

SAVE THE DATE

ABBHEY YOUTH FESTIVAL

MARCH 21, 2015

Please keep our youth in your prayers on this day of enlightenment into the wonderful world of vocations of our faith. Register on-line: abbeyyouthfest.com

95TH ANNUAL ALUMNI HOMECOMING*

APRIL 10, 2015

Register on-line at sjasc.edu.

SAINT BEN'S GOLF OPEN*

APRIL 16, 2015

*Helping hands are needed for Alumni Events. Please contact: Fr. Matthew Clark, Alumni Director at (985) 867-2245 or mrclark@sjasc.edu for more information.

MUSICA DA CAMERA

APRIL 19, 2015 3PM

Baroque Classical Concert
Free & Open to the Public
Abbey Church

MONK RUN

APRIL 24, 2015

Join us for our annual 1 mile/5K Trail Walk/Run that's fun for all ages and athletic abilities. Registration forms available on-line at sjasc.edu. For more information contact: Patrick Gilbreath at pgilbreath@sjasc.edu

SAINT JOSEPH SEMINARY COLLEGE 123RD COMMENCEMENT

MAY 8, 2015

SOLEMNITY OF SAINT BENEDICT Oblate Day of Recollection

JULY 11, 2015

DEO GRATIAS At The Abbey

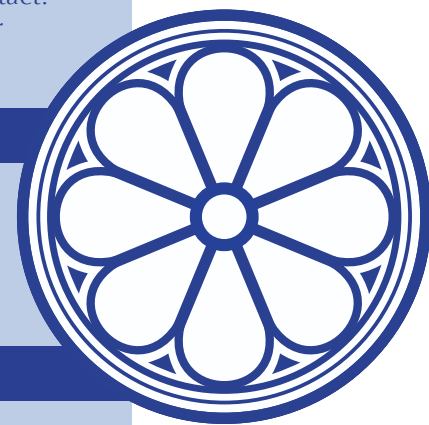
OCTOBER 24, 2015

Two events merge: Deo Gratias Covington and Deo Gratias Baton Rouge come together for a delightful evening that is sure to be twice the fun!

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

saintjosephabbey.com

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.

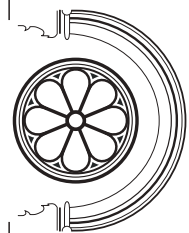


SAINT JOSEPH SEMINARY COLLEGE MISSION STATEMENT
Saint Joseph Seminary College is a community of faith and learning, rooted in the Benedictine tradition, that promotes the development of the whole person. Its academic and formation programs foster the commitment of seminarians to the Roman Catholic priesthood 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.



ABBHEY VOICE

VOLUME 36 • WINTER 2015



SAINT JOSEPH ABBEY + SEMINARY COLLEGE

Giving Opportunities

Your financial support is greatly appreciated.
Donations can be made on-line at:
[saintjosephabbey.com "donate"](http://saintjosephabbey.com/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) 867-2255

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

THE ABBEY VOICE

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SAINT JOSEPH ABBEY
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ABBOT'S LETTER

Abbot Justin Brown, O.S.B.

Over this anniversary year an image that keeps coming to my mind is of a photograph found in our pictorial history "A Century of Grace". The picture depicts what remains of the monastery and seminary just after the devastating fire of 1907. Everything was destroyed except the cast iron statue of Saint Joseph brought from the first monastery in Gessen, now standing a solitary figure among a pile of ashes. While our monastic forefathers lost everything material that day except for the statue, its presence among the ruins was a reminder that even in the midst of all this loss and tragedy, for a young monk had died trying to save books in the library, they still had the fatherly care and intercession of Saint Joseph. They may have lost their material possessions but they had not lost their greatest possession: a God who is always faithful. This statue of Saint Joseph which for over 80 years stood over the entrance of the monastery now stands in the courtyard of the Seminary as a daily reminder of our patron's intercession and fatherly care. It is a reminder to all of us who when we find ourselves in life standing among the ruins, nearly stripped of everything, that our greatest possession remains, the loving providence of a God who makes all things new. This faith, built and re-built this monastery and seminary, it is our very foundation, the foundation upon which we build a future full of hope, making the words of our founder, Fr. Luke Gruwe, O.S.B. our own words, "Thank God a thousand times over, we are the ones elected for this task."

+ Justin Brown O.S.B.

