



The Abbey Message

Subiaco
Abbey

News of our Apostolates for Friends of Subiaco

Winter 2007

Subiaco, Arkansas, Vol LXIV, No.3

Traditions at Subiaco during Advent - Christmas

by Br. Thomas Aq. Moster, OSB

Just as the Gregorian calendar is divided into seasons of the year so, too, is the liturgical calendar of the Catholic Church. Looking forward to the coming of Christ during the season of Advent, the Church begins its liturgical year with four weeks of preparation, culminating in Christ Mass, December 25th.

Each Benedictine monastery has its own customs in addition to liturgical norms of the Church. Here at Subiaco Abbey we attune ourselves to the Rule of St. Benedict which equates the Oratory—the place where the monks communally feed their souls on the Divine Office and the Eucharist—with the monastic refectory (dining room) where the monks gather as one community to nourish their bodies and minds with food and table reading.

With joyful anticipation of Christ's coming, the abbot blesses a large advent wreath in the refectory, and each evening for the next four weeks, the monks sing the ancient hymn "Rorate Caeli" ("Drop down dew ye heavens") before sitting down to the evening meal.

The Wednesday evenings of Advent are devoted to conferences, with the abbot generally presenting the first of these. The final Wednesday evening of this season is devoted to a reconciliation service with the opportunity for private confession.

As Advent draws to a close, monks busily decorate the church, refectory, community room, and the abbey hallways/stairwells for Christmas. The holiday greeting cards received by the community are displayed in the hallway near the abbot's office.

In contrast to the world's stress and chatter of last-minute Christmas shopping, Christmas Eve in the monastery reflects a subdued silence, and the monks spend the afternoon in quiet anticipation of the holy night. At 5:30 p.m. they congregate in church before going to the evening meal, in order to spend a half-hour in silent reflection before the Blessed Sacrament.

Christmastide officially begins with evening Vespers; however, monastic Grand Silence is kept until 11:45 p.m. when, for fifteen minutes, the four church bells ring out from the church tower the abbey's Christmas joy to the surrounding countryside, calling the faithful to Midnight Mass. An ancient tradition that remains a part of Subiaco's Christmas liturgy is the solemn Proclamation of the Birth of Christ preceding the entrance procession into church of ministers and monks, with Abbot Jerome as the principal celebrant of the pontifical concelebrated Mass. Singing by the Abbey Schola is also a monastic tradition.



Abbot Jerome blessing the Advent wreath in monastic dining room

Following the midnight liturgy, community members make their way to the guest dining room for a fraternizing “convivium” where they enjoy snacks, finger foods, and holiday beverages. A Subiaco custom is the giving of a bottle of home-made wine and a bag of the homemade “Abbey Brittle” to each monk as a Christmas gift from the Community.

The conventual Mass of Christmas Day is at 10:45 a.m. Following this celebration of the liturgy, the monks gather about the Christmas tree in the monastic recreation room for a “*guadeamus*”—a time of joyful fellowship—while enjoying holiday snacks and beverages before moving on to the monastic refectory for a festive Christmas dinner.

The twelve-days-of-Christmas are celebrated by the monastic traditions of the blessing of wine on the feast of St. John on the 27th, the honoring of candidates and novices on the feast of the Holy Innocents (28th), and the opportunity on New Year’s Eve of “praying-in-the-new-year” with guests at Coury House and attending the social event following the midnight religious service.

The Solemnity of the Epiphany of Our Lord officially ends our twelve-day cycle of Christmastide with solemn Vespers and a pontifical concelebrated Mass. An ancient custom of announcing the moveable feasts of the Church calendar for the new year takes place during this liturgy.

The Epiphany, the day that Christ revealed himself to the gentile nations, is a very ancient solemnity in the Church. Subiaco Abbey retains the Benedictine custom of the Epiphany House Blessing, which asks the Christ Child to bless our dwelling and to remain with us through the New Year. Community members assemble in the refectory hallway where the abbot traces in chalk above the refectory doors the year and the initials of the Three Kings (Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar). Thus the present inscription: 20 + C + M + B + 07 is above the refectory doors; it will remain in place throughout the year until replaced by the inscription of the Epiphany House Blessing of 2008.



Abbot Jerome inscribes the house blessing while Br. Mel Stinson (master of ceremonies) and other monks look on.

Caught Between Accepting and Choosing

Some of God’s prophets were not eager to be chosen. Jeremiah protested that he wasn’t equipped for the job: “I know not how to speak; I am too young” (Jer 1:6). Gideon thought there must have been a mistake: “I am the most insignificant in my father’s house” (Jdg 6:15). But the most reluctant was Moses – or at least the Bible has more of a record of his reluctance.

When God in the burning bush tells Moses he has come to rescue the Israelites from Egypt, Moses is all ears. This is what everyone has been waiting for. But then God goes on: “Come now! I will send you to Pharaoh to lead my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt” (Ex 3:10). Then Moses begins to backpedal. “Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and lead the Israelites out of Egypt?” In a series of five exchanges, Moses racks his brain to come up with some excuse which will convince God to change his mind. But God has made his choice and is not going to change.

Moses then accepts in obedience and performs well in launching the great effort of leading the vast people out of slavery: through the difficult negotiations with Pharaoh and the series of plagues, the flight from the Egyptian army to the sea, the miraculous crossing, and the first difficult days marching in the wilderness. But we still remember Moses’ reluctance and might wonder whether he is wholeheartedly given to the project.

Then comes the scene with his father-in-law Jethro, who visits Moses in the wilderness, bringing along Moses’ wife and children. After accepting some sage advice from Jethro, Moses bids farewell to his father-in-law, who then returns alone to Midian. Moses takes his family and sets out to lead the people to the promised land.

There is a symbolic separation here with the past. Moses is no longer holding on to the hope that his unwanted vocation will go away, and he embraces the call he had half-heartedly accepted at first. He assumes the role of leader totally and casts his lot with the people, so much so that later he says if the Lord will not forgive the sin of the people, he himself is willing to be stricken from the book (Ex 32:32).

In every vocation, whether it is a major life step or just an appointment or assignment along the way, there are these two steps of accepting the call and then choosing it. In the best of circumstances, these steps happen simultaneously, but if the call



is not appealing we may, like Moses, only be able to make one at a time. There is nothing wrong with trying for a better deal until the decision is final. Jesus asked his Father to take the cup away, but when it was clearly his vocation he embraced it: “Not what I will but what you will” (Mk 14: 36). The tragedy comes when we make the first step, accepting the call, but not the second, failing to embrace it and own it. Then we drag our call along, doing the work but in a joyless way and perhaps spreading bitterness as we go.

