

# The Abbey Message

## Subiaco Abbey

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## Sustain Me, O Lord

*by Br. Ephrem O'Bryan, OSB*

Br. Cassian (Derrick) Elkins, OSB, and Br. Reginald (Richard) Udouj, OSB, made solemn profession of vows as monks of Subiaco Abbey at Mass on August 8, 2015, in the Abbey Church. Having completed the period of triennial vows, these two professed this lifelong commitment as Benedictine monks.

Br. Reginald, a Ft. Smith native and a 1979 Academy alumnus, graduated with his Bachelor of Arts from High Point College. Prior to entering the monastery, he served as a manufacturers' representative for several furniture companies while traveling throughout the United States. Since professing his temporary vows, Br. Reginald has been the assistant to Fr. Richard in the Peanut Brittle and Monk Sauce operations, and is currently ready to begin his second year of seminary studies at Saint John School of Theology in Collegeville, MN.

Br. Cassian was born in Church Point, Louisiana. Before entering Subiaco, Br. Cassian worked as a professional Sign Language Interpreter and an Independent Living Skills Instructor for the Deaf and Deaf-Blind. After graduating from college, he continued to work with the Deaf and Deaf-Blind before entering the Dominicans of the



*Br. Cassian Elkins & Br. Reginald Udouj professing their solemn vows*

Western Province. Feeling called to a more monastic life, Br. Cassian visited Subiaco and knew this was where he was meant to seek God. Having made his solemn profession, he will now continue his priestly studies at St. Meinrad Archabbey and School of Theology in St. Meinrad, IN.

During the rite of Solemn Profession Brs. Cassian and Reginald chanted: "Sustain me, O Lord, as you have promised, that I may live, and disappoint me not in my hope." These words from the 116th verse of Psalm 119 have echoed throughout the centuries in the profession rites of Benedictine monks. This prayer of supplication, however, is only one example from the rite of the solemn profession of a monk that has shed some light on the journey toward God. The mystical burial and the sign of peace also show glimpses of the great task that lies before the newly professed as they continue their search for God in the monastery until death. In the mystical burial which follows the chanting of the *Suscipe me, Domine* (Psalm 119:116), the newly-professed monks lie prostrate before the altar, and are covered with the funeral pall, symbolizing their death to their former way of life. The paschal candle, symbolic of the Risen Christ, lights their path in their exodus from death to life. Accompanying them on this journey are all of the saints, represented by a solemn plea for their assistance in the Litany of Saints.

The sign of peace given by the solemnly-professed members of the community to the newly-professed monks eloquently expresses the assurance that their confreres will support them in the task which they have undertaken for the salvation of their souls and also promise to be a source of strength and encouragement as they continue to persevere in their commitment to God.

by Br. Reginald Udouj, OSB

After graduating from the Academy in 1979, I had a career that took me from the missile silos of Kansas to the garment district of New York City, and just about every furniture store in between. After graduating from High Point College with a Bachelor's degree in Home Furnishings Marketing, I spent a career traveling around the country selling furniture and fabrics to the retail trade. Looking back on those times I can see that even though I did not realize it at the time, every job that I had and the many encounters that occurred were all part of a process that led me back to Subiaco, to a return home. During the renovation of the third floor I spent quite a bit of time helping acquire furniture for the remodeling and, at that time it became clear to me that this life is what I had been called to. All those times that Sister Reginald had told me that I belonged at Subiaco began to sink in and I entered the monastery as a candidate in February of 2011. After four-and-a-half-years of formation, thousands of pounds of peanuts and Habanero peppers, I have arrived at this time of solemn profession. I have traded in my place in the pepper field and the brittle factory for a chair in a classroom at St. John Seminary, where with God's assistance I will complete my studies and be ordained in another three years. At that time I will return to the Abbey and continue the life that has chosen me. I will be given a new assignment by the Abbot and resume my spot in choir with my confreres. God is good.



by Br. Cassian Elkins, OSB



Over the years in monastic formation, not once did I experience great feats of strength, sustained periods of vigilance, nor even reoccurring inklings of perfection. But what I did experience, and grew to love, is monastic life's greatest treasure: the gift of seeing the ordinary in an extraordinary way.

Someone once asked me why was I entering the monastery? "There are plenty of places

you can serve God without having to leave your family and friends. This is a bit drastic," they said. When I first entered monastic life, I had no easy answer for them. If asked this same question today, this would be my answer: I didn't come to the monastery to serve God; I came to the monastery to seek God. God is not confined to the walls of the monastery, but it is where I feel God calling me. When I made Solemn Profession, I felt such a profound sense of peace with my decision. This decision will take me a lifetime to fulfill, a lifetime of seeking God within these walls where I hear the voice of my beloved calling to experience a deeper intimacy with Him.

What makes monastic life so special is that each monk has the responsibility of continuing the Benedictine tradition in a particular community. As St. Benedict charged and imparted upon his monks the continuing desire and love for the Work of God; I too, a simple monk from Arkansas, am charged with that same mission. To me, this is both incredible and humbling.

# From 'Living Together' to Spousal Intimacy

Br. Cassian Elkins and Br. Reginald Udouj made their solemn profession of vows at Subiaco Abbey on August 8. The Mass readings for the occasion were the *Song of Songs* 8: 6-7 and from the Gospel of John 15: 9-17. To me, these readings spoke of two vital aspects of the monastic life. These are 1) the communal life, and 2) intimacy with God.

In the Gospel passage from St. John, Jesus reveals the extremity to which his love for his disciples will take him: "No one has greater love than this, to lay down his life for his friends." During the Age of the Martyrs, many early Christians gave up their own life in imitation of Jesus, who died for them.

