

# The Abbey Message

## Subiaco Abbey

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## Envisioning Our Future

by Br. Joseph Heath, OSB

In August 2010, Abbot Jerome appointed Father Richard Walz, Brother Patrick Boland, and me to form the Core Team to facilitate our community's forming the Abbey's 10-year strategic plan. Already teaching full-time in our Academy and highly active in service and ministry to recovering alcoholics, my initial thought and questions were:

- (1) I don't know anything about facilitating the forming of a strategic plan.
- (2) How can I contribute valuable service to the endeavor?
- (3) What sort of demands is this new assignment going to involve?
- (4) How in the world am I going to fit the demands of the assignment into my daily schedule?

As a theme (slogan) for our 10-year strategic plan, our community voted and decided upon *Subiaco Abbey: Envisioning Our Future*. Suffice it to say, and with deepest gratitude for God's love and grace, our community has been provided the creative vision, valuable contributions of community members, and necessary time to put together a viable plan in terms of who, what, and where we want Subiaco Abbey to be by the year 2020.

To begin the process of accumulating ideas for our strategic plan, the Core Team strongly encouraged community members to be candid regarding each member's vision and concerns for the future of the abbey. The emphasis was on forming a strategic plan that was based on our community's vision. From the feedback provided by the entire community (via surveys/questionnaires), the Core Team then identified our priorities in forming the following committees (with the community's and then the



*The community met several times together and in committees to formulate a new Strategic Plan.*

Abbot's approval): *Apostolates, Human Resources, Monastic Development and Vocations, Prayer and Common Life, and Physical and Financial Resources.*

Each committee met at regular intervals to determine, based on community members' feedback, how committee members should focus their attention and energies to each committee's assigned task. At the same time, committee members would base their goals and relative action steps on Subiaco Abbey's commitment to the following general principles:

1. Seeking God through public and private prayer.
2. Fostering the health of the community members and encouraging a balance of work and leisure.
3. Developing the human and material resources to continue our mission.
4. Serving the needs of Church and society according to our ability within the Benedictine tradition.
5. Sustaining our existing apostolates; Subiaco Academy, Coury House, pastoral work.
6. Offering spiritual nourishment and support for one another and for those we work with and serve.

I posit that the most valuable lesson we learned as a community during this entire process is one of balance. The essence of this balance is two-fold. First, we as a community would identify specific goals, action steps necessary to achieve our goals, the people accountable for achieving our goals, and all within a realistic timetable. Second, the specific goals and action steps have been designed so that the people accountable are allowed flexibility to decide the ways to go about fulfilling the goals and relative action steps.

On behalf of Subiaco Abbey I would like to recognize and thank two people in particular, who contributed invaluable to our strategic planning process, beginning with Sister Ann Carville, Sisters of St. Francis. Sister Ann brought 50 years' experience working with religious communities in strategic planning. Sister Ann's guidance, encouragement, and support helped tremendously in the Core Team's planning a timetable, alongside determining the steps necessary to facilitate the strategic planning process. Secondly, Glenn Constantino, our Abbey Procurator, contributed his free time and his usual, inexhaustible energy and enthusiasm to the process. Glenn emphasized that we as Benedictines must be "mission-conscious" as our first priority, rather than looking at the financial bottom line. Last and not least, besides my two confreres Father Richard and Brother Patrick who were great to work beside, I thank Abbot Jerome and all the community members who contributed their vision, energy, and time to making our strategic plan a good *beginning* for our future!

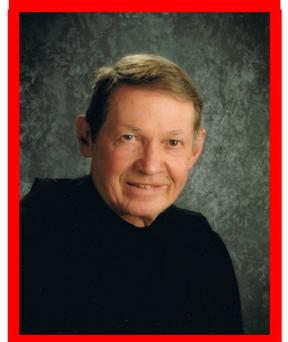
## My Life with the Abbots

In the hallway outside my office is a gallery of the past superiors of Subiaco, beginning with founder Father Wolfgang Schlumpf, followed by the three who were Priors before Subiaco became an Abbey – Fathers Bonaventure Binzegger, Benedict Brunet, and Gall D'Aujourd'hui – and then, from 1892, the five Abbots who have preceded me: Ignatius Conrad, Edward Burgert, Paul Nahlen, Michael Lensing, and Raphael De Salvo.

I have come to appreciate this arrangement very much. Daily on the way to my office I walk among the portraits of these Subiaco leaders and often commune with them. I ask their help and intercession, confident that they know better than anyone the help I need, and I imagine their chuckles or raised eyebrows when I blunder.

Obviously, I didn't know the early superiors. I didn't know Abbot Ignatius or any of the Priors. Fathers Wolfgang and Bonaventure look pretty stern and put me on my guard, but Fathers Benedict and Gall look very understanding and patient, as if they have seen it all, even what I'm going through, and that it will be OK.

Even though Abbot Ignatius died before I was born, I have gotten to know him through stories the older monks used to tell, as well as through our history, *A Place Called Subiaco*, and through our annual reading of his life in the dining room on his death anniversary. He told the man who was trying to sell him a very expensive casket for a monk being buried in another state: "It's nice, but that's for those who have no hope." But besides that I have traveled with him in the day to day report of the German-language house newsletter that was published here from 1906 to 1919 (which I translated as a hobby), when much of his energy was being put into the building of the monastery that we live in today. I am amazed by the number of preaching trips he made to raise awareness about the Abbey and to gather funds for the massive building project.



“...I walk among the portraits of these Subiaco leaders and often commune with them. I ask their help and intercession, confident that they know better than anyone the help I need, and I imagine the chuckles or raised eyebrows when I blunder.”

I had been in the monastery for about ten years when Abbot Edward died, but he was stationed in south Texas all of that time. I got to know him slightly when he would come home for the annual monastic retreat. You could tell he was a great conversationalist and story teller from the way the older monks gathered around him at recreation. He had probably the hardest time of any of the abbots, suffering the great fire of December 1927, just two years after his election, and then struggling to keep the Abbey afloat during the Great Depression. I remember talking to him after his 60th jubilee celebration in 1966. He told me, "If I knew jubilees were this much fun, I would have had more of them."

