

# The Abbey Message

## Subiaco Abbey

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### For all the saints

by Fr. Hugh Assenmacher, OSB

“Day by day, remind yourself that you are going to die.” (*Rule of Benedict 4:47*)

“The souls of the just are in the hand of God.” (*Wisdom 3:1*)

“It is a holy and wholesome thought to pray for the dead.” (*2 Maccabees 12:45*)

“May He bring us all together to everlasting life.” (*Rule of Benedict 72:12*)

This collage of texts from the Bible and the Rule illustrate the Christian and monastic attitude toward death. Thus a monastic cemetery is a comfortable place of continuing communion as we wait for the “all together” time.

The beginning of a cemetery at St. Benedict's Priory, now Subiaco Abbey, and of St. Benedict's Parish, was in 1878, shortly after the monks arrived from Indiana. The first burial was that of an elderly bachelor, a Mr. Babel, a brewer from Bavaria. He had lived with the monks for about three weeks and then settled northwest of the town of Paris and began to construct a brewery. Here he fell ill. A Protestant neighbor brought the news to Fr. Wolfgang at the priory and the prior hurried on the sick call. The next day word came that Mr. Babel had died and that there was no one to attend to his burial. The monks made a coffin and Fr. Wolfgang and Br. Hilarin brought the corpse back to the monastery. Mr. Babel was buried about a quarter of a mile west of the priory, in what was to become St. Benedict's Cemetery for parishioners and monks. The monks' section was the east end of this graveyard, and was used until 1934.

In 1903 the monastery was moved to its present location, a mile from the cemetery.



This necessitated long funeral processions for both monk and parishioner funerals. By the early 1930s a strong movement was afoot to move the monastic cemetery closer to the abbey, not only for practical reasons, but also, as Abbot Edward Burgert told his monks, to make it “easier to remember departed confreres by visits to the cemetery.” Though some monks opposed the site chosen, the northeast slope of the abbey hill, Fr. Conrad Herda and a crew of monks designed and built the present abbey cemetery on this hillside. They terraced the hillside to provide five gently sloping areas for gravesites. It was, and is, a very scenic arrangement, but always difficult to care for. The monk-builders also moved the bodies of monks buried at the original location. One of the construction crew, Frater Edmund Lazzari, was the first to be buried in the new graveyard. It was blessed by Abbot Edward on Easter Monday morning, 1934.

Most of Subiaco’s monks are buried here, or were transferred here in 1934. There are exceptions. The following four are buried elsewhere and are commemorated by markers in the cemetery: Fr. Wolfgang Schlumpf, founder, died in Switzerland and was buried there; Fr. Bonaventure Binzegger, second prior, returned to Switzerland and was buried there; Fr. Benedict Brunet, third prior, was buried at St. Meinrad Archabbey in Indiana; Abbot Ignatius Conrad, first abbot, died in Switzerland and was buried there.

Frater Innocent Olles died in Little Rock and was buried beside the church in his home parish of New Dixie, Arkansas, at the request of his parents. Fr. Columban Schmucki died as pastor of Rhineland, Texas. At the plea of his parishioners he was buried in the cemetery there. Br. Luke Bain died in Ennis, Texas, and was buried there next to his parents. Also some monks in the early days returned to Indiana or to Switzerland, where they died and are buried. One early monk, Fr. Vincent Wehrle, went to the Dakotas after becoming a bishop and he is buried there. In the 1990s several monks who had made profession at Subiaco, but had become members of Corpus Christi Abbey in Texas, were brought back and re-buried in our cemetery when that abbey closed.

Also buried in the cemetery are several abbey workmen of the early days, who had no families, several diocesan priests, and a woman Benedictine Oblate, the only female in the Abbey cemetery. These are in a separate place, not mixed with the graves of the monks. All graves, except those of the abbots, are marked with tombstones made at the abbey, with a plaque attached giving the pertinent data. Interestingly, the earliest tombstones have inscriptions in German, then Latin was used, and English took over about 1950.



*The view from the lower level of the cemetery*

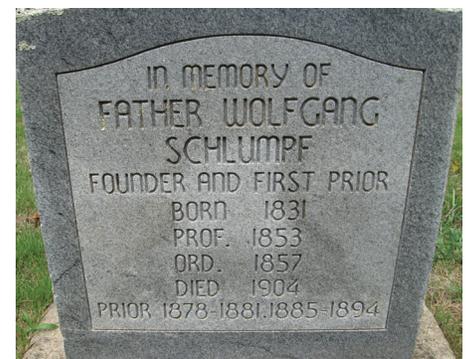
the cemetery, now almost full, is being expanded to provide burial sites for the next hundred years. A columbarium is planned next to the monastic cemetery. Abbot Jerome tells about this project in his “All Souls Day letter,” which accompanies this issue of *The Abbey Message*.

True to Abbot Edward’s wish, the abbey cemetery has made it possible to visit the graves of deceased confreres. Over the years this has constantly been done by monks, alumni, relatives, and friends. On the evening of All Souls Day, November 2, the monastic community, often accompanied by students or visitors, goes in procession to the cemetery. While the graves are incensed and sprinkled with holy water by the abbot, the names of all buried or commemorated there are read aloud and the community responds: “Grant him eternal rest, O Lord.” A votive light is placed on top of the cross at each grave and the effect in the dusk is very impressive. This visit to the cemetery is a popular Subiaco tradition. It is also heart-warming to see many teachers in the Academy taking their classes to the cemetery, especially in the month of November, for a “visit” to the graveyard.

In the 1930s when the present Lourdes grotto was built in East Park, the Blessed Virgin shrine which had been located there, was transferred to the slope above the graves of the monks. This small shrine has a German prayer attached to the pedestal and is one of Subiaco Abbey’s landmarks. An adjoining English translation of the poem is a sentimental paean to the Virgin Mary: “There is no flower / under the wide blue sky / like this one which blooms / in the green meadow of heaven.”

In the 1980s, extensive repair work on the retaining walls, steps, and flagstone was carried out by Mr. Robert Etkorn, assisted by Br. Anthony Grummer. The cemetery has not changed since this work was done, until now. Presently

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*Founding Prior Wolfgang is honored by a headstone.*

# Have you been to Caesarea?

The Synoptic Gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke divide the story of Jesus' ministry into two parts: the early time of preaching and healing in Galilee, Jesus' home area in the north, and the continuation of his mission as he journeys with his disciples to his destiny in Jerusalem. The Gospel of John does not follow this geographical pattern, but shows Jesus going back and forth between north and south. The evangelists are not so much concerned about the exact sequence of events as about their meaning in the mission of Jesus and their significance for our lives as his disciples. Here I would like to delve into the spiritual significance of the Synoptic approach.

