

The Abbey Message

Subiaco Abbey

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Alumni Association Celebrates Centennial

by Don Berend

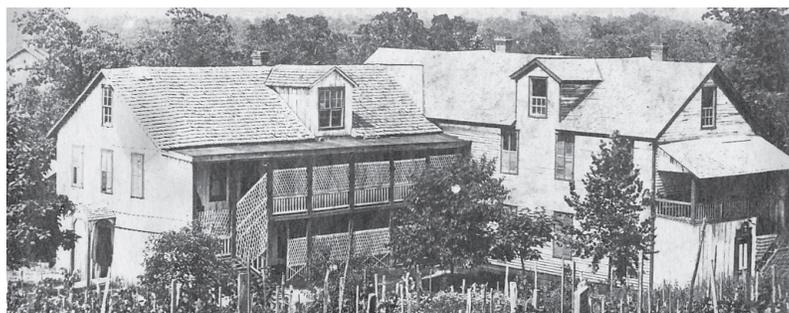
In his welcoming speech before the first alumni gathering in 1913, Fr. Benedict Borgerding, the rector of the College, laid out the principles that would guide the organization through the years. He called those gathered to unity of purpose; he reminded them that though small they could make a huge impact. He said that they should lead by example as Christian men. He went on to urge them to lead young men to a thorough education of mind, heart, and character, and lastly he reminded them that they should look forward to the renewal of old friendships. Those same ideals serve today.

The man considered to be the father of the association is Fr. W. J. Tynin. A Subiaco College graduate of 1906, he had returned from his seminary studies in Rome and began promoting the idea of an alumni association. A group of monks began to study the idea, and a letter seeking the interest of graduates was sent out. After a very favorable response the first reunion was held June 11, 1913.

In those early years many of the current traditions of the association were already started. The Alumni Association purchased items for the school, started establishing an endowment, and began the association's first newsletter called the SAA Courier.

After the fire of December 11, 1927, the alumni were among the first to come to the aid of the Abbey. First came the loads of clothes and supplies, and then the funds. As the Abbey suffered from the after effects of the fire and the depression of the 1930s, it was Association President Leo J. Krebs, 1920, who rose to the occasion by finding means to publicize the plight of the Abbey and the Academy.

After World War II the association led the way raising funds for the building boom at the Abbey during the '40s, '50s and '60s. First, at Abbot Paul Nahlen's request, the alumni supported the erection of the Press Building, now the Fine Arts Building. The alumni proposed Alumni Hall, first as a residence hall, and later plans were changed



The 1st school at the old site of the monastery in 1888

to make it a much needed classroom building. After the association struggled for several years to raise the needed funds, Mr. E.

A. Steinberger, 1913, accepted the presidency of the association with the vow to get the project completed. He was true to his word. The classroom was occupied in 1952.

The Church, the Coury House, the fieldhouse and Heard Hall soon followed. In some of these projects the alumni took the lead; in others the association encouraged its member to support the efforts of the Abbey so as not to cause confusion by having two appeals made to the same donors.

As building slowed the association focused its efforts on student aid, setting up a number of scholarships honoring alumni and monks at the Abbey. This tradition carries on today as the association raises \$25,000 to \$35,000 yearly for student aid.

As Fr. Benedict proposed, the association continues to promote education by furnishing tuition assistance and working with the admissions department. Through the years the association has provided equipment and sports facility updates. Annually it underwrites the Literary Symposium in the Academy. In keeping with Fr. Benedict's recommendation that old friendships should be renewed, the association hosts an annual reunion the first weekend in June.

This year the Centennial Reunion will be held May 30 to June 2. A number of special events are scheduled for the reunion, including a banquet for past presidents on Thursday evening and the dedication of a memorial to Rodolfo Pereyra, the student for whom the Pereyra Award is named. The weekend will close with a banquet in the green room of the fieldhouse with an auction to raise money for student aid.

God is Thirsting for Me

Saint Augustine was very struck by the story in the fourth chapter of John's Gospel about Jesus' meeting with the Samaritan woman at the well. The woman was surprised that Jesus asked her for a drink, since the Jews of the time had nothing to do with Samaritans. Augustine is also surprised by Jesus' question but takes the scene to a deeper level. He sees the woman as a symbol of the Church, representing thirsty and needy humanity, and the surprise is that Jesus, the Lord of creation, would ask weak creation for a drink. After all, as Jesus tells the woman, she should instead have asked him for a drink of living water.

The Catechism takes the cue from Augustine and sees Christ desiring to meet every human being. "Jesus thirsts; his asking arises from the depths of God's desire for us. Whether we realize it or not, prayer is the encounter of God's thirst with ours. God thirsts that we may thirst for him" (n. 2560).

What a breathtaking idea! God is thirsty for a relationship with me! We are very aware that we should seek God, but are we aware that he is seeking us first? The Bible tells us that, but it doesn't register. "We love because he loved us first" (1 Jn 4:19); "God shows his great love for us in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us" (Rom 5:8).

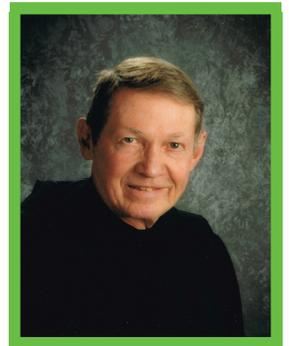
When we pray, we are often hampered and bothered with concerns about getting it right. We don't know what prayers to say, or how long to stay. We are worried about distractions or nodding off. Will our lax performance be more likely to give offense to God rather than praise? The only reason the Bible gives for postponing prayer is if we are unreconciled with someone (Mt. 5:23-24): it has nothing to do with our feelings of worthiness or our performance. God takes delight in our presence. Our presence is enough. "God thirsts that we may thirst for him." Did you ever see a grandmother frown at an untied shoe when a grandchild leaped into her lap? Most of our doubts and fears about prayer are self-imposed. They come from a confusion about who God is and who we are, and what prayer is all about. God is our loving father, we are his much-beloved children, and prayer is the way we express our desire for communion with him.

We may have gotten stuck at the childhood image of God as our daily Santa Claus, and still be spending our prayer times making our list and checking it twice. Expressing what we would like to have God do for us is part of our prayer relationship with God, but the ordinary pattern is to mature in our relationship with God as we do with people. When we're children we like to visit certain relatives because of what they give us; as adults, we visit because of the relationship.

