

The Abbey Message

Subiaco Abbey

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Siguiendo a Cristo

by Fr. Mark Stengel, OSB

Ed. Note: Fr Mark served as chaplain for a large missionary team, mostly from Christ the King Church in Little Rock, which worked in Honduras June 6-14. He files this report.

Siguiendo a Cristo. Following Christ. This mission theme got us to the Little Rock airport at 4:30 a.m. on Saturday, June 6, for a 6:00 a.m. flight to Atlanta, then on to San Pedro Sula, in northwestern Honduras. There we boarded a bus for a six hour ride, going east along the northern coast of Honduras to the city of Trujillo, where we arrived about 6:30 p.m. Immediately the 95 missionaries gathered in the hotel ballroom for an anticipated Sunday Mass, since the next day would be a full workday. The Mass was that of Trinity Sunday, and the Scriptures told of God's self-revelation to the chosen people, that this revelation showed a God who is "Abba," and that our God allows us to share in the divine work of inviting others to the relationship of triune love. Quite a promise and challenge as we began "following Jesus." Finally we enjoyed a late *cena* and tumbled into bed soon afterwards—in air-conditioned rooms. Yes!!



Fr. Mark with some Honduran friends

Honduras is not on daylight saving time, so the sun rose shortly after 5 in the morning. This gave ample time for a swim in the Caribbean and a jog along the beach. Columbus came ashore here in Trujillo Bay in 1498, and the first Mass on the American mainland was celebrated here. Five hundred and eleven years later, the white sand beach, the very narrow coastal plain fronting steep, forested mountains must look exactly the same. The people are different now, being the mestizo descendants of the indigenous people and the Spanish colonists, along with many Garifuna people, a mixture of Carib Indian blood and African slaves, who had escaped to Honduras from oppression in other areas of the Caribbean. That first morning I chatted with three boys hauling in a net and asked them about the earthquake two weeks before. The older boy pointed to his younger brother and said “*El tiene un terremoto en su cabeza.*” (He’s got an earthquake in his head.) I guess big brothers are like that everywhere.

The local bishop Luis Solé and his young assistant, Fr. Felipe, worked closely with the Evangelism team of the mission. Honduras is very short on clergy, with few native vocations. Bishop Solé and Padre Felipe made a wonderful impression. Surely their zealous pastoral care and open friendliness show forth the priesthood in an attractive way. We met Fr. Felipe’s mother in the village of Agua Amarilla. She is so proud of him!

Sunday night about 11:20 my roommate, Dr. Rick Riley, and I both popped up in our beds saying, “What was that? Was that an earthquake?” The shaking had stopped, and I laid back down, and felt one more slight tremor. The next morning we learned that the aftershock had measured 5.8, and that someone had frantically called the hotel, saying that the missionaries must be evacuated in case of a tsunami. Thankfully we were allowed to sleep and the sea stayed in its place. The experience did provide homily material for Monday morning, reminding us that we are not in charge; we are held in God’s hands.

Tuesday morning the bus dropped off the hospital team in town before going on to the village of Santa Fe with the clinic and evangelization team. Supplies were being unloaded from the back of the bus, parked on a fairly steep incline, when the driver decided to get ready to pull out. Somehow he allowed the bus to roll backward ten feet or so. Screaming and terror ensued, but the missionaries behind the bus managed to jump out of the way. Then, with the back door still open, the bus jerked forward, sending a woman missionary sprawling full length in the aisle. We were shaken, and again felt the reality of Jesus’ promise of protection from snakes, scorpions, and other deadly things for those who proclaim the Good News (Matthew 10:19; Mark 16:18). And besides, I have a valiant, on-duty angel, Socorro, who watches over me and my companions.

In Santa Fe village, I gave Viaticum and the Anointing of the Sick to a young woman, Fatima, dying of stomach cancer. Doctor Greenway had told her of her terminal condition at the hospital the day before. She was quiet and composed, with her family gathered around her bed set outside in the shade where she could see the ocean and get the sea breeze. An intimate moment, with a real sense of “being Christ” for her. I continue to pray for her, as I wrote in my journal: “Lord, may your saving power raise her up to you, where she may enjoy forever your embrace of love.”

Wednesday morning Dr. Beth Milligan roused us at 6:00 with a trumpet reveille. She had brought her trumpet to accompany the singing at the morning Masses, and someone had dared her to play the wake-up call. We Americans are a pretty bold bunch! This got me up in time to pray on the beach and to see a dolphin frisking not far offshore.

I joined the construction crew today at Santa Fe, where I did a little painting, helped hang a door, advised and measured (more like got in the way) of Leonard Kremers and Jim Badami as they figured how to install some heavy blackboards. Mostly I talked with school kids, who were so brightly inquisitive and amazed by my bluish eyes.

In the afternoon, we visited La Finca de los Niños, an orphanage staffed by American volunteers and Honduran house parents. Most of the children are not truly orphans, but came to the Finca because of neglect or abandonment. The “crop” of this *finca* (farm) is beautiful children, who grow strong and loving and smart here. The setting, the living arrangements, the food



Honduran children waiting for classes to resume

for the volunteers and the children are deliberately kept “Honduran,” so that the children can easily step back into their society after they leave the Finca.

