

# The Abbey Message

## Subiaco Abbey

Vol LXXIV, No. 3

Winter 2017

### Inside

2

Abbot's Message  
Prayer

3

Abbey Journal  
Death of Fr. Aaron

7

Development  
Volunteers Luncheon

10

Academy  
Annual Pig Roast

13

Alumni News  
Alumni Gatherings

### Contact Information

Abbey: [479]-934-1001

Academy: [479]-934-1034

Courty House: [479]-934-4411

[www.subi.org](http://www.subi.org)

## A Christmas Witch?

*By Fr. Elijah Owens, OSB*

Imagine this: here I was as a monk from Subiaco on a cold Saturday morning after Christmas, heading through the streets of Rome on a bus with a coven of twenty witches! Just a few short minutes later as the sun began to rise, I would find myself in the Piazza Navona filled with hundreds of children, wise men, bagpipers, and more witches than the eye can imagine. What I was experiencing was just a small taste of the rich heritage of an Italian Christmas!

You see, unlike America where the holiday celebrations have often become more secular and lost the awareness of their deeply historical Christian roots, Christmas celebrations in Italy are still deeply connected with their Catholic liturgical roots. Italians start to put up their Christmas decorations only after the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary on December 8th, which is a national holiday in Italy. They will decorate with Christmas trees, but many homes will also include the famous creche/manger scene made popular by St. Francis of Assisi. While we in America will often partake of our densely-packed fruitcakes during Advent and Christmas, Italians have a very specific sweet bread they eat called Panettone; it is fluffy; shaped like a hat, and made over several days from sourdough, fruits, and raisins. Musically, you will hear some wonderful Advent songs played, but it is variations of *O Come, O Come Emmanuel* that especially are played on the radio. Many stations, in fact, harken back to the historical roots of that piece as found in the "O Antiphons" where each day from December 17th to the 25th is assigned with one particular verse. Throughout the day you will hear the radio stations stop and play that one "O Antiphon" that is appropriate for that day. Similarly, just as Americans have our tradition of caroling, so do the Italians as they carol only during this Christmas Octave. Christmas Eve (*Vigilia di Natale*) is a major family celebration that usually begins with the family gathering in the afternoon. As I experienced it with a local family, the meal itself is simply MASSIVE. The



*A Christmas Witch waving for the camera*

Italian custom is to serve only variations of fish for this meal. There are lots of historical theories as to why this is the case, but it seems to be rooted in the old Feast of the Seven Fishes that Italians used to celebrate. Usually seven types of fish are served, with the most popular dish being some form of calamari and the ever present pasta.

Once this grand meal is finally concluded, everyone gets dressed and the entire family is off to the Christmas Midnight Mass. Christmas Day is once again centered around the grand meal at lunch with the entire family. Gifts from Saint Nicholas and family are usually opened after the lunch meal. Various cities and regions will then celebrate the special feast days and memorials of the Church.

A CHRISTMAS WITCH? The twelve days after Christmas will find their high point on January 6th when the twelve days conclude and the Church celebrates the Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord. In piazzas, streets, and churches throughout Italy you will see children and adults dressed as wise men (as well as the witches following behind them) bringing gifts to give to others. On the Eve of January 6th, children will place stockings in their homes and wait for the famous Christmas Witch to arrive. While the historical roots probably have both pagan and Celtic origins, we know that by the 13th century Catholics quickly incorporated this figure into Christmas lore. This good witch was given the name “*La Befana*” which is most likely a word-play on the Epiphany celebration of *La Festa dell’Epifania*. The story told is that the three wise men stopped to ask her for directions to find Jesus. She didn’t know where Jesus was located, but after they left the next day she wanted to go with them. Unable to find them, she now flies around the world looking for the baby Jesus. On the eve of the great Solemnity, she will climb down the chimney looking for Jesus, leave her gifts, and sweep the floor. If the child at the home has been good, then they receive candy in their stocking. If they have been bad, then they receive a piece of coal (or now black licorice candy). Not surprisingly being Italy, “*La Befana*” is not left milk and cookies as we do for Santa, but she gets a glass of wine and some cake! So, while the customs and traditions may be different, what we can learn from the Italians is not to forget the rich liturgical and religious connections that lie at the heart of many of our holiday celebrations. So, from your Subiaco monk studying in Rome I say, *Buon Natale e un Felice Anno Nuovo!*

May you have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

## Prayer

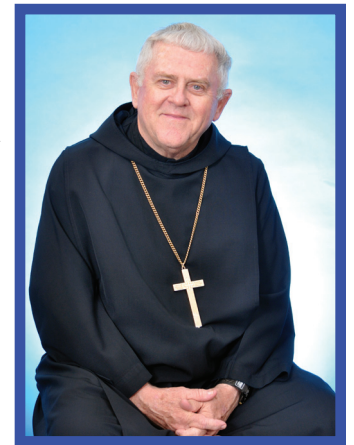
The Sunday readings at Mass during the month of October had us reflect on prayer. Traditionally, the Church identifies four main categories of prayer: praise, adoration, thanksgiving and petition. But these Sunday readings also gave us some other basic ideas, so we look at what they add to these four categories.

The Gospel from the 1st Sunday of October told us that faith is the basis of our relationship with God. With faith the size of a mustard seed we could move a mulberry tree from one place to another. And the first reading of the 4th Sunday told us that the prayer of the person who serves God is heard, and the prayer of the lowly person, that is, the humble person, pierces the clouds. The Gospel of the 3rd Sunday indicated that we should persevere in our prayer.

