

The Abbey Message

Subiaco Abbey

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Winter 2012

The Inside Message

2

Abbot's Message

Icons

3

Abbey Journal

Habanero Pepper Sauce

7

The Academy

Fall Renaissance Day

10

Alumni News

Where are they now?

14

Development
Memorial Program

Fit for the future

by Rose Schneider, R.N., and Fr. Mark Stengel, OSB

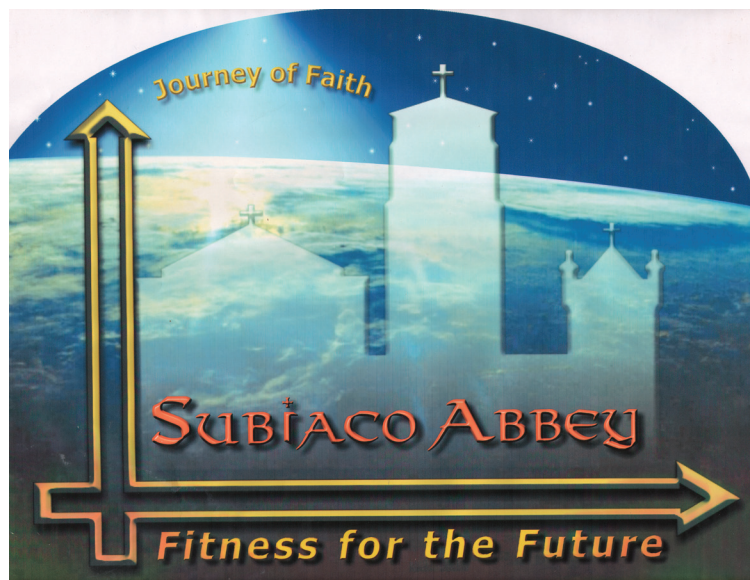
The logo for the Subiaco Wellness Program seems appropriate for the Advent season. Advent is a time for looking forward with hope. The darkness comes earlier and stays later. Yet we know and trust the cycles of nature. Light will return; we must only persevere for a season until the tilted earth begins to face the sun more squarely once again. The logo's two arrows point upwards and onwards, supporting the silhouetted Abbey in those two directions. The background appears dark and inchoate. On the horizon of this chaos a bright light shines, marking the path for a "Journey of Faith."

We make this journey as united beings of body and spirit. A body without a spirit is dead—no further journeying. A spirit without a body may exist in the celestial realm, but not here below. Therefore the care of the body really is an aspect of our journey of faith; it is not something frivolous or optional.

With this in mind, the Subiaco Wellness Program, begun in 1993, has tried to provide "fitness for the future"—for each person's earthly future, and looking beyond to the heavenly future. Recently, there have been major upgrades to the Health Care Center and the fitness center. Mrs. Rose Schneider, R.N., Director of the Subiaco Wellness Program, contributed to the following descriptions of these upgrades.

A new nurse call system, Provider 680, has been installed in the monastic health care center. With this new system, a patient call button connects directly with their primary caregiver, by means of a pocket pager worn by the caregiver. The caregiver might answer

*The Logo for the
Subiaco Abbey Fitness
Center was created by
Academy art teacher
Bill Wright.*



a patient's question, go directly to assist the patient, or relay the patient's needs to another team member. This system eliminates the obtrusive overhead paging and also the need for the caregiver to go to the central nursing station to receive or relay information. Calls are answered quickly, and the health center remains quiet, free of the beeps, buzzes, flashing lights, and loud calls as a caregiver is sought. This system also allows monks to continue living in their monastic cells even after occasional assistance is needed. A call on this wireless system allows monks direct contact with the nurses' station. Another feature benefits the wandering or disoriented patient. The patient at risk wears a transmitter on his clothing. Its frequency automatically locks an exit door as the patient approaches the door, and also alerts the staff. The nurse on duty can then assess the patient's need, and cancel the locking signal by use of a keypad at each door. All other patients, visitors, and staff are free to come and go normally. Only those who need to be monitored are affected.

The new fitness center is now open in its location across from the health center. This area had housed computer classrooms, the Academy nurse's office, and the Periscope and yearbook workspace. When these functions moved to the renovated Academy library, the space became available. At the same time, it became clear that the former 4th and 5th floor fitness center would have to be moved, since the elevator to those areas was going out of service permanently. Moving the fitness center was much more economical than installing a new elevator. The Abbey and Academy maintenance department did the renovation over the summer, and the new facility opened for business several weeks before the elevator was decommissioned.

The classroom floor tile was removed and the original hardwood floors re-sealed and finished. The various exercise machines—treadmills, elliptical machines, etc. are located along the south wall on heavy duty rubber mats. The large Apollo 5 multi-station exerciser dominates the center of the room, with the free weights and stationary bicycles to the west. The remaining open area provides space for personal floor exercise mats, and a rail along the east wall accommodates stretching and mobility work. The large mirror behind the rail allows one to see and improve on technique and posture. It also visually doubles the room space, giving a large open feel to the room.

The facility is open to the entire Subiaco staff, and is in use most of the time. Nurse Rose says the elder monks living nearby find it easy and convenient for their exercise. A certified trainer, Jimmy Morris, comes in now and then to assist in setting up training and exercise regimens.

Now there is no excuse. Everything needed for body, mind, and spirit is right here, ready and waiting. We only have to "do now what will profit us forever" as St. Benedict urges in the prologue of the Rule. The journey onwards and upwards, the journey of faith, will be easier if we remain "fit for the future."



The Mysterious Beauty of Icons

Those of us who have grown up in the Church of the West find ourselves fascinated by the religious icons of the East, but often also frustrated by them. Why are they so flat and stylized? Why aren't they more realistic? The casual observer might even say they look so much alike that if you've seen one you've seen them all.

It should be no surprise that the Christians of the East have problems from the other side with our statues and religious paintings. Icons and statues are trying to do different things.

Icons (the word comes from the Greek for image) are not meant to be portraits in the sense of giving an accurate representation of a human figure or reality. St. John Damascene (676-749), the great defender of the making of icons during the controversies of the eighth century, spoke of icons as "thresholds" into the reality behind the image. Under the influence of his writings the Second Council of Nicaea (787) explained the icon as a way of leading the gaze through a shadow of glory into a union with the reality beyond. Creating or "writing" an icon is a spiritual experience. Some say that the spiritual preparation is even more important than the artistic. The artist wants to leave an impression of the glory that has been experienced in prayer beyond that threshold, so that the icon may be for the viewer a door into an eternal mystery.

