

**SAINT JOSEPH ABBEY + SEMINARY
ONE HUNDRED TWENTY-FIVE YEARS**

Schedule of Events:

January 29, 2014
Opening Vespers: Abbot Justin Brown, O.S.B.,
Presiding

February 12, 2014
Vianney Hall Ribbon Cutting

February 12, 2014 - 7:30 pm
Lecture: Bishop Provost
"Influence of Saint Joseph Abbey + Seminary
College on the Church in Louisiana"
Benet Hall - Public Invited

February 23, 2014 - 3 pm
French Organist, Thomas Kientz
Abbey Church - Public Invited

March 9, 2014 - 3 pm
Piano concert: Fr. Seán Duggan, O.S.B.
Benet Hall - Public Invited

March 30, 2014
Deo Gratias: Baton Rouge

April 25, 2014
Alumni Homecoming Celebration

April 26, 2014 - 3 pm
Voice recital: Mr. Colby McCurdy, Music Director,
accompanied by Fr. Seán Duggan, O.S.B.
Benet Hall - Public Invited

June, 2014
Benedictine Parish Gathering / BBQ
St. Benedict, St. John the Baptist, Holy Family,
and Annunciation Parish Communities

September 26, 2014 - 7 pm
Lecture: Luke Timothy Johnson
"The Prophetic Role of Monasticism Today"
Benet Hall - Public Invited

September 28, 2014 - 3 pm
Musica da Camera
Abbey Church - Public Invited

October 4, 2014 - 11 am
MAIN CELEBRATION

October 5, 2014 - 3 pm
Organ Concert: Mr. Robert LeBlanc
Abbey Church - Public Invited

November 1, 2014
Deo Gratias: Covington

November 9, 2014 - 3 pm
Schola Cantorum Recital / Lecture
Fr. Aelred Kavanaugh, O.S.B., Lecturer,
Mr. Colby McCurdy, Music Director,
Fr. Seán Duggan, O.S.B., Accompanist

November 30, 2014 - 3 pm
Musica da Camera
Abbey Church - Public Invited

January 28, 2015 - Closing Vespers



1889

Fr. Luke Gruwe, O.S.B., born in Liesborn, Westphalia, Germany, had planned to become an architect. Instead, he became a priest and a founder of a monastery.



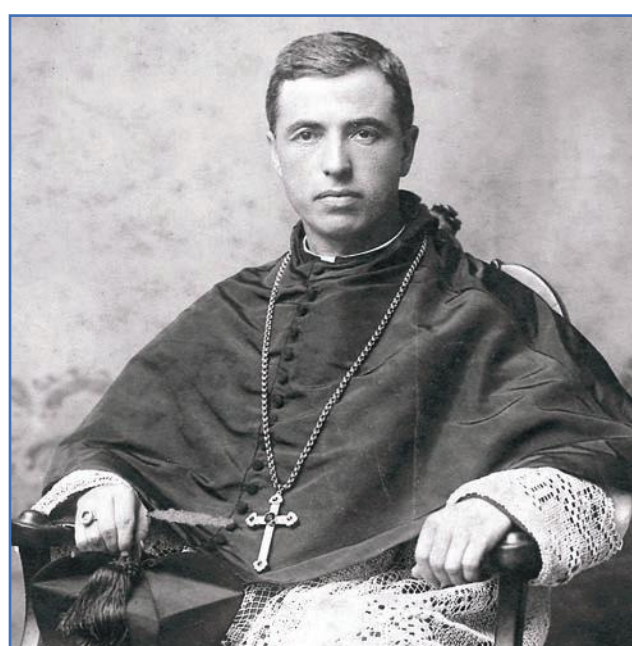
1891

Saint Joseph Priory and Seminary were built in Gessen, Louisiana in Tangipahoa civil parish.