On the 4th Sunday of October, we were presented with the parable about the Pharisee and the tax collector. The Pharisee seemed to be a good man—not adulterous, nor dishonest, nor fraudulent, someone who fasts as prescribed, and a person who tithes to the temple. As presented in the parable, his fault is that he was unduly conceited about his good works, as if he was doing them for himself rather than for God. On the other hand, the tax collector, whose occupation was one of the lowest and most despised in Jewish society at that time, simply and humbly asked God for forgiveness, for he was a sinner. This is a prayer of petition even though it was a prayer for himself. And his asking of personal forgiveness is praised in the parable, because he went away satisfied. These Sunday readings gave us an example of a prayer of petition in addition to telling us of the need to be humble before God.

On the 2nd Sunday of October, we have the case of the 10 lepers calling to Jesus asking for healing. Their prayer of petition was granted and they went to show themselves to the priests as is prescribed in their law to certify that they are no longer a leper. Only one, realizing that he had been healed, returned to Jesus and thanked him. Because of his prayer of thanksgiving, he received an additional blessing from Jesus, for his faith had saved him. It was not just healing, but also salvation that came to him because of his faith and his prayer of thanksgiving.

The other two categories of prayer are praise and adoration. I define praise as honoring God because of the things he has done. Likewise, adoration is honoring God because of who he is. These two are closely related because knowing who



“Jesus enters our house  
when we unite with  
him in prayer.”

a person is relates to knowing how they act. It is the same with God in the Old Testament. The psalms which we use as the responsorial at Mass are some of the best examples of prayers of praise.

The book of Wisdom, in the first reading for the 5th Sunday of October, was a good example of prayer of adoration. “You have mercy on all, because you can do all things and you overlook people’s sins that they may repent... You rebuke offenders... warn them and remind them of their sins that they may abandon their wickedness and believe in You.” The author of the book of Wisdom adores God because of who he is, a judgement based on how God acts.

The Gospel for the 5th Sunday of October related the encounter between Jesus and Zacchaeus. This man was the chief tax collector, collecting money for the Romans and therefore despised by the Jews. But Zacchaeus, it seemed, was curious about Jesus. And he climbed a tree to get a better view of him. Jesus spoke first, Zacchaeus did not make a request, but Jesus said that he wanted to stay in Zacchaeus’ house. And this encounter changed Zacchaeus’ life. For he said I give half my possessions to the poor, and if I have defrauded anyone, I give back four-fold.

To me, there is a Eucharistic reference in this exchange. When we receive the Body and Blood of Jesus, he comes to live in our house. And this encounter has the power to change our lives if we are open to the change. In another encounter, Jesus enters our house when we unite with him in prayer, and this also can bring about a change in us. For our part, in times of prayer, we must also open ourselves to the action of Jesus’ Holy Spirit in our lives. Then this encounter has the power to change our lives.

*Abbot Leonard Wengler, O.S.B.*

## Abbey Journal

*by Fr. Mark Stengel, OSB*

### September

The summer Journal described the “glacial” progress on the ramp between Coury House and the back door of the monastery. Sometimes the prospect of “company coming” can speed up home improvement projects. Just in time for the large crowd of Oblates in mid-September coming for retreat, the glacier speeded up so that the ramp was usable. Fr. Mark proposed that the Oblates assist the cleanup of the area as an optional “labora” project, lest the retreatants lose their balance with too much “ora.”

Retreat Director Mr. George Hoelzman offered another option—an excursion to the Cowie Winery, ostensibly to view liturgical art in the Cowie family chapel at the winery.

The Oblates opted for the winery excursion, rather than loading rock scraps. Next time the schedule may have to read “mandatory” rather than “optional.” Just kidding!

After a wet July and average August rainfall, the heavenly spigots shut down. September featured warm, sunny, dry days—perfect haymaking weather. Our barns are filled. We will have hay for sale, but it’s doubtful that hay can be given away this winter. That’s the story of farming: when there’s a good crop, prices are low. When you have nothing to sell, prices are high.

Last spring’s Journal told about surveying work to determine the feasibility of enlarging the “Third Lake,” the uppermost of the three water supply lakes. Engineers decided that an enlarged impoundment would not be cost effective, so the project has been abandoned.

September 8, Novice Luke Petree made his first vows, receiving the name Irenaeus.

He was very coy in the days before his profession, leading prying questioners astray regarding his religious name. He did say that his mother knew the name ahead of time.

Irenaeus is a famous name in early Church history (died in 202 A.D.), but nowadays there will be no confusion (“Which Irenaeus are you talking about?”) Brother’s patronal feast day is June 28.

Fr. Mark took the September turn celebrating the monthly Mass at the Paris Nursing Home. It was an experience of “letting go,” he said. One lady talked loudly and incoherently throughout. A man sang with great gusto, but with no reference to the actual words or melody of the songs. Probably the Lord was pleased with this “joyful noise.” Brother Benedict Silva used to say, about getting old, “Once a man, twice a child.”



*Br. Irenaeus Petree*



Fr. Aaron Pirrera died suddenly on September 18. Well, actually the sudden heart attack occurred on Friday evening, the 16<sup>th</sup>. Several Oblates had taken him out to eat that evening. He was stricken in the Grapevine Restaurant in Paris, one of his favorite places. Pulse and respiration were restored mechanically, but by Sunday afternoon he was gone. Father had been the pastor at St. Benedict—the local parish—since 2005, and had relinquished this post last May. He was an avid collector of icons, relics, books, art, coins, and stamps. Br. Basil got the task of sorting through all these things, and it took him a while. Donna Forst, parish DRE, provided a home for Father's dog, Thor.

## October

Abbey Procurator Glenn Constantino ran in, and completed, the Chicago marathon on October 8, with a time of four hours and thirteen minutes. Congratulations! Glenn can be sort of "hyper," so perhaps a quarterly marathon would allow him to burn off excess energy. Alumnus Mark Rust's ('75) wife Kim and their daughter Alex also ran and finished.