Thursday in the village of Silím, Matt, Beth, and I took a quick tour around the village and came across a boy trying over and over to knock down a tempting mango. My first throw brought it down, and he generously surrendered the prize to me. Delicious! I heard many confessions, since the bishop was coming on Saturday for Confirmation, and the *confirmandi* were lined up to “clear the decks” for the coming of the Holy Spirit. Counseled a sad, young, very pregnant woman with a tragic story of abandonment, abuse, and neglect. My heart went out to her in her grief and desolation.

In the afternoon, a big-eyed cutie named Milka, five years old, guided us to several homes of shut-ins where we talked, prayed, gave Holy Communion. How refreshing to be in a society where a little girl could wander around town with three strangers, and be perfectly safe, and where her parents trusted us with their little one.

The next day, we traveled to the village of Los Leones (the lions). Appropriately, the patron of the church is San Marcos. When Bishop Solé arrived to assist with the *Encuentro*, I greeted him with “Welcome, Bishop, to my church.” He responded “Yes, and since it’s your church, you get to preside at the liturgy today.” When I mildly protested, he was adamant: “No ‘*tal vez*’ (maybe). You will be the celebrant.”

The “*Encuentros*” conducted in three villages, were prayer and study days for the “*Delegados de la Palabra*” (catechists) of the surrounding communities. It amounted to a very slow and thorough session of “*lectio divina*” based on John 15: 1-15 and John 1: 35-39. For more than two hours, we



Fr. Mark's church - Iglesia San Marcos

pondered what it meant to be a branch of the True Vine and the sort of relationship Jesus desires with his disciples. The “*delegados*” are faith-filled people, and their special concern was how to transmit the faith to the young.

In the late afternoon at the Los Leones clinic, a little girl, maybe 1½, was crying. The mother, seated nearby, ignored her wails. I sat down beside the toddler, put her on my lap, stroked her feet and hair. She soon quieted and snuggled up to me. It seemed the most important event of the day—a special moment.

Saturday my fearless leader Patrick Montiel had mostly recovered from the pinkeye, and he and Doctor Nagel escorted me into the Trujillo jail. We were shown to a room partially set off from the teeming main area of the jail, with chairs and a raised platform at one end. I presumed this was where I was to “set up shop,” but was quickly barred from the platform and advised that the other end was the “Catholic” part. The chairs were simply reversed and a makeshift altar quickly set up. There was no “*luz*” (electricity) that day for the fans, and no breath of air was stirring, and the area was a mass of bodies. Sweat streamed. Luckily, I had a large bandana for mopping off, and—thanks be to God!—a prisoner stood beside me all through Mass fanning me with a piece of cardboard. As I spoke in the homily about God hating the sin but loving the sinner, there were nods of assent. The love of God broke through all the chains of guilt and fear and was manifest even in this world apart. We were able to give some aspirin and holy cards to the men in the solitary confinement “hole,” and Dr. Fred promised to contact a prisoner’s relatives in Missouri, who had no idea where he was.

At the close of the evening Mass at San Isidro, Father Felipe and I blessed the mission group in Spanish and English with the Priestly Blessing from Numbers 6: 24-26. Then came a surprise treat. Two newborn babies were presented to the community. Father Felipe and I each held a baby, pronounced a blessing over them, and held them aloft for the community’s welcoming applause. Mine was beautiful Carmen Sophia, first-born daughter of a couple whose eyes were shining with love and pride.

I feel that the mission group did a good job of displaying the face of Christ, and at the same time, we saw clearly the face of Jesus in our Honduran brothers and sisters.

If God Were Only Like Us

A little-known aspect of the study of the Bible is the tracing of the transmission of the text. This is a very important enterprise because of the critical significance of the Bible as the revealed word of God for the faith of Jewish and Christian believers. We tend to take for granted that the biblical text we have today has been handed down intact from original documents of the earliest times. But the fact is that we have no original biblical document in the sense of a manuscript from a writer. All of our sources for the biblical text are copies of the originals or of other copies.

For centuries the copies were all made by hand and depended on the attention and skill of scribes for accuracy. Inaccuracies inevitably crept in because of human error. The accurate text we have today has been established by the comparison of thousands of manuscripts produced in the early centuries.

Sometimes a scribe would be confused by the text he was copying. Perhaps a word was indecipherable, or it was a word that looked like another word, or the meaning didn't make sense to him. He might "correct" the text according to his knowledge or instincts, even adding or subtracting a word. This would be detected later in the comparison of manuscripts. Often this emendation would be a window into the mind of the scribe, such as when an early scribe changed "our joy" to "your joy" in 1 John 1:4. Both readings make sense, but "our joy" is a more radical Christian insight that the scribe presumed was a mistake.

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus taught about prayer as follows: "When you pray, go into your room and shut the door, and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you" (Mt 6:6). Some translations in the past added the word "openly": the Father who sees in secret will reward you openly. This addition originated with a scribe who was copying the text three hundred years after the Gospel was written. He thought the word "openly" had been left out in this verse (and in verses 4 and 18), failing to perceive that the point is not that we can see God's reward but that he can see our prayer.

As far as I know, no modern translation incorporates the word "openly," because it has been shown by textual study to be a later addition to Matthew's Gospel. But the addition may point to an agenda that was in the scribe's mind and may be in ours as well.

When we make a particular petition in our prayer, asking for healing, or good weather for a picnic, or safe travel, if what we ask for is granted we say, "God heard my prayer." We don't say that if the weather was bad for the picnic. But there are no unanswered prayers. God always answers our prayer, though not always visibly in the way we would like. Like the scribe, when we pray for something, we would prefer that God answer "openly," with something we can see.

