



The Abbey Message

Subiaco
Abbey

News of our Apostolates for Friends of Subiaco

Summer 2007

Subiaco, Arkansas, Vol LXV, No.1

Camp Subiaco - Now and Then

by Br. Ephrem O'Bryan, OSB

Adult volunteers (Subiaco monks, alumni and parents) from Panama (Oliver Sanmartin), Florida (Eric Lacerte), Mississippi (John Hays), Minnesota (Gerhart and Janien Thompson), Oklahoma (Tim Franz and Pat Franz), Texas (Fritz and Amy Ruesewald, Joe Darr, Marty Nelson, Ted Ruesewald, Jeff Wallis, Greg Kelly, Jason and Kara Wallace, Steve Schmitz, Perry Trachier, Nick Disabella, Bill Torp, Jerry Reichert, John Metzler), West Virginia (Darrel Darby), Tennessee (Don Ruesewald, John Cates), Missouri (Bill Maus, Gene Schwartz), and Arkansas (Ron Kaufman, Michael and Robin Mangione, Mike and Cathy Willems, Dan Costello, Pat Costello, Michael Welch, Nathan Schluterman, Baykal Altiner, Charles Kremers, Eugene Didion, Taylor Copsy, Pat Nolte, Steve Gultzo, Michael O'Brien, Br. Isaac, Br. Michael, Bill Schwartz, Br. Patrick, Br. Ephrem, Del Berry), served as counselors and venue supervisors during Camp Subiaco 2007. Br. Dominic was liturgy coordinator. Frs. Hugh, Mark, Abbot Jerome, and Bill Elser offered the Eucharist, and Br. Jude, Br. Adrian and Fr. Leonard drove the buses. Twenty Academy students also assisted in camp activities during the weeks of June 17-30, 2007. Three hundred five campers enjoyed fishing, riflery, skeet shooting, gokarting, crafts, water skiing, a climbing wall, and a plethora of group games on the Subiaco campus. Campers came from Alabama, Arkansas, Texas, Florida, Illinois, Louisiana, Minnesota, Missouri, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Tennessee, and West Virginia.

Camp Subiaco, begun in 1941 by Father Christopher Paladino, had monk directors for the first 50 years of camp; following Father Christopher as directors were Fathers Harold Heiman, Fintan Oldham, Stephen Eckart, Denis Soerries, and Brs. Ephrem O'Bryan, and Jude Schmitt.

In October 1991 Abbot Jerome Kodell announced the closing of Camp Subiaco, citing the decreasing number of monks available for camp work. During the January 18, 1992 meeting of the Alumni Association Board of Directors, Pat Weaver presented the idea that the Alumni Association consider re-opening camp under their sponsorship. Motions endorsing and promising financial and physical support of the re-opened Camp Subiaco at the June 6, 1992, and June 5, 1993 meetings of the Association's General Assembly passed unanimously. Pat Weaver, Phil Sontag, Pat Franz and Mike Mangione have served as camp directors from 1993 up to the present day.

Young 2007 Camp Subiaco participants remarked that they especially liked box hockey, archery, sleeping, lunch, Lake Dardanelle activities, and camping/hiking in the nearby ridges, although Alex Blanchard of Little Rock noted that he is "allergic to nature." Several said that they would recommend Camp Subiaco to their neighbors as "a great experience," "a variety of activities," and "at Subiaco you never get bored." Campers gave a low approval rating to bugs and CITs (Counselors in Training).



Camp Subiaco Box Hockey, a unique tradition

Abbey

Don't Trust the Abbot

Chapter 4 of the Rule of St. Benedict, on “The Tools of Good Works,” is a manual with six dozen admonitions for successful living of the monastic life. Some of these instructions are straight from the Ten Commandments, but most are distilled from the experience of the early monks in applying the gospel to their life.

St. Benedict took this chapter almost verbatim from an earlier source, but he edits a few maxims and adds a handful of his own. The one that he has edited most elaborately is verse 61, which came to him as “Obey the orders of the abbot.” He expands it as follows: “Obey the orders of the abbot in all things, even if his own conduct – which God forbid – be at odds with what he says. Remember the teaching of the Lord: ‘Do what they say, not what they do.’”

In applying the saying of Jesus from Matthew 23:3, Benedict relieves the monk of the wrong kind of respect for the abbot while preserving the abbatial authority which sanctifies the monk’s obedience. It is dangerous to trust the abbot and other religious authorities too much, because when they slip, as all humans do, it may seem that the whole enterprise is going down. But the sinfulness and errors of those in authority do not invalidate the authority.

Jesus’ words are in the context of the abuse of authority by Jewish leaders of his time: “The Scribes and Pharisees have taken their seat on the chair of Moses. Therefore, do and observe all things whatsoever they tell you, but do not follow their example.” The leaders are legitimately “on the chair of Moses,” and so their directives can be safely followed, even if their own conduct does not live up to what they teach. This is a great protection for the disciple. Obedience to the legitimate religious authority is obedience to God no matter who holds the office, saint or sinner. But on the other hand, the bad example of the superior is no excuse for the disciple.

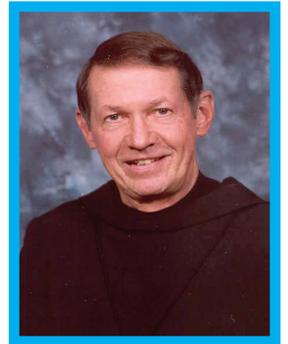
Jesus does not say we have to trust the one in authority whom we obey. Hopefully the leader will earn our trust by faithfulness and good example, and that improves the experience of obedience dramatically. But it is not necessary to trust the religious authority in order to obey and to receive the blessings of obedience.

Problems arise when people fail to make the distinction between trust in and obedience to religious authorities. Since 2002, the media has carried many stories of Catholics who have left the Church because of what they perceived as the failure of bishops to respond honestly and appropriately to the clergy abuse scandal. We know that through history monks have left monasteries sometimes solely because of the poor leadership or sinful conduct of abbots. Laity have left the Church because of pastors.

But we are not required to trust our religious leaders unless they earn our trust by their conduct. The requirement for salvation is faith, which means trust in God. Applied to the Church and religious life, this means we are called to trust in God to carry out the divine plan and purpose for the Church and its members through whatever human leaders God happens to have placed in charge. Obey those leaders (understanding, of course, that they stay within the authentic teaching tradition) and God will take care of the rest.

St. Benedict foresaw that some abbots might be saints and others might be scoundrels, and that bad abbots could create anxiety among their subjects. But he is reassuring: if you obey those God has placed in authority, you will be obeying God, and God will sanctify you. In other words he presents God as saying: You don’t have to trust anyone but me – not the abbot, not the bishops, not even the Pope. You need to obey them all the time, and to trust them when you can. The obedience will make you a saint, no matter what they do. I can work out my plans whoever is in charge on earth. It may not be pretty, but it will be effective. Trust me.