This transition in prayer is beautifully portrayed by the psalmist who prayed to God:

*"Lord, I have stilled my soul,
hushed it like a weaned child.
Like a weaned child on its mother's lap,
so is my soul within me" (Ps 131:2).*

A weaned child is one who no longer looks to its mother for milk. Before that, the baby is coming to the mother to get something. A weaned child comes to its

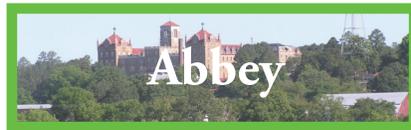


**"What a
breathtaking idea!
God is thirsty for a
relationship
with me!"**

mother's lap just to be with mother. We aspire to be weaned away from using God in prayer, to loving him. That is what he is thirsting for. "The Christian life consists in continuously scaling the mountain to meet God and then coming back down" (Pope Benedict XVI, 2013 Lenten message).

Pauline Martin, sister of St. Thérèse of Lisieux, was the first of five sisters to enter religious life. In a film on the life of St. Thérèse, Pauline, who was preparing to enter Carmel, is explaining to her younger sisters her excitement: "I must go. Jesus is waiting for me." Sometimes we have an idea of God as stoic, untouched, unmoved whether we turn away from him or not. That is the God of philosophical abstraction, but not the God of the Bible. The God revealed in the Bible loves us more than a nursing mother (Is 49:15) and, like a loving father worried about his son, paces the floor yearning for him to come home (Hos 11). God would give the world for any one of us: "You are precious in my eyes...I love you" (Is 43:4). This is the God who is thirsting for us, delighting in us, waiting for us. Prayer is where my desire for God meets God's desire for me.

Abbot Jerom Kocell, OSB



Abbey Journal

by Fr. Mark Stengel, OSB

December

Advent began on December 2 with near record warmth: 78°. A week later, my calendar notation reports: "Snow flurries." A week later, on the 17th: "Mowing grass in cemetery." Climatologists warn about more erratic weather as a function of global warming. "More erratic," in Arkansas, can only mean stable and tranquil weather, since extreme variations have always been the norm.

Beginning in October, the weekly bulletin input from the maintenance department had asked, in caps, PLEASE CONSERVE WATER AND PRAY FOR SIGNIFICANT RAIN. Finally, in late January, the word "MORE" was added. We've had rain, a significant amount, but never beyond what the forested watershed of the water supply can absorb. We need MORE.

The large pin oak in the triangle south of St. Benedict Church and west of the "Angel Walk" was removed the first week of December, a victim of last summer's drought and poor placement. Planted by Fr. Brendan McGuire in the 1960s, this tree had flourished in its youth. As it matured, its massive limbs crashed (in slow motion) into the walls and windows of the church. The amputation of those primary limbs left a misshapen, wounded trunk which never seemed to recover from the trauma. When the center also began dying last summer, we knew its time had come. The debris, hauled to the "burn pile," below the Abbey cemetery, burned continuously for three weeks, until the Christmas Day snow finally extinguished the last chunks.



A magnificent tree stripped of its glory

With Fr. Denis Soerries' death on December 14, the Abbey has lost five members in 2012, and four in the past six weeks! His obituary is on-line at: <http://www.countrymonks.us/our-life/obituaries>



Fr. Denis Soerries

Fr. Denis hailed from Hartman, just across the river in Johnson County, a habitat that seems to spawn strange and fantastic tales. Fr. Denis recounted these Johnson County tales with apparent firm conviction, amazed at his confreres' incredulity.

On December 21, the funeral for Daniel Phillips, nineteen-year-old diocesan seminarian, was held here at the Abbey. This young man, from nearby Booneville, had just completed his first semester at Holy Trinity Seminary in Dallas, and was killed in a car crash near his home. The very small Assumption Church in Booneville could not begin to accommodate the expected crowd. Bishop Taylor pre-

sided at the Mass of Christian Burial, with about 30 diocesan clergy, most seminarians for the Little Rock diocese, classmates and officials from Holy Trinity Seminary, and an overflow crowd. Clearly, Daniel had already touched many lives, and we now ask his prayers for more vocations for the priesthood and religious life in the Diocese of Little Rock.

Brother Joseph Koehler and farm boss Craig Layes investigated evidence of a bloody incident in a farm pasture, but could find no victim, neither dead nor alive. What had happened? I suppose we will never know for sure, but here's an explanation that sounds like a plot for a Br. Cadfael mystery. A cow must have had twin calves. One was either born dead, or abandoned. The mother went on her way with the other twin, and the unlucky twin was killed by a mountain lion, which absconded with the entire carcass. The Arkansas Game and Fish Commission adamantly insists that there are no mountain lions remaining in Arkansas. Many locals dispute this. The mystery remains.

White Christmases are rare in Arkansas. Forecasters began predicting snow for Christmas Day well in advance, and this time they nailed it. Snow began after noon and fell steadily through the evening hours, giving us about seven inches by morning. In our area, it simply was a beautiful Christmas snow, perfect for a hike and hot chocolate. Other areas, especially central Arkansas, had tremendous ice damage and power outages.

January

The new year got off to a blazing start. Novice Mike, lighting the vigil candles of the “corona lucis”, managed to catch his beard on fire! He quickly slapped himself “Silly!” before it got out of control. The “corona lucis,” in case this reference sent anyone “Googling,” is a Christmas season “crown of light.” Fr. Eugene, master metalworker and current pastor of St. Joseph Church in Paris, fabricated the wreath, which holds 28 vigil candles, seven on each arm, at four different levels, in polished brass holders. The wreath is suspended from the ceiling between the choir stalls, and is lowered for lighting by an intricate pulley system.

After the Christmas snow melted, we enjoyed some brisk, clear, tranquil winter days until another surprise snowfall on the 15th. This one had not even been hinted at by the weathermen.

Several days later, a giant yellow clawed creature attacked the Villa, and began tearing it to pieces. With local contractor Kyle Carter at the controls, the beast reduced this former “Sisters’ House” to rubble in the space of a few hours. Two dump trucks hauled the debris away, while other workers salvaged usable stone and other items. Community conversation at recreation showed a surprising dearth of information about this building. Apparently it had been built for the Benedictine Sisters employed as cooks for the Abbey and Academy, but no one seems to know just when this happened. After the Sisters discontinued this work in the 1960s, the building was renamed “The Villa,” and served as an adjunct to Coury House. Then it housed Academy staff, then monks during Abbey renovation, then it became the Headmaster’s residence, and ended its days as the residence for Dean of Men Greg Timmerman and family.