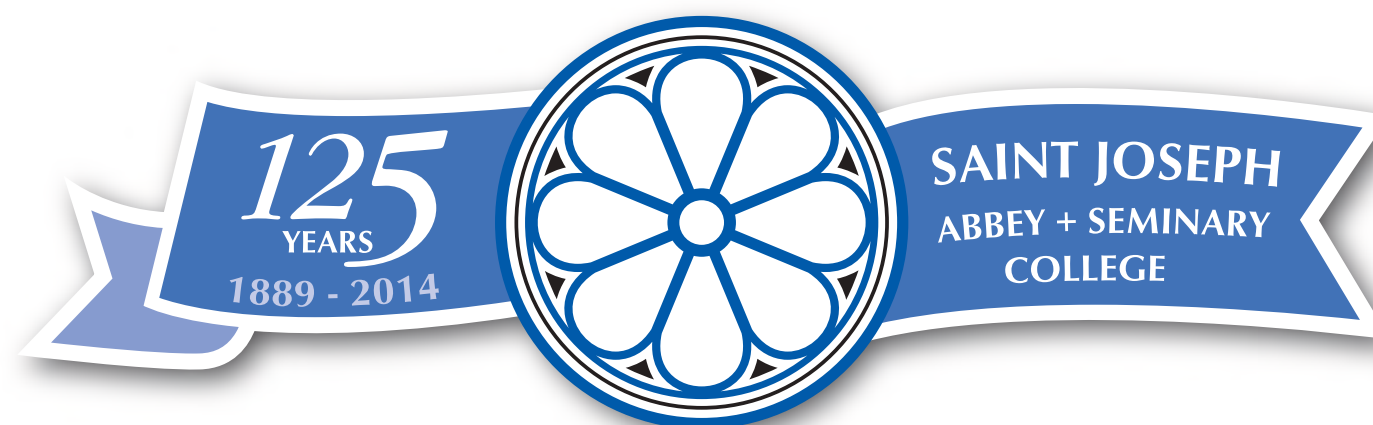
1901

On property purchased in 1901, the first Covington plant was built. Unfavorable conditions in Gessen had prompted the move.



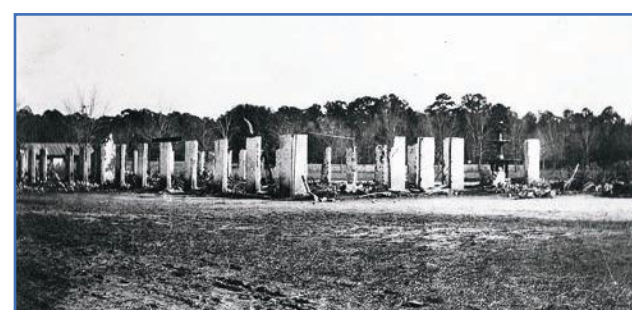
1902

Fr. Paul Schaeuble, O.S.B. became Prior and, later, the first Abbot, succeeding Fr. Luke.



SAINT JOSEPH ABBEY CELEBRATES 125 YEARS OF SERVICE

The history of Saint Joseph Abbey and Seminary College began in the fall of 1889, with the arrival of Fr. Luke Gruwe, O.S.B. and three Brothers from St. Meinrad Abbey in Indiana. Now, 125 years later, we look back on how, through the years, both in joyful and in difficult times, the seed they planted has grown into what we are today. Much took place during that long history. In this issue, we highlight events of the years from 1889 to 1956, under the leadership of Fr. Luke, Abbot Paul Schaeuble, and Abbot Columban Thuis. Next issue will cover the years of the three Abbots who followed.



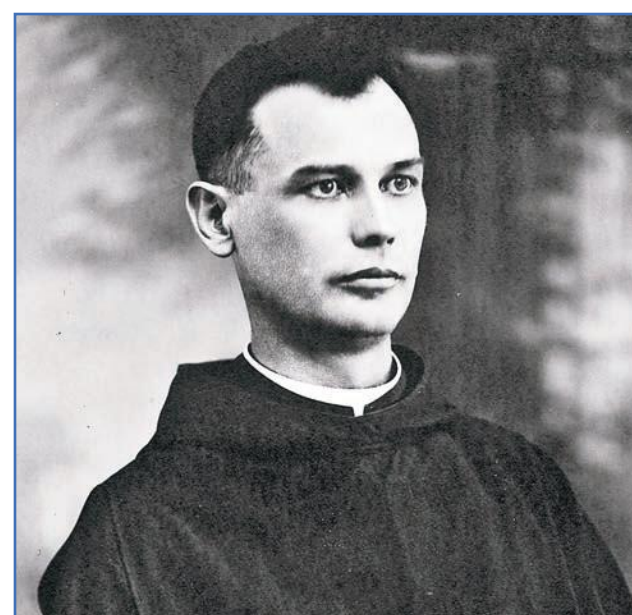
1907

Fire, caused by flames from an over-stoked furnace, completely destroyed the main monastery and seminary building in less than an hour.