Abbot Jerome Kodell, O.S.B.



“It is not necessary to trust the religious authority in order to obey and to receive the blessings of obedience.”

Abbey Journal

by Fr. Mark Stengel, OSB

April

“April is the cruelest month” according to T.S. Eliot. His adage certainly proved true this year. Ironically, the news from the Abbey Farm in the Communications Bulletin of April 9 gave thanks for the “early warm weather,” which reduced the need for hay. Obviously, this report had been written before the previous weekend—Easter weekend—which featured three days of freezing weather. The duration of the cold was unprecedented; what survived the first freezing night succumbed in the second or third night. All the grapes are gone, the nut and fruit crops are ruined, gardens were wiped out, and cows had to go back to eating hay. Plants which “never freeze” did so, including holly, nandina, and crepe myrtle bushes and even saw briars! A large sycamore tree across from the vineyard demonstrated the stratification of temperatures: its lower half was all frozen, and the upper half remained green. The “great Easter freeze of ‘07” will be an enormous disaster for many. For us monks, the enormity of the disaster will strike home if and when the wine supply runs out, with no grapes this year. The line from the Rule which speaks about such a disaster may become well-known and quoted in the months ahead (RB 40:8).

Fr. Harold had guests here for the Sacred Triduum and Easter; he attended the community outing on Easter Monday, and concelebrated Mass on Tuesday, April 10. This was his last time out of his room, and a week later, on April 18, he died quietly just after 6:00 p.m. He had a stream of visitors in that last week and he pretty much managed to comfort all of them (!) with his steady good cheer and optimism. We are grateful that the Spirit had prompted us to give Father a big recognition dinner last August when he could still enjoy it.

On April 12 the first “Lunch with the Monks” was held in Bentonville, AR, with 43 people attending. These occasional gatherings are planned in various locations to provide greater contact and communication between alumni/friends and monks/staff of Subiaco. The monks who attended were effusive about the event, the people they met, the generous interest of our friends in all things “Subiaco.”

The last issue of TAM featured four renovation projects. Without going into such detail, two more such projects deserve mention. At the instigation of the Alumni-led Camp Subiaco staff, the lake cabin has received an upgrade, including an expanded sleeping area, a paint job, and better kitchen and bathroom facilities. Modern campers (and counselors) don't seem to appreciate the character-building effects of sleeping on the concrete floor under a porch table with a pair of wet tennis shoes for a pillow.

The maintenance department is also working on the student hang-out/café/rec room called the Bunkerstube. This project came about through the interest and efforts of current Academy students and their parents who saw a need and said “Can we do this?” What a blessing it is to have friends who see our needs and say “What can we do to help?”



Roger & Linda Hebert and many others at Lunch with the Monks in Bentonville

May

Brother Joseph Koehler was featured in the Outdoor section of the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette* on May 3. Mr. Buddy Gough, Outdoor editor, made a retreat at the Abbey last year and has visited since, getting to know some of the monks. Br. Joseph and Br. Ephrem showed him some of the local sights and fishing holes, and apparently had told him some tales, including the snake story which was used in the May 3rd issue. Br. Joseph was praised as



Father Harold Heiman, O.S.B.

monk of Subiaco Abbey, Subiaco, Arkansas, strengthened with the sacraments and the prayers of his brother monks, died on April 18, 2007.

At the time of his death,

Father Harold was 93 years old.

He had been a professed monk for 72 years and a priest for 67 years.

a model for treating snakes with respect, although Mr. Gough admitted that few would go as far as Br. Joseph. In short, the story told about Brother and a visitor with some medical training doing abdominal surgery on a large rat snake, “Old Stumpy,” to retrieve an alabaster egg that the reptile had swallowed. The egg was supposed to stimulate several hens that Brother was raising to start laying eggs. It fooled the snake, and now Brother had traumatized hens, a lost egg, and a very constipated snake. He immobilized “Old Stumpy” in lengths of plastic pipe, made an incision, extracted the egg, and sutured the belly. He kept the snake in a convalescent bay for several days, and then released it, and it has been seen again several times. Only in a monastery!!

The monks use an eclectic assortment of coffee mugs, so that sometimes the juxtaposition of the message on the mug and the “mug” of the person using it is startling.

For example, nonagenarian Fr. Paul was seen using a flowery mug with the words “World’s Greatest Mom.” Fr. David—accidentally and much to his chagrin—was caught using a mug saying “Go Razorbacks,” and Fr. Bruno’s mug said “I love you Grandpa.” Fr. Richard favors one from an eye clinic on which the closed eye opens wide when hot coffee is added. Simple humor at the breakfast table—if you’re alert.

By May 14, the grass had recovered from the killing freeze five weeks before, and hay baling got underway. Br. Tobias does the mowing, Fr. Nicholas or Mr. Geels does the raking, and Br. Tobias or Mr. Tencleve does the baling. They can sure put up a lot of hay in a hurry. They will finish two meadows in an afternoon which would have taken two days each when I was a boy on my dad’s farm. Here on the farm also, generous people have enabled us to have modern equipment. We can only ask God’s blessing upon them, and try to use all these gifts well.

The hay baling was complicated by the fickle May weather. We had eighteen days of rain in May, but all those rains totaled only 2.5”. Mown hay can’t “cure” without sunshine, and even a small shower keeps it damp and tough, delaying the baling and reducing the nutritional value.

Thirty-seven seniors graduated on May 19, a picture-perfect day for this outdoor ceremony. Abbot Lawrence of St. Gregory’s Abbey in Shawnee, OK, was the speaker. He admitted that it was hard to avoid clichés, but near the end of his address he said to the graduates: “You are the intention of God.” This does not sound like a cliché. The underclassmen stayed on another week for final exams and to begin getting the feel of moving up a notch in the hierarchy.

There was another graduation during that week, accompanied by the sound of loud wailing. Calves were being weaned on the farm, and the nights were noisy with the loud complaints of youngsters and mothers who were not willing to accept this commencement.

The “Coury Oak” which was so brutally trimmed, as reported in the Spring issue, came out strong. Many clumps of leaves now soften the jagged frame, but it will take a while for nature to repair itself.

