

The Abbey Message

Subiaco Abbey

Vol LXVIII, No. 4

Spring 2011

The Inside Message

2

Abbot's Message

Our Martyr

3

Abbey Journal

Christmas and beyond

7

The Academy

The arts

10

Alumni News

Distinguished Alumni

15

Development

Mother's/Father's Day
Remembrance

Where is Everybody?

by Fr. Mark Stengel, OSB

Folks calling the Abbey, and asking for a particular monk, are often frustrated in not being able to locate that monk. An employee who fields such calls says that people seem to think that monks spend their days next to a telephone, and expect to find a monk always present at a community exercise, such as a scheduled prayer time or a meal. A few monks do carry a cell phone, but monastic aversion to ring tones in any public setting severely restricts their use. People wonder where we are. Monks too look around at empty choir stalls, and the dishwasher operator asks "Where is everybody?" when she counts only 26 plates going through the dishwasher.

I asked a few monks to list involvements that take them away from meals and prayer times. The rash judgments we might make (He's probably sleeping. He didn't like the evening menu) are seldom true. The responses reveal that monks are engaged in an amazing variety of services and ministries. As a result, we are not always at our desk when the phone rings. A sampling of these activities follows.

Abbot Jerome Kodell is much in demand to represent the Abbey at almost daily functions, meetings, funerals, visits, liturgies, etc. He has a number of involvements which regularly call him away, weekly or monthly. Bishop Taylor appointed him to be the State Chaplain of the Knights of Columbus. Soon after his election as Abbot in 1989, he was invited and joined the local Rotary Club, and has been active in this organization ever since. He attends monthly meetings of the local Ministerial Alliance. As past president and continuing member, he assists the Logan County Chamber of Commerce as needed. He serves as Vice President of the local Court Appointed Special Advocate organization, a "watchdog" group that monitors the care of abused and neglected children in our area.

The Bishop also appointed him to the diocesan Presbyteral Council. And he was elected Dean of the River Valley Deanery in 2009.

Brother Ephrem O'Bryan, Subprior and Publicity Director, reports that he often takes photos at student activities, and many of these occur during evening prayer times. "My primary motivation for doing so is to get recognition for Subiaco students in area newspapers and to keep parents and alumni aware via our website, Facebook, the weekly publication *Trojan Rule*, and the monthly e-newsletter."

Brother Patrick Boland, a youngster in our community, has a lot of energy and has taken on multiple "extra" duties. One weekend



Abbot Jerome



Br. Ephrem

per month, he goes to the Theology Institute in Little Rock. He is completing a bachelors degree in Theology this year. One evening each week he travels to Arkansas Tech University, where he is working toward a master's in teaching, learning, and leadership. Occasionally his duties as Benet Club Advisor take him away from community functions, as is the case with his work with the Academy's Boy Scout Troop 1878. He is Assistant Scoutmaster and the Chartering Organization Representative. He belongs to the Knights of Columbus and attends meetings when possible. Brother Patrick says "I never would have guessed prior to coming to Subiaco how busy monks really are, but I personally wouldn't have it any other way."



Br. Patrick



Fr. Mark

Fr. Mark Stengel finds that his retirement from the classroom allows him to give time to numerous other involvements. He has served on the Board of Community Outreach Services, Inc. in Paris for about twelve years. This involves a monthly evening meeting and Friday absence when he works at the facility. Twice each week he drives the Fort Smith area students home after classes, which means missing supper and Vespers. He is a founding member of the Glory of Zion charismatic prayer group, and prays with this group one evening each week. He will be going to Belize with a group of University of Arkansas students on a mission trip during their Spring Break. Hispanic Ministry takes him to Clarksville on Sundays probably about 10-12 times each year. He has been taking student groups to participate in the 40 Days for Life event at Fayetteville, which is an all-day affair.

Brother Adrian Strobel says "I miss a lot. Every other week, I drive to Barling to pick up students, leaving at 5:30 a.m. and getting back in time for "second table" breakfast. I am never at Noon-day Prayer because (as manager of the Pathways program) I have to monitor the student workers at the dishwasher and lunch room. Many evenings—three or four times each week—I am absent because I drive the players or spectators to games. At the games, I take the statistics for football, basketball, and baseball. On Sunday evenings I drive students to Wal-Mart in Clarksville. Why do I do it? Some of it is obedience, and some of it is because, with few exceptions, monks do all the bus driving. If I did not do this driving, I'm not sure that students would be able to get their supplies and be able to attend the games." He neglected to mention this, but he also manages the student snack bar, Die Bunkerstube. This probably mostly cuts into his evening free time on weekend nights.



Br. Adrian



Fr. Hugh

Fr. Hugh Assenmacher assists the Academy Chaplain by hearing confessions on Tuesday evenings. He misses the community meal to do this. Every other Monday he conducts an evening Adult Education Class (Church History) at St. Meinrad Church in Prairie View. He gives many tours to visiting groups, and sometimes these tours interfere with community prayer. He also continues to offer all-day student excursions during the school year, which keeps him connected to the students, and enjoy the outdoors at the same time. He is on the rotation list to go to Holy Angels Convent in Jonesboro for the quarterly "Spiritual Weekends."

These are some of the places monks might be when we can't be reached. Just leave a message and we will get back to you as soon as we can.

Our Martyr

We are blessed to have saints in our midst. We don't notice that blessing most of the time. Sometimes it becomes evident, as when the props are removed by a lengthy illness or confinement in a nursing home and the saint inside has to come out of hiding, or when we realize what we're missing after a death. These people may never be canonized, but that kind of recognition is just a further option after they've already become saints.

It's much rarer to know a martyr, one who will be murdered because of Christ. All the saints give their lives for Christ, and many of them, like St. Damian of Molokai, die as a direct consequence of their ministry. But few are murdered because of their Christian vocation and commitment.

We are very privileged to have had a martyr in our neighborhood, Father Stanley Rother, a priest of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City, who was killed by an assassination squad in Guatemala in 1981 because of his ministry to the indigenous people in the name of Christ. His cause for beatification has been introduced. This has major significance for all of us in the ecclesiastical province of Oklahoma City, which is composed of the three dioceses in Oklahoma and Arkansas. Pilgrimages are being arranged to mark the thirtieth anniversary of Father Rother's martyrdom this July.



Stanley Francis Rother was born in Okarche, Oklahoma, about twenty miles northwest of Oklahoma City, on March 27, 1935. He was ordained a priest in 1963, a year before the Archdiocese began a mission among the impoverished Tzutuhil Indians centered in the village of Santiago Atitlán, Guatemala. In 1968, Father Rother was appointed to the mission, which at that time was thriving with a team of thirteen priests, religious and laity, running a medical clinic and two schools in addition to serving several scattered churches. But within eight years, violent political eruptions and other developments had caused the departure of all the Americans except Father Stan Rother.