Abbot Paul was already legendary when I came to Subiaco as a student in 1953. He had guided the community out of the debt of the Depression years and was well along with his dream of constructing an Abbey church. But he was a formidable and distant figure to us as students. We would see him sitting in his special choir stall in the basement church, an imposing figure, and we would look across the inner court into the monks' recreation room, where he presided at the card table. One vivid memory is of Abbot Paul stopping by the student dishwasher where I was pushing dishes through after a meal and asking me if I was coming back as a student for the monastery the next year (I was a junior). I didn't have any idea he knew me, and it was a salutary shock, because I had been wondering about that myself.

I entered the monastery under Abbot Michael and he became one of the most important influences in my early monastic life. I was impressed by his theological depth and his ability to speak and to write, but was affected more importantly by his integrity and humility. He saw us through the time of Church and monastic renewal, which was not as chaotic here as in some other communities because of his calm faith, and because of his ability to correct, as St. Benedict directs, without crushing the bruised reed. He put great trust in me in sending me for the incredible education which in many ways set the tone for the rest of my life. Once in the early days, when I had come to his office with a great proposal, he calmly showed me the things I had overlooked and suggested I rethink the whole plan. "Is there anything else you would like me to do?" "Yes," he said, looking at the floor where I had been standing, "Next time please clean your shoes." Then he looked up and grinned.

Abbot Raphael was a monk whom I knew all of my life at Subiaco, beginning with a Latin class in the Academy. Later he was my formation director and the rector of the major seminary, and after he returned from the mission in Nigeria, prior and abbot. One of my more memorable exchanges with him happened when I was coming from a class in the Academy and we met on the stairs near his office. "Could you take over as formation director pro tem," he asked. "Sure," I said. "When do you want me to start?" "Now." I went on up the stairs and pro tem became twelve years.

I was beginning my third year in Belize when Abbot Raphael came down for a visit. He appointed me prior of the mission monastery, and almost in the same breath told us he had submitted his resignation. I thought, "I wonder if the new abbot will let me stay here." The rest is history.

Abbot Raphael had a terrific sense of humor and we both laughed a lot when we were together. He served fifteen years as abbot, and on the date that marked my fifteenth anniversary he invited me to his parish to celebrate the occasion with a drink. As we were talking, he said, "Congratulations for completing the fifteen years, but do you know what I'm drinking to?" "What?" "To completing fifteen years of not being abbot."

*Abbot Jerome Kodell, OSB*

## Abbey Journal

by Fr. Mark Stengel, OSB

### March

Any account of the past three months must note the weird and wacky, the damaging and deadly, weather. Now, in early June, a calm summer pattern seems to have settled in. I say "seems," but we don't quite trust it. What new danger lurks around the corner? Several hot dry days may presage a heat wave or historic drought. Today's state-wide newspaper speaks about the early arrival of the feared "humidity pods" which had been noted massing off the coast of Tampico, Mexico. The column is labeled "creative fantasy," but we all know that something is brewing. Or maybe not. None of us disappeared in the promised rapture of May 21. The house bell and church bells sounded on schedule, and the daily round continues. Novice Brian asked whether there would be a revised summer schedule. We tried that once or twice some thirty years ago, and didn't like it. Since then the horarium (daily schedule) has remained constant, year round; and I expect this to be so to the *eschaton*, and on into the *parousia*.

March was cold and windy. Gardeners were kept at bay this year by frigid days and threats of snow. On March 2, the refilling of the water tower tank began. After testing, inspecting, and licensing, the Abbey water plant came back on line on March 7.

Just before Lent, A. J. Hambuchen of Conway and fellow Knights of Columbus installed a state-of-the-art automatic watering system in the inner court. This involved breaking through the rock borders of the flowerbeds, digging trenches in the gravel paths and lawns, cutting a path through the concrete border. It was a real mess after the first day, provoking expressions of dismay: “O! ... my! ... God!!” Perfectionism may have some debilitating effects, but in A. J.’s case, it produced the perfect rehabilitation of the courtyard. When the Knights finished, only the tubes housing the pop-up sprinklers were visible in the bare flowerbeds. Even these white tubes



*KCs installing a new watering system for inner courtyard*

are now masked by the spring plantings of begonias and dusty miller. The only other visible part is a mysterious contraption in the corner where the water for the system enters the courtyard. A white cup with a screen across the top and a funnel-shaped interior is supported by a bracket. From sensors in the base of the cup, wires run down along the wall. What is it? Obviously, it’s like the hand stuck outside the door to check on the weather: “Yup. It’s raining. No need to turn on the sprinklers today.”

Fr. Mark escaped the cold March weather by going south, to Belize. He accompanied a group of 13 University of Arkansas students and two adults on a Spring Break mission trip. The group lodged at the former Santa Familia Monastery buildings. They commuted daily to the village of Bullet Tree Falls, where the young people conducted religion classes in the primary school, interacted with the local youth group, and did hard manual labor, putting up an addition to the school buildings. The third world doesn’t have ready access to backhoes, front end loaders, dump trucks, and ready-mix concrete. One day even the water for cement mixing had to be hauled from the river! Mr. Rueben Baltz encountered a yellow Eyelash Palm Pitviper, also called a “green Tommygoff,” in the jungle behind the monastery grounds. When the group returned to Arkansas, it was still cold—a shock to the system after two warm weeks in Belize.

## April



*Fr. Mark laying blocks for the new classroom building in Belize*

The siren atop the flat roof section on the north side of the Abbey quadrangle formerly served as a fire alarm. Now, with electronic fire alarms, smoke detectors, and sprinklers in all buildings, the siren has become a tornado warning device. It is remotely activated, by the emergency dispatcher in Paris, six miles west of the Abbey. The siren is tested by a brief activation at noon each Wednesday, but has seldom been used to warn of actual tornado danger. That changed this spring! On the night of April 15, the siren sounded at 10:30 p.m., at midnight, and again at 1:15 a.m. Amazingly, many monks slept right through the deafening wails. The students were herded into the basement hallways and a few monks joined the

exodus. Nothing happened here, but there were multiple fatalities in other areas. The monks’ sangfroid in these circumstances reminds me of a Benedictine grade school teacher many years ago. Asked what she did on a night when tornados were in the forecast, she replied “I said the Act of Contrition three times and went to bed.”

