



Fr. Paul and Abbot Justin at Fr. Paul's Jubilee Mass

## FR. PAUL'S PLATINUM JUBILEE

community celebrates 70 years of profession

On Friday, 25 May, the community of Saint Joseph Abbey and Seminary College celebrated the 70th "platinum" jubilee of the monastic profession of Fr. Paul Miranne in the Abbey Church. Fr. Paul professed first vows on 20 August 1942.

Father Paul, who will be 90 in July, has followed Christ faithfully in prayer and in many works. Never a stranger to work, both in the monastery and the seminary college, he served 18 years as seminary prefect and teacher of Latin, algebra, geometry, civics, chant and physical education. Serving 14 years in both seminary maintenance and janitorial service, he was also vice-rector of the seminary for eight years, 26 years in abbey general maintenance, five years as abbey prior, five years in seminary counseling and 18 years on the abbot's council. His service went beyond the abbey and seminary to 35 years of weekend parish assignments, most notably Saint Phillip Neri parish in Metairie, and 15 years as manager of Camp Abbey. While the sheer length of these years of service is impressive, what is most significant are the love and dedication behind those years. Through them all, Fr. Paul manifested the love of Christ to generations of seminarians, campers and parishioners.

Following the Jubilee Mass, Fr. Paul joined his family and friends in the monastic refectory for a festal supper with the monks.

## ABBEY ARCHIVE PROJECT

help us post the Abbey's history online

Under the leadership of the abbey's volunteer archivist, Dr. Charles Nolan, the abbey is attempting to identify events and people in photos from its archives. Thus was born the Abbey Archive Project.

The sketchy memories of a few older monks have proved insufficient to identify many of the old photos and the people in them. So we are appealing to our alumni to use their memories and help in the project

The plan is to scan old photos, post them to Flickr.com, and open up those collections to comments. Alumni and friends can tell us what they know about the photos in the comments section by signing in with their Flickr, Facebook or Gmail accounts. Those who don't have these accounts may click on a link to the Archive Project submission form. The number of the collection and the name of the photo in the form should be included in order.

Also in the plan is an attempt to update the film archives. The film is aging, which demands immediate work before it dissolves. This is imperative so film will not be lost. Help in any way to defray the cost of preserving the film would be most welcome. Donations for this may be made by contacting the abbey at alumni@sjasc.com, or by calling Alumni Director Fr. Matthew Clark at 985 867-2245.



John Hull and Golf chair Jerry Sixkiller, both '59

## ALUMNI NEWS

92nd Homecoming and the Annual Golf Open

St. Ben's alumni participated in two major events since Easter. On 13 April, the Alumni Association held its 92nd annual homecoming, honoring the classes of '52, '62, '72, '82, '87, '92, '02 and '12. Then, on 10 May, it sponsored the annual St. Ben's Golf Open.

Homecoming opened with a General Assembly. At the assembly, updates were provided on the state of the college, notably the increase in seminarian enrollment; the monastic community; upcoming events; and a sneak peek at the Vianney Hall restoration project. Fr. Matthew Clark, Alumni Director, announced that the alumni retreat would be revived next year at the CLC on the weekend of Homecoming. More details will be given in updates over the summer.

Principal Celebrant for the Mass that followed was Bishop Robert W. Muench of Baton Rouge. Deacon Wilfred P. Robichaux of the Archdiocese of New Orleans gave the homily. Clergy honorees concelebrated, and Deacon honorees were invited to vest. The Alumni Schola Cantorum led the music for the Mass.

A social in Christ Court preceded the dinner prepared by the kitchen staff and served in the Student Refectory. Many alumni stayed afterward to share stories of their years at Saint Ben's.

The golf tournament at Covington Country Club attracted 84 priest and lay alumni, and a number of friends, including one who came from Texas for the event. Playing 18 holes in a scramble format, the players vied for first place, low gross, and first place, low net. The team of Don, Wingter, George Kellet, Peter Breslin, and Carlo Maniglia won the prize for low gross, a foursome at Money Hill Country Club, with a score of 59. The prize for low gross, a foursome at Tchefonct Country Club, went to the team of Msgr. Frank Girior, Danny Steib, Henry Steib, and Al Zahn, with their score of 65.