Icons are stylized because they are not seeking a kind of photographic realism which changes from subject to subject. An eternal truth is being revealed through the lines and colors of the icon, which follow an accepted set of rules developed over time. We are not to "view" an icon so much as to come into its presence as to an opening into the presence of God. Only a person of faith is able to write an icon, and only a person of faith is able to experience one. Rather than absorbing the image of



Br. Louis working out while Theresa assists



the icon intellectually, our purpose is to make ourselves available to be acted on by the divine reality on the other side of the threshold.

One of the great discoveries of art in the Middle Ages was the method of showing depth in which the lines converge in a vanishing point in the painting. In icons the lines of perspective are in the opposite direction so that they converge in front of the icon, toward the viewer. The viewer cannot enter with his eyes inside the icon, beyond the image; the sacred presence cannot be invaded or captured, but only offered to be experienced. The reverse perspective presents an opening, a radiating forth. Viewing an icon in faith is not the static viewing of a beautiful painting. We are not two completely distinct entities, one viewing and the other being viewed as in the art we are accustomed to. In approaching an icon with faith in the reality it embodies, a relationship is set up between the icon and the believer.

Because of this sense of reserve in presenting holy images, iconic art does not permit the production of freestanding statues, in which the viewer may see the image from all sides, in a sense controlling it and decoding the mystery. The only three-dimensional representation is in the form of strictly defined and limited bas-relief.

Icons have been called “theology in imagery,” because the icon expresses through forms and colors hallowed by Church tradition what the Scriptures proclaim in words. There is a similarity here with the role of stained glass windows in the great medieval cathedrals, which were called the “Bible of the Poor,” because those who could not read could enter visually into the world of the Bible and learn the truths of the faith. Both forms of art intend that the viewer not stop once intellectual curiosity has been satisfied, but take the further step of entering with faith into the reality that is being depicted.

Years ago Soviet art historians discovered a particularly beautiful and precious icon in a poor woman’s hut. They tried to convince her to give it them for their museum, where thousands of people would be able to see its beauty. “An icon is not to be seen but to be prayed with,” she said; “It has nothing to do with a museum.”

Abbot Jeronim Kodell, OSB

Abbey Journal

by Fr. Mark Stengel, OSB

September

After a brutal July and August, my calendar note on September 4 reads: “Cool front moving in; high of 79°, low of 50°.” And the entire week is labeled “Cool and nice. What a relief!” Haymaking started up again after a lengthy hiatus due to desertification of the hay meadows. No sand dunes threatened, but memories of “dust bowl” days began creeping into conversations. The big rain of early August had saved us, and now, in September, life once again flourished. Tomatoes, beans, and peppers finally began blooming and setting fruit again. Watering had kept them alive during the drought, but it was a sterile existence. The question now is: “Will this late fruiting have enough time to mature?” The stock of Monk Sauce is nearly depleted—which is a good thing—but we need peppers now to replenish supplies. An additional threat to the pepper crop was the die-off of many plants, due, incredibly, to too much water! Fr. Richard had opened up a new area for pepper production. He soon discovered that the underlying clay would not allow water to percolate through the soil. Pepper plants do not like “wet feet,” and responded to the August rain by promptly dying. More on the outcome of all this later.

The entire Subiaco community—monks, students, administration, faculty, employees of all departments—gathered in the inner court at 10:00 a.m. September 8 for a group picture. There were no rigid divisions, so all these “stakeholders” mingled and mixed according to inclination. Photographers from several angles and elevations recorded the scene, as the crowd responded to directions: “Look this way.” “Now this

“The Second Council of Nicaea (787) explained the icon as a way of leading the gaze through a shadow of glory into union with the reality beyond.”



Candidate Huy Do (front) and Novice Richard Udouj picking Habanero peppers



The Subiaco community - 2011

cabin on Lake Dardanelle. The weather cooperated with a beautiful day, allowing pleasant boat excursions, and comfortable gabfests on the porch and under the trees. The horseshoe competition was fierce, with much partisan cheering and booing. But in the end, the dynamic duo of Abbot Jerome and Juanita Martin again came through in the clutch. Their path to glory featured amazing comebacks and astounding reversals.

October

Frontier Day at nearby Paris features pioneer costumes, hay bale tossing, log sawing contests, turtle races, and selection of a frontier princess. A few monks attended, and Fr. Mark assisted in a booth selling raffle tickets to support a community Christmas project for poor children. A hidden talent as a carnival barker surfaced, as it became apparent that a passive approach wasn't getting the job done.

A massive pile of brush, furniture, carpeting and other debris promised an impressive bonfire, a fixture of the Homecoming Week festivities. The maintenance crew set up caution tape perimeters, and Br. Anselm had the Abbey fire truck ready to roll. Several dry weeks preceded the scheduled burn, and the day's gusty wind caused the cancellation of the bonfire. After a weekend rain, the pile was burned the following week. This allowed the second-last step, begun in July, to dispose of the old dormitory chairs. Their plastic and wooden seats and backs were burned away from the metal frames. Next, dragged from the ashes, they were hauled to the scrap iron pile, where this tangled mass awaits transport to the metal recycler.

The Junior Monks are now in Diaspora mode. Their fourth floor quarters are presently under renovation. The residents are dispersed among the elders wherever space could be found. Novicemaster Fr. Richard had to move too, and it was noted that he wisely kept the two novices near their Master. The young monks spent several days removing walls and hauling debris out of the juniorate area. This involved heavy-duty sledgehammer demolition, so any frustration or tension surely has been dissipated. We monks do have outlets for negative energy. Sometimes the cursing psalms (Cf. 58, 109) come just when needed. Years ago, Fr. Gregory, vigorously uprooting weeds in the South Park garden, accompanied each extraction with an imprecation against heresy.

Another "*opus manuum*" project given to the Juniors was the construction of a greenhouse just south of the fire truck garage. Parabolic arches of steel pipe support a plastic roof and walls. The idea is to grow some peppers year round, and to have young pepper plants ready to go early in the spring. Some transplanted peppers are already basking in tropical warmth.