The old sister's house (villa) was quickly brought down by a yellow monster

On the evening of January 20, the Abbey was plunged into sudden darkness. A vehicle had knocked down a pole and transformer several miles away, cutting the power to a considerable area, including the Abbey. We do have a very good backup diesel generator, but this does not come on-line automatically, and so Brother Anselm tries to assess the extent and possible duration of the outage before firing up the generator. Meanwhile the time for Sunday evening Vespers was approaching. M.C. Brother Mel and sacristan Brother Dominic and anyone they could recruit, scurried about, transforming the darkened chancel into a medieval chantry, replete with candles by the dozens. The cable for the “corona lucis” came down again, and raised a Coleman lantern above the glittering scene. Just when we were enjoying the *a capella* rendition of Vespers by candlelight, the lights came back on during the second psalm.

Brother John Paul and Candidate Kenny accompanied eight students to the National March for Life in Washington on January 24. Brother reported that it was VERY COLD in D.C., and that Academy students had not adequately heeded warnings to dress warmly.

February

Maintenance men Tom Newman and Chris Adams put up scaffolding under the baldacchino over the altar in the Abbey Church. The four high-wattage incandescent lights had damaged the fixtures and the surrounding wood of the canopy, such

that new bulbs burned out very quickly. Tom and Chris replaced the old fixtures with LED fixtures and bulbs, resulting in a less intense light, requiring much less energy and producing much less heat. The top of the canopy also received a thorough dusting. This area is really hard to reach, and the scaffold had to be torn down and set back up at least three times to complete the job.

This got the church all spiffy for the profession, on February 2, of Novices Huy Do and John Canter. Speculation swirls in the weeks and days preceding professions, regarding the names the new monks might choose. We try to be helpful by suggesting appropriate names. For example, Novice Huy was told about the famous Cluniac abbot, St. Odo. That would have given us Brother Odo Do. Another monk suggested the name Remy. Then he could introduce himself in James Bond style: "I'm Do, Remy." Sadly, such well-meaning help was spurned. Huy chose the name Pio, with his patron being Padre Pio of Pietrelcina and John chose the name Francisco. His patron is Blessed Francisco Marto, one of the visionaries at Fatima. Candidate Kenny Taylor became Novice Kenny the evening before these professions. You may read more about them on page 4.

Fr. Mark drove to the Abbey lakes on February 6 for a bit of cleanup on the dam, and was amazed to see at least ten vehicles parked on the dam and in the spillway. These included three police cruisers, the county Search and Rescue vehicle, and a wrecker. Approaching the epicenter of activity, at the wrecker, I was stopped by an official asking "What is your business here, sir?" "I'm just wanting to see what's going on." "Well, this is a crime scene, and you need to stay back." I retreated to the Search and Rescue van, where a man getting out of his wet suit told me that a car had been found well out in the lake, and that he had managed to attach a cable to it. The wrecker soon winched the car out of the water. The vehicle, thankfully empty, had been reported as stolen in Paris several days earlier. Why it was ditched in the Abbey lake remains another mystery.

Our little dog Coco (pictured in the March Abbey calendar photo) usually stays out of trouble. She does like to chase and dig after animals that she can't catch. She found out, as human hunters say also, that the pursuit is often better than the catching of the prey. She went charging right up to a skunk caught in a live trap, and got sprayed in the face. Brother Joseph Koehler, Coco's mentor, used the old tomato juice remedy, and found it highly effective.

Several monks assisted at a Mardi Gras fundraiser for St. Joseph School in Paris. One of the auction items was a life-size Batman torso. A certain monk, whose name will not be divulged here, managed to finagle the system so that he ended up with this auction item. Batman next appeared seated behind the desk in the sacristan/choirmaster office, in the hall next to the sacristy. The door to this office is usually open. There were many sudden stops, double takes, giggles and guffaws, and rolling of eyes, as Batman projected a strong and silent control over this domain.

Newly professed members

At Vespers on February 2, Novices John Canter and Huy Do made their first profession of vows, receiving the names: Br. Francisco Canter and Br. Pio Do. They professed their vows for three years as Benedictine monks of Subiaco Abbey.

Br. Francisco Canter comes to Subiaco from the northwest Arkansas town of Yellville. There he was doing carpentry work and working odd jobs after some years in Florida as a field technician for an environmental consulting firm. Abbot Jerome has appointed Br. Francisco to assist on the Abbey Farm as well as help in the sacristy work in our church.

Br. Pio Do was born in Vietnam but came to the United States at an early age and had been living in Dallas, TX. He has a bachelor of science degree in electronics engineering and was working as a network engineer for MCI and GTE. Br. Pio was appointed the Abbey mailman and uses his talents in electronics working in our publications department. Abbot Jerome also appointed him assistant in the gift shop in Courty House. Both Br. Francisco and Br. Pio will continue to attend some of the formation classes during the next few months.

The evening before, on February 1, Candidate Kenny Taylor was invested as a novice. Novice Kenny comes to us from Ft. Smith, AR, where he was working as a technology manager for a major company. During his one year of novitiate Nov. Kenny will study and work in many areas of the monastery, calculated to acquaint him with this community and its work and preparing him for his own profession day next February.



Br. Pio, Abbot Jerome & Br. Francisco



Novice Kenny Taylor

Abbot Jerome's Ash Wednesday Lenten conference included a list of aspects of our monastic practice that need attention and perhaps correction. Probably all of us had to say to several of these "Uh-oh; that's me." These little things, Abbot Jerome taught, are ways of serving one another, and not just picky little details of no consequence.

Subiaco caught the tail end of a massive winter storm on February 20. During the noon meal, snowflakes the size of fists hit the ground with an audible "slosh." By nightfall, everything was freezing, and even the Lenten program in Coury House was cancelled. Prior Leonard told us to stay inside and off the ice. The next day was about as miserable a winter day as could be devised: rain, freezing rain, snow, sleet, fog, and wind, with the temperature hovering just below the freezing mark. Brother Francisco helplessly reported on the young calves in the sloppy pastures standing there in the muck with arched backs, a picture of dejection. Really, though, a calf that is getting a good supply of warm milk from its mother can tolerate terrible conditions—at least for a time.

The month ended with a favorable omen. On the 25th, around 2:00 p.m., a heavy hailstorm covered the ground in pea to dime-sized hailstones. Thirty minutes later, the clouds parted and a beautiful rainbow formed. From my vantage point on the fourth floor, one end of the rainbow seemed to be planted in the home team dugout of Alumni Field. Can we expect a fantastic baseball season, a "pot of gold?" Why not? We did not lose that first game which was supposed to have been played that day, so the Trojans remain unbeaten for the year.