Father Stan immersed himself more and more in the lives of the people of Santiago Atitlán. He shared their primitive conditions, their joys and sorrows, their oppression by the government and army. Though he had had a difficult time with Latin, and was even delayed two years in the seminary because of academics, he learned Spanish and after five years the local Tzutuhil dialect. He led the people in worship, helped in the health clinic, developed a cooperative farm.

Political unrest increased during the 1970s. The government began to target teachers and missionaries who were awakening the people to their human dignity and rights, because this was threatening the empire of the moneyed class. By 1979 there were routine burnings of fields and destruction of farm equipment, and then an escalation into killings by police and army, and the disappearance of people whose corpses would later be found.

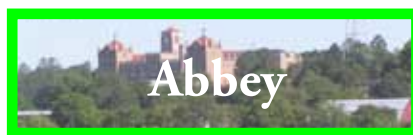
Repression, denial of civil rights, and assassination became worse across the region. On March 24, 1980, Archbishop Oscar Romero of neighboring El Salvador was gunned down by government agents while raising the chalice at Mass a day after calling on soldiers to stop obeying orders of repression and killing. Father Stan knew all this; his letters at the time tell of the precautions he was taking. He didn't think he would be targeted because he did not make political statements. He simply did his work. He only wanted to be Christ for his people. But in July, 1981, he wrote in a letter that six priests had been killed and two kidnapped since May, 1980. Many missionary priests (who comprised 80% of the priests in Guatemala) began to be recalled from the country.

Father Stan still did not believe the time had come for him to leave. He felt that the people would experience his departure as another loss and hurt, and that they would lose the small protection he might bring them as an American citizen. In his Christmas letter of 1980 he summed up his reason for staying: "The shepherd cannot run" (These words became the title of a brief biography and collection of last letters of Father Stan available through the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City's website). But he began to stay away from his bedroom at night, sleeping instead in a room under the staircase.

Finally, it came. Three masked men entered the rectory just after midnight on July 28, 1981. They found him, and he knew what it was. They shot him twice. There was silence. Father Stan Rother was 46 years old.

Today, some of the people responsible for Father Stan's murder may still be alive. If they have not repented, their life is a death. But hopefully they have repented. Father Stan would want that for them and he would help them. That's the way he was. At any rate, Father Stan Rother himself is more alive than ever and will be a source of life to others from here on. He is our martyr, and we pray to him.

Abbot Jerome Kodell, OSB



Abbey Journal

by Fr. Mark Stengel, OSB

December

In early December, students and faculty worked together on a Saturday morning to "Light up the Hill." The decorations made the campus cheerful and inviting at night. Educators disagree on whether the constant reminder of the coming Christmas vacation distracts students from their serious end-of-the-semester work, or helps them with the stress of the season. Research is needed.

"We are very privileged to have had a martyr in our neighborhood, Father Stanley Rother, a priest of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City, who was killed by an assassination squad in Guatemala in 1981 because of his ministry to the indigenous people in the name of Christ. ... He is our martyr, and we pray to him."

Roy and Cheryl Goetz hosted a very pleasant Christmas party for monks and faculty at their home just down Subiaco Avenue. Some monks walked or drove a Gator down for this affair, on the first really cold, blustery night of the season. We were glad it wasn't any farther.

The annual Abbey and Academy Christmas Party on December 17 brought together a large group for Vespers, followed by a gala meal in the Centenary Hall foyer and gallery. The great quantity of door prizes enabled even those who "never win anything" to go home with a prize. Brother Ephrem provided many of these prizes—his beautifully framed and matted calligraphic creations. This journalist chose one, a quote from Elizabeth Barrett Browning: "God's gifts put our best dreams to shame."

Steve Wilmes, Development Director, had asked the question in an e-mail: "What few words define Subiaco to you?" The responses included: "Subiaco is a unique place where one learns to serve others with Christ as a model. It offers a peaceful retreat where one can find God. It provides an opportunity to grow in a challenging, safe environment, joyfully focusing on prayer and work."

Monasteries continue to be a source of fascination. Regularly, reporters are dispatched to Subiaco to do articles on us. We are instructed to act as though we don't even see the reporters and cameramen (or women), to go about our business without any mugging for the camera. The *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette* featured the Abbey in the Christmas Eve edition. The article focused on monastic preparations for Christmas. The reporter noted the glitter and sweat on Brother Dominic's brow as he constructed wreaths for church, and Fr. Hugh's comments "Not bad! Not bad!" as he conducted practices for cantors and schola.

Semester exams ended and students departed on Saturday, December 18. A direful note to the teachers warned: "Grades are due in computer by 5:00 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 21—NO EXCEPTIONS. Merry Christmas and happy holidays to all!" In other words, get your work done first; then relax.

For the second year, the Formation Department hosted a community evening the Wednesday following Christmas. After early Vespers, all gathered in the guest dining room for some wine and cheese, while the trio of Fr. Hugh and Fr. Richard on the recorder, and Br. Jude on guitar, entertained. Then Fr. Richard, as Novicemaster, switched gears to help novices Patrick Richey and Brian Owens, and junior monk Br. Matthias, keep the wine, water, and coffee flowing. The menu featured chicken cordon bleu, with a mouth-watering cheesecake for dessert. We've done this twice now—it surely ought to be an unbreakable tradition.

During the holidays, the fire alarms in the monastery sounded on successive days. Smoke detectors in adjoining rooms had set off the alarms. The first day, a pile of towels taken from the dryer and thrown onto a bed, had somehow begun smoldering. The next day, clouds of vapor from a very hot shower in a cold room had activated the smoke detector. Br. Anthony, living in the next room down the hall, said that if his smoke detector caused an alarm the next day, he was going to request an exorcism. Thanks be to God, we made it to the end of the year without a fire. That first incident could have been disastrous!

January

We really cannot complain about the winter weather. Major icing occurred south and east of us; heavy snow passed to the north. We have had adequate rainfall, which, in the winter, means "not much." Otherwise the pastures get so swampy that the cattle can't find solid ground, and the feeding vehicles cause tremendous ruts. When these ruts later dry and harden, you are left with a moonscape. No wonder the lunar rovers get stuck, if those ruts accurately are called a moonscape. We had ½ inch of snow on the 10th, an inch and a half on the 20th, about 3 inches on February 4, and our "big snow" of nearly 5 inches on February 9th.

The students enjoyed it, because most of these snows led to school cancellations. Gone are the days when the Academy closed for snow only when it got "axle deep on a Ferris wheel." According to Subiaco lore, long time Headmaster Fr. Benno Schluterman had this boast broadcast, along with the radio announcements of other schools' cancellations. Nowadays, most of our faculty and staff, and many day students, have to travel at least several miles to get here. Brother Michael Endres was left all alone in the kitchen one morning when none of the breakfast crew made it in to work. He managed well.