The words of Jesus are calling us to pray with faith, which means a radical trust that God always hears and answers our prayer whether we can see the result or not. The fourth-century scribe wanted to hold God to account the way human beings hold one another to account. But we can't check up on God. If we pray he will reward us, openly or in secret, in the way he prefers. Often, but not always, we recognize it when God acts "openly" on our behalf, but if we have the faith that Jesus is asking for, we will know God answers our prayer whether we see the reward or not, whether it looks like what we asked for, and whether it comes now or later.



"The words of Jesus are calling us to pray with faith, which means a radical trust that God always hears and answers our prayer whether we can see the result or not."

Abbot Jerome Kodell, O.S.B.



Abbey Journal

by Fr. Mark Stengel, OSB

Ed. Note: To make room for the Honduras report, the Journal will be truncated.

April

The March journal commented that we had “dodged the bullet” in regard to freeze damage to the grape crop this year. No one should make such predictions in Arkansas! Sure enough, April 2 brought freeze warnings. Brother Joseph Koehler, viticulturist, had about eight large round bales of hay placed strategically around the vineyard. These were doused with diesel fuel and set ablaze sometime after midnight, when the temperature had dropped below freezing. The effect was Dante-esque: sullen orange glimmering through circling, clinging rafts of oily smoke. The wind had shifted by this time, carrying most of the smoke away from the vineyard. But our efforts were rewarded. The low was only 27°, and it quickly warmed, so there was very little damage.

An *Arkansas Times* newspaper column commented on the story about Brother Anselm receiving the Thomas Jefferson award for his volunteer weather-watching service. The original story had quoted Br. Anselm as saying that he never missed the daily recording of the weather unless he was on vacation or away on “monk business.” The *Times* commented: “What’s ‘monk business’? Being poor and chaste? Seems like he could do that at home.”

May

April and May remained cool and wet—very wet! By mid-May, some areas around us had received more than 11 inches of rain, the most for these two weeks since 1882. Yet there was little flooding, since the rain just came steadily rather than torrentially. Brother Adrian kept trying in vain to get a garden planted. Coach Tim Tencleve described the conditions aptly: “When you get stuck with a weed-eater, you know it’s wet.”

On May 15, Prior David was diagnosed with Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever, or “tick fever.” He did not remember being bitten by a tick, but he will not forget his week of isolation in his room, when it was thought that he had the flu, and then his six days in the hospital, followed by weeks of recuperation. Using the national total of tick fever cases for the previous year, he calculated his odds of getting the disease as one in 300,000. Why me? he laments.

Latin is making a comeback in the monastery in the form of warning signs: “Nolite tangere: Pigmentum umidum.” “Cave quare fermentum fortasse malum sit.” The placement made the meaning evident even to the uninitiated: “Don’t touch. Wet paint.” “Be careful because the beer might be bad.”

The worst news of the month was Brother Vincent Klein’s diagnosis as having colon cancer. He is receiving chemotherapy in an attempt to shrink the tumor prior to surgery. Brother has borne the disease and the treatment with quiet dignity and never a word of complaint. The chemo has not “laid him low” as it so often does. He is up and about, present at Divine Office, retains his appetite, and even puts in a couple hours of work most days. Please join us in prayer for his welfare.



Two sons and a grandson of Abbey Church builder Bernard Kaelin joining us for the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the consecration of St. Benedict Abbey Church

June

The spring *Abbey Message* had featured Fr. Placidus' reflections on ageing. His article generated a flood of affirmation, support, and love in the form of cards and letters, e-mails, phone calls, and visits. He was/is much loved as pastor, teacher, friend, retreatmaster, confrere. He wants to thank all those who contacted him and he wishes that he had the energy to respond to each of you. He is growing steadily weaker and thinner, and is now using a walker and wheelchair.

Another item in *The Abbey Message* had an unintended result.

The Journal had commented on the cutbacks in our food rations (the "extras," not the essentials) in an attempt to stay within budget. We began receiving "care packages" of all kinds of teas, and hot chocolate mix. These are greatly appreciated, but as I told someone else who inquired what he could do to help the situation, "We're not suffering. The economy is causing real pain to many people. Please allow us to be at least a little bit in solidarity with those who are hurting." So again, thank you! But *¡No mas! ¡No mas!*

On June 12, a storm with straight-line winds of 80 m.p.h. tore through the area, uprooting many trees, including two large trees on campus. Surprisingly, there was little structural damage. A pine tree just across the street from Coury House was struck by lightning. It sounded like the end had come, the proverbial crack of doom. But only the tree has withered to the roots.

The 50th anniversary of the dedication of the Abbey Church was observed on June 13. The actual date was March 31, but this mid-Lent date is not conducive to festivities. New front doors were installed for the occasion—very nice-looking wooden doors. We had investigated bronze doors, but our diamond mine has not yet come into production.

By the third week of June, a heat wave set in and temperatures stayed daily in the mid to upper 90s. It doesn't take very much of this to blot out the memory of the record rainfall and coolness of April and May. July began with a slight cooling, so we are OK. After all, it is summertime. If only the tomatoes would ripen!



Installing the new Church doors before the 50th anniversary



Perception and Reality

St. Benedict speaks about the “thorns of contention” that arise daily in close community living (RB 13:12). The pricks of these thorns are often not intentional, but result from false perceptions.