RECTOR'S LETTER



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

During our Thanksgiving and Christmas breaks, Mr. Matt Rousso and I accompanied groups of senior class members to "take a walk" with the people of Esquipulas, Guatemala. This is a part of their preparation for priesthood as they seek to learn how to be effective pastoral leaders to the Global Church. Indeed the Lord always reveals Himself best with those who take a walk with Him. Scripture is filled with wonderful walks that God took with people that He called to leadership positions. It is fitting

that our seniors then began the year with this image of walking with the poorest of the poor. I use this as a model for us to reflect on the opening of school in my Homily delivered at the Mass of the Holy Spirit commemorating the beginning of the spring semester. Seminary formation indeed is taking a walk and being accompanied by God, as well as those that represent His church, namely the Seminary Formation Program and its officials. With 135 students enrolled, we are excited to see that more and more young men are responding to take this walk with God. In a culture where speed is king, seminary formation deliberately slows down the pace of life so that all who choose to enter will come to a greater understanding and knowledge of Who it is that is calling them and why. As we celebrate our 125 years as a monastery, the monks of this Abbey have walked with many countless men, many of whom became priests and others who have been very successful in other walks of life. We give thanks to God for all those who have decided to journey with us and we ask God to continue bestowing His blessing upon us.

J. Gregory Boquet O.S.B.



Saint Joseph Abbey and Seminary College celebrated the quasiquicentennial (125th anniversary) of their founding with a Mass on October 4, 2014. The Most Reverend Gregory Aymond, Archbishop of New Orleans and Chancellor of the Seminary College, was the celebrant and homilist. He was joined in the sanctuary by Abbot Justin Brown and the monastic community, along with visiting bishops, abbots, and priests. Members of the seminary community, faculty, staff, alumni, and dear friends and supporters of the Abbey and its apostolates also attended the Mass.

Special guests included Archabbot Justin DuVall of Saint Meinrad Archabbey (motherhouse of Saint Joseph Abbey), Abbot Héctor Sosa Paz of the Abbey of Jesus Christ Crucified in Esquipulas, Guatemala (daughterhouse of Saint Joseph Abbey), and Abbot Vincent Bataille, Abbot President of the Swiss-American Benedictine Congregation.

In his homily, Archbishop Aymond spoke of not only the foundation of the abbey and seminary, which through the nourishment of God's fidelity has become holy ground not only to the monks and seminarians who have studied at Saint Ben's, but to all who have come to know the Abbey through its apostolates. After giving thanks and sharing his affection for the monks and all the monastery has done for the Archdiocese of New Orleans and the people of God, he concluded his homily: *This monastery and this seminary are built on a very, very firm foundation: built on Christ, on Saint Benedict, and the loving care of Saint Joseph. This will forever be holy ground.*

Abbot Justin Brown, Archabbot Justin DuVall, and Abbot Vincent Bataille



More pictures and procession video can be seen on our website - saintjosephabbey.com

BLESSINGS IN GROWTH

Saint Joseph Seminary College enrollment continues a steady growth with an enrollment of 135 seminarians. The college continues to improve and expand facilities to make student life more embracing to the four pillars of priestly formation.



The Saints Peter and Paul Chapel in Vianney Hall was recently blessed by Abbot Justin. The chapel is named after the sons of Gloria and Harold Callais and dedicated to the memory of her son, Peter and Paul, and her late husband.

The renovation of the old student Oratory in Pius X Hall was completed in time for the fall semester and has enough seating to accommodate expected student population growth.

Additionally, students now enjoy a renovated area located across from the gym, tennis courts, and playing field aptly named the Saint Lawrence Grill. St. Lawrence, a martyr, is the patron saint of cooks and chefs.

Funding for the renovation of the student Oratory and the Saint Lawrence Grill came from Saint Ben's Alumni Association's Annual Phonathon and Golf Open.

As the seminary expands to meet the spiritual, human, pastoral and intellectual needs of our growing student population, so must our budget stretch to meet the ever-growing need for expanded and improved facilities.

SPOT LIGHT ON PRIESTLY FORMATION

True Leaders Empower Others

EQUESTRIAN PROGRAM Strengthens Leadership Skills

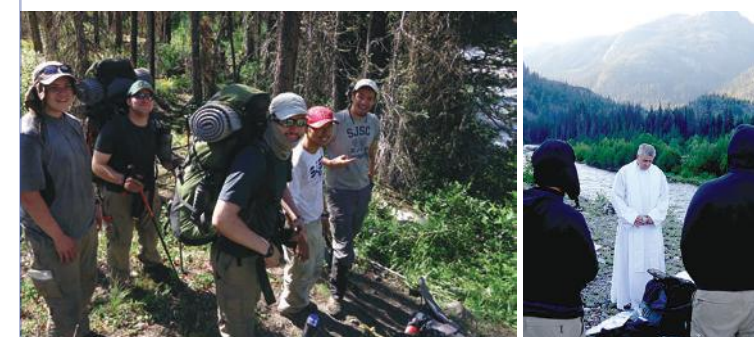
This past Fall the Seminary College instituted an Equestrian Program to help students develop a sense of self-sufficiency and build skills for strengthening interpersonal relationships. It offers seminarians the opportunity to cultivate a relationship with their steed in which the student becomes the responsible caretaker while building a sense of loyalty and interdependence. The program fosters relationships with other students as they work together on a common project. It is a venue through which students from different class levels and with otherwise, diverse interests, have an opportunity to work closely together.