The last ten days of January were perfect winter days: dry and bright, crisp and calm. Workmen took advantage of these nice days to power wash and sterilize the inside of the water tower tank, which has stood empty for many months. More on this later.



Fr. Leonard and Linda Freeman drawing names for presents at the annual campus-wide Christmas Party

The maintenance department began reconfiguring the computer classrooms on the first floor to accommodate the Wellness Center, i.e., the exercise room. The computer classrooms are now located in the remodeled Academy Library, now dubbed the Learning Center. The exercise area, now on the 4th and 5th floors, needs to move because the elevator access can no longer be licensed. The stairway access is located within the private enclosure of the monastery, and besides, who wants to exercise on the way to exercise? A fact of life in monasteries is that the use of and names of areas change over the years. Only the church and refectory remain sacred, more or less.

The First Annual Subiaco Charismatic Men's Retreat filled Coury House the last weekend of January. Fr. Nicholas says that this retreat came about when several alumni, "in their cups," fell into a religious and nostalgic turn of mind, and decided to come back to Subiaco to seek the "utter fullness of God." This became the theme for the retreat, and alumni Al Smith '59, Gayle Mangum '64, and John Robbins '65, began "leaning" on other alumni to come. Sadly, Gayle had a health setback the day before the retreat and could not come, and John Robbins, who had put himself heart and soul into the retreat, suddenly succumbed to the cancer he had been fighting and died on February 22. He can now, from heaven, see to it that his initiative continues.

The first meetings of the five strategic planning committees for the Abbey's long-range plan met on January 26. The core team had chosen the slogan "Subiaco Abbey: Envisioning Our Future" for this effort. Well, we had fun suggesting more fanciful slogans. The reality is that this is serious business.



l-r Jim Limbird '69, Br. Ephrem '60, Omar Greene '69 (standing), John Casey '67 & Jim B. McDaniel '66 posing during the January Men's retreat

February

The five committee chairmen reported to the community on February 7. Sr. Ann Carville, a Franciscan, was here to help us. She reportedly was impressed by the quality of our initial work. She encourages us to look toward a future full of hope, rather than planning a graceful decline.

Fr. Peter Sharum celebrated his 84th birthday on February 2, with cake and punch in the Health Center. He often has a funny quip ready for any occasion. Asked about his age, he said "I was 84 on my most recent birthday. I don't want to say 'on my last birthday'." Another day, he asked about the scaffolding being put up around the high altar. Workmen were replacing lights inside the canopy above the large hanging crucifix over the altar. Having heard the explanation, he joked "O, I thought maybe they were finally going to take Jesus down from the cross."

Back in the fall and early winter, Abbot Jerome, Br. Eric, Br. Adrian, and Br. Louis harvested many pecans from our own and neighbors' trees. It's a lot easier to pick pecans up than to get them shelled. Br. Louis works at this, but neither his eyesight nor his manual dexterity are the best anymore. Reportedly, Br. Adrian's mom has been shelling some for us. Fr. Mark did a few on some of the days of nasty weather. There are still some ready to be shelled for anyone willing.

Br. Ephrem was proud of himself in getting his snow picture on the front page of both the *Paris Express* and the *Arkansas Catholic*. He said that the editor of the *Arkansas Catholic* complained that there was no color in the shot. He an-



One of Br. Ephrem's famous snow pictures with Coury House in the background

swered her: “Snow is white, and our habits are black!” Our area was supposed to get the heaviest snowfall from the February 8 storm. Instead, northwest Arkansas set new records, with 25 inches in some places, and record lows that night of -21°. The globe must be warming somewhere else!

The carpenter shop is getting a major overhaul, at long last. This shop, an essential cog in most maintenance projects, has remained essentially the same since the days of the “giants”—Martin Schriver, Br. Joseph Schaftlein, Fr. Andrew Wewer. More recently, Br. Jude, Abbot Jerome, and Tom Newman are the mainstays (not yet “giants”) of the shop. Located on the ground floor of the Fine Arts Building (the former Press Building), the carpenter shop is a refuge from the sterile and technical world. It is a hodgepodge of modern and ancient equipment, cabinets and drawers choked with mysterious objects, lumber and wood scrap piles, bins of shavings and sawdust, everything covered with a thick brown patina of sawdust and paint spray residue. Hopefully the upgrade will bolster the safety and efficiency of the shop, without sacrificing completely its rustic charm.

The October Journal commented on the slow pace of work on the Abbey water plant. That work has been completed for some time but the final inspection was delayed several times for one reason or another. During that time we were buying water from the Paris water system and were regularly urged to conserve water due to the higher cost. March 1 was the final inspection of the project and we are now once again using our own water. It is expected that the completed system will now have us set for at least 10 years. Beyond that it is hard to predict what regulations will apply to water systems or what increases we might face due to the increased demand for water by all of us.



Br. Jude working to install the new dust collection system in the carpenter shop

The Charism of Martyrdom

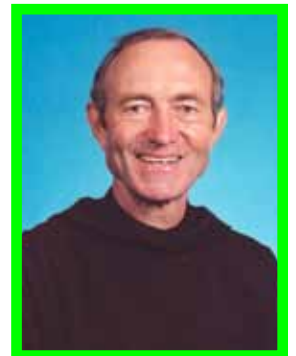
The word and concept of martyrdom keeps popping up around me. A priest friend who foresees hard times for Christians told me recently: “I expect to die in bed. Our children—if they remain faithful to Jesus—may very well die in prison. And I expect that many of our grandchildren will die as martyrs.” Abbot Jerome writes in this issue about “Our Martyr,” an Oklahoma priest put to death for his faith 20 years ago in Guatemala. The French film “Of Gods and Men,” an account of the martyrdom of six Trappist monks in Algeria in 1996, is now premiering in U.S. theatres. The feature article in a past issue of *Pentecost Today* was “The Charism of Martyrdom.” And I, in responding to a person who is convinced that Muslim jihadists are out to kill us all, said “If it comes to that, I pray that I will be able to remain true to Jesus even in the face of martyrdom.”

So what does all this “chatter” about martyrs mean? Perhaps it simply reflects the uneasiness of the times. Change is accelerating in the world around us, like the runaway train in the movie “Unstoppable.” Denzel Washington got that train stopped. Whether the current tribulations will lead to a new age of martyrs remains to be seen, but there is a sense that we ought to be ready for this possibility.