In 313 AD, the Christian religion became an accepted religion in the Roman Empire. It was no longer the official policy of Rome to persecute Christians. As a result, many devout Christians began seeking another way to show their sacrificial love for Christ. Some took up the practice of extreme penances, while others became hermits in the deserts of Egypt and elsewhere in the Middle East. The idea was to leave the world, and live a life of penance and hardship in imitation of the Old Testament prophets. The desire for a more radical way of following Christ contributed to the rise of the eremitical movement.

Little by little, the heroic individual practice of the hermits came to be tempered by the common life ideal of the early Christian community as described in Acts 4:

The community of believers was of one heart and mind, and no one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they had everything in common. With great power the apostles bore witness to the resurrection of the Lord, and great favor was accorded them all. There was no needy person among them, for those who owned property or houses would sell them, bring the proceeds of the sale, and put them at the feet of the apostles and they were distributed to each according to need.

The melding of the eremitical ideal and the ideal of the common life gave rise to coenobitic monasticism. St. Benedict is of the opinion that cenobites are "the strongest kind of monks" (Rule 1:13). His Rule and the coenobitic life became the normative way of religious life in Europe. Of course the common life provides the setting for living out Jesus "new commandment" given in John chapter 15: "This is my commandment: love one another as I have loved you." It also provides the setting for Jesus' presence, as he promised in Matthew chapter 18: "Where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them."

The idea of intimacy with God is reflected in the *Song of Songs*. The reading guide of the Catholic Study Bible introduces the *Song of Songs* as follows:

No book of the Old Testament is more difficult to interpret than the *Song of Songs*. It is clearly a collection of love poems full of sensuous imagery. It promotes no apparent theological or moral values and never mentions God. It is no wonder that its acceptance into the canon of the inspired writings was seriously questioned."

But the *Song of Songs* was accepted as a canonical book of the Bible, and as Christians began to read the Hebrew traditions in light of their faith in Christ, two ideas stood out. Some believed that the lovers could be identified as Christ and the Church. Others read the book as a description of the mystical union between God and the individual soul. Some of the most profound theology in the Christian mystical tradition is grounded in this kind of allegorical interpretation of the Song. The works of Bernard of Clairvaux and St. John of the Cross are perhaps the best known examples of this kind of writing.

Solemn Profession situates the monk permanently in the common life of the monastic fraternity, where the love of Christ may be experienced and carried out in our actions to and for others. It is also a place apart, a place of openness to the action of the Holy Spirit, drawing us to an ever deeper intimacy with God.



"The heroic individual practice of the hermits came to be tempered by the common life ideal of the early Christian community as described in Acts 4."

Abbot Leonard Wangle, O.S.B.



# Abbey Journal

by Fr. Mark Stengel, OSB

June

June began with Jubilee Day. All monks celebrating special anniversaries in 2015 are feted on one day. We men prefer “getting this done” one time and then going back to our regular routines. Fr. Jerome and Fr. Timothy celebrated 50 years of priesthood this year; Fr. Mark, Br. Adrian and Br. Jude made first vows 50 years ago. Jubilee Day is observed with later rising (Lauds at 6:30 instead of 5:45), “Colloquamur” at breakfast (talking instead of a silent meal), and a late afternoon Mass at which prayers are offered for the jubilarians, and probably some kind words given in the homily. A festive meal follows, with the jubilarians sitting with the Abbot. Then there is community recreation until Vespers at 7:30. And that’s that, for another year.



*Jubilee monks l-r Fr. Mark, Fr. Jerome, Fr. Timothy, Br. Adrian & Br. Jude*

Abbot Leonard gave the community retreat. An outside presenter had been arranged, but health issues interfered, too late for finding another retreatmaster. Abbot Leonard had been presenting quarterly “Spiritual Days” at Holy Angels Convent in Jonesboro for several years, and so had a wealth of material ready. His talks revealed that he is quite a wide reader, as he incorporated insights both old and new from a wide range of authors.

The retreat ends with the morning Mass on Friday. Then, after breakfast, comes the annual Corporation and Monastic Chapter. “Chapter,” in monastic parlance, means simply “meeting.” All monks in solemn vows are present for reports on the temporal and spiritual welfare of the community. Sometimes new plans are presented and votes taken. Usually, a motion to accept all reports as presented gets several seconds and business is concluded well before lunchtime. The Oblate report had told of an effort to pare the roster of long-inactive and perhaps deceased Oblates. The Director now requires the Oblates to make occasional contact with the Abbey. Regarding the deceased Oblates, he added “I hope that these do not contact me.”

By the second week of June, blackberries were ripening. We have one row of “tame” berries along the bottom fence of the vineyard. This Choctaw cultivar retains “wild” thorns, but produces berries the size of the first thumb phalange. Various monks, employees, volunteers, and friends kept these picked for the month of fruiting. Fresh berries and blackberry cobbler “added a dish” to our fare, as Benedict recommends in the Rule (39:2). Most went into blackberry jam and wine. Half-pint jars of jam are now for sale in the Coury House Bookstore/gift shop. Maybe an “Abbey Jams” brand will one day rival our “Monk Sauce” and “Abbey Brittle.”

Speaking of Monk Sauce, the Habanero peppers finally got planted in mid-June. In May and early June, the ground remained saturated, and peppers do not like wet feet. Br. Reginald said, “We outsmarted ourselves.” A thick layer of straw mulch had been put down, and then the mulch did its job of retaining moisture—not what was needed!

The first week of Camp Subiaco was wet too. A camper walking slowly to the pool as rain fell commented: “We’ve been camping in the rain, playing ball in the rain, hiking in the rain; we might as well swim in the rain.” Boys are not easily dissuaded from their fun.

Brother Patrick Boland was ordained to the priesthood on June 20. Church was packed, the music was lovely, the weather pleasant. His was the first monastic ordination for many years, and we hope that he has “broken the log jam” for priestly vocations. The Bishop’s words, as he handed the bread and wine to the newly ordained, were a profound exhortation for all priests. “Receive the oblation of the holy people, to be offered to God. Understand what you do, imitate what you celebrate, and conform your life to the mystery of the Lord’s Cross.”