St. Mark is generally considered the first to write a Gospel (around the year 70) and would have been the one to develop the pattern followed by Matthew and Luke. Mark's division is neat: eight chapters in Galilee; eight chapters focused on Jerusalem. In Galilee, Jesus proclaims the coming of the kingdom of God and brings the kingdom into the lives of the people by healing and casting out demons. Soon he calls twelve disciples to be with him as close co-workers. Though there are bumps in the road, such as his rejection by the people of his hometown, in general the ministry is successful. The people are amazed at the healings and don't know what to make of him, but the crowds gather, and the disciples are glad to share Jesus' growing fame.

Then Jesus takes the disciples to a place off the beaten track, Caesarea Philippi, at the headwaters of the Jordan, and asks them the critical question, "Who do you say that I am?," to which St. Peter as spokesman answers, "You are the Messiah." Jesus proceeds to tell them of his persecution and coming death in Jerusalem, which is too much for Peter, whose idea of the Messiah has no room for suffering. Jesus rebukes Peter severely and tells him that only those who are willing to take up the cross and walk the journey of suffering with Jesus can be his disciples. Soon afterward the message of the cross is confirmed by the voice from heaven: "This is my beloved son. Listen to him" (Mk. 9:7).

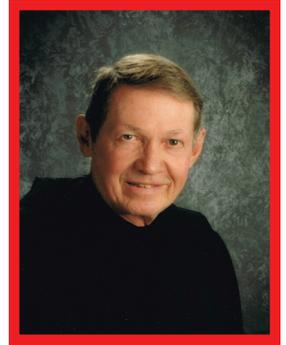
Any one who desires to be a true disciple of Jesus must go to Caesarea Philippi. It is now a symbolic place where, after following Jesus for the wrong reasons or half-heartedly, we have the chance to become Jesus' disciples on his terms, to take up our cross and begin walking with him to Jerusalem.

Just as we do not know how long Jesus ministered in Galilee nor how long he was on the final journey to Jerusalem, there is no fixed period for when we will go to Caesarea. For some it may be very early in life, for others in the middle, for still others very late. Perhaps the opportunity will come several times before we are ready to commit to the journey. Jesus is generous and forgiving and patient.

The New Testament uses two Greek words for time: *chronos* and *kairos*. *Chronos* is measurable time, clock time. From this term we get the English chronological and anachronistic. We can always know what time it is according to *chronos*. *Kairos* is a non-measurable time of opportunity. It may be a few seconds or stretch for weeks. The *kairos* moments in our lives are those which we look back on as "momentous," bringing a new realization about ourselves or about life, a new focus or a new decision. We can plan according to *chronos*, but not according to *kairos*, which is a gift and a surprise. *Chronos* happens whether we like it or not. In the case of *kairos*, the time of opportunity, what can happen will not happen unless we cooperate. Caesarea beckons, but we may not yet be ready to go; and when we get there, we may not be ready to respond. But Jesus is always ready and waiting.

The first part of life for all of us is a time in Galilee. We do many good things and are trying to find our place in the world. We have a sense of purpose and follow it. Before too long we begin to realize that there are lots of things we cannot control. A farmer who does everything right finds his reasonable expectations derailed by hail, or drought, or plant disease. A health-conscious woman, very faithful to diet and exercise, discovers serious cancer. A newly married couple's baby contracts a rare crippling disease. We begin to confront the larger questions: where is this life going, what does it all mean, who is in charge? We find ourselves in Caesarea with a decision to make.

Which way we go from Caesarea is not a foregone conclusion. A *kairos* moment is offered but not forced. We may decide to return to Galilee, a familiar place which provides escape and postponement of the larger questions. But our destiny is in Jerusalem, and the sooner we realize it we can begin to walk in the direction we have always really wanted to go.



"Anyone who desires to be a true disciple of Jesus must go to Caesarea Philippi, ... where ... we have the chance to become Jesus' disciples on his terms."

Abbot Jerome Kodell, O.S.B.

# Abbey Journal

by Fr. Mark Stengel, OSB

## June

Remember the Doris Day song “*Que será, será*. The future’s not ours to see. *Que será, será*”? The May journal remarked on the hot and dry month, and looked with hope for a predicted rain. Thank God that we did not know what was in store for us! Not knowing the future allowed hope to survive day after day, and week after week. As St. Paul says “Hoping for what we cannot see means waiting with patient endurance.” (Romans 8:25) I’m glad we did not know that June would be drier than a very dry May, and that we would have 32 days of 100° and above. As I write this, near the end of August, we are still waiting and enduring, although our patience is frayed. Now our hopes are set on hurricane Isaac, with its track forecast to cross central Arkansas. Let’s hope it does no damage along the coast, and brings us some rain.

Had Brother Adrian known how much water he would have to pump from Cane Creek for his watermelon patch, he likely would not have planted. But, ever hopeful and doggedly persistent, he watered day after day, and produced an abundance of tasty melons. Grasshoppers, squirrels and groundhogs decimated everything else in the garden. Well, now we know that this area is favorable only for potatoes and melons, and won’t try hopeless crops again.

Fr. Richard is Novicemaster and also Production Manager (to give him a new title) for the Abbey’s Monk Sauce and peanut brittle. The two jobs actually are complementary, since the novicemaster assigns work to the novices and candidates. He catches them at meals, and whispers (at breakfast) or speaks aloud (at lunch) “Pepper plantation” and “Peanut brittle factory.” Cringing at his approach has been minimal.

The daily watering kept the young Habanero plants green, as surrounding areas turned to dust. Grasshoppers gathered in this oasis, eating mainly the outer bark and cambium layer of the plant stems, killing some plants. But when the plants began setting fruit, the insect plague attacked in earnest, noshing on the baby peppers in a frenzy of mandibles. The local Farmers’ Co-op suggested a capsaicin-based botanical spray. That didn’t sound right: “I don’t think pepper spray is what we want; that’s what they’re eating.” Next Fr. Richard tried infecting the horde with a grasshopper pathogen, *nosema locustae*. This one-celled parasite might have been working, but effective control required three weeks to a month, and the peppers couldn’t wait that long. Finally, a chemical insecticide turned back the invaders, or at least stemmed the tide.

Novice Huy led the fishing expeditions during Camp Subiaco. The Fieldhouse Pond, along Highway 197, gave back many of the catfish that had been stocked there a few days before Camp. Pictures were made and images posted for parents to see, but Huy did not include filleting in the skill set he gave the boys. Sad, because soon after the two weeks of Camp, and two weeks of 100° weather, a massive fish kill occurred. Remember your science: as the temperature of a solvent increases, the amount of dissolved gas decreases. The poor asphyxiated fish proved that principle.