June

Work finally got underway in late May on the repair of the fallen retaining wall. The local firm of Carter Construction got the contract. First an access road was cut diagonally across the hillside. Then enough rubble was removed to prepare a flat area next to the wall. Then massive flat stones donated by Schwartz Stone Quarry were piled up next to and leaning back onto the existing wall on either side of the break. In the break itself, the new stones and a backfill of large gravel went up simultaneously. Work was essentially complete by June 26. The result is impressive, like a redoubt of giants. Again, note the generosity of an alumnus. The quote keeps coming to mind “To whom much is given, much will be required.” (Luke 12:48). Lord, we do appreciate all the gifts. But just what all are you asking of us?!



Reconstruction of “The Wall” in June, 2007

June 4 was Jubilee Day, when we celebrated the anniversaries of the profession of Fr. Peter Sharum and Br. Martin Gocke (60 years) and Br. James Lindsay (25 years). Fr. Peter continues as pastor at Sacred Heart Church in Charleston, AR. Br. Martin Gocke is retired and resides in the Abbey Health Center. Br. James, after many years teaching and “deaning” for high school boys, now teaches grade school children at St. Joseph School in nearby Paris. He finds this less stressful. In May, Br. James joined a tour group visiting Italian sites, including Rome, Florence, and Assisi, in celebration of his anniversary.

The Jubilee Day liturgy was followed by a happy hour and then a sumptuous feast. After a later Vespers, the monastic retreat began. Retreatmistress Sr. Genevieve Glen of St. Walburga Monastery in Colorado wisely chose not to attempt a long conference on that first night. She only gave the retreat’s guiding text from Isaiah 25:6 which speaks about the Lord providing “on this mountain a feast of juicy, rich food and pure, choice wine.” We had just experienced a physical fulfillment of the passage, and so she dismissed us to get rested up for mountain climbing in the morning.

During retreat, we had several days and nights of steady hot winds. Very quickly the surface moisture of those sparse May showers was carried away. In two days' time, we were needing rain again. We needn't have worried. The weeks of Camp Subiaco were near, and it always rains during summer camp. Sure enough, the pattern prevailed. At least one group camping in the clearing next to "Michael's Pond" at the old monastery site was driven back to the dormitory in the middle of the night. This is more good character-building activity, especially for the counselors who have to supervise these night-time retreats.

The "sound of camp," I think, is the steady "thwack, bang, thump" of the wooden plow handles inside the box hockey frames. Is this game a Subiaco invention? I've never seen it or heard of it anywhere else. It remains a popular staple of Camp Subiaco. The banging begins before breakfast and lasts until the last straggler heads off to bed. One camp story: A boy at the archery range bent the bow, but then turned loose of the bow instead of the string! The bow cracked him across the nose pretty good. I'm reminded of Gandalf's saying from Lord of the Rings: "The burned hand teaches best; after that advice about fire goes to the heart."

Fr. Raphael De Salvo died in his room after lunch on June 23rd. He was 87. Those who were with him say that as his breathing weakened, his smile broadened. We can imagine his delight at having a new audience for his jokes. Each of us has some story about his sense of humor, his love of life and of people. My own is his comment on the Via Dolorosa in Jerusalem, as we were being jostled by the merchants and vendors. "They should call this the 'Via dollarosa.'" A light cool rain fell during his internment in the Abbey cemetery, which made it very pleasant, instead of the brutal heat which might have been expected.



Abbot Raphael De Salvo, OSB

Monk of Subiaco Abbey, Subiaco, Arkansas, strengthened with the Sacraments and the prayers of his brother monks, died on June 23, 2007.

At the time of his death,

Abbot Raphael was 87 years old.

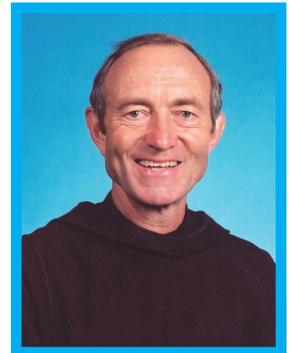
He had been a professed monk for 66 years, a priest for 62 years, and Abbot of Subiaco for 15 years, from 1974 to 1989.

The perils of being "right"

A good friend and I studied the enneagram together almost 20 years ago, and we discovered that we were the same personality type: number one. Those familiar with the enneagram system and who know me are likely saying "You didn't have to tell me your number; it's obvious." Ones are characterized by a self-righteous moralistic perfectionism and a passionate concern for justice and rightness. Of course a number one can never measure up to his or her own standards, nor can anyone else; and so there is a tendency toward being judgmental and harsh toward self and others. My friend and I sometimes commiserate about our foibles as "ones." She likes to say "Well of course we are right. We really are. But we drive everyone crazy by insisting that they recognize and bow down to our rightness."

Another friend, whom I kept goading to enforce a policy that had been promulgated, finally said "You are right. What you are saying should be done. But can't you see that it simply is not going to happen? Let it go." That is a difficult concept but a necessary feature in community and in family living.

Stephen Caldwell, city editor for the Northwest Arkansas edition of the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*, recently (June 27) wrote a wise column about "dying to self." He said that in situations where views of what is right, desirable, and logical come into conflict, "the solution no longer came down to whether I was right or wrong. It wasn't about whether my ideas or approaches were better than someone else's. It had nothing to do with whose habits were or weren't annoying. The solution came down to a willingness to put certain parts of me—particularly that part that wanted to stay in control, to get my way, to be right—to put those parts to death, regardless of their merits. Someone might have to die. It might be me. There's an expression for it: dying to self. ... Then we trust that God will either fill whatever void is created or tenderly teach us to live without its being filled. ... In other words, we die so that we can go on living in peace."



Fr. Mark Stengel

Coury House “connects” with Methodist program

by Carol Geels

Subiaco Abbey’s Coury House, where St. Benedict directs that every guest be received as Christ, strives to meet the needs of individuals and groups for “that place apart.” Long the dream of former Abbots Edward Burgert, Paul Nahlen and Michael Lensing, Coury House was dedicated in 1963 as a retreat and guest house. After forty years of fulfilling this dream with thousands of guests looking for solitude, spiritual enrichment or simply a place to share ideas, life plans, or dreams, a second dedication was held in 2005. This addition of the Chapel/Conference Center transformed the Coury House into that place where groups could build or refine their own ministries.



One such group is the Arkansas Conference of the United Methodist Church. Their leadership has been charged with the responsibility of revitalizing their Churches across the country. In Arkansas, Reverend Michael Roberts is the director of the church resource known as Connected in Christ. He schedules workshops designed for leadership training with an emphasis on vision and mission development. The program, developed in 2001 with a grant from the Lilly Endowment, began its relationship with Subiaco and Coury House in 2003. Ecumenism has become a tradition at Coury House with groups of many faiths finding a comfortable and serene home in the house nestled on the north side of the Abbey Church. The Connected in Christ program brings small groups averaging eighteen Methodist ministers to Subiaco in the late winter, spring, and fall months. Since February 2003, eight groups have gathered twice a year for a two year program and many have returned to make private visits.