July

The roofers did some final tidying up in early July, some 14 months after beginning the project. Most everyone agrees that the new red-brick colored metal roof looks good, maybe not having the monastic cachet of tile, but with a clean and uniform



look. The community enjoyed a cookout with the roofing crew to celebrate the safe completion of the work. It was pouring rain, so cars were moved out, and we ate delicious barbecue in the carport.

As soon as the roofing crew cleared away their supply depot and crew trailer, another construction apparatus was moved into the same area of the monastery grounds. A squat derrick supported a hopper above a cement mixer. A crane hoisted huge pre-mixed bags of mortar cement above the hopper, where a worker sliced the bulging belly. It turned out that this was the mixing site for the stone masons working on the new front entrance of the Academy.

An early morning stroll found the tennis court lights blazing at 5:00 a.m. A closer look found 20 workers swarming over the site. The pumper truck's jointed proboscis hovered and dipped, disgorging concrete to the scurrying, and strangely silent, human workers. The whole scene was eerie, alien, dystopian. Or have I seen too many bad movies? Actually, such before daylight urgency only meant that the summer weeks were rapidly ticking down to a deadline—the students return in mid-August.



*Pouring cement for the renewed tennis courts*

Right in the midst of all this, the Abbey hosted the biennial conference of the North American Oblate Directors. Seventy Directors and Oblates from 37 different communities attended, filling Coury House and about 20 rooms in Heard Hall. July had been pleasant until the very day this group arrived on July 10, when true Arkansas summer weather set in for the duration of the conference. Many monks assisted Oblate Director Fr. Mark in pulling off this conference. Fr. Jerome—Keynote Speaker; Abbot Leonard—official welcome; Brs. Mel, Matthias and Roch—tours; Nov. Clifford—videotaping; Br. Basil—producing the DVDs; Brs. Adrian and Jude—bus driving; and Br. Francis—hospitality. The evaluation forms praised the cooperative effort of the Subiaco monks and Oblate volunteers.

After two weeks of flirting with 100 degrees, finally July 28 reached that mark. The next evening we filed into the Chapter Room, which has its own air conditioner, but which had not been activated ahead of time. The blast of heat caused a few gasps, but all took their places

without comment. Abbot Leonard began the meeting as though all was normal. After Novicemaster Fr. Richard was sent to fetch the novices being considered, Abbot Leonard offhandedly asked “Should I go get the key for turning on the AC?” The question received a resounding affirmative vote—an easy Chapter decision.

At the end of the month, the capstone was placed on the new Academy entrance [see picture on page 8]. The entry clearly designates the front door of the school. Its style mimics the façade of St. Benedict's Church, just off to the north. It seems to integrate the spiritual and the physical, the “ora” and the “labora” of our educational ministry. Located between these two entrances, the Pereyra Plaza, a monument to unselfishness, fits in nicely with this idea.

## August

The Academy footballers began their pre-season conditioning with triple-digit heat indices on August 3. However, by August 6, a heavy rain and blustery winds swept away the worst of the summer heat. At Mass that morning, just as the lector began “I, Daniel, had a vision in the night,” the electricity failed, and darkness fell. Many flashlights are kept handy in the choir stalls just in case the bridegroom chooses to arrive in the dark. Within fifteen seconds, the reading resumed, and all, well-prepared, went in to the wedding feast.

Gardening efforts this summer met with the resistance of nature that Adam and Eve experienced after the Fall. The tomato crop failed due to excess water in May and June; raccoons, squirrels, and groundhogs took at least half of the sweet corn and cantaloupe; squash bugs relentlessly attacked. Still, there was an abundance of watermelon all through July and August, many cantaloupes made it to our table, along with more okra and squash than we could eat. There are no official Abbey gardeners. Those with interest find places to get their hands into the dirt. These include Br. Joseph Koehler, Fr. Jerome, Fr. Richard, Br. Adrian, Fr. Mark, Br. Basil, and Br. Reginald. Of course, novices and candidates don't have to be interested; they are sent.

On August 8, Br. Cassian and Br. Reginald professed Solemn Vows, one month early since both resume seminary programs before the normal Sept. 8th date. Coverage of this event is our front page story.

The grape harvest, beginning on August 17, was another disappointment. The Niagara and Delaware variety produced lush growth of leaves and vines, but little fruit. All of these varieties were picked by 10:30 the first morning. The Black Ives did better, requiring two days of picking. The total was 230 “lugs.” “Lugs” are the yellow plastic baskets used for picking. Quite a few of our neighbors assist with the grape harvest, enjoying the banter during the picking and the refreshments and tall tales provided after the work is done.

Heavy winds and rain on August 22nd toppled the old twisted maple tree above the Abbey cemetery. This tree was dying, it

seems, some 40 years ago. At that time, Fr. Timothy did surgery and filled in the gaping wound with reinforcing rods and cement. He gave it an additional 40 years—a successful surgery for sure. The tree's northward fall crashed onto the decorative fence along the retaining wall, crushing the wooden lattice work, and knocking two stone pillars down into the cemetery. Fr. Patrick took on the task of clearing up the site, and now the area is clean, planted in grass, and the pillars are being reset as I write, a week later.

August ended with a joyful celebration on the 29th. About 600 people were present to rejoice with us and to view the blessings being poured out upon Subiaco in full measure.

These blessings include our new members, the refurbished Courty House, new tennis courts, new Academy entrance, new roof on the entire main building, and a good start on funds for monk elder care and young monk education. As culmination, the new residence hall, Fuhrmann Hall, was blessed.

It was a day of thanksgiving, rejoicing, with a feeling of being surrounded by God's love as manifested by so many good and loving people. Read about this on the next page.