Early Sunday morning, October 9, Brother Anselm was informed about a fire on the ridge north of "Second Lake." He and several volunteer firefighters put it out, they thought. By early afternoon, smoke was boiling up from the ridge top again. About 30 firefighters, with three fire trucks, rushed to the scene. Or rather, near the scene. The ridge top, where the fire advanced rapidly westwards, is accessible only by climbing on foot. A few men held the line there and scraped down to bare dirt on either side of the ridge. After an hour or so of defending this fire line, the Forest Service showed up with a bulldozer, and even a spotter plane. By evening, the fire had burned itself out at the line, having consumed around 100 acres. The next day, an Academy student came to the headmaster and admitted that he and others had made a fire Saturday afternoon to roast some hot dogs. They carried water to the site, he said, and thought that the fire was out. Headmaster Matt Stengel, impressed by such brave honesty, said he could hardly impose any penalty. The men out fighting the fire seemed to enjoy this Sunday afternoon excitement. So all's well that ends well.

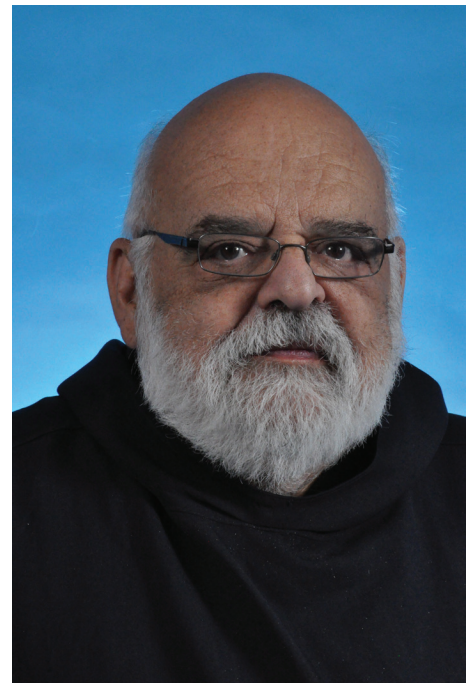
Food Service Director Charlie Kremers is somewhat of a bard and sage, producing occasional wise sayings and philosophical commentary. An October offering was this tribute to Fr. Bruno. (*see box below left*)

Maintenance Director Sam Little hosted a cookout at the Subiaco City Park for all the "Subiaco Family" on October 21. The park has been upgraded with a new pavilion and playground equipment. It provided a good venue for this large gathering of friends. The evening became quite cool, and monks were glad of their habits (their black habits, that is), and were ready to get back up the hill for Vespers.

By the end of the month, the first frost threatened. Fr. Richard called for an all-out push to get as many of the Habanero peppers harvested as possible before a freeze ruined them. Quite a crew of monks, neighbors, visitors, and oblates showed up in the pepper patch that morning. Several bottles of homemade wine lubricated the process. Then the freeze did not happen, and so a second "final picking" was held in November.

## November

The twilight visit to the cemetery on All Souls Day included the blessing of the niches in the columbarium. Abbot Leonard got a workout as he first sprinkled, and then incensed every grave in the cemetery and the columbarium. During his perambulation, the names of the deceased monks were read out, beginning with Novice Meinrad Stephen Bisig who died in 1881, and ending with Fr. Aaron Pirrera, newly buried. All responded to each name with "Grant them eternal rest." It's rather sobering to realize that I have known personally half of the names on the list. Sobering, but also comforting. We have a "cloud of witnesses" praying for us around the throne of God.



*Fr. Aaron Pirrera*

"Fr. Bruno"  
 Good as gold  
 Tough as nails  
 Reliable  
 Never fails  
 Good with word  
 Humble  
 Shows up EVERY day  
 Does it God's way  
 Doesn't coddle  
 A role model  
 We'd do well to mirror  
 Not a person dearer.

Read Fr. Aaron's obituary on our website: <http://countrymonks.org/documents/2016/9Pirrera%20A.pdf>



In November, the Christmas-season peanut brittle orders are coming in fast and production has to be ramped up. A stellar crew was recruited for the week of Nov. 6-12. The Eppings, Dennis and Dawn, from Richardson, TX, Little Rock Oblate **Joe Mains '87** and his buddy **Patrick Kelly '87** from Oklahoma, came to do slave labor in the brittle factory. Fr. Richard is the confectioner extraordinaire. By tireless example, he elicits heroic effort in his team. Tuesday saw a record one-day production of 358 tins. The record lasted a day, and then was broken on Wednesday with 384 tins. The total for the week (five days) was 1776 tins!! There surely is some significance to this number (date of the Declaration of Independence) vis-à-vis the week of shared communal labor. My offering: "United in spirit and ideals" is sweeter than "What's in it for me?"

Brothers Jude and Anselm began a two-week camping vacation on November 20, just as the first hard freezes occurred. They have been incommunicado ever since. There have been several days of cold rain since they set off with tents for the great outdoors. Have they toughed it out or found a cozy Bed and Breakfast? They will have time to get their story straight before they return in a couple days.

Fr. Patrick has spent some early mornings in his deer stand, but so far has not provided venison for the table. He told about getting to his stand well before daylight, and promptly going back to sleep. I believe Patrick does some snoring, so maybe this is why the deer have sought quieter places for their breakfast browsing.

Br. Michael and Br. Raban carved the turkey and ham for the Thanksgiving Day feast. The kitchen staff, guests, and the few students who remained on campus for the holiday, joined the monks in the monastic refectory. We have much to be thankful for. The Tuesday following, another large group ate with us—our wonderful Volunteers. Area friends help us in so many ways—grape and pepper harvest, stuffing mailings, clerical work, groundskeeping, herding cattle, building fences, construction, fighting fires, etc.

The luncheon gave us an opportunity to say "Thank you" officially. Br. Jude had prepared a gift for each volunteer—stone coasters with an etching of one of the towers of the Abbey.



