

The Abbey Message

Subiaco Abbey

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March for Life

A Testimony: Preparing the Soil for Life

by Br. John Paul Richey, OSB

As our journey through the Lenten Season continues, I have been asked to share my experience of attending the National March for Life in Washington, D.C. Let me begin by saying this was the first time I had a chance to participate in this event, and last year was the first time I ever marched for life, which was held in Little Rock, Arkansas, accompanying a group of Boy Scouts from Subiaco Academy. I would like to be able to say my eyes have always been open to this issue; that I have, for years, poured my time and effort into protesting and making others aware of exactly what it means to be Pro-Life. But if I said that, I would be lying. For years I have gone about silently protesting, even to the extent of making comments that I was Pro-Life and would never consider abortion. Let me say, here and now, all of those thoughts have changed and I am working on making myself and others more aware of this issue that continues every day.

Before this trip to Washington, D.C., I never spent any time thinking or reading about Pro-Life issues. This all changed while we were walking around the streets of our nation's capitol. After we spent a few days touring the monuments and buildings that make up the heart of America, we geared up for the upcoming events of March for Life. Our first stop was a Youth Rally hosted by the Archdiocese of Washington, D.C. Over the years, this event has grown to the point of needing two separate facilities to accommodate the 38,000 youth in attendance. The Mass at the Verizon Center was celebrated



by His Eminence Donald Cardinal Wuerl with bishops and priests from around the nation. Mason Goodson, a junior at Subiaco Academy, was selected among the crowd to be a Eucharistic Minister. Mason, with this fond memory and t-shirt in hand, said, "It was fantastic. I loved being surrounded by so many enthusiastic Christians who are just as passionate about this issue."

Following Mass, everyone gathered onto 7th street and started moving toward the National Mall, where our group joined up with the rest of the marchers, and continued the 2 mile walk that would put us in front of the U.S. Supreme Court. Along the way, people were handing out materials and would talk to different groups as they passed by. At one point I stopped walking and stood off to the side, watching all the marchers chanting and talking as they continued past me. It was at this moment I finally realized that I had a role to play in this protest.

Since our return to Subiaco, I have worked to create a Pro-Life Committee here on campus, which held its first meeting by attending a talk given by Sr. Helen Prejean C.S.J., the author of "Dead Man Walking." As with all projects taken on at Subiaco, this club would not have been able to attend these events if it were not for the prayers and support of so many generous benefactors, and I would like to take this time to thank them for their help. We have a long road ahead before we see an increase in Pro-Life issues being passed through our legislative process, but here at Subiaco, we will have a group of young people being trained and educated so that they can passionately support this issue.

A Brush with History, 1968

In the summer of 1966, Abbot Michael Lensing assigned me to begin studying for a degree in Sacred Scripture at the Pontifical Biblical Institute in Rome the following fall. Once I arrived in Rome and began my studies, I discovered that in addition to learning the biblical languages, I would need to demonstrate a knowledge of German and French for research work.

I was going to be in Rome for three years, so I decided to pursue the study of German and French during the summers, when I could spend time in the countries where the languages were spoken. My plan was to begin each summer with a month-long language course on site, in the summer of 1967 for German and in 1968 for French, and then spend two months hitchhiking in those countries to force myself to speak the languages while at the same time sightseeing.

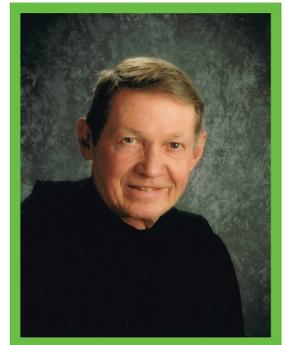
When I arrived in Paris to study French at the Institut Catholique during the summer of 1968, a lot of history had already been happening there in the preceding months. It was the year of the student uprising, and though things had quieted down to an extent by July, at least one of the buildings of the Sorbonne was still occupied and flying a Red flag. It became a pastime to walk in the Latin Quarter and view the devastation of what still looked like a war zone. I was told that the broken windows on the top floors were blamed on American students, who because they had grown up with baseball and football were considered the only ones able to throw that far.

The summer courses were crowded with international students. I became friends with two priests from New Zealand. On Bastille Day, July 14, we decided to go out for events of the national celebration. In the morning we joined the crowds lining the Champs-Élysées for the annual military parade and were thrilled to watch General De Gaulle ride by, standing tall on the back of a military vehicle. Then we headed over to the Latin Quarter to see what festivities might be going on there. But when we came up out of the subway, we realized that we were in the middle of a hostile confrontation between rioting students and police. Students were throwing rocks toward the policemen, and policemen wearing gas masks had begun tossing tear gas among the students and breaking cameras. The gas started getting to my eyes and the scene seemed to be getting more violent, so I said to my friends, "Let's get out of here." But they wanted to see what would happen next, so I went back into the subway by myself.

A small group was already waiting for a ride, but several trains zipped by for awhile without stopping because they had heard of the trouble up above. When our group did get on, we received some amused stares because our eyes were puffy and red and many faces were still streaming with tears.

The New Zealand priests didn't show up for class the next day, but they did on the following day and were very angry. It turned out that I had been the last person into the subway before the police secured the door and rounded up my friends and many others in the area. They had spent twenty-four hours in jail. I thought it was funny, but for some reason they didn't.

Another of my new friends was a student from Holland, and I remember standing with him later in the month and cheer-



"They [the New Zealand priests] had spent twenty-four hours in jail. I thought it was funny, but for some reason they didn't."

ing as his hero, cyclist Jan Janssen, came by us in the final “race against the clock” to overtake the leader and become the first Dutchman ever to win the Tour de France. I can still see my friend leaning out into the street and shouting, “Hup, Jan!” as the cyclist flew by.

When the language course was over I started out on my hitchhiking tour heading south out of Paris. The first person to pick me up was a member of the French parliament, and he told me all about the recent student revolution through the eyes of the government. When he let me down, I thumbed unsuccessfully for awhile until I saw an ancient multicolored van pulling off the road to pick me up. The driver had been one of the student leaders of the uprising. He had emptied out the contents of the van to make room for a mattress and some pots and pans and other utensils; it was his home. He proceeded to tell me all about the student uprising, explaining what it meant and why it had been necessary. It is not surprising that his analysis was exactly the opposite of the one I had received in the preceding ride.