*Fuhrmann Hall*

## Standing Firm in the Faith

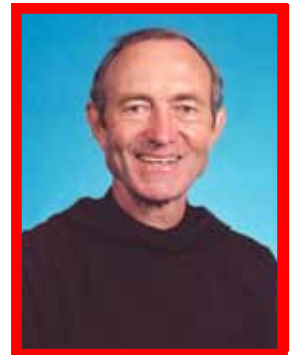
St. Paul often expresses what he wants to be, within himself, and in relation to his friends and to the Christian communities to whom he ministers. In 1 Corinthians 4: 1, he says: “Thus should the world regard us—as servants of Christ and stewards of the mystery of God.” Another time, accused of inconstancy, Paul maintains that his word and his plans in regard to the Corinthians is not fickle, “yes” and then “no,” but is always a “yes” (2 Corinthians 1: 17-20). To the Thessalonians (1 Thessalonians 2: 7-9) Paul states his desire to be, among them, “as gentle as a nursing mother,” and that he was willing to “work day and night in order not to be a burden to them.”

We know that Paul did not always succeed in being gentle, nor in fidelity to his own personal goals. Yet we trust that his desire was genuine and his effort sincere. He kept at the task, got up and tried again when he failed, and placed both his successes and his failures in the loving and powerful hands of God. And so, the Church through the ages has judged Paul as a true servant of Christ and a faithful steward of the mystery of God.

Benedictine monks make a vow of “*conversatio morum*,” translated variously as “fidelity to the monastic way of life” or “the pursuit of monastic perfection.” We don't always succeed, or rather; we never succeed in reaching the goal of perfection. The vow asks us to continue the pursuit, to stay at the task, like a faithful steward, so that a surprise return of our Master (or the Abbot) does not find us to have abandoned the effort, or undermining the work of the community.

We have just celebrated an ordination, two solemn professions, and the dedication of a new building. We were surrounded on these occasions by many friends and helpers—folks who love us and trust us. Surely they do know that we are not perfect! Yet they believe that we, like St. Paul, truly do desire to be what we say and to remain faithful.

The monastic life enables weak and imperfect human beings to grow toward the goal of holiness, toward becoming servants and stewards. Sometimes the growth is not very apparent or is painfully slow. Thankfully, it seems that our friends realize this and accept it. They do want us to stay at the task, to remain committed to the goal, and to rise again from sin and pettiness. Perhaps our monastic “*conversatio morum*” provides a model for others as we all desire to respond to “God's upward call” (Philippians 3:14).



*Fr. Mark Stenzel*



## Continuing the Tradition

by Fr. Jerome Kodell, OSB

Six years ago the monks of Subiaco and their friends were standing before a very high mountain. We had been told by consultants of the U.S. Bishops' National Organization for Religious Retirement that Subiaco was seriously underfunded in its plan for care of elderly and infirm monks. The good news was that they offered to help us put together a strategy to address that need and at the same time bolster the structure for our life and ministry into the future. When all the planning was completed, we found ourselves facing a requirement for a very large amount of money, \$4 million for the fund for care of elderly and infirm monks, and another \$4 million for our life and ministries, especially improvements in our hospitality ministry in Coury House and in our educational ministry in the Academy. That was a very high mountain indeed. St.

Benedict told us to pray and work, and we knew that we would have to do a lot of both.

On Saturday, August 29, we gathered as a community of monks, co-workers, and friends, to celebrate and thank God in a festive Mass for the successful completion of our Capital Campaign, which we named Continuing the Tradition. This was very much also a celebration of the dedicated work of our campaign chairman, Steve Schmitz, of our development office headed by Glenn Constantino and Linda Freeman, and the many volunteers among our alumni, oblates, and friends around the country. And it was a celebration of the love and support that lifted us up all along the way. Steve Schmitz has spoken of the campaign as an effort of bringing people together with what Subiaco has meant in their lives so that they could give expression to their love in a lasting way.

After Mass we moved from the Church to the dedication of Fuhrmann Hall, the residence hall and conference center that is a major fruit of the campaign. In its own way the naming of the hall sends a message of faith and gratitude: honoring a family which produced an amazing number of religious vocations both here at Subiaco and in other religious communities and dioceses. The Fuhrmann family did not have an organized plan to provide so many religious for the Church, and at any rate the call always comes from God; but the life of prayer and faith in their family provided the seedbed of faith where members were free and encouraged to listen for God's call.



*An estimated 600 people attended the dedication of Fuhrmann Hall*



*Procession from church to Fuhrmann Hall*

Like all religious in the Church during the last couple of centuries, when communities were growing and thriving with many members, the Subiaco monks did not think about setting up a fund for care of their aging members. There were plenty of monks to do the labor, and health care expenses were moderate. Whatever funds were left over after bills were paid were invested in the ministries, such as our Academy, so that we could provide more assistance to families with reduced resources.

A number of coinciding factors changed all this. The steady influx of new members halted in the 1960s across the country, which meant that the work could not be continued without outside help. Money that had been used for the ministry was now needed for salaries. At the same time, health care costs were skyrocketing. The U.S. Bishops looked for means to help struggling religious communities, and in the 1980s established a National Religious Retirement Office with an annual collection to help



religious communities make the transition to a new age. With the expert help of this organization the Subiaco monks were able to develop a plan for building a strong retirement fund, and with the success of the recent campaign, that plan has taken a giant first step.

But that aspect of the campaign was not meant as an end in itself. It was a necessary focus to help position us to prepare for the future. And that future looks brighter with the addition of several new monks in recent years. Two of our young monks have returned to the seminary after professing their solemn vows in early August, and eight others are in the earlier stages of their preparation. The campaign incorporated a goal of \$500,000 for the education of new monks, and those funds have already begun to be used productively.

Hospitality has always been a major ministry of Benedictines. Since the mid-1960s, Coury House Retreat and Conference Center has become a spiritual mecca not only for Catholics, but for people of all faiths, and now serves about 6,000 guests each year. Another major component of the campaign was to provide funds for the first major renovation of Coury House since its construction. Campaign funds have allowed us to install energy efficient windows and completely update the guest rooms with new furniture, fixtures, mattresses, and drapes. The front entrance now has an automated entry door which has ended the precarious struggle with luggage.