(Pictured Above from Left to Right): Kyle Norris, William Suarez, Alan Salazar, Miguel Torres, Caleb Gilchrist, Matthew Gossen, Chase Rodrigue, Kyle Neersta, Joshua Alexander, Casey Dugas

WYOMING WILDERNESS ADVENTURE: Pushing Beyond Known Limits

This past July, Father Gregory Boquet, President-Rector, accompanied eight seminarians to the Grand Teton National Park where they had the opportunity to experience the awakening of previously unknown leadership skills by participating in Wyoming Catholic College's Wilderness Program. For a week our seminarians learned through living in the wilderness. They were totally dependent on their own inner strength and that of their brother seminarians. This allowed them to gain and use the skills necessary to survive the wilderness as a group. Learning through experience rather than the theory of a classroom scenario proved to be beneficial in developing previously unknown leadership skills as each seminarian was challenged beyond his known limits.



(Pictured Above from Left to Right): Jimmy Colfer, Donald Bernard, Cody Murphy, Wayne Ly, Levi Thompson; (Not Pictured Here): John Casey, Preston Losack, Brett Metzler

Fr. Gregory and seminarians celebrating mass at campsite

Department of Institutional Advancement (DIA) is realized at SAINT JOSEPH ABBEY + SEMINARY COLLEGE

Years of strategic planning have preceded this initiative to design and manage a comprehensive, integrated program for Development, Marketing and Communications. The newly instituted Department of Institutional Advancement is led by Executive

Director, **Victoria White Berger**, who has been an executive in non-profit administration and fund development for 30 years. Her last major posts were National Director of Development for the Society of St. Vincent de Paul USA, and Secretary of Develop-

ment and Communications in Bishop Terry Steib's cabinet at the Catholic Diocese of Memphis and West Tennessee. Victoria recently earned her Master's Degree in Philosophy from the University of Missouri at St. Louis.

Elisabeth Bains, Manager of Annual Operations, has over 25 years experience in business development, most recently, as

GUATEMALA MISSION IMMERSION Ministry to the Universal Church builds servant leadership skill



Seminarians Sammy Merritt, John Casey, Patrick Gilbreath, Luke Robicheaux, and Chad Aubert gather with children of Esquipulas, Guatemala

Our 30 seniors traveled in 3 different groups to Esquipulas in Eastern Guatemala to participate in the mission immersion program. The city is where in 1959 Saint Joseph Abbey founded the monastery of Abadía de Jesucristo Crucificado, which in 1982 was raised to the status of Abbey.

But our seminarians didn't stay at the Abbey during their time in Esquipulas. Putting aside the comforts of home, they lived in a mission house in a very poor, rural settlement in order to experience being immersed in another culture, not just visiting. For these groups, Thanksgiving, New Year's or the semester break were spent living among the people of Barrio Santa Ana.

The mission trip was about "being with, living with and walking with" the people learning what true "servant leadership" means. Their goal was to come alongside the people and empower rather than do for them. Our seminarians worked with a group of local residents to develop two gardens where the people chose to grow radishes and cilantro. They visited schools and engaged with families. "It's essential to get out of your own comfort zone and 'be' in a lifestyle you have never seen before in order to develop new gifts," said Matt Rouso, Director of the Maryknoll Mission Education Office.

Rouso, who also accompanied the students stressed that "leadership skills grow through experiences that expand your horizon and broaden your perspective."

Father Gregory Boquet, President-Rector, who also accompanied the students said, "our students engaged with another culture, expe-



development officer for special projects at the University of New Orleans and as Northshore Director of United Way for the Greater New Orleans Area.

Kit Friedrichs-Baumann, former Director of AYF and Projects, is the new Director of Events and Marketing. Her functions also include Volunteer Program operations. Kit has worked at SJASC for

the past ten years. **Kathy Nastasi**, Events and Marketing Administrative Specialist, also joins the DIA. She has many years of experience managing large scale fundraising events for area Catholic schools.