Abbot Jerome Kodell, OSB

Abbey Journal

by Fr. Mark Stengel, OSB

December

The drought of 2011 washed away with heavy November rains, and we thanked God for that blessing. Maybe we overdid the praise and thanksgiving, because the rains just kept coming! December began with another deluge, which turned into heavy wet snow the morning of the 5th. To the students’ chagrin, the snowfall started after they were already in class, and was disappearing quickly by the end of the class day. So, no snow day. The early snow and the very cold days that followed seemed to confirm the persimmon-seed prediction of a severe winter. Fr. Hugh had displayed at the noon meal a bisected seed, which revealed the dreaded spoon shape within the cotyledon. A spoon conjures a snow shovel, which presages abundant snow. The appearance of a knife warns of bitter weather with cutting winds. A fork foretells a mild winter, with little need for digging out or bundling up. Forewarned is forearmed. As it turned out, Arkansas weather defies even the prognostication of persimmon seeds. Or maybe the shape we saw was a fork.

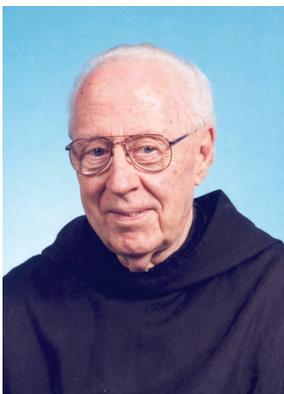
December brings many Advent Penance services, and Abbey confessors are much in demand in surrounding parishes. Fr. Mark got caught in a fortuitous (or unfortunate, depending on your point of view) conjunction of dates when he assisted at Clarksville on December 11. Multitudes were there for the final evening of the novena honoring Our Lady of Guadalupe, and he struggled with Spanish confessions for several hours. Frs. Leonard, Brendan, Hugh, Bruno, and perhaps others also traveled to help the faithful in their spiritual housecleaning.

The new block periods of the academic schedule have Benedictine-related names. Academy semester exam schedules featured such esoteric entries as “Cenobites and Anthony Period exams,” “Affile Period,” and “Maurus Period.” I’m not sure what the students think of these terms. Probably, to most students, they are just random syllables, serving only as tags. There is some effort in the Academy to inculcate Benedictine values and mystique, so I may be mistaken. Chaplain Deacon Roy Goetz regularly explains aspects of the Rule of Benedict or something from the hagiography of the saint in the weekly “Trojan Rule.” Fr. Hugh, in his “Embracing Benedict” series for faculty and staff, tries to make Benedictine things accessible.

Long-time maintenance worker Mark Trusty retired after 30 years of service. A party in the guest dining room honored him on December 15. Most folks show up for such affairs, to celebrate with the honoree, of course, but also to enjoy the cake and ice cream. Rather than a gold watch, Mr. Trusty received a very heavy package. Judging by its weight, it might have been gold bars. But no such luck. Mark unwrapped a full-sized iron anvil! A useful gift, to be sure, but there is also a prankish note to it. Whenever pranks occur in the maintenance department, all eyes turn to employee Chris Adams. His practical jokes are reminiscent of the legendary Charlie Huber, who once plastered over a door while a monk was on a trip. When Fr. Benno returned, he found only a blank wall where his door had been. Chris will have to work to beat that.



Mark and Lou Trusty at Mark's retirement party



Fr. Hilary

Fr. Hilary Filiatreau died at the age of 89 on December 20. This jovial monk lived up to his name, spreading warm-hearted hilarity in his wake. He had been pastor for many years at St. Mary's in Altus, and had only retired from pastoral work this past summer. He could find humor in



Nativity 2011

any situation, and the laugh lines of his face were deeply set.

Just before Christmas, Br. Dominic supervised a crew of Confirmation class boys and girls in a general church cleaning, and then a monastic decorating crew. The new molded acrylic nativity set, with its



l-r Novices Huy, Derrick, Richard & John in the kitchen

28” figures, needed a larger setting. Candidate (now Novice) John and his helpers transformed the St. Benedict altar into a Middle Eastern rock garden stable. Novice Richard took charge of the monastic community Christmas evening, held on December 29. Things are too hectic right before and during the Christmas festivities, so we wait until the rush is over for a relaxed evening. The junior monks prepare and serve a very nice meal, following happy hour drinks and munchies. Candidate Huy (now Novice Huy) prepared a very tasty Vietnamese soup as the first course. Monks generally do not linger over meals, and so it was quite a feat to keep everyone contentedly in place until after 8:30 p.m.

January

Fr. Prior David came down with a “bug” in early January and kept strictly to his room on the second floor for some days. At the same time, fourth floor remodeling continued, with hole-drilling through the concrete floor for new plumbing lines. The Prior emerged disheveled several times, as the impact drill pounded away above him. Whether his convalescence time was shortened or lengthened by the racket is not known.

Br. John Paul and Headmaster Robert Loia accompanied twelve students to Washington, D.C., on January 19, to participate in a Youth Rally for Life and the National Right to Life March. They returned, eager to begin a campus pro-life group. (See page one for Br. John Paul’s reflections on the trip.) At the same time, a full bus load went to the Little Rock March for Life on the 22nd.

Nine “Aggies” from Texas A & M spent a January weekend with us, attending prayers and eating meals in the monastic refectory. These young men are discerning their vocation in life, and have been including Subiaco in their annual Aggie Seminary Sprint. They were able to enjoy (?) some Benedictine “labora” along with the “ora.”

2011 ended and the new year began with a prolonged series of perfectly clear and mild days. The final week of January was noted as “unseasonably warm and nice,” with a four-inch rain right in the middle. We grouse about bad weather, and so we should not forget to say “Thank you, Lord” for this good weather.

Maintenance man Tom Newman, Academy teacher John Redford, and Fr. Mark took one-week stints as shepherd for a friend who had to be absent from his sheep ranch for these three weeks. Shepherding promotes a contemplative spirit, and the absence of newspapers, television, and central heating in the house seemed a blessing rather than a deprivation.

