



DEACON STEVE FERRAN NAMED NEW DIRECTOR OF RETREAT CENTER

One evening nearly 20 years ago, Deacon Steve Ferran was sitting on the front porch of the Abbey Retreat Center with his spiritual director and then Retreat Director Fr. Thomas Perrier, O.S.B., when he told Deacon Steve he would one day be the Retreat Director. Last summer, that prediction became a reality.

Deacon Steve replaced Deacon Mark Coudrain, who served as director of the Retreat Center for nearly 11 years. Deacon Mark remains at the Abbey as director of Abbey Caskets.

Deacon Steve grew up in Old Jefferson, attended Archbishop Rummel High School, and received his Bachelor's degree in Secondary Education from the University of New Orleans. He taught at Archbishop Shaw High School and Holy Cross High School for eight years before making a career change to the hotel industry in New Orleans, which spanned 36 years. Deacon Steve served as general manager of the Maison Dupuy Hotel, Omni Royal Orleans Hotel, and the Loews Hotel.

Ferran was ordained a permanent deacon for the Archdiocese of New Orleans in 2006 and was assigned to Our Lady of the Lake Parish in Mandeville after his ordination. Five years later, he was reassigned to Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish in Lacombe where he has served for nearly 10 years.

"My hope for the Retreat Center is that it will always be a place of peace and serenity where people can come to strengthen their personal relationship with God and enjoy Benedictine hospitality. I also wish to expand our retreat offerings to include weekdays to meet the needs of lay men and women, men and women religious, clergy and married couples," Deacon Steve said.

Deacon Steve lives in Abita Springs with his wife of 40 years, Darlene. They have one son Adam, a daughter-in-law Jennifer, and they are proud grandparents to Daisy.

ABBEEY GIFT SHOP NOW ONLINE

Many items from the Abbey Gift Shop, **the largest Catholic gift shop on the Northshore**, are now available to purchase online at www.stjosephabbeygiftshop.ecwid.com or scan the QR code to the right with your smartphone camera. Many non-breakable items are available to ship. In-store pickup is also an option.



Products carried by the Gift Shop include MONKSOAP, ABBEE Honey, MONKSWEETS, lotion bars, books, missals, rosaries, and urns made by Abbey Caskets. For store hours and more information, contact the Gift Shop at 985-867-2227 or visit www.saintjosephabbey.com/gift-shop.

ABBEEY CHURCH UPDATE

The 11:15 a.m. Mass in the Abbey Church is open to the public, Monday through Saturday only. The 7:30 a.m. Sunday Mass is also open to the public. However, the 11 a.m. Sunday Mass remains closed to the public until further notice due to seminarian attendance, which fills the church.

Safety protocols continue to be implemented and require that everyone attending Mass wear a mask and practice social distancing. The pews in the Church are marked appropriately.

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

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Scan this QR code to see additional photos from this issue of Abbey Voice.



SAINT JOSEPH ABBEY + SEMINARY COLLEGE

Giving Opportunities

Your financial support is greatly appreciated.

Donations can be made online at:

www.saintjosephabbey.com/donate

or by mail at:

**Saint Joseph Abbey and Seminary College
Department of Institutional Advancement**

75376 River Road

Saint Benedict, LA 70457

For information, call: (985) 867-2264

or e-mail ddenoux@sjasc.edu



Your gift of time and talent is also welcomed. Please consider joining our Volunteer Program.

For more information, please contact:

Katie Reynolds at (985) 867-2284 or reynoldsk@sjasc.edu

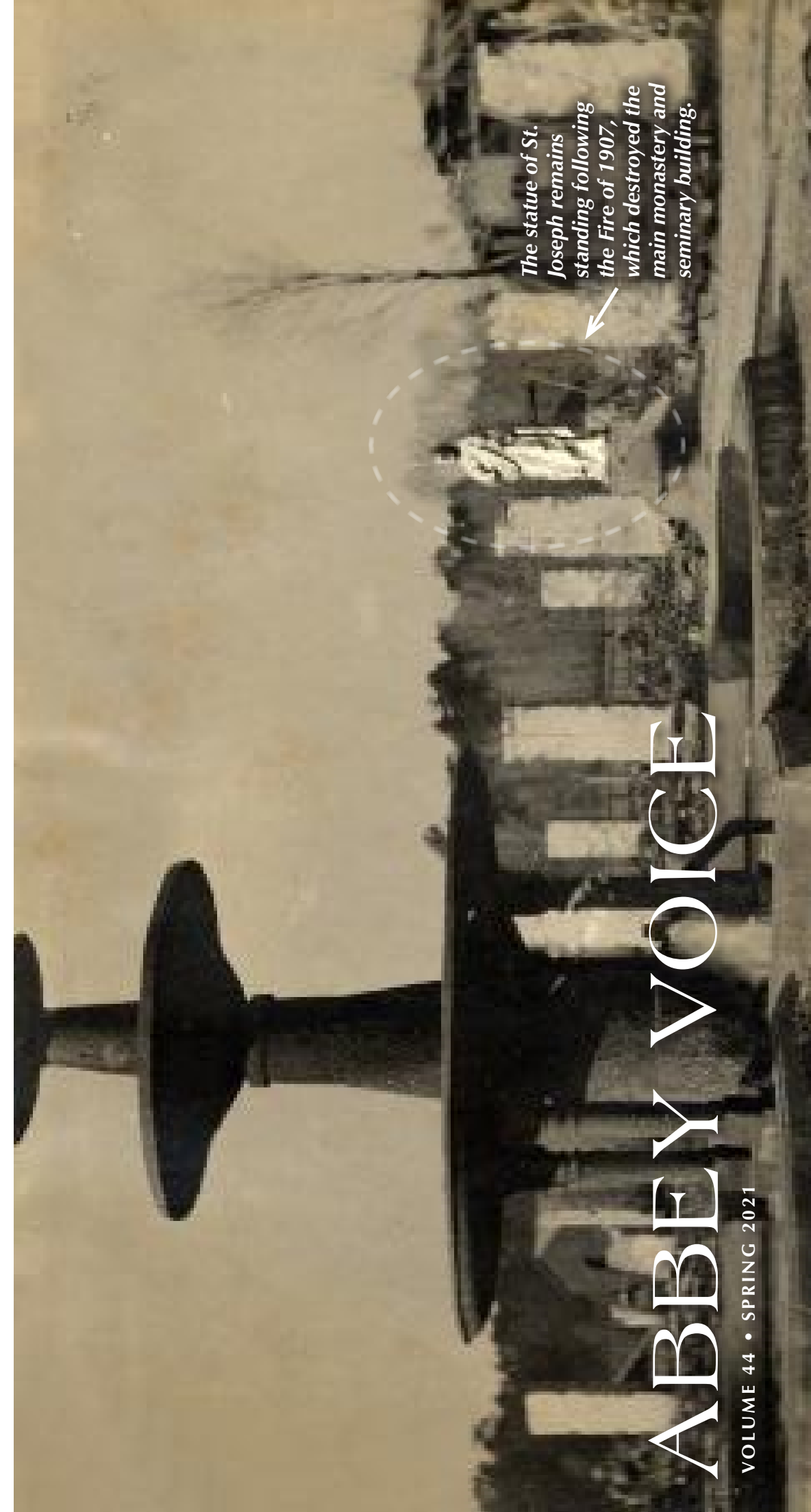


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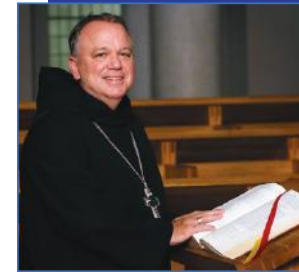


The statue of St. Joseph remains standing following the fire of 1907, which destroyed the main monastery and seminary building.

ABBEEY VOICE

VOLUME 44 • SPRING 2021

ABBOT'S LETTER



Abbot Justin Brown, O.S.B.

This year marks the 150th anniversary of the proclamation of Saint Joseph as patron of the Universal Church. To mark this occasion, Pope Francis has called for a year of Saint Joseph with the issuing of his Apostolic Letter — **Patris Corde** — With a Father's Heart. The decree says that the Holy Father has established a year of Saint Joseph so that "every member of the faithful, following his example, may strengthen their life of faith daily in the complete fulfillment of God's will."

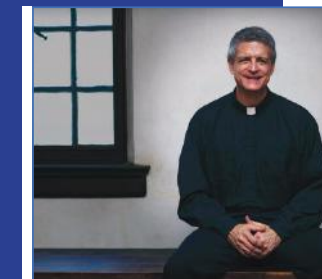
In 1890, Father Luke Gruwe, O.S.B., placed the newly founded monastery and seminary under the patronage of Saint Joseph as he sought to fulfill God's will. He also had a deep devotion to the Old Testament Patriarch Joseph after whom he named the place of our first foundation Gessen, which is German for Goshen, the land where Joseph settled his brothers in Egypt. Throughout our 130 year history, Saint Joseph has been a faithful and gracious patron to the monastery and seminary. Whenever in need the monks throughout the years have turned to Saint Joseph, and he always interceded and took care of them as he took care of the Holy Family. A powerful image of Saint Joseph's abiding care for this monastery and seminary is a picture taken immediately after the devastating Fire of 1907 (see cover). It shows a cast-iron statue of St. Joseph standing among the ruins of the burned out monastery. From this devastating event and from others, Saint Joseph has faithfully rebuilt the monastery and seminary, most recently following the Flood of 2016. Needless to say, gratitude to Saint Joseph and trust in his intercession is in the very air we breathe as he continues to look after our monastery and seminary.