A parishioner may be elected chairman of the parish council and accept the job as a necessary evil but serve with dragging feet, not only wasting the opportunity but draining the morale of other members. A priest may accept the assignment to a new parish, but make it obvious that the change was not his idea. A religious may accept an appointment in obedience but hold on to the hope that it will go away, treading water in the meantime. These assignments will not be life-giving until they are chosen and the person called rises above personal desires and ambitions to embrace them as the call of God.

It is sad to get caught in between the acceptance and the embrace of a calling. We do the work but it is joyless. We think it is the job which burdens us but it is our attitude. We also think nobody knows but we are exposed for all to see.

This danger of getting caught is in the smallest things, such as doing the dishes or carrying out the trash, all the way up to the monumental: how long it takes a person to embrace a life-situation which is irreversible: a terminal illness, for example, or a Down’s Syndrome baby.

Moses had good reasons to question God’s choice and try to back out: he had already had two full careers and by biblical reckoning was eighty years old; there might still have been a price on his head in Egypt; and by this time he was an outsider to the enslaved community. But God insisted, and Moses accepted. At first he could do no more than perform his responsibilities with an eye cast fondly back to his pre-burning bush days. But at a graced moment he embraced the call of God. This gave him inner freedom and he never looked back again.

Abbot Jerome Kodell, OSB

“...assignments (merely accepted) will not be life-giving until they are chosen and the person called rises above personal desires and ambitions to embrace them as the call of God.”

Abbey Journal

October

by Fr. Mark Stengel, OSB

This journal has been following the ups and (mostly) downs of the Abbey water supply, and ended with the comment that “we need one of those floods” (to fill the lakes). For those readers who do not know the layout of the water reservoir, a brief description might help. One mile south of the Abbey and town, Pine Ridge runs in an east-west direction. About a mile to the west, the ridge branches out into a higher northern flank and a somewhat lower southern rise. The south part bends outward, forming a small “bowl valley” about ½ mile wide, and then bends back to the north, until this “first ridge” and “second ridge” join again just beyond the east end of the Abbey property. The valley thus formed is the watershed for the Subiaco water supply. Erosion had carved a narrow “gap” through the northern ridge, and it is this gap which was dammed in the 1940’s, creating the reservoir. Water enters from both ends, and the entire watershed is densely forested by mostly pines with some scattered hardwoods. The watershed is rather small, and the forest soaks up all it can hold before gradually releasing any excess into the impoundment.

Now for the data: On October 16th, a 4.6” rain raised the lake 7.5 inches, letting it at 6’11¾ inches



2nd lake on Oct. 29 & Dec. 3, 2006

below full. Rains of 2" on Oct 25 and 2.5" on Nov. 5 kept the level steady. By November 13, the level had risen one foot, to -5'11". Another 2.2" the next day raised the level two feet, to -3.75". November 30th brought the necessary flood, with 5.15 inches of rain and a dusting of snow. Still it took another three days before the first rivulet went over the spillway, sometime early on the morning of December 2nd. Finally!

October began with a near-record high of 91° on the 2nd, and our first frost occurred on October 13. This was also the day of the 5th grade Vocation Day, when hundreds of children from around the state converge on the Abbey. Representatives of the various religious orders and the diocesan clergy present information and conduct activities geared toward "planting some seeds" of awareness in the young people. Many Catholic children these days do not see any clerical or religious order person other than their pastor and possibly a deacon.

On Sunday morning, October 29, a call came that Abbey cows were wandering around on the dam and spillway area and the road that crosses the Abbey lakes. After lunch, a safari of about 15 monks set off in a convoy to deal with the escapees. They (the heifers) had come from a pasture about a mile to the east and on the other side of the steep, rocky ridge described earlier. The seventeen animals were located in the woods and all but one were successfully driven across the dam, down the road and onto an old logging road that leads back to their pasture. The remaining heifer could not be driven out of the woods. One does not stand up to an onrushing 900-pound animal when she has a wild look in her eye and a froth of mucus and saliva trailing from her mouth. After multiple attempts, farm boss Butch Geels said "Let her go; she'll come out when she gets hungry." By the next afternoon, she had found her own way back to the pasture where she belonged. Mr. Geels says that these young animals, left by themselves with no "supervision" by adult cows, just "go wild" and constantly are getting into mischief. I hadn't realized that such adolescent behavior was a trans-species phenomenon!

November

The long-awaited decision on GIRLS IN THE ACADEMY was announced on November 1. In a brief press release, headmaster Mike Berry said that input from all interested parties was carefully considered, and that the overwhelming consensus was that Subiaco Academy should remain an all-male school. Numerous notes were received in the days following, praising the calm professionalism of the process for deciding, and expressing gratification at the outcome. This matter had been bouncing around (again) for at least as long as the drought and water shortage. Hopes now are that we won't have to think about water in the lake nor girls in the classroom for a good long time.

Various groups of our associates have been coming for a meal with the monastic community, as a way for the Abbey to thank those who help us in our apostolates. On November 2nd, 50 volunteers were hosted. This large group assists in many ways, usually behind the scenes, and so may never get much recognition. A dinner with the monks enables us to visit with them and to thank them. A similar dinner on Nov. 6 recognized all employees other than the Academy faculty and staff, who got their turn in December, just before the Christmas holidays. These dinners are held in the monastic refectory, which allows us to show off our beautiful dining room with its swooping paneled ceiling and stained glass windows.

By November 10, the last of the pines on the hillside between Coury House and the cemetery were harvested. We were surprised at the number—well over 100 trees! The area is now a yawning abyss—at least that was the writer's reaction. Instead of a forest towering over the retaining wall, there is an emptiness that induced a physical flinch for a few times upon going out the back door. Several companies have now made bids for repairing the wall, but no decision has been made. It's a question of whether to take care of our present problem only, or to deprive future generations of their rightful duty too.

Mid-November featured calm clear days, and chilly nights—perfect for producing striking Fall colors. The Bradford pears were a medley of colors, the oaks a deep russet, the maples scarlet and orange, the sweet gums purple, and the hickories golden. Days like these make me thankful for the gift of color vision. The Fall display was late arriving and early in departing, as the heavy rains and cold at the end of the month brought the leaves down in a hurry.