The creation of a new Academy dorm with a gathering/conference center underneath, which, as mentioned earlier, we dedicated on August 29, was another major part of our planning for the future. The dorms in our century-old main building had been updated over the years, but we knew a new look and a new configuration was needed. However, to renovate the existing dorms in the light of new building codes, especially for bathroom facilities, we would be facing costs close to what would be expected for a completely new construction. We decided to build a new dorm and, in a later phase, convert the former dorm areas in the main building to classrooms and offices. We also took the opportunity to build the meeting / dining / conference space that our alumni and other supporters had been requesting for a long time. At the same time we were able to take advantage of the presence of the construction company to pursue two projects we have had on our want list for some time: the creation of a new Academy front entrance and renewal of the tennis courts.

The new dorm is not only a very attractive addition to the campus but is able to provide the latest technology for internet communications and safety precautions. We have been able to incorporate ideas from university studies of residential living and methods of supervision. The dorm floor has 6 student suites for 42 residents, 5 suites with 6 beds each, and one with 12 beds. There is an apartment for two deans, with private bedrooms and a common kitchen and social area.

The 9,000 square foot gathering hall on the bottom floor can be arranged in several different ways and will accommodate 350 dining guests. Out in front to the south on the same level is a 2700 square foot patio.

The achievement of the beautiful hall required an enormous effort from an army of laborers, and their work was successful because of the guidance of architect Wallie Sprick '77, builder Leo Anhalt '58 and local maintenance director Sam Little '81. Of these men and their contribution to the effort one monk said, "Their love is evident in every square foot."



*Abbot Leonard blessing the crucifix*



*A new front entrance to the Academy was part of the campaign*



# All Aboard

In any boarding school, transportation is a must; not just transportation, but safe transportation. Most people are aware that nothing ages faster than a new vehicle. So you can imagine the excitement created when Subiaco Academy received a new bus this summer!

Through the combined efforts of The Subiaco Foundation and an anonymous individual, a brand new 2016 Bluebird 46-passenger bus was added to the aging fleet for Subiaco Academy. The new vessel was purchased through Central States Bus Sales of Little Rock, AR. It features air suspension which is unlike any of the other buses the Academy operates. This offers a smoother, more



comfortable ride and easier handling for the driver. There are three air conditioning units in the bus as opposed to only two in the older models. Brother Tobias would have been impressed!

The Academy's fleet of buses now includes five full-size units and two mini-buses. The make of the other vehicles ranges from 1988 to 2007. There are also two 12-15 passenger vans that operate only on short distance runs because of their high mileage.

The full size buses are used daily at Subiaco, mainly for the transportation of day students or for sporting or musical events. A bus is run daily to and from Fort Smith, AR, and transports about 32 students each way. The addition of the new bus allows for the entire student body to be transported to pilgrimages to local churches during Catholic Schools Week and allows for travel to sporting events to support their fellow brothers of the Academy. During the summer months, the buses are utilized by Camp Subiaco to carry young campers to the lakes for overnight excursions.

It is truly a blessing to have this new mode of transportation at Subiaco Academy. Our drivers have reported that it is easy to operate which is a comfort to them. But more importantly, the comfort comes from the peace of mind that the students are in a safe environment; as safe as we at the Academy can make it.

# Time with Friends

Most people would agree that spending time with family or friends is a blessing. We know it's good for the heart, mind, and soul. Sometimes a gathering of friends causes us to step back, take a breath and refocus on the important things.

The key word in these thoughts is "time." With the lifestyles we live today, it can be a real challenge to make the time to share with others. The development staff of Subiaco Abbey & Academy looks for opportunities to connect with our alumni and allow them to connect with each other. One of the ways we do this is through our "Gatherings" in various locations around the nation. These are often hosted by alumni or friends of Subiaco and can range from small groups getting together for dinner in a home to larger groups sharing Mass and a meal. We also join together at sporting or musical events.

One of our larger events is the North TX Gathering held annually in October. This event rotates between the parishes in Lindsay, Muenster and Gainesville and draws around 200 people. The monks and lay staff from Subiaco are excited that so many come out to reconnect and hear about the great things going on here. This will be the fifth year for this event and it will be held in Muenster on Oct. 24 with Mass at Sacred Heart Catholic Church at 5:00 p.m. Dinner will follow in the Knights of Columbus Hall. This event is hosted each year by **Steve Schmitz '91** and family and **Dale Schumacher '71** and family. Please join us if you are in the area!

Many times our alumni refer to coming back to Subiaco as coming "home." Because life sometimes gets in the way of things, we hope you will take advantage of sharing in our gatherings and let us bring "home" to you! If you would like to see a gathering in your area, please feel free to contact our development department at:

Phone: 479-934-1001 or email: [subiaco@subi.org](mailto:subiaco@subi.org)



## 192 Students from 17 States and 9 Foreign Countries

The 2015-2016 student body numbers 192 students from 17 states and 9 foreign countries (Russia, China, Japan, Mexico, Nigeria, Taiwan, South Korea, Hong Kong, and Vietnam).

The states represented are Alabama, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Georgia, Illinois, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New York, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Tennessee, and Texas. There are 109 boarding students of which 34 are international students. Day students number 83. The student body is comprised of 42 seniors, 42 juniors, 48 sophomores, 27 freshmen, 20 eighth and 13 seventh grade students.

Fifty-six present Academy students are “legacy” students, i.e. have close relatives who attended Subiaco Academy. Many monks are also graduates of the Academy. Naturally we are happy and proud to greet sons, grandsons, nephews, and brothers of our fellow alumni. This year again there are thirteen sets of brothers attending. Students who have participated in Camp Subiaco are also represented in significant numbers.