On the 18th, another swarm of bees absconded from one of the Abbey hives, and settled on the east side of the building above the back door. Beekeeper Br. Matthias recruited help to recapture the swarm. Maintenance man Tom Newman got stung about 40 times in the effort. The Timmerman dog, Coco, had to be in the midst of all the commotion and she paid for

it too. It was comical (though maybe not for her), seeing her whirling dervish dance as she snapped and yelled at her tormentors. Br. Matthias promises us some honey, soon. Please give some to Tom.

That same evening, Br. Dominic and his classmates from Arkansas Tech University performed in Centenary Hall. Their cabaret style songs ranged from a side-splitting rendition of Snoopy, through the sweetness of romance, to the pathos of love lost. It was a delightful program, expanding our view of our confrere, as he wooed the ladies in romantic duets. We are more accustomed to hearing him sing Gregorian Chant, so this class surely must be one of those “broadening experiences” of university studies.

For a good number of years, a faithful group returned to Subiaco for Holy Week. The women’s division, led by Nancy of Chicago, was affectionately known as “the Hat Ladies,” from their practice of sitting together for the Easter Sunday Mass in large Easter bonnets. The group has dwindled due to age, infirmity, and distance. We especially miss Hans from Germany, Tom and Cathy and Fr. Murphy from Memphis, and Fr. Hilary’s nephew David Filiatreau from St. Louis. Fr. Richard’s family has filled the gap for several years by holding a family reunion here during the holy days.

The Easter Monday outing to the lake looked questionable, with the creeks flooded and more storms in the forecast. We defied the prognosticators, and even had some peeks of sunshine before the rains returned in the late afternoon.



*Our bee house dates back to Br. Stephen Babek*



*Abbot Jerome and Juanita celebrating their victory*

Abbot Jerome and Juanita Martin teamed up to win the horseshoe tournament for the second year running. Juanita credited the potent margaritas for last year’s win. This year, without such fuel, she still came through in the clutch.

Three of our Korean students were baptized at the Easter Vigil. What a blessing! We heard the prayer for the blessing of baptismal water: “The waters of the flood made an end to sin and a new beginning of goodness.” We had a flood Easter Monday night. Whether it washed away sin is uncertain, but it certainly washed away part of the Abbey garden adjoining Cane Creek. Fr. Mark’s mulched sweet potato hills turned into empty excavations, and Br. Adrian’s watermelons and cantaloupe went somewhere downstream. We had about six inches of rain overnight. The water supply lakes had topped the spillway on Holy Saturday, and this cloudburst two days later created quite a torrent rushing down the spillway channel.

## May

The cold, wet, stormy weather continued in May. On May 10, a door was torn off the farm office building and heavy cattle troughs were overturned. A few days later, the crowd shivered through the outdoor graduation ceremony in the inner court. It was cloudy, breezy, and 53°, surely a record for this event. More commonly, the graduates swelter, with temperature up to 40 degrees warmer.

At the conferral of diplomas, the request is always made to “hold your applause until all the names are called.” The request is then ignored, and all decorum is lost in a competition for the loudest and most sustained applause. But this year, when the first name was called, there was silence. It seemed like an accident, but then no one was willing to break that precedent and begin the shouting and whistling. All the names were called out and diplomas received with respectful decorum, right to the end. However, someone had mounted an extensive fireworks battery just outside, and the organ recessional was drowned out by the explosives. Hopefully, this is not now one of those hallowed “traditions” that must be maintained, *in perpetuum*.

Subiaco lies just on the edge of the extensive Fayetteville shale formation, containing natural gas deposits. The flurry of drilling has abated in our area, but many new wells are being drilled to our east and slightly north. At the same time, hundreds of mini-earthquakes have been recorded in this area where there is no known geologic fault. Are these tremors related to the “fracking” process used to free the gas contained in the shale? No one knows for sure, but the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality rescinded the drilling permits for new wells until the question is studied.

The Abbey receives some income from gas wells near our property, and we have sold shale for the construction of drilling pads. This is all good, provided the environment can sustain all the poking and prodding. This spring all monks have been in-

volved in strategic planning (Cf. page one: “Envisioning Our Future”). One of the action steps of the plan is the creation of a “Resources Council.” Such a council would advise the community on the responsible use of all our natural resources. Subiaco monks are generally not “tree huggers,” but neither do we want to contribute toward earthquakes or combustible drinking water.

May 21, the predicted day of the “rapture”, came and went, and none of us were taken, unworthy sinners that we are. Maybe next time. The “next time” came very quickly for the nearby communities of Etna and Denning, which were destroyed by a tornado around midnight of May 24. The warning siren sounded again, and a small crowd of monks, staff, and townspeople huddled in the basement hallway. If this continues, we will need to round up some benches for the hallway. The terrazzo floor is hard! Several of us viewed the destruction at Etna: houses reduced to piles of trash and trees sheared as though by a giant and very dull brushhog.

So life goes on *in hac lacrimarum valle* (in this vale of tears). I’m amazed that so many of those touched by tragedy can retain their hope. They really believe in and trust in Jesus’ words on yesterday’s feast of the Ascension: “I will be with you always, unto the end of the age.” May our lives witness to Jesus’ presence among us.



*The traditional “bats off” ceremony at graduation*

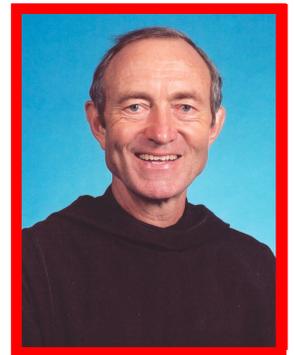
## He Who Sits in the Heavens Laughs

In this summer issue of *The Abbey Message*, Br. Joseph Heath tells about the ten-year strategic plan that we have labored over this spring. The Journal comments on the random forces of nature, which confound human plans. Abbot Jerome reflects on the five abbots who preceded him at Subiaco. Each of them had their own hopes, dreams, and plans. Some of them panned out; others went up in smoke.

It is good and necessary that we humans try to envision and to shape our future. We alone among all creatures have a sense of destiny and purpose in our individual lives, in our communities, and even in the course of the world. Sometimes we feel rather potent; then a tornado strikes or a fire lays all our hopes in the ashes, revealing our impotence.

Scripture has something to say about human plans and divine plans. The second psalm tells about kings and princes conspiring together, making plans contrary to God’s purposes. “He who sits in the heavens laughs.” (Psalm 2: 4) St. James says to those who make presumptuous plans: “You have no idea what kind of life will be yours tomorrow. You make arrogant and pretentious claims, instead of saying ‘If the Lord wills it, we shall live to do this or that.’” (James 4: 13-16) We have the familiar expressions “Man proposes; God disposes,” and “The Lord willing, and the creeks don’t rise.”