The Ministers, with the leadership arriving on Sunday, arrive Monday morning and depart on Friday. With the wireless Internet, ceiling-mounted screen, and spacious conference room, along with breaks in the lounge, the group is able to work without outside interruption. Their stay at the guest house is usually broken up by a traditional visit to the Wiederkehr Restaurant in Altus, AR, on Wednesday evening which energizes them for the remainder of the week. The other evenings, when not marked by a session, are spent in the Coury House lounge or on the terrace, trading ideas and experiences, or taking advantage of the Academy sports facilities, track and pool. A frequent visitor and assistant to Michael Roberts has been Ruth Skiles, who would arrive before the ministers bringing varied and enticing snacks to tide them over between meals served in the Guest Dining Room. Over the years, the Connected in Christ group has made donations to the Coury House in the form of large tables, a microwave, and a DVD player. These items, although used by the group when on retreat, have been generously made available to other groups that frequent the retreat center.

For the remainder of the year of 2007 and 2008, Connected in Christ has arranged another series of retreats which we at Coury House hope will be a blessing for them as it is and has been for us. To quote Michael Roberts, “We come to Coury House to renew our connection to our calling and our connection to each other.” Coury House retreat ministry appreciates its connection to the many ministers and the organization of Connected in Christ.

Centennial Anniversary of the Aurora “East Park” Summer House - 1907-2007
Then & Now



Picture from Mercurius Sublacensis [Subiaco inhouse Newsletter] of July 1907. Included in the picture are: Wilhelm Orth (future Fr. Vincent), Frs. John Nigg, George Benkert, Boniface Spanke & Justin Wewer with the summer house in the background. A note from the March issue states: “When the planned summer house, the pillars for which Fr. Stephen is now turning, appears on the little rise on the east end, then Subiaco will have a park which is the envy of all.”

Academy

St. Gregory's Abbot addresses 120th graduating class

Thirty-seven members of the Subiaco Academy class of 2007 graduated in ceremonies May 19. The Graduation Mass at 8:00 a.m. in the Abbey Church preceded the Commencement Exercises beginning at 10:00 a.m. in the Inner Court of Subiaco Abbey. Headmaster Michael Berry presented diplomas to the graduates at the ceremony in the Abbey quadrangle.

The address for the 120th commencement was given by Rt. Rev. Lawrence Stasyszen, O.S.B., Abbot of St. Gregory's Abbey and Chancellor of St. Gregory's University in Shawnee, Oklahoma.

Students receiving medals for excellence included Jude Ruesewald, choral music; Christopher Gattis, good character; Joseph Thomas, science; Gary Nelson, literary composition; Christopher Gattis, English; Christopher Trachier, foreign language; Michael Gaskell, religious studies; Dale Moore, Latin; Matthew Sharum, social studies; Jared Schluterman, application to studies; Joseph Post, highest scholastic average; Andrew Yuk, Americanism; Danny Adams, Coury Athletic Trophy; Sak Lee, mathematics; Donald Goetz, instrumental music; Harrison Kim, visual arts; Buck Butler, campus activities; Donald Goetz, religious activities; and Quinton Schluterman, Pereyra Award for Unselfishness.

The members of the 2007 graduating class plan to enroll in 22 colleges in 13 states, including the United States Naval Academy, Emory University, California Polytechnic State University, Sonoma State College, College of the Sequoias, Webster University, St. John's University (MN), Purdue University, Emporia State University, University of Houston, Texas A&M University, University of Arkansas, University of Central Arkansas, and Arkansas Tech University.

2007 Academy graduate Michael Gaskell was awarded the second annual Patrick and Victoria Wardlaw Scholarship. The \$10,000 award will be paid in annual installments of \$2,500 to the college or university of the recipient's choice. Mr. Wardlaw, a 1946 graduate of Subiaco Academy, and his wife, Vicki, a 1946 graduate of St. Scholastica Academy in Ft. Smith, consider Subiaco Academy, its faculty and the Order of St. Benedict to have played a major role in their lives.



Receiving diplomas and certificates are Donald Goetz [top R], Alex Schluterman [top L] and John Zagurski [middle L]. [Bottom] Seniors at opening of graduation ceremony.



Grandparents' Day another success

The second annual Grandparents' Day, held Monday, May 7, featured over 90 visitors who toured the campus with their grandsons.

They were treated to performances by the Subitones, choir and the jazz band and viewed an art display by students from Subiaco Academy and three area schools.

The grandsons escorted their grandparents to lunch and introduced them to teachers and personnel.

Many of the grandparents live locally, but others came from far away: West Virginia, Louisiana, Tennessee, Texas and Michigan.

Willie and Leannette Lisko, the grandparents of Jonathon Seaver said, "Thank you for your efforts in giving us grandparents a very fine outing and program."



Biology teacher Mr. Gary Kinney speaks with the grandparents of freshman Nick Powell, Bill and Mary Anne Newman from Michigan.



Breckenridge, CO, hosted students and adults from Subiaco Academy during Spring Break

Butler to assume duties as Student Council president of '08

Buck Butler was elected executive president of the Student Council on May 14. Students voted for the executive president, vice president and secretary.

Butler, who has been the '08 class president since freshman year, ran against fellow junior Jordan Pridgin. In his campaign speech Butler promised to represent the whole school and not to play favorites with the senior class. "I am happy to know that the students trust me to give them a better year next year," said Butler.

Lucas Bauer defeated Harrison Kim and Seung-Chul Lee for vice president.

For the position of secretary, Bill Heil (10) defeated Joon Hee Won (10).

Mrs. Cheryl Goetz, sponsor for the Student Council said, "All of the officer candidates were highly qualified, so it was a win-win situation for next year's student council. The voter turnout was 79%, so I am quite pleased with the election."

Class elections will be held in September.

Spring Break ski trip

With the heat of summer upon us, it is pleasant to imagine the thrills and chills as 28 students and 14 adults spent six days of a spring break at 9300 ft. in Breckenridge, CO. Activities Director Michael O'Brien arranged for transportation on a charter bus. After a 15-hour trip, most were ready for activity.

From beginners like Bill Heil and Reggie Hovas to seasoned skiers like Bo Guist and Andres Martin-de-Nicolas, all seemed to have fun. "Skiing was so cool for me even though I haven't been in two years," said Cooper White.

Some chose to snowboard. "The snowboarding was great and the scenery was even better," said Guist. Whether a skier or a snowboarder, students had fun on the slopes.

Many are already looking forward to next year. "Lots of students were impressed by the mountains and many skied for the first time," said O'Brien. "Breckenridge is a charming town with fun for adults and students alike."