*A legacy example – Ed Franz '57, Pat Franz '78, Kevin Franz '84, Tim Franz '79, Michael Franz '08, Marshal Brooks '14 (son of Judy Franz Brooks), Tyler Franz '16*

## How You Wear the Ring

“Kings, bishops, and abbots have used rings as symbols of authority and leadership,” explained Matt Stengel, Academy Headmaster, prior to distribution of senior rings during the August 16 ring ceremony in the Abbey Church. (Abbot Leonard Wangler, Subiaco’s seventh abbot, wears an abbatial ring.) Stengel continued, “Being a good leader is not about making your power or position felt in the sense of oppression or humiliation. It is about serving, teaching, and passing on the wisdom and traditions you have received. And being a good leader is not in the ring – it is in how you wear the ring.” Forty-two seniors participated in the ceremony during the Mass opening the academic year. The church was filled with monks, relatives, and the entire student body.



*Eric Boltuc from Ft. Smith receiving his ring from Headmaster Matt Stengel*

## Academy Board of Trustees



Two Subiaco alumni, **Darian Laves '86** and **Jeff Gray '85** have joined the Academy Board of Trustees. The Board met July 24-25.

*The Board, including ex officio members (Headmaster Matt Stengel and Abbot Leonard), appear in the accompanying photo – l. to r. Jeff Gray '85, George Lieux '68, Abbot Leonard '61, Darian Laves '86, Amy Oatis, Br. Ephrem '60, Donna McDonald, Matt Stengel '99, Joseph Post '83, Ryan Gebrig '91, Bill Lux '66.*

## Kremer at Annapolis

**Logan Kremer '15** began a new chapter in his life on July 1, 2015. On this day, also known as Induction day (I-day), he started his transformation from civilian life to military life at the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD. Through hard work, dedication and discipline, he fulfilled a lifelong dream.

I-day started at 7:30 a.m. with the processing into the Academy. After a very long day, at 6:00 p.m., he took the Oath of Office with his father, Retired U.S. Navy Commander Frank S. Kremer, Subiaco Academy Class of 1984. He was allowed 30 minutes with his family before entering the doors of Bancroft Hall, his new home for the next 4 years.

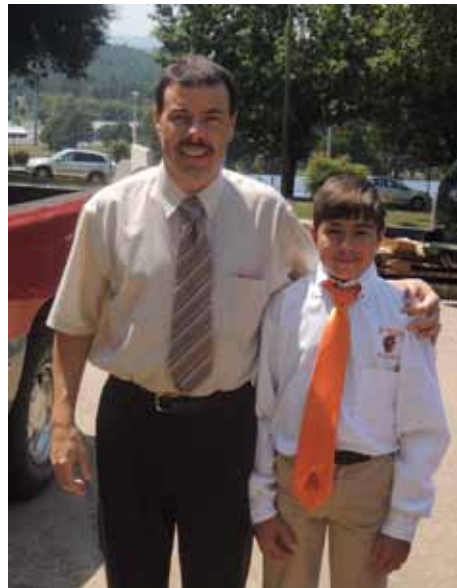


*Logan Kremer '15 posed with his parents Tommie Sue and Commander **Frank Kremer '84***

## Subiaco on AETN



Br. Ephrem conferred with Chuck Dovish during the AETN's Chuck Dovish, "Exploring Arkansas," which aired on July 6. Fr. Jerome, Fr. Hugh, Glenn Constantino, and Br. Joseph K. assisted in this endeavor, featuring the original monastery site, the farm, the school, and the monastery.



***B. J. Tougas '91** and son **Kadin '21** after opening Mass on August 16, 2015*



***Hal Myers '82** and son **Thomas '19** studying forms during registration*



## Choir Camp

One hundred thirty-two campers and staff from Arkansas and six other states participated in the Arkansas Interfaith Conference Choir Camp 2015 at Subiaco during the week of July 20-25. Seven religious denominations were represented. Instruction in choral music and handbells was offered to all campers. Parents were invited to attend the liturgical service in the Abbey Church Saturday, July 25, and the Broadway show by the young performers immediately after the Saturday picnic lunch.

This is the 28th consecutive year that Subiaco Abbey and Academy has hosted this group.



## Parent Association

Every parent of a student enrolled in Subiaco Academy is a member of the Parent Association. Parents contribute time, talent and treasures. The Association encourages parent involvement in programs and activities that expose students to a broad spectrum of varying educational, recreational and cultural opportunities.

The list of some of the activities sponsored by the Parent Association include hall decorating, concession stand (football and basketball), birthday cards, Parent Prayer Ministry, Homecoming (social, ceremonies, and after game celebration), Pig Roast, Decorating the Hill (Christmas), Christmas Dinner for the students, Catholic Schools Week, Spring Dance, Spring Carnival, Junior/Senior Prom and Activities Banquet. Officers at the association table during registration included Christie King, Amanda Miller and Jennifer Schluterman.



## Paris KCs Support Vocations



*In honor of recently ordained Fr. Patrick Boland, OSB, **Brian Weisenfels '86** and **Junior Schluterman '87** presented two checks from the Paris Knights of Columbus Council 3787 to help with expenses for the theology studies of **Br. Reginald Udouj, OSB '79**, studying at St. John's Abbey in Minnesota and **Br. Cassian Elkins, OSB**, a student at St. Meinrad Archabbey in Indiana. Paris KCs are participating in the national Vocations Support Program.*

## Grand Canyon Trip



*For the sixth year in a row, Roy Goetz, Gary Kinney and Rob Pugh have led a camping excursion to the desert southwest. The ten-day trek was made by Liam Johnson, Stephen Schluterman, Zachary Plugge, Mark Popov, Tim Thomas, Daniel Haunert, Hayden Criswell, Trey Wright, Judd Wright, and Logan Marlow.*



## Keeping You Connected



**Derek Pagel '11** married Hannah Flournoy in the Abbey Church at Subiaco on July 4, 2015. Groomsmen were his fellow alumni of the class of 2011 -- **Zach Boyer**, **J.P. Thomas**, and **Gregory Frederick**. All four had graduated on May 12, 2015, from Benedictine College in Atchison, KS. Pagel majored in history and will serve in the Kansas National Guard. Frederick's degree is in biology; he will work at the Kansas City Aquarium. Thomas, a biology major, hopes to help save the ecosystem. Boyer majored in theatre and business; he plans to become a monk at Subiaco.