Only a small pile of brush remains of The Pines

December

Winter weather arrived with heavy rain, followed by a dusting of snow on December 1. A few snowballs were thrown with scraped-together snow; and that was about it. We got a whole week of classic winter weather, i.e., steady cold, rather than the more typical Arkansas pattern of chilly nights and mild days. Students went to winter dress code, and everyone—except

for several stalwart monks who make no concessions to the cold—bundled up, as Advent began. More than one commented: “This feels right; I need this to get into the Christmas spirit.”

The Arkansas Tech Choir and Brass Ensemble performed in the Abbey Church during the first week of Advent. This was a mandatory and “dress up” concert for the students, but the performance was so uniformly excellent that no one complained. Brother Dominic, a student at this nearby university, sings in the choir. Most of the vocal selections were in Latin, including the opening “Tu es Petrus” (Thou art Peter, ... and upon this rock I will build my Church.) and an arrangement of “O Sacrum Convivium” (O Sacred Banquet ...in which Christ is received.). Interesting that a secular university would choose these particular songs to be sung in a Catholic church.

Father Harold, who turned 93 this month, had to relinquish his pastorate of 27 years at St. Anthony Church at Ratcliff, sixteen miles west of the Abbey. He was finding it increasingly difficult to stand for the Mass and to read the Mass texts. As he explained to the people “My eyes are as old as the rest of me.” For the time being, various priest-monks are taking care of the parish. Actually, the people are taking care of the parish. We substitutes find everything “ready to go” when we arrive.

A lone bald eagle has begun including the Abbey environs in his (her?) range. Brother Edward came the closest, finding the eagle perched in the big oak above the wall at the end of East Park. An eagle doesn’t waste time sightseeing. We presume that this opportunist is scanning the pastures, hoping for easy meals as our cows give birth. It’s the afterbirth the eagle wants, not the newborn!

Finally, the shelled pecans, a staple of the breakfast bar, ran out sometime in December. Still, Father Paul and Brother Louis can claim credit for shelling enough pecans to last for a whole year! Pecans are harvested in October and November, but the trees in this area aborted their crop in the face of the drought, and so there is no new crop for Fr. Paul.

Several lay volunteers who had been assisting in the Abbey Brittle operation had to give it up. Abbot Jerome appealed for extra help from the community. Fr. Richard became the chief cook; he recruited Fr. Hugh as second assistant chief, Br. Thomas and Br. Louis continued their service, Novices Michael and Greg took turns, and many others put in some time in the factory. The final batches were cooked on December 20, and Fr. Richard reported a total of 3,341 cans of brittle produced. That’s 3+ TONS of peanut brittle!!

The Academy Choir, the guitar group, the Jazz Ensemble, the Subitones, and the new handbell choir presented a wonderful Christmas concert on Sunday, December 17. There is so much talent to be displayed that the concert ran for two full hours—and never got boring. These young men make us proud. They sing and play with such zest and competence. The concert was followed by a sit-down dinner for the students with faculty, staff, and parents serving the meal. One of the Deans served in a Santa suit, and a female assistant sported antlers. (Do doe reindeer have antlers? I don’t know.) It was a very festive day.

Brothers James Casey, Dominic, Isaac, Gabriel, and Anthony coordinated the house and church decorating. Many others assisted. The results were, in the recreation area, a cross between formal and psychedelic; in the church, elegant simplicity along with an intricate crib scene. The oasis where the Magi are watering their camels features a gurgling pool, moss-covered logs and dense underbrush.

Brother Anthony loves snow, and is ever hopeful for a White Christmas. It came close, with cold rain on the Eve and on Christmas Day. Mount Magazine, on our southern horizon, is about 2000 feet higher than Subiaco and its slopes were white for Christmas.

The year ended with a birthday party in the health center for Fr. Andrew (93), Fr. Harold (93), and Br. Martin (80).

Ad Multos Annos.



The Jazz Ensemble at the Christmas concert



Academy choir rehearsing in church



Fr. Andrew enjoys the Health Center birthday party while Br. Vincent and Prior David watch Nurse Rose Schneider cut the birthday cake.



Off and Running

Finishing up the supper dishes on January 1, 2007, I commented to the refectorian: "Well, we've about got this year licked." He answered in a puzzled tone: "Aren't you a day late?" I said "No, I meant that this first day went so well that we're on a roll now, and the rest of the year is going to fall into place too."

This might be called the "One Day at a Time" program, and it has much merit. Abbot Jerome often recommends the "spirituality of the feet," by which he means allowing, each day, one's feet to take you where you are supposed to be: prayers, meals, work, exercise,

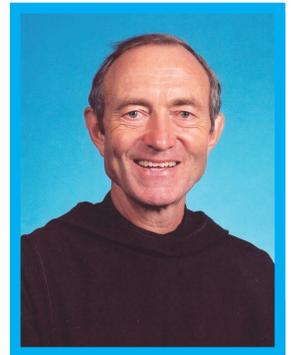
recreation. Probably if the feet are in the proper place each day, the rest of the body, and the mind and soul, will "come round right" too.

Several days ago the reading at Morning Prayer was from Paul's letter to Titus (2:11-15). The phrase that caught my attention was verse 14: "Christ gave himself for us to set us free from all lawlessness." Feet not subject to any law would wander aimlessly, into blind alleys, dead ends, and repetitious circles. If that's freedom, Paul prays to be free of it. Such freedom inevitably leads to slavery and death. Rather, he prays: "Let us reject Godless ways and worldly

desires." Another translation has it: "reject everything that does not lead to God." Positively, let us "live temperately, justly, and devoutly in this age, as we wait in joyful hope ..."

Sounds like a good New Year program to me. One day at a time. Feet, don't fail me now.

Fr. Mark Stengel



Security cameras on campus

With the 21st century came 21 cameras to monitor students in hallways and public areas. They cover public areas such as hallways, vending areas, parking lots, and entrances. Eight cameras watch in Heard Hall; in the Main Building are 12 cameras; and one looks out over the parking lot.

The main reason to install the cameras is to insure the security of the students and their belongings, according to Mr. Greg Timmerman, dean of men.

Mr. Timmerman said, "There have been reports of tampering with vending machines." In fact, on the first weekend with the cameras, a hole was punched in a dorm wall.

Br. Jude Schmitt, who assisted with the installation of the cameras, said, "The cameras will help to protect

students' property. We get students who say 'someone stole my laptop.' It will also protect from outside people walking up to the dorms."

With the openness of Subiaco's campus and the violence on school campuses across the nation, there is an increasing need to monitor visitors.

A tremendous amount of wire and time was needed to install the cameras, according to Br. Jude. The installation company, Muzak, needed four full days to install the cameras and another half-day for the final setting.