Novice Derrick handled the canoes for Camp, using the upper, or Third Lake, as his boating venue. This small lake is isolated and quiet, and devoid of shade. In the triple-digit heat, the young campers cooled off with water fights between vessels, “unavoidable” collisions and staged swampings. All campers were wearing PFDs, so their less-than-elegant canoeing outings were safe, but wet.



Nov. Huy surrounded by eager fishercampers

## July

Several of the Junior Monks, led by Br. John Paul, decided to move the Fourth of July festivities outside again. Years ago, picnic suppers on the Fourth—and every summer Sunday—were taken for granted. Then we moved inside. Reasons were given: heat, flies, extra work, uneven footing, etc. When this year’s schedule announced the outdoor picnic, it seemed that most were in favor—if only it were not so hot! It was 104° on the Fourth, but the organizers held firm: we would eat outside. The only concession was the option of carrying one’s meal inside to the cool student dining room. Just in case anyone would have dreamed of wearing a habit, Prior David posted the note: “Habits need not be worn.” Perhaps it was a case of mass delirium, but everyone came and everyone stayed outside. There was a breeze, and the ground under the trees had been soaked the day before, and it actually was quite bearable—no, even enjoyable. Maybe we are not wimps after all!

As if to prove that point, Fr. Mark chose these 100° days for rebuilding the retaining wall north of the *Ecce Quam Bonum* summerhouse in East Park. Daniel Mora, a 2012 Academy graduate, assisted, hauling gravel and fill dirt, and helping to man-

handle the larger stones. They finished, by mid-July, the massive task of tearing down and rebuilding a section about 35 feet long and 7 feet high. Abbot Jerome commented “We’ll have to hire you guys out.”

There is a proper divine office for the Feast of Our Lady of Einsiedeln on July 16. The antiphons for Vespers are complex. Some of the stronger voices were missing from choir, but the rest of us soldiered bravely on. We are not (yet) in competition with the monks of the Abbey of Domingo de Silos! At recreation afterwards, a review of the evening’s experience got around to stories of comic happenings during prayer. One of my favorites happened many years ago on this very feast day of our Lady. In those days, the antiphons for Matins would be intoned, in order of seniority, by the priest monks in attendance. On this summer day, with most senior monks away, it fell to a junior monk, a very black Nigerian priest, to intone the antiphon, taken from the Song of Songs. To his announcement, “*Nigra sum*”, the community responded “*sed formosa*.” (“I am black ... but beautiful.”) As Dave Barry used to say: “I am NOT MAKING THIS UP.” I don’t recall how long it took the choir to come back to order.



Fr. Mark and Daniel Mora showing off the rebuilt wall

## August

Usually, we are picking grapes toward the end of August, just when the liturgy gives us the parable of the workers in the vineyard. This year, the early and hot summer caused an earlier ripening. The call for volunteers was issued on August 2. Brother Joseph Koehler recruits help from all departments, and invites friends and neighbors to assist. Around 30 pickers assembled after breakfast, expecting harsh working conditions. Almost miraculously, several light showers and a breeze enabled vintagers to stay on task, picking a possible record for one morning of about 80 “lugs”—containers of about  $\frac{3}{4}$  bushel, *mas o menos*. The workers’ rallying cry became “Man up!” This was in response to multiple bee stings, as the honeybees did not easily abandon “their” clusters to the large invaders. Luckily no bee sting allergies flared, and all pickers, shamed by cries of “Man up!”, reached, with swollen fingers, for the next bunch. Br. Mel brought down some ampoules of bee sting pain relief, but no one used it. The “miracle” dissipated by noon, as the clouds cleared, the breeze died, and the temperature climbed again to 105°. Winemaker Br. Anselm hosted the pickers in the cool cellar for a collation of crackers, cheese, and summer sausage. Farm boss Craig Layes sampled the blue cheese, and then shook his head in disbelief as Novice Richard scarfed down large wedges of the stuff.



Br. Eric was one of many grape harvesters.

A visiting family from eastern Tennessee told us that the summer in their town of Greeneville had been one of the wettest on record, and that they were so tired of the daily showers. Such news elicits a barely-concealed gritting of teeth, and strangled expressions of sympathy. If only the Razorbacks played the Volunteers this year, we might get some revenge.

Academy classes began on August 20. Prior Leonard posted his Academy schedule, which seemed to be based on some alien calendar system. The explanation is that the Academy is following a six-day rotation, so that the Monday schedule of one week comes up again in six class days, on the following Tuesday, and so forth. I’m told that this keeps both faculty and students alert, and that one must NEVER be without the schedule.

Headmaster Rob Loia has assigned names to the six days of this rotation which relate to the Year of Faith, as proclaimed by Pope Benedict. The names are: *Testimonium*, *Credo*, *Caritas*, *Fides*, *Trinitas*, and *Mysterium*. The eight daily periods follow this theme: Augustine, John, Joseph, Luke, Mary, Paul, Peter, and Stephen. So Academy students locate themselves as “on the way to ‘Luke period, Trinitas day’” rather than something so banal as “4th period Friday.”

Another innovation this year is a laminated Meal Prayer card on each table in the cafeteria. Perhaps some of this will sink in by osmosis. At least we will be able to say “We did something for the Year of Faith.”

Fr. Timothy took a tumble at his parish in Van Buren and is now in residence in the Abbey Health Center, recovering

from shoulder replacement surgery. Fr. Denis is also out of commission, following aneurism surgery. Fr. Brendan had a recent health setback, and seems to be recovering nicely. Please keep our confreres in prayer.

Notices from the diocese are sent electronically now, and during the second week of August, we were surprised at an announcement that Fr. David Bellinghausen was to become the pastor of St. Mary's Church just across the river in Altus, AR. We knew something big was up, since it was unlikely that he would continue as Prior, with this new assignment. Abbot Jerome posted the announcement for the community that same day that Fr. Leonard would be the new Prior. Fr. David had served as Prior for 15 years, and was ready to accept a different set of stressors—along with new blessings, gifts and opportunities, of course. Abbot Jerome complimented the two men on their discretion, noting that not a word of this impending change had leaked out, until the e-mail from the diocese had forced his hand.

Now, on this perfectly clear and hot afternoon, we await the arrival of Isaac. Hopefully, this is the calm before the storm.



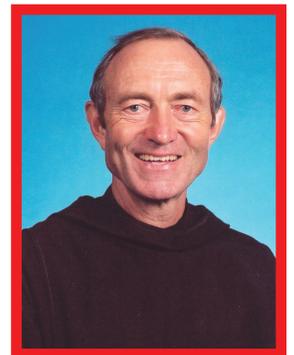
*As in the past, the summer saw many area Knights of Columbus doing volunteer work at the Abbey - here building a new sidewalk.*

## Whom will I serve?

On a recent weekend assignment, I had the uncommon experience of having a couple walk out during my homily. I had been talking about the decisions that we have to make at the crossroad moments of our lives as individuals, as Catholics, as Americans. Joshua had told the people of his day: "Decide now whom you will serve. . . . As for me and my family, we will serve the Lord."