February

This short month held many blessings! Candidates John Canter and Huy Do were invested as novices on February 1, joining Novice Richard and Derrick, who are halfway through their novitiate. That same day, five—yes I said FIVE—candidates arrived. With three men already in temporary vows—Br. Matthias, Br. John Paul, and Fr. Elijah—this gives us 12 men in formation. Abbot Jerome had announced at a chapter meeting that the renovation of the juniorate area would not be completed in time,



l-r Novice John, Br. Dominic and Novice Huy at a reception following the investiture ceremony

and so there would be a temporary housing shortage, “a nice problem to have,” as he put it. Formation Director Fr. Richard and House Custos (housing and furnishings director) Br. Eric took advantage of the problem to get some rooms on the second floor that had become overflow rooms and junk rooms cleaned out and put back into service. The candidates all found a place there in the “Prior’s hallway.” Prior David reports that “This is the quietest bunch of guys I’ve ever not heard; you would hardly know they are here.” Maybe this is his reward for suffering with patience the earlier drilling operation.

Catholic Schools Week—Jan. 29-Feb. 4—is celebrated with special devotional, recreational, and academic events in the Academy. All students attended the investiture of Novices John and Huy. The same day, Abbot Jerome blessed the assembled students as they set off on pilgrimage. Fr. Hugh and Chaplain Goetz led a procession to the old monastery and “College” site, just over a mile southeast. There was a prayer service and a chance to look around the “old place.” There’s not much to see. The foundation stones of a retaining wall remain, and a lone magnolia tree. The spring, halfway up the ridge, which supplied water for the pioneer monks and students, still flows steadily. Time and the elements and a Germanic penchant for tidy fields and pastures has swept everything else away.

A faculty team organized to challenge the senior high Quiz Bowl team to a match. This writer was working near the auditorium during the match, and regular bursts of cheering bore witness to successful student answers, I presumed. Sure enough, the student team won handily, letting the faculty to lick their wounds. Take comfort, teachers! How did those students get so smart, except through your most excellent tutelage?

The second half of February was cold and wet; then the cold eased and it just stayed wet. Finally, on February 13, snow fell heavily through the morning and classes were cancelled. By noon it changed to rain and by nightfall most of the snow was gone. And so ends our so-called winter. Well, anything can happen, but now, at month’s end, it appears that we may escape any really bitter weather. Persimmon seeds can no longer be trusted! Do any verities still remain?

The ashes of Wednesday and the Abbot’s Lenten conference that evening reminded us of the essential verities. We were cautioned not to let the clamor and clangor of the passing scene distress us, but to keep our feet firmly planted on the bedrock of our faith. Organ music, alleluias, recreation, meat, and desserts go away during Lent. But none of these are essentials. We retain wonderfully wholesome food on our table, and on the Lord’s Table, the blessings of the cenobium, and of our communal and private prayer—until He comes again.



A remnant from the past, a lone magnolia tree, standing guard over the original monastery site



What Would Jesus Do?

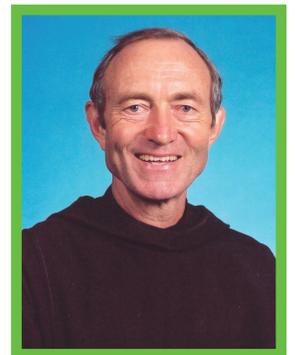
I work with a group of dedicated Christian volunteers who staff Community Outreach Services, Inc., in Paris, Arkansas. This organization maintains a food bank, operates a soup kitchen and thrift store, gives away many Christmas food baskets, and conducts a “Shop With a Cop” type program for needy children, and provides direct monetary assistance for rent, utilities, prescriptions, and transportation. No volunteers receive a salary and no governmental assistance is sought or desired. Obviously, C.O.S. depends on churches, civic groups, corporations, and individuals to support all these programs—and we are generously supported.

The Board of Directors tries to act responsibly in distributing the funds and goods we receive. Regularly, the Board wrestles with questions about criteria for providing aid.

Many who come to our door stub out their cigarettes just outside. Many appear to be able-bodied, yet are not working. Unmarried people living together need help for themselves and their children. The majority attend no church. Whom should we help?

It is easy, and satisfies self-righteousness, to castigate sinful and irresponsible behavior. It is easy, and satisfies a sense of justice, to limit assistance to those who will jump through a set of moral and behavioral hoops. What would Jesus do?

Brother John Paul, in the front page article, tells about the National March for Life. We believe in the sanctity of life and so must try to limit and eliminate abortion. The governmental health care mandate requires that contraception and abortion be included in all health care insurance policies. We believe that contraception and abortion are morally wrong, and do not want our tax dollars to provide for these immoral actions. What would Jesus do?



The Pharisees and Scribes were scandalized that Jesus consorted with tax collectors and sinners, and they knew that Jesus could not be a holy man when he allowed the sinful woman to shed tears on his feet and then wipe his feet with her hair. What did Jesus do?

He retorted that it was the sick who needed a doctor, not the healthy. He said that the woman's sins were forgiven because of her great love. He told the woman caught in adultery to go in peace, but to avoid this sin in the future.

At Community Outreach, we do recognize the sin, but try to work with the sinner. The Board has agreed that it is alright to point out irresponsible behaviors, but help is provided. We give a client a list of churches he or she might attend, but help is provided. We do not approve of immoral living arrangements, but we do provide for them, and their children, who are not to blame.

Someone has said "Hate the sin; love the sinner." (According to Snopes, both Saint Augustine and Mohandas Gandhi used this expression.) When Jesus did this—loved the sinner—they changed their ways. Perhaps the question to ask ourselves in these difficult issues is not "How can I maintain my ritual purity?" but rather "How can I love this sinner, so that he or she—and I—may be able to avoid sin in the future?"

Fr. Mark Stengel

As we are going to press, Brother Louis Fuhrmann died on March 8, 2012. Br. Louie, as he was affectionately known by many of our friends and alumni, was laid to rest in the Abbey cemetery on Saturday, March 10, 2012.