*Nov. Zach & Fr. Richard making brittle*



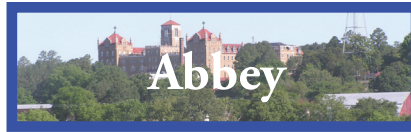
*Tom and Patsy Siebenmorgen attended the volunteers luncheon. Tom volunteers at grape and pepper harvest and Patsy gives haircuts to many of the monks.*

## PRAYER HOTLINE

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

Or you can e-mail your request to:

[prayer@subi.org](mailto:prayer@subi.org)



# Thank you, Proba

By Fr. Jerome Kodell, OSB

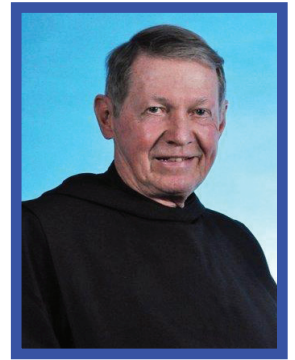
It's time we gave Proba her due. She did us a big favor centuries ago and has not been properly thanked.

Proba was an influential Christian widow in Rome who around 412 wrote to St. Augustine, Bishop of Hippo in North Africa, asking some questions about prayer. His answer, the Letter to Proba, has been preserved and has become a classic on personal prayer cited throughout the centuries (for example, by Pope Benedict XVI in his encyclical On Christian Hope).

We should be grateful to Proba for drawing Augustine out to comment on a subject close to our hearts (and grateful also to the early scribes who preserved the letter). I would like to call attention to one point which I think is particularly helpful today.

Apparently Proba had asked what St. Paul intended by his admonition to “pray without ceasing” (1 Thes 5:17). Augustine replied that Paul did not mean we should be on our knees around the clock, but rather that we should cherish an uninterrupted desire for God in the midst of everything we do, without necessarily thinking of God or holy things all the time.

Perhaps this question from Proba stirred Augustine's mind, because we find in his commentary on Psalm 38:10 (“All my deepest desire is before you”) some of the same language but with a more precise and confident exposition on this point: “The desire of your heart is your prayer. And if the desire is constant, so is your prayer... Whatever else you may be doing, if you but fix your desire on God's Sabbath rest, your prayer will be ceaseless. Therefore, if you wish to pray without ceasing, do not cease to desire.”



“If your desire is constant,  
so is your prayer.”

This is very encouraging to anyone who experiences distractions in prayer – in other words, to all of us. By desire Augustine does not mean a vague wish without any intention of commitment, like I wish I had a degree in architecture but have no intention of signing up for courses. It is rather like the desire expressed in marriage vows, that I intend to be faithful no matter what, and this intention is with me twenty-four hours a day, whatever I am doing. If we have this kind of constant desire for God, we are in a state of unceasing prayer. We need daily periods of prayer, says Augustine, “stated hours and seasons,” to keep our desire alive and increase its strength.

Augustine's insight comes to our aid when we find the time we have set aside for communion with God filled with distractions. I came to pray, but did I pray at all? Here Augustine comes to our aid: “If your desire is constant, so is your prayer.” You did not intend the distractions and did not want them, and they cannot break your prayer if your desire to pray is not broken.

This is especially helpful these days to people who have a commitment to a time of prayer in the perpetual adoration chapel, but as soon as they get there find their minds sending out shoots in all directions. But they have come not by chance, but by decision, and have had to make many commitments along the way: signing up, keeping track of the time slot, deflecting other invitations, walking or driving to the chapel. They have come to adoration, in other words, because of a strong desire for union with God, and they struggle to keep their focus on God amid the nagging distractions. As long as that desire is not broken, Augustine assures them, their prayer is not broken.

Thank you, Proba.

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

Publisher  
Abbot Leonard Wangler, OSB

Editor in Chief  
Fr. Jerome Kodell, OSB

Send changes of address  
and comments to:

*The Abbey Message*  
Subiaco Abbey  
405 North Subiaco Avenue  
Subiaco, AR 72865-9798

Subiaco's Website  
[www.subi.org](http://www.subi.org)

*The Abbey Message* E-mail  
[fjjerome@subi.org](mailto:fjjerome@subi.org)





## Mercy and Hope in 2017

For a lot of people, this time of year beckons us to reflect; to look back at what was and forward to what will be. It's a common practice as the new year begins to set goals, resolutions, or objectives. It is also very fitting to ponder the practices from the past year that worked well and those that didn't.

Reminders are all around us that we have much to be thankful for, much to be happy about and also much to improve upon. God lends us multiple opportunities every day to do all these things if we just take the time. As the Catholic Church completed the Jubilee Year of Mercy, we were reminded and encouraged to continue to show mercy. The need for that never ends. Showing mercy and love to others builds our faith and trust. And with that trust comes hope; hope that we learn from the shortcomings and mistakes, hope that we find strength to face the trials in the future, hope that we remain thankful for our blessings ALL year long.

Over the last several weeks of 2016, we at Subiaco Abbey made a special effort to do just that. There are so many wonderful people who help us in numerous ways. We have an incredible group of individuals who pray for and with us, as well as many who support us financially. We are blessed with those who lend a helping hand with the chores like making peanut brittle, picking peppers, stuffing envelopes, and many other jobs. I hope you each know how very much you are appreciated! We could not accomplish the things we do without your help and encouragement. So as we begin this New Year, we wish each of you blessings as wonderful and as special as you are to us!

Glenn Constantino  
Procurator



What would we do and where would we be without our wonderful volunteers? On November 29, a day of appreciation was held for those who give of their time, talent and treasure to assist the monks and lay staff of Subiaco in our various ministries. Abbot Leonard Wangler said Mass in the Courty House Chapel, followed by a luncheon with the monks in the monastic dining room. The guests were treated to a special gift made by Br. Jude Schmitt in appreciation for all they do.