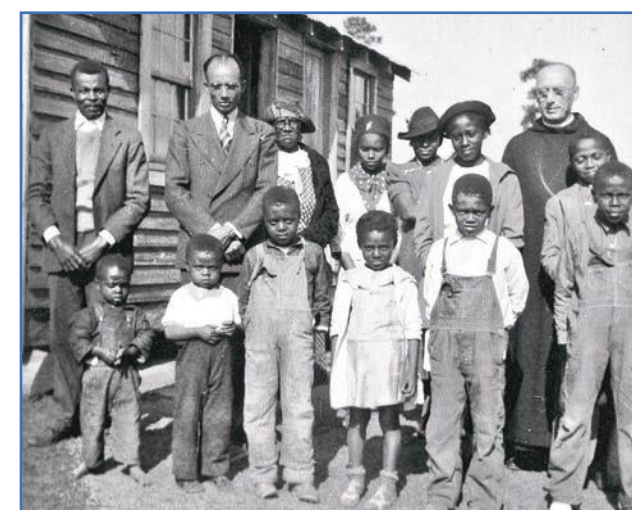
1909

The first school year in the new building began on 30 September. After the fire, the seminary had been using the abandoned St. Mary's Orphan Asylum in New Orleans.



1918

From 1918 until 1921 and from 1923 until 1946, Fr. Adalbert Svrcek served as seminary rector. The enrollment outgrew available space and temporary facilities had to be provided.



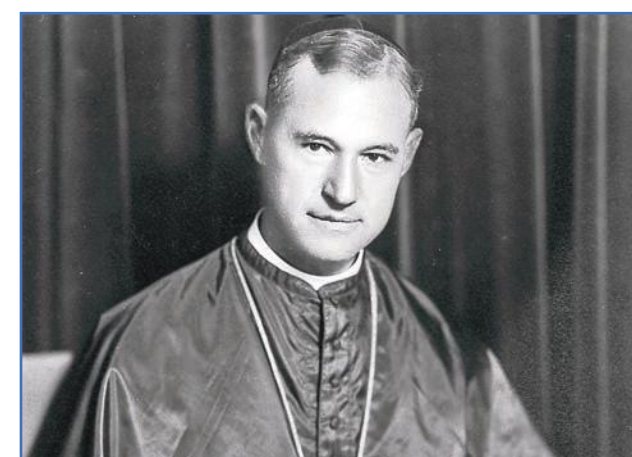
1900's

Fr. Odilo Alt, because of the length and fruitfulness of his ministry in the area, became known as the "North Lake Missionary".



1932

The capstone of Abbot Paul's term, the Abbey Church, was completed and dedicated in January.



1932

Fr. Columban Thuis of St. Meinrad Abbey was formally blessed as the second abbot on January 6, in the first ceremony in the new church.



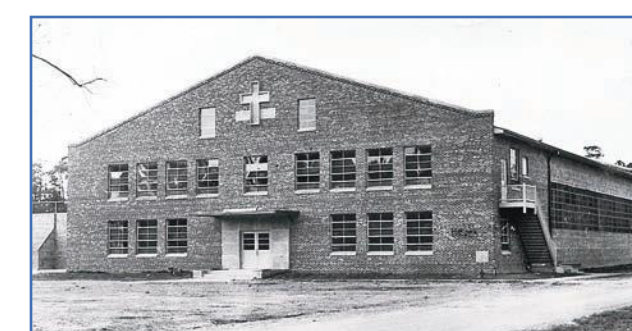
1937

Working to improve the monastery's liturgical celebrations, Abbot Columban himself organized and directed scholas. This was the cornerstone of the monastery's reputation for its musical and liturgical appreciation.



1946

Abbot Columban begins a program of enhancement of the abbey, and commissions Fr. Gregory deWit, a Dutch monk from Belgium, to paint murals in the church and monastery dining room.



1952

The new gymnasium, a testament to the students' avid interest in sports, was dedicated on March 20.