A choice to "serve the Lord" will necessarily put us at odds with those who choose to serve the gods of the people in whose country we are living. I described the "god" we are asked to serve these days—not YHWH (Yahweh), but PCCW (Politically Correct Conventional Wisdom). We are told to accept any life-style or personal choice in the name of tolerance, to restrict our religious and moral sensibilities to the confines of the churchyard, and to abandon the notion that objective truth or moral good might hold sway over personal freedom and choice.

I'm not sure what seemed offensive in my words. Perhaps the notion that something could be right and another person's even strongly-held conviction might be judged as wrong, seemed insensitive and intolerant. Joshua called his people to faithfulness, not to tolerance. Jesus tells us to love our enemies, to pray for them, and to forgive. These hard actions serve God. The easy actions of tolerating everything, going along with the crowd, fitting in at all costs, serve the gods of the country in which we are living.



*Fr. Mark Stengel*



## Elected to lead the Academy Board of Trustees

**Mary Lensing** was elected President of the Subiaco Academy Board of Trustees at the July 20, 2012, board meeting. Mary explained her background in education as follows: “Once an educator, always an educator. Education is my interest, passion, and expertise. Although retired after 30 years as a teacher and principal for grades k-12 in our Catholic school system, I maintain my interest in trends, visions, and challenges that face our students, teachers, and families in Catholic education.” Mary was the science teacher and principal at Immaculate Conception in North Little Rock and Principal at St. Joseph Junior/Senior High in Pine Bluff. She received the Pulaski County Channel 4 Favorite Teacher Award and is listed in the Who’s Who of America’s Teachers. Mary and her husband Ron were named as honorary members of the Subiaco Alumni Association and of the Ladies Auxiliary.

**Dr. E.J. Chauvin ’77**, a cardiothoracic surgeon at Mercy Health Systems in Rogers, AR, was elected Vice-President of the Subiaco Academy Board of Trustees at the July 20, 2012, board meeting. He is a graduate of Tulane University and the University of Arkansas Medical School. He has served since 1988 in the U.S. Army Reserve Medical Corps and served for six months in 2003 as Commander 936th FST Anbar Province, Iraq. E.J. and his wife have two children, **Jody ’12** and **Aymee**.

**Leo Sharum ’79**, the Director of Information Services for Data-Tronics Corp. in Fort Smith, Arkansas, was elected Secretary of the Subiaco Academy Board of Trustees at the July 20, 2012, board meeting. With over 30 years of experience in computer systems development and implementation, Leo works with the Data-Tronics’ leadership team to provide strategic oversight, direction, and management for Arkansas Best Corporation’s information systems. A native of Fort Smith, Arkansas, he earned a B.S.B.A. in Data Processing Quantitative Analysis and an MBA from the University of Arkansas. He currently serves on the advisory boards for the University of Arkansas’ Information Technology Research Institute, the Enterprise Computing Steering Committee, and the Arkansas Best Federal Credit Union. Leo has been married to his wife, Debbie, for 29 years and is “dad” for their 3 sons; **Jeffrey ’05**, **Matthew ’08** and **Alexander ’15**.



*l-r; Abbot Jerome Kodell, Ron & Mary Lensing*

## Rings are sacred objects

“The Subiaco senior rings, because they are blessed, become sacred objects,” explained Fr. Hugh Assenmacher, OSB, during his homily at the August 19 Mass opening the academic year. Forty seniors participated in the ring ceremony in the Abbey Church which was filled with monks, many parents, and the entire student body. Fr. Hugh, principal celebrant for the Mass, noted in his homily that rings, although used for centuries as ornamentation, are signs of a covenant or contract, and therefore at Subiaco are signs of the bond with all men who have graduated from Subiaco Academy. Each senior is expected, said Fr. Hugh, to be a man of faith, a leader, and one who is grateful to all who made it possible for each to be a Subiaco student.



## A lifesaving experience



Academy senior Cameron Mask related the following: “We had a medical emergency during our time spent in New Mexico. The day on which it happened was going to be the most strenuous of the whole trip. We were to climb over two mountains. We had already hiked for a couple of hours before we began the climb of the first peak. Because we younger hikers were faster than the adults, we gave them a small headstart. Right as we started to make our way up, we saw one of the leaders fall off the trail and slide a few feet down the hill. We ran up to help and to find out what happened, and when we got to him, he was unconscious. He wasn’t breathing and had no pulse. One of my friends began CPR, while I and some others tried to cool him off. Two people ran further up the mountain to get a phone signal, and four others ran down to a camp to find help. After a few cycles of CPR, the leader started breathing again. We gave him small sips of water, and slowly he started to become more responsive. After a while he was even cracking jokes. The two who went to find a phone signal were able to get an emergency call off. Myself and another scout walked down to the nearby emergency road to wait for the paramedics so we could show them where to go. By the time they arrived, the leader was completely conscious and still

cracking jokes. They checked all of his vitals and gave him some aspirin, then helped him walk the short distance downhill to the truck. He was sent to a hospital and had heart surgery, and returned home a few days later.”

Academy students Joseph Boltuc, Cameron Mask, and Alex Sharum were photographed (above) while at the Philmont Scout Ranch.

## The Miracles of St. Benedict

by Deacon Roy Goetz

Academy chaplain, Deacon Roy Goetz writes a column in the biweekly publication *The Trojan Rule*. Parents of Academy students receive by e-mail a link to this online publication.

Last year we spent time with chapters from *The Rule of Saint Benedict*. We will continue with more passages and commentary from the Rule later in the year. To enhance our understanding of Benedictine spirituality, we turn now to the life of Benedict himself. Most of what we know about the life of Benedict comes from the *Second Book of Dialogues* by Saint Gregory the Great (540-604). Gregory himself was a monk who was elected to the papacy in 590.

As a young man, Benedict went to Rome to study. Once there, he was disillusioned with the decadence he saw in Rome and the lack of seriousness in his fellow students. Accompanied by his nurse, he traveled to the town of Affile, about thirty-five miles east of Rome. At the invitation of some devout men, he and his nurse stayed in a simple lodging next to the Church of Saint Peter. One day after asking her neighbors to lend her a tray for cleaning wheat, the nurse left the tray on the edge of the table where it was knocked off and broken in two. The poor woman was very upset that the borrowed tray had been broken. When Benedict saw her weeping, he felt sorry for her, knelt down, picked up the broken pieces and prayed earnestly to God to the point of tears. As soon as he finished his prayer, he noticed that the tray was whole again. News of this miracle spread rapidly through the countryside, and the much talked about tray was hung up at the entrance to the church. Because Benedict wished for solitude and not the attention of men, he fled his nurse and Affile and traveled to the wilderness of Subiaco.