Sharon Carraway is Director of Communications. She has worked at SJASC for the past three years as Manager of Special Events and

DIACONATE ORDINATION



Brother Ephrem Arcement was ordained a transitional deacon on October 11, 2014 by Bishop Michael

Duca of Shreveport. A 2001 graduate of the Seminary College, Brother Ephrem entered the abbey in 2010 and made his solemn monastic profession on July 11, 2014.

In January of 2013 he graduated from The Catholic University of America with a Ph.D. in Spirituality. His dissertation, *In the School of Prophets: The Formation of Thomas Merton's Prophetic Spirituality*, is being published by Liturgical Press in March.

Archbishop Gregory Aymond of New Orleans will ordain Brother Ephrem a priest in April.



CHRISTIAN LIFE CENTER (CLC) FLOURISHING

Father Paul Hart became Director of Retreats for the Abbey Christian Life Center (CLC) in January of 2014. Deacon Mark Coudrain has run the CLC since Father Thomas Perrier passed away in 2009. Both Deacon Mark and Father Hart have worked together diligently to bring about the positive changes our guests have enjoyed this past year.

Having a priest once again in residence during retreats conveys a new level of spirituality to the retreat experience. He opens the doors with a warm greeting, ministers to the



attendees, connects retreat participants to a taste of Benedictine life and gives a heartfelt send-off back into the world. "The monastery atmosphere is unique. I think it's important for those on retreat to experience mass with the monastic

community," said Fr. Hart. He is also available to provide spiritual direction and offer days of recollection. Some upgrades to the retreat experience include meals prepared on site. Fr. Hart added "Having meals cooked on-site sends the beckoning aromas through the halls. We also offer three kinds of coffee, the rooms are adorned with new bedspreads and retreat participants receive a CLC bag and book of prayers."

The CLC hosts more than 20 annual league retreats, other Catholic retreats, and private retreats. Fr. Hart invites you to "Retreat to the Peace at the Abbey. Our goal is to fill all 40 rooms for league retreats." Register on-line for upcoming retreats at saintjosephabbey.com.

The CLC operates as a ministry of Saint Joseph Abbey and runs on donations from retreat participants and supporters. Donations for center operations and facilities upgrades may also be made on-line.

SAINT BENEDICT SOCIETY

Each year on July 11, the Feast of Saint Benedict, we induct new members into the Saint Benedict Society. The Society recognizes those who have raised Saint Joseph Abbey+Seminary College to the level of "family", by making the Abbey and Seminary College part of their estate plans or have contributed to an endowed fund. Induction into the Society is at the election of the donor.



Congratulations to our Inaugural Members who were part of the Class of 2014. (Back Row Left to Right): Guy Chiappetta, Louis Soroe, Warren Arcement, Richard Jeansonne, Jr., Lynda Jeansonne, BeBe Babst, Walter Babst, Fr. Paul Hart, Pierre Bezou, Fr. Douglas Brougier, Edwin Schroeder; (Front Row Left to Right): Nell Chiappetta, Sylvia Sandberg, Nancy Arcement, Yvette O'Rourke, Gloria Callais, Abbot Justin Brown, Karen Bezou, Fr. Robert Cavalier, Marietta Schroeder (Not Pictured): Warren Caire, Lynn Cucullu, Mary Lou Cucullu, Dan O'Rourke, and Dori Soroe

NECROLOGY

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

- VERY REVEREND THAN NGOC VU, Alumna, Class of '80
- REVEREND CLARENCE JOSEPH WAGUESPACK, Alumna, Class of '57
- THOMAS NIELSEN, SR., Father of Alumnus Thomas Nielsen, Jr., Class of '79
- ELIZABETH WHELAN JUNG, Mother of Fr. Michael Jung, O.S.B.
- CARLOS D. FANDAL, Alumna, Class of '58
- AL AUTIN, Alumna, Class of '71
- FRANCIS FALER, Alumna, Class of '40
- ED LIGON, Friend of the Abbey
- REVEREND CANON BENEDICT SONGY, Ph.D., Alumna, Class of '49
- JUNE PERRONE, Friend of the Abbey
- MRS. IDA MIALARET, Friend of the Abbey
- JOE PARK, Friend of the Abbey, Husband of Tootsie Park



ANNUITIES for SAINT JOSEPH

On behalf of our Benedictine Community, we invite you to participate in **Annuities for Saint Joseph**. This program presents to our committed donors an opportunity for long-term financial planning while also helping with the essential operating needs of Saint Joseph Abbey+Seminary College. These needs, as you know, are many and diverse. We hope to engage your support through this proposed leadership giving.



For details on these and other planned giving programs, please contact:

Victoria White Berger at 985.867.2235 or vberger@sjasc.edu.