*Tom Eckelhoff, Abbey volunteer, helps with peanut brittle and mailings*



# Honoring and Remembering

Linda Freeman, Development Supervisor

Think of the times when you wanted to do something special for someone. Perhaps you wanted to buy a gift to honor a birthday, religious advancement or wedding anniversary. Maybe you wanted to simply tell someone how much you appreciate them. A gift with lasting spiritual meaning is a treasure to everyone. When you enroll your loved one in the Tributes for the Living Program at Subiaco Abbey, they will be remembered daily in the monks' Divine Office, Mass, prayers and good works. Those being honored will be notified with a card from Subiaco Abbey containing the information of the person making the tribute. The honoree's name is placed in the Abbey Book of Tributes & Memorials located in St. Benedict's Church. The book can be viewed at any time by visitors.

The Memorial Program for deceased loved ones is also offered. In this program, cards are sent to surviving family members or friends, notifying them that their loved one has been memorialized. Gifts of any amount are accepted for enrollment in either of these two programs and your gift helps the Benedictine monks continue the life and mission of Subiaco through education, parish ministry and retreat work.

In addition, for a gift of \$50, we offer a keepsake leather bound certificate. The album contains an inlaid, 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 will be a lasting spiritual gift for an individual or a family and can be given for the living or deceased. To request a tribute or memorial enrollment, complete and clip the form below and mail, or visit [www.countrymonks.org](http://www.countrymonks.org)

## Some Recent Memorials

### Honor/memorial

Mary Borengasser

Elton Brown  
Clemens E. Burgener  
Ken Burke

Carey A. Burns  
Conrad Elksen  
Br. Edward Fischesser, OSB  
Irma Rose Fuhrmann  
Timmie Geels

Fred Hartman  
Carolyn Homer  
John Johnson  
Br. Francis Kirchner, OSB

### Donor

Mr. & Mrs. Joe Mallett  
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph D. Taylor

Mrs. Andrea Cooper  
Mrs. Delores M. Hartman  
Mr. & Mrs. Allan M. Burke  
Ms. Coletta Ottinger  
Mrs. Nancy Labiak

Mr. & Mrs. Joseph A. Plunkett  
Mr. & Mrs. Johnny Culver  
Mr. Ewald Fuhrmann  
Mr. & Mrs. Leo Frazier  
Mr. & Mrs. Jerome Hanner  
Mr. & Mrs. Marvin Rackley  
Mrs. Verena Moix  
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Udouj, Sr.  
Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Talik  
Mr. & Mrs. Johnny Culver

### Honor/memorial

Herman J. Kresse

Robert McConaughy  
Sharon Munson  
Aloys W. Nolte  
Catherine Nolte  
Brian H. Phillips  
Fr. Aaron Pirrera, OSB

### Donor

Mrs. Patricia Kresse  
Ms. Yaquilina Kresse  
Mr. & Mrs. Henry Vogler, Jr.  
Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Talik  
Mrs. Anne Phillips  
Heart of Jesus Prayer Group  
Heart of Jesus Prayer Group  
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Udouj, Sr.  
Ms. Christine Allen  
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Ardemagni  
Mr. & Mrs. Ken Breedon  
Ms. Mary E. Cormier  
Mr. Tony J. DeSalvo  
Mr. Charles Foley  
Mrs. Delores M. Hartman  
Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Klaeger  
Mrs. Christina Koch

### Honor/memorial

Fr. Aaron Pirrera, OSB

Jimmy Prets  
Jonathan Reid  
Grace Russo  
Edward D. Schad  
Mary Schwarz  
Earl Stein  
Fr. Herbert Vogelpohl, OSB

### Donor

Mr. & Mrs. James A. Komp  
Mr. & Mrs. E.H. Lensing, Jr.  
Mrs. Mildred Schluterman  
Mr. & Mrs. Bret Sullivan  
Ms. Ann Thoele  
Mrs. Bobbsy Uhrich  
Mr. Charles Weisenfels  
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Jovanovich  
Mr. John Labiak  
Mrs. Clair Poff  
Mr. & Mrs. George Mansour, Jr.  
Mr. David Fields  
Mr. & Mrs. Marty Nelson  
Eli & Edythe Broad Foundation  
Mr. Hugo Schwarz  
Mrs. Andrea Cooper  
Dr. & Mrs. Steve Stinnett

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

# Supporting Subiaco AND Receiving an Income for Life

by Deacon Mike Cumnock, Director of Planned Giving

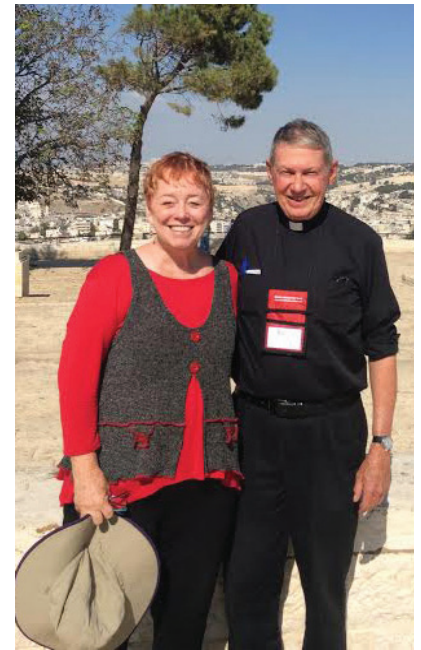
Nancy Louise has been a friend of the monks and a supporter of Subiaco Abbey for more than 50 years. Courty House Retreat Center has become her Arkansas home away from home. She is a joyful, interesting person who is fun to be with, who enjoys praying with the monks, and visiting old friends. She had a very successful career in the travel industry and still loves to travel in her retirement. Recently she shared with me that she was “downsizing” for retirement and sold her home for a smaller, more manageable one. When that project was completed, she had some money left over from the sale, and we began the process of estate planning. She wanted to support Subiaco – a place she loves – specifically the hospitality ministry, but also needed some predictable income for her retirement. One of the options we explored was that of a Charitable Gift Annuity (CGA), which would allow her to make a gift and receive guaranteed income for the remainder of her life.