The abbey church here at Subiaco has thirty-six beautiful stained glass windows crafted by Franz Mayer of Munich, Germany, that illustrate the life and miracles of Saint Benedict as Pope St. Gregory describes them. The text is an adaptation of Saint Gregory’s writings. The photos of the windows were taken by Brother Jude Schmitt, OSB.



## Students travel to the Desert Southwest



For the second year in a row, Roy Goetz and Gary Kinney led a camping excursion to the Desert Southwest.



Eight Academy students visited the Cadillac Ranch, the Anasazi Ruins, the Benedictine monastery of Christ in the Desert, the headquarters of the Navaho Nation, Window Rock, the Grand Canyon, and the Albuquerque Rattlesnake Museum. In the photo to the left you see the group with guitars relaxing on the grounds of Christ in the Desert monastery. At right is the crew at Window Rock.

## TV production course

A course in television production and live-streaming will be offered for the first time at Subiaco Academy. During the summer months Br. John Paul Richey, OSB, has been setting up the equipment in a classroom in the Performing Arts Center. A select group of juniors and seniors will learn (1) to record events for live-streaming and (2) to edit footage for broadcasting at a later date. The equipment to be used in this course was donated by Don Richey, the father of Br. John Paul.



*Br. John Paul showing off some of the new equipment he uses in his video production class*

## 25th year at Subiaco

One hundred forty-two campers and staff from twenty Arkansas cities and eleven other states participated in the Arkansas Interfaith Conference Choir Camp 2012 at Subiaco during the week of July 22-28. Instruction in choral music, handbells, and art were offered to all campers. Parents were invited to attend the liturgical service in the Abbey Church Saturday



morning and the Broadway show by the young performers immediately after the Saturday picnic lunch. This is the 25th consecutive year that the Abbey and Academy has hosted this group at Subiaco.





## Where are they now?

**Matthew LaFargue '84** is doing well living in New York. Matthew is a Senior Vice President for Michael Kors, traveling heavily for his company. In his spare time, he is currently training for another marathon this fall in Chicago.

**Steve Susi '89** had dinner with **George Lensing '95**, Alumni Development Coordinator for Subiaco Academy, while George was in New York visiting alumni. Steve is the Creative Director for Amazon.com in New York. He and **Anthony Susi '89** still play tennis when time allows. Steve travels quite often with his career and truly loves what he is doing.

**Gerry Anderson '80** has been living in Louisville, KY, for more than twenty years. His company, Woodford-Reserve, brought him there from the Chicago area. Gerry and classmate **Duval Headley '80** reminisced over great Subiaco memories while having dinner with **Abbot Jerome Kodell, OSB '57** and **George Lensing '95** at J. Alexander's in Louisville, KY, this past June.

**Tyler Carr '09** is working as a repair technician for Geek Squad/Best Buy in Shepherdsville, KY.

**Joe Millette '93** has his own insurance company in Pascagoula, MS, Joe Millette Allstate Insurance Agency. He and his wife Jennifer have one daughter. Joe enjoys deep sea saltwater fishing off the Gulf Coast and he encourages fellow Subiaco alums to give him a call when you're in the Pascagoula area.

**Johnny Hays '82** and his wife Michelle live in Picayune, MS. **George Lensing '95**, Alumni Development Coordinator for Subiaco Academy, had dinner with them in early August. Johnny is a Physical Scientist for Stennis Space Center. He enjoys his work and spending time with his family. Johnny and Michelle have 8 children. **Peter Hays**, the oldest, is a 2010 graduate of Subiaco. Peter is home for the summer but will be returning to college this fall.



*Gary Sharum '77 & George Lensing '95 in Ft. Smith*

Mercy Hospital in Fort Smith, AR, not only has a new CEO, **Ryan Gehrig '91**, but another one of our great alums, **Gary Sharum '77**, as their IT Director for Mercy Technology Services. When Gary is not busy with computers you will catch him running, hunting, or scuba diving.

**Fr. John Ringley '79** is a diocesan priest in Bridgeport, CT, at St. Patrick's Catholic Church. He continues to enjoy playing the piano when he is not busy teaching at Kolbe Cathedral High School.

**Leo Lensing '66** had lunch with **George Lensing '95**, Alumni Development Coordinator of Subiaco Academy, while George was visiting alumni in Middletown, CT, in late May. Leo is Chair of German Studies & Film at Wesleyan University. He is married to Rev. Dr. Carolyn J. Sharp and they have two children. Leo enjoys collecting books and manuscripts.

**Michael Gaskell '07** is in graduate school at Xavier University in Cincinnati, OH. He is engaged to Sarah Huggins and looking forward to the big day. When he has a little down time, Michael enjoys fishing, wood carving, and camping.

**Greg and Judy Rust '62** hosted a wonderful dinner for **Abbot Jerome Kodell, OSB '57**, **George Lensing '95** and several family members at their home in Greensburg, IN, in late June. Those in attendance were **Joe and Susan Rust '65**, **Dick Rust '52**, **Bob and Rita Rust '49**, and Christian Rust, son of Greg and Judy Rust.

**Denny Hartung '68** is living in Anderson, IN, and working security at Hoosier Park Casino. He continues to play golf and

do some woodworking.

After retirement, there is nothing like being in the country and enjoying the farm. That's exactly what **Michael and Judy O'Rourke '61** are doing. Don't let the word retirement make you think they aren't busy; these two stay very busy on their farm in Lebanon, OH. According to the O'Rourke's there is always work to be done on the farm.

Enjoying a cup of coffee with **Jerome Flusche '65** at Calico County in Fort Smith, AR, is always a treat. Jerome is a busy person as an Associate Broker for Kralicek Realty & Construction, which made **George Lensing '95**, Alumni Development Coordinator, very grateful for the time Jerome could give him to visit. When Jerome is not selling homes you will catch him on the lake casting a line to reel in a big one.

**Richard Watson '82** and his wife Meryl Hattenbach stay busy with their two boys, Ethan and Oren in Dayton, OH. Richard and Meryl both keep in shape by running, swimming, biking, and chasing their two little ones around. When they aren't so active exercising you will catch Richard and Ethan at the ballpark watching the Cincinnati Reds.

## Where are they now?

**Hank and Bobbi Stone '83** had dinner with **Abbot Jerome Kodell, OSB '57** and **George Lensing '95** at Palamino restaurant in Indianapolis, IN. They were preparing for a week-long vacation to Gulf Shores, AL, along with a stop in Arkansas to see Hank's mother.

