUS

33 years of dedication to his alma mater

At the 122nd Commencement Exercises, Father Gregory Boquet conferred the honor of Professor Emeritus on Dr. John Hebert, '71. Dr. Hebert retired after 33 years as a Professor of Psychology at Saint Ben's.

Joining the faculty in 1980 as an assistant professor, he was appointed Chair of the Psychology Department in 1982, a position he held until 1988.

A licensed clinical psychologist, Dr. Hebert began his studies in higher education at the seminary college, earning a B.A. in Philosophy, *cum laude*, in 1971. From then until 1975, he did post-bachelor work in his field, then went to the University of Southern Mississippi, earning both his master's degree there in 1977 and his Doctorate in Clinical Psychology in 1980.

During his years on the faculty here, Dr. Hebert also served at Southeast Louisiana Hospital as a psychologist, first in the Children's Unit, and then, from 1998 until his retirement in 2012, in the Adult Unit. He held numerous positions in his field, including adjunct clinical instructor at the University of New Orleans and Louisiana State University Medical School.



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vcrowe@sjasc.edu

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## ABBOT'S LETTER

Abbot Justin Brown, OSB

In his homily on the Solemnity of Saint Joseph, Pope Francis spoke of the vocation of being a protector, which entails protecting human life and all creatures as well as the environment in which they live. He said, "It means protecting all creation, the beauty of the created world, as the Book of Genesis tells us and as Saint Francis of Assisi showed us. It means respecting each of God's creatures and respecting the environment in which we live."

Pope Francis reminds us that we are to be stewards of creation and protectors of our natural world. Without a healthy environment, life cannot exist. Both preceding Popes, Blessed John Paul II and Pope Benedict, spoke of the Christian responsibility to safeguard creation.

Here at Saint Joseph Abbey, we have been entrusted with 1,100 acres of God's beautiful creation. We see ourselves as stewards and protectors of a precious gift. Our forest, with its majestic pines and hardwoods, provides a contemplative place, a place of prayer and reflection for monks, seminarians, retreatants and guests.

With its many trails, and the mile and a half road through the woods, the Abbey forest provides us also with ample space for walking, jogging and biking. Br. Elias and several of our seminarians are marathon runners. Along trails in the woods they find a scenic and tranquil training ground. Each year we host Monk Run, not only a 5k race and walk, but also an opportunity to share the natural beauty of the Abbey with the wider community. Also each year, in a field surrounded by woodland, we host thousands of young men and women for Abbey Youth Festival. These are some of the ways we share this precious gift of nature with others.

Walking through the woods the other day, I was surrounded by the song of the numerous species of birds that inhabit the Abbey forest. Some are residents year-round and others are migratory visitors like the whimsical Purple Martin, a favorite of Fr. Paul and Br. Brian. Listening to the songs of these birds of the pine forest, I thought of the verse from the Canticle of the Three Young Men from the Book of Daniel, which we recite each Sunday at Lauds, and which Br. Gabriel stamped on every envelope and card: "All you birds of the air, bless the Lord."

In our Abbey Church, among the pines, five times a day, we join with the creation that surrounds us to praise and bless the Lord. The de Wit paintings mimic this union with scenes of trees and flowers, birds and animals scattered among angels and saints. Altogether, we bless the Lord.

*Justin*

**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.



## RECTOR'S LETTER

President-Rector Gregory Boquet, OSB

The past school year was unique in that we not only had a hurricane, we had a fire as well. This, however, proved to be a year that strengthened our community in ways I could never have imagined. I believe it showed the character and strength of the men who attend Saint Ben's. Immediately, it became apparent that if you were looking for the good life, you came to the wrong place. Indeed, to be a priest means one has to aspire for the better life. To truly seek after the Lord means that you will need to die to yourself.

However, society teaches us that is not what life is all about. Society promotes the good life while the seminary prepares men for the better life. The following story may give a good insight into how the supposedly good life ultimately leads to death.

Several years ago, the National Institute of Mental Health conducted a study. It took place in a nine-foot square cage designed to house comfortably 160 mice. In two and a half years, the colony of mice grew to 2,200. Plenty of food, water, and other resources were continually provided. All mortality factors except aging were eliminated.

Yet, Dr. John Calhoun, a research psychologist, began to witness a series of unusual phenomena among the mice as the population reached its peak. Within the cage, from which the mice could not escape, the colony began to disintegrate. He observed that adults formed groups or cliques of about one dozen mice in each group. In these groups different mice performed particular social functions. The males that normally protected their territory withdrew from leadership and became uncharacteristically passive. The females became unusually aggressive and forced out the young. The young themselves, without a place in society, grew increasingly more self-indulgent. They ate, drank, slept and groomed themselves, but showed no normal assertiveness. The whole mouse society ultimately became disrupted, and after five years all the mice have died.

Struggle, evidently, is an essential ingredient to living the better life. I believe that the challenges over the past year have allowed our community to strive and be the strongest that I can remember in recent memory. And I am grateful for that.

*G. Boquet*

**Saint Joseph Seminary College Mission Statement**  
Saint Joseph Seminary College is a community of faith and learning in the liberal arts rooted in the Benedictine tradition that promotes the development of the whole person. The formation program fosters 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 and makes available its educational and other resources to the local community.