Nancy transferred a cash gift to Subiaco, but it could have been funded with any asset of value. She received a charitable donation for a large portion of the gift. Subiaco, in turn, invested the funds and pays her a fixed amount, based on a favorable interest, each year for the rest of her life. A part of each payment she receives is tax-free, and the asset itself was removed from her estate for probate and tax purposes.

She used cash to fund her Charitable Gift Annuity, but some people fund such an annuity with appreciated assets such as stocks, mutual funds or other property. The donor gets credit for the current value of the asset when it is transferred to the Abbey. Subiaco then sells it to fund the annuity.

CGAs are easy to set up and can be done fairly quickly. If you would like to explore such a gift to see if it is a good match for you, please go to our website, click on **Support US**, and then on **Planned Giving**. On the left side of the page, click on **Gift Annuities**. At the bottom of the page you will find a free confidential calculator where you can plug in various amounts, ages, etc., and it will give you appropriate information. NOTE: For your privacy, all the information you put into the calculator will be erased when you close the page. If you prefer please feel free to contact us, and we can calculate an annuity for you.

Nancy also got to choose the ministry to support with her funds. In writing this she shared with me the following: “As you know the monies I gave were specifically to be used for the guest ministry at Courty House. Hospitality is one of my highest values; it is what attracted me to the Benedictines to begin with.” The monastic community includes Nancy and all benefactors in their prayers every day. We hope she enjoys a long and healthy life knowing she has an income that will remain with her for the rest of her life. I would like to thank Nancy Louise for allowing me to use her as an example that might help others.



Nancy with Fr. Jerome Kodell

## Planned Giving Tool Box

The article above on Charitable Gift Annuities tells how one can get information on creating such an annuity by using our confidential website. There are lots of other tools explained at that same site. These tools will help you plan your support of Subiaco and the other charities you love. Simply go to our webpage and click on **Support Us** and then go to **Planned Giving**. There you will find up-to-date information on:

- Including Subiaco in your Will
- IRAs/Retirement Plans
- Real Estate and others

There are also Gift Planning Calculations.

Thank You....If we can be of any help please let us know!





The 12th Annual Pig Roast was again a success. The tradition of beginning with Mass, followed by the evening meal under the tent on the ridges and various games, takes place near the site of the original monastery and school. **Abbot Leonard '61, Br. Ephrem '60, Matt Stengel '99, Don Berend '57** and grandson, and **Hal Myers '82** visited while the students enjoyed karaoke, the bat-spin race, and a pie-eating contest.



To help students learn about practical arts, local moms and faculty joined together to give a class on the basics of sewing. Each student was presented with their own travel sewing kit.



Subiaco brought home the District 4A runner-up team trophy from the November 1 cross country competition at Russellville.



Nine grade school students came to Subiaco for the November 18 Shadow Day activities. Several had family connections, e.g., sons, brothers, and grandsons of Academy alumni. Parents were welcomed by Headmaster Matt Stengel at his home after Vespers with the monastic community. After breakfast students attended classes while parents had a “Meet the Staff” session in the Coury House lounge. Campus tours were led by Blue Arrow members. Interviews of parents and students followed a candid panel discussion.





Forty-one students joined the Asian students in celebrating the Mid-Autumn Festival. To most of the Asian students from China, Taiwan, and Vietnam, the Mid-Autumn Festival (also known as Moon Festival) means family reunion and peace.



Subiaco won both Quiz Bowl games on November 15 against Northside High School (Ft. Smith). Subiaco won the first game 270-125, the second game 405-60. Axel Ntamatungiro led the team with 120 and 80 points. Jesus Calvillo had 60 in the first game. Diego Calvillo and Vinny Nguyen each had 60 points in the second game. The Academy team had defeated Paris and Clarksville earlier this fall.



Two long-time Academy teachers, Mrs. Hermina Fox and Mr. Gary Kinney conferred with parents during Parents Weekend on November 4-5.



Mrs. Michelle Chuang was awarded the Abbot Jerome Kodell, OSB, Endowed Chair for Excellence in Teaching at the assembly on November 5. Mrs. Chuang teaches Mandarin Chinese, English and Religious Studies for International Students, and assists in admissions. She received a Master of Arts from Tamkang University (Taiwan, Republic of China) and Master of Education from Arkansas Tech University. Headmaster Matt Stengel, presenting the award on November 5, said, "Michelle exemplifies the expertise and hospitality for which we all should strive." The purpose of the Endowed Chair is to ensure and maintain high educational standards by providing outstanding faculty in specific disciplines and providing facilities that will enrich the life of the Academy today and for generations to come.







Live performance is the focus of the Subiaco Jazz Ensemble. The number of off-campus performances has grown to well over thirty annually. This of course, means a lot of time on the bus. The trips are enjoyable, but in the last couple of years the group has outgrown getting its equipment and personnel on a single bus. To ease these growing pains, the academy has added a small utility trailer to its fleet of vehicles. "The trailer will allow us to get our gear closer to venues for off-loading. This will be a huge advantage, especially in downtown venues in places like Memphis, Saint Louis and San Antonio. Putting gear in the trailer will also free up space on the bus we need for band members," commented ensemble director, Roy Goetz. The initial sketch for the Jazz Ensemble logo was produced by Donald Goetz in 2006. Bill Wright then applied his skills to produce the final artwork. The intertwined loops are an ancient symbol for the Trinity and the ravens are a familiar element in Benedictine iconography.