Monday, October 10, was "Benefactors Day." This day allows us to pray and socialize with many Subiaco benefactors. But the way they kept thanking us, you would think that the relationship was reversed. It's a good sign when benefactors think that we are doing them a favor. Abbot Jerome told the large

way." "Turn to the west and point to the bell tower." The resulting photos will be seen in the Academy yearbook and in the Abbey calendar.

As the Fall issue of TAM reported, the grape harvest was very good. We did not realize just how good, until the announcement, at the September Abbot's Council meeting, that an additional "wine day" each week would be added. St. Benedict grants the concession of a daily wine ration for his monks (Cf. RB 40), but cautions that, "if local circumstances dictate a lesser amount or none at all, those who live there should bless God and not grumble." Traditionally, our own local circumstances have meant three weekdays with wine, three without. Some years ago, good grape crops had allowed an additional "wine day." Then lean harvests had taken that day away. Now the fatness of the land again provides. God is good.

The month ended with the community outing to the



The greenhouse under construction



Benefactors at Mass with monks, students and the entire Subiaco community

group at Mass “This is your monastery.” He often reminds us monks that a monastery does not exist solely for the sake of the monks, but it exists for the Church and for the world.

The operating license for the south tower elevator expired at the end of the month. The chief elevator inspector of Arkansas ordered it taken permanently out of service. So ends a long and jerky career with neither a bang nor a whimper. This elevator runs through the third floor student dormitory area, and so became an “emergency” exit or re-entry route when legal avenues could not be used. If only the walls could talk, there would be stories of intrigue, desperation, and suspense. There was definitely an adrenalin rush when the elevator car unexpectedly stopped at an intervening floor during an illicit escape.

The imminent loss of the elevator precipitated the relocation of the fitness center to the first floor, just across from the Health Center. By the end of the month, the maintenance staff had transformed the area into a state-of-the-art fitness facility. This issue’s front page story gives further details.

November

This year the date for “falling back” into Central Standard Time did not come until November 6. As a result, the All Souls Day cemetery procession occurred in full daylight and shirtsleeve warmth. The vigil candles placed on each of the 170 tombstones show up better as the darkness deepens. Many monks and visitors returned to the cemetery after supper to pray in the flickering light, a symbol of these lives spent in service, and who pray for us still.

The dry and warm weather in October allowed the last of the hay to mature and the pasture grass to grow. We needed an extended growing season to delay using the hay, since we are short. By mid-month, we had received nearly seven inches of rain, spread out in one-inch increments, so that there was little runoff. The lakes, about five feet low, had risen only seven inches. When the forest is really dry, it takes at least six inches of rain just to get everything saturated. Then, and only then, will there be significant runoff. Well, we got an old-fashioned “gully washer” of 3.56” the night of November 21. By late morning the next day, water began gushing over the spillway. Fresh water for 2012 is assured.

Back to the pepper plantation. Fr. Richard and Fr. Bruno began comparing notes about weather prospects, and checking pepper plants for frost damage as nighttime temperatures dropped. The goal was to harvest as many peppers as possible before a freeze ruined them. The novices and candidates endured the traditional test of resolve by doing the harvesting, real “stoop” labor. And finally, just ahead of the first freeze, the bushes were uprooted and spread out in a vacant shed, giving the last of the nearly-ripe fruit a few more days to concentrate their heat. The supply of Monk Sauce for 2012 is also “in the barn.”

Jacob Carey and kitchen staff outdid themselves again for Thanksgiving. He and Janet Robinson set up carving stations at the head of the line, dispensing cuts to order of turkey or ham. The dessert table featured pumpkin, sweet potato/pecan, and mincemeat pies, chocolate cake and ice cream. Brother Matthias’ father, Tom Hagge, asked “Where do I sign up? I want to join.” The mostly foreign students who shared the feast quickly overcame any awe, and demonstrated the ability of a true Trojan to acquit himself well in any situation. Just before Thanksgiving, a note from the Health Center advised: “Working out on the equipment and seeing how long it takes to use up calories, will help prepare you for the holidays and remind you to keep your eating under control.” Now there’s a Grinch trying to steal Thanksgiving too!

The Villa, formerly known as the Sisters House, needs extensive renovation. When estimates of the cost came in, we monks blanched and began asking “Why not just tear it down?” This idea was adopted, and during November, Greg Timmerman, Dean of Men, and his family began moving out. The Villa now stands empty and will be razed sometime in the coming year. Providentially, a windfall donation enabled the Abbey to purchase another house near campus for the Timmerman family.



The villa on a recent foggy morning

Abbot Jerome gave an Advent conference on November 30, with the title “Celibate Because of the Kingdom.” He acknowledged that this might not seem an Advent title. But Advent looks for a coming, and tries to hasten it. Abbot Jerome explained that our celibacy is not chosen by us so as to be fit for the Kingdom. Rather, an experience of the Kingdom has so seized us that all our attention and energy is consumed by it. We are pushed from behind by an experience, not drawn forward by an idea. May we all, married or celibate, experience the glory of God shining on the face of Christ, so that our lives are transformed into signs of the Kingdom—God’s love present and incarnate.

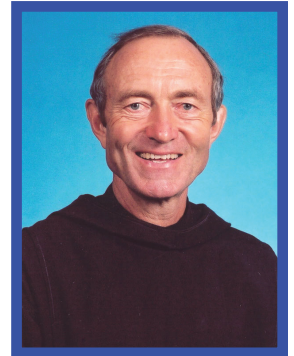
The arduous good

The Autumn 2011 Notre Dame Magazine contained the article “An Epilogue for Neil.” Neil Hyland was killed in the Pentagon building struck by the terrorist plane on 9/11. The epilogue characterized Neil as a “playful soul,” always ready with an improvisation and a drink. The author recalls that a tragic death of a mutual friend jolted Neil to seriousness, an awareness that “we had both been putting off the arduous task of ‘putting on the new man in God’s image’” as St. Paul urges in the letter to the Ephesians. However, Neil retained his infectious joy to the end. The author comments: “If our earthly existence is absorbed in the task of attaining the arduous good, then it should be tempered with conviviality, mirth.”