**Ryan Schluterman '99**, former Trojan football player, is not so much on the gridiron anymore as he is busy with Lawrence, Schluterman, and Schwartz, LSS, LTD, as an accountant in Fort Smith, AR.



**George Lensing '95** had a breakfast with champions at Calico County while visiting alumni in Fort Smith, AR. Attending were (l-r) **Bill Lensing '53**, **Ed Zimmer '61**, **George Lensing '95**, **Gilbert Koch '58** and **Gene Hatwig '53**. These guys are all doing well. Ed has been helping his brother sell tomatoes at the local farmers market, Gilbert just wrapped up a week's worth of work with the Knights of Columbus at Subiaco, and Gene and Bill have been busy completing their "honey-do" lists.

## Obituaries

**George Robert Hatch '49** died April 26, 2012, in Sheridan, AR. Upon graduation he enlisted in the U.S. Navy and served four years during the Korean War Conflict.

After his discharge he worked for the FBI in Washington, D.C., for a short time. He then returned to Arkansas and pursued a degree at Southern State College, now Southern Arkansas University. He moved to Camden in 1956 and began a 17 year career with International Paper Company before embarking on a long career in data processing. He began playing the drums at Subiaco and continued being involved in music throughout his life, playing in bands and singing with musical groups.

He was involved in the Camden Jaycees, the Lions Club, Boy Scouts and the American Legion. He served as a Sergeant at Arms in the House of Representatives during legislative sessions.

He is survived by his wife of 56 years, Cassie Jordan Hatch; one son, William "Chris" Hatch; two daughters, Libby Hatch Bennett and Ginger Hatch Robbins; a sister, Sharon Faith Wallis; two granddaughters, Lynley Johnson and Annalise Robbins; and one great-grandson, Robert Easton Bellomy.

**Frank C. Watkins '52** passed away March 11, 2012, in Little Rock, Arkansas. He was a U.S. Air Force veteran of the Korean Conflict. He is survived by his wife Pat.

**Joseph R. Bednar '43** passed away October 30, 2008, in Hazen, Arkansas.

**Robert Floyd Cordes '60** died May 13, 2010. Bob was a computer genius, a superb golfer, and a wonderful family man. He is survived by his wife Wikki; his sons Robert, David, Jeff, and Steven; two daughters Jill and Lisa; and his brother Chris.

**George Case '43** died in Fort Pierce, Florida, July 30, 2011.

**Rupert Anthony Hoenig '50**, 80, of Lake Kiowa, Texas, passed away on July 19, 2012. He served in the U.S. Air Force during the Korean War. After working for 35 years for Braniff Airlines, Rupert and his family spent 4 years in Saudi Arabia, followed by various airline related jobs in the Dallas area. He enjoyed coaching sports, square dancing, golf and tournament style poker.

He is survived by his wife Jeanne Hoenig; children, Gary Edward Hoenig, Daniel Joseph Hoenig, Stephen Mark Hoenig, Donald Scott Hoenig, Walter Glen Hoenig, Randall Theodore Hoenig, Carol Jean Hoenig and Brian Patrick Hoenig; siblings, Eleanor Pelzel, Rita Cottle, Raymond Hoenig, and Edna Mae Hermes; and 13 grandchildren.

# 100th anniversary

*Ed. Note: This account of the founding of the Subiaco Alumni Association, kicks off the observance of the 100th anniversary of the association, which will be observed in 2013.*

Appropriately coincident with the completion of the 25th year of the existence of Subiaco College, 40 students met at the College June 11, 1913, for the purpose of organizing an Alumni Association. The first suggestion to form such an association was made by Rev. W.J. Tynin '06, and at the request of a great number of former students the faculty appointed a committee for preliminary work, consisting of Fathers Luke, Gregory, and Edward. This committee drafted a circular letter and outlined a tentative Constitution, which was mailed to such as they had reason to believe would qualify as members of the proposed association.

Seventy-six replied favorably and signified their intention of joining the society. Accordingly a meeting for permanent organization was called for June 11th, on the date Father Anthony, OSB celebrated his first Holy Mass at the College.

*That first meeting was called to order on June 11th and Father Benedict Borgerding, OSB, Rector of the College, welcomed the visitors with the following address:*

Rev. Fathers, Dear Friends: The task allotted to me in the program of today, the task of bidding you welcome to the spacious halls of our beloved Abbey and College, is a very pleasant one, indeed.

Not in many years have we had the pleasure of your company: never before have we beheld such a concourse of former students. But then - you have a definite end in view, a work to perform, which, we fondly hope and believe will redound to our mutual benefit, socially as well as spiritually.

We all know the strength there is in unity, the futility of divided efforts. We see and cannot but admire the marvelous organization of such bodies as the socialists, Masons and other Secret Societies. Their strength we will grant lies in the innate proneness to evil of man's fallen nature; but no less in the unity of their aims and the organization consequent thereon.

The unity of method and union of forces is the indispensable requisite of successful opposition to the baneful influences of the enemy.

But our projected association is too small to have any telling of the course of events either in this State or any other. Granted. But so is the acorn too small to warrant a conjecture of the future size of the mighty oak; so is the proverbial mustard-seed so small to contain within its little self the promise of the future herb growing into a veritable tree. We can do things on a small scale, now; we can unite forces, now, and provide an organization which in due time will develop into a mighty influence for good, into a bulwark of Christianity.

We can and must, each of us, it is true, preach our own silent sermon by living an exemplary life, a life modeled after our unattainable proto-type, the God-man, Christ Jesus. Yet to us, as to the Jews of old, it is said: "He hath therefore scattered you among the Gentiles who know not him, that you may declare His wonderful works, and make them know that there is no other almighty God besides Him." (Tob. 13:4)

We can enhance the cause of God by diffusing the teachings of our Holy Religion, by leading ever greater numbers to a thorough, solid education, a cramming with facts, but to a uniform, complete development of all the faculties of the mind and heart, to a firmly established character, to a life lived according to unalterable principle.

Now as to the social side of the Association: who is there to deny the pleasure of renewing old friendships when we are but now drinking deeply of this exquisite cup; who so bold as to question the recreating, rejuvenating influence of these few happily-spent and care-free days? We have business before us. It is true; but we have also pleasure before us, most exquisite pleasure, and, as we were wont to say in bygone days, "heaps of it."

That each and every member-to-be of our Alumni Association may enjoy his visit to our Abbey and College to the fullest extent, is the sincere wish of our whole community; and I am but voicing the sentiment of our Rev. Superior and of each individual member of our Faculty and of the Whole Abbey when I bid you Welcome to Subiaco.

*The minutes of this first meeting go on to record the approval of the first constitution and by-laws, the election of the first officers of the association and other routine business of the meeting.*



## Development Director's Message

I am blessed! God has given me so much... a great family, good health, life's necessities. I also have a great job! I have the chance to work side by side with the monks here at Subiaco and see first-hand the lives they touch and have touched through the years.