Special thanks go to Mr. Dick Blossman for donating the use of Covington Country Club, and for the club's golf pro and staff for their help. Thanks also are due to the Knights of Columbus of St. Jane de Chantal Parish, Abita Springs, who provided a meal for the group, and to Doris and Sal Portera who volunteered their services for the day. Mr. David Blossman of Abita Brewery provided prizes and we are thankful to him as well as to the church parishes and local businesses who served as hole sponsors.

Responsible for the organization of this year's event was an alumni committee: Mr. Jerry Sixkiller, Mr. Frank Morton, Deacon Franz Labranche, Mr. Kevin Erickson, and Msgr. Frank Girior, with the support of Fr. Matthew and Development Director Vanessa Couere.

Each year, the golf tournament provides approximately \$15,000 to help fund the operating expenses of the Seminary College.



AVF organizer Brian Butler, Dumb Ox Productions

## ABBEY YOUTH FESTIVAL

3,800 youth gather from across the Gulf South

On Saturday, 11 March, the Abbey and Seminary College hosted its 11th annual Abbey Youth Festival, 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 with exposure to our Benedictine tradition, the Fest has grown from an attendance of 1,200 in its first year in 2001 to 3,800 participants this year. The theme, "Restless: My Soul Rests in God Alone," continued the long-established aim of the Fest, the promotion of vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

The day was dedicated to Our Lady of Guadalupe and began with a procession in her honor. Mark Hart, Executive Vice President for Life Teen International, a graduate of the University of Notre Dame, and a bestselling and award-winning author (and co-author) of a dozen books, gave the opening talk. Later in the day, Fr. Kyle Dave of the Archdiocese of New Orleans, pastor of Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish in Lacombe, spoke on the search of our restless hearts for our vocation. The closing talk, an introduction to the period of candlelight adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, was given by Mother Adela Galindo, founder of a religious institute of sisters, "Servants of the Pierced Hearts of Jesus and Mary," in the Archdiocese of Miami.

Archbishop Aymond of New Orleans celebrated the Vigil Mass with the assistance of more than 20 visiting priests. 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 Ayleton, and the Cajun band L'Angelus.

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 Bauermann, and Mr. Brian Butler of Dumb Ox Productions, work throughout the year for the event.



the new faces of the Catholic Church in America

## 121ST GRADUATION

from the Office of the Academic Dean

On 11 May, Saint Joseph Seminary College held its 121st commencement exercises in the Abbey Church. The Most Rev. Gregory M. Aymond, Archbishop of New Orleans and Chancellor of the Seminary College, presided. The Most Rev. Anthony B. Taylor, Bishop of Little Rock, gave the commencement address.

Fr. Gregory Boquet, President-Rector of the Seminary College, conferred the Bachelor of Arts Degrees in Philosophy and the Liberal Arts on: Alexander J. Albert, summa cum laude, Diocese of Lafayette; Stephen J. Gadberry, magna cum laude, and Mario Jacobo Urtes, Diocese of Little Rock; Angel R. Alvarez, Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston; Stephen F. Hauck, Diocese of Fort Worth; Kevin E Panameno, Diocese of Memphis; Cody M. Reed, Diocese of Baton Rouge; Samuel B. Higginbotham, summa cum laude, Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux; and Brian A. Phillips, magna cum laude and Sebastian Twesigomwe, cum laude, Diocese of Austin.

Receiving the Bachelor of Arts Degrees in Philosophy and Theological Studies were: Christopher M. Dehart, Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux; William J. Dunbar, magna cum laude, Archdiocese of Mobile; Troung Son Cao Nguyen, Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston; Adam J. Nobles, Diocese of Jackson; Michael J. Richard, summa cum laude, Diocese of Lafayette; and Stephen P. Vacek, magna cum laude, Diocese of Victoria, Texas.