Duct Tape Theatre returns

The return of the Subiaco Academy Duct Tape Theatre presented Neil Simon's *God's Favorite* May 11 and 12 in the Performing Arts Center.

The comedy is a 20th century adaptation of the Book of Job. Main character Joe Benjamin (Michael Gaskell) is a tycoon in Long Island whose faith is tested.

Taking on the lead role was a challenge for senior Gaskell who had never been on stage before. "With a big laughing crowd it was easy to get in the character," said Gaskell. "It was probably the most effort I have ever put into anything and it's the most I've ever gotten out of anything."

Buck Butler, who played the role of God's messenger Sidney Lipton, said, "I was worried that I could not project my character Lipton well, and that I might have stage fright in front of an audience."

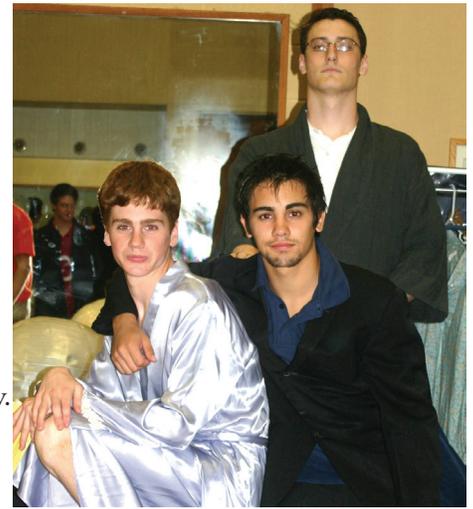
Senior Michael Hickey, who played the role of Rose, plans to study the arts in college in New York. "The joy of acting is being able to take a character and form the character into something meaningful and then sharing it," said Hickey.

Director Mr. Kyle Kordsmeier said, "For a lot of the actors, this was their first play. They gave up their weekends for many months to put on an incredible play."

Kordsmeier performed in several Duct Tape performances as a student at Subiaco Academy from 2000-02.

Other performers included William Kluempers as Sarah Benjamin; Seth Buckman as Ben Benjamin; John Zagurski as the maid; Erik Raben as the butler; and C.J. Kiernan as David Benjamin.

Dr. Sharon Kenney also directed the performance.



Starring in the Duct Tape Theatre production of Neil Simon's "God's Favorite" is Michael Hickey as Rose, C. J. Kiernan as David, and Michael Gaskell as Joe Benjamin.

Athletic honors noted

Senior Mike Gaskell and freshman Keon Walters received all-conference honors in basketball.

Averaging 12 points per game and leading the team in rebounding and assists, Walters was also named *Southwest Times* Newcomer of the Year.

Two senior baseball players, Danny Adams and Doug Schluterman, were named to the all-district tournament team and to all-conference.

The track team placed fifth out of eight teams in the district track meet at Dardanelle with five players qualifying for the state track meet held May 14 at Nashville, AR.

In field events, Michael Franz placed second in discus and Keon Walters placed fourth in long jump and seventh in triple jump.

In the track events, Ricky Tang placed first in the 110-meter hurdles and second in the 300 hurdles; Walters placed second in the 400-m dash; the 1600-m relay team of Bill Heil, Jason Young, Walters and Tang placed second; the 400-m relay team of Hunter Brendel, Matt Miller, Cooper White and Alan Albert placed fourth.



Academy dean Matthew Feist entertains the Bron-Y-Aur crowd during the talent show.

At the state competition, only Tang placed. He ran his personal best in the 110-m hurdles and placed eighth overall. He also placed eighth in the 300-m hurdles.

In tennis, Charles Strickland was named all-state while Joe Thomas received all-district honors.

In football, Danny Adams was named all-district.

Three players from the soccer team were named all-conference: Dylan Veron, Ian McKee and Paul Green. Veron was also named to all-state.



Alumni

Abbot Jerome named Distinguished Alumnus

by Don Berend

Normally Distinguished Alumnus Awards are announced prior to reunion but this year the Alumni Board surprised everyone, including the Abbot, by announcing a second award to Abbot Jerome.

The inscription on the plaque that will hang in Alumni Hall reads as follows: Abbot Jerome came to Subiaco from nearby Clarksville and immediately began his priestly studies after graduation. Ordained in 1965 he studied at Collegio Sant' Anselmo and the Pontifical Biblical Institute in Rome earning Licentiates in Sacred Theology and Sacred Scripture.

Upon completion of his formal studies he returned to the Abbey where he participated in many ministries including teaching, monastic formation, governance, coaching and student activities. It was during this time that he authored the Little Rock Scripture Study Program, now widely used by Catholic organizations throughout the world.

In 1987 he joined the mission at Santa Familia Priory in Belize. In November of 1989, when Abbot Raphael retired, he was elected the sixth Abbot of Subiaco.

Abbot Jerome is an internationally recognized scripture scholar, lecturer and author. His published works include "Responding to the Word, A Biblical Spirituality," "A Commentary on the Minor Prophets," "The Catholic Bible Study Handbook," and "The Eucharist in the New Testament."

Despite his many accomplishments and responsibilities, the humble and spiritual way in which he conducts his daily life provides inspiration for all who know him.

Alumni Reunion a huge success

Over 400 alumni and their wives gathered for the 120th meeting of the Subiaco Alumni Association.

Reunion was kicked off with the Father Harold Memorial Golf Tournament on Friday morning with 46 golfers teeing off. The tournament was won by Michael Lockwood '05 and Coach Kenneth Stovall; second place went to Josh Tritt '00 and Pat Costello '64 while Ralph Bock '56 and Jimmy Hornibrook '56 placed third.

A large crowd gathered for the walk-around-buffet on Friday evening. The kitchen staff outdid themselves with a meal filled with variety and tastiness. The evening was well spent in renewing old acquaintances and relaxing under the beer tent.

Saturday morning, President Mike Mangione called the General Assembly together at 10:00 a.m. After opening ceremonies and approval of minutes, the roll of those alumni who had died since the last meeting was called. This year's list included 26 members.

After recognizing the anniversary classes and their contact persons, Treasurer Don Berend gave an updated financial report.

Headmaster Mike Berry gave a report on the status of the school citing the performance of this year's senior class. Thirty-seven seniors received \$3.6 million in college scholarships and thirteen have received full four-year grants. Recruiting seems to be running close to last year's numbers. Mr. Berry will be leaving as headmaster on July 1st to return to the classroom. Tim Tenclave reported that this year's athletic performance was less than we have come to expect, but hopefully better things are on the horizon. Mike Mangione gave a PowerPoint presentation on Camp Subiaco emphasizing the fun the campers have and the work put in by alumni. This year camp will be two one-week sessions for the first time in a number of years. Both sessions are over full.