“Tempered” is the key word, I think. Tempered steel, according to Webster, has been “treated so as to have the desired degree of hardness and elasticity.” That is, neither brittle in its hardness, nor flaccid in its elasticity. Remaining weak and flaccid is easy—the path of least resistance. Becoming strong and good requires asceticism, virtue, exercise, all of which we experience as arduous tasks. But we are attracted to and desire the good, the more difficult, the higher. The Marines know this when they advertise for “a few good men.” Recruits accept that the path will be arduous. We Christians cannot excuse a weak conformity with the words “I’m only human.” No! We are called, empowered, and accompanied along the way to the arduous good of transformation into Christ.

Physical exercise is hard, but can be an important part of a journey of faith. Spiritual exercise, such as seeking the reality behind an icon’s portal, is not easy, but can reveal the truth and the good that we seek. We exercise, not to become rigid and self-righteous, but to become tempered steel. St. Paul describes the desired result of all our striving as becoming “strong, loving, and wise.” (2 Timothy 1: 7)

Fr. Mark Stenzel



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



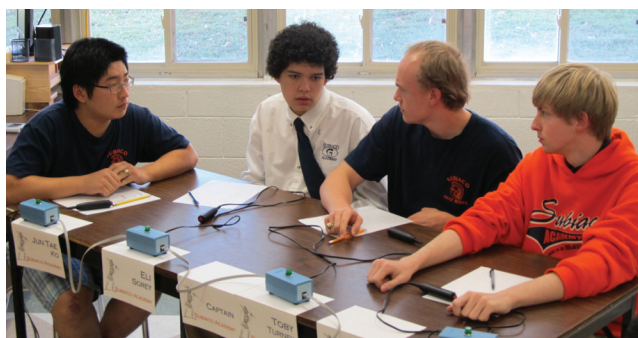
Fall Renaissance Day

Hiking on Mt. Magazine proved to be an abbreviated November 8 Renaissance Day activity due to rain and tornado warnings. The Lost Valley hike and a morning at the Lake Dardanelle cabin were enjoyed despite the inclement weather. Indoor activities, e.g. baking cookies, classic films, Cajun cooking, board games, ice skating at the Jones Center in northwest Arkansas, Frisbee golf, touring the Clinton Presidential Library, and calligraphy were welcome change-of-pace educational experiences.

Br. Ephrem showing calligraphy techniques



Quiz Bowl victories



Senior High Quiz Bowl team (above) and Junior High Quiz Bowl team (to the right)

Subiaco Academy was the runner-up in the State Quiz Bowl competition in an April 2011 televised tournament. Several members of that team return for the 2011-2012 season. The Subiaco Senior High Quiz Bowl team continued its winning tradition, overwhelm-



ing Scranton in the opening match of the season on October 12. The senior high team had victories also over Clarksville and Booneville.

The Academy Junior High quiz bowl team had victories over Scranton, Clarksville and Lavaca.

National Honor Society induction

The Subiaco Chapter of the National Honor Society held its induction ceremony on Friday, November 11. The following were installed as officers: President Eli Sorey; Vice President Greg Kelley; Secretary Toby Turney; Treasurer Nick Timmerman, Historian Jeyoung Yoo; and Public Relations Officer Homer Brooks.

The following students were inducted into membership in the Honor Society: Riley Hurd, Abe Vierthaler, Jun-Tae Ko, Ross Dies, Haneul Hong, Pengzi Zhou, Kun (Leon) Fang, Jody Chauvin, Josef Camacho, Daniel Mora, Patrick Leavey, Seok Young Kim, A.J. Winterberg, Tae Han (Robert) Kim, Eric Siebenmorgen, Mason Goodson, Tony Schniederjan, Daniel Heinrichs, and Daniel Dunham.



Jazz Ensemble performs for 1,000+

The Subiaco Jazz Ensemble entertained 1,000 plus Catholic School students and their teachers in an October 18 event at the Ft. Smith Convention Center. Students from Trinity Junior High, St. Boniface School, Christ the King School, Immaculate Conception School, and St. Joseph School (Paris) obviously enjoyed the lively performance directed by Deacon Roy Goetz.



Jazz Ensemble performing at Ft. Smith

Cross Country



Subiaco Academy's cross country team earned the runner-up spot in the District 4AAAA tournament at Pottsville on October 18, 2011. Two seniors Joe Chanoine and Ross Dies led the way for the Trojan squad.

Outstanding Educator



Chandra Rush was presented the 2011-2012 Outstanding Educator Award by Headmaster Rob Loia at the Teacher Appreciation Reception on October 6, 2011.

Career Day 2011

Four panelists at the annual Career Day on November 1, 2011, emphasized the importance of written and oral communication skills in all careers. Students were encouraged to improve their writing and speaking ability while in high school in order to be able to explain ideas, but also to sell themselves and ideas.

Each speaker also noted that background checks, uncovering past bad decisions and even outrageous comments on Facebook, frequently close the door on opportunities in many career paths. Lt. Col. John McCurdy, 1981 Subiaco alumnus and presently director of remotely piloted aircraft and unmanned aerial systems at the United States Air Force Academy, enthusiastically described the many benefits of attendance

at one of the military academies. Bill Hollenbeck, Sheriff of Sebastian County, related unusual experiences in law enforcement, especially as leader of a SWAT team. Subiaco 1973 alumnus Dennis Plafcan, IT Director for a Memphis medical software company, explained his career path from rice farming, to construction, and finally to information technology. David Lensing, a 1964 Subiaco alumnus, noted the challenges and opportunities of a career in investment banking.



l. to r. Lensing, McCurdy, Hollenbeck, Plafcan

Live feed

Greg Timmerman, our Dean of Men and Golf Coach, offered play-by-play live feed commentary November 29, 2011, via internet of our basketball games against Northside. Coach Robert Pugh, our Guidance Counselor and Track & Field Coach, offered color commentary. Thanks to a generous donation from the Taliaferro family in memory of Woody Taliaferro whose two sons graduated from Subi (Norman, Class of 2002, and Elliott, Class of 2003), events on campus can be viewed online and at no cost to viewers. While we have had live feed before, this is the first time for live play-by-play commentary of our sports via streaming online throughout the world. This new endeavor should prove exciting for our basketball season, a great benefit to our alumni and those parents unable to attend games here, and provide our students with a touch of sports journalism and its use of streaming video.