The cameras are motion sensitive and only record when movement is sensed. All movement is recorded; but the films will not be reviewed unless concerns of theft or damage occurs. Mr. Timmerman monitors the cameras.

Branham dies

Honorary alumnus and former basketball coach Don Branham '53 died in Hackett, AR, November 29, 2006.

During his coaching tenure at Subiaco, 1966-1981, he compiled a 242-184 won loss record including twelve consecutive winning seasons and three district championships.

He is survived by his wife, B.J.; two daughters, Shawn Branham and Kimberly Gillet; a son, Tim; a sister, Nadine Jones and four grandchildren.



Coach Don Branham

Academy

Praise and Worship band

For the last four years the Praise and Worship band has been rocking the church. Led by Mr. Roy Goetz and Mrs. Cheryl Goetz, the band brings a liveliness to the church service.

According to Mr. Goetz, one of the most important parts of Subiaco is the time spent together as a community in prayer. It is the prayer and faith of all that holds Subiaco together. The goal of the Praise and Worship band is to lift hearts and minds to God during praise. Mr. Goetz is proud that the group continues to perform its ministry well.

Included in the group are Mr. Gary Kinney, Ricky Tang (12), and Mr. Goetz on guitars; Mrs. Goetz and Alex Schluterman (12) provide harmony; Andy Chen (10) on violin; Seung Chul Lee (12) on the keyboard; and Nathan Willems (12) on drums.

The Praise and Worship band has been playing since Mr. and Mrs. Goetz moved from Pocahontas in 2002 where they led a Life Teen band in their former parish.

Kyle Rudolph (11) said "I enjoy listening to their music in Mass. It seems to bring the Mass to life." This feeling is shared by many including senior Sung Kee Ahn, who said, "The music is so fun that it's hard to refuse to sing."

Fr. Hugh Assenmacher has been a supporter of the Praise and Worship band from the beginning and helped to get the band started, and continues to do so now.

"It is my job as chaplain and deacon, but the rest of the group volunteers their time and talent," said Mr. Goetz. "We want to do whatever will get the congregation to sing. So far this year they have been doing a great job. It really gives the Mass a new life that might not be enjoyed otherwise."



Alex Schluterman, Cheryl Goetz & Roy Goetz

Subitones

Subitones, a musical group founded in the 1990s has resurrected, thanks to the efforts of Dr. Sharon Kenney and 13 new members.

"Subitones was a special group of 4 to 6 people a few years ago. They were very good," said Fr. Hugh Assenmacher, a former choir director.

Subitones will represent the student body on and off campus as musical ambassadors of the school.

Members of the group won their positions after individual auditions. Since they do not have a class together, they must volunteer their time to work on skills. Director Dr. Kenney said, "They have a lot of potential."

Members of Subitones are divided into four parts. At tenor I are Chris Gattis, Alex Schluterman and Joseph Thomas; tenor II are Ricky Tang, Joon Park and Seung Chul Lee; baritones are Jonathon Rhodes, Reagan Ryu, Evan Stallworth and Michael Hickey; and bass are Joe Arbogast, Don Goetz and Jude Ruesewald.

The group sings a range of music that includes classical, church, and pop.

"I joined Subitones because I like to perform and represent the school," said Michael Hickey (12).

Subitones practice during teacher assistance and evenings. Chris Gattis (12) said, "We have all really improved a lot since the beginning of the year. We have a lot of fun in practice."

Subitones performed during Parents' Weekend and for the Academy Christmas Concert.

Band director Mr. Roy Goetz said, "I thought they did a great job. Their stage presence and sound was good. I also know what a challenge it is to prepare a group to perform without the advantage of daily rehearsal."

Subitones have been invited to sing in Dallas and Waco, TX, in the spring.

Career Day

Eight speakers attended Career Day held Nov. 2. Career Day, an annual event held in the fall, allows students to meet graduates and hear about possible career choices.

The fields discussed were biomedical engineering; banking and education; civil engineering and education; human resources and parks and recreation; law and business; medicine; entrepreneurship and investments; and religious life and nursing.

Discussing biomedical engineering was Mr. Phil Frederick '90. Mr. Frederick said that a lot of the things he does now he learned at Subiaco. Mr. Frederick designs hip replacements.

Giving a presentation on banking and education was Mr. Joe Spivey '77 who said that it is important to have an avocation.

Talking about civil engineering was Mr. Jay Fredrich '57. The greatest skill for a student interested in engineering is the ability to solve problems. Mr. Fredrich is a retired college professor from Southern Illinois University. He was also a volunteer soccer coach.

Mr. David Flake '79 discussed the human resources field. He works with the Arkansas Parks and Tourism department. His advice was to learn all you can in every activity; that knowledge may come in handy later. He advised students to start early on building a resume: "Get a summertime job."

Discussing law and business, Mr. Glenn Constantino recommended choosing a job that brings enjoyment. He said that people who do what they do well are successful.

Dr. John Dunham, a family doctor from Clarksville, said, "The more education you get, the more control you will have over your life."

Telling about his experiences as an entrepreneur was Mr. Tom Vogler '77. Mr. Vogler said that success in investments is all about the timing. One piece of advice he gave students was to get more than one degree. On the job, whatever the job, he recommended, "Be the smartest, be the best, be the one everybody turns to."

Br. Isaac Youker, a monk at Subiaco Abbey, spoke about nursing and the religious life. He said that people should choose a career that is fulfilling and that will allow them to give to the greater good.



Mr. Jay Fredrich '57 talks to students during career day.

Renaissance Day 2006

A student woke up and looked at his alarm clock. It was 8:30 - on a Friday, a school day! Normally he would be panicking, grabbing his clothes and rushing out the door.

Instead, he stayed calm and casually cleaned up. He put his Ipod in his jeans and strolled out the dorm.

Fall Renaissance Day dawned a bright, nice day for a November 17.

Among others, Coach Robert Pugh, Mrs. Dianne Hart and Mrs. Hermina Fox offered some off-campus options to the students.

Coach Pugh took 13 students to a winery tour in Altus. They walked through the vineyard and visited the winery factory and learned about the bottling process.

The tour guide at Post Winery explained the history and the differences of wine. The students sampled grape and muscadine juice from the serving bar.

Bill Heil (10) said, "The wine making process and its history are very interesting."

Mrs. Hart and 10 boys traveled to Branson, Missouri, for the Silver Dollar City amusement park.

The group tried out 30 attractions and rides in the city. They celebrated an early Christmas with the Holiday Light Parade.