School Board President Mike Willems reviewed the new strategic plan being prepared by the Board. The intent is to have the school self-sustaining and get teacher pay on a parity with public school teachers. The admission of eighth graders is also under consideration. Mr. Willems ended his presentation by introducing the interim Headmaster, Roy Goetz.

After talking about his past experience Mr. Goetz spoke of his love of education. He has headed up the music department for the last five years.

Abbot Jerome in his report on the Abbey told of the various projects and thanked the alumni for all their support. Ken Sutterfield, Chief Development Officer, explained the two projects his office is working on; the Chairs in honor



Friday night buffet enjoyed by all



Erwin Duch, Br. Louis & Ralph Bock

of Fr. Hugh, Br. Ephrem and Abbot Jerome and the refurbishing of Heard Hall. The Chairs, to be endowed at \$250,000 each, will provide funds to increase teacher pay and benefits. The interior of Heard Hall will be painted and new flooring installed where needed and new furniture will be installed in the rooms. Nothing has been done to the furnishings of Heard since it was built 40 years ago.

The winners of the three scholarships awarded by the Alumni Association were announced as follows: Fr. Christopher Scholarship - Seth Buckman, a senior from McCrory, AR; Fr. Clement Scholarship - Jacob Didion, a senior from Ft. Smith, AR; and Coach Maus Scholarship - Simeon Siahmakoun, a senior from Bentonville, AR.

The meeting ended with the election of officers and directors. Pat Nolte '78 will be the new president-elect. The directors elected to a five-year term were Tom Sanders '58, Dan Costello '77 and Phil Fredrich '62. Abbot Jerome appointed Perry Trachier '87 and Leon Guidry '91 to five-year terms and Brian Weisenfels '86 to fill the unexpired term of Pat Nolte.

Reunion Mass was offered by Abbot Jerome and Bob Cowie '59 served as deacon. Mass was followed by the honoring of Distinguished Alumni. First honored was Danny Saleh whose story was in the last issue of *The Abbey Message*. Danny thanked God for giving him the means and time to be able to do the charitable work he has been involved in. After Abbot Jerome had made the presentation to Danny he headed back to the president's chair when Jay Fredrich called him back with, "Not so fast my friend." Unbeknown to him the Alumni Board had voted to honor him with Distinguished Alumnus Award on the fiftieth anniversary of his graduation. The look on Abbot Jerome's face was one of the highlights of the reunion. After the presentation the Abbot stepped up to the podium and opened with, "My dad once told me 'Son you think you know everything but there are things you don't know.'" (See story about Abbot Jerome on page 12.)

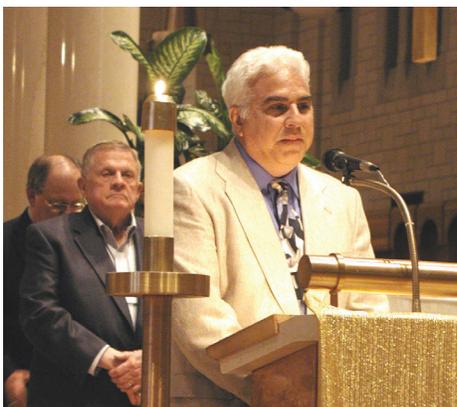
Several of the anniversary classes had parties of their own on Saturday evening after Mass. The class of '47 gathered in Coury House for drinks and dinner together, and 31 members of the class of '57 and their wives gathered at the home of Don Berend for an evening of margaritas and fajitas. The class of '82 had a Bar-B-Q feed at the Round House and the class of '72 grilled steaks in East Park. This was a new activity for reunion and was well received. The evening closed with a casino night in the beer garden followed by a fun auction with Danny Eckelhoff '65 serving as auctioneer.

Reunion closed with breakfast on Sunday morning. Outgoing officers and directors were recognized and new officers introduced. David Callon '92 was honored as the winner of the Reunion Tennis Tournament and Will Pearson '57 winner of the Senior Division.

With the Abbot's blessing the reunion adjourned.



Richard Maddan '56 & Richard Watson '82 at horseshoes



Distinguished Alumnus Danny Saleh speaks while Pat Wardlaw and A. J. Fredrich look on.



1957 grads and their wives around the table: clockwise from left: Daphne Berend, Raymond & Barbara Wewers, Coralinn and Mike Maus, Abbot Jerome

Dates to remember

September 28 Tailgate Party

October 20 Day Dog Picnic

Where are they now?

Denver Amerine '03 graduated from the U. S. Naval Academy with a Bachelor of Science degree in Quantitative Economics.

Jerry Just '59 has spent the last 25 years selling water treatment equipment to major oil companies in the Gulf of Mexico. He has traveled throughout the world in this position.

Major Bruce Reeves '84 is on his way to a six month assignment in Camp Arifjan, Kuwait.

Larry Paladino '48 is a fixture at Island Country Club on Marco Island, FL. He recently won his 13th Club match play championship. Although he didn't take up golf until he was 35, he hasn't let up since. He shot 89 his first round and that remains the highest score he has ever shot.

Jim Kunzelmann '87 has been teaching visual art at Woodland Junior High for 13 years. He won best of show at the Fayetteville Arts Festival and now has an art gallery open 9:00 a.m. until noon on Saturdays on the corner of Mountain and Locus in Fayetteville.

Keith Harmon '03 received an award for history at the Honors Convocation at Lyon College.

Quandrell Claybrooks '00, leading baritone for the Atlanta Opera and Capital City Opera, has been selected from a competitive pool of hundreds as the Apex Society's finalist for the 3rd Annual Atlanta's power 30 under 30 Awards.

Tom Koch '53 and **Tom Guanella '55** from St. Jude Parish in Bossier City, LA, were honored for their outstanding service to the church and the papacy with the Pro Ecclesia Et Pontifice medal by Pope John Paul II.

Anthony Rathe '83 served in the U.S. Army in Germany and in Iraq during the period 1983-94. He now works for Conway Freight in Ft. Smith and is involved in NASCAR Craftsman Truck Series.

Walter Postula '65 is an attorney for Homeland Security in Washington.

Dr. Sumant Ramachandra '86, after receiving his B.A. in Biochemistry from Rutgers University, received his MD and PhD from New Jersey Medical School. During his Pharmacy career he has worked for several different drug companies, and is now VP of the Oncology Portfolio for Schering-Plough. He will soon start an MBA program at Wharton Business School.



Chris Strempek '83 and his wife Jacqueline spent time at Subiaco and Mt. Magazine. Chris says he got some of his early experience in the landscaping profession by doing "chain gang" at Subiaco.