At Subiaco we are blessed! We have a great mission to "proclaim the gospel through monastic and private prayer, hospitality, retreats and spiritual direction, education, parish, diocesan and special ministries." We also have so many wonderful and generous people, such as you, who both prayerfully and financially support this mission. The monastic community is "sustained in [its] vocation by the grace of God, our stewardship and labor, and the generosity of our benefactors." (taken from Subiaco Abbey's mission statement)

My wife, Kathleen, and I have always believed in giving back our time, talent *and treasure*. In our monthly charitable giving we believe that our parish comes first and therefore receives the largest amount. Then, there are other organizations we support.

When thinking about supporting Subiaco, you may ask yourself, "Do I believe in its mission?" My guess is that anyone reading this will respond affirmatively. If you did not believe in our mission, you probably would not be reading this. But, do you believe in the mission enough to become one of our missionaries?

To those who give, thank you. You understand "it is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35). For those who financially support Subiaco, *thank you for entrusting us to build the Kingdom of God with your help*. Subiaco would not be here and we would not be able to continue its mission without the generous help of our supporters. In the act of giving you, too, become our "co-missionaries."

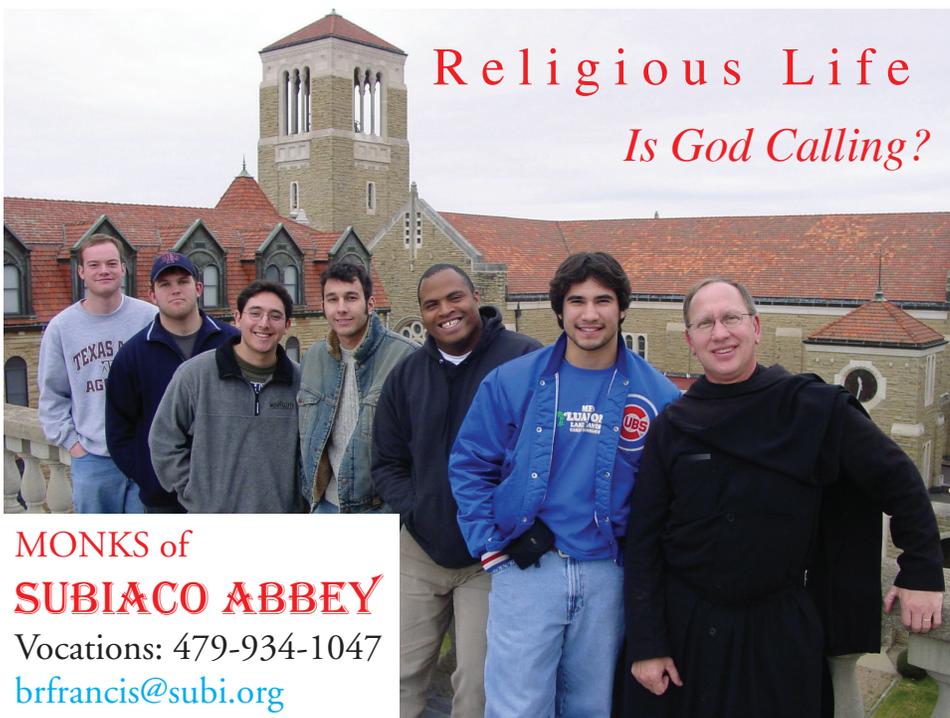
If you are not currently a supporter, I challenge you to consider giving of your time, talent *and treasure*. Through giving, Kathleen and I truly feel that we receive so much more in return than the actual amount that we can afford to give.

I appreciate you,

*Steve Wilmes*



If anyone is interested in hosting a gathering of alumni and supporters at your home or elsewhere, please contact George Lensing by cell phone (479) 438-3360, office (479) 934-1001, or e-mail [glensing@subi.org](mailto:glensing@subi.org). Having Subiaco come to you is a great way for everyone in your area to socialize with the monks, faculty, and staff of this wonderful institution!



Religious Life  
Is God Calling?

MONKS of  
**SUBIACO ABBEY**  
Vocations: 479-934-1047  
[brfrancis@subi.org](mailto:brfrancis@subi.org)

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](mailto:prayer@subi.org)

# Labor of the monks' hands make wonderful gifts

*The monks of Subiaco Abbey have embarked on a new effort to take advantage of the art and skills of our monks both to support the monastery and to spread our ministry through quality religious products, "the labor of our hands." In purchasing these products, you are partnering with us to continue the ministry of prayer and work at Subiaco.*

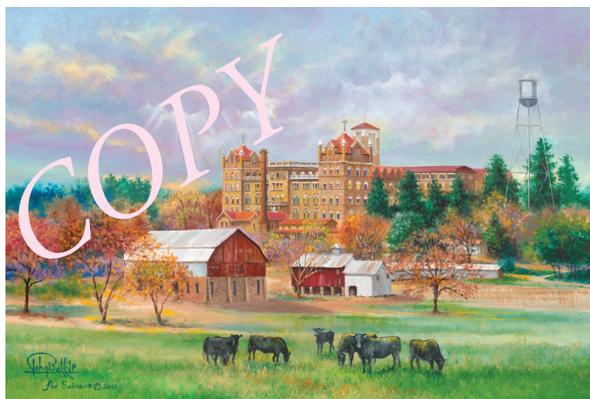
**Abbey Brittle and Monk Sauce** can be purchased in our gift shop, online at [www.subi.org](http://www.subi.org) or by calling or e-mailing us (information below). Abbey Brittle has been made and sold at Subiaco since 1995. Given the immense popularity of our product, we have now trademarked the product name and logo. Under the direction of **Fr. Richard Walz, OSB**, this product is among the best in the nation. We use an extraordinarily large amount of peanuts, we do not mass produce the product, we add baking soda to provide a more robust texture that makes the product less dense and easier to chew, and we add **NO DAIRY PRODUCTS**.

We offer a 1.25 pound tin of peanut brittle at a cost of \$17 each +\$7 shipping per tin for all US zip codes. International shipping is available (call our development office for instructions and amounts).

The 5oz bottle of Habanero pepper sauce is available in red or green for \$9 each if ordering 1-3 bottles. A special rate of \$5 per bottle applies if ordering 4 or more bottles shipped to the same address, plus shipping costs of \$12.

**The Abbey Gift Pack, a popular gift item, includes 1 tin of peanut brittle and 1 bottle of Monk Sauce (your choice of colors as supplies allow). The cost of the pack is \$33.00 each and includes shipping & handling to US zip codes.**

We welcome multiple orders and are ready to help with any questions you may have. Please feel free to contact us at 479-934-1001 or by e-mail at [abbeydevelop@subi.org](mailto:abbeydevelop@subi.org)



A great gift giving idea is the Subiaco Abbey Landscape print. The painting, by John Bell, Jr. of Fort Smith, AR, is vibrant in color and features the Abbey as it was in the 1930s and as it remains today.

