



The Abbey Message

Subiaco
Abbey

Coury House addition underway

by Br. Mel Stinson, OSB

Coury House was built in 1963 to accommodate family and friends of the monks of the Abbey and parents of Academy students and eventually blossomed into an active retreat center with year round occupancy. Coury House hosts retreats and conferences for a variety of denominations and groups, keeping in mind St. Benedict's admonition to "receive all guests as Christ."

Many have made coming to Coury House an annual tradition for their parish group or organization. Individuals or small groups also make their annual private retreat at Coury House enjoying the quiet, prayerful atmosphere, pastoral scenery, and the grandeur of the Abbey Church and monastery buildings, which offer the feeling of peacefulness and closeness to God for those who come seeking "a place apart."

Over the years Coury House has made use of a small make shift chapel to accommodate retreat groups of 10 - 40. For larger groups, the Coury House Lounge has provided a less formal setting. The Gallery Meeting Room, located in Centenary Hall, has also been used for larger groups and provided for theater, conference, or classroom style settings.

In 1997, discussion began for a chapel/meeting room addition to Coury

House. Eventually plans were submitted by Wally Sprick of Wittenberg, Delony, and Davidson, Architects in Little Rock, and were accepted for a 1,800 sq. ft. chapel/meeting room addition. The main meeting room will be approximately 1,250 sq.ft. with a seating capacity of 100-110 people.

The new addition will also contain a Blessed Sacrament Chapel, a lobby or gathering area, public restrooms and two small conference rooms, plus a stor-



Coury House addition progressing

age closet. A lower level will be roughed in now and completed later.

In planning this much needed addition, we have attempted to look at the present and future needs of church and business groups who plan to use our facilities for their retreats or conferences.

In today's high tech and multi-media world, Internet access and a modern sound system with recording capabilities are necessities, and will be available in the main conference room and the two small office/conference rooms. A ceiling drop projection screen for PowerPoint presentations is also planned.

Coury House and Subiaco Abbey have had the recent pleasure to host the Arkansas Arts Council meeting, along with Association of Fundraising Professionals. These groups offered very positive comments on the guest rooms, meeting facilities, our Benedictine Hospitality, and meals.

Including these and other organizations and groups that have visited, stayed, or utilized our retreat and conference facilities, the most noticeable comment received has been that of the peacefulness and tranquility people have found here at Subiaco. This has provided an atmosphere where distractions from outside media found in hotel facilities have been eliminated. Coury House has no in-room televisions or phones. People are able to concentrate on the task at hand, be it company in-service and training, educational presentations, or public meetings and forums such as the Arkansas State Legislative

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News of our Apostolates for Friends of Subiaco

Fall 2004

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The silence of Mary

Images of Mary, the mother of Jesus, are found in collections of great art, religious and secular, around the world. The favorite subjects are the annunciation, the birth in Bethlehem, Mary at the cross, and Madonna and Child (including the Pietá). These are frozen frames which give an impression of still life, but they pulsate with action. However, the action is within and is accessible to the viewer only from within.

The annunciation scene portrays the most momentous dialogue in history. The question is being delivered and the response is awaited. The decisive action is within the heart of the maid, who is in an attitude of wonder, openness, and pondering, and all time stands still. It is a moment of contemplation, in which the word of God is waiting for the response of the creature, like the finger of God reaching for Adam's hand in the Sistine Chapel. The word coming forever out of Mary's contemplation is "Fiat," "Let it be done."

These scenes about Mary are all scenes about Jesus and her response to Jesus. And her response is always captured in a silence which is filled with the one word, "Fiat." Nothing else needs to be said and nothing else that would be said could improve on that response of this mother to this son, redeemed to redeemer. The scenes of silence pulsate with energy and deep communion.

Mary says very little in the Gospels, certainly not as much as we would expect from the one who set the work of redemption in motion, who is the mother of the Redeemer, and who is given to us as our mother. She listens to the angel, she responds, she lives the life laid out for her, she suffers, she observes, and she waits, "pondering all these things in her heart." She is very active, but her action is unseen, between herself and God, in the heart, a contemplative action.

The silence of Mary is an essential ingredient of the life of the Church. When it is lacking, no amount of fervor will cover up the nagging sense that something is missing. But we often respond to that feeling of emptiness by more words and more actions, even more prayerful words and more holy actions. But nothing will replace the silence of Mary.

Perhaps it is the increasing din of the modern world which is intensifying the present search for oases of silence. Retreat centers and hermitages are more and more popular, as are workshops and publications on prayer, especially quiet

The silence of Mary in the Gospels is not an empty silence. It is a silence of waiting, of pondering, of loving.

and contemplative prayer. This interest ranges far beyond the Catholic Church. In fact, many if not most of the contemporary books applying monastic values to lay life come from other Christians.