"It was really fun. My favorite time was when I marched next to some biblical character in the Christmas parade," said Willie Johnson (11).

At Devil's Den in northwest Arkansas, Mrs. Fox and four students went underground as they traipsed, flashlights in hand, through the park's namesake cavern. Some places required climbing over or dropping down 15 feet. The crew quit only when the passages became too narrow to crawl or squirm through.

Mr. Roy Goetz and Mr. Gary Kinney and 15 students hiked on White Rock Mountain.

“Me, Charles, and Joseph conquered the mountain and jumped between rocks,” said Matthew Miller (11).

They also grilled burgers and enjoyed the sunshine.

Mrs. Michelle Chuang taught students how to make Chinese food while Mrs. Felipa Garcia cooked up Mexican food with her students.

Jacob Didion (11) said, “I learned how to make sticky rice. I love Chinese food.”

Film making, learning calligraphy, visiting the Clinton Library, skating at Jones Center, watching civil rights films, and eating Cajun food were available to students as well.

This Renaissance day, with faculty’s great efforts, expanded students’ views and knowledge. And if the experience and learning were not enough, students certainly enjoyed their day off from school.

Music lab receives update

Seven new Yamaha (MLC-100) digital pianos were purchased for the piano lab, thanks to a generous donation from Pat and Vicki Wardlaw of Waco, Texas. The money also helped with a theory composition lab, a portable public address system and band equipment.

New piano teacher and choral director, Dr. Sharon Kenney said, “The old pianos in the modules were out of tune and in need of costly repair. The school allocated money for three new digital pianos at the beginning of the year. Mr. Wardlaw gave additional funds and we were able to re-evaluate the direction of our musical needs and decided to go the route of a piano lab.”

Twenty-one piano students, in both beginning and advanced levels, can practice without disturbing other students. Most importantly, students are monitored periodically during the class by the teachers. As a result, students are less distracted and are accomplishing much more than Dr. Kenney initially expected.

These digital keyboards enable the pairing of students for playing duets; both players can hear each other without interfering with other students practicing. The Yamaha pianos are capable of sounding like a church organ, vibraphone, jazz organ, strings, guitar, or harpsichord. In fact, two advanced students, Joseph Post and Simeon Siahmakoun, are currently working on a Bach minuet using the harpsichord sound feature.

Most helpful to Dr. Kenney is the ability of the piano to transpose keys. It would take hours to raise or lower songs to fit the vocal needs of young voices.

Dr. Kenney has the ability to listen in to all the sessions and coordinate the lessons using a headset.

Many have helped to organize the music department. One person is Scott Morton (10) who has catalogued hundreds of pieces of music, creating a music database.



Six students using the new piano lab

Alumni

Alumni contribute time and talent

by Don Berend

Through the years the financial support of the alumni of the Academy to the Abbey has been well documented, but the number of hours spent by that same group often goes unnoticed. The aid takes many forms and shows up in many areas of Abbey life.

The largest group of volunteers is the team that runs Summer Camp every year. This group originally was organized by Pat Weaver '71 when the monks announced that they would no longer be able to staff the camp. Mike Mangione '82 and Pat Franz '78 head the team up. About forty other Alumni, who are made up of graduates from the forties through last year's class, join them. They do everything from planning camp schedules, supervising activity time and dorm time, to driving busses and patching up scraped knees.

The maintenance department regularly receives help with projects around campus. Mike Welch '70, along with a crew consisting of John Cates '79, Mike Mangione '82 and others, have done everything from painting the Trojan head on the bottom of the swimming pool to rebuilding the coaches' offices. Sylvester Gaisbauer '47 usually comes up for a week in the spring and fall to handle whatever project Sam Little gives him. Recently he made up a supply of tombstones for the Abbey cemetery. When the Fourth Degree of the Conway Knights of Columbus spend a week at the Abbey every summer they are often joined by Gene Hatwig '53 and Larry Lipsmeyer '58 in doing various projects. This year weather prevented the group of North Texas Knights from contributing their weekend of fence-building.

On Career Day at the Academy the list of speakers is usually made up mostly of graduates working in various professions. This year's group consisted of Jay Fredrich '57, Phil Frederick '90, Joe Spivey '77, David Flake '90, and Tom Vogler '77. They spend the day telling students about opportunities in their fields, what is needed to enter the profession and they share some of their own experiences.

Alumni are found serving on boards and committees in both the Academy and the Abbey. The Alumni Board has twenty-five members, who not only meet three times a year, but also take the lead on various Alumni projects. This year Mike Mangione heads up the Board. The Academy school board currently has sixteen members, nine of which are Alumni. Mike Willems '75 is President of the Board. The Investment Committee, which advises the Abbey on the investment and use of the endowment funds, is made up of Robert Winter '58, Richard Ardemagni '63 and Ralph Bock '56. The Abbey Farm is well served by a group of local Alumni who meet bi-monthly to discuss farm operations and policy. The farm management uses this meeting to draw on experience of these local farmers.

The Development Office and the Academy recruiter are well served by the Alumni out in the field, serving as host to them as they travel and often times acting as point man as they make their contacts. Also in the Development Office, Don Berend volunteers as Alumni Secretary handling many of the Alumni issues.

The savings arising from these acts of volunteerism are many, but the unselfish giving of time by these men is a real testimony to the love that they have for their alma mater.

The danger in writing an article of this nature is that you will omit a name or even a whole area in which people are volunteering. The list, as you can easily see, would be quite lengthy so we have chosen to only mention those who have taken the lead in the various areas.



Gene Hatwig '53 and Larry Lipsmeyer '58 are among many Knights of Columbus from Arkansas and Texas who volunteer to work at projects on the abbey farm and grounds.

Where are they now?

Joe Weisbrod '87 is the Compliance Manager with Kronos Worldwide, Inc. He recently took some vacation time in Italy. He says that Tuscany is quite a change from Dallas.

Michael Rhodes '90 has a new daughter, Mary Mischa. Michael never expected to be able to have children after having a heart transplant.

Paul Valbuena '88 is a psychiatrist with Michigan State Hospital working outside of Grand Rapids. He and his wife have three children.

Kevin Herr '02 is in the Army Reserves as an intelligence analyst. He will resume college studies at the University of Memphis. He and his wife, Nicole (sister of **Michael Schneider '03**) have two sons.

Dr. Kenneth P. Seiter, Jr. '91 recently joined seven pediatric foot and ankle surgeons in the Baja Project for Crippled Children, a humanitarian effort in El Salvador, Central America, to surgically correct pediatric congenital deformities. They did 37 reconstructive procedures in five days.