Completing the Pre-Theology Program: Christopher G. Boutin, with honors, Archdiocese of Mobile; Jason K. Johnston, with honors, Diocese of Jackson; and Jacob A. Mendoza, Diocese of Victoria.

In his closing remarks, Archbishop Aymond commended Fr. Gregory on the completion of 15 years as President-Rector. The Schola Cantorum provided a musical interlude for the ceremony, which was followed by a reception for the guests.



Gerard and Esperanza Simon and Chris Dehart, '12

## SEMINARY MISSIONS

students learn to minister to the Universal Church

The Pastoral Formation Program at of the Seminary College requires students in their final year to participate in the course, "Ministry to the Universal Church." In the fall semester, the group studied various subjects relevant to conditions in developing countries, especially in Guatemala. Following this, in January, two groups each spent a week in Esquipulas, Guatemala, with Fr. Gregory and Mr. Matt Rouso, a lay Maryknoll missionary. The seminary has sponsored this program for nine years.

Staying at Mr. Rouso's mission house, the group became acquainted with the people through visits with the families in the area, and to a school and orphanage in a nearby village. They also had talks by local leaders on the concerns particular to education, health, and nutrition in Guatemala, and on the role of the Church and the parish there. This was the first experience of life in another culture for some students, and many credit it with giving them a new understanding of the missionary role of every priest.



Rene Pellesier with members of Tohono O'odham

Then in February, Fr. Gregory, Fr. Jude Israel, and five students joined Dr. Kate Wiskus and students from Mundelein Seminary at the Franciscan mission of San Salome on the reservation in Topawa, Ariz., about an hour west of Tucson, in the Tohono O'odham nation that borders Mexico.

During the trip, the students joined the native community for a day of reflection after Sunday Mass. A visit to the museum on the reservation gave them the opportunity to learn more about the people, their culture and customs. They also worked on improving the mission site itself by doing some manual labor and small construction projects like clearing brush, repairing roofs and fences, and painting. A high point of the trip was a meeting with Bishop Gerald Kikanis of Tucson.

The experience that most impressed the group, however, was their introduction to the plight of immigrants who cross the border in order to find work. Because the borders are so tightly guarded in Texas and in California, people are forced to cross 1100 square miles of desert in order to get into the United States. Each day, on the porch of the rectory, the group met people who had just spent three to four days crossing the desert. They returned with a new appreciation for the suffering of these people.



## NECROLOGY

pray with us for those who have passed away

- Doris May Abadie, mother of Conrad Abadie, friend of the Abbey
- John W. Barker, friend of the Abbey
- Ella Bourgeois, oblate
- Msgr. Clinton Doskey, '48
- Rev. Jerome A. Dugas, '56
- Ben Ericksen, father of Kevin Ericksen, '82
- David J. Finn, son of Deacon Jack Finn, friend of the Abbey
- Deacon Dr. Warren D. Fortenberry, oblate
- Claire Frey, mother of Albert "Jay" Frey, '65
- Adrian Gauthier, '71
- Helen Glaser, wife of Elton Glaser, '65
- Honorable Dominic C. Grieshaber Sr., '42
- Cecil Guidroz, friend of the Abbey
- Rev. Howard Hall, '56
- Sydney Johnston, father of Jason Johnston, '12
- Margie Perez, mother-in-law of Chris Larsen, '65
- F. J. Langlois Jr., brother of Br. Michael Langlois, OSB
- Odus Lynd, '62
- Alyne Matt, mother of Charles C. Matt, '82
- Michael Marino, friend of the Abbey
- Douglas A. Molony, '46
- John Muller, father of Richard Muller, friend of the Abbey
- Alvin "Jerry" Murray Jr., '66
- Marie Perkins, mother of Fr. Charles Perkins, '74
- Luz Pilola, mother of Rev. Joseph "Joey" Pilola, '80
- Genita Poole, friend of the Abbey
- Deacon Charles F. "Rusty" Read Jr.
- John Rice, father of Tim Rice, friend of the Abbey
- Kenneth J. Richard Sr., father of Kenneth J. Richard Jr., '90
- Rennie Robicheaux, father of Very Rev. David J. Robicheaux, '94
- Everett "Bobby" Roy, '64
- Lucille Sarrat, mother of Walter Sarrat, '65
- Msgr. Marion Schutten, '39
- Lillian Schonberg, mother of Robert Schonberg, friend of the Abbey
- Mrs. Carol R. Seiler, mother of Very Rev. Gerald L. Seiler, Jr., '84
- Thomas Smith, '65
- Edward Standige, '61
- Lillian Wathen, sister-in-law of Fr. Ambrose Wathen, OSB, '58
- Rev. Guy Zeringue, '71