Wait for the Lord to Lead

"Wait for the Lord to Lead; then Follow in his Way."

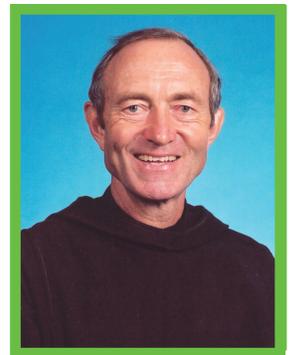
This is the third antiphon, for Psalm 27, at Office of Readings of Week Two. We say these words so easily, and often without any real awareness of the profound and complex spiritual movements involved. Essentially, it's simple: wait for leadership; then follow.

Operationally, it's not simple. We ask: How do I wait? What does this consist of? How do I see or experience the Lord's leading? How do I know that anything is from the Lord, and not from myself? Will I have the strength to follow? Will God's leading satisfy my deepest longings?

We are very much aware that Pope Benedict XVI resigns tomorrow. Bishop Taylor has informed us that, as of 1:00 p.m. CST, the See of Peter will be vacant, or *sede vacante*. What a momentous decision by His Holiness. He must have wrestled with all the questions I've listed in order to come to this decision. Those close to the Pope say that he is very serene in these final days of his papacy. He feels confident that the Lord has led and that he is following.

Pope Benedict has offered some insight into his discernment. First, he waited for the Lord to lead. He waited with an open mind, seeking God's will and not his own. He did not say "Lord, here's what I'm going to do; I hope that you approve." He said that he spent many months praying for God to direct him. He examined his conscience, many times, he said. This means that he looked at his own understanding of God's revealed truth and how he could best carry out God's plan for himself, for the Church, and for the world. He assessed his own strengths, the demands of the ministry, and the needs of the Church. He also listened to his heart, his emotions, because these too help us experience how God is leading. He surely sought advice from trusted friends or a spiritual director.

Then he decided. He probably did not see a sign in the sky or hear an interior or exterior voice directing him. Conscience decisions still feel like our decisions, and they are our decisions. But when we wait, and pray, and believe that God does act in our lives, and we seek advice, and listen to our heart, and examine things with our mind, then we are employing every tool that God has given us. Then we decide, but we can be sure that God is directing that choice, and so we can be at peace. All will be well.



Fr. Mark Stengel



The IRA Charitable Rollover is back in 2013

On January 2, 2013, Congress passed the American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012 which provides qualified taxpayers another opportunity to make a qualified charitable distribution (QCD) directly from their IRA.

Individuals age 70 1/2 or older are once again eligible to transfer up to \$100,000 from their individual retirement accounts (IRAs) directly to qualified charities, such as Subiaco Abbey and Academy, without having to pay income taxes on that money. In the past several of our friends and benefactors have taken advantage of this opportunity as a way of supporting the monks of Subiaco and their great work.

Your Benefits:

- o The transfer generates neither taxable income nor a tax deduction, so you will receive the benefit even if you do not itemize your tax deductions.
- o The transfer may count against your unsatisfied required minimum IRA distribution.
- o You'll make a meaningful gift to Subiaco.

How do I know if an IRA charitable rollover is right for me?

- You are at least age 70½, AND
- You do not need the additional income generated by the minimum required distribution, OR
- Your charitable gifts already equal 50% of your adjusted gross income, so you do not benefit from an income tax charitable deduction for additional gifts, OR
- You are subject to the 2% rule that reduces your itemized deductions, OR
- You do not itemize deductions.

We are here to help!

Don't let this opportunity to make a gift today pass you by. We are happy to assist you if you have questions, need more information, or would like to make a gift. Please feel free to contact Steve Wilmes with Gift Planning Office, 479-934-1027, by e-mail at swilmes@subi.org.

As with any decision involving your financial or estate plans, we urge you to seek the advice of professional counsel when considering a gift.

PRAYER HOTLINE

Let us join you in praying
for your needs.

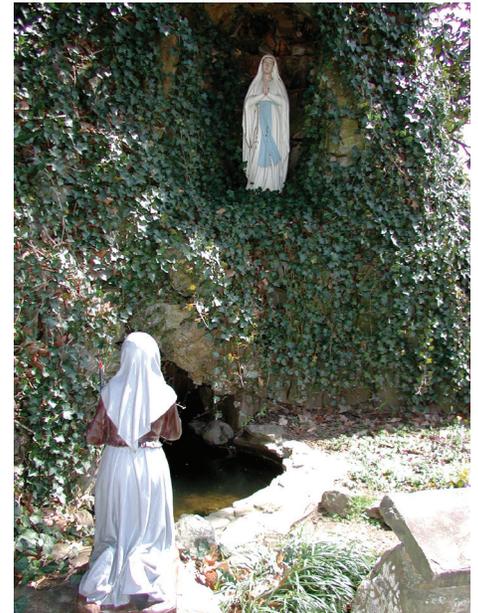
The number to call is:
1-800-350-5889

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

Mothers/Fathers Day

“As we come to the special days of honoring our mothers and fathers, we are grateful for all the gifts they have given us.” Abbot Jerome introduces the Mothers/Fathers Day memorial with these words, in the accompanying brochure. Subiaco Abbey provides a way with lasting meaning to remember and honor your parents, living or deceased. At your request your mother’s and/or father’s name will be placed on the altar and remembered during Mass on May 19 and June 16, and for the remainder of those months in honor and memory of your loved ones. In addition, we will send your mother and/or father a uniquely designed card from the Abbey for their special day.

Please see the enclosed brochure for more information. An envelope is provided to send us your completed forms. Your donation will foster the continuance of monastic life at Subiaco, and support the ministries of the Abbey.



Our Lady of Lourdes and Bernadette in East Park grotto

Rome Pilgrimage

Join Abbot Jerome on a “Pilgrimage to Rome and Benedictine Sites” from September 9-16, 2013. Enjoy sightseeing tours that include highlights of Rome such as the Colosseum (one of the new Seven Wonders of the World), the Roman Forum, the Pantheon, the Trevi Fountain, Sistine Chapel, St. Peter’s Square and Basilica. Most importantly, the pilgrimage group will attend the weekly general audience of the Pope.