Forty members and one sponsor attended the Arkansas Future Business Leaders of America District One Senior High Fall Conference on October 3, 2016, at the Fort Smith Convention Center. Subiaco Academy junior Ben Ingle reported: "We learned about leaving a legacy of our leadership and about taking initiative to take a step in becoming the leader we want to be. It was a great experience and a good way to get the new members excited about the year. The next event for us is the spring competition in Fort Smith."



## Weekend Activities



Michael Tran and Jason Do were awarded the trophies for the most fish caught during the October 2 Fall Subiaco Fishing Tournament. The Abbey Lakes were the venue for this event in which 15 students competed. Fr. Bruno, Br. Pio, and Br. Ephrem assisted.



Hamster balls purchased for student activities were a huge hit on a recent Saturday afternoon.





## Alumni News



Thirty alumni and friends enjoyed the October 28 gathering in Dallas. Coach **Tim Tencleve**, Tuition Assistance Director and **Matt Noble '03**, Alumni Development Coordinator, scheduled the event held at the Omni Hotel.



**Jason Gehrig '89** and fellow Subiaco classmate **Chris Edmundson '89** traveled to the Bolivian Andes, along with Jason's wife Felicia and oldest son Nicholas. Chris' parish, Spirit of Christ in Denver, donated ten computers which he, alongside members of the Saint Francis and Saint Clare Parishes of El Alto, installed.



Alumni, wives, friends, and monks attended Mass on October 29 at St. Mary's Church in Gainesville, TX. A potluck supper was enjoyed by all. This is an annual event in the North Texas area, hosted by **Steve Schmitz '91** and **Dale Schumacher '71**, assisted by Subiaco's Development Department.



At a gathering in Houston on September 29, 2016, several alumni (**Frank Kodell '59**, **Joe Darr '78**, **Dwight Ruelle '59**, **Victor Mendoza '06**, and **Adam Tiffin '02**) enjoyed meeting with Subiaco monks and staff.





Six gentlemen of the 70s enjoyed a soirée Chez Ernest in Southlake, TX. **Artist German '72, Jesse Velasquez '71, Michael Ernest '72, Dale Schumacher '71 and John Tobin '71** posed in Michael's backyard after the Grapefest (Grapevine, TX).

**William Stehle '08**, is an assistant basketball coach at T-N-G Prep Academy in Athens, TN. He earned a Bachelor's Degree in Professional Studies-Public Relations (Minor in History) from Arkansas Tech University in 2012. He also obtained a Master's Degree in Liberal Arts-Social Sciences from Arkansas Tech University in 2015.

**Dr. Martin Schoppmeyer, Jr. '85** was featured in a two-page article in the September 4, 2016, issue of the *Northwest Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*. Schoppmeyer said that Subiaco "really fueled my love of learning." In a March 11, 2016, *Arkansas Catholic* article Schoppmeyer said about Subiaco Academy: "I went there for the quality of education," he said. "That was the first time I felt like someone took an interest in me as a scholar. There was accountability and I was blessed to be in an academic environment that was challenging, caring and safe. I took those tenets with me when I designed Haas Hall Academy."

Former Trojan tennis players **Brit McKenzie '09** and **Juan Pablo Mora '09** swapped stories at the 2016 U.S. Open in New York City.

Participating in Grandparents' Day on September 12 were several alumni and wives: **Don and Daphne Berend '57, Dick and Pat Bothwell '57, Joe and Mary Eckart '66, Ed and Bettye Franz '57, John and Judy Koch '61, James Albert and Theresa Komp '65, Kenny and Cindy Schluterman '70, Helen Seiter (Ken) '68, and Charles Weisenfels '53**. One hundred sixty-four grandparents from Arkansas, Texas, Louisiana, Michigan, Oklahoma, and Kansas enjoyed the day's activities which included the celebration of Mass in the Abbey Church, lunch, campus tours, visits with teachers, and a musical performance by the Academy Jazz Ensemble.



*Jay Fredrich '57*

**Jay Fredrich '57** led a nine-member delegation of representatives of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) History and Heritage Committee to participate in a ceremony at Naurouze, France, recognizing the Canal du Midi in southern France as an International Historic Civil Engineering Landmark. The ceremony was part of the observance of 2016 as the 350th anniversary of the King Louis XIV edict authorizing the construction of the canal to provide an inland link between the Mediterranean Sea and the Atlantic Ocean. The 150-mile-long canal was constructed in 17 years by more than 12,000 men and women. In addition to excavating the canal itself, the builders constructed 101 locks, more than 125 bridges crossing the canal, and the largest dam and reservoir in the world to provide water for the canal's operation.

Although it no longer is used for commercial transportation, the canal generates more than 100 million Euros annually in recreational user fees and related expenditures by hikers, bikers and boaters. The canal was recognized by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site in 1996. ASCE joined the Institution of Engineers and Scientists of France in providing a plaque documenting the canal's landmark status to be placed at a location on the canal visited by Thomas Jefferson when he was the United States Ambassador to France.

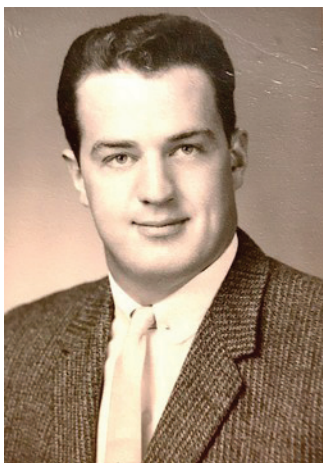


*Daphne Berend & Pat Bothwell*



**Br. Anthony '79** and **Fr. Jerome '57** proudly posed with members of the families of the three **Narens brothers** at the "Meet and Greet" in Texarkana on Oct. 8-9.