To view the Northside contest, archived videos, and future broadcasts of home basketball, soccer, and baseball games, and some musical productions, drama productions, and other events, click on <http://www.ihigh.com/subiaco>.

With the addition of audio, according to our viewers, this first game with play-by-play and color commentary came alive for people at home.

The entire video crew is seen in the photo at right.

Back row L to R: Br. John Paul, Coach Tencleve, Headmaster Rob Loia, Frank Taylor, Stelvio Alexandrino, Homer Brooks, Wesley Timmerman, Dylan Ford.

Front row: Robert Pugh & Greg Timmerman.





Where are they now?

Ken Osborne '61 visited campus in September with his son. Ken is an IT consultant for the U.S. Navy in California.

Jacob Didion '08 received the Mr. Lyon College Award at the annual President's Convocation on September 6 at Lyon College in Batesville, AR. Jacob is the Student Government & Student Body President.

Ed Schad '07 is living in Los Angeles and working as an assistant curator at The Broad Art Foundation, run by philanthropist Eli Broad. They specialize in the acquisition and display of contemporary art all over the world. He is basically a talent scout for artists and spends most of his time doing studio and gallery visits, writing articles about art for various magazines, and working on a new museum that the foundation is building on Downtown Los Angeles, a project to be completed in 2013.

Gerald Sacra '38 recalled recently that he had been a counselor and lifeguard for the first few years of Camp Subiaco. Gerald first knew Father Camillus as a youth athletic participant in one of those early days of camp.

Patrick Weigant '11 is playing rugby for the University of Oklahoma.

The traveling **Dr. Urban Terbieten '43** has reported in from Mexico, Sweden and Turkey.



l to r; Br. Edward, Drew & Wendy Daniel

Drew Daniel '76 visited the campus in late November with his wife, Wendy. Drew is traveling/working for a Florida marketing company and left an artifact for Br. Edward's collection.

Jeff Gray '85 moved his family to California over Thanksgiving. He is now working for Oakwood Worldwide, the leader in temporary and corporate housing. Jeff's specialty is guiding companies through transformational times, and with all the upheaval in the housing industry, this should be a good fit.

Taylor Johns '11 was nominated for High Point University's Extraordinary Leaders Award for October.

Ralph Duda's '03 and Jeston George's '95 Business As Solutions Group was named Sherwood, Arkansas', Business of the Month.

Ross James '05 visited with teachers and monks at Subiaco in late September. He has been teaching English for the past two years in Wuhan, China, under the auspices of Hubei University. Ross hopes to earn a graduate degree in the U.S. before returning to coach basketball in China.

Jim Ringley '81 recalls Spanish III when he and **Spencer Scarbrough '81** were the only students in the class with Fr. Eugene. Jim majored in Spanish in college and Spencer went on to become a Spanish teacher.

Ringley's two children are now in a dual-immersion elementary school, where one-half of the classes are in English and the other half are in Spanish. This summer the family traveled to Oaxaca, Mexico, to study contemporary Spanish at the Academia Vinigulaza for two weeks.

Buck Butler '08 will graduate from Creighton University in December with a dual major in Finance and Entrepreneurial Management. He is currently doing a paid internship with Lozier, in which they have extended his time because of his work ethic. After he graduates in December, he will do a project in New York with the New York Stock Exchange.

Lindell Montgomery '53 received the St. Louis University Technology Alumni Merit Award for the year on September 24, 2011. Lindell and his wife Trinie are active in their Houston parish. He helped found, and continues to support, La Arca Orphanage in Talgar, Kazakhstan.

Robert Napper '83 celebrated his twentieth wedding anniversary with the family in London and Rome. Robert works with HKS Architects, based in Dallas, where he has worked on the \$8 billion City Center Las Vegas project, and is currently working on a hotel for the Country Music Hall of Fame in Nashville.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Academy Carnival: March 10, 2012

Alumni Reunion: June 1-3, 2012

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

George Lensing '95 visited with a number of alumni in the Seattle, WA, area. Among them was **Dan Geels '54** who is retired and living in Bothell, WA. He also spent time with Coach Chris Carlisle, who is now the strength coach for the Seattle Seahawks, and his family. Chris has agreed to be the speaker for our senior banquet this spring.

Sam and Karen Brindley '75 are retired and living in Indianola, WA.

Craig Oliver '68 is living in Lacey, WA, and owns Hartley Jewelry Store in Lacey.

As of November 16th, **Major Paul Frederick '86** is Lt. Colonel. Paul and his family are now stationed in Ft. Leavenworth, KS.

John McDonald '81 is an attorney in Seattle. He once thought he would be an actor and ended up in law. Probably not a bad background.

Mark Eskridge '95 lives on Mercer Island, WA, where he is the managing broker for John L. Scott Real Estate.

Carl McIver '84 is living in Seattle and works for Boeing as a Technical Analyst. Carl has offered to do a Skype presentation for the science department at the Academy.

Obituaries

Edward Anton Schneider '44 died on November 14, 2011, in Muenster, TX.

He began employment with Cooke County Electric Cooperative in 1945 and continued there until his retirement in 1991. Edward was a member of Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Knights of Columbus and member of the St. Joseph Society. He served as Scoutmaster of troop 664, Fire Chief of the Muenster Volunteer Fire Department, and received the Distinguished Service Award from the Muenster Jaycees.

Survivors include his wife, Virginia Schneider; sons, Donald, John and Tim; daughters, Pam McDonald, Deb Klement, Sandi Harding and Wanda Cloud; 19 grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren; sisters, Louise Eckart and Eva Strobel.

Alphonse Vogel '39 of Houston, passed away on November 6, 2011.

He is survived by his daughter Gloria Ann Vogel Petzold; sons, Wayne Edward and Gerald Neal Vogel; daughter-in-law Sanjuana Aguilera Vogel; brothers, Joseph, Alois, Theodore, Lawrence, Raymond and Emil; and sister Ludwina Vogel.

Alfred Adams '49 of Memphis, TN, died November 14, 2011.

Thomas Borengasser '67 of Ft. Smith died November 28, 2011. He received his electrical engineering degree from the University of Arkansas. He was a Vietnam War veteran and a member of Immaculate Conception Catholic Church.