FR. PAUL REMEMBERS

Father Paul Miranne, senior member of the community, has known all five Abbots. When he came to the seminary in 1936, Abbot Paul was still living, but had been replaced by Abbot Columban Thuis.

cont... We recently sat with Fr. Paul to talk about his 77 years in community and his memories from these many years. He shared stories of his years in the monastery and his varied ministries: visiting priest to parishes in La Place, New Orleans, Algiers, and Metairie for 65 years; Prefect of Discipline in the seminary; manager of Abbey maintenance for 20 years; year-round caretaker of Camp Abbey for countless ones, and Prior

Tell some of your early memories of the Abbey. Abbot Paul was still living, but he was elderly then. Abbot Columban came from St. Meinrad's, and Fr. Raymond Egler came with him and was novice master. Fr. Odilo Alt was Prior. Fr. Gerald Hindman and I were good friends, and as the Abbot's secretary, he was around him enough to know his ways. He would entertain us younger monks with imitations of Abbot Columban.

I remember when Dom Gregory deWit came to paint the church and the refectory. He lived in what we called "the house on the hill", when it was between the lakes. I thank God for him every time I look at the painting of the Last Supper in the refectory. One day Mr. Roland Boisvert who was our organist was practicing and Dom Gregory was painting. When Dom Gregory heard the music for "Lauda Festa Dies", he came down, and the two of them sang it so loudly it filled the church.

I always loved the liturgies, especially Gregorian chant, which was what drew me to the monastery. And I liked the Latin. Those are gone now. The abbey church, well, they don't build churches like that anymore.

When I entered, the seminarians still lived in the monastery, and the Brothers, who were separate from the monks at that time, had their own space. Later, when the Brothers moved to the monastery, I was one of the ones who worked to demolish their house.

What was the size of the community when you entered? What was the largest?

At one time, we were seventy-five in community. And this was during the time when the monks and seminarians shared the same building. From 1908 until 1960, the seminarians occupied the west end. What is now the annex was then bathrooms. Senior seminarians had the second floor, and for a while I was prefect there.

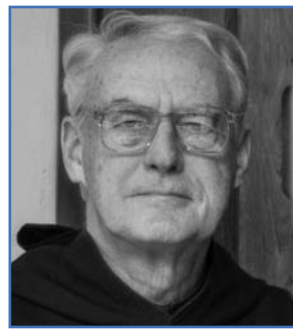
What would you consider the best of times? The hardest of times?

I especially liked the years under Abbot David. I was Prior then for five years. He was very direct, and you always knew where you stood with him. Before we had air-conditioning was the hardest. If you had a room on third floor, you were right under that roof, and that was not pleasant. So I guess part of the best of times is now; we no longer have to contend with that.

Any regrets? Regrets, no. But I do get sad when I think of the friends I had who are gone now. Some have died and some left the community years ago. They were good men, and I felt the loss. But there are many things that make me glad. One of them is Alumni Day. I especially like to hear the stories they fabricate about my days as prefect.



Fr. Seán Duggan



Abbot Patrick Regan

SEMINARY NEWS

Student Enrollment Increases

The Seminary College began its 123rd year on August 26 with some notable changes. The most significant of these, a cause of thanksgiving, was an enrollment of one hundred twenty students, the highest in thirty-five years. The last three years had brought increases, but none as large.

This was not, however, without its burdens. Although the Seminary College was already in the process of renovating in order to provide living space for more seminarians, the larger number took all by surprise. "This fall, we again had to ask the monks to house eighteen seminarians in the monastery until living space was ready," said Rev. Gregory Boquet, O.S.B., President- Rector. "But it is a problem I'm glad to have." Students will move to the newly renovated Vianney Hall in January.

Abbot Patrick and Fr. Seán Rejoin Faculty

This summer the Abbey welcomed back two of its members who had been teaching elsewhere. Abbot Patrick Regan, O. S. B., who taught in the seminary college for over thirty years until 2002, had spent the past eleven years as an associate professor of liturgy and sacramental theology at the Pontifical Athenaeum of Saint Anselm in Rome. He also served as Junior Master of the temporary professed monks studying there, and as guest master. He joins the Division of Philosophy and Theological Studies to teach a course on the liturgical year. Rev. Seán Duggan, O.S.B., an accomplished musician who won first prize in the Johann Sebastian Bach International Competition for Pianists in Washington, D.C., in 1983 and again in 1991 is also back on the faculty. From 1988 to 2001 he taught music, Latin, and religion in the Seminary College, and was director of music and organist. Then, from 2001 to 2004, he was a visiting professor of piano at the University of Michigan, and then associate professor of piano at SUNY Fredonia. He was a guest artist and adjudicator at the Chautauqua Institution for several summers, and a faculty member of the Golandsky Institute at Princeton, New Jersey. He will teach Latin and music.