The *Pentecost Today* article called martyrdom a charism, a gift of the Spirit, a sign to the world of God’s living presence and action. That’s not a bad thing! St. Tertullian famously stated that “the blood of martyrs is the seed of Christians.” Jesus assures us that “unless the grain of wheat falls to the earth and dies, it remains alone. But if it dies, it produces much fruit. (John 12:25)

The Trappists in Algeria, and Fr. Rother in Guatemala, did not actively seek martyrdom, but neither did they try to escape it. They stayed at their post and served their people, without worrying too much about their own life. If someone wanted to kill them for this, then so be it. Let the seed die, and may God raise up much fruit.”

Fr. Mark Stenzel





Stained glass - another advanced art project

Advanced art students had opportunities to learn two more forms of artistic expression during the second semester. Mrs. Loretta Hackman, mother of 7th-grader Dominic Hackman, provided all the supplies, expertise, and time for a workshop of silver-clay jewelry. Don Berend, 1957 Subiaco alumnus and a retired accountant in agribusiness, provided instruction in stained glass. Mr. Berend's hobby for 18 years became part of the visual arts curriculum three years ago. He noted the appropriateness for this art form in a monastery school, noting that "stained glass windows in European monastic churches have long been like a story board for teaching scripture." Berend hopes that students will gain, by creating glass pieces, an appreciation for this art form and possibly a life-long hobby.



Don Berend instructing Blake Wallis in stained glass

Pickin' and grinnin'

Twenty-two guitar students in grades 7-12 meet daily with instrumental music instructor Roy Goetz in the Performing Arts Center. Private instruction is given with ample time provided for individual practice. Beginners learn tuning techniques, chords, scales, and picking techniques common to all styles of guitar playing. Advanced students are allowed to choose the music they wish to study. The instruction is Blues/Rock/Country based. Each period of instruction typically begins with a recording from one of these styles. This introduces the guys to significant guitar players like Howlin' Wolf, Robert Johnson, Jimi Hendrix, Les Paul, Chet Atkins, Keith Richards and others. The recordings and study also serve as an introduction to some of the very best in American music, which is too often ignored in high school music programs. Mr. Goetz always tells the guys that "the overall goal of the course is to separate the guitar players from the guitar owners."



Guitar students Keith Dunn & Kyle Kremers



Above: Senior Feargal Gilmor singing with Homemade Jamz Blues band leader.

Below: Students interacting with the band



Not content with doing “C” work

Mrs. Hermina Fox, Chair of the English Department, has been involved in journalism during most of her teaching career. She was the newspaper advisor when she taught at Magazine High School in 1985/86. When she came to Subiaco Academy the next year, she began working with the *Periscope* and *Pax* during activity period. In 1999, the journalism classes for newspaper and yearbook publishing moved into the regular school day as part of the curriculum, and she has taught these classes ever since.

During her tenure at Subiaco Academy, Mrs. Fox has had the opportunity to do some interviewing and writing as well. Her most enjoyable interview was for a story she wrote about the Abbey’s sawmill. She also found that doing the research for an article on the bells of the Abbey was a learning experience.

At the risk of offending her yearbook staff, Mrs. Fox finds that she prefers working with the *Periscope* because it presents more challenges and rewards. “At its heart is the development of writing, telling stories, relaying information. In this class, students do what English teachers—like me—try to teach. In the yearbook, good photography and design can disguise weak writing.” It is seeing the application of the English skills most students have spent a life-time learning that Mrs. Fox finds most rewarding.

As with any subject, the teaching of journalism has its challenges, the greatest, according to Fox, being that each student has individualized assignments. Students cannot be content with doing “C” work because “C” work should not be published. A student has to be willing to revise in order to be published. If he is not willing to revise, the class and the publication suffer. She finds also that procrastination is a problem for both her and her students. “The work has to be done and on time.”



Hermina Fox working with Stelvio Alexandrino

Junior high quiz bowl team - 2nd in regional

Subiaco’s Junior High Quiz Bowl placed 2nd at the regional tournament in Berryville on February 12, even though missing players due to winter break. The Subiaco team qualified for the state tournament. Eli Hekel made all-tournament team and scored 2nd highest overall of all the players there. Coach Sarah Perreault praised the team’s effort and sacrifice: “They gave up their winter break, traveled through snow and competed with only three members when the other teams had four.” The members for the Regional Team were Daniel Heinrichs, Eli Hekel, and Adam Musgrove.



Junior High Quiz Bowl team with their trophy

Catholic Schools Week



Catholic Schools Week activities in early February included a Jazz Ensemble performance at St. Edward's in Little Rock, a pilgrimage to Little Rock, bowling in Ft. Smith, and a Valentine's Day Dance on the Academy campus.

In the picture above, Fr. Mark is celebrating Mass with the middle school students in the Coury House chapel.

One of Benedict's monks, Valentinian, had a brother who was a very devout layman. Once a year he would come to the abbey to visit his brother and to receive a blessing from Benedict. He would always fast on this annual pilgrimage. On one particular time, he was joined on his journey by another traveler who carried with him some food. After they had walked some distance together, the traveler offered Valentinian's brother some food. He refused, explaining that he always fasted on his way to visit the monastery. After a while he offered again, and once more Valentinian's brother refused to break his fast. After they had covered a long distance and were very tired from their journey, they came upon a meadow and a spring and again the traveler suggested they take some food and drink to regain their strength for the remainder of the journey. This time the pilgrim gave in and broke his fast. When he arrived late in the day at the monastery, he asked for Benedict's blessing, but Benedict scolded him for his conduct on the journey: "How is it that the evil spirit who spoke to you on the journey could not persuade you to do his will on the first and second time he tried, but was successful on the third?" Valentinian's brother fell to his knees and admitted the weakness of his will. He was filled with shame that Benedict could witness his wrongdoing even from such a distance.

(Adapted from *St. Gregory's Dialogues, Book II*)
Deacon Roy Goetz



Stained glass window in the Abbey Church

Skype connects Texan with classmates at Subiaco



Br. Patrick Boland communicating on Skype

Dominic Hackman used Skype video-conferencing from his home in Sugar Land, TX, to participate in class discussion with his teacher, Br. Patrick, and his fellow 7th graders on January 17, 2011.

Dominic was on an extended leave due to surgery and recovery and completed his assignments at home and submitted them by email. This Monday morning activity gave him a chance to participate in class discussion.



Two to be honored as Distinguished Alumnus

The Alumni Board of Directors, in their January meeting, unanimously agreed to confer the title of Distinguished Alumnus on two of its members. Henry Harder of the class of 1956 and Pat Franz, class of 1978, were cited for their achievements and their willingness to give of themselves in the service of others.

Henry L. Harder was born in Van Buren, Arkansas, on October 8, 1936, the son of August M. Harder and Nadean Crawley Harder. He received his elementary education at St. Boniface School in Fort Smith and his secondary education at Subiaco Academy. He completed the requirements for a baccalaureate degree in philosophy at Subiaco in 1958, and subsequently received a master's degree in English from the University of Arkansas, a doctorate in English from the University of Maryland, and a post graduate fellowship at Harvard University. In 1960 he married Ramona Johnson and they had five children: Karen, Monica, Kenneth (a priest of the Diocese of Tulsa), Stephen, and David.