Daniel Reeves '06 has earned a Resident Assistant position for the 2007-08 school year at Emporia State University in Emporia, KS.

Charles Williams '57, retired from the FBI and in charge of security for Hunt Trucking, was named 2007 Professional Security Person of the Year by the American Trucking Association.

Andrew Eubanks '06 was back on campus after his first year at the Naval Academy and will spend the summer on a tour of duty aboard a submarine.

Dr. Ed Chauvin '77 moderated a minimally invasive cardiac surgery conference in Rome in June.

Mundo Harbaugh '87, along with six other members of the family, are involved in Mundo-Tech, Inc. (Rogers, AR), an award winning manufacturer of fabricated tube assemblies for the aerospace, defense and commercial industries.

Thomas Shad '03 graduated cum laude from Notre Dame with two undergraduate degrees, a BS in Physics and a BA in Philosophy. He has received a graduate research assistantship at University of Arizona at Tucson to pursue his masters in Solar Physics.

Steven Dedier '77 has moved to Meeker, CO, and is working for Shell Oil in operations.

Ben Stuth '00 graduated from the University of Southern California with a Masters Degree in city government.

Michael Stuth '06 just completed his first year of college at Sonoma State and **Nick Stuth '06** is finishing his first year at Cal Poly in San Luis Obispo.

David Callon '92 is working on his PhD dissertation in English literature while teaching and coaching tennis at St. Louis University High School.

Bill Lawbaugh '60 was ordained to the Sacred Order of Deacons, June 9, 2007, at The Chapel, Bucknell University, Lewisburg, PA.

Obituaries

Edward Hines '36 died in 2005.

Irven Karsten, Jr. '68 died June 10, 2007, in St. Louis, MO. He is survived by his wife, Sandy; daughters, Roxanne Krummencher and Mandy Shields and five grandchildren. Irv was a long time plumber and loved a good game of Pinochle.

John (Jack) Schifferle '50 died April 3, 2007, in Napa, California.

Leo Radke '63 died on Feb. 22, 2007.

Edward Lee Recker '53 of Sun Lakes, Arizona, died May 19, 2007.

Development

Development Director's Message

Summertime is a time to relax, right? School is out and the students are back home with their parents. If Subiaco was only Subiaco Academy, then that might be true. But there is much else that goes on here on the hill.

For two weeks in June this place was alive with young boys enjoying Camp Subiaco. This year we had two weeks of camp and both were over-filled. Because of the many alumni volunteers, the camp is relatively inexpensive and works as a recruiting tool for the Academy.

June also saw work on the repair of the wall near the cemetery. Thankfully, that work is nearly complete. We are also replacing all the furniture and doing a lot of repairs to the interior of Heard Hall, the student residence hall completed in 1967. A number of Abbey friends and former residents of this building are sponsoring rooms at a cost of \$2,500 per room, which helps to fund the repairs and the replacement of the furniture that for the most part has been in service for 40 years! Next year we hope to do the same thing for the student rooms in the main building. All this work must be completed in time for the Choir Camp. This camp brings about 150 youth and directors together annually for a week of wonderful music which culminates in a musical production that is enjoyed by many.

The summer months are always a time to do repairs to academy facilities and it continues this year. Knights of Columbus volunteers from several nearby cities were here to help the maintenance department remove the old furnishings from Heard Hall and get it ready for the new. That work continues along with many small repairs throughout the buildings. Work is progressing on the removal of the old, original boiler from the church so that it can be replaced with a new, energy efficient boiler.

Fr. Bruno and I have our Habanero peppers growing, getting ready to make more "Monk Sauce." They have grown well during the hot, muggy days that we have had lately and are storing up this heat for a cold winter day! The weather is not so nice for the production of Abbey Brittle, but we turn on our air conditioner and do our best, keeping the brittle available throughout the year.

Br. Thomas Moster, our abbey librarian (when not giving haircuts or making peanut brittle!), is working on a project to increase the amount of book shelves in our Abbey Library. Some friends from his past work as a teacher in Muenster, TX, and other contacts as Oblate Director and Abbey Brittle supervisor for many years are helping him to find the money to purchase new shelving.

All this activity so draws together Subiaco's monks, workers, students, alumni, friends and benefactors that we are daily reminded of the many people who support us in this great work.

May God bless you and give you a peaceful and restful summer to get ready for the days ahead. Our prayers are daily for each and every one of you.

Thank you.



Development Tool Chest

As you consider giving and supporting the ministry of Subiaco Abbey and Academy, please know that we want to help you be the best steward possible. There are several "typical" ways that our supporters use to assist the institution.

1. Cash
2. Appreciated stock and real property
3. Insurance policies
4. Charitable IRA's (2007 only)
5. Annuities
6. Charitable Trusts
7. Bequest by estate planning, "Your Will"

For further information:

e-mail: ksutterfield@subi.org or call: (479)-934-1001

The Necessity of a Will

To recognize and acknowledge God as the owner of all things is a fundamental principle of Christian Stewardship. The National Conference of Catholic Bishops developed a definition of Christian Stewardship as “one who receives God’s gifts gratefully, cherishes and tends them in a responsible and accountable manner, shares them in justice and love with all, and returns them with increase to the Lord.” This definition speaks specifically to our stewardship obligation.

The making of a Will is an important act of stewardship. Proper instructions for passing on to others our responsibilities can be a complicated task. A Will is a very personal document and should be designed to suit your family situation, your finances, and your faith.

A Will means the details of your estate can be worked out quickly and easily. Without a Will, the state appoints an administrator. In addition to extra layers of bureaucratic red tape, this can also result in more of your estate going towards fees and taxes.

What Are Some Considerations When Making a Will?

ESTATE PLANNING

Estate planning is taking the time to think and pray about what will happen to your earthly possessions once you’re no longer here to use and enjoy them. It’s a planning process which incorporates responsibilities towards a surviving spouse and children, as well as asset management, tax planning, insurance assessment, budgeting, wills, etc. Such a plan brings all your finances into focus and provides goals to work toward. John D. Rockefeller was one of the wealthiest men who ever lived. After his death someone asked his accountant, “How much did he leave?” His reply was classic --- “He left ALL of it.”

FAMILY PROVISION

Both partners in the marriage should make a Will and the Will should begin with family. It is extremely important to make adequate provision for dependent children and your spouse in your Will, and then to consider others who are special in your life. Single persons should consider the needs of parents and friends. Need should be a major criteria, and if there is not a need, consider if an inheritance would be a blessing or a burden. Andrew Carnegie had such reservations when he said: “The almighty dollar bequeathed to a child is an almighty curse. No man has the right to handicap his son with such a burden as great wealth.”