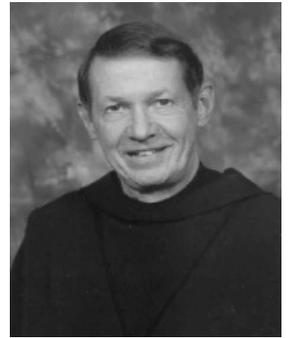
Or it may be that the life of worship within the Christian Churches is not leaving enough room for the silence of Mary. Even many Catholics who appreciate the liturgical renewal of Vatican II miss the long silent periods of the Latin Mass. And many Protestants have begun to wonder whether in correcting abuses in medieval liturgy their ancestors did not discard an essential contemplative dimension which is still edged out in worship services of constant word and song, when even periods of private prayer are not silent. Our hearts yearn to rest wordlessly in the love of Jesus, like the silent Mary gazing at her newborn infant, or watching from afar at

Nazareth, or holding his lifeless body, spent in love.

The resurgence of the Rosary may be partly explained by this growing yearning for contemplative union. And not only among Catholics: there is an Anglican Rosary now, though of different design and method, and a Lutheran way of using the Rosary with a "biblical" Hail Mary, omitting the second or response half. The beauty of the Rosary has always been that it may be used in different ways, either with mental attention to the Mysteries and even to the words of the prayer, or only as a bodily means of focusing our desire on God in quiet and even contemplative union. And it may also be used whatever our situation or mood, when because of anguish, or sickness, or tiredness, or distraction we find it impossible to concentrate. Fingering the beads makes it possible for us to seek God at a different level, underneath the physical, mental or emotional barricades.

The silence of Mary in the Gospels is not an empty silence. It is a silence of waiting, of pondering, of loving. This contemplative silence is an essential ingredient of the life of the Church and of each believer, and in our busy time we are hungering for it with new urgency. At first we are surprised by Mary's silence, and then, in the presence of Jesus, we understand.

Abbot Jerome Kodell, O.S.B.



July

July 2004 is now in the record books as one of the coolest and rainiest we have had. A driving motivation for the Abbey renovation was the insufferable summer nights of Arkansas, but this year no one suffered. Thanks be to God for granting a reprieve, and may the AC's work well next summer.

On July first, the Abbey's horse-racing fervor came to a climax. Horse-racing?! Yes, even in the hallowed halls of the monastery. Laura Hillen-brand's book *Seabiscuit—An American Legend* had been the table reading fare for some weeks. Most monks were drawn into the horse racing world of the 1930s and '40s, and would groan in dismay as the Abbot (gleefully?) rang the bell to terminate the reading just as *Seabiscuit* came into the homestretch of another crucial contest.

July 6, as he was preparing to join the party convening for his 84th birthday, Brother Henry Fuhrmann suddenly died in his room in the Abbey Health Center. Someone commented that he had a better party to attend, and so opted out of this earthly one. A tribute to him begins at right.

Courty House worker Michelle Hughes chained herself to the oak tree slated for removal in the expansion project. It was a mock protest staged by Brother Mel. We do hate to see such a specimen removed, but there was no way around it.



Some-time in the middle of July, the small cabin that had been built at the original
see "Journal" on page 4

A Remembrance of Brother Henry Fuhrmann, OSB by Father Nicholas Fuhrmann, OSB

Editor's note: The following is the slightly-condensed Wake Service eulogy delivered by Fr. Nicholas Fuhrmann, a blood brother of Brother Henry.

All the runners at the stadium are running to win. You must run in the same way, meaning to win. ... That is how I run; intent on winning. *1 Cor. 9: 24.*

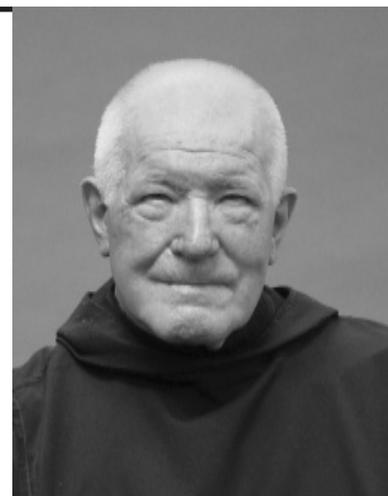
Brother Henry's running ended suddenly at high noon July 6th, just as he was getting ready to celebrate his 84th birthday. In an instant, Br. Henry's living by faith changed into seeing God as He is. In an instant, Br. Henry's faith became a flood. "Congratulations, my son. Come share your Master's happiness."

My sisters and brothers, all represented here – I know you regret not having a timely closure with our brother. Our faith tells us that the ties of friendship and affection which knit us throughout our lives do not unravel with death. Our beautiful belief in the communion of saints, meaning that the invisible world is close to the visible world we live in, makes Br. Henry still as familiar as if he were visiting you in Texas. He is aware of our problems. So speak to him. Pray to him to God.

When Fr. Hugh asked me to select a reading for our Vigil for Br. Henry, I looked for a reading that would reflect a revealing characteristic of a true cenobitic monk. I thought about getting a reading with a smile in it. But I think the one word that best captures the energy of Henry's life, more revealing of his love in serving God, is the word, run.

For Br. Henry it was run, run, run. Run to prayer, run to work, and also run to fish.