New faculty

The Seminary College also welcomed new faculty members. Ms. Elizabeth Davis, a former secondary school and university teacher and media specialist, teaches literature and speech. Mr. Wayne Cruthirds, after teaching thirty-three years at St. Scholastica Academy and chairing of the English Department there for ten years, will teach Latin. Ms. Betty Soto, a former faculty member at University of Hawaii, American University, University of Maryland, and Loyola University will teach ESL. Rev. David Keong Seid, O.P., will teach psychology courses and be an Adjunct Spiritual Director.

94th ALUMNI HOMECOMING

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Easter Friday, 25 April
Check-in begins at 12:30
Seating in Church is limited

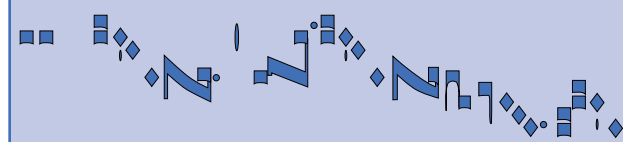
Please register in advance!

Register on the web: www.sjasc.edu
For more information contact:
Vanessa Crouere
985 867-2242 or vcrouere@sjasc.edu

NECROLOGY

Rev. David Bellinghausen, O.S.B., '83
Raoul "Yockey" Bernard, uncle of Abbot Justin
Gary Bloom, friend of the Abbey
Lindy Boggs, friend of the Abbey
Rev. Msgr. Joseph Bourque, '46
Michael Braud, father of Colin Braud, '09
Edgar Cantrelle, Jr., friend of the Abbey
Betsy Carlini, sister of Fr. Dominic Braud, O.S.B. (d.)
John Gauci, '58
Madeleine Grenier, sister of Warren Caire, '54
Gladys Hom, friend of the Abbey
Albert Hymel, '45
Ben Kelley, friend of the Abbey
Mary Louise Levy, friend of the Abbey
Leeke Magee, friend of the Abbey
Louis Massett, Oblate of the Abbey
David Masterson, father of J.P. Masterson, '13
Ruth Mayronne, Oblate of the Abbey
James Neuner, friend of the Abbey
Rev. Louis Oubre, '82
Virginia "Dinky" Powers, friend of the Abbey
Mary Scafide, mother of Kyle Scafide, '84
Most Rev. Jude Speyerer, D.D., '47
Earl Vedros, '52
Theodore Wall, friend of the Abbey
Sr. Waldia Warden, O.P., friend of the Abbey

DEO GRATIAS 2014 DATES



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Deo Gratias - Baton Rouge SUNDAY EVENING, 30 MARCH

Vespers with Schola Cantorum at 5:30 pm
Catholic Life Center - Baton Rouge
tickets are \$75 each

Register on the web: www.sjasc.edu

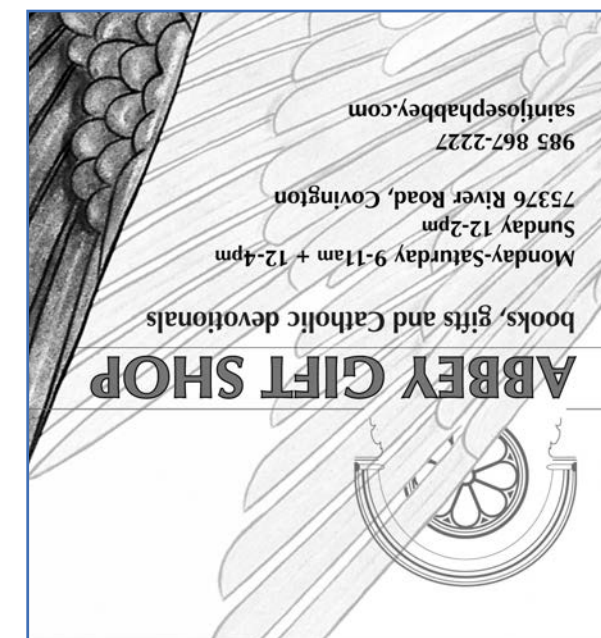
SAVE THE DATE!

Deo Gratias - Covington SATURDAY EVENING, 1 NOVEMBER

Vespers with Schola Cantorum at 6:00 pm

For more information contact:

Sharon Carraway
985 867-2234 or scarraway@sjasc.edu



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ABBOT'S LETTER

Abbot Justin Brown, O.S.B.