I sat down next to a confrere at the breakfast table, and he picked up his plate and moved to another table. Well! What a prick! Later, I asked him what the problem was, perhaps B.O., had I offended him in some way? “No, no, no,” he said. “It’s just that this is a short table, and when three of us sit on one side, there is no elbow room.”

O! The reality removed the thorn my false perception had caused. Had I not sought out the truth, my perception likely would have taken on a sort of reality in my mind. A thorn that is not removed begins to fester. A recognized thorn can be treated and removed.

I observed a conflict between two confreres, where one was upset with the other over a perceived slight. The “offender” told me that he had no idea what he had supposedly done, and that the accuser would not tell him exactly what the offensive tone or gesture had been. This allows a perception to rule the day, rather than finding out if there was something real behind the conflict.

The dialectic between perception and reality operates on every level, from the individual to the international scene. The ongoing Honduran crisis is a case in point. The ousting of the President looked like a *coup d’état*, but was that the reality?

Knowing the truth does not necessarily make things easy or remove a conflict. But it does allow us to deal with the real issues, and possibly move toward reconciliation. South Africa gave a striking example under the presidency of Nelson Mandela. Its Truth and Reconciliation Commission asked the perpetrators of injustice to reveal the facts of the atrocities they had carried out under the apartheid system, not to punish them, but to allow the perpetrators and the victims to move toward reconciliation.



Fr. Mark Stengel

Many of the monks were busy in early July harvesting the sweet corn that Br. Adrian had grown (see picture at right). Much of the corn was frozen to be served later, but we enjoyed some of it the same day for lunch. Br. Adrian’s garden is also furnishing fresh squash and peppers and will soon be producing okra and cucumbers as well as cantaloupe and watermelon. Tomatoes are giving a problem this year but we should soon begin to enjoy them as well.





Changes to provide positive impact on student life

Beginning in the fall of 2009, Subiaco Academy will implement several changes that will have a positive impact on student life, according to Headmaster Michael Burke.

“The new changes that will take place this fall are designed to move Subiaco Academy toward the level of a true boarding school community,” says Burke. “We are forming faculty duty teams – made up of administrators, faculty, monks, and staff – to provide increased mentoring opportunities and quality interaction with Academy students.” Duty teams will work on a rotational basis each Tuesday and Thursday, with each shift beginning at student supper. Teams will work from 6:00 p.m. until night prayer at 9:00 p.m. interacting with and offering support to students; monitoring study hall; tutoring; and conducting night prayer. “We want to provide our students with a supportive, home-like environment in which to grow as individuals,” Burke notes.

In an effort to further strengthen the inclusiveness of the Subiaco community, the Academy will implement the House system this fall. Six dorm areas will be named for the abbots of the abbey and the abbey founder. All students, including day students, will be assigned a House membership, where the boarders will also live. The House system encourages year-long competitions between the Houses (at orientation, Field Day, intramurals, Pig Roast activities, Spirit Week, holiday events, etc.) with points earned throughout the school year. Points will be awarded for attendance at school activities, placement on the Honor Roll/Faculty List and award recognitions such as the Schriver Award, etc. Points can also be removed for different infractions or abuses. “Houses will create their own ‘House Colors’ and ‘House Flag,’ says Burke. “Students and faculty/staff will also sit with their House during assembly and Mass. We want to create a more ‘home friendly’ residential community that encourages more involvement and a desire to continue what one has started.”

Additional changes for the upcoming school year include: the hiring of an Activities Director; implementation of a formal after-school activities program where students are required to participate in a regular season sport, or an activity with faculty members “coaching” a team/club/group; the school will be returning to a common study hall for all students who are not achieving at an appropriate level, and students will have to earn their way to the privilege of in-room study; morning detention will be replaced with lunchtime detention with a designated set of rules to be followed every day, making detention more effective; freshmen and eighth grade PE will be moved to the 7th period time slot and will count as one class rather than the current two for the entire school year; dormitory deans will be more involved in the daily life of the school and all deans will make Subiaco their primary residence; and faculty and students will be responsible for the general upkeep of the Academy campus, with students performing designated daily chores. Seniors will work as team leaders to help underclassmen not only complete their chores, but to also understand that work is both necessary and rewarding.

“These are exciting times for Subiaco Academy as administrators, faculty, and staff work together to move our school closer to providing a true and inclusive boarding school environment for our students,” says Burke. “I’m very proud of the way everyone has embraced these positive changes for the betterment of the Academy.”

Public venues cap off musical season

Subiaco’s music programs hit the road in March and April to showcase their talent in public venues.

The Men’s Choir, SubiTones and BenedicTones, under the direction of Dr. Sharon Kenney, performed in Branson, Missouri, on March 27 as the pre-show entertainment for the Haygoods at the Americana Theater.

After the show, the students met the Haygoods, a family group who has performed in Branson for 18 years.

The Jazz Ensemble traveled to San Antonio, Texas, to perform at three venues during Fiesta Week held April 23-25: Hard Rock Cafe, Sea World and the Hilton Hill Country Resort.

The jazz band is directed by Mr. Roy Goetz.



Graduation exercises

Graduation for the 122nd class of Subiaco Academy was held Saturday, May 16, with Mass celebrated by Bishop Anthony Taylor, followed by commencement ceremonies in the church due to inclement weather. The last time graduation was held in the church was in 1986, according to Abbey archivist Br. Vincent Klein.

Bishop Taylor of the diocese of Little Rock was the commencement speaker. Appointed in April 2008, Bishop Taylor is 55 years old and is the oldest of seven children.