Charlie Sanderson, Francis Yuk and **Won Chung**, all from the class of '06, are students at Purdue University.

Former Subiaco tennis notables **Greg Gormley '92** and **Anthony Susi '89** placed 5th in the U.S. Men's 30s hard court championships in Austin, TX.

Nick Liewer '70 visited with several of the monks, joined the monastic community at Vespers, and lunched with **Matt Post '70**. He was in Conway training emergency responders as part of the homeland security effort. He lives north of Portland, Oregon.

Josh Tritt '00 married Vanessa Young on October 28, 2006, at Mount Magazine Lodge. **Jamie Tritt '97, Adam Schluterman '00**, and **Chad Rainwater '00** were members of the wedding party. Ushers were **Chris Robinson '99**, and **Jesson George '99**.

Dr. Marty Schoppmeyer '85, superintendent of Hass Hall Academy in Farmington, AR, brought some students from this charter school for a tour of the Abbey.

Steve Manley '85, after attending the University of Scranton (PA), worked for Sprint in Denver, for General Instrument in San Diego, then for a political polling company in Portland, OR, and now works in a mental health facility in Boise, ID.

Alumni Sons recently elected to class offices include Michael Gaskell (senior class president), son of **Richard '72**, Buck Butler (junior class president), son of **Bill '82**, Seth Buckman (junior class representative), son of **Larry Smith '70**, Joseph Post (junior class representative) son of **Peter '73**, John-Rex Spivey (sophomore class president) son of **Joe '77**, Jude Ruesewald (sophomore class representative), son of **Fritz '78**, Chris Trachier (freshman class president), son of **Perry '87**, and C. J. Kieran (freshman class vice-president), son of **Chris '84**.

Bill Elsken '58 was re-elected as mayor of Paris, AR, in November.

James Morris '96 just started at the U of A as a Computer Engineering major, explaining, "so far it's better than any day at work I've ever had."

Don Ikemeier '70 is the Senior Project Manager, responsible for various major construction projects for all of the Marine Corps Bases in the Southwest Region, USA. His focus is heavily guided by Homeland Security to protect all priority facilities that fall under the "ANTI-FORCE PROTECTION" (ATFP) Regulations.

Matt Stengel '99 went to visit Ben Freeman '99 in El Paso, TX, who left on Oct 29 for a tour in Iraq. He is a 1st LT in the Army's 1st Cavalry Division. From the training that he described, he will be doing some very dangerous work over there; all while leading a platoon of 17 men. He was in good spirits and ready to go get the job done. Please include him in your prayers.

Pat Wardlaw '46, founder of Wardlaw Claims Service, enjoys reading about the accomplishments of Subiaco alumni each month. As 2006 drew to a close, he offered the following recommendation, "I consider the lessons I learned at Subiaco to be the foundation for my good fortune over the past 60 years. I urge every alum to reflect upon their years at the Academy and consider the role it played in their lives. Remarkable things are taking place at this school, and returning for Alumni Reunion or graduation provides an excellent opportunity to view them firsthand. Seeing how this school molds and directs teenagers into manhood fills me with pride. There's no finer way to show your devotion to the school and those who lead it than to express your vocal, written, and financial support."

Duvall Headley '80 of Lexington, KY, visited with several monks on a visit to Subiaco in late November. He's involved in several humanitarian projects in his hometown.

Roch L. Schenk '88, Allison and their two children still live in Greenwood, AR. Allison and Roch are Navy Seabees and

their unit is to deploy to Iraq in January for the second time. Allison will not accompany the unit as she is still recovering from leg injuries received during training.

Jason Priakos '90 just talked with **Tom Pistulka '90**. He is home resting after having surgery for testicular cancer. They will know in a few weeks if it had spread to other areas but his doctor is confident they got it early. Tom is living in West Fort Worth with his wife...and is home after serving two tours in Iraq.

Father John Ringley '79 delighted us with the following: "*Salvete omnes, gratias vobis ago pro litteris vestris in festa die anniversaria natalis mei. In anno servitii mei sexto apud parochiam Sancti Laurentii in Shelton, CT.*"

Last October **Michael Friske '81**, **Bill Torp '81**, **Edward Ruesewald '81** and **Bob Matzinger '81** got together at Lake Whitney, TX, for a day of fishing and catching up. They had a good time, and are making plans for next year's summer camp to volunteer, and take their kids. Bob is in Beaumont working with Williams Insulation estimating insulation, roofing, and other projects to help those folks get their homes back in order after the hurricanes. Edward is an Allstate Agent in Dallas, and Michael is with Fidelity Investments, along with Tim Foster. Bill is still with Sherwin Williams. After that trip Bob headed to San Antonio to visit with **Ted Kelly '81** and **Roy Ramspeck '80**.

Jim Adams '59 is enjoying his first experience as a grandfather.

Paul Griesemer '62 is active in the retreat program in his parish in St. Louis.

Andrew Eubanks '06 writes, "Being at the Naval Academy is in many ways like being at a military version of Subiaco. There are numerous similarities between the two academies that made my transition here much easier than it would have been otherwise. The similarities are endless: structure, tradition, values, academics, uniforms, and the list goes on. While the USNA is a very challenging institution, Subi helped to prepare me immensely."

Brian Neumeier '82 asks if any alumnus might have a photo of a "younger" Fr. Harold as a golfer and/or golf coach. Brian is planning something for Reunion 2007.

Pat Flippo '71 is the administrator of the Veterans Retirement Home in Fayetteville. He notes that Subi alumni are surprised to learn that in order to see him at work, you must pass security clearance.

Vince Griesemer '71 is reportedly keeping busy with various hobbies in retirement in Colorado.

Pete Narens '78 took a mid-November break from his fence business in Texarkana to help Br. Tobias with some fencing on the abbey's farm.

Louis Griesemer '73 recently gave a presentation to a professional organization in Baltimore about civic involvement by his company, Springfield Underground.

Chris Strempek '83 got married November 11, 2006; a honeymoon in South America followed.

Fr. Hugh Assenmacher, OSB '51 appears in a photo in the "Outdoor Section" of the November 30 *Arkansas-Democrat/Gazette*. Outdoor editor Buddy Gough (friend of **Drew Daniel '76** and **Joe Spivey '77**) spent several days at the abbey in November.