We offer limited edition prints, each signed and numbered (up to 500). The prints measure 22" wide by 15" tall.

The print cost is \$250.00 plus \$5.00 shipping and handling. **All proceeds from the sale of the prints will be placed in an endowment for our elder monks.**

To purchase a print, you may call our Development office at 479-934-1001.

Personal checks or Visa, MC, or Discover accepted.

## Abbey Online Store

It begins with a quote, saying, image or photograph. Then it comes to life through **calligraphy by Br. Ephrem O'Bryan**. The art of beautiful handwriting is something Br. Ephrem finds relaxing and something he truly enjoys sharing with others. A variety of choices are available including famous, humorous or inspirational quotes and Irish or universal blessings.

**Wood carving** is a talent that **Br. Jude Schmitt** excels in. He notes that at times he thinks of himself as Santa Claus, designing and creating items to sell and give to others. In 1968, after graduating college, he developed an interest in the turning lathe and began teaching many of Subiaco Academy's students the process. His original designs include Bas-relief carvings of Our Lady of Lourdes, Subiaco clocks and crosses, and beautifully crafted Benedictine medals.

**Fr. Richard Walz** also creates beautiful **Job's Tears Rosaries**. He grows the plants that produce the beads in the Subiaco Abbey gardens, then carefully strings the beads after a generous friend has painstakingly drilled holes in each. This is truly a rosary that takes months to make but lasts a lifetime.

*A Place Called Subiaco*, by **Fr. Hugh Assenmacher**, is a treasury of triumphs and tragedies of Subiaco Abbey. This book describes the long and fascinating history of these monks as they have continued to live out their Benedictine monasticism in rural Arkansas.

Information about ordering the Subiaco monk-made products is available at [www.subi.org](http://www.subi.org) or by calling 479-934-1001.

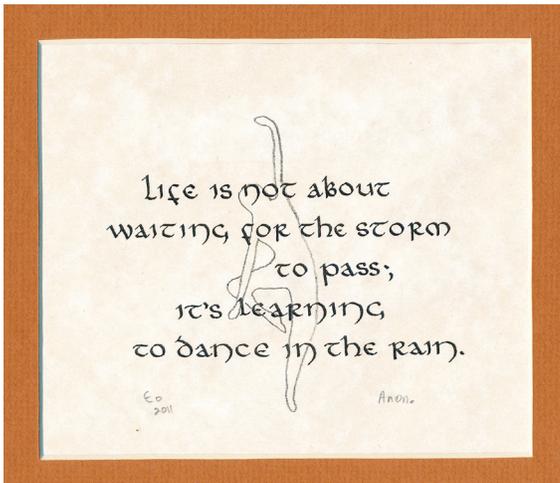
# Planned Giving:

**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.



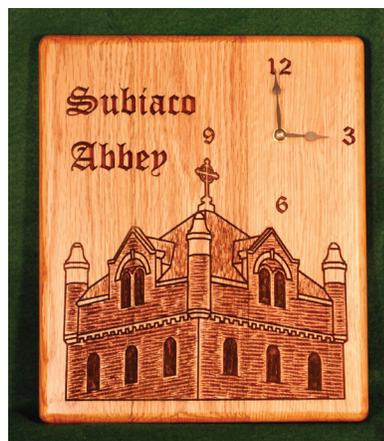
Matted calligraphy (left), inlaid wooden crosses & clocks, string or plastic bead rosaries as well as rosaries made from Job's Tears beads are among the many monk-made items available from our online store.

## Abbey Annual Appeal

Earlier this month you probably received a letter from Abbot Jerome asking you to help the Abbey. The overall goal of this annual appeal is to ask for your financial support of the daily work of the monastic community; prayer, work, hospitality, education, parish ministry, health care and vocations. With your gift, you become co-missionaries with the monks of Subiaco.

There are many ways for you to give. In addition to cash gifts we accept gifts of securities (stocks/bonds), real property and personal property. We also accept gifts paid with a credit card. Gifts via Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) or with a debit/credit card can be set up monthly or quarterly. Just let us know what is most convenient for you.

Please prayerfully consider joining us in Subiaco's mission with a gift. Thank you for all you do!





Fall has always been an exciting time for our Abbey! It was the case in 1887 and no less the case in 2012.

You see, our Abbey had a tough few years when we were first founded and known then as St. Benedict's Priory. In fact, after the arrival on March 15, 1878, of Fr. Wolfgang Schlumpf and the founding monks, our founder struggled in maintaining the fledgling community. He was richly blessed, though, with the arrival on October 9, 1887, of Fr. Gall D'Aujourd'hui and eight young men from the Abbey of Einsiedeln in Switzerland (see picture). Fr. Gall was duly appointed as the Novice-master and the eight young men were then invested as novices. They joined two other novices already invested to form a new novitiate class that brought new life to the community. As our archivist [Fr. Hugh] reminds us, those ten novices would later take their vows and would each persevere in monastic life.

"The future of the foundation was now assured," as Fr. Hugh wrote. Fall was truly a blessing and exciting time for that early community.

Fast forward 125 years to the Fall of 2012. This time our Abbey has been blessed with five junior monks in formation, four men invested as novices, and one man entering our candidacy program. Just as happened then, though, our monastic community continues to seek out and pray for more vocations to join our Abbey.

You may remember that in my last *Abbey Message* article, I wrote about the importance of praying for and referring men to our Abbey. Yes, we undertake marketing our Abbey. Yes, we undertake keeping an updated web site. Yes, we promote our Abbey through schools, parishes and universities. Still, it is through your praying for vocations and a direct referral of men to our Abbey that we have the most success.

Back in the time of Father Wolfgang and Fr. Gall, they had the comfort of knowing that families would actively encourage, support and recommend their sons and brothers to consider monastic life. Today, however, this is less the case. This is a pattern we need to turn around as we reach out more to you—our friends, benefactors, alumni, family members and oblates—for help in promoting vocations. We need your help, and fall is an especially good time to raise the question with a man about God's desire for his life.

125 years ago our little monastic community saw their prayers answered with the arrival of eight new novices and a priest monk in Fr. Gall. 125 years later, we, too, have been blessed! Join us on this journey and by partnering with us, may the future of our foundation once again be assured. With your help, let's look forward to every fall being an exciting time!

*Fr. Francis Kirchner*



*Fr. Gall (center) together with the 8 young men from the abbey of Einsiedeln —known in Subiaco history as the Eight Beatitudes*

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