In his speech he referred to the Shakespearean quote "Parting is such sweet sorrow." He gave the seniors his blessing and told them they would be missed.

Joon Hee Won from Anyang, Gyeonggi-do, South Korea, was the valedictorian; Reagan Ryu from Seoul, South Korea, was the salutatorian.

Of the 45 seniors, eleven graduated with honors: Won, Ryu, Andres Martin-de-Nicolas, Joshua Stewart, McKenzie Wright, Zoo Young Oh, Ji Young Ahn, Dale Moore, In Young Oh, John-Rex Spivey and Adam Callahan.

To be an honor graduate, a student must maintain at least a 90% average all four years.

The Class of '09 plans to attend 33 colleges in the United States and one in Mexico. The class had an average composite ACT score of 24.7.



Jude Ruesewald of Lissie, Texas, receiving the Courty Cup trophy from Abbot Jerome Kodell during graduation ceremonies on May 16



Bishop Anthony Taylor of the Diocese of Little Rock giving the commencement address for the 122nd graduating class of Subiaco Academy held May 16



Nurse recognized for service to school A place of history

Mrs. Del Berry, school nurse for the last seven years, was awarded the Headmaster's Distinguished Service Award for the '09 school year.

Mrs. Berry graduated from the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville as a registered nurse and has since worked in four emergency departments, for the Poison Control Center hotline and at the UA Medical School.

One of her responsibilities as school nurse is to arrange for appointments and get students to them. In any one day, there may be as many as four appointments.

Often she feels stretched in too many directions. Thomas Hartman, a sophomore, was impressed with her abilities. "She is constantly taking students to appointments. And she gets me in and out pretty fast."

She also must handle sports injuries, arrange for physical therapy sessions, call the pharmacies and pick-up and administer medications. She arranges for flu shots for all students in the school, chasing some of them down so that they don't forget or to help them overcome their fear of needles. For the faculty and staff, she maintains records of skin tests required by the Health Department.

One of many students who appreciate the job done by Nurse Berry, sophomore Blake Wallis said, "Mrs. Berry has helped me more than anyone else here at Subi. My body fails me and I constantly find myself in her office. In the past two years I've battled allergies, the stomach virus, bronchitis, sinus infections, and two herniated disks. Mrs. Berry has helped me with every ailment and treats me like I was her own son."

As school nurse, Mrs. Berry must put in many hours with the students. Though her regular hours are during students' free time from classes – before classes, at lunch and at TA- her hours extend well beyond those times.

It is in the evening hours and weekend hours that she is most appreciated. In emergencies, she is called in. In flu season, she is there. In spring allergy season, she doles out sympathy with the prescribed meds.

"I see her helping other students out when they have allergic reactions. She'll go to rooms even after lights-out to check on medications," said Hartman. And there are times when her job calls for a little necessary dose of tough love.



Nurse Del Berry, recipient of the Headmaster's Distinguished Service Award given each year to recognize a staff member for his or her dedication to the school

On the second floor between the monastery and the student dorms lies the Abbey museum.

Inside is a wide and strange variety of items: old church vestments, typewriters, guns, arrowheads, and a four-legged chicken. It's no wonder many students, after a visit, feel awed or shocked.

John-Rex Spivey, a senior, said, "Going into the Abbey museum is like a walk into the past. It's really interesting because it's not like other museums; it's full of random things."

The museum was run by Br. Gerard (Jerry) Kaufman between 1915 and 1975, and was located where the chaplain's office and third-floor TV room exist today.

Current curator Fr. Hugh Assenmacher said, "Br. Jerry never threw anything away. People would always come and give him things. He had a chandelier made from the toothbrushes students left behind."

Behind a glass case, there is an old ROTC uniform worn by a past student during the years surrounding World War I, a remnant of some of the extracurricular activities Subiaco used to offer.

In another glass case is an assortment of old cameras. Some of these cameras were used by Fr. Victor when he took pictures of ball games and other school events, just another reminder of how much the monks were involved with the school.

Next time the door to the Abbey museum is propped open with a large blue jug, consider going inside to learn more about a place called Subiaco.



Early 1900s typewriter in museum



Distinguished Alumni named

This year's reunion was the occasion of the recognition of two Distinguished Alumni, A. J. (Jay) Fredrich '57 and Leo J. Byrne, Honorary Alumnus.

Leo J. Byrne was born in Conway, Arkansas, on April 3, 1902. He moved to Little Rock as a young man and became active in St. Edward's Parish where he met his future wife, Zita DeClerk. They were married at St. Edward Church in 1927. They had three sons, two of whom are Alumni of Subiaco Academy. Mr. Byrne founded a small printing business, which eventually became Paragon Printing and Stationery Company, the leading printer of legal documents for attorneys and court systems throughout the state of Arkansas. In addition to his service to his parish, Leo Byrne was active in the Knights of Columbus. He was a Fourth Degree member and served as Grand Knight of Council 812 in Little Rock, as State Master and as State Deputy. He was a tireless supporter of Subiaco Abbey and Academy, serving as a member of the Building and Finance Committee for more than two decades and as a tireless fundraiser for Alumni Hall, the Abbey Church and Coury House. In recognition of his service, he was named an Honorary Alumnus in May 1957 and subsequently served as Vice President of the Subiaco Alumni Association.



Leo Byrne

Mr. Byrne was a member of the Little Rock and United States Chamber of Commerce. He served the nation as a member of the Selective Service Board in Little Rock for 18 years. He also served on the Boards of the United Way, the Salvation Army, and the Robinson Auditorium in Little Rock. He was a National Director of the National Conference of Christians and Jews.