If you would like to view an obituary for Br. Louis you can read or download it at:

<http://www.countrymonks.us/>

Br. Louis Fuhrmann, OSB, 1930-2012



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



Academy Annual Fund bridges the gap

In relation to private education, we often hear that tuition alone cannot fund the entire cost. The same is true at Subiaco Academy. Our Annual Fund is a year-long fundraising appeal to help bridge the gap between the total cost of operating the school and tuition revenue. Tuition covers only a percentage of the yearly operating budget. We rely on gifts to the Annual Fund to raise the additional funds necessary to sustain the school's commitment to providing each student with the highest quality education possible.

Whether it's inside or outside the classroom, the Academy Annual Fund helps Subiaco live up to its mission of nurturing and educating the whole student- body, mind and spirit. Large increases in tuition may prohibit the opportunity of a Subiaco education to many families, thereby altering the diverse culture and distinctive learning environment each student currently enjoys here. Through your tax-deductible donation to the Annual Fund, we can keep tuition costs more affordable and provide financial aid and scholarship opportunities to deserving students.

Your gift is a key source of support that impacts the entire Subiaco experience.

Gifts to this fund help...

- Further our global education efforts
- Enhance academic and student life
- Advance our Catholic mission
- Support our areas of greatest need

There are many ways you can support this appeal including online gifts, monthly or quarterly credit card or Electronic Funds Transfer gifts, or by personal check. Please prayerfully consider your options and join our parents, grandparents, alumni, faculty/ staff and friends in making a gift to the Subiaco Academy Annual Fund. It's the best way to show your belief in a Subiaco education and will positively impact the present-day and future of the school. For more information on ways to give, contact Subiaco's Development office at 479-934-1001 or e-mail Steve Wilmes, Development Director at: swilmes@subi.org.

Online store

www.subi.org

Featuring ONLY products produced by the monks of Subiaco Abbey:

Abbey Brittle

Monk Sauce

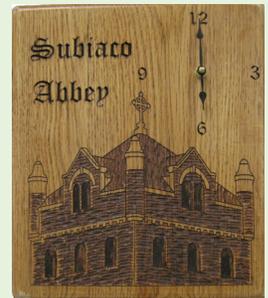
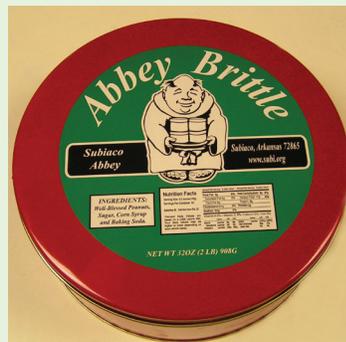
Books by Abbot Jerome and Fr. Hugh

Woodwork by Abbot Jerome, Br. Jude and Br. Adrian

Calligraphy by Br. Ephrem

Job's Tears rosaries by Fr. Richard

Corded rosaries by Novice Richard



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.

At your request your mother's and/or father's name will be placed on the altar and remembered during Mass on May 13th and June 17th 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.

Please see the enclosed brochure for more information. Your donation will help us continue the life and mission of Jesus Christ in education, parish ministry, and retreat work here at Subiaco.



Sample Father's Day card photo of St. Joseph

Leave a Legacy...

Many times when we think of the word "estate," we think that it only applies to the wealthy. You may think, "I don't really have enough to have an estate." Further, when one thinks of planning an estate, he/she is forced into thinking about mortality which can be scary. The truth is that most everyone has an estate; simply, your estate is your property or assets i.e. real estate, investments, bank accounts, insurance policies, etc. In addition, the sobering truth is that none of us will live on earth forever.

Creating an estate plan is a gift; a gift that you prepare to give your loved ones while you are still able to make the decision what and how to give it. A well-planned estate is the most important gift that we can give. It will help those whom you leave behind by making the task of settling your affairs as simple as possible. Although making these decisions can be somewhat daunting, you will rest easier by knowing that you are helping your loved ones even after you are gone. Consider contacting an estate planning professional to begin the process today.

While considering the distribution of your estate, have you prayerfully thought about remembering Subiaco in your plans? An end of life charitable gift is something that anyone can give no matter his/her financial situation and can be as easy as designating the monks of Subiaco as a beneficiary on your bank accounts, life insurance, or retirement accounts. A charitable gift in your will or living trust can be given as a percentage of your estate which allows you to give in appropriate proportions, or made contingent upon certain circumstances. If you would like more information, please contact Steve Wilmes in the Development Office, 479-934-1027.

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.



Camp Subiaco

Well, we are at the end of winter and the beginning of spring. My thoughts turn towards summer, mainly Camp Subiaco. Many, many boys have attended Camp Subiaco over the years.

Some have come and gone. Some have become students. Some have even become monks. One thing is for sure; they have all had the chance to enjoy a beautiful summer day, as a boy, at Subiaco Abbey.

Camp Subiaco first started in 1941. I have had the pleasure of visiting with a few of those first campers. They have many stories to tell about how the monks and the students made their summer camp experience an adventure. Never just staying on the hill and singing songs. No, Camp Subiaco has never been a "sing-along" camp. It's all about adventure. With trips to Lake Dardanelle, Hidden Pool, First and Third Lake, Field House pond, etc, it's an adventure every day of camp.

Just a few years ago, we were blessed to receive three former campers visiting Subiaco.

These men and their wives were retired and were traveling down I-40 when they saw the Subiaco sign and just had to come for a visit. It was right in the middle of Camp Subiaco and campers were everywhere!

It was just after lunch. The bus was loading to go to the cabin at Lake Dardanelle. The two mini-buses were loading to go to Hidden Pool. The two vans were loading to go fishing at Field House pond and to the rifle range at First Lake. Other teams were heading to go-carts, archery, zip-line/climbing wall and arts & crafts. It was a busy time.

These men instantly became campers again. They were ready to go with one of the teams. We watched as all the campers made their way to the buses and vans. In an instant they were all gone. Main Building was quiet again. One hundred forty-four campers, and their counselors and CIT's, vanished. Gone to have a good time! The men and their wives were amazed at how smoothly all those campers got to where they should be. Not one camper was left behind!

Fun! That's what Camp Subiaco is about. We enjoy the Abbey and all it has to offer. The hill, the monks and students, alumni and friends and the entire outdoors of Arkansas.