He is survived by a daughter, Tori Borengasser; his parents, Edward and Margaret Borengasser; five sisters, Sandra Alhert, Joan Guthrie, Susan Gamble, Celeste Smith and Barbara Carter; and two brothers, Nicholas and Douglas Borengasser.

Charlie Kenneth Herr '58 died in Rancho Mirage, California, September 2, 2011.

Charlie attended Texas Tech University and graduated from the Pharmacy School at Southwestern State College in Weatherford, Oklahoma. After serving in the U.S. Air Force he entered the practice of pharmacy. He owned and operated pharmacies over the years, some on his own and some in partnership with others.

He is survived by his wife, Cheryl Fowler Herr; a daughter Courtney Donnelly; one grandson Jackson James Donnelly; two brothers, Ronnie and Tom; and sister Joanie Price.

Norbert Adams '49 passed away November 24, 2011, in Charleston, AR.

He was a retired insurance agent and a farmer. He was an Army veteran of the Korean War, member of the Knights of Columbus and a member of Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Charleston.

He is survived by his wife, Dorothy; daughter Donna Haaser; son Tim Kiene; sister Hilda Poe; six grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

William Joseph "Bill" Burdick '56 of Hemphill, Texas, passed away November 26, 2011, in Houston, Texas.

Bill graduated from San Jacinto Junior College and then served in the U.S. Navy from 1958-1962. He worked for Exxon Pipeline Company for 28 years. He was an avid hunter and fisherman and a lifelong Astros fan.

He is survived by his wife of 48 years, Betty Rowe Burdick; their three children, Beth Staner, Brian Burdick and Brenda Cannella; nine grandchildren; his brother, Cecil Burdick; and his sister, Edith Ann Goodwin.

Eugene Hart III '51 of Bartlett, TN, died August 31, 2011.



Bill Burdick

Why Subiaco

The article below was written by John Walter '57 at the time of his becoming an Oblate of St. Benedict, to give insight into his life. It has been shortened due to space restraints. John passed away August 16, 2010. Don Berend '57

by John Walter

I was destined to attend Subiaco. I grew up hearing names like Subiaco, Father Christopher, George Coury and Oskar Rust. They were all very real to me as they were so real to my father. He was a true Subiaco man. He was always proud to have graduated from Subiaco and proud of the high quality of young men he had associated with while he was there. The friendships made would last a lifetime. Besides, the high school education available to me in Gainesville, Texas, when it was time to attend, was decidedly inferior to that offered by Subiaco. So Subiaco it was and what a good choice!

When I look at what Subiaco taught me, I don't weigh the great classroom teaching or the well-rounded grouping of courses I took. I look rather at the after class instructions I received from the monastic community and my own classmates. The art of getting along with others, learning about values in your decision making, the art of giving and receiving, the positive force of cooperation and the love and respect of fellow man. The names of Rust and Coury have remained sacred to me, but in many ways replaced by other sacred names such as Lisko, Uhiren, Berend, Fredrich, Wewers and others too many to mention. They are Subiaco friends I see some 41 years later and pick up immediately on the old friendship based on trust and our common life under the tutelage of the "Blackrobes."

I have enjoyed a successful life, if you measure it in a business sense. I have held executive positions with 3 major international oil companies. I founded my own company and grew it to success only to watch others plunder it with their greed. Did Subiaco help me in these endeavors? Yes! Subiaco taught me perseverance- that if you want something you must work for it. The world owes you nothing but it is there for the effort. When I attended college, I found I was much better prepared than many classmates in study habits and organizational skills. In the business world these virtues stood by me plus I had a standard of comparison-a standard of values to compare decisions against. You would be surprised to learn that most people out there in that jungle we call the

"business world" have no idea of values and conduct themselves accordingly, like a hyena feasting on the spoils.

I am nearing the end of my successful working days now, so title and position aren't really important. As my father had taught me, when you are older all you really have is your integrity and your friends. In this I have been successful and feel good inside about it. Again, these lessons were learned at Subiaco but not necessarily in the classroom, but from teachers and friends after class was over.

Do I have any regrets about my Subiaco experience? Yes I do! In recent years, I regret I did not appreciate the beauty of the monastic life I was exposed to daily; the call to prayers, the chanting and the whole purpose of monastic life-a hoped for complete surrender to God's will. Why didn't I see and feel this beauty that surrounded me at Subiaco at all times? Maybe I was too young and dumb! Then again, maybe some learning does happen by osmosis.

"Band of Brothers"

An academy aspiring to greatness must have a core group of supporters whose mission is to help them attain their highest potential. At Subiaco Academy, we are the "Band of Brothers." As you know, the true cost of a Benedictine education is much greater than what is charged for tuition. Alumni in the "Band of Brothers" help make a quality, Catholic education affordable to all. This financial support is essential to meet recurring operating expenses such as curriculum development, faculty compensation, and technological upgrades.

• 25/50/100 Program

Every gift counts. Gifts of any amount demonstrate confidence in Subiaco's Benedictine education and care for the entire school community. As a member of the "Band of Brothers," you may give a one-time gift of any amount.

Monthly gifts of \$25, \$50, or \$100 may be set-up via Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT). This program offers an opportunity to give more than one can afford at one time and spread it out over a year. For example, \$25/month=\$300/year.

• Recognition

The "Band of Brothers" Alumni Program gives us an opportunity to recognize an alumnus' annual contribution to the Academy. In addition the monks pray for all alumni each day, as well as all Subiaco Abbey and Academy supporters, which gives another opportunity for the Subiaco family to stay connected.

\$300-599/year	Orange Level
\$600-1199/year	Blue Level
\$1200-2399/year	Trojan Level
\$2400-5999/year	STP Level
\$6000 or more/year	Coury Cup Level

George Lensing, Alumni Development Coordinator

Office: 479-934-1001

Cell: 479-438-3360

Email: glensing@subi.org



Development Director's Message

As many Catholics do, I regularly read our diocesan paper, *The Arkansas Catholic*. A syndicated column by Effie Caldarola in the October 8, 2011, issue caught my attention and gave me reason to think. She recounts a story of a missionary visiting her parish to raise money for his South African missions. During the Sunday Mass the visitor announced to the congregation, "I have good news and bad news... The good news is we have all the money we need [to continue our mission work]. The bad news is it's still in your pockets and purses."