We know that we really cannot control things. And yet it doesn’t feel right to sit back and “let nature take its course”—a fatalistic quietism. It seems to me that we must plan skillfully, and all through the planning, pray fervently that our plans may be in accord with God’s plans. Disaster may still dash all our hopes, but God is able to make all things work together for good. God’s power and plan for us are for our good and not for our affliction. So let us plan wisely and well, knowing that God may be laughing at our puny plans. In His will is our peace.



*Fr. Mark Stenzel*

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## Coach and art teacher

by Cheryl Goetz

Bill Wright has been an educator for 39 years. From 1972-1997, he taught Art and PE in the Paris Public Schools system. During his tenure at Paris, he also coached football, basketball, and track.

For the past 13 years, Mr. Wright has taught at Subiaco Academy. He originally served as the head football coach, but now is a full-time art instructor teaching Computer Graphics, Fundamentals of Art, Advanced Art and AP Studio Art. In years when he was asked to do so, Mr. Wright willingly taught computer applications as well, demonstrating the flexibility that is essential for effective educators. Mr. Wright finds the most rewarding aspect of teaching to be “seeing my art students excel,” and excel they do as his art students are award winners year after year, most often taking not only first place prizes, but also Best of Show. “One recognizes Bill’s teaching ability when one sees, year after year, the quality of his students’ artwork and the resulting awards won by his students,” says Br. Ephrem O’Bryan, OSB. According to Jun Young Chang, “I am not a gifted art student, but Mr. Wright assists me to be a really good art student. He provides me with good examples to imitate. He has taught me various kinds of art and inspires me to keep up the work, even in genres that I am not very interested in. The best advantage of having Mr. Wright is that he is kind in his criticism, really kind to his students. He breaks down barriers so that students can approach art.”

Mr. Wright’s classroom is orderly and disciplined. He sets high standards for his students, and then gives them the tools to meet those standards. The students understand his expectations both academically and behaviorally, and he serves as a model for younger teachers in this regard. Mr. Wright accepts no nonsense from his students and teaches challenging courses, yet each year, the academy has more students requesting his courses than can fit in his classroom. The faculty at Subiaco Academy has also benefited from Mr. Wright’s gifts as an educator through his presentations of continuing education courses in computer design and basic drawing.

Mr. Wright serves as a model for students and adults alike in that he not only teaches a craft, but practices it as well. He has drawn cartoons that have appeared in the *Arkansas Democrat*. Most of his art work has been done as community service. He is continually crafting design work for both Subiaco Abbey and Academy. He has designed and made the donor recognition boards located in the business office area and has made banners for various departments (Admissions, Parents Association, Spring Carnival, and the Alumni Association). He has made all the sports banners hanging in the Oskar Rust Gymnasium. Mr. Wright has also designed and constructed banners for many Arkansas Catholic schools as well as designs for various friends’ cedar chests. Mr. Wright has worked designs for the City of Paris such as the “Gateway to the Ozarks” banner. He constructed the sign outside the Paris Boys’ and Girls’ Club and also served on the Board for this organization.

Mr. Wright has a commitment to life-long learning. He initially earned a BS in Graphic Design from Arkansas Tech University. During the past 39 years, he has attended conferences at the Art Institutes of Dallas and Savannah. He has attended AP Summer Institutes for Art at the Arkansas School for Mathematics, Sciences, and the Arts. He has earned graduate hours in Arkansas Architecture, Native Crafts, and Graduate Painting at UALR. Mr. Wright is currently working on a master’s in Educational Leadership from Harding University. This commitment to learning has not only enhanced Mr. Wright’s ability to be an excellent teacher, but also serves as a message for students that learning never stops and that opportunities for learning should be actively sought.

Mr. Wright’s family has lived in this area for over 150 years and he says, “My father and mother grew up here, instilling in me, my younger brother and sister, the value of life in this corner of the world.” Wright graduated from Paris High School in 1968. He was vice-president of his senior class, president of the Letterman’s Club, Boys State delegate, voted Mr. PHS (Lynn, his wife of 42 years was voted Miss PHS). He was a three year letterman in all sports, was an All-District Football Player for two years and All-State one year. Mr. Wright set 11 football records at Paris, with two of them still standing after 43 years. “We have 7 children, all of whom I am very proud,” says Wright. He concluded the interview by saying, “I love teaching at Subiaco and having the opportunity to be associated with the monastic community; it has helped me grow as an individual.”



*Bill Wright with Daniel Heinrichs*

# School year ends - then & now

*Editor's note: Fr. Hugh reflects below on "going home" from Subiaco Academy 100 years ago.*

One hundred years ago students at Subiaco were in classes until the 21st of June, 1911. Two examination weeks were held: at the end of January 1911 and the final week, ending on June 21st. The school catalogue stated: "A Diploma is awarded to students of the Second Collegiate Class (a 6th year student), whose average in all obligatory branches of study is not less than 80%, English and Latin must average 85%."

Students leaving the school would do so by boarding the recently arrived railroad. Trains came through Subiaco in 1901. By 1911 there was an elegant brick depot where one could board one's train. The railroad was located where Highway 22 now passes through Subiaco. The depot was next to the present location of The Outpost. There were no paved roads at this time and automobile traffic was almost non-existent. In 1908 a family from Ft. Smith had driven a car to the Abbey. It had taken them two days over the bad roads. This was the first automobile to come to Subiaco.

The school catalogue for 1911 gives the following railroad information: "Subiaco College is accessible from the east and the west by way of the Arkansas Central Railroad. There is one train each way, each day. The student can also take the train on the Choctaw, Oklahoma and Gulf Railroad, by travelling across the county to Magazine Station in South Logan County. Students from Paris, Scranton, Morrison Bluff, etc. can also travel on the train." (At this time only boys of St. Benedict's Parish in Subiaco could be day students. All other local young men had to be boarders.)