There will also be excursions to St. Benedict Monastery just outside the town of Subiaco, Italy, about an hour from Rome. This monastery enshrines the cave (Sacro Speco) where St. Benedict lived as a hermit. Abbot Jerome will celebrate Mass here for the group. Then will come a trip to the walled city of Orvieto and an excursion to Montecassino Abbey, which St. Benedict founded after leaving Subiaco. The last day will include Mass at St. Peter’s Basilica and a special farewell dinner.

The cost is \$2350 per person/two sharing room. Airfare is separate. Please call 479-934-1001 for more information and to acquire a registration form. Availability is limited.

Why an Annual Fund?

Whether it’s inside or outside of the classroom, the Annual Fund helps Subiaco Academy live up to its mission of educating young men in mind, body and spirit. This yearly appeal helps bridge the gap between the total cost of running the school and tuition revenue, which cannot fund the entire cost associated with a college preparatory education and formation.

Large increases in tuition may prohibit the opportunity of a Subiaco experience to some families, thereby altering the diverse culture and distinctive learning environment each student currently enjoys. Through tax-deductible donations to the Annual Fund, you partner with us to keep tuition costs more affordable and provide financial aid and scholarships to deserving students. It also allows us to attract and maintain talented and committed faculty.

Your financial support through monthly, quarterly, semi-annual or annual giving sustains the school’s commitment to providing each student with the highest quality education possible. Your regular gifts enable us to strengthen our programs and to be better stewards of what God has entrusted to us. Over the next few months, alumni, friends and families of Subiaco have the opportunity to support the Academy Annual Fund. We ask that you prayerfully consider your gift that would make a difference in the life of each student who comes to us.

For information on how to give, visit www.subiacoacademy.us or call 479-934-1001.

First and foremost, every Catholic educational institution is a place to encounter the living God who in Jesus Christ reveals his transforming love and truth.

*--Pope Benedict XVI,
Address to Catholic
Educators, 2008*

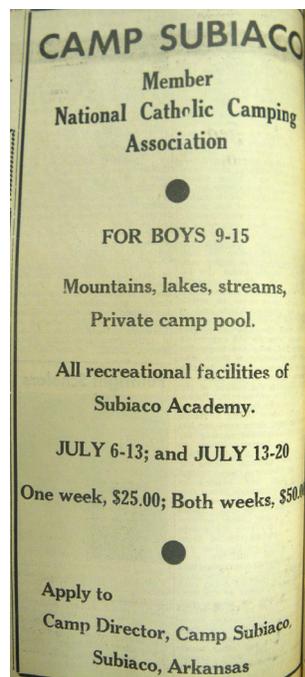
Camp Subiaco then and now

It began in the summer of 1941-two full weeks of healthful fun in the sun on the grounds of Subiaco Abbey, boy style. Fishing, camping, baseball, hiking, and exploring were all part of the planned activities plus wonderful food from Subiaco's famed kitchen. What a dream vacation for young boys during that time! The scenic mountains, beautiful woods and sparkling lakes are part of the advantage Camp Subiaco has for creating that outdoor adventure. Today campers enjoy a typical day of hiking, fishing and swimming in the morning, followed by archery, go karts, riflery, team sports and excursions to the nearby lakes. In the evening there is time to relax and unwind and then comes evening prayers and lights out to prepare for new adventures the next morning.

The monks of Subiaco Abbey were the counselors, comforters, advice or encouragement givers, nurses and spiritual influence to the boys who attended Camp Subiaco in the early days. Boys from ages nine to fifteen could attend for one or two week sessions during the month of July for a cost of \$25 per week in 1952. [See the ad taken from an old Periscope at right.] Mealtimes visitors at Camp were welcomed, but asked to pay a nominal fee of 50 cents per plate. Ten years later, the price had increased to \$30 for one week or \$55 for two weeks. By 1973, under the direction of Fr. Stephen Eckart, Camp Subiaco had moved to the month of June and was splitting its session by ages; week one for boys 7-11 years and week 2 for 12-14 year olds. The cost was approaching the \$100 mark by this time.

The summer of 2000 was a new era in Camp Subiaco. The monks had served as directors and counselors with help from Subiaco Academy alumni up until this time and were looking to turn the tables. Mr. Pat Franz, class of 1978, stepped forward and took on the role as Camp Director. Many other alumni followed suit and have remained as the administrative team for the last thirteen years. Many of these participating alumni were former campers and are fathers or grandfathers themselves now, continuing the tradition of Camp Subiaco to the next generations. A number of Subiaco monks continue to help operate Camp and provide the spiritual presence for many young boys.

For two weeks of June 2013, the grounds of Subiaco Abbey will be alive with the sounds of boys from ages 9-13 having the time of their lives. Those who experience camp here will go home with friendships and memories that last a lifetime. Camp Subiaco has certainly evolved over the years with an ever changing society. But one thing remains the same-this camp is only for boys and those boys are guaranteed to have outdoor fun!



CAMP SUBIACO 2013

JUNE 16-22 OR JUNE 23-29

Please send the application & information to:

For faster registration, we encourage you to apply online at www.campsubiaco.org and make your deposit or full payment to complete the registration process.

Camp Subiaco
405 N Subiaco Ave
Subiaco, AR 72865
www.campsubiaco.org

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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Questions? Call Pat Franz, Camp Director at 479-934-1003
or pfranz@subi.org
or Linda Freeman at 479-934-1029 or lfreeman@subi.org

I don't have a camper this year for Camp Subiaco, but...

_____ I would like to help a young boy attend.

_____ I would like my gift to help cover expenses.

My donation is \$_____.00. Gifts by credit card can be made by calling 479-934-1029.

Gift receipts will be issued for tax purposes.





Students march in D.C.

Br. John Paul Richey, Cand. Kenny Taylor and thirteen Academy students experienced Washington, D.C., in late January. Highlights of the trip were (1) a meeting with U. S. Senator John Boozman who spent an hour with the group in the Capitol, and (2) participating in the National Right for Life along with 350,000 fellow pro-life marchers. The group also visited the Smithsonian, Arlington Cemetery, the White House, and the Lincoln Memorial.