What the column does not say is how many folks left in anger. As an unstated rule, Catholics do not like to be asked for money. How many times have we heard other Catholics say, "I used to belong to St. (insert parish) but all Fr. (insert pastor) talks about is money?" We give what we can, when we can, thank you very much. Often, though, we give latitude to a visiting missionary because they do not visit very often, only once or twice a year. Also, mission work for many of us is awe-inspiring and we feel obligated to help. Keeping the lights on at the parish is boring, someone else's job.

Ms. Caldarola relates another story of a deacon who was once asked, "How do we know how much to give? His answer was a good one for any one of us: 'Give more,' he replied." At the point I read that I almost threw down the paper... I have six children and work for a non-profit organization. I have many obligations. How could I possibly give more?!!

Personally, I can come up with many reasons why I cannot give more (or at all). But the truth is, if I do not, who will? If we all choose not to give, then, no one will help to keep the lights on at the parish (or the Abbey). At Subiaco we are extremely



fortunate to have so many generous people who become co-missionaries with us in our day-to-day work. One of the great blessings at Subiaco is that our work (mission) continues to grow. God has great plans for us to continue to grow our Academy, Courty House, and other apostolates for the benefit of the local and universal Catholic Church. Your continued and increasing support is one way we grow.

The key question the column asks is "What prevents us from giving more of ourselves, even to causes close to our hearts?" As the writer of this column reflects, "Sometimes I suffer from the 'someday I'll do something great' complex. The world's problems are huge. I need to write a big check. But wait, I'd better work this out in my charitable budget." Ms. Caldarola wraps up her column by stating, "Just give something. Give it now. Follow your heart, pray and just do it... leave the rest to God." I could not have written it any better.

Thank you for all that you do!

Steve Wilmes

NEW online store

www.subi.org

Featuring ONLY products produced by the monks of Subiaco Abbey:

Abbey Brittle

Monk Sauce

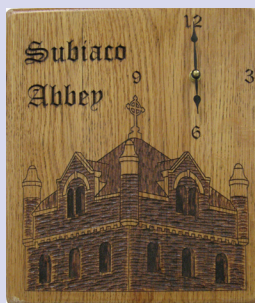
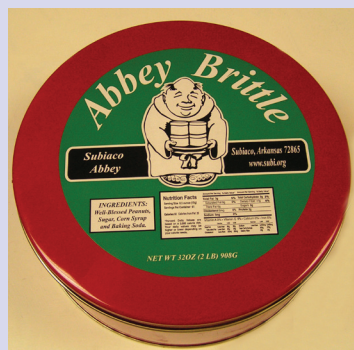
Books by Abbot Jerome and Fr. Hugh

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

Calligraphy by Br. Ephrem

Job's Tears rosaries by Fr. Richard

Corded rosaries by Novice Richard



Memorial/Tribute Program at Subiaco Abbey

There are times when everyone wants to do something with lasting spiritual meaning for his or her loved ones, whether they be living or deceased. Subiaco Abbey provides such a way. Loved ones can be remembered daily in the monks' Divine Office, prayers and during their daily Masses through the Memorial/Tribute Enrollment Program. The Abbey offers two types of memorials /tributes. Cards are sent to the family or friend of the deceased person that you specify or to a living person being honored. Occasions for living tributes include anniversaries, birthdays, Christmas or other special days.

For a donation of \$50.00, we will send a leather bound certificate with an in-laid, full color view of Subiaco Abbey taken from St. Peter's Chair, a rock outcropping high on the ridge southeast of the monastery.

This beautifully bound certificate (pictured) will be a lasting spiritual remembrance for the individual or the family.

Your enrollment gift of any amount made to the Benedictine Monks of Subiaco Abbey will help them continue the life and mission of Jesus Christ in education, parish ministry and retreat work.

To request a memorial or tribute, clip and fill in the coupon below and mail or go to <http://www.countrymonks.org/Memorials>



Some Recent Memorials

Honor/memorial

Alfred Adams

Rose Reith Bontemps
William J. Burdick
Howard Chiasson
Julie K. Comstock
John R. Dalton

Carmen Fowler
Albina F. France
William C. Grist

Donor

Mr. & Mrs. Dick Brummel
Rilla G. Griffin
Mr. & Mrs. Dick Jones
Helen Bontemps
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Bothwell
Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Talik
Mr. & Mrs. Henry Vogler, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. John LaBarge, Jr.
Mary Z. Hagan
Mary Ann Sarsfield
Mr. & Mrs. David A. Flake
Mr. & Mrs. Steven Pirani
Mr. & Mrs. Chris A. Hartwig
Mr. & Mrs. Robert E. Hartwig
Sharon Napier
Artie W. Parks
Lila Richardson

Honor/memorial

William C. Grist (cont.)

Jane Harrison
Clemens & Delores Hartman
Josie Hartman

Charlie Herr

Mary Cecilia Hester
Edward Ipser, Sr. Rural Rental Housing Association of TX
Abbot Jerome Kodell, OSB
Jerome Kremers
George & Opal Lensing
Mr. & Mrs. George Lensing
Stephen P. Liuzza

Donor

Joyce Trusty
Mr. & Mrs. Curtis McElhane
Patricia Edmonds
Mr. & Mrs. Henry Broach
Brigitte Brents
Mr. & Mrs. Clemens Hartman
Mr. & Mrs. Mark Hartman
Johnann Bezner
Mr. & Mrs. Monte Haverkamp
Cheryl Herr
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Bothwell
Mary Preziosi
Mr. & Mrs. Chuck Kremers
Connie Lensing
Connie Lensing
Mr. & Mrs. Jed Liuzza

Honor/memorial

Ann Lux

Mr. & Mrs. William Lux
Fr. Meinrad Marbaugh, OSB
John Moses
James Edward Nebbling
Margaret Newman
Amelia Paladino
Pearl L. Pierce

Donor

Mr. & Mrs. Donald F. Foster
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Blalock
Mary Edlhuber
J. Harry Feldman
Mr. & Mrs. Pete Kennemer
Mr. & Mrs. Gary Maley
Claude Meadors, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Anton M. Reith
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Sharum
Sandra Proctor Eaton
J. Harry Feldman
Mr. & Mrs. Leo Becker
Anne Phillips
Mr. & Mrs. James C. Troxler
Mr. & Mrs. Tom Siebenmorgen
Mr. & Mrs. Clemens Hartman
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Bothwell

To request a Memorial, clip, fill in coupon, and mail.