As one who listened deep within his heart to the voice of God, Saint Joseph has a special place in the lives of monks as Saint Benedict begins his Rule with the word — **Asculata**— Listen. Not just monks, but all Christians are called to listen deeply to God in prayer like Saint Joseph. Then, in the words of Pope Francis, by following his example our life of faith may be strengthened daily in the complete fulfillment of God's will.

Saint Joseph, Obedient and Faithful, Pray for us.

+ Justin Brown O.S.B.

RECTOR'S LETTER



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

Our fall semester has ended and, because of the diligence of everyone involved here at the seminary college, we finished with no interruption of in-person learning. While the conditions of the pandemic affected some of our activities and plans, for the most part, the patience and understanding of our whole community led us to successful results this fall semester. Saint Joseph Seminary College did not have any major instances of COVID-19, interrupted classes, or other distractions from the pandemic's restrictions. Thankfully, we were happy to allow the seminarians to return home for some much-needed family time and other pastoral obligations during the Christmas Season.

As we begin a New Year and a new semester, I look forward to the wide distribution of an effective vaccine for the virus that may allow us to expand our activities once more. Only time will tell the extent to which we will be able to return to normalcy at the seminary. I ask for your continued prayers and support of our seminarians, faculty and staff here at the college.

Be assured that we continue to fulfill our mission which is rooted in the Benedictine tradition of service and focused on the development of young men to the Roman Catholic priesthood. I have not been deterred, nor have those in my charge. The Seminary College remains filled with faith and determination!

My prayers for you and your families are with you always. May this coming year bring peace and blessings to all.

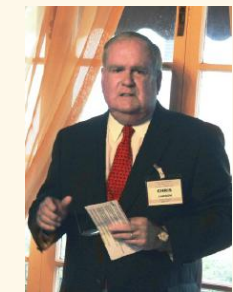
V. Rev. Gregory A. Boquet, O.S.B.

ABBEY BREAD CELEBRATES 30 YEARS



The blessing of the Abbey Bread bakery in 1990. (Photo by Frank Methe, Clarion Herald.)

Baking bread is an ancient monastic tradition, and for more than 100 years the monks of Saint Joseph Abbey have baked their own bread. Adhering to the call of the gospel to serve the poor, the monks began baking and donating "Abbey Bread" to homeless shelters and community organizations on the Northshore and in the Greater New Orleans area 30 years ago. From the humble beginnings in a dairy barn converted to a bakery, Abbey Bread (formerly known as Pennies for Bread and the Abbey) has remarkably been part of 30 million meals.



Alumnus Chris Larsen, '65, founder of Abbey Bread.

The Abbey Bread Program donates hundreds of loaves of bread every week to organizations that feed the most vulnerable. Local food banks, homeless shelters, nursing homes, and community outreach programs rely on the bread donations.

This free gift allows nonprofits to use their "bread money" for other critically needed goods and services. Since 1990, the Abbey Bread Program has collectively saved over \$5 million for the organizations with whom they have partnered. With the support of many dedicated people, Abbey Bread has had a direct impact within the local community. Celebrate 30 years with us!

To learn more about how you can help Abbey Bread, visit www.saintjosephabbey.com/abbeybread.



Fr. Augustine Foley, O.S.B.



SEMINARY WELCOMES 105 STUDENTS TO FALL 2020 CLASSES

ABBEY AND SEMINARY NEWS

BROTHER AUSTIN SIMON TAKES FINAL VOWS



In the presence of Abbot Justin Brown, O.S.B., the monastic community, and family and friends, Brother Austin Simon, O.S.B., professed solemn vows during Mass in the Abbey Church on July 11th, the feast of St. Benedict.

"A very powerful part of the profession ritual was when Abbot Justin questioned 'What do you seek?' My response was not 'I seek Peace,' or 'I seek Fraternity,' but instead it was, 'I desire to share the sufferings of Christ in this monastery until death, that I may also share in his kingdom,'" Brother Austin said.

He continued, "The task at first seemed impossible, but then I truly reflected on what I was saying, 'I desire to share the sufferings of Christ.' I would not be taking on the sufferings of Christ alone. I would have the support of my brothers and the support of Christ himself. I ponder these words every day as I remind myself why I am here and that my goal as a monk is to seek salvation."