Henry was commissioned an Ensign in the United States Navy in 1960 and completed the requirements to become a naval aviator in 1961. In addition to his active duty service as a pilot, he was on the faculty of the Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD, for four years. He retired from the Naval Reserve as a Captain in 1991.

Following a year of service on the faculty of Anne Arundel Community College in Maryland, Dr. Harder joined the faculty of Missouri Southern State College in Joplin, MO, where he taught for 28 years, specializing in Medieval Literature and Linguistics, and rising to the rank of Professor.

After retirement from the academy in 1998, Henry joined the staff of the Catholic Diocese of Tulsa, OK. He has served as an auditor in the Diocesan Tribunal for more than twelve years. He was named Chancellor of the Diocese of Tulsa by Bishop Edward Slattery in 2000, and served in that capacity until retiring in 2006. During his tenure in the Diocese of Tulsa he was named a Knight of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem and served on the Catholic Charities Board of Governors; the Catholic Charities Finance Committee; the Board of Trustees of St. Joseph's Residence; the Board of Trustees of Calvary Cemetery; the Board of Trustees of the Catholic Foundation of Eastern Oklahoma; the Diocesan Finance Council, the Diocesan Investment Committee; and the Board of Trustees of the Bishop Kelley High School Endowment Fund.

Pat Franz was born in Ft. Smith, Arkansas, on August 19, 1960, the son of Edward and Bettye Bercher Franz. He received his elementary education at St. Boniface School in Ft. Smith and his secondary education at Subiaco Academy. He received a bachelor's degree in business management with a minor in economics from Arkansas Tech. He went into business with his grandparents, opening a branch of their ceramic and pottery supply company in Oklahoma City. He later took over the company and has been a leading supplier in his area for over 25 years.

He is active in his parish, St. Mark the Evangelist in Norman, OK, serving as Eucharistic Minister and a leader in the RCIA program. He is also a fourth degree member of the Knights of Columbus. He has for many years coached Little League baseball and girls softball.

Pat has long served on the Subiaco Alumni Association Board holding the office of President in 2004/05. He is currently serving on the Academy Board of Trustees. He has been a mainstay in Camp Subiaco where he served 5 years as a counselor and for the past 10 years has served as its director. Through this Pat has been effective in turning many campers into students.

Pat met his future wife, Kerri Wright, at a Subiaco carnival and they were married in 1981. They have four children: Kelliagh, Becca, Adrienne and Michael, a 2008 graduate of the Academy.

Mr. Harder and Mr. Franz will be honored following the Mass at reunion in June.



Henry L. Harder '54



Pat Franz '78

Where are they now?

Ed Hart '67 sent an article from *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution* about his classmate **Chris Kayser '67**. Kayser has been a part of the Alliance Theatre production of "A Christmas Carol" for 26 years and currently plays the part of the old miser. The article notes that during 760 performances Kayser has uttered "Humbug" 3800 times.

Billy Gibson '97 has started a company to offer renewable energy products to enhance the existing product line of a company doing energy management. His new company is Integrated Solar. They have already installed several PV solar power systems and a couple of wind power systems.

James Hebert '81 and **Pete Narens '78** recently helped the Subiaco farm manager to build fences.

Len Ostermann '68, since graduation from Subiaco, also graduated from St. Louis University with a bachelors degree in math and a masters in hospital administration; also an associate's degree in nursing from Maryville University in St. Louis. He joined the Air Force in 1982 and retired in January 2010 as a Lt. Col. Most of his career was spent in medical logistics. He currently resides in Chesapeake, VA, with his wife, Debbie.

Ricco Ardemagni '00 has moved to Little Rock where he is managing a branch of his brother, **Nino's '91**, company. He recently starred in *A Few Good Men* in the role of Lt. J.G. Dan Kaffee.

Camp Subiaco

June 19-25, 2011

June 26-July 2, 2011

www.campsubiaco.org

Pat Franz, Director
pk1franz@aol.com

2011 Alumni Reunion planned

President **Phil Fredrich '62** has announced plans for the 2011 Alumni Reunion on the weekend of June 3-5. This year the Saturday evening banquet will be held in the Round House at St. Benedict's Parish Hall. The festivities will begin after Mass with a happy hour sponsored by the Subiaco Foundation. After the happy hour there will be a live auction to raise funds for tuition assistance. This will be followed by a steak dinner cooked by the Day Dog Committee.

Reunion activities will begin Friday at 11:00 a.m. with the Fr. Harold Annual Alumni Golf Tournament at the Chamberlyne Country Club outside Danville, AR. Please pre-register by May 15th. That evening will feature the Abbot's reception in the foyer of Centenary Hall. During this time several of the anniversary classes have scheduled their own parties. After the reception a Texas Hold'em poker tournament will be held on campus.

Saturday morning the Ladies Auxiliary will sponsor a brunch at the Round House at St. Benedict Parish (across the street from the Academy) featuring their Purse-onality Auction. The annual meeting of the Alumni Association will begin at 10:00 a.m. in the PAC auditorium. After various reports on the Academy, the Abbey and Summer Camp, Ken Hiegel and his wife Mary Bea will be introduced as new Honorary Alumni.

The Abbey Church will be the site of reunion Mass celebrated at 4:00 p.m. followed by the honoring of Henry Harder and Pat Franz as Distinguished Alumni.

A silent auction will be conducted by the Ladies Auxiliary in the PAC Gallery to benefit their scholarship fund. The auction will be open Friday afternoon, Saturday until Mass and then after the Banquet until 10 p.m.

Reunion will close with a thanksgiving breakfast on Sunday morning.



Live auction at the Saturday evening banquet last Alumni Reunion

Obituaries

Don Hartung '67 passed away on December 25, 2010, in St. Louis, MO. He was a graduate of Notre Dame University and operated an accounting and financial planning business. Don was a member of St. Anne Catholic Church. He was active in refereeing soccer in the St. Louis area. He and another person scheduled referees for 20,000 soccer games every year. Some will remember him as the football player who took the initial kickoff of the new Rebsamen Field and ran it back for a touchdown.

Don is survived by a daughter, Shawn Hartung and a son, Eric Hartung; two grandchildren, Christine and Nicholas Hartung; and a brother, **Denny Hartung '68**.

Jack Edans '47 died in Azle, TX, January 8, 2011. He was a retired shipping and receiving supervisor for the Brownwood plant of Swift and Company.

He was a member and Deacon of the First Baptist Church in Lakeside, Texas.