Come join us for Camp Subiaco this year.

For me, it's time to plan; plan for another year of Camp Subiaco.

Pat Franz

Camp Director

web address: www.campsubiaco.org



"SPONSOR A CAMPER"

Help boys who would not otherwise be able to benefit from the experience of Camp Subiaco.

The cost to send one boy to camp is \$425.00

Any amount you can give will help

Make checks payable to Camp Subiaco

405 N Subiaco Ave,

Subiaco, AR 72865

or

Call Subiaco Abbey Development office

with credit card information

479-934-1001

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Questions? Contact Pat Franz '78, Camp Director

pk1franz@aol.com

Thank you for your generosity!



Journey to Subiaco

by Cheryl Goetz

A question that is often asked of Subiaco students by prospective parents, students and other visitors is “What brought you to Subiaco?” One hundred fifty-one students were recently surveyed to answer questions about the journey that led them to Subiaco. Legacy brings some students to the Academy. The survey asked, “Have any members of your family attended Subiaco? If yes, who?” The responses were as follows: 18 have fathers who attended Subiaco, 13 have grandfathers, 15 have brothers, 23 have uncles, 17 have cousins, and the numbers also include 1 great-grandfather, and 1 great-uncle. Freshman Alex Sharum, whose grandfather, dad, two uncles and two brothers are all alumni, related: “My family influenced me by bringing me to games and talking about it, but ultimately it was my decision and I knew I wanted to be part of the brotherhood.”

Forty-four of the polled students attended Camp Subiaco and developed a desire to attend school here while attending Camp. Senior Josef Camacho of Murchison, Texas, a three time camp attendee, stated: “I enjoyed the camp and loved the atmosphere, so I looked into Subi, told my parents, and then came here.” The students were also asked how they first heard about Subiaco. Among the various responses, 43% learned of Subiaco from family, twenty percent received information from friends which include non-family alumni, and 17% learned about the academy when doing an Internet search. Students offered numerous reasons for making the decision to come to Subiaco, including “my parents made me.” Eighth-grader Dominic Hackman of Sugar Land, Texas, stated, “Honestly, I had almost no say and at first Subi was uncomfortable, but now I don’t think there’s another place I’d rather be.” Joe Kramer, a senior from Conway, Arkansas, gave credit to a friend: “I came to better myself as a student and to grow up into an independent man, but I was influenced by my good friend Jody [Chauvin] the summer before I came.”

Of course, Subiaco’s reputation for solid college preparation was a factor for many in the decision-making process. Branton Sims, a senior from Little Rock, Arkansas, said “The dream of wanting to go to a good college” helped him make the decision to come. Cameron Mask, a junior from Fort Smith, said he made the decision, “when I realized the advantages I would have going into college.” Others stated religious reasons: “As my family is Catholic, we were looking for the school which provides both quality education and religious life. Subiaco was the only school which fulfilled both satisfactorily, so we decided on the Academy,” maintained Kye Hoon Jo, a senior from Daejeon, South Korea.

Numerous students cited the community as a great influence in their decision to attend. Toby Turney, a senior from Fort Smith stated, “When I first visited the Academy, I already knew of the school’s academic strength. I already felt that Subiaco might be a good fit for me, but the aspect of Subiaco that made me firmly decide on enrollment was the energetic atmosphere that pervaded every area of the school.” A freshman in his first year, Ian Hagman of Hawesville, Kentucky, said when he attended a Discovery Experience, he was influenced by “the school and its faculty really—I just fell in love with the energy and how the school went on daily. I knew I could actually get the education I wanted from here.” Jack Hertlein, a freshman from Subiaco wrote, “I thought it would be good for me in school, in my social life, in sports, and my religious experience.” Others like freshman Jon Vines of Paris, noted Subiaco traditions: “I was seriously considering going when we practiced summer ball in the Subi gym. But what really influenced my decision was when I went to the graduation ceremony.”

No matter the how or why, it certainly seems that, as Abbot Jerome Kodell, OSB, is fond of saying, “No one comes to Subiaco by accident.”



At left: Senior Jody Chauvin with his parents Dr. E.J. (class of 1977) and Yvonne



At right: Joseph Blaschke, 8th-grade student and son of Tim (class of 1984) with his grandparents Ron (Subiaco class of 1962) and Carol

2012 Catholic Schools Week

Subiaco Academy students and monks began Catholic Schools Week at the Sunday celebration of 10:45 a.m. Mass which included a special blessing for faculty/staff and students.

The Subiaco Academy Jazz Ensemble performed for students of St. Joseph School (Paris) and for students of St. Edward School in Little Rock during the annual celebration of Catholic Schools Week. Other activities of the week included various guessing games with prizes, a pilgrimage to the original monastery site south of the Abbey, a faculty appreciation luncheon, a faculty vs. student quiz bowl match, a ceremony of investiture of monastic novices, bowling, a concert by Oreo Blue, and hosting the Junior High Regional Quiz Bowl Tournament.



Fr. Hugh Assenmacher and Deacon Roy Goetz leading the pilgrimage to the original monastery site

March for life – LR and D.C.

Twelve Academy students and a number of young people and adults from Clarksville joined Abbot Jerome and Fr. Mark for the bus ride to the 34th annual March for Life in Little Rock on Sunday, January 22, 2012. Many people (estimated 3,000+) from across the state made the annual march to remember the lives lost since the January 22, 1973, Supreme Court *Roe v Wade* decision that legalized abortion in our nation. The day's activities began with Mass and a homily by Bishop Anthony Taylor. The March involved a walk of 13 blocks to the State Capitol accompanied by the sounds of *Amazing Grace* on bagpipes. Fr. Mark noted that Academy students were quite effective in distributing pro-life literature to many of the marchers. Several of the students who participated in the extravaganza the evening before enthusiastically praised the program which included talks, prayer, and a dance.



March in Little Rock

Headmaster Rob Loia, Br. John Paul, and twelve Academy students traveled to Washington, D.C., for the 39th annual March for Life in Washington on Monday, January 23, 2012. Speaker of the House John Boehner delivered opening remarks at the March. Congressman Boehner said, "The cause of life endures in large part due to the vigilance of the American people, especially those who march and pray in our nation's capital each year at this time."