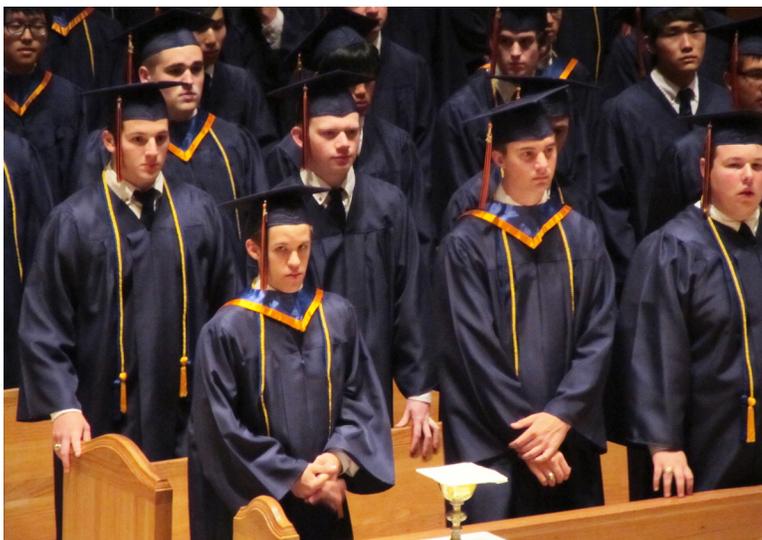
The photo above shows the students boarding the train for the summer vacation in June 1909, the first year the train came to Subiaco. There was, as yet, no depot, so they had to board the train where it stopped nearby. The depot would be built in 1910. Then one could board the train in style like a true lady or gentleman, a true monk or a true Subiaco student.



*First train to Subiaco - 22 June 1909*

## 2011 Graduation

Thirty-six Academy seniors received diplomas during the May 14, 2011, Subiaco Academy graduation ceremonies. The day began with the 8:00 a.m. Baccalaureate Mass in the Abbey Church with Academy Headmaster Fr. Leonard Wangler, OSB as celebrant. The 10:00 a.m. Commencement Ceremony in the Inner Court of the Abbey featured Arkansas's Tourism Director Joe David Rice as the speaker.



*2011 graduates at Baccalaureate Mass and in the Inner Court for graduation exercises. Several School Board and Foundation Board members are seated in the upper portion of the picture on the right.*



## Kites to kilobytes

Fifty Paris students and thirty Scranton students from Gifted and Talented programs, grades 4-12, twenty students from Magazine High School multicultural club, and several students from St. Joseph School in Paris enjoyed the “Kites to Kilobytes” Cultural Festival on Thursday, April 28, 9:30 AM -12:30 PM. This presentation by the Cultural Awareness Program at Subiaco Academy (CASA) connected cultural changes to the evolution of technology, moving backwards all the way to the origin of the kite.

The program began with a video to highlight the changes over the years, going from high-tech computerized devices (kilo-bytes) all the way back to kites and nature. Subiaco’s international students then came to the stage to present flags and kites with a brief explanation of the history and use of kites in their respective countries. Michael Osepa from Curaçao demonstrated the art of kite construction prior to the group moving to Rebsamen Stadium for a kite-flying demonstration.

Aided by a favorable wind and with the assistance of visiting students, Subiaco’s international students filled the sky with kites from China, Korea, Japan, Mexico, the United States, Germany, Russia, Curaçao, France and Angola.



*Allen Arayakitipong & visiting elementary school student*

## Jazz Ensemble at Branson

The Subiaco Jazz Ensemble performed to an audience of over 400 at Dick Clark’s American Bandstand Theater in Branson, Missouri, on Friday, April 15. The Jazz Ensemble was the opening act for the theater’s Legends in Concert featuring Tribute Artists performing as Buddy Holly, Toby Keith, the Blues Brothers, Aretha Franklin and Elvis Presley. The group auditioned for and was invited to Branson to be a part of the On Stage Live! program which gives students the benefit of a pre-show sound check and clinic orchestrated by a professional musician who is currently performing in the Branson area. The clinician told the students that he was pleased with the variety of music and gave them some last-minute performance advice. The stage and sound technicians told Roy Goetz, ensemble director, that they were impressed by the strength of the program. After listening to the ensemble’s performance, George Trullinger, who performs as a Buddy Holly Tribute Artist, remarked: “Awesome, just awesome! I like the whole package—your look, the tune selection, and your powerful sound on stage. It’s so good to see young people play good, live music.” At intermission, Trullinger asked Goetz and the Ensemble to pose for pictures with him. He told Goetz, “We hear up to four groups every weekend every season, and you’re hands-down the best we’ve heard.” The audience enjoyed the Jazz Ensemble and showed their appreciation with whistles and loud applause. Several people came over at intermission and after the show to congratulate the students and ask about Subiaco Academy. Stacy Schlobohm, who served as tour guide, said, “That’s the best I’ve ever seen a high school group get the audience going.”

In addition to performing, the students enjoyed eating at Dolly Parton’s Dixie Stampede, riding the “Ducks” for a tour of Branson and Table Rock Lake, riding go-carts with Mr. Goetz, annihilating Mr. Kinney and Coach Pugh at laser tag, and spending Saturday at Silver Dollar City. The students attended Palm Sunday Mass at Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Church in Branson before traveling back to Subiaco.



*Buddy Holly impersonator with the Jazz Ensemble at Branson*



## Reunion

The golfers began to arrive on Thursday afternoon to be ready for the Fr. Harold Classic golf tournament that kicked off the 99th annual reunion of the Subiaco Alumni Association. The event was hosted at the Chamberlyne Country Club at Danville, directed by **Ron Kaufman '65**. The winning team was **Dylan Veron '08** and **Pat Quick '80**. The rest of the attendees started drifting in on Friday morning and continued throughout the weekend.

On Friday evening, while most of the alumni were attending the Abbot's Reception in Centenary Hall, several of the anniversary classes held their own separate parties.

On Saturday morning the Ladies Auxiliary held their annual Brunch in the Round House at St. Benedict's Parish, which included a purse auction. Meanwhile the Association conducted its annual business meeting presided over by **Phil Fredrich '62**.

After opening ceremonies and approval of last year's minutes, the roll call of deceased members was read by **Don Berend '57**. Monk Jubilarians and anniversary classes were then recognized.

Steve Wilmes from the Subiaco Foundation reported that it has made its transition to operating the development for both the Academy and the Abbey. He also announced upcoming projects and the hiring of **George Lensing '95** by the Development Department to make visits with our supporters.