BROTHER CHRISTOPHER & BROTHER MAXIMUS TAKE FIRST MONASTIC VOWS



At Vespers on a Sunday evening last September, two novices took their first monastic vows in the Abbey Church. Congratulations to Dominic, who will now be known as Brother Christopher Schaefer, and Christian (with beard), who will now be known as Brother Maximus Salinas.

Brother Christopher, the oldest of five children, is from Victoria, Texas. Both of his parents are involved in ministry, with his father ordained a deacon in November. Br. Christopher spent two years at Saint Joseph Seminary College and received his Bachelor of Arts in Studio Art from Benedictine College in Atchison, Kansas.

Brother Maximus was raised in Houston, Texas. He has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Communications from Texas A&M University in College Station, Texas. He studied as a seminarian here at Saint Joseph Seminary College for the Diocese of Brownsville, Texas, graduating in 2019. He is currently working on his Masters of Theology degree.

40 YEARS IN MEDICINE DOING GOD'S WORK



Volunteer and benefactor, the ever-smiling Dr. Billy Preau likens his upholstery work in Abbey Caskets to the "domestique," a team member in bicycle races such as the Tour de France who assists the team captain during the competition. There isn't a lot of fame and glory associated with this role, but in the end, the domestique's seemingly small contribution can carry the race team to victory. For Billy, there are no small roles as an Abbey volunteer, especially when the focus is for the greater glory of God.

Born and raised in New Orleans, Dr. Preau graduated from LSU Medical School in 1982, completing his anesthesiology residency at Ochsner

Foundation Hospital in 1985. The road to becoming a doctor started at age four when Billy's father became gravely ill with a rare bone cancer. At such a young age, Billy was terrified, and he remembers his mother praying to St. Therese of Lisieux and promising that if her husband recovered, she would go to church every day. Billy's father survived.

"I go to church every day now because I'm living that promise that my mother made to St. Therese. I was in awe of the doctors helping my dad, and I wanted to go to medical school and save lives like they did. The best doctors are also the most compassionate people," said Billy, who retired from medicine this past February after 40 years of dedicated service.

In 1992 Billy and his wife of 38 years Jane moved to Covington, just a few miles from the Abbey. The couple had attended Mass at various churches in the area, but once they saw the peaceful reflection of the Abbey Church in the adjoining pond, everything changed for them.

"We knew the Abbey was what we had been seeking. Once you walk into the Abbey church, you feel like this is what religion is. It feels utterly genuine," Billy said.

Jane and Billy volunteered for several years in Abbey Bread until they took a break when their son Alexander was born in 1999. Fast forward about 15 years later, and Billy once again volunteered much of his time in Abbey Caskets as the official upholsterer of the coffins, the last step in the production process. Billy's contributions to the Abbey not only involve his time but also his treasure. He and Jane generously support the Deo Gratias gala, ABBEE Honey, Monk Run, and Abbey Caskets. In fact, their most recent donation was a costly piece of equipment for the Caskets building, a full-shop dust collector.

"In my career in medicine, I've tried to take care of people by easing their pain or suffering. Now with the caskets, I'm taking part in the final resting place of someone's mom, dad, child or loved one. It's my small part to help make that coffin as perfect as God's love," Billy said humbly.

Besides volunteering at the Abbey, Dr. Preau works with neighboring St. Benedict Church delivering food to the needy. Billy has also traveled abroad several times over the years for mission trips with groups of other doctors to offer free medical services in Nicaragua, Ecuador and the Dominican Republic.

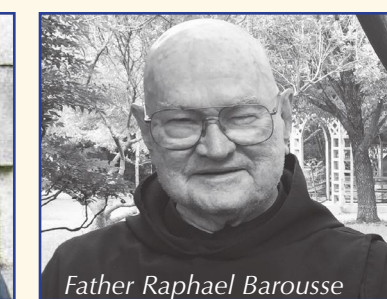
Whether Billy is upholstering a casket, catching bees with fellow volunteer Jeff Horchoff, or lending his medical assistance to elderly monks in the infirmary, he is selflessly dedicated to supporting the Abbey.

"The Abbey is so special because of its mission with the Seminary College. What could be greater than supporting a place that educates men to become priests and then sends them off to spread the word of God?" Billy said, smiling all the while.