Junior High Quiz Bowl Team – Regional Runner-up

The Subiaco Academy Junior High Quiz Bowl team lost to Berryville 270-230 in the finals of the Regional Quiz Bowl Tournament. Victories over Farmington and Booneville in earlier matches put the Trojan team in the final match against Berryville.

Also competing in the tournament were teams from Prairie Grove, Clarksville, and Pea Ridge.

Academy seventh-grade student Axel Ntamatungiro was named to the All-Tournament team. Subiaco's team competed in the State Tournament at ASU-Beebe at the end of February and placed 4th in State.



Science and Engineering Club

Subiaco Academy is proud to announce the addition of a new organization on campus—The Subiaco Science and Engineering Club. The goal of the club is to promote research and exploration in science; to research the application of science, technology, and engineering; to satisfy our innate curiosity; to explore career opportunities; and to be of service to brother Subiaco students.

Prior to each field trip, students research and plan a technical preparation meeting for club members. The main purpose of tech-prep is to allow students to understand more clearly the manufacturing process so that they can ask better questions and represent Subiaco well on tours. The first technical preparation meeting was held on Tuesday, February 13, with science teacher Jerry Heil and sophomore Eric Ledieu making presentations on production of composites and on polymerization. Seventeen club members went on a field trip on Thursday, February 16, to the Hannigan Fairing Company located in Paris, Arkansas. This company produces a fuel-efficient fairing for motorcycles. During the tour of the plant, the students visited the 4 stations involved in the fairing manufacturing process: 1) the composite production station (the matrix of a high tensile strength and high compressive strength material), 2) the steel production station, 3) the plastics station (acrylic and polycarbonate plastics forming), and 4) electronics. Members then viewed the final product—a motorcycle fairing that protects the rider from wind, bugs, and rain.

The Subiaco Science and Engineering Club is open to any interested student in grades 7-12 and is under the guidance of Mr. Jerry Heil. Alex Sharum is the President; Isaiah Vasquez, the Vice-President.



Science teacher Jerry Heil and Isaiah Vasquez making a presentation to S & E Club

Two invested as novices

Students, faculty, and monks assembled in the Abbey Church to participate in the February 1, 2012, investiture ceremony of two men. Candidate John Canter from Mountain Home, AR, and Huy Do from Dallas, TX, were invested as novices during Vespers. These two had passed through the first stage of preparation to become monks and now are novices for one year. At the completion of that time, they will be eligible for their first vows as monks of Subiaco Abbey. Three years from that time, they will be eligible to make their final, perpetual vows.

The investiture ceremony has six parts. (1) The candidates make their request to become members of the community. (2) The Abbot addresses them in the name of the community and approves their request. (3) The Abbot blesses the novice habit or uniform, which is like the clothes of monks but has no hood. (4) The Abbot places the hoodless scapular on the candidates, signifying their investiture as novices. (5) The Abbot reads from the *Rule of St. Benedict* and then presents each novice with a copy of the Rule. (6) The new novices take their place with the other monks.

Abbot Jerome mentioned to the students, monks, and guests assembled for the ceremony that five new candidates had just arrived to begin their process of joining the community. These five will be in training during the next few months and will become eligible to take the step of becoming novices in September.



l-r Nov. John Canter, Abbot Jerome & Nov. Huy Do



Leo Anhalt and John Robbins – Distinguished Alumni



Leo Anhalt

This year the Alumni Association will honor **Leo Anhalt '58** and **John Robbins, Sr. '65** as Distinguished Alumni.

Leo graduated in 1958 and entered the construction industry as a carpenter building houses. In 1969 he co-founded SSI, Inc. and continues to serve as its president and general manager. SSI is involved in commercial and industrial construction throughout the south.

Leo has been tireless in serving on committees in his profession, community, and in his church. He was a charter member of the Arkansas Chapter of Associated Builders and Contractors, having served as its president in 1976 and 1985. He was named Man of the Year by the Chapter in 1985. Leo has served as chairman of the Metal Building Council, co-founder of National Craft Olympics and National President of Associated Builders and Contractors in 1994.

In his community he has worked with the Girl Scouts, and served on boards of the Fort Smith Art Center, St. Edward's Hospital, Fort Smith Chamber of Commerce and Benefit Bank. He has served as a President of the Parish and the School Board at Immaculate Conception Church and the first President of the Trinity Junior High School Board. Leo has served on the Subiaco Academy Board, the Alumni Board and as President of the Subiaco Foundation.

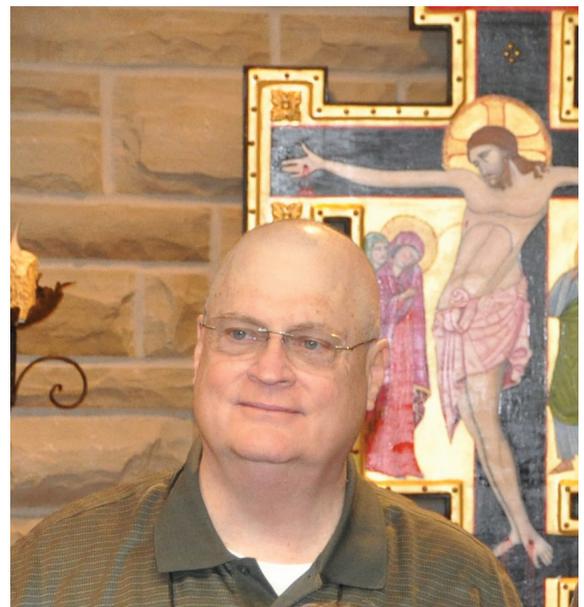
He has served on the Diocese of Little Rock Finance Council and is a member of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem.

Leo and Barbara Hug were married June 6, 1964, and have four daughters; Debbie Hillman, Becca Borden, Laura Linares and Ashley Wisdom.

John Robbins, Sr. graduated in 1958 and went on to receive undergraduate degrees in finance at the University of Memphis and 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 was known for his generosity and his caring for others.