Fr. Leonard, interim headmaster, gave a report on the past school year. It was a good year with enrollment during the year almost offsetting the dropouts. All teachers are returning. The new headmaster will be in place on July 1st. Scott Breed reported that due to good retention we have 13 more students returning than last year, but recruiting numbers are running a little behind. Currently the administration expects to start the school year with 187 students.

Athletic Director **Tim Tenclve '76** reported on the performance of last year's various teams. The Academy had a nice year, having gone to regional play-offs in basketball and 2nd round district in baseball and state play-offs in tennis, football and soccer.

Camp Director **Pat Franz '78** reported that camp will begin in two weeks and he hopes to have a similar size group of campers as last year.

Abbot Jerome gave a report on life at the Abbey. There are two novices and two candidates presently and one monk in first vows. He also mentioned the possibility of three new candidates in the fall. He discussed several renovation projects going on around campus and mentioned that there are plans to enlarge the Abbey cemetery along with possibly a columbarium.

Ken Hiegel and his wife, Mary Bea, were brought on stage and introduced as the newest Honorary Alumnus and Ladies Auxiliary member.

**Ryan Gehrig '91**, chairman of the nomination committee, nominated **Dale Schumacher '71** for the office of President-elect. He was accepted by acclamation. **Brian Weinsenfels '86**, **Ken Seiter, Sr. '68** and **George Lensing '95** were elected to the Board. **Abbot Jerome '57** appointed **John Zimpel '73** and **James Woods '60** to five-year terms and **Ken Seiter, Jr. '91** to fill the unexpired term of **Dale Schumacher '71** on the Board.

Fr. Leonard celebrated the reunion Mass in the afternoon. After the Mass the Alumni Association recognized **Henry Harder '54** and **Pat Franz '78** as Distinguished Alumni.

After Mass the evening's festivities were kicked off with a social hour at the Round House, sponsored by the Subiaco Foundation. This was followed by a live auction to raise funds for student aid. Auctioneer Dennis Huggins once again did a great job of coaxing over \$15,000 out of the enthusiastic crowd. The evening ended with a steak dinner, the steaks being cooked by a group from the Day Dog Picnic Committee.

Reunion ended with a thanksgiving breakfast on Sunday morning at which incoming President **Ryan Gehrig '91** challenged all to pull together for a great year ahead. He passed out a survey looking for ways to improve next year's reunion.

## Reunion photos



**Reunion photos**  
 From upper left clockwise,  
 Saturday night Reunion Banquet;  
 Distinguished Alumni Pat Franz '78  
 & Henry Harder '54 together with  
 Abbot Jerome; new president Ryan  
 Gehrig '91 speaking at the Sunday  
 brunch; winner of the hole-in-one  
 tournament Paul Hooks '76; Ladies  
 Auxiliary member Jan Anderson  
 with a purse and new Honorary  
 Alumnus Ken Hiegel with wife  
 Mary Bea and Abbot Jerome.



Above - Fr. Leonard Wangler '61 was celebrant at the Reunion Mass.



Below - Saturday lunch was served in the Abbey carport.



Right - Vincent Tate '86 (third from left) was the winner at Texas Hold 'em Poker on Friday night.



## Obituaries

**Leo Framel, Jr. '49** died in Tulsa, Oklahoma, April 28, 2011. After serving in the Army during the Korean War, Leo attended the University of Tulsa. He graduated with honors in 1957 and received a BBA majoring in accounting.

Leo's professional career began with an accounting position at the Oil & Gas Journal in Tulsa that led to a long and rewarding career in the soft drink business. In 1961 he joined Beverage Products Corp. in Tulsa as comptroller and was promoted to Vice President-Treasurer in 1964. In 1970 Leo became President-General Manager of Lake Country Beverage, Inc.

He was devoted to Subiaco, serving on the Alumni Board for more than 10 years and as President of the Board during the 1999-2000 year. He served on the Executive Committee of the Subiaco Renewal 21 Building Campaign and as a member of the Subiaco 2000 Scholarship Committee. He was honored as a Distinguished Alumnus in 2001.

Leo was a member of the Knights of Columbus and the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem. He was a past member of the President's Board of the University of Tulsa Alumni Association, and he also served on the Royal Crown Bottlers Association Board of Directors and Marketing Committee for many years.

In 1986 Leo was inducted into Tulsa Bishop Kelley High School Hall of Fame for his service, support and dedication to the school.

He is survived by his wife, Martha; four children, Debbie Framel, Karen Framel, Susan Weeldreyer and Richard Framel; three grandchildren, Eric Weeldreyer, Sarah Weeldreyer and Sebastian Balletto Framel; three brothers, John Framel, Bill Framel, and Jim Framel; and two sisters, Carolyn Timmermeyer and Mary Self.



*Leo Framel '49*

**Patrick Henry Hennigan, Sr. '41** died in Muenster, Texas, on May 8, 2011, at the age of 89.

Mr. Hennigan served in the Navy during World War II. He was a mechanic and owner of Hennigan Auto Parts.

He is survived by his wife, Alice Sandman Hennigan; a daughter Sheila Marie Gebman; sons, Patrick H. Hennigan, Jr. '65, Michael Hennigan, Thomas David Hennigan, Joseph Hennigan and Timothy Hennigan; 16 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren; sisters, Rose Johnston, Martha Montoy, Theresa Neil and Rita Baca.

**Richard Raymond Ryan '70**, of Decatur, Arkansas, died January 15, 2011. He was a long time resident of northwest Arkansas and a self-employed carpenter. Memorial services were held at the United Methodist Church of Decatur, Arkansas. Mr. Ryan is survived by a daughter, Chelsea Palmer and a son, Raymond Ryan.

**James A 'Buddy' Schlabs '50**, of Scotland, Texas, died April 16, 2011, at the age of 77. He served in the Air Force during the Korean conflict and after his tour of duty attended Midwestern University in Wichita Falls, Texas.

He was a retired production superintendent for Perkins & Cullum Oil Co. Buddy was a member of St. Boniface Catholic Church, Knights of Columbus Council #1715 and the Scotland-Windthorst VFW. He served as President of Archer City School Board for six years.

He is survived by his wife Freda; one son Mike Schlabs; one daughter Karen Edge; a sister Billie Hoff; three grandchildren, Paul, Jeffery and Rashel Schlabs; and five great-grandchildren.