He is survived by his wife, Helen Claudine Edans; two sons, Pat and Randal; grandchildren, Robert Clark, William P. "Trey" Edans III, Amberly Jolley and Kristy Edans; and a great-grandchild, Kelsey Clark.

Harry John Fox '41 died January 21, 2011, in Paris, AR. His first job was working as a bookkeeper for the local coal mines. He was retired from Arkansas Western Gas Company. He was a member of St. Joseph Catholic Church. Johnny, as he was known, was an avid fisherman, hunter and gardener.

He is survived by three daughters, Barbara Robinson, Harriet Jones and Celeste Fox; one sister, Virginia Solas; four grandchildren, Kristi Hasart, Nick Robinson, Todd Robinson and Andrea Branson and ten great-grandchildren.

Marlin Hill '54 passed away in Poway, CA, on January 22, 2011. He is survived by his wife, Doris Hill.

John J. Robbins, Sr. '65 died February 22, 2011, in Little Rock, AR. He is survived by his wife of 40 years, Kay Berry Robbins; his four sons, John, Jr., Ben, Fr. Tony and Charles; two daughters, Kathryn Davis and Jane Robbins; seven grandchildren, Zachary, Sarah, Luke, Andrew, Michael, Kayley Robbins and Olivia Davis; four brothers, Felix, Jim, Jere, and Gene; and three sisters, Martha Robbins, Mary Ellen Robbins and Dorothy Poynor.

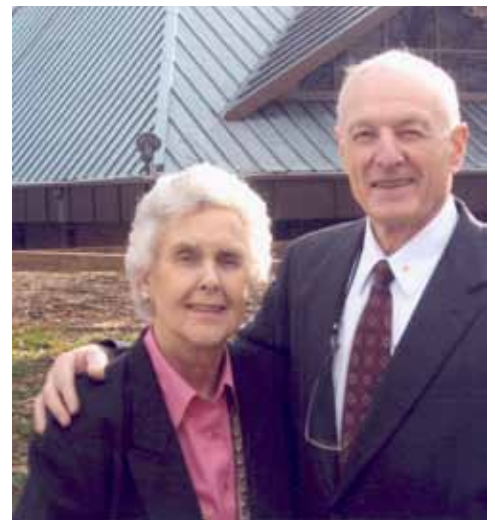


John was the founder and president of Datapath, Inc., a software development firm that specializes in creating administration systems for employee benefit reimbursement plans. He received undergraduate degrees in finance at the University of Memphis and in accounting at The University of Arkansas at Fayetteville. He acquired a masters in business administration from the University of Hawaii. John was active in various professional organizations including the Arkansas Society of CPA's, the American Society Institute of CPA's, the Beta Gamma Sigma Business Society and was an active board member of the Employee Council on Flexible Compensation. He was a member of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem, the Serra Club and the Knights of Columbus.

John Robbins '65

Ken and Mary Bea Hiegel to be named Honorary Alumnus

Abbot Jerome has announced that Kenneth and Mary Bea Hiegel will be welcomed as Honorary Alumnus at the regular business meeting of the Association during reunion. Ken is a 1955 graduate of St. Joseph High School in Conway and Mary Bea graduated from Mount St. Mary in Little Rock in 1957. Ken's relationship with Subiaco goes back to his camping days in the late forties and early fifties. In 1950 he and Joseph Seiter (future Rev. Joseph Seiter, CSSP) won first place in a piano/singing contest in a Catholic school competition.



Kenneth and Mary Bea Hiegel

Ken and Mary Bea began making retreats at the Coury House with the Serra Club in 1970. They have been active in the Retreat League in fundraising projects, cooking, baking, gathering saleable goods and working with the Academy on mutual support projects. For the last ten years Ken has served as President of the Retreat League.

Ken and Mary Bea are both Benedictine Oblates of Subiaco Abbey. Ken and Mary Bea have two sons and two daughters, Kenneth J. Hiegel, Jr. and his wife, Anne; Anne Beatrice Mines and her husband, Timothy; Kevin Hiegel and his wife Janece; and Stephanie Byers and her husband, Jeffrey. They have 13 grandchildren.



Development Director's Message

Since I joined the Abbey and Academy Development Office, one of the most often expressed concerns I hear is “you send too much mail.” In an effort to reduce the amount of mail last fall, we sent our annual “All Souls” remembrance mailing along with this newsletter. To further this effort we included our annual enrollment cards for both Mother’s and Father’s Day in this issue. Please look for this opportunity to “honor your father and mother” both living and deceased with this special enrollment.

We understand the importance of being good stewards of the gifts that God has entrusted us. We strive not only to reduce our mail but, also, look for ways to better inform you of our stewardship. Please feel free to contact me at any time with questions or concerns about our development efforts. We value your opinion.

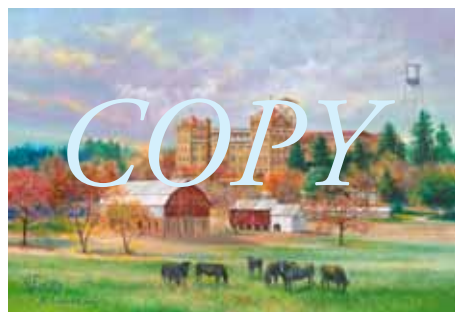
We appreciate you,
Steve



John Bell, Jr. Abbey Landscape print:

The development office still has limited edition signed and numbered prints of the Subiaco Abbey Landscape painted by John Bell, Jr. of Fort Smith, AR.

Please contact us for more information. [479]-934-1001



Abbot Paul Nahlen Guild:

The Abbot Paul Nahlen Guild was established to recognize and thank a special group of our friends and alumni who designated Subiaco Abbey or Academy in their will or estate plan.



The guild is named in honor of Subiaco’s third Abbot (1939-1957) who led Subiaco after the depression, one of this country’s most difficult times. The difficulty was compounded by the devastating fire of 1927. As Abbot he led Subiaco in a visionary building program that culminated in the consecration of the Abbey Church in 1959, just two years after his death.

By joining the Abbot Paul Nahlen Guild you will continue to provide for and impact the life and ministry of Subiaco Abbey and Academy beyond your time here on earth. Have you remembered Subiaco in your estate planning? If so, we are grateful! In addition we would like to have the opportunity to acknowledge and thank you now, instead of your family later. Please contact Steve Wilmes, Director of Development, (479-934-1027) to inform us of your plans.

Planned Giving:

Leave a Legacy... There is no greater reward than making a charitable gift to help future generations. However, the future is uncertain. People are living longer and many worry about how their retirement assets will sustain them in future years. If you find yourself in this situation, there are flexible ways to remember Subiaco that allow you to change your mind, if need be.

1) A gift to Subiaco Abbey or Academy in your will or living trust:

These can be given as a percentage of your estate which allows you to give in appropriate proportions, or made contingent upon certain circumstances. This gift option allows you to retain full control of your assets for your lifetime. Meet with your estate planning professional to change your beneficiaries or put a gift in place.

