

SAVE THE DATE

97TH ANNUAL ALUMNI HOMECOMING - FRI., APRIL 21

Register online at sjasc.edu

ABBNEY ART WORKS PRESENTS THE ART OF ILLUMINATION - APRIL 28, 29, 30

Learn the medieval techniques of manuscript painting and gold leaf on paper and how to produce your own symbolic life journey page.

Visit www.paintpaletteandbrush.com for more information.

SOUTHEASTERN LOUISIANA UNIVERSITY CHORUS, CONCERT CHOIR AND WOMEN'S CHORALE WITH THE NORTHSORE CHORAL SOCIETY - SUN., APRIL 30, 2:30 P.M.

Abbey Church

Free and open to the public

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION LUNCHEON SUN., MAY 28, NOON

OBLATES DAY OF RECOLLECTION - SAT., JULY 15

Visit www.saintjosephabbey.com/oblates for more information.

DEO GRATIAS 2017 - SAT., OCTOBER 28

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

saintjosephabbey.com

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ABBNEY IS A SPECIAL PLACE FOR THE JEANSONNE FAMILY

In 2015, Saint Joseph Abbey and Seminary College initiated the S.H.I.P. program. Named after the four pillars of priestly formation used in teaching our seminarians to lead a life in God's service: Spiritual, Human, Intellectual and Pastoral, it was the Abbey's first-ever national corporate invitation.

Before the program went on hiatus following the flooding last March, the Abbey was fortunate to partner with Causeway Shuttle, which provides vanpool services for Northshore residents who commute across the lake every day. For owner Richard Jeansonne, Sr., the Abbey has been a part of his and his family's lives for nearly four decades.

Around 1980 his wife Lynda was recruited to be a nurse at Camp Abbey. For the next 15 years, the couple, along with their five sons, was part of the camping team as well.

"During that time, we were privileged to meet so many of the priests, monks, and seminarians. These were special times in our lives, and the wonderful memories are still treasured



Richard and Lynda Jeansonne

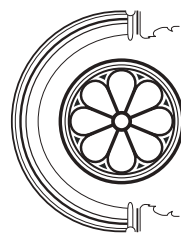
and talked about by our entire family," said Mr. Jeansonne.

Although the status of the Abbey and its ministries immediately following the flood were uncertain, what Jeansonne did know for sure was that he could help.

"The flooded cars at the Abbey were totally destroyed. The cost of removing these damaged vehicles posed a significant expense to the Abbey and the seminarians. Causeway Shuttle was able to provide the equipment and the manpower to remove the damaged vehicles and properly dispose of them at no cost to the Abbey," said Mr. Jeansonne.

Nearly a year later, the numerous flooded vehicles that dotted the Abbey grounds are now a distant memory. Thanks to the commitment of

friends of the Abbey like Richard and Lynda Jeansonne, the future of Saint Joseph Abbey is looking brighter with each passing day.



SAINT JOSEPH ABBEY + SEMINARY COLLEGE

Giving Opportunities

Your financial support is greatly appreciated.

Donations can be made online at:

helptheabbey.com

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:

Kathy Nastasi at (985) 867-2284 or knastasi@sjasc.edu

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SAINT JOSEPH ABBEY

AND SEMINARY COLLEGE

75376 River Road

Saint Benedict, LA 70457

ABBNEY VOICE

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ABBOT'S LETTER



Abbot Justin Brown, O.S.B.

This past summer one of our Oblates visited the Abbey of Monte Cassino founded by Saint Benedict in 529 A.D. She, like many visitors to the mountaintop Abbey, was amazed at how it was rebuilt to its exact former splendor following its total destruction during the Second World War. In fact, the ancient Abbey is no stranger to destruction and rebuilding. In 581, about 40 years after the death of Saint Benedict, the Abbey was destroyed by the Lombards. In 884, it was again sacked and then burned by the Saracens. In 1349, it was destroyed by an earthquake. In 1799, it was sacked by Napoleon's troops. Finally, in WWII, it was bombed on February 15, 1944. It is no wonder that at some point in its colorful history the monks adopted the motto — "Succisa Virescit" — which translates as "having been cut down, it flourishes." The Abbey's history reminds us that after destruction rebirth is possible.

The witness of the history of Monte Cassino and its motto have been very much on my mind since March 11, 2016, when Saint Joseph Abbey and Seminary College was devastated by a flood. For we certainly have felt cut down by the flood, but at the same time we have experienced through the providential hand of God re-birth and new life. The prayers and generosity of you our alumni, Oblates, friends and benefactors of God's loving presence among us, make this rebuilding possible. We are most grateful to all of you for the spiritual and financial assistance you have given us.

With 150 seminarians, several young men interested in monastic life, and major reconstruction projects that have already begun at the monastery and Seminary College, the motto of Saint Benedict's monastery is today ours as well. In fact, everywhere there are signs of re-birth: Saint Joseph Woodworks and Abbey Art Works have been operating for months, the Pennies for Bread program reopened last October, and the Abbey Gift Shop reopened after Thanksgiving. Of course, our greatest moment of re-birth has been the reopening of the Abbey Church in June. Plans are also underway for the renovation of the Christian Life Retreat Center scheduled to reopen later this year.

Please continue to pray for us and also the monks and nuns of Norcia, the birthplace of Saint Benedict and Saint Scholastica, as they rebuild following a series of devastating earthquakes in the Fall of 2016. We all find hope in the words Saint Benedict's monks adopted long ago—"Succisa Virescit" — "having been cut down, it flourishes."

+ Justin Brown O.S.B.

RECTOR'S LETTER



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

The 2016-17 school year began once more with another record enrollment of 150 seminarians this past August. The floodwaters of March 11, 2016, could not hold back the enthusiasm of so many being called to discern God's will for their lives. Indeed this flood can be seen as transformative of the entire campus in that it's creating a path toward the future that points us in a direction beyond the confinement of time and space. The buildings are being restored and modular housing and classroom buildings have been assembled. Our progress points to a desire to say we are here to stay and continue the work of

God in preparing young men for leadership as future priests. The spirit of Saint Ben's is not in the buildings, but in the young men that occupy these structures.

This flood of 2016 only made us stronger with a resolve that God's will, will be accomplished. We continue to recover and are still looking for support to meet the challenges that lay ahead. The spirit of the seminarians is very high and the support and generosity of so many have played a great part in helping to ensure that this valued ministry will continue.

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