## Obituaries



*Bob McCrate '55*

**Bob McCrate '55** died Oct. 2, 2016, at the age of 78. He graduated from the University of Dayton in 1959 with a Bachelor of Electrical Engineering and worked for the Federal Aviation Administration and as farmer in Southern Illinois for several years. He later worked as shop foreman for McCrate Equipment before founding Delta Data System, an accounting and inventory control software firm.

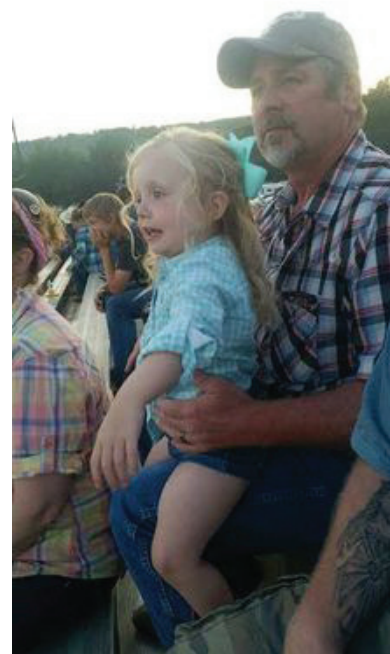
He is survived by his wife, Kathryn McCrate, one daughter, three brothers, Joseph, **Terry McCrate '56** and **Tom '66**; two sisters, two stepdaughters; two grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

**Eugene John Post '46** of Altus, Arkansas, died September 18, 2016, at the age of 88. He was a wine maker, a farmer, and a member of St. Mary's Catholic Church in Altus. He is survived by his wife, Peggy; five daughters, three sons, two brothers, **Dr. James Post '42** and **Matthew Post '43**; five sisters; eighteen grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

**Johnny Wewers '83** died October 29. He was employed by JBS of London and previously worked for 18 years at Firestone where he was a union steward and project manager. He also worked for Design Properties as a project manager and was an OSHA inspector for Blackhawk. Survivors include his wife, Dana, three sons, one daughter; his father **Raymond '57** and mother Barbara; two brothers **Paul '92** and Jeff; two sisters and two grandchildren.

**Herman Joseph Kresse, IV '47** of Houston, Texas, died on September 25, 2016, at age 87. He is survived by his wife, Patricia; one sister, five sons, two daughters; nineteen grandchildren and nineteen great-grandchildren.

**Jerome Vogelpohl '58** died November 17, 2016.



*Johnny Wewers '83*





# Vocations

by Fr. Patrick Boland, OSB, Assistant Vocations Director - e-mail: [frpatrick@subi.org](mailto:frpatrick@subi.org)

It is an exciting time here at the Abbey, the Academy, Coury House, Farm and monastic community: all are doing well! We are happy to report the vocations office is very busy. We have a constant influx of men interested in our monastic community at the steady rate of 3-4 per week from our website and vocation services such as VISION magazine and Vocation Placement Services and we average about 2 men per month that come and visit us.

We thank you all for your support of Subiaco and especially your support and prayers for vocations. However, there is one thing we need from you – vocation referrals. While the number of web-based vocational inquiries is steady, the most significant and successful vocation candidates are historically from personal referrals. That is, men that have been referred to us by someone that knows us, supports us and prays for us. The personal connection cannot be overlooked. As in other areas of life, the personal touch and recommendation carries great weight. You would never recommend someone that you don't already see as a possible monk and that means a lot to both the person and us!

Please, take a moment today, say a prayer asking for the guidance of the Holy Spirit and then think of someone you know that might make a good monk. Ask them about it or introduce them to us. Be sure to comfort them in knowing that we trust in and count on the work of the Holy Spirit. There is no harm or danger in discerning God's will in their lives, in fact, it is my belief that it is the best thing one can do. Often, men don't see themselves as monks, but that is because they don't really know what being a monk entails. I say this from my own personal experience. If someone told me 20 years ago I was going to be a monk, I would have laughed in their face. And now, I can't imagine being anything else. Monastic life brings great challenges and rewards, but it is in the service of God and the Church that we love our way of life.



*Nov. Zach cooking Abbey Brittle*

## Upcoming Retreats and Events at Coury House

### January

- 6-8 Arkansas Knights of Columbus State Officers
- 8-13 Holy Trinity Seminary Retreat
- 13-14 Church of Nazarene Retreat
- 13-15 24th Annual Serenity Retreat
- 17-18 Christ of Hills Men's Retreat
- 19- 21 Leadership Team Retreat, Church of Christ, Tulsa
- 27-29 John Robbins Men's Retreat

### February

- 3-5 Arkansas Knights of Columbus Couples Retreat
- 10-12 World Wide Marriage Encounter
- 17-19 St. Joseph Parish Men's Retreat, Conway, AR
- 17-19 Catholic Campus Ministries, Conway, AR
- 22-24 Principals Retreat, Archdiocese of Oklahoma
- 24-26 Diaconate Retreat, Diocese of Tulsa

### March

- 3-5 Subiaco Academy Parents Weekend & Carnival
- 6-10 Our Lady of the Lakes Retreat, Branson, MO
- 10-12 Diocesan Council of Black Catholics
- 12-15 Center for Enrichment, Dr. Gary Oliver
- 15 River Valley Deanery CWU day of Recollection
- 17-18 St. Luke Episcopal, Daughters of the King
- 23-26 St. Jude's Men's Retreat
- 24-26 Knights of Columbus, Gainesville, TX
- 30-Apr 2 Tulsa Christian Mothers Lenten Retreat



All guests, either private or on group retreats, are welcome to join the monastic community for daily prayer and Eucharist.

For more information or for reservations, either call Coury House, 479-934-4411, or email us at [couryhouse@subi.org](mailto:couryhouse@subi.org).

Upcoming events may be found on our website, [www.subi.org](http://www.subi.org).