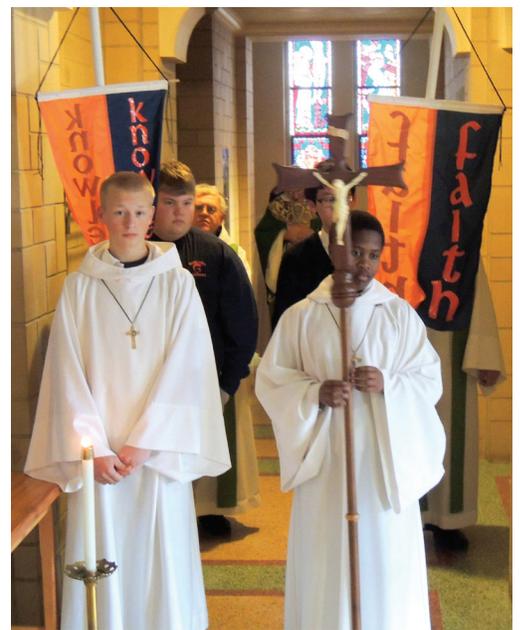


The group with Senator Boozman

Catholic Schools Week

Annually the Catholic schools throughout the Diocese of Little Rock celebrate Catholic Schools Week. From January 17 to February 2, 2013, Subiaco Academy joined with all the Arkansas Catholic schools to celebrate the week with pilgrimages, musical presentations, games, and various activities for students, families, parishioners, and the community at large.

The celebration of Catholic Schools Week began with Sunday Mass, students and monks processing with banners in the Abbey Church. The Parent Association provided dessert at the noon meal in the cafeteria and gifts for the teachers in the guest dining room. Students and teachers made a pilgrimage to Christ the King Parish in Ft. Smith. St. Joseph (Paris) students enjoyed a scene from *Man of La Mancha* and performances by Academy musicians.



Quiz Bowl team captures trophy

On February 2 the Subiaco Academy Junior High Quiz Bowl team captured the runner-up trophy in the Regional Tournament at Trinity Junior High School in Ft. Smith. The Senior High Quiz Bowl team beat Clarksville on February 7 in both matches -- 245-165 and 340-170. Jameson Hall and Eli Hekel each scored 100 points for Subiaco. Also scoring for Subiaco were Jacob Maestri, Patrick Giuliani, Sam Chisholm, Daniel Heinrichs, Eric Ledieu, and Matt Tran.

Jacob Maestri (120 points) and Jameson Hall (100 points) led the Subiaco Senior High Quiz Bowl team in February 13 matches with Russellville High School. Subiaco won the first match 245-225 and lost the second 190-255.



Poet honored at 11th Annual Literary Symposium



Beth Ann Fennelly

Subiaco Abbey and Academy is proud to announce that the 11th recipient of the Subiaco Award for Literary Merit is Ms. Beth Ann Fennelly. Ms. Fennelly directs the MFA Program at Ole Miss where she was named the 2011 Outstanding Liberal Arts Teacher of the Year. She's won grants from the N.E.A., the Mississippi Arts Commission, and United States Artists. Her work has three times been included in The Best American Poetry Series. Fennelly has published three full-length poetry books. Her first, Open House, won The 2001 Kenyon Review Prize, the Great Lakes College Association New Writers Award, and was a Book Sense Top Ten Poetry Pick. It was reissued by W. W. Norton in 2009. Her second book, Tender Hooks, and her third, Unmentionables, were published by W. W. Norton in 2004 and 2008. She has also published a book of nonfiction, Great with Child, in 2006, with Norton. Fennelly writes essays on travel, culture, and design for *Country Living*, *Southern Living*, the *Oxford American*, and others. She is co-authoring a novel with her husband, Tom Franklin. They live in Oxford with their three children.

The 11th Annual Subiaco Literary Symposium was held on Friday, February 22, 2013.

Violin instruction at Subiaco

Lori Fay, the concertmaster of the Fort Smith Symphony Orchestra has been teaching at Subiaco on Tuesday mornings since the beginning of January. She currently has 4 students: Robbie Kiss, Eli Hekel, James Kim and Tristan McDaniel. Academy music instructor Stephen Thompson explained: "We hope that this is the beginning seeds of a string program here at Subiaco involving viola, cello, contrabass and string quartet music."



Lori Fay with Robbie Kiss & James Kim

Students make jewelry for Carnival

Students in the Advanced Art class were introduced to a variety of silver clay products and are learning the basic techniques that drive most metal clay design projects and the tools that support them. They studied seam construction, creating beads, setting CZs or fire-ready gemstones, bail design, finishing techniques, patination, and much more, laying the foundation for the creation of original and stunning fine-silver jewelry. Mrs. Loretta M. Hackman volunteered her time and teaching expertise, in addition to providing the necessary materials and tools for this third annual creative session.



These silver jewelry pieces will be available for bidding at the silent auction during the March 9 Academy Carnival.

Ash Wednesday



Subiaco Academy students began the traditional observance of Lent with a school-wide Mass and distribution of ashes by Fr. Hugh Assenmacher and Deacon Roy Goetz, Academy Chaplain. Stations of the Cross, an off-campus retreat for juniors, and food collection for the poor are also Lenten opportunities for Academy students.



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

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Obituaries

Eugene Boerner '39 died February 22, 2013, in Fort Smith. He was a retired salesman for Anderson Wholesale Co. and a World War II Army veteran. He was a member of Christ the King Catholic Church and a member of the Knights of Columbus. He is survived by a daughter, Paula Thiessen; a son, John Boerner; two sisters, Mildred Schneider and Sally Johnston; a brother, Chuck Boerner; two grandchildren, Pauline and Leeta Thiessen; and two step grandchildren, Kelsey and Tate Erickson.

Allen James Siebenmorgen '65 died February 23, 2013, in Morrison Bluff, AR. He was a twenty year veteran of the Air Force and was currently employed by River Valley Animal Foods in Scranton, AR. He is survived by his wife of forty years, Betty; a son, Dustin Allen; his parents, Joe and Margaret Siebenmorgen; and seven sisters and four brothers.

Charles E. Hutchings '39 died in Ellendale, TN, November 10, 2012. He was a member of the Methodist Church, a retired Postal Clerk, a World War II Veteran and an avid golfer. He is survived by four daughters, Charlotte Hines, Joyce McClure, Anne Bunting, and Linda Trammell; a son, Charles E. Hutchings, Jr.; two stepsons, Joe Finger and Donald Finger; eleven grandchildren; fourteen great grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild.

James E. Ritz '73 died in St. Charles, MO, December 12, 2012. He is survived by his wife, Sue; three sons, Richard, Jason and Justin Wehmeier; two sisters, Karen Ritz and Judy Hansen; grandchildren, Nathan, Jacob, Emma, Shay, Carissaa Fonte, Kayli and Corban Wehmeier; and one great granddaughter, Lillie Mae.

Daniel Ulrich '80 died December 4, 2012. His parents, Guy and Colette Ulrich survive him.