2) Life insurance and retirement plan assets: You can name Subiaco Abbey or Academy to receive all or a percentage of your life insurance proceeds or retirement plan assets through their respective beneficiary designations forms. Leaving us your retirement plan assets after your lifetime and saving other less-taxed assets for loved ones is tax-smart inheritance planning. Ask your plan administrator for the proper forms.

3) Beneficiary designations on bank accounts: You can name Subiaco Abbey or Academy as beneficiary of virtually any financial account you hold. This beneficiary designation is completely revocable and in no way affects your control over your account.

Some of our Recent Memorials

There are times when everyone wants to do something with lasting spiritual meaning for his or her loved ones. Subiaco Abbey provides such a way. Loved ones can be remembered daily in the monks' Divine Office and their Masses through the Memorial Enrollment Program. To make this possible the abbey offers two types of memorial cards that will be sent to the family or friend that you specify. One would be sent to the family of a deceased person, and a second would be sent to a living person being remembered. Living memorials include anniversaries, birthdays, or other occasions. The following are some of the memorials that we have recently received.

Honor/memorial	Donor	Honor/memorial	Donor	Honor/memorial	Donor
Agnes Bartelli	Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Talik	Betsy Lewis	Mr. & Mrs. Richard Hargraves	John Robbins (cont.)	Mr. & Mrs. Edwin Riley
Winston Bath	Mr. & Mrs. James C. Troxler	Rev. Meinrad Marbaugh, OSB	Ms. Ruth Levinson		Mr. & Mrs. Martin Roy
Mr. Charles Beichner	Mr. & Mrs. James C. Troxler	Jerry P. Martin	Mr. & Mrs. Henry B. Vogler, Jr.		Mr. & Mrs. Sam Sicard
Br. Patrick Boland, OSB	Mr. & Mrs. Robert L. Lee, Jr.	Mr. & Mrs. David McMahon	Mr. & Mrs. W. W. Oatman		Stevens, Dowd & Co.
Wilbert Brock	Mr. & Mrs. James C. Gehrig	Dallas Messer	Mr. & Mrs. James C. Troxler		Worksite Benefit Plans, Inc.
Mr. & Mrs. Raymond E. Buss	Mr. Donald Zaloudek	Anna Migala	Mr. & Mrs. Tom O. Moncrief		Arvest Bank Operations, Inc.
Mr. & Mrs. H.P. Costello	Mr. & Mrs. Terry A. Costello	Martin Moore	Mr. & Mrs. James C. Troxler		Mr. Gimo Berry
Donald Crowe	Mr. & Mrs. George Mansour, Jr.	Dcn. & Mrs. Robert L. Morris	Ms. Mary Rose		Brown Rogers & Co. PA
Paul Davis	Mr. & Mrs. Paul Davis	Theresa Nahlen	Mr. & Mrs. T. J. Nahlen		Mr. & Mrs. Matthew Eshleman
Mimi Dortch	Mr. Jay T. Bradford	Mr. & Mrs. L. J. Naquin	Mr. & Mrs. James C. Troxler		Future Planning Associates, Inc.
	Mr. & Mrs. Kramer Darragh	M/M Jeremy Naquin family	Mr. & Mrs. James C. Troxler		Insurance Admin. of America
	Dcn. & Mrs. Tim Massanelli	Helen Nutt	Mr. Timothy Nutt		Ms. Suzanne Kleese
	Mrs. Freddie Nixon	Raymond Parkhill	Mr. & Mrs. Henry B. Vogler, Jr.		Pacific Benefit Consultants, Inc.
	Rev. Alan E. Rosenau	Lucille Pelletier	Mrs. Catherine Morin		Ms. Jane Sanders
	Mrs. Susan Bransford	Mr. & Mrs. James Phillips	Mr. & Mrs. James C. Troxler		Mr. & Mrs. Michael Udouj
	Dillard's Corporate Travel	Wilfred Plugge	Dr. & Mrs. Robert C. Hilton		Webb, Hugg and Hall Equip.
	Mrs. Sally Gean	Mrs. Agnes T. Pomeroy	Mr. & Mrs. James C. Troxler		Mr. & Mrs. Pat N. Wardlaw
	Mr. & Mrs. T. Stuart Harris	Joann Pugh	Mr. Bob Pugh	Joe Rogerson	Mr. & Mrs. James C. Troxler
	Mr. & Mrs. Jim Newberry	Jim Ragsdale	Mr. & Mrs. James C. Troxler	Louise Schmidlkofer	Mr. & Mrs. Steve Schmitz
	Ms. JoAnn Pryor	Leona Guthrie Reeder	Dr. Michele Sabino	Bruce C. and Elva Schratz	Dr. & Mrs. Bruce E. Schratz
	Ms. Phoebe Norman	Paul H. Reynolds	Mr. & Mrs. Henry B. Vogler, Jr.	Mr. & Mrs. Elmo Self	Mr. & Mrs. Steve Schmitz
	Ms. Patricia Cromwell	John Robbins	ABC Financial Service	Mrs. Benita Siebenmorgen	Mr. & Mrs. Ken Siebenmorgen
	Mr. & Mrs. James C. Troxler		Mr. & Mrs. Richard Ardemagni	Tony Siebenmorgen	Mr. & Mrs. Ken Siebenmorgen
Freddy Dulany	Mr. & Mrs. Richard Hargraves		Mr. Terry Baumeister	Mr. Bradley C. Smith	Mr. & Mrs. Don A. Smith
Mr. & Mrs. Fred Faust	Miss Celeste Fox		Bene-Care Benefits Advocate	Jim Sontag	Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Kissee
Harry John Fox	Mr. & Mrs. Greg Hartz		Mr. & Mrs. Ken Bennett	Johnny & Patsy Spellins	Mr. & Mrs. Ken Siebenmorgen
Phillip Fredrich	Mr. & Mrs. Richard Hargraves		Mr. Jay T. Bradford	Dale A. Stuckey	Ms. Wanda Amo
Mr. & Mrs. Wes Freemyer	Mr. Melvin Fuhrmann		Mrs. Lisa Brow	Charles Emory Sullivan	Mr. & Mrs. Greg Wolfe
Irma Rose Fuhrmann	Ms. Gloria Ouder Kirk		Ms. Marsha Buegler	Joan M. Sullivan	Mr. & Mrs. Greg Wolfe
Ms. Eunice Garland	estate of Anna Marie Gillespie		Central Flying Service	Mother of Tricia Sutton	Mrs. Anne Phillips
Rev. Victor Gillespie, OSB	Sr. Joan Pfaufer, RSM		Mr. & Mrs. Ken Crow	Shirley Timmermeyer	Mr. & Mrs. Fabian J. Geels
Betty & Tom Griffith	Mr. & Mrs. Greg Wolfe		Mr. & Mrs. Mont S. Echols, Jr.	Mrs. Genevieve Troxler	Mr. & Mrs. James C. Troxler
Lena L. Griswold	Mr. & Mrs. John W. Murphy		Flexible Benefit Group, Inc.	L. O. Troxler	Mr. & Mrs. James C. Troxler
Bill Hagemeyer	Mr. & Mrs. Henry B. Vogler, Jr.		Mr. & Mrs. Jerome J. Flusche	Sr. M. Marguerite Troxler	Mr. & Mrs. James C. Troxler
Pauline Hardin	Mr. & Mrs. Greg Hartz		Mr. & Mrs. Rick Haggard	Mr. & Mrs. Patrick C. Troxler	Mr. & Mrs. James C. Troxler
Marion Hartz	Mr. & Mrs. Richard Hargraves		Mr. & Mrs. John Hood	Corky Varner	Mrs. Anne Phillips
Mr. & Mrs. Dick Hendrix	Dr. & Mrs. Robert C. Hilton		Innova Benefit Services LLC	Dr. John P. Walter	Mr. & Mrs. Sam Sparkman
John H. Hilton	Mr. & Mrs. Richard Hargraves		Mr. Joseph Knittig	Eugene Weisenfels	Mr. & Mrs. Chris J. Weisenfels
J. V. Hollowell	Mr. & Mrs. Richard Hargraves		McGregor & Associates	Rita Weisskopf	Mr. & Mrs. Norton Cohen
Mary Ruth Hollowell	Mr. & Mrs. George Mansour, Jr.		Mr. & Mrs. John Mendenhall	Esther Whitman	Mr. & Mrs. James C. Gehrig
Steve Hovas	East Logan Co. Water Association		Mitchell, Williams, Selig, Gates & Woodyard, PLLC	Basil Wiederkehr	Mrs. Mary A. Nielson
Mr. & Mrs. Eugene Huber	Mr. & Mrs. James C. Troxler			Marie B. Williams	Ms. Joan Cannon
James G. Kirchner					