Lt. Chris Josef '00 is halfway through his second deployment in Fallujah, Iraq. He wrote: "October was a rough month for our battalion and especially my platoon. One of my trucks hit an IED and killed two of my boys. It sent another three home, one missing both of his legs . . . Snipers, RPGs, and insurgents also top the list as things that I haven't enjoyed. November and December have been a lot more peaceful. Our battalion has captured or killed a lot of the bad guys working the city, but IEDs are still scary enough to bring me to pray every night."

Joad H. Lopez '99 is still working as a financial accountant for a big multinational in Barcelona, Spain. In January he will step up as a Regional Account Manager for the Legal Entities of the multinational in Italy, Belgium, and Spain. This will require more work, travel, and a big load of responsibilities.

Craig Schluterman '02 recently completed his first semester in veterinary school in Alabama.

Dr. Rafael Granja '98 is enrolled for 10 months in the General Surgery Residency Program of the Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey (Monterrey Tec). He is almost 2 months away from ascending to the next degree and a year of residency, which includes advanced laparoscopic surgery training. After that he would like to pursue a subspecialty in plastic and reconstructive surgery (3 more years) in The Jalisco Institute of Reconstructive Surgery under the internationally renowned plastic surgeon Dr. Gerrero Santos.

The December 6, 2006, edition of the *Times Record* (Ft. Smith newspaper) reported that **Jack Schulte '72** enjoyed renewing acquaintances with UA athletic director Frank Broyles and other friends when he stopped en route from St. Louis to California to watch the basketball Razorbacks play. Commenting on a 1991 vehicle accident, Jack explained, "I discovered that my Corvette could fly through the air but wasn't built to land." Coach Eddie Sutton established a "Wolfman Award" for the Razorback who took the most charges during the season, in honor of Jack's specialty (taking charges) during his basketball career at the University of Arkansas.

Obituaries

Dominic Enz, former teacher and member of Subiaco Abbey, passed away May 5, 2006, in Gurnee, IL. He taught and served as a Prefect in the Academy in the late fifties and early sixties. He is survived by his wife, Diane; two sons, Leonard and Michael; a daughter, Catherine and two grandchildren.

John Kopacka '70 died November 11, 2006, in Oklahoma City, OK. He graduated from Central State College in Oklahoma and was an Education teacher for the state of Oklahoma for 30 years. His two daughters, Lupe and Rebecca, two sons, Matthew and Xavier and seven grandchildren survive him.

Herbert Dunn '58 of Ft. Smith died November 4, 2006. He was a member of St. Boniface Catholic Church and a manager for the Arkansas Welcome Center for the Arkansas Department of Tourism in Harrison. A daughter, Angela Culbreath and a brother, Louis, survive him.

Fr. Bart Landwermeyer '49, former member of Subiaco Abbey and teacher in the Academy, died November 3, 2006, in San Antonio, TX. After teaching he served as pastor in a number of parishes in Texas, both as a Benedictine and as a diocesan priest. He is survived by his brother Rev. Francis M. Landwermeyer, S. J.; sisters Genevieve Farrell and Mary Haddigen and many nieces and nephews.

Anthony Grummer '39 died June 19, 2006, in Conway, AR. He spent his working career with the Log Cabin Democrat and the Arkansas Gazette. His sister, Anna Pugil, and numerous nieces and nephews survive him.

Colby Mitchell '90 died August 14, 2006, of a heart attack.

Development

Development Director's Message

As I write this we are just coming to the end of the season of Christmas. Gift-giving has been in the air and we are feeling thankful for all the gifts that we have received.

Here at Subiaco we are especially thankful for our many benefactors who have made it possible for our work to continue. I would like to draw special attention at this time to those who made pledges and gifts to our Journey of Faith Capital Campaign. Today we see in place many improvements that are a direct result of the generosity of many to that campaign.

The most ambitious project was the renovation of the monks' living quarters in the Jewett Annex. There are some 35 monks living in these renovated quarters who daily thank God for your gifts that made this all possible. And I am one of them!

Another area that benefited from the Capital Campaign was Heard Hall - the Academy residence hall. This building was completed back in the 60s and although it had been cared for very well over the years, it needed improvements. New flooring, boilers, heating and air conditioning units and other furnishings made this building more energy efficient and more livable. Through several recent gifts we are right now in the process of replacing the old windows of this building. Hopefully this work will be finished before the students return after Christmas break.

One of the first projects undertaken with Capital Campaign funds was the renovation/upgrade of the deans quarters in the main building. At the same time laundry facilities were added.

The main building exterior walls were cleaned and waterproofed and the porch roof in the inner courtyard was replaced. About half of the roof of the Oskar Rust Gymnasium was repaired and all the windows were replaced with energy efficient windows.

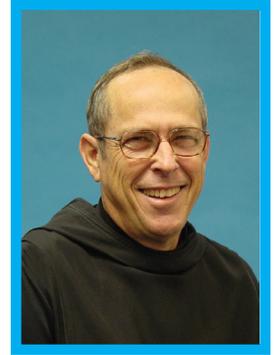
Another recent improvement that partially benefited from the Capital Campaign was the Courty House addition. Much of the financing for this work had been secured before the campaign began, but additional funds were needed to complete the work.

I would like to mention another benefit that we received as a result of the Journey of Faith campaign. As the pledges began to come in the money was invested before the various projects were undertaken. As a result, more than \$300,000 was added to our general operating funds over the last four years! That reminds us just how important endowment is for the survival of an institution like Subiaco.

After all the above-mentioned projects were completed, funds from the campaign added in excess of one million dollars to our endowment! This money is invested and continues to support our general operations.

Subiaco has been given a wonderful gift and we are delighted and thankful.

May the Good Lord continue to bless you all.



Fr. Richard Wajda O.S.B.

Remember Subiaco in your will

Endowment to educational and religious institutions is often made by bequest. By remembering Subiaco in your will, you can help guarantee the future financial security of Subiaco Abbey and Academy. This form of "building for the future" is available to all friends of Subiaco Abbey, regardless of the size of their estate or their present financial responsibilities.

For all estate planning, our legal name is:

Subiaco Abbey

Distinguished Alumni meet here Oct. 25-26

Distinguished Alumni by year of graduation

Leo J. Krebs	1920
Carl Bopp	1922
Joseph B. Walter	1924
Oskar D. Rust	1924
George Coury	1924
Laurence Lipsmeyer	1928
Reynold P. Maus	1928
George Lensing, Sr.	1931
Fr. Harold Heiman	1932
Abbot Michael Lensing	1932
Fr. Christopher Paladino	1932
Paul Berend	1935
Frank Willems	1937
Matt Post, Sr.	1943
Pat Wardlaw	1946
Leo Framel	1949
James Sontag	1949
Billy Bock	1954
Ralph Bock	1956
Thomas Sanders	1958
Jay Bradford	1958
Richard Ardemagni	1963
John Beuerlein	1971

The Abbey hosted a meeting of all living Distinguished Alumni this past October.