Dennis J. Rieder '66 died in Sulphur, KY, October 3, 2012.

Gilbert Hatwig '49 died in San Antonio, Texas, February 1, 2008.

Robert "Bob" Lensing '54 of Fort Smith, AR, died January 2, 2013. Bob was a newspaper contractor for 27 years with the Southwest Times. He purchased Stapleton Ladder Co. and developed it into a major supplier of folding wood ladders. He also bought or started REL Products, Stampco and HT Tucker Duck and Awning.

He is survived by his wife Rosetta; two daughters, Cyndi Hamor and Michele Lensing; four sons, Glen, Jerry, Patrick and Kevin; one sister, Kay Smith; three brothers, Charles, Wilfred and Ron; fourteen grandchildren and thirteen great grandchildren.

Leslie H. Harter '55 passed away on December 10, 2012, in Paris, AR. Les graduated from Memphis State University in 1962 and was the first personnel director for Le Bonheur Children's Hospital. He joined the Comptroller of the Currency to design a new compensation program. He transferred to the U.S. Postal Service, working in Washington and Memphis. He retired in 1999 as former postmaster, councilman and mayor of Pomona Park, Florida. Les was a member of the Knights of Columbus and loved woodworking.

He is survived by his wife of fifty years, Lucille "Lu" Harter; one daughter, Cyndi Harter; one son, George; and two grandchildren, Alec '09 and Arianna Harter.

Brian J. McHugh '77 died in Westchester on December 9, 2012. Daughter, Annette; a brother, Richard; and a sister, Deborah survive him.

Denis Lee Putch '73 died May 27, 2012, in Keithville, LA. He is survived by his parents, Sarah and Nicholas Putch, Sr.; a son, Nathan Lee; a brother, Robert W; and a sister, Rita J. Dorio.

Frank Gilbride '73 died in 2007.

Charles E. Vonder Heide '52 passed away in Fort Smith, on December 19, 2012. He was the owner of Vonder Heide Printing, was a member of Immaculate Conception Catholic Church and a 4th degree Knights of Columbus.

He is survived by his wife, JoAnn; two daughters, Cheryl Healey and Lynn Vonder Heide; four sisters, Dorothy Wright, Betty Lou White, Carmelita Kremers and Joan Roper; two granddaughters, Ashley Henry and Lisa Howerton; two great grandchildren, Max Howerton and Garrett Henry.

James "Bun" Ross '50 died February 17, 2012, in Little Rock, AR. He was a veteran of the Korean War serving on the USS Midway. He was a retired Captain of the Little Rock Fire Dept.

He is survived by his wife Dorothy Jean; son, Ronald; daughter, Debbie Brooks; and three grandchildren, Angela, Bobby and Lt. Crystal Brooks (US Navy).



Les and Lu Harter visiting with Fr. Richard on one of many trips to the Abbey. Les involved himself in many projects here as varied as working in the Trojan Shop and annual Carnival and painting parking stripes around the campus.

Where are they now?

by George Lensing '95, Alumni Development Coordinator

Chicago, IL

While visiting alumni in the Chicago, IL, and Milwaukee, WI, areas, I visited with **Paul Hettich '57** in Antioch, IL. Paul and Mary live in Antioch, a small community north of Chicago. Paul is a retired professor from Barat College of DePaul University.

Thanks to our hosts, **Chuck and Jan Anderson '76**, of Elmhurst, IL, we had a wonderful Subiaco Gathering in their home. Those in attendance were happy to see **Abbot Jerome Kodell '57**, and Fr. Elijah Owens of Subiaco Abbey.



Abbot Jerome and Paul Hettich

Washington, D.C.

Over lunch at Panera Bread in Washington, D.C., I visited with **John Williams '75**. John is living in Derwood, MD. John is busy as the Director of Musculoskeletal Biology program at the National Institute of Aging.

Glenn Constantino '82, Procurator of Subiaco Abbey, and I visited with **Dr. Emory Linder '53** and his wife Carol at their home in Joppa, MD. Dr. Linder continues to stay busy with the practice of medicine.

Over dinner in Washington, D.C., **John-Rex Spivey '09** was able to tell me about the busy life of a senior at the U.S. Naval Academy. John-Rex is waiting for his orders on where he will go once he graduates. He is very excited about his future, and truly appreciative of the foundation he received while attending Subiaco Academy. John-Rex is on course for graduation in May 2013.

John-Rex Spivey '09 was able to make contact with his classmate, **Adam Callahan '09** following our dinner for some socializing at the W Hotel in downtown Washington, D.C. Adam is currently living in Washington, D.C., working as an intern for Sister Cities International. He is on track for graduation from George Washington University.

Houston, TX

Adam and Nicole Tiffin '02 are staying busy with their new son, Aiden Jace Tiffin, born November 29, 2012. When Adam is not busy being a new father, you will catch him either working at Danners, Inc. or most likely at a Houston Texans football game.

As a Credit Analyst for Amegy Bank of Texas, **Victor Mendoza '06**, stays very busy but is doing well living the life in Houston, TX. Victor is engaged to be married to Sarah Starry. Congratulations Victor and Sarah! He is proud to have his foundation from Subiaco, which propelled him into earning a degree from Texas A&M, and is very grateful to be a Trojan of Subiaco Academy!

Paul Kubis '57, is a Redwing shoe store owner in Houston, TX. When he is not spending time with his wife, Lu Ann, you will catch him introducing prospective students to Subiaco Academy. Thank you, Paul, for keeping Subiaco, "on a firm foundation."

Lloyd Pullappallil '97 is living in Houston, TX. While he stays busy with his career, often you will find him at Reliant Stadium watching the Houston Texans. Lloyd is very proud of becoming an uncle to his new nephew, Noah.

Little Rock, AR

Having lunch with former Subiaco Academy boxer, **Jim Limbird '69** and **Br. Ephrem O' Bryan '60**, I was able to catch up on his activities these days. When Jim isn't home with his wife Mandy, he is busy as the Director of Marketing with SafeBlood Technologies, which includes a lot of travel.

Thanks to our hosts, **Pierson and Nancy Callahan '89**, the Little Rock group of Subiaco constituents were able to enjoy a night of fun with dinner and refreshments at the Arkansas Arts Center on December 5, 2012.



Coach Tenclve, Sarah Starry and Victor Mendoza '06, George Lensing '95, Dawn and Mark Willis '87, Steve Schmitz '91 and children

Where are they now?