## WE WELCOME BEQUESTS

your support makes our mission possible.  
please contact Vanessa Couere:  
985 867-2242  
vcouere@sjasc.edu

## DEO GRATIAS 2012

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

**BATON ROUGE**  
Sunday, 7 October  
Follows 5:30 p.m. vespers – 9 p.m.  
Catholic Life Center  
Baton Rouge, LA  
This is our eighth anniversary  
Baton Rouge celebration  
supporting our seminary college.  
We'll have a delicious buffet supper,  
a Schola performance and auction items.

**COVINGTON**  
Saturday, 27 October  
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 Couere | 985 867-2242 | vcouere@sjasc.edu



Fr. Cyril before the Holy Thursday liturgy, 2012

### FR. CYRIL 1966-2012

from the Office of the Abbot

Fr. Cyril Kenneth Crawford was born in Shreveport on 14 February 1966, and died on 15 May 2012 at the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, in Leuven, Belgium, where he was completing a doctoral degree in philosophy.

Son of Melva Crawford and the late D. Samuel Crawford, Fr. Cyril made his profession as a Benedictine monk on 10 July 2001, and was ordained as a priest on 28 April 2007. He is survived by his mother, his sister Denise Kelems and her husband and children.

Fr. Cyril attended Saint Joseph Seminary College and graduated from Saint Meinrad Seminary in Indiana in 2007. He completed his Masters in Philosophy at the Institute of Philosophy of the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, in Leuven, Belgium in 2009. He began his doctoral program the following year, and was preparing his dissertation. A gifted musician, in the 2007-08 academic year, he served as music director for the Abbey.

Family and friends of the Abbey were invited to attend the reception of the body by the community and the vigil service on Monday, 28 May at 5:30 p.m. in the Abbey Church, and the Mass of Christian Burial on Tuesday, 29 May at 11:15 a.m.

### ABBOTS' WORKSHOP

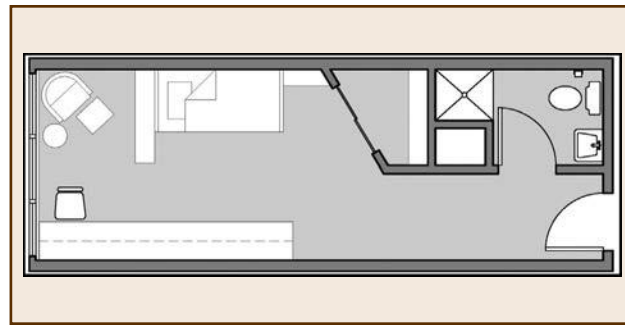
annual national workshop held at the CLC

For four days in early February, abbots and priors of monasteries throughout North and Central America gathered in our Christian Life Center for their annual conference. Metropolitan Jonah Paffhausen, Primate of the Orthodox Church in America, gave the workshop. Abbot Primate Notker Wolf, international head of the Benedictine Order, also attended.

Arriving on Friday, 10 February, the feast of Saint Scholastica, the group opened the conference with vespers celebrated in the Abbey church with the monks of the abbey. Supper followed in the Christian Life Center, with the introduction of Metropolitan Jonah by Abbot Primate Notker.