CHARITABLE CAUSES

Your gifts to an organization like Subiaco can bless many people in their daily walk of life and you can continue the support you have given throughout your lifetime.

Some people provide for their children first then leave the rest to charity.

Some designate charitable causes for an equal share with each of their children – known as “child like status.” Without a Will, no gifts to the charity of your choosing can be made by your estate. A gift in a Will can also often lead to significant tax savings for your estate. A charitable bequest is perhaps the simplest form of a planned gift to arrange. It is simply a gift made through a person’s request of their Last Will and Testament.

For all Estate Planning,
our legal name is:
Subiaco Abbey

THE LEGALITY OF A WILL

Subiaco advises consultation with a legal representative and completion of your Will by a lawyer. In the case of contestability, this professional will stand up for your choices in the court of law.

TIMING

A Will must be completed while an individual is of sound mind. That means waiting until it appears to be a necessity is not a good choice. Just thinking about creating a Will is not good enough. The scriptures tell us, “Anything you can turn your hand to, do with what power you have; for there will be no work, nor reason, nor knowledge, nor wisdom in the nether world where you are going.” (Ecclesiastes 9:10-11)

What happens if you don’t have a Will?

If we take seriously that what we have is God’s to begin with, then it is our responsibility to carry our stewardship commitments through to the final distribution of our blessings. Imposing government rules to those blessings is not Biblical, and will completely eliminate any contribution to charity. In addition your spouse and children will be subjected to government imposed formulas in disbursing your estate.

REMEMBER: A Will is for the Living. Make it while you can!

“Forethought and diligence are sure of profit; the man in a hurry is as sure of poverty.” PROVERBS 21:5

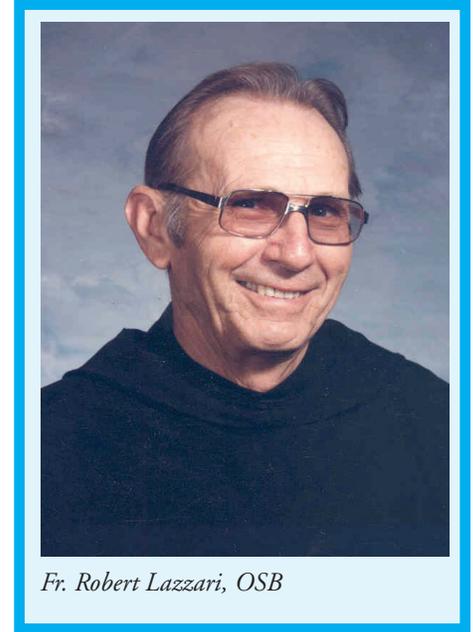
For more information contact the SUBIACO ABBEY & ACADEMY Development Office at (479)-934-1001 or e-mail ksutterfield@subi.org.

Father Robert Lazzari Endowed Faculty Chair completed

In 1997 the Subiaco Academy class of 1957 initiated an endowed faculty chair to honor class favorite and long time math and science teacher, Fr. Robert Lazzari. During their 50 year reunion this past June the class resolved to complete the funding necessary to activate the chair. In addition the class determined that it would align their efforts with the newly established Academy Endowed Faculty Chair Program. The class, along with other supporters, has successfully completed the funding necessary to establish the chair with a total of \$250,000 committed. The Father Robert Endowed Faculty Chair is the first in a series of four to be funded. It will join three other Endowed Faculty Chairs that were established earlier this year to honor Abbot Jerome Kodell, Father Hugh Assenmacher and Brother Ephrem O'Bryan. The Academy has received three separate and gener-

ous challenge grants in the amount of \$125,000 each respectfully. A gift to your selected chair will be matched dollar-for-dollar up to \$125,000. This represents \$250,000 for a fully funded endowed chair. When funding for each is completed the million dollar endowment program will provide for increased salaries and benefits for all full-time faculty. The selected faculty chair holders will receive an additional \$3,000 personal stipend, plus \$2,000 for discretionary spending within the chair holders department. The endowment will be funded with 5% of the investment income or approximately \$12,500 into perpetuity. Selected Endowed Chair holders will be named on a three-year rotating basis with an option to be renamed. The purpose of the Endowed Chairs is to ensure and maintain high educational standards by providing outstanding faculty in specific

disciplines and providing facilities that will enrich the life of the young men attending the Academy today and for generations to come.



BEQUESTS

During the past year, Subiaco Abbey has received cash settlements from the following thirteen estates. We are not always able to apply the entire amount of these estates to our endowment, but in most cases at least half the value of an estate goes directly to Abbey or Academy endowment, always following the directives of the estate.

Dorothy Altenhofel
Magdalen Berend
Frank Bishop
Victor Cary
Margaret Cler
Rosemary Downey
Olga Glenn

Anthony Grummer
Theresa C. Hesse
Gertrude Maus
Edward Mikes
Joseph G. Schodl
George Simon

PRAYER HOTLINE

Let us join you in praying for your needs.

The telephone number to call is:

1-800-350-5889

Upcoming Retreats and Events at Coury House

August

- 3-5 St. Edward, Texarkana, AR, Youth Retreat
- 9-12 Central Catholic Union of America
- 23-26 Diocese of Shreveport Diaconate Retreat
- 31-Sept.2 Singles Retreat

September

- 7-9 Grace - St. Luke's Episcopal Church Retreat
- 8 Subiaco Arts Festival
- 10-14 Connected in Christ, Retreat for Methodist Ministers
- 14-16 Diocese of Little Rock Diaconate Retreat
- 21-23 Benedictine Oblate Retreat
- 24-28 Connected in Christ, Retreat for Methodist Ministers
- 28-30 Marriage Encounter Retreat

October

- 5-7 Glory of Zion Charismatic Retreat
Subiaco Academy Discovery Weekend
- 8-12 Diocesan Priest Retreat, Tulsa, OK
- 12-14 Women's Retreat
Knights of Columbus, Gainesville, TX, Retreat
- 18-21 St. Vincent de Paul Society Retreat, Purcell, OK
- 22-25 Christ of The Hills Methodist Women's Group
- 26-28 Academy Parents' Weekend
Abbey Retreat League Bazaar Weekend
- 28-31 ISACS Visitation

Coury House Weekend Retreat rates include two nights and six meals.
A shared room: \$100. Private room: \$150. Married Couple: \$195.

Rates for private retreats, days of recollection,
and special groups are available upon request.

For more information or reservations, contact us at:
479-934-4411 or 479-934-1290 or FAX: 479-934-4040

The Coury House Book Store and Gift Shop
offers quality religious articles and books for spiritual growth and direction.

Call Donna Forst at: 479-934-4411 or 479-934-1292

Check our web site: www.subi.org or e-mail us at: couryhouse@subi.org
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