Augustine J. (Jay) Fredrich '57 was born in Little Rock, Arkansas, on September 12, 1939. His elementary education at St. Edward School there and his secondary schooling at Subiaco Academy were followed by Baccalaureate and Master's degrees in Civil Engineering from the University of Arkansas and California State University in Sacramento. In 1962 he married Cecelia Waller, and they became the parents of three children; Laura Ann, Augustine Joseph, Jr., and Gregory Louis.

His career with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers included assignments in Little Rock; Davis, California; and Washington, D.C. He was also assigned to UNESCO for projects in Peru, Guatemala, and Brazil. His Corps career also included an 18-month Congressional Fellowship and a three-year term as Director of the Institute for Water Resources where he was an advisor to the Chief of Engineers on engineering policy and manager of the nation's hydroelectric resources and inland waterways.

In 1979 Jay left government service to begin a 24-year career as an engineering educator at the University of Southern Indiana in Evansville, Indiana. In addition to his teaching duties he served as Department Chairman for 21 years and as Associate Dean of the School of Science and Engineering. In 1993 his faculty colleagues chose him for the University's Distinguished Professor Award, and in 2002 he received the University's highest award for teaching excellence.



Jay Fredrich

Jay was associate Editor of the Journal of Water Resources Planning and Management and authored a book and more than 50 professional papers on water resources planning and management and the history of Civil Engineering. The American Society of Civil Engineers recognized his contributions to the field of water resources planning and engineering with its Lifetime Achievement Award in 2009.

In addition to service in many capacities to the community and church, Jay has served on the Board of Directors of the Subiaco Alumni Association and the Subiaco Academy Board of Trustees, including terms as President of both organizations.

Camp Subiaco numbers hold

While summer camps around the country have seen their numbers dropping, Camp Subiaco has done much better. In 2008 camp numbers dropped by 35% across the nation while Subiaco lost 15%, and in 2009 other camps dropped another 15% while here enrollment remained the same. This year 30 Alumni took time from their busy schedules to volunteer as counselors under the leadership of Pat Franz '78. Twenty students were employed to work as CITs (Counselors in Training). The camper coming the farthest distance was the grandson of James Shiffer '53, who came from Kodiak, Alaska.

Reunion 2009

The 97th Annual Subiaco Alumni Reunion kicked off Friday morning, May 29th with the Second Annual Fr. Harold Memorial Golf Tournament at The Lion's Den Golf Club in Dardanelle. With over forty players the event raised \$665.00 for the athletic program at the Academy.

The crowd began to build in time for the walk-around buffet that evening in Centenary Hall. Jacob Carey and the staff from food service did their usual fine job with shrimp, roast beef and finger foods. The Alumni and their wives spilled over into the Alumni Beer Garden to enjoy their supper.

The annual business meeting was called to order by President Pat Nolte at 10:00 a.m. the next morning. After Abbot Jerome gave opening remarks of welcome, deceased alumni, jubilarian monks and anniversary classes were recognized.

Leo Anhalt '58 gave a report for the Subiaco Academy Foundation whose sole purpose is to raise funds for the Academy. Their goals for 2009 are to have an Executive Director in place by July 1 and to raise \$500,000.00 by the end of the year. The Foundation currently has \$109,000.00 on hand. Brian Weisenfels '85 made a motion that a resolution be passed giving the Association's full support to the Foundation and its goals. After being seconded by Pat Griebel '89, the motion was passed unanimously.

Jay Fredrich '57, President of the Academy Board, gave an overview of the Academy finances explaining the need for more Alumni interest in fundraising for the Academy.

Mike Burke, Headmaster, outlined changes for the coming school year. Common study halls will be reinstated, dorms will be organized as houses, and there will be a greater involvement in student life by the faculty.

Abbot Jerome reported on a plan to renovate the Abbey facilities located in the New Annex. The campaign is scheduled to honor Br. Tobias. After the Abbot's report Drew Daniel '76 offered two fishing trips to Mexico, all expenses paid, for the first two contributions of \$25,000.00 to the Br. Tobias Fund. Then Leo Framel '49 and his wife Martha were called up to the stage as his nephew, Tim Smith, presented a check to Abbot Jerome in the amount of \$25,000.00 for the Br. Tobias Fund in honor of Leo and Martha.

Phil Fredrich '62 was elected President-elect and Ron Kaufman '65, Bill Schwartz '63 and Matt Stengel '99 were elected to five-year terms as directors. Abbot Jerome appointed Steve Osborn '74 and Tom Shannon '58 to five-year terms and Dave LaValle '85 to fill the remainder of Phil Fredrich's term.

While the business meeting was in session the Ladies Auxiliary held a brunch at St. Benedict's Hall featuring a Purse-a-nality sale and raffle. The Auxiliary conducted a silent auction throughout the weekend making \$2,870.00 for student aid.

Saturday lunch of bar-b-cue pork was provided by the Class of 1978 with a cooking team from the Stuttgart K of C's headed by Bill Reinhart '63 and Greg Lorince '78, assisted by Steve Goebel '78 and Chuck Kremers '78.

Fr. William was the main celebrant at the reunion Mass on Saturday afternoon. At the end of Mass Jay Fredrich '57 and Leo Byrne, Honorary Alumnus, were honored as Distinguished Alumni by the Association. The presentation was made by Abbot Jerome to Jay, surrounded by his family, and to Leo's sons Raymond '47 and Richard.