The next day featured four sessions capped by the celebration of Byzantine Vespers led by Metropolitan Jonah. On Sunday, the monks and community were honored to have Abbot Primate Notker preside at Mass. Afterward, the group travelled to New Orleans for a tour of the city.

Business meetings, an open forum reflecting the workshop sessions, and presentations by leaders of the various Benedictine congregations filled Monday's program. That day, an Eastern Rite Mass was held for the group in the Center chapel, presided over by Hegumen Nicholas Zachariadis from the Holy Resurrection Monastery in Saint Nanzianz, Wisc. The conference ended with a Louisiana cajun shrimp boil in the monastic refectory, hosted by the abbey community.



modern rooms will help alleviate student overflow

### VIVITE, VIANNEY! LIVE, VIANNEY!

campaign team canvasses for Feasibility Study

In recent years the Catholic Church has focused much energy and prayer on vocations to the priesthood and religious life. That effort has yielded a growing number of young men joyfully acknowledging God's call to the priesthood. This past year, Saint Joseph Seminary College was blessed with 80 seminarians, the largest enrollment in 25 years. To accommodate this number, five seminarians had to be temporarily housed in guest rooms in the Abbey.

As the recently completed Master Plan predicts and experience indicates, this growth will continue in the next decade to a stable enrollment of 120. More immediately, we anticipate an enrollment of 90 for the 2013-13 school year. Because of this, administration of the Abbey and Seminary College are facing a new challenge: the need for additional student housing.

Although much renovation has been done in past years, this will be the first significant construction project for the seminary since the late 1950s. It involves the renovation of Vianney Hall, adding 43 new rooms to house seminarians.

Though Vianney Hall has sat dormant for more than 40 years, the structure is still solid. The plan calls for gutting the building to create 20 rooms on the first floor and 23 on the second floor. The exterior will retain the Regional Modernist look made popular in the late 50s by John W. Lawrence, former Dean of Architecture at Tulane University.

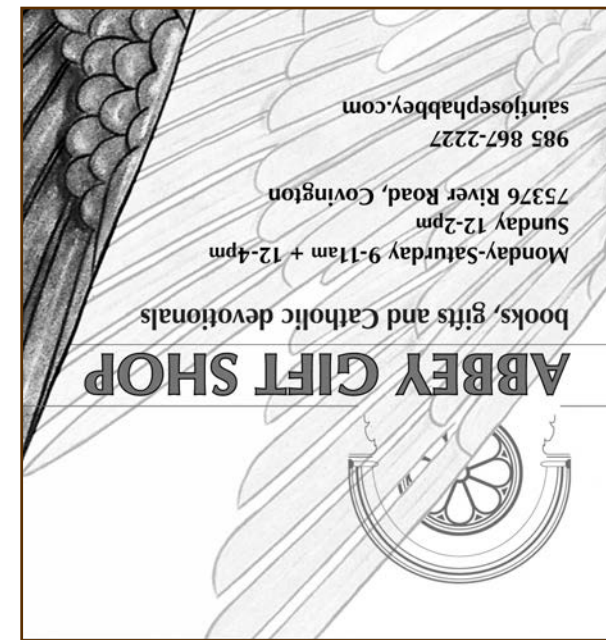
Architect Steve Rome began the project's design process with a question, "How do we bring back the cloister?" The answer led to the decision to group living quarters into a single building, replacing the original dorm rooms above with classrooms below. In this way, the living space becomes a place of quiet retreat from the hurried activity of the day. "With lighting, color and texture, I want to create an environment that is solemn and calming," explained Rome. It also needs to be functional. Rome continues, "This small space represents their world. The design needs to make use of every square foot, with a place for everything."

Amenities will include glassed-in study areas, places to visit with friends, a kitchenette and laundry. Pending a successful fund-raising campaign, the seminary hopes to have Vianney Hall ready for occupancy by Fall 2013.