On July 17, **Dr. Rafael Granja '98**, wife Gloria, and son Elias attended Mass with the monks. Moving from Dallas to Cleveland, Rafael will be working with veteran amputees, helping them regain sensory feedback from their advanced robotic prosthesis at the Cleveland Clinic in Ohio. Gloria is an attorney for a university in Mexico, doing legal work in her home.



Contractor **Leo Anhalt '58** and architect **Wallie Sprick '77** near the new Academy front entrance

**John Casey '67** signed copies of his book *Lame's Leases* at the Ft. Smith Library on June 9, 2015. He noted that "a Benedictine monk told us in high school that everyone has at least one book in them."

Thirty alumni and friends enjoyed the June 13 Cardinal win over the Royals. **John Beuerlein '71** and Crystal hosted the gathering at Busch Stadium in St. Louis.

Several alumni received degrees recently from Arkansas Tech University: **Quinton Schluterman '07** (BS), **Matt Noble '03** (BA), and **William Stehle '08** (MA).

**Tyler Schluterman '11** graduated with High Honors in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville. He is employed by Delek US and will be working in El Dorado, AR, Tyler, TX, and Nashville, TN, for the next year and a half, then will settle at one of the company's locations.



**Fr. Jerome '57**, **John Beuerlein '71** and his son, Danner, at the Cardinals baseball game

# Obituaries

**Carl Fredrick Grummer, Jr. '64**, age 69, of Little Rock, passed away July 26, 2015. He taught in the Little Rock School District for 38 years, was Teacher of the Year, and the first CAD (Computer Aided Drafting) teacher in the district. He was an avid duck hunter, a member of Ducks Unlimited, an extremely skilled wood worker, and active in what is now Skills USA.



He is survived by his wife Dinah, one daughter, four grandchildren, three brothers; Gerald '68, Robert, and Mark, five sisters and three stepsons.

**Charles E. Bauer '46** of Scranton, Arkansas, died July 26, 2015, at age 86. He served his country in the United States Air Force, farmed, and worked at Cloyes Gear for 28 years.



Charles is survived by two sons, three daughters, two brothers, one sister, 14 grandchildren, and 14 great-grandchildren.

**Harold Steven Rineberg '52** of Quincy, Illinois, died Friday, May 23, 2014, in Oceanside, CA, at the age of 80. Harold is survived by his wife of 57 years, Barbara; three sons, one daughter, and six grandchildren. Harold was a veteran of the Vietnam War, having served several tours overseas. He was part of Task Force Delta, participating in operations in the Quang Ngai Province and in operations against the Viet Cong. Harold worked 30 years for Disneyland as Main Gate security.



**Father John Wright '49** died May 23, 2015, at the age of 83. In 1951 he entered the Benedictine Monastery of Subiaco Abbey in Subiaco, Arkansas. Father Wright was ordained a priest on May 26, 1956. He then went to St. Louis University and received his degrees in mathematics and secondary school administration. On Dec. 17, 1960, he became the principal at the same school that he graduated from — Corpus Christi Academy.



In 1968 he left the Benedictines and came to Wyoming. This was his opportunity to serve in small, rural towns. After a stroke in 1999, Father Wright retired from active ministry and continued to live in Powell until his death.

Father Wright's enthusiasm for living fully was obvious. The priesthood was his primary interest, but he liked to dabble in doing things that were different. He was a Ham radio operator and a pilot, and he spent his leisure time playing golf and tennis, hunting, rowing a single scull, and working with horses. As one of his friends said, "Father Wright was a pretty good team roper, but a darn good Padre!"

He is survived by his sister-in-law, many nieces and nephews, and many friends.

**James Terry Schenk '62** died May 30, 2015, at the age of 71. He is survived by one daughter, one brother, nine grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.



**John Riggs '65**, of Edinburg, Texas, died April 20, 2013, at the age of 68.

**James Fitzgerald Norton '82**, died May 5, 2014, at the age of 50.

Jamie attended Northeast Louisiana University where he earned both Bachelor's and Master's degrees in fine art, specializing in raku pottery.

He worked as an art teacher for Pre-K 3 through 8th grade classes at Grace Episcopal School in Monroe for fifteen years, inspiring numerous children to believe in their own abilities and cultivating self-expression through art.

He is survived by two sisters and three brothers; **Edward '78, Joseph '79, and John '85.**

**Julian Walter Post '54** of Hot Springs, Arkansas, died July 30, 2014, at the age of 78.

He owned and operated Julian's Exxon, a Hot Springs landmark for thirty years. A lifelong member of St. John's Catholic Church, Julian served as an usher and was dedicated to the school, where he was a playground supervisor and was loved by the students.

Julian is survived by his wife Kay, two sons, two daughters, four sisters and one grandson.

**Robert Gilmer Clune '51** died June 10, 2015, in Chula Vista, California, at the age of 82.

He is survived by three children, three grandchildren, seven nieces and nephews, and one brother.





## Obituaries

**John Michael Vogler '63** of Little Rock, AR, died July 17, 2015, at the age of 69. From a very early age, he possessed a deep belief in both nonviolence and social justice.

Michael was not only committed to his beliefs, he accepted the consequences for them. As a pacifist, he refused to obey his draft order for the Vietnam War and was arrested on March



5, 1968. He was sentenced to three years in federal prison in Springfield, Missouri, where he served two years and 19 days of that sentence. On January 21, 1977, he and all Vietnam objectors were pardoned by Jimmy Carter in one of his first acts as President.