Enclosed is my memorial gift to continue the works of Subiaco Abbey \$ _____

My Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

In Memory of: _____ (Name) (or) In Honor Of: _____ (Name)

Commemorating: (Anniversary, Birthday, Special Occasion) _____

Send special card to: _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Mail to: Subiaco Abbey, 405 N. Subiaco Avenue, Subiaco, AR 72865-9798

The spirit of volunteerism

Throughout the calendar year, Subiaco Abbey and Academy is blessed to have many volunteers helping to make our work load lighter and brighter. From helping at Courty House on weekends to lending a hand with the Abbey Angus herd; ladies stuffing envelopes for a mailing or Knights of Columbus working with our maintenance department; helping with the peanut brittle operation or building fence, the Abbey grounds are often a buzz with activities from our various groups of generous volunteers.

On a recent day, a group of ladies who consistently help with our large mailings were finishing up for the day. One of our newest candidates commented "how happy the ladies are to be here working for us!" And he was right! These ladies enjoy spending time together and their spirit and enthusiasm always brings a little brightness to the Abbey.

Through our willingness to help others, we can learn to be happy rather than depressed. Our volunteers seem to find great happiness in helping the monks or lay staff of Subiaco and for that we are truly grateful. A favorite quote of one of the monks is "many hands make light work!" We tip our hats and extend our thanks and prayers for all who bless us with their time, talents and treasure at Subiaco.

That spirit and generosity are very much appreciated and can become contagious if we allow it.

The volunteer ladies hard at work stuffing the 2012 Abbey calendar



Fr. Richard along with two Abbey Brittle volunteers, Ron & Carol Blaschke



The gift that keeps on giving

Recently, Mrs. Benita Siebenmorgen of Scranton, AR, met with Abbot Jerome to discuss her interest in providing the Abbey with monthly income now and long into the future.

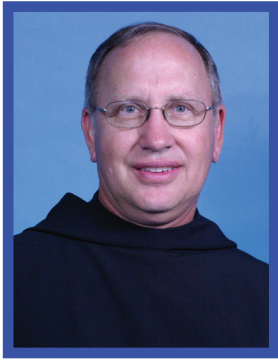
Mrs. Siebenmorgen and her husband Anthony, a 1950 Alumnus (deceased in 2005), raised eight children on a farm in the Arkansas River Valley between Scranton and Morrison Bluff. She has 24 grandchildren, two of which attend(ed) the Academy. Chris Siebenmorgen graduated in May 2011 and his brother, Eric, is currently in the 11th grade.

She and her husband were blessed to be able to give each year to the Abbey Annual Fund. Since her husband's passing, she continues to make her annual gifts in his memory. Because of her love for the monks and their work here, she arranged to make a perpetual gift. She has recently sold 44 acres of bottoms land that was purchased in 1963 and deeded the mineral rights to the Abbey. These mineral rights have provided her a monthly income and will now help to maintain her annual gifts well after her life on earth.

When she spoke with Abbot Jerome, it became clear she was interested in helping our monks who gave everything to continue the good works at Subiaco. We thank Mrs. Siebenmorgen for her generosity and continued interest to help the monks in their retirement.



Benita Siebenmorgen & Abbot Jerome



Can I get on your list? I don't want just any list. I want to get added to your personal list of New Year's resolutions. I know we are already a few days removed from New Year's, but I want to ask you to add me on there anyway!

You see, making New Year's resolutions has been a part of our American self-improvement culture for generations. Our resolutions usually seek to include things such as: become more organized, lose weight, save money, exercise more, take a trip, volunteer more, pray more, get a better job, call family more, or improve my education. All of these are certainly admirable and will go a long way towards bettering one's life. Still, isn't it true that most of our resolutions end up in the dust bins of our memory and good intentions?

A study was conducted in 2007 by the University of Bristol in the United Kingdom. Their researcher, Richard Wisemen, examined the success rate of New Year's resolutions and found that there was a failure rate of 78%. Can you believe it? 78% of the resolutions that people made for the New Year were never completed. If you're anything like me, then you would have to admit that the study was pretty much on the mark! Why, then, is it so hard to keep New Year's resolutions? When you dig deeper into that study and others, what you come to find is an interesting pattern of behavior that is necessary in order to succeed in a resolution.

Namely, in order for men to succeed it is important that they set very specific goals that are spaced out over time and very measurable. Instead of "I will pray more," they should resolve that "I will pray for five minutes every morning right after breakfast." Instead of "I will read more," they should resolve that "I will read one new book each week starting on Monday morning." For women, their success demonstrably improves when they publicly announce their goal to their friends and then seek those friends' support and accountability.

So, I want on your list! For the men reading this, I want you to resolve to complete at least one retreat at Subiaco Abbey by June of this year. It can be a private retreat by yourself, a retreat with your church sponsored group, a retreat with one of the groups already booked where they have open registration, or a private day of rest and reflection at the Abbey. For the women reading this, I want you to resolve to do the same, but let your friends know about your intention and ask them to remind you about it regularly. In fact, even consider getting a friend and coming on a retreat together. From my experience as Director of our Retreat Center, I can truly tell you that making a retreat can change your life for the better!

Over the next three months we have many individual days open for private retreats or private days of reflection. For groups already booked with us, we have three retreats in the upcoming months where you can still register. We have a "Serenity Retreat" that is sponsored by the AA group from Little Rock that will be held January 13-15. We have the second annual Charismatic Men's Retreat that will be held January 20-22. Finally, we have a Men's retreat that is being sponsored by one of our monks for February 24-26. If you would like to learn more about these retreats or craft your own private or group retreat, contact us at 479-934-4411 or cgeels@subi.org.

Thus, I want on your New Year's resolution list! Not the one that is doomed to fail 78% of the time, but the list that will succeed 22% of the time. Have a blessed and holy New Year!

Br. Francis Kirchner

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