## Where are they now?

**Juan Manjarrez '03** was ordained to the diaconate for the Diocese of Little Rock at the Ft. Smith Convention Center, May 21, 2011. Bishop Anthony Taylor presided. His was the first ordination for the diocese from Immaculate Conception Parish since 1933. Juan will work in Rogers this summer and return to St. Meinrad Seminary in the fall to complete his seminary studies. He will be ordained to the priesthood in May 2012. A large crowd attended the ordination including his grandmother from Mexico.

**John Brooks '81**, Fayetteville's crime scene investigator, was featured in the May 7 *Northwest Arkansas Times* while working on a bank robbery.

**James Morris '96** graduated with a bachelor's degrees in physics and computer engineering, and will start work in the fall on a Ph.D. in computer and systems engineering at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, NY.



*Juan Manjarrez '03 at his diaconate ordination*

**Gerald Sacra '38**, upon reading a comment in the Oblate Newsletter about Br. Jerry's "schnixies," commented that the word has been a part of his vocabulary since his Subiaco days.

**John Beuerlein '71** received the Distinguished Alumni Award from the Olin Business School (Washington University) in St. Louis on May 4, 2011.

**Kevin Herr '02** has moved to Fayetteville, NC, to accept a position with L-3 Communications as an intelligence analyst.

**Donald Goetz '07** will graduate with honors from the University of Arkansas Fayetteville this summer with a triple major in Spanish, Anthropology and Latin American Studies. He is one of two graduates from U of A to be named a Fullbright Scholar.

Donald's award will have him working as a Fullbright Teaching Assistant in a university in Brazil beginning in March 2012.

**Chris Gattis '07** received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Notre Dame University, with a major in Theology and a minor in Medieval Studies, on Sunday, May 22, 2011. On Saturday, he received a "*littera, sigillata in cera rubra*" (a certificate, sealed in red wax) attesting to his minor field. After summer work at Camp John Marc near Meridian, Texas, a camp for special needs children, he will enter the Jesuit novitiate at Grand Coteau, Louisiana.



## Development Director's Message

### Being a co-missionary:

You probably have heard that without you, our supporters, we would not be able to continue our mission here at Subiaco. But, what does this statement mean?

The Benedictine monks of Subiaco have a long-standing tradition of serving people in our area (and beyond) through works of prayer, education, hospitality, retreat/spiritual direction, and work in parishes. They have touched countless people since March of 1878 when they migrated to the Arkansas River Valley to serve the local German-speaking Catholics. Since then, the Benedictines of Subiaco have served as teachers at the Academy, pastors at many parishes throughout the Diocese of Little Rock and north Texas, provided their well-known hospitality and directed retreats at Coury House. Those who are blessed to experience the "magic" of Subiaco understand what it means to be received as Christ would receive us.

Subiaco Abbey's mission statement says, "We [the monks] are sustained in our vocation by the grace of God, our stewardship and labor, and the generosity of our benefactors." Your support (which includes prayer, serving as a volunteer as well as financial gifts) sustains and truly motivates the monks. Being a co-missionary at Subiaco means that with your support, you share in our mission to welcome others as Christ. Therefore, without you, our supporters, we would not be able to continue our mission here at Subiaco. Thank you for all that you do.

We appreciate you,



*Steve Wilmes*

## PRAYER HOTLINE

Let us join you in praying  
for your needs.

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

Or you can e-mail  
your request to:  
[prayer@subi.org](mailto:prayer@subi.org)



The names listed below are of people who because of their giving during the last year have either just joined or have advanced to the next level on our Raven Assembly.

*Platinum Raven* – The Platinum Raven recognized those benefactors whose cumulative contributions reach \$100,000 or more.

**NEW PLATINUM**

Marie Wilson

**ADVANCED TO PLATINUM**

John C. Steger '42

*Golden Raven* – The Golden Raven is offered to those whose combined gifts range from \$25,000 to \$99,999.

**NEW GOLD**

Mary Agnes Gilbert

Tim R. Smith

Dr. & Mrs. Donald Yandell, DDS

**ADVANCED TO GOLD**

Mr. & Mrs. Fred. I. Brown, Jr.

Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Kisse

Mr. & Mrs. Leo T. Sharum '79

Mr. & Mrs. John Suarez

Support Our Aging Religious, Inc.,

Silver Spring, MD

John H. Willems '72

*Silver Raven* – The Silver Raven acknowledges any contributor whose total giving ranges from \$10,000 to \$24,999.

**NEW SILVER**

Mr. & Mrs. Pierson Callahan '89

The Cloyes-Meyers Foundation,

Cleveland, OH

Mr. & Mrs. Nathan Combs

Marion E. Green

Mr. & Mrs. Bill Jennings '63

Mr. & Mrs. Phillip P. Pirani '69

Richard S. Sharum

Mr. & Mrs. Tony Sultani

**ADVANCED TO SILVER**

Dr. & Mrs. E. J. Chauvin '77

Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Donze '61

Mr. & Mrs. Edward Franz

Mr. & Mrs. Jeffrey P. Gray '85

Mr. & Mrs. A. J. Hambuchen

Mr. & Mrs. Terry Hess

Mr. & Mrs. Robert L. Limbird '67

Dcn. & Mrs. Laurence Lipsmeyer '58

Northville Product Services,

The Woodlands, TX

Mr. & Mrs. George S. Petrick '62

Pinnacle Communications, Lavaca, AR

Dr. & Mrs. Peter J. Post '73

Mr. & Mrs. Anton M. Reith '52

Mr. & Mrs. Vincent J. Schluterman '78

Dr. & Mrs. Kenneth P. Seiter '68

Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Siebenmorgen '50

Marie Spaeth

Mr. & Mrs. James Weigant

Dr. & Mrs. Wesley B. Zboril, DDS '74

*Bronze Raven* – The Bronze Raven is given to donors that made gifts totaling between \$5,000 and \$9,999.

**NEW BRONZE**

Mr. & Mrs. Vincent J. Adams

Bill G. Ardemagni '64

Mr. & Mrs. Alvin Berry '61

Mr. & Mrs. Freddie Black '74

J. T. Brown

Mr. & Mrs. Paul Cronan

Mr. & Mrs. Thomas P. DeSalvo

Mr. & Mrs. John Eckart

Gertrude Fox

Dr. & Mrs. Leon W. Geary '61

Mr. & Mrs. Thomas J. Gleason '56

Mr. & Mrs. Marvin Holland, Jr.