After Mass the fiftieth anniversary class of 1959 enjoyed a steak dinner cooked by Fr. William on the patio of the Coury House, while the rest of the group retired to the student dining room for a meal of pork loin.

The evening closed with a casino night provided by the Fort Smith K of C Council. After two hours of black jack, roulette, and craps, the winners used their winnings to bid on items provided by Nino Ardemagni '91. Bill Elsken '58 served as auctioneer.

At breakfast the next morning the incoming president, Drew Daniel, was introduced. The winners of various tourneys were announced; then the winners of the 200 Club Raffle were called: Tommy Uhiren '57 won the Honda four wheeler; John Collier '66 won the trip to Las Vegas; Richard Ardemagni '63 and Frank Kodell '59 won \$250.00 each.

Obituaries

Aloys Knittig '55 died on May 24, 2009, in North Little Rock. He was a veteran of the U. S. Army. He is survived by a brother, Joe Knittig.

Henry "Poppy" Hoffman '47 died in Little Rock on May 20, 2009, at the age of 80. He was President of Muswick Company, a candy wholesaler, at the time of his death. He loved horses and

was president of the Little Rock Riding Club for many years and enjoyed announcing rodeos and horse shows. He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Mary Frances; two sons, Dr. Tom Hoffman and Steve Hoffman; a daughter, Linda Hoffman; five grandchildren, four step grandchildren and fourteen great grandchildren.

Cecil M. Chrisman '35 passed away June 21, 2009, in Lewisville, Texas, at the age of 92. He is survived by his wife Barbara, a daughter, Linda Carter, a son, Gary Chrisman and a grandson, Max.

Pictures from the 2009 Alumni Reunion





Development Director's Message

The idea behind the Subiaco Academy Foundation is one that has been discussed for many years, but this year has finally gotten off the ground.

Among other factors, the gradual movement to more and more lay teachers in the Academy and the increasing cost of education had made it necessary to look for additional ways to support the work of this great institution.

As I'm sure most of you know, in the past we have really not tried to make the Academy self-sufficient. It has always been to some extent funded by the Abbey. In an attempt to keep our cost low, our tuition and fees have not kept up with the cost of running the school without assuming a good number of unsalaried monk-teachers, deans and administrators.

These monk-teachers have been the real endowment of the Academy. Then, when large capital expenditures were necessary we have regularly looked to our alumni and friends of Subiaco, and you have always been our support. You have made the Academy what it is today and we are deeply grateful.

In reconstituting the new Academy Board earlier this year, the Abbey has in essence turned the operation of the school over to our Academy Board of Trustees, all of whom currently are alumni. These men have accepted the task of seeing that Subiaco Academy continues to grow and become ever better at educating young men to be the leaders for tomorrow.

All of us have seen the need for providing a financial base for the school so that the work that is being done there can be continued and improved. With the hiring of Mike Burke as our new headmaster, the smaller reconstituted Academy Board and now the establishment of a foundation to support the school, all is in place for Subiaco Academy to become what we all pray it will be.

The Subiaco Academy Foundation, like the Academy Board, is currently made up completely of committed alumni of the Academy. This group has recently hired Mr. Stephen Wilmes as Executive Director of the Foundation. He will begin his work of building and leading the work of the Foundation by the middle of August.

The members of the board of directors for the Foundation have each made a significant financial commitment and will be encouraging other of our alumni and friends of Subiaco Academy to join them.

Our goal for the year 2009 is to have \$500,000 in the Foundation so that we can begin to support the development of our school. As I write this, we have somewhat more than \$110,000 of this total.

If you are one of us, committed to seeing Subiaco Academy be the best, we encourage you to join us in helping to reach our goal before the end of this year, and ensure that future.

As always, you are in our prayers and in the prayers of the many young men who benefit from a strong and healthy Subiaco Academy.

God Bless you.



Read TAM online and save trees.

We would like to encourage you to read *The Abbey Message* online. Each issue is turned into a pdf document and is available in full color on our website at the time of mailing the hard copy. If you would like to help us save money on postage and the expense of producing hard copies of TAM, send us an e-mail saying that you want to read *The Abbey Message* online. We will send you a reminder by e-mail at the time that TAM becomes available online. Thanks.

Send your request to: frrichard@subi.org

PRAYER HOTLINE

Let us join you in praying
for your needs.

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

Br. Tobias De Salvo Memorial



Br. Tobias

Letter from Abbot Jerome

You will know your faith when your life breaks down. Brother Tobias was hurrying along in life, with no sign of a slowdown, until cancer stopped him in his tracks. He did everything he could to combat this invader, fighting it with the same spirit of dedication with which he addressed everything else in his life. When it became evident that the cancer was not going to be defeated, and only in the last few hours, Brother Tobias bowed to reality and let go.

But it was not a defeat for Br. Tobias. It was a victory, a completion, a yielding of his life to God to culminate the gift he gave when he lay on the floor in the sanctuary forty years ago making his monastic vows. He could let his life go because of his faith. "I know whom I have believed" (2 Timothy 1:12). He could yield his life completely to God.

But he left a legacy and many memories. His family and friends, his monastic community and his former students, his co-workers in many ministries, all of us want to assure that the gift of his life is honored and remembered. We invite you to join us in memorializing Brother Tobias by renovating the monastic living area where he spent most of his life, to provide that future generations of monks will be able to carry on the life and work he loved.