He and Kay Berry were married for 40 years and have six children; sons John, Jr., Ben, Fr. Tony and Charles; and daughters Kathryn Davis and Jane Robbins. John passed away February 22, 2011.



John Robbins

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Alumni Reunion: June 1-3, 2012

Summer Camp: June 17-23, 2012 week 1
June 24-30, 2012 week 2

Obituaries

Jorge J. Dominguez '38 died in Jacksonville, FL, on January 1, 2012.

He was born in Cuba and after graduating from Columbia University, returned to Cuba and served as the chief executive officer of Calera Santa Teresa and Cemento Santa Teresa, which he co-founded. Early in the 1960s he co-founded, with his father and brother, West Indies Food and Packing Co. From the mid 60s until his retirement he worked for P. Lorillard, including service as its chief representative in Southern South America, the Middle East, North Africa and Europe.

He is survived by his wife Lilia; his sister Silvia; a brother Manuel; a son Jorge I.; three daughters, Beatriz Alberelli and Virginia Dominguez; three granddaughters; one grandson and six great-grandchildren.

Paul Edward Ritter '52 died in Jonesboro, AR, November 17, 2011, at the age of 77.

He was active at Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church where he taught Sunday school, was a Eucharistic minister and an usher. He worked on John Deere tractors and enjoyed collecting John Deere memorabilia. Mr. Ritter was an avid outdoorsman and enjoyed hunting, fishing, boating and spending time at the lake.

He is survived by his wife of 48 years, Linda; one son Tim Ritter; a daughter Stacey Stevens; two brothers, Raymond Ritter and Charles Ritter; two sisters, Bernice Elias and Theresa Schneider, and three grandchildren.

David Louis Siebenmorgen '48 passed away on February 22, 2012, in Wimberley, TX. He spent his career with W. F. Woolworth and in the real estate business.

He is survived by two sisters, Pauline and Jane; two brothers, Tom '52 and Andrew; his children, Sandra, Dale, Alan, and Michael; and three grandchildren.

Donnie A. Schreiber '82 of Macon, GA, died in Dothan, AL, on January 26, 2012. He was buried in Windthorst, TX.

He enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1987 and served for more than 16 years in the service. He served with the 1st Infantry Division in the Gulf War where he earned his Combat Infantry Badge and a Bronze Star. He also served in Bosnia, Kosovo and Korea. During his time in the Army he won numerous awards and medals. After his honorable discharge from the Army, he was employed as a Calibration Technician in the field of Metrology with Georgia Power. He was a member of the D.A.V., the V.F.W. and St. Mary's Catholic Church in Windthorst.

Survivors include his wife Pam; a son Ryan; a daughter Heather Chamblee; his parents, Harold and Fern Schreiber; three brothers, Murray Shook, Tim Schreiber and Glen Schreiber '89; one sister Susan Hartwig; and one granddaughter Aubreigh Grace Chamblee.

William "Bill" Laws '55 of West Monroe, LA, died January 12, 2012. Bill was a proud Marine and was a much-decorated Vietnam veteran with his service spanning 20 years. Among his many honors was the Bronze Star Medal with "V." After retiring from the service Bill worked for the electrical distributor, Stuart Irby Co. He was a member of St. Matthew Catholic Church in West Monroe and a lifetime member of the West Monroe Jaycees.

He is survived by his wife of 54 years, Carolyn Jowers Laws; three daughters, Lydia Walker, Lauren Johnson, and Leslie Fox; nine grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; three brothers, Richard "Dick" '54, Peter, and Joseph; and three sisters, Mary Angelita Laws, OSF, Mary Louise Laws, and Monica Marie Laws, OSF.

Joseph Anthony Paladino '43 died January 20, 2012, in Center Ridge, AR. Joe attended the University of Arkansas where he played football in 1945. He worked as a revenuer with the Arkansas Beverage Control and retired from the Federal Government as an agent with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms in 1977 after 21 years of distinguished service.



Joseph Paladino

After retirement he drove a school bus for 10 years, worked part time at Rossi Electric and served as pipeline inspector for the Conway County Regional Water District.

He was active in St. Joseph Catholic Church in Center Ridge serving on the church council, picnic committee and as Eucharistic Minister. He and his wife Geneva started a food bank out of their garage.

He is survived by his two sons, Steven A. and Terry; a daughter Lori Ross; sisters, Etta Rowland and Florence "Babe" Andreas; a brother Lawrence; eleven grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren.

Robert Mantel McCurdy, Sr. '48 passed away on December 25, 2011, in Greenwood, Texas.

Robert served in the U.S. Army from 1950-1952. He worked for Mobil Oil for forty years until his retirement in 1991. He loved being outdoors, camping and fishing.

He is survived by his wife Lizzie Mae; three sons, Burk, Rick and Robert "Bud"; one daughter, Elizabeth Chandler; 13 grandchildren, numerous great grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild.



Where are they now?

Twenty-three alumni participated in the January 20-22, 2012, Men's Charismatic Retreat at Subiaco. Presenters included Abbot Jerome, Fr. Mark and Fr. Nicholas.

Nathan Willems '07 graduated from the University of Arkansas-Fayetteville on December 11, 2011.

Eric Tsai '01 CEO of eriqoo.com has begun a new venture, Dynasty Holding, Inc., which now has a \$3 billion portfolio under management.

Matt Stengel '99 is serving as President of the Paris Area Chamber of Commerce.

Rev. Jason Sharbaugh '94 has been appointed Associate Pastor of St. Vincent DePaul Church in Rogers, AR.

Joe Spivey '77 was featured in a two page spread in the Profiles section of the January 29, 2012, *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*. The article praised Joe's civic involvement. **Dr. E. J. Chauvin '77** was quoted in the same article.

Fr. Josh Stengel '96 has been appointed Associate Pastor of Christ the King Church in Little Rock.

Jacob Didion '08 and **Jacob Hadlock '11** were named to the Dean's List for the fall semester at Lyon College in Batesville, AR.

Ron and Mary Lensing to be honored

At the January meeting, the Alumni Board recommended and Abbot Jerome named Ron Lensing of Little Rock an Honorary Alumnus and his wife Mary as an Honorary Member of the Ladies' Auxiliary. The Lensings have been long time supporters of the Academy.