Mr. & Mrs. Gregory P. Kelley Jr. '80

Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas R. Kennedy '66

Krebs Bros. Supply Co., Inc.,

Little Rock, AR

Ruth Levinson

Lt. Col. & Mrs. James Malik Jr.

Mr. & Mrs. Hal Myers Jr. '82

William Neumeier Jr. '82

Mr. & Mrs. Paul S. Osborn '51

Mr. & Mrs. Joseph R. Pipak

Mr. & Mrs. Cyril Plafcan '39

JoAnn Pryor

Mr. & Mrs. Joshua Robinson '91

Mr. & Mrs. David G. Sharum '83

Sign Ad, Inc., Houston, TX

Richard J. Udouj Jr. '79

Mr. & Mrs. Jason Wallace

Mr. & Mrs. Thomas O. Willett '50

# Dorm Furniture Project

For 124 years Subiaco Academy has prepared countless young men with a high school education that is unsurpassed for our area. Many of our graduates will tell you that if it were not for Subiaco, they would not have been as successful in their careers. It is no secret that much of this education happens outside of the classroom. As a boarding and day school we have a unique opportunity to build a strong sense of community guided by traditional values. This serves to help each young man develop personal responsibility and independence.

*“The ‘Subiaco Experience’ is made up of all aspects of their daily life, not just academics, and their living quarters are obviously a huge part of that experience.”*

Scott Breed, Director of Admissions

The furniture in our main dormitory, which serves about half of our boarding students, was acquired as U.S. Army surplus back in the 1960s. It is well past time to upgrade the furniture in the Main Building.

*“Replacing the furniture in the main dormitory building will help attract new students to the Academy while giving our current students greater pride in the dorm. The old furniture is Army surplus material that is over 40 years old. The mattresses have been recovered many times over. I believe that everyone will be greatly pleased with the final product.”*

Greg Timmerman, Dean of Men

The cost of the entire project is just under \$107,000, which will replace 54 rooms of furniture at a cost of approximately \$1,975 per room. The Academy Board of Trustees is behind this project 100%. Collectively, these individuals have committed \$20,000 toward this project. With this as well as the support of others we have raised just over \$47,000 and are well on our way to completing this project.

Our first day of school is August 22! We hope to complete this project before then, which does not give us much time. As an added bonus, replacing this furniture will help us to officially welcome our new Headmaster, Mr. Robert Loia, who begins his new tenure on July 1, 2011. Please prayerfully consider helping us with this project.

You may make a gift on line at [www.subi.org](http://www.subi.org), send a check to 405 N. Subiaco Ave, Subiaco, AR 72865 or call the development office, 479-934-1001, to make a gift via credit card.



*Furniture similar to the above will replace the old furniture in the Main Building.*

## John Bell, Jr. Landscape

The development office still has limited edition signed and numbered prints of the Subiaco Abbey Landscape painted by John Bell, Jr. of Fort Smith, AR. These prints make wonderful gifts for weddings or anniversaries especially to those who know and love Subiaco. Please contact us for more information at 479-934-1001.



*After the wet and stormy spring, sweet corn and Habanero peppers are growing well in the garden.*



*Silence.* It's a simple word, but its meaning and importance are easily lost in today's culture. When I was growing up in Kentucky, I was part of a large family. Because I also shared a room with my brother, this meant I found little time for silence. I would often steal away from the hectic family life into a closet in our room which had a light. It was there, in the silence of that closet filled with clothing that I began to cultivate the love of silence.

If your family is anything like mine, then finding those moments of silence are often "few and far between." St. Paul, writing to the members of the Church at Thessolonica, exhorted them "to do so, more and more, to aspire to live quietly....(1 Thes. 4:10-11)." In our busied and harried world, this is a challenge that is often hard to fulfill. I am hopeful that the Abbey might assist in this endeavor.

Contrary to what many people think, we monks don't actually take a specific vow of silence.

We are, however, called by the Rule of St. Benedict to cultivate silence in our lives as part of our ongoing conversion to the monastic way of life. In turn, we also try to cultivate silence throughout the grounds of the monastery. People who come to the Abbey regularly speak of the sense of beauty, quiet and peacefulness that pervades the place. Their time of a simple respite from the busyness of the world helps rejuvenate and recharge them to take on their daily lives. Their visit to the Abbey, in essence, allows them to experience the necessity of silence and better understand why St. Paul recommended it so intently to the Church he founded. To that end, I would like to make a recommendation for you to consider.

Being a retreat center, we obviously have a variety of retreats scheduled over the next three months. While most of those retreats are private group retreats, we have two retreats this quarter that are open to the general public. We have a *Summer Serenity AA* retreat July 29-31, and we have a *World Wide Marriage Encounter* retreat September 23-25. If you are interested in either of those, contact us and we would be happy to give you the group leader's contact information. Likewise, if you have a group that would like to develop a retreat or make a retreat to the Abbey, contact us for our available dates throughout the remainder of the year.

Given all these options, though, I would especially like for you to consider the possibility of just taking a day or two with your family (or just yourself!) to come to the Abbey, stay at our retreat center, and just cultivate a little silence in your life. You don't have to be a part of a group retreat to use our facilities. You can pray with the monks, rest and read in your room, experience the neighboring attractions such as Mount Magazine or the wineries of Altus, pray in our church, walk our grounds or our track, and even swim in our pool. With gas prices rising and the economy still struggling, many individuals and families simply can't go away on expensive week-long vacations this year. Instead, why not consider staying for a few days at the Abbey? During the summer we offer nightly room rates of \$40.00 for a single and \$50 for a couple when space is available. This is in keeping with St. Benedict who reminds us monks in the 57th chapter of his Rule that "The evil of avarice must have no part in establishing prices, which should, therefore, always be a little lower than people outside the monastery are able to set, *so that in all things God may be glorified* (1 Pet 4:11)."

Therefore, you don't have to run into your closet to find silence and quietness in your life. Let the Abbey and our retreat center help you! One group retreatant shared with me recently that she loved the Abbey so much, but she lamented that she didn't know if she could come back because it would be hard to get a group together again. As I reminded her, we are not here just for groups, but also for individuals and families to come and spend some time at the Abbey. Give us a call and we would be honored to help you experience the refreshing joy of a little silence in your life! God bless!

*Br. Francis Kirchner*

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