MONASTIC COMMUNITY REMEMBERS FATHER MICHAEL JUNG & FATHER RAPHAEL BAROUSSE



Father Michael Jung

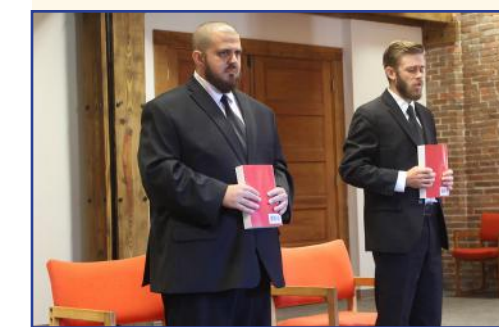


Father Raphael Barousse

Father Michael Jung passed away last May 29th at 84 years old. Harold Jung was born on November 30, 1935, in Bogalusa, LA. After grammar school, he attended high school and junior college at Saint Joseph Seminary, and, after graduating, entered the novitiate of Saint Joseph Abbey. He made his first monastic profession in 1957, receiving the name Michael and was ordained a priest in 1963. He was Dean of Students and Vice-Rector of Saint Joseph Seminary College, where he also taught philosophy to generations of students. Having grown up in a lumber mill town, he had an affinity for the woods, and he served for many years as manager of the Abbey forest.

Father Raphael Barousse died peacefully at the Abbey on October 29. Born John Barousse in Jennings, Louisiana, on March 6, 1930, he graduated from Saint Joseph Seminary and entered Saint Joseph Abbey in 1949. He suffered a deformity which cost him his left eye, and so, when he made monastic profession on August 25, 1950, he took the name Raphael, the angel who healed the blindness of the aged Tobit. Father Raphael was ordained to the priesthood on May 30, 1955. He celebrated the 70th anniversary of his monastic profession last June at the Abbey Church.

MARTIN KRECKER & PHILLIP GORDY ENTER NOVITIATE



The monastic community at the Abbey welcomed Martin Krecker (left) and Phillip Gordy into the Novitiate during a private ceremony on a Sunday morning last September in the Monastery Chapter Room. For the next year, leading up to their first vows, both men will immerse themselves in the monastery, contributing to the life of the community in prayer and work (*Ora et Labora*). Congratulations to both of them on this significant step in their lives.

NECROLOGY

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

GLADYS LAFFITTE AMEDEE	ROBERT F. KIEFER	THOMAS JEFFERSON "T.J." ROGERS
EUSE MARIE CHARBONNET ANGELETTE	VIRGIE RIHNER KRAUS	ALLAN LOUIS RONQUILLO, SR.
CLAUDETTE ARCEMENT	RANDALL LADNIER '61	DR. ALICE THERESA MURCHIO RUSBAR
THOMAS "MIKE" BROUSSARD '71	PERCY J. LEGENDRE, JR.	JAMES WHITSON SANGUINETTI
MANUEL EDMOND CABIRO, JR. '62	STEPHEN ROY LEGENDRE, SR. '62	RUTH CHIASSON SAX
JOSEPH PATRICK CASKEY '55	BENNO JOSEPH LEONARDS '52	JUDGE PATRICK M. SCHOTT
NOEL ANTHONY DAIGLE '57	SHIRLEY RAPHAEL LEVY	JAMES ALLEN SCOTT
KAREN BUWE DIETZ	HENRY FILMORE MESTAYER '49	MSGR. MAURICE LOUIS SHIELDS
GRACE ANN G. FAULKNER	DR. FRANK E. MINYARD	DONALD SCOTT STROBLE
LORA LEE COURREGG FERRAN	ALICIA LOREDO MONGE	BERNARD TEKIPPE '62
PAUL E. FREDERICK	ANNE WARREN MONTGOMERY	FRANCES "TUT" FOURNIER TRAHAN
EUGENE A. FRISCH, JR.	DERLAND PAUL MOORE	YVETTE TABARY VILLARRUBIA
EDMOND L. GUIDRY, JR. '44	ODIS FRANK NEWSOM	STERLING WHITEY WADENPFUHL '64
BETTY L. CHAISSON GUNN	MARGARET LARMANN OSTERHOLD	DONALD JOSEPH WEBRE '63
STACEY MADERE HENRY	AUDREY McMURRAY PECHON	LOLITA DEL PILAR MARTINEZ WEGMANN
DANIEL E. HOSSLEY '62	DR. JAMES R. PELTIER	FRANCIS JOSEPH WEINGARTNER '56
CECILE W. HYMEL	FELIX DONALD POCHÉ	THOMAS "TOMMY" ANDREW WILBERT, JR.
DAVID S. JOACHIM '70	JOHN KENT PUGH '57	MARILYN CAREY ZAERINGER
EVA MARIE MILLER JESSUP	MICHAEL J. REYNOLDS	