Ron has served on the Abbot's President's Council and is currently on the Abbot's Advisory Committee. Mary has served on the Academy Board of Trustees, Headmaster selection committees and consulted with the Academy administration on ANSAA certification. Ron and Mary have worked with Marriage Encounter Weekends for the last 25 years.

They have two sons, Chris and Jody, and a daughter, Leah Cunningham, and five grandchildren.

Henry Moore '70 visited with Coach Holton Primm who is living at Mercy Crest Assisted Living in Barling, AR. Coach Primm indicated he would love to see members of his teams.

George Morton '67 is editor of *The Parish Visitor* and the Director of Public Relations in Monroe, New York.

Hasten Freeman '11 has joined the roster of the University of Arkansas-Fort Smith baseball team as a pitcher.

Jared Cleveland '89 was featured on the front page of the January 28, 2012, *Times Record* (Ft. Smith newspaper). Jared, presently Lavaca, AR, School Superintendent, will be the State Department of Education's new Assistant Commissioner for fiscal administrative services.

Austin Willis '06 has a B.S. in computer science and is currently working at Axiom while he pursues a master's degree in computer engineering.

Ryan Gehrig '91 has accepted the position of President and CEO of Mercy Health System-Fort Smith. He has been the Vice-President of Enterprise Systems for Norman Regional Health System – Norman, Oklahoma. He is currently president of the Subiaco Alumni Association.



Obituaries

cont'd from page 14

Captain Robert G. Clarke '37 passed away October 21, 2011, in Atlanta, GA. Captain Clarke served in the U.S. Air Force during World War II, and received commendations for his service including a valor award. He flew in the 77th Troup Carrier Squadron of the 435th Troup Carrier Group, and was a squadron leader during the airborne assault on D-Day. After leaving the service he flew for Eastern Airlines for 34 years.

He is survived by his wife Jean; sons, Graham and Al; a daughter Diane Weiglein; four grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.

Wilfred Reiter '38 died in Muenster, TX, February 17, 2012. He and Pauline (Polly) Spaeth were married on October 14, 1941, in Lindsay, TX, and were married 65 years when she passed away in 2007.

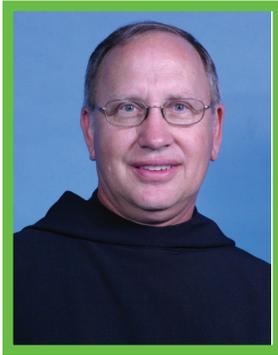
Wilfred farmed on the "homeplace" until his death. He was active in the Boy Scouts and the 4-H Club.

He is survived by six daughters, LuAnn Kubis, Peggy DiStefano, Cheryl Drozd, Lynn Gibson, Kim Wiese and Sandy Felderhoff; four sons, Roger, Wayne, Paul and Lloyd; twenty-five grandchildren, and nineteen great-grandchildren.

Leo Joseph Eckart '40 passed away on January 28, 2012, in Barling AR. Leo retired from the U.S. Post Office in 1980 after serving as postmaster of Paris, AR, for many years. He served in the U.S. Navy from 1943 to 1946 and was a member of St. Joseph Catholic Church in Paris.

He is survived by two daughters, Janet Pranger and Debbie Wolfe; one son John; eight grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

John M. Whiren '48 died in Warrenton, MO, on February 11, 2012.



Vocations and Corry House? Yes, you read that right... Vocations and Corry House! When people often see the word “vocation” written or discussed, they often think only of a vocation to priesthood, diaconate or religious life. Instead, Pope John Paul II reminds us in *Familiaris Consortio* that vocation should be thought of in a much wider sense:

11. God created man in His own image and likeness: calling him to existence through love, He called him at the same time for love. God is love and in Himself He lives a mystery of personal loving communion. Creating the human race in His own image and continually keeping it in being, God inscribed in the humanity of man and woman the vocation, and thus the capacity and responsibility, of love and communion. Love is therefore the fundamental and innate vocation of every human being.

The love of God which this Servant of God, Pope John Paul II, speaks about, has shown itself manifest in our world through two distinct but interrelated states of life. He writes:

Christian revelation recognizes two specific ways of realizing the vocation of the human person in its entirety, to love: marriage and virginity or celibacy. Either one is, in its own proper form, an actuation of the most profound truth of man, of his being “created in the image of God.

As Benedictines, we have consistently tried to foster and strengthen these two states of life through our ministry of hospitality at our Corry House Retreat Center. We are called by St. Benedict in chapter 53 of the Rule to welcome all guests as we would welcome Christ. We regularly host retreats and conferences for seminarians and religious, for marriage and engaged encounters, and for high school groups as they help young people explore the state of life to which God has called them. Even our retreats targeting women and men in separate events are all working towards helping a man or woman deepen their love of God in whatever state of life God has called them.

To that end, if you are called in your vocation to the married state of life, I would like for you to consider attending one of our marriage encounter retreats or even just come to the Abbey for a few private days together as a couple. Some families even schedule “Family Reunion” gatherings at our Center. If you are a priest, deacon or religious, then consider getting away for some quiet time by coming to the Abbey to set aside the projects and concerns of the world and focus on deepening your relationship with God. Next, if you have been considering a vocation to the priesthood, diaconate or religious life, then a private or group retreat at the Abbey is perfect for you as you try to hear God’s will for your life. We also offer our own monastic “Come and See” weekend on July 5th through July 9th. Finally, if you are single, the Church has not forgotten you. The Catechism of the Catholic Church reminds us in #1658 that “(w)e must also remember the great number of single persons who, because of the particular circumstances in which they have to live – often not of their choosing – are especially close to Jesus’ heart and therefore deserve the special affection and active solicitude of the Church, especially of pastors.” We offer numerous retreats for men and women, for our Benedictine oblates, and private retreats for singles.

So, vocations and hospitality are very much interrelated and part of our mission at Corry House. As you pray that God may strengthen your own vocation, let us assist you by offering our service of hospitality. Check out our web site for more information on the many retreats we offer throughout the year.

Go to: www.subi.org

Fr. Francis Kirchner

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