They were given reports on the Abbey and Academy, and shared with one another and with Abbey and Academy officials their ideas about present and future developments here.

Those attending were: Richard Ardemagni '63, Ralph Bock '56, Jay Bradford '58, Leo Framel '49, Tom Sanders '58, Fr. Harold Heiman '32, and Pat Wardlaw '46. John Beuerlein '71 and Matt Post '43 were unable to attend.



Distinguished Alumni, Ralph Bock, Pat Wardlaw & Tom Sanders look on as the Academy chorus class performs for the group.

One of the tasks that this group is responsible for is the nomination of new members to their distinguished grouping. During their meeting they recommended to the Alumni Board the names of men to be honored next year at Alumni Reunion.

Ken Sutterfield becomes Chief Development Officer

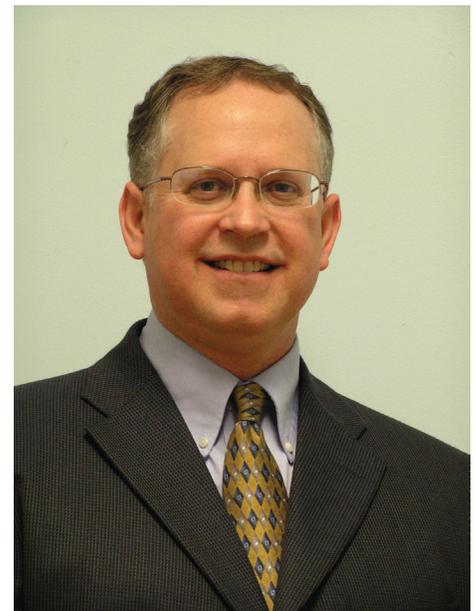
Ken Sutterfield has been hired by Subiaco Abbey and Academy to take on the leadership of the Development Department. He began work here as Chief Development Officer at the beginning of January, 2007. His primary responsibilities include the organization, planning, and management of all development efforts. Fr. Richard Walz, OSB, present Development Director, will retain that title and will be working closely with Mr. Sutterfield.

Ken comes to Subiaco with thirty years of non-profit experience which includes directing Christian camps and conference centers in Arkansas and Texas. He most recently served as Dean of Operations for a K-12 private school

in Little Rock with over 1,200 students where he oversaw all aspects of institutional advancement.

Ken is the author and co-author of two books; How to be Your Little Man's Dad published in 1993 with Dan Bolin, and The Power of an Encouraging Word, which was published in 1997.

His wife Jan is the Arkansas State Coordinator for Moms In Touch International, a worldwide prayer ministry. They reside in and will continue to live in Maumelle, AR, near Little Rock. They are the parents of two adult sons.



Ken Sutterfield

80th anniversary of the Great Fire of 1927

by Fr. Hugh Assenmacher, OSB

Subiaco Abbey, like the rest of the U.S. in the “roaring 20s,” had a great spirit of optimism. The institution was enjoying the fruits of the labors of the earlier generations of monks. There was even talk of doing something definite in the immediate future about a proper abbey church.

All of this changed in a few hours during the night of December 20-21, 1927, when fire swept away most of the abbey. The students of Subiaco College (now Academy) were having the annual Football Banquet on the evening of December 20, prior to their taking the train home for the Christmas holidays. The monks were in their refectory at supper. Fr. Joseph Fuhrmann, the rector of the school, discovered the fire as he was going to the student dining room for the athletic festivities. The fire had started in a basement room of the northwest corner of the abbey quadrangle, in a paper storage area, now the location of the abbey archives. He gave the alarm and everyone went into action.

However, the abbey’s water supply at the time was inadequate: two small tanks in the tower of the east wing. That evening they were largely empty and the pump at the well-house was out of order. Various other forms of fire fighting were used: shoveling dirt over the basement windows where the fire was and emptying several fishponds on the grounds with bucket brigades. But most of the work done was the salvaging of whatever could be safely removed. Only the south wing of the abbey, built in 1912, was somewhat fire resistant.

The rest of the monastery and school had wooden floors, stairways, and flammable plaster. There was little that could be done to stop the spread of the fire. By the next morning, the entire north wing, the entire east wing, and the west wing as far as the present-day west entrance to the Academy, were destroyed. Most students and monks lost all their possessions.

The mystery of the fire has never been satisfactorily solved, despite various theories. The morning after the fire the monks still prayed the Divine Office and celebrated Mass in makeshift quarters. The monastic chapter also met this day to decide emergency measures. Local people came with supplies and offered help. The monks all went to St. Joseph’s in Paris for Christmas Midnight Mass. By the end of December, the insurance adjusters advised the monks that their insurance would pay only \$25,000.

A Place Called Subiaco, the history of Subiaco Abbey, states: “While all deplored the damage done, some felt that the fire was a visitation from God. Perhaps the monastery was getting too modern, too worldly, and this disaster was sent to bring the monks back to their senses and their vocation. The traumatic experience enabled the community to rethink and to rebuild for the future. It ushered in an era of mutual cooperation and cohesiveness unique in the history of Subiaco Abbey.”



Looking north at the destroyed north wing, where the fire began

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Upcoming Retreats and Events at Coury House

February

- 2-4 Diocesan Knights of Columbus
- 4-9 Connected in Christ
- 9-11 Marriage Encounter Retreat
- 16-18 Diocesan Council Black Catholics
- 22-25 Tulsa Confraternity of Christian Mothers
- 26-Mar 2 Connected in Christ

March

- 2-4 Men's Retreat – Coach Norm Debriyn, Director
- 9-11 Deaconate Retreat, Diocese of Tulsa
- 12-16 Connected in Christ
- 16-18 Academy Parents' Weekend & Carnival
St. James Episcopal
- 23 Discovery Day – Academy
- 23-25 First Baptist Church, Fort Smith, Retreat
- 30-Apr. 1 Lenten Retreat, Abbot Jerome Kodell, Director

April

- 5-8 Easter Triduum (Guests welcome to join Monastic Community)
- 20-22 Oblate Retreat
- 27-29 Serra Club Retreat
- 29-May 2 Stephen Ministerial Retreat, Bella Vista

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

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