Michael spent his entire professional career working with or for at-risk kids. He was very involved in the Catholic Worker movement, ran an underground newspaper at UALR, was manager of the "coffee house" at UALR's Wesley Foundation, and was a master bridge player at the Bridge House in Little Rock.

Michael is survived by his loving partner of 10 years, Bonnie Brown Clinton, two daughters, one stepdaughter, four grandchildren, his mother, six brothers, five sisters, and numerous nieces and nephews.

**Michael L. Gore '55** died May 11, 2010, at the age of 78. He was a resident of Arlington, Texas.

## Camp Subiaco

Forty-six alumni and parents volunteered to staff the two sessions (June 14-20 and June 21-27) of Camp Subiaco 2015. Two hundred thirty-five campers from eleven states enjoyed the two camping sessions. Boys, ages 9-13, arrived at Subiaco from Arkansas, Texas, Oklahoma, Louisiana, Mississippi, Florida, Kansas, California, Georgia, Illinois, and Missouri. Activities included fishing, swimming, water basketball, tubing, archery, go-karting, riflery, canoeing, ziplining, climbing wall, outdoor games, and outdoor camping. Traditional favorite camp activities are box hockey and fishing.

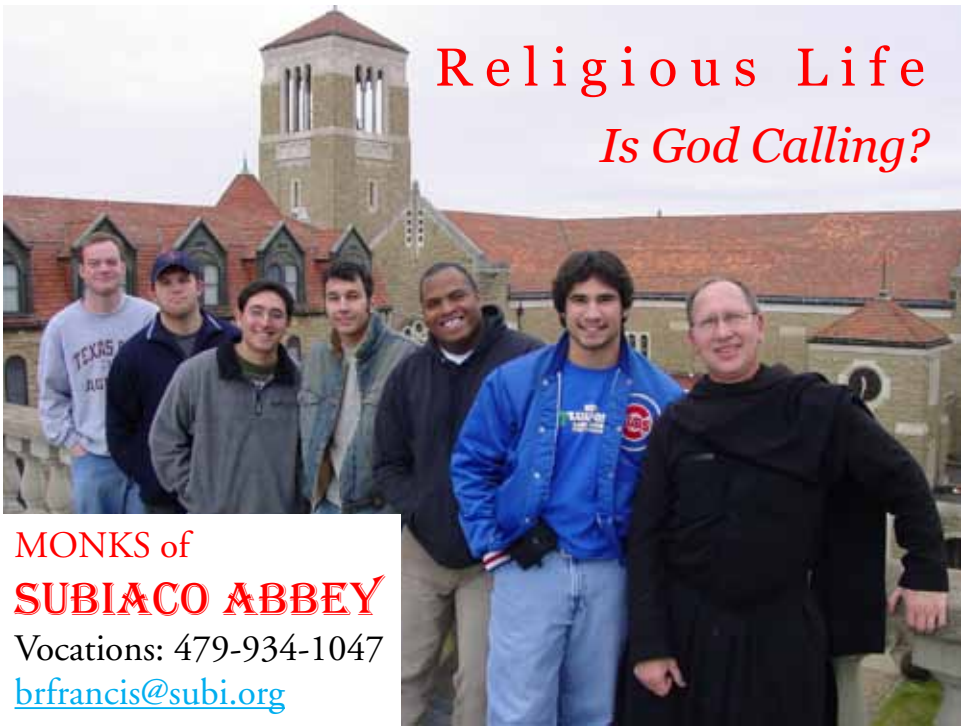


Twenty-four students served as counselors-in-training. During week one, CITs were Christian Kaufman, Nsiong Archibong, Aaron Brooks, John Paul Post, Andrew Eveld, Caleb Phillips, Max Morton, and Ryan Moore. Jackson Mendenhall was the camp lifeguard. Serving as CITs during the week of June 21-27 were the following: Luke Hertlein, Ryan King, Nicholas Schmitz, Haegan Hess, Ryland Estes, Gage Lee, Seth Kupers, Nsiong Archibong, Ben Ingle, Sam Nichol, David Bolt, Elliot Mason, Ryan Moore, Abe Schenk, Jr., and Zach Plugge. Will Owens was the arts and crafts supervisor. Zach Franz was the camp lifeguard. Aaron Brooks and Tyler Franz were counselors.

## Roof Painting



*Both Subiaco's Michelangelo Beeton and Rome's Michelangelo Buonarroti painted on lofty platforms. In the accompanying photo Beeton is painting the roof of the abbey laundry under the watchful eye of Sam Little '81, Fr. Bruno '47, and Br. Anselm '57.*



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**Fall Schedule – Coury House Retreat Center**

**October**

- 2-4 Diocese of Little Rock Diaconate Retreat
- 9-11 Glory of Zion Charismatic Retreat
- 16-18 Women’s Retreat (open to women)
- 16-18 Pulaski Heights Methodist Women’s Retreat
- 19-23 Priest Retreat, Diocese of Tulsa
- 23-25 Our Lady Good Counsel Parish Retreat, LR
- 23-24 Central Baptist Women’s Retreat
- 30-Nov 1 Spiritual Journey Through the Wilderness

**November**

- 6-8 Subiaco Academy Parents Weekend
- 8 Abbey Benefactor Day
- 11-15 48 Hours with God
- 13-16 Sacred Heart Vocation Retreat
- 20-22 JBU Honors Group
- 20-22 Men in Recovery Retreat

**December**

- 4-5 Dan Egan Retreat
- 31- Jan.1 New Year’s Evening of Recollection (open)

All guests, either private or on group retreats, are welcome to join the monastic community for daily prayer and Eucharist. If you are interested in any of the programs above or would like to inquire about a group or private retreat, call Br. Francis Kirchner, OSB, Carol Geels, or Donna Forst at 479-934-4411 for more information.

(open) *Retreat is open to anyone who wishes to come with consideration given to type of retreat.*

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