The renovation budget is estimated at \$3.1M. To reach that goal, various fund raising efforts are underway. Last December, the Alumni Association held its Eighth Annual Phonathon. Then, on 14 and 15 May, volunteers from among the alumni and friends of the Abbey, forming the Saint Ben's "Vianney Hall Campaign Team," met in preparation for a Feasibility Study to determine whether there might be enough interest to proceed with a \$3 million campaign to renovate the hall. Mr. Greg Jeffrey, who has 25 years experience with Catholic schools and parishes, is leading the process.



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### ABBOT'S LETTER

Abbot Justin Brown, OSB

As I write this column, our monastic community is grieving the death of Father Cyril Crawford, a beloved and gifted monk. On Tuesday 15 May, I received the unexpected and shocking call from the U.S. Embassy in Brussels that Father Cyril had died at his residence in Leuven where he had been working for the last four years on a doctorate in philosophy and was near completion. Words cannot express the sadness and loss we feel, but our faith consoles us with the assurance that our brother Cyril has reached the place he came to the monastery to prepare for...the Heavenly Kingdom.

Even though this Abbey Voice carries the sad news of Father Cyril's death, there is much good news to report. First of all, we ended the school year with 80 seminarians, the highest enrollment in 20 years. With an increase in enrollment projected for next year and into the future, we are making plans for the renovation of Vianney Hall and for much-needed renovations of the entire seminary plant. The seminary is doing very well and we are seeing more and more alumni ordained to the priesthood.

This year has seen much activity in Saint Joseph Woodworks with the sales of our caskets increasing. Last summer we won our case in Federal court; however, the State Board of Funeral Directors and Embalmers has appealed this decision and our trial date in the Federal Court of Appeals is set for 7 June. We feel confident that we will win this case also.

Finally we look forward to welcoming Ricky Cote from Austin, Texas, into the novitiate this summer. He comes to us with a degree from the Texas Culinary Institute.

Let me end by thanking you, our dear alumni, oblates, benefactors and friends, for all your prayers and support of the Abbey and Seminary. Please continue to pray for us and for vocations to the monastic life. You and your family have a special place in our prayers.

*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.

#### 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

There are two questions in life that we are all seeking the answers for: "Who am I?" and, "Who is God?" If we come to terms with these two questions, we will have accomplished a great deal. I would like to say that these two questions are what seminary formation helps a young man to answer. By the time he finishes his formation, he should have a deeper knowledge into who he is and who God is.

In the Gospel of John, Jesus states, "It is not you who have chosen me, but I who have chosen you." Since God chooses us, it is even more important that we come to understand the person he is choosing and, conversely, gain deeper knowledge into the one who is choosing us to be his followers.

This being said, it is important to realize that God has never created anything without a purpose. The fact that you are alive means that he made you for his purpose. The greatest thrill and the greatest adventure in life is actually being used by God to fulfill the purpose for which you were created. If you have ever felt that feeling of being used by God, you know that absolutely nothing else in the universe feels like that. The thrill of saying "this is what I was made to do, this is who I am, this is why I was born," is a very fulfilling experience. It is then that you come to realize why God chose you for this particular mission, and you only come to realize this through hard work.

Students here feel that God chose them to be a priest and that's why they came to the seminary. However, before God can use you, you must be willing to be used. God only uses you if you are prepared to be used. You are prepared to be used if you keep the following things in mind.

First, you must be available. In God's eyes, availability is much more important than ability. Your attitude is much more important than your aptitude. If you make your life available, God will wear you out. If you will be available, stop focusing on what you can't do, and let God decide, he will make your life full. I think when we get to heaven we are going to be amazed at the people God uses. Look at the disciples: They were not the brightest - they were available.

Second, dare to be different. Because God chose you, he chose you for a reason, which means you are unique, and he needs something that only you can give. So have the courage, dare to be different.

May God grant you the courage of self-discovery, the wisdom to seek him, and the fulfillment of serving him in your own, unique way.

*G. Boquet*