Abbot Jerome Kodell, OSB

In Memory of Brother Tobias De Salvo, OSB June 30, 1946 – January 18, 2009

After the death of Br. Tobias it was only a matter of days before family members, classmates, former students, parents and friends were clamoring to memorialize the life and ministry of Br. Tobias who was often characterized as a "monk's monk." Br. Tobias served in a variety of roles at the Abbey and Academy during his 42 years as a professed monk; some of those include Religion teacher, Heard Hall dean, Driver's Education instructor, Director of Facilities, manager of the vineyard and wine cellar and his last appointment, on the Abbey farm. In addition he took an active part in Catholic Youth and Marriage Encounter ministries. Yet in all of these roles his primary job was as a Subiaco Abbey monk. It is our hope that you will choose to honor Br. Tobias with a gift to the Abbey that will help with the needed renovations and upgrades of the Monastic Living Area.

Monastic Quarters Renovation

At the center of Subiaco's mission is its ability to continue as a vibrant monastic community. Following decades of declining vocations around the nation, Subiaco has seen a recent interest and increase in vocations. A few years ago we were able to take a large step in providing for the future with the renovation of the Jewett Annex, part of the monastic living area. Now we are turning our attention to the second area of need which will complete the renovation: the monastic quarters known as the "New Annex," built in 1960.

This L-shaped wing is home to the Abbot and Prior and the young monks in formation. The entire third floor serves as the recreation area for the community. This part of the Abbey complex remains largely as it was when completed in 1960, including inefficient heating and energy conservation and no air conditioning. The renovation of this area will serve as a fitting memorial to Br. Tobias.



The so-called "new annex"

The Renovation would include....

- * Energy efficient windows \$105,000
 - * Split system DX Heat and Air HVAC . . \$15,000
 - * Renovation and upgrade of the Monks' recreation area \$30,000
 - * Abbey complex maintenance endowment \$100,000
- TOTAL GOAL \$250,000

For more information call **479-934-1001**

60 years ago



The daily bread that reaches the tables of the students and monks at Subiaco is the work of the veteran baker, Brother Conrad and his helper Brother Meinrad who stands in front of the giant oven in the bakery shop.

The above picture and caption appeared in the November 1949, issue of The Abbey Message. The large oven that is pictured was earlier this year removed with the help of our candidates and some strategic assistance from the Maintenance Department.

The area is no longer used for making bread, but has taken on a new and important use. For some years we have used this area to make our famous Abbey Brittle!

Academy Chairs now completed

Subiaco Academy announced the funding completion of a \$1 million Endowed Faculty Chair initiative.

The Endowed Faculty Chair program is similar to that of colleges and is believed to be the first of its kind for a secondary school in Arkansas. The purpose of the initiative is to ensure and maintain high educational standards by retaining and pursuing the best faculty possible in specific disciplines. Each year 5% of the fund balance or approximately \$12,500 will be used for each chair. The individual chair holder will receive a \$3,000 salary bonus and a \$2,000 stipend to be used within the chair holder's department. The remaining \$7,500 will be distributed among all full-time faculty members to increase salaries above the base established by the Board of Trustees annually.

The million dollar endowment consists of four separate \$250,000 endowed chairs including the Abbot Jerome Kodell and the Fr. Robert Lazzari Chairs currently held by Hermina Fox and Gary Kinney respectively. The Br. Ephrem O'Bryan and Fr. Hugh Assenmacher Endowed Chairs have been recently fully funded and will be available to award at a later date.

Development Tool Chest

As you consider your support of Subiaco Abbey and Academy, please know we want to help you be the best steward possible. There are several "typical" ways that our supporters use to assist our mission and ministry.

1. Cash
2. Appreciated stocks and bonds
3. Insurance policies
4. Annuities
5. Charitable Trust
6. Appreciated Real Estate
7. Charitable IRAs
8. Mineral Rights deeds

For all estate planning, our legal name is.... **Subiaco Abbey.**

Upcoming Retreats and Events at Coury House

August

Jul 31-Aug 2 Summer Serenity, Dc. John Burns
6-9 Park Row Church Youth Retreat

September

4-6 Singles Retreat
14-17 St. Paul Episcopal, Oklahoma City
18-20 Benedictine Oblate Retreat
20-25 Connected in Christ Methodist Ministers
25-27 WorldWide Marriage Encounter Retreat

October

2-4 Diocese of Little Rock Diaconate Retreat
6-8 Christ of the Hills Women's Retreat
9-11 Glory of Zion Charismatic Retreat
12-16 Connected in Christ Methodist Ministers
15-18 Our Lady of Victory, Purcell, OK
16-18 Men in Recovery Retreat
19-23 Diocesan Priest Retreat, Tulsa, OK
23-25 Little Rock Scripture Studies Leaders Retreat
25-30 Connected in Christ Methodist Ministers
30-Nov 1 Academy Parents Weekend

Coury House Weekend Retreat rates include two nights and six meals.

A shared room: \$120. Private room: \$170. Married Couple: \$215.

Rates for private retreats, days of recollection,
and special groups are available upon request.

For more information or reservations, contact us at:

479-934-4411 or 479-934-1290 or FAX: 479-934-4040

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Check out our Website

Subiaco Academy has a weekly newsletter called *The Trojan Rule* to keep our parents, alumni, benefactors, and friends up-to-date on what is happening at Subi. For the latest edition go to our website:

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