To request a Memorial, clip, fill in coupon, and mail.
 Enclosed is my memorial gift to continue the works of Subiaco Abbey \$ _____

My Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

In Memory of: _____ (Name) (or) In Honor Of: _____ (Name)

Commemorating: (Anniversary, Birthday, Special Occasion) _____

Send special card to: _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Mail to: Subiaco Abbey, 405 N. Subiaco Avenue, Subiaco, AR 72865-9798

Mother's/Father's Day

There are times when we want to do something with lasting meaning for our mother and father, living or deceased. Subiaco Abbey provides a way for your parents to be honored and remembered each year on both Mother's and Father's Days.

With receipt of a donation to Subiaco, your mother's and/or father's name will be placed on the altar and remembered during Mass on May 8th and June 19th and for the remainder of those months in honor and memory of your loved one. In addition, we send your mother and/or father a card which will be mailed directly from the Abbey for their special day.

Your donation will help us continue the life and mission of Jesus Christ in education, parish ministry, and retreat work here at Subiaco. If you wish to donate please click on the url below which will take you to our website and the opportunity to make a gift to Subiaco in honor of or in memory of you mother and/or father.

Thanks.

<http://www.subi.org/Abbey/donate.php>

PRAYER HOTLINE

Let us join you in praying
for your needs.

The number to call is:

1-800-350-5889

Or you can e-mail
your request to:
prayer@subi.org



As you receive this edition of *The Abbey Message*, we will have already entered the deeply moving and spiritually enriching season of Lent. Traditionally, this season has been known as a time when we deepen our relationship with God through a recommitment to prayer, fasting and almsgiving. We then progress to Holy Week and the great Easter Triduum with its culmination celebration of the resurrection of our Lord. The Easter season that follows is one of great rejoicing as we move towards the celebration of Ascension and that great Solemnity of Pentecost. Each of the seasons and days have their own theme and significance both in salvation history and in our own faith lives. To that end, I would like to offer a few suggestions as to how our Cory House Retreat Center might assist in a making these liturgical events more meaningful for you.

First, Lent is an ideal time for making a retreat. As I shared in my last article, an individual retreat for a day or two is ideal for both an individual and for families. Consider spending a few days with us to just get away from the hustle and bustle of daily life. If time away is a problem for you, then find a way to make your own private retreat at home with some spiritual reading to assist. Stop by our Gift Shop and browse the hundreds of books that we have available. I know that buying online is the easiest for most people in this day and age. Still, the opportunity to browse through hundreds of books for spiritual reading will allow you to find just the right one that is tailored to your need. In fact, you will see in our Gift Shop that many of our monks have made suggestions for possible books that they also have found very spiritually edifying and helpful.

Second, you obviously know that Easter is a time that society celebrates the Easter Bunny and the giving of the Easter basket to children. The Easter season likewise usually falls during times of First Communions, weddings, Confirmations, Mother's Day, Father's Day and graduations. For each of these, the giving of a gift seems to be the norm. So, why not take the opportunity this year to give a "spiritual" gift of some type to your loved one for these events? Our Gift Shop has everything from saint medals and rosaries to bibles, spiritual literature, crucifixes and cards. Additionally, our monks have produced many items as well. Books are available from Abbot Jerome, Fr. Hugh, Fr. Gregory, Fr. Placidus and myself. We have framed calligraphy available from Fr. Hugh and Brother Ephrem. We have hand-made rosaries available from Fr. Richard, including his remarkable Job's Tears rosary made from seeds grown here at Subiaco. Finally, we have our famous Monk Sauce, produced by Fr. Bruno and Fr. Richard, and our Peanut Brittle, produced by Fr. Richard.

St. Benedict reminds us monks in the 57th chapter of his Rule that "The evil of avarice must have no part in establishing prices, which should, therefore, always be a little lower than people outside the monastery are able to set, so that in all things God may be glorified." (1 Pet 4:11) To that end, let us help you enter more deeply into the liturgical season. With the exception of our limited supply of monk sauce and peanut brittle, everything in our Gift Shop will be discounted 20% until the celebration of Pentecost. This is our small way of making items available to you that will enhance your faith life without additional cost.

Similarly, if you are interested in a private retreat for yourself or your family, we would be honored to host you. The only dates where we are already filled are: May 24-27, May 14, June 3-5, June 6-10, and June 12-16. Give us a call [479-934-1290] and we can see how we might be of service to you. On behalf of our entire staff, may these wonderful liturgical seasons be ones where you draw closer to Christ and deepen your life of prayer.

God bless!

Br. Francis Kirchner

The Abbey Message
is a composite quarterly
publication of Subiaco Abbey.

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