Br. Ephrem O'Bryan '60 and I were able to catch up with **Ray Buss '60** and his wife Pat at their home in North Little Rock, AR. Even though Ray is retired, he continues to stay busy helping out at their local Catholic Church. When he is free from his volunteer duties, he enjoys swinging the sticks on the golf course.

Fort Smith, AR

Having coffee on a cold December day with **J.J. and Johnette Seiter '59** is the perfect way to warm up and talk Subiaco. **Br. Eric Loran '55** and I were able to do just that. During our visit we were able to experience a remodeling project occurring in their living room. Things were looking great. We look forward to seeing the finished product!

As we ventured across the Arkansas/Oklahoma state line, Br. Eric and I were able to catch up with **Bob Schwartz '53** in Pocola, OK, at his rock quarry. In addition to hustling rocks and stones, Bob serves as the Justice of the Peace on the Quorum Court in Sebastian County. He has been a J.P. for a number of years and truly enjoys being able to serve Sebastian County.

Being able to visit with **Tony and Rosemary Reith '52** in their home was quite an honor. I enjoyed hearing about their life as busy grandparents and keeping their duties as perpetual adoration volunteers for their local Catholic Church.

Patrick Geels '84 is living in Fort Smith, AR, with his wife and four children. He is Operations Supervisor for the Fort Smith Convention Center. I caught up with Patrick at the local Starbucks while he was on vacation. Being on vacation for Patrick doesn't mean R & R; he had a pickup truck load of gravel ready for him to disperse.



Classmates Br. Ephrem O'Bryan and Ray Buss

Brian Weisenfels '86 works as a local turkey farmer just outside of Scranton, AR. I visited with Brian at the Grapevine Restaurant in Paris, AR. Brian is President-Elect for the Subiaco Alumni Association. He will take the reins at the June 2013 Alumni meeting.

Subiaco, AR

Coach Tim Tencleve '76 and I visited with fellow graduate, **Patrick Hawkins '98** while on campus. Patrick made the trip up from Huntsville, AL, to visit his alma mater. He gives great credit to Subiaco for where he is today with the U.S. Army, as a Product Manager connected to the UAV program. He is preparing to be deployed.

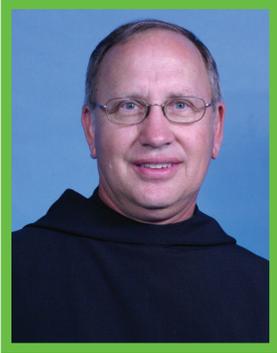


Tim Tencleve, Patrick Hawkins & George Lensing

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Alumni Reunion: May 30 - June 2, 2013

Summer Camp: June 16-22, 2013 week 1
June 23-29, 2013 week 2



Fifty years! Who would have thought we would come so far? As we prepare to celebrate 50 years since the dedication of Cory House, it's a good time to consider just how Subiaco got into the retreat ministry in the first place.

Throughout the history of any monastery there have always been guests wishing to spend some time in prayer and quiet. Due to a lack of guest facilities at Subiaco, the number of guests for any reason or occasion, was always small. The first recorded retreat noted in the Abbey records took place in the summer of 1924. In February of that year, the Abbot's Council decided to provide for "Lay Exercises" that summer. There is no record of the success of this first retreat, but undoubtedly it was for men only and run on strict, disciplinary lines.

The expansion of the retreat movement in the U.S. was always considered with interest at Subiaco. An occasional retreat was held for men during the summer months, using the Academy dormitory facilities, which were not very conducive to silent retreats. There were also Days of Recollection infrequently for various groups, including ladies. By the middle 1950s there were two regular summer retreats, one in June and the other in August. In 1955, the Knights of Columbus began to encourage and sponsor retreats at Subiaco. The pioneer Retreat Master was Fr. Michael Lensing, usually assisted by Fr. Raphael DeSalvo or Fr. Bede Mitchell. By 1958, there had been 112 retreatants at these "exercises."

On February 4, 1960, Mr. George Coury of Miami, Florida, a 1924 graduate of Subiaco, announced a gift of \$50,000 toward the construction of a much-needed guest/retreat house. Mr. Coury felt that Subiaco Abbey needed to become better known so that its work could be broadened and he felt that a guest/retreat house would be an effective way to do this. The monastic chapter, of course, was enthusiastic and voted to proceed at once.

Ground breaking was held during the alumni reunion, two weeks after Easter 1960, although construction started later when more money was available. Mr. Bernard Kaelin, the builder of the recently finished Abbey church, was engaged to build the new facility. Architects Weaver and Hiegel of Little Rock were commissioned to draw plans for a structure with at least 40 guest rooms.

On April 28, 1963, the new building was dedicated. The public was again surprised when Mr. Coury announced another \$25,000 to help pay the debts incurred in the completion of the structure. He asked the alumni to match this \$25,000 and the challenge was accepted. The monks had been talking about possible names for the new facility. Placid House and Sacro Speco (the name of St. Benedict's cave at Subiaco, Italy) were popular. But Mr. Oskar Rust, who had been the initial mover of his classmate, George Coury, to make all these donations, felt the new house should be named after Mr. Coury. Dedicated to the Holy Family, the Subiaco guest/retreat house has always been known as Cory House.

Retreats began in June of 1963. There were 11 retreats at Cory House that first year. In March 1964, the Abbey Retreat League was organized by Fr. Herbert Vogelpohl, the director of Cory House from its start. Fr. Herbert served as director and Guest Master, aided by a staff of lay men and women with the help of monks. During this time, Mr. and Mrs. Mitchell Allen and later, Mrs. Dorothy Stanford served as resident hosts, assisting Fr. Herbert in welcoming guests and retreatants.

For its first ten years, Cory House had more than 10,000 guests and retreatants. Many monks served as Guest Master and Retreat Director. In the beginning this job was for a year at a time. Now, many of our retreat groups and conferences furnish their own director. The list of Directors of Cory House over the years includes Fr. Herbert Vogelpohl, Fr. Hilary Fileatreau, Fr. Aaron Pirrera, Br. Mel Stinson and now myself. It is an honor to work with such a dedicated staff and team in Carol Geels, Donna Forst, Michele Hughes, Laura George and Artie Berry and monks Br. Matthias, Br. Pio and Nov. Mike.

Join us as we celebrate 50 years with Cory House by making a retreat, conference or day of reflection. We would be honored to host you! Who would have thought we would come so far?



George Coury, Bernard Kaelin, Abbot Michael & Leo Hiegel at the dedication of Cory House in 1963

Br. Francis Kuchner