On December 24, 1889, Fr. Luke Gruwe, O.S.B. wrote a letter to Abbot Finton Mundweiler, O.S.B. at Saint Meinrad Abbey shortly after he viewed the property in Louisiana which would become the first home of Saint Joseph Priory and Seminary. He wrote: "It is manifestly the Will of God that new seeds of life be strewn out upon the morally miry soil of Louisiana and thank God - My heart is overflowing with gladness - thank God a thousand times over that we are the ones He has selected for this task." Father Luke and Brothers Killian Gessner, Thaddeus Hoelzle, and Mattheus Stamm planted the seed of the new foundation through toil and hardship, with faith and trust in God. This seed sprouted and bore abundant fruit over the years and generations that followed. Saint Joseph, their heavenly patron, would never fail these pioneer monks and their descendants who, like them, faced each hardship and setback with faith and determination.

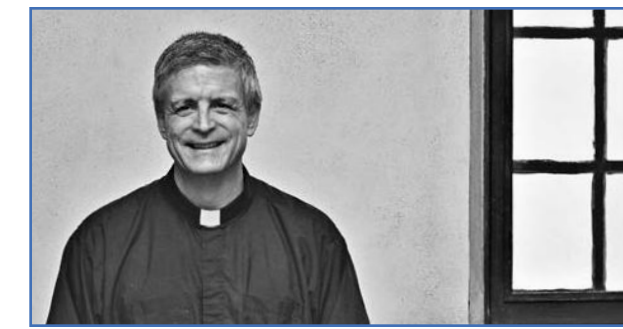
This year we mark the 125th Anniversary of the foundation of Saint Joseph Abbey and Seminary from its humble beginnings at Gessen, Louisiana, to its present home for the last 110 years on the Bogue Falaya River near Covington. During this year we are deeply conscious of the sacrifice and faith of the early monks who tended that new seed of life, especially of Abbot Paul Schaeuble, the first Abbot from 1903 -1931. He oversaw the move to Covington, the building and the rebuilding at the Abbey and Seminary following the devastating fire of 1907, and the building of the Abbey Church. A man of steadfast faith and trust in Divine Providence, he stood firm in every adversity and certainly must have pondered often the words of Psalm 127, "Unless the Lord build the house, those who labor, labor in vain."

In this 125th Anniversary year, we are grateful to the pioneer monks and all those who have gone before us and passed on the precious treasure of monastic life lived out at Saint Joseph Abbey, a life and mission as vital today as it was 125 years ago. We join our hearts and voices to those of Father Luke and Brothers Killian, Thaddeus and Mattheus, our founders, and we, too, say "thank God a thousand times over that we are the ones God has selected for this task."

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, O.S.B.

In the past 125 years, God has been very good to the Seminary College. You ask, "How has God been good?" Often, when someone says this, they are referring to some economic advancement. A man says, "God has been good to me", and by that he means that he got a raise in salary or his sales have increased 20% over last year. A woman says, "God has been good to me", and she means, "I just moved into a new house." This, however, though it may reflect God's goodness, is not what I mean. I refer to a much more important blessing.

Over these long years, several thousand young men have been educated and formed here. This was done in large part by the monks who witnessed to the goodness of God, not financially, but by their very lives. Although those who attended St. Ben's did not feel blessed by material abundance, they certainly experienced the goodness of God within this monastic setting. Community, liturgy, and learning, all part of the ages-old Benedictine tradition, were the expression of God's goodness they would carry away with them. Even tremendous growth in the student population is evidence of the goodness of God.

Certainly, during the years that the Seminary College has been in existence, it has had to face financial challenges. There were times when tuition, room, and board were not meeting operational expenses, and the monastic community contributed hundreds of thousands of dollars every year to ensure financial stability. The sacrifice and dedication of the monastic community, using its financial resources to keep the seminary operating, were also evidence of God's goodness.

We thank God that we have such strong support, because without it we could not do this valuable ministry of preparing men for the priesthood. God's goodness comes to us through all who support our work.

In whatever form this support takes, it comes from the goodness of God, which has sustained us throughout these 125 years. This is immeasurable. Everyday we can say with our founder, Father Luke, "My heart is overflowing with gladness."

G. Boquet

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.