Abbey



Br. Henry Fuhrmann 1920-2004

I recall once down at the barns when Henry was running between working on a tractor and back to the shop, someone wondered: Does Br. Henry ever walk? Henry's running was not the hurry of the world. He was running to make every minute holy.

Br. Henry's running began July 6, 1920, in Lindsay, Texas, a German community founded by the Subiaco Benedictines in 1891. The eldest son of eleven brothers and sisters, his parents were William Nicholas and Margaret Orth Fuhrmann. Br. Henry left for Subiaco at age 21 when I was 11 years old. My image of him has always been that of a big-boned brother with strong hands, always on the move. The cotton fields loom large in our depression day memories. Most of us, when we finally filled our sack, were happy to make a leisurely stroll to the weighing wagon. Not so Henry. He would throw the sack on his big shoulders and run. We might hear him holler one of his expressions: "Macht snell, zeit verdreipt!" Some-thing like, "Hurry up, daylight is burning!"

When Br. Henry came to Subiaco in 1941 and heard the words from St. Benedict's Rule, "Run while you have
see "Br. Henry" on page 6

Abbey

Journal

cont'd from page 3

monastery site as part of the centennial observance in 1978, quietly burned down. No one saw the flames, and when Brother Tobias found the ruins, the ashes were cold. There are no plans to rebuild. This isolated structure seemed to invite vandalism.

On July 24, a newly-married couple got “the worst thing that could happen” out of the way on their wedding day, when the interior of the Abbey Church was flooded by a cloudburst. Nearly two inches of rain fell in twenty minutes. The overwhelmed drainage system backed up into the condensate lines of the air conditioner units and came gushing out into the church. The wedding recessional featured the whine of Wet-vacs manned by Brother Ephrem, Father Hugh, and Father Mark.

A Clarksville benefactor donated 40 bushels of prime peaches to the Abbey. A crew of 15 monks, employees, and volunteers processed them in one morning, which was possible since we shared the bounty, sending bushels on to our Benedictine Sisters at Shoal Creek and Fort Smith, and other worthy recipients.

July ended with the hay meadows lush with grass or thick with bales. This writer finds such a sight especially beautiful when it can be coupled with the thought “And I don’t have to haul them.”

August

In August, workmen began digging and then pouring the footings for the east exit/fire escape required by “code.” All through the renovation project, we keep hearing about a mysterious, all-powerful “Code,” at the name of which every knee must bend. Seriously, this will be a useful and pleasant addition, providing a second entrance and egress, and each floor will have a small north-facing landing where tenants can “take

the air.”

The grape harvest began on August 13th. All varieties did well—the purple Delaware, the Black Ives, and the golden Niagra. The Gospel reading about the laborers in the vineyard always coincides with the grape harvest, providing food for serious thought and good-natured bantering when an “eleventh-hour” worker shows up. The pay is the same: a snack and cold beverage in the wine cellar, a sun tan, and a good feeling from this shared community work. More than 300 “lugs” (containers of nearly a bushel) were harvested.

The sheetrock work in the renovation was nearing completion as the month ended, allowing painting of the rooms to begin. The color choices are quite conservative, with names like “Old Ivory” and “Autumn Glow.” Probably anyone can accept any room without trauma.

September

Brother Jose’ Rios returned from a six-week stay at Marmion Abbey on September second. He had been mastering the fine points of tailoring and he assures us that he is ready to produce monastic habits in all the latest styles. “Latest styles,” in monastic parlance, means “like they’ve been for at least the past 80 years.”

The week of the 12th through the 18th was Fall Break in the Academy. Monday of the break featured a cattle drive, all the way from the south side of Highway 22 to the north side. This is exciting, because traffic has to be stopped on this busy thoroughfare, and the behavior of these adolescent animals in unaccustomed territory is highly unpredictable. The tactics used were the carrot and the stick. Brother Tobias lured them with the feed wagon, while massive numbers of drovers pushed

them from the rear. All went well, and soon the yearlings were waiting in the corral to be weighed, measured, and scrutinized by ultrasound.

Brother Isaac Youker and Brother James Casey enjoyed several days at the Abbey’s lakeside cabin during the break, while Fr. Mark and Bro. Jude accompanied a group of 22 students and four other Academy teachers to the Grand Canyon. This was quite an ambitious undertaking, the non-stop outward trip requiring 24 hours of driving.

Meanwhile, Abbot Jerome was off to Rome for the Abbots’ Congress. We’ve received several assurances from him that he is “working hard” in the Holy City, and we often pray for his safety while he is away. We wonder how much of his airfare was paid by our choice of All Bran and Muselix at the breakfast table. There is a connection! Several cereals offer coupons for “free miles” on major air carriers. At 100 miles per box of All Bran, we have to go through a lot of roughage (or is it the other way around?) to get him to Rome and back. Bro. Thomas sends in the coupons for the “free mile” vouchers.

Finally, towards the end of September, it got dry and a fire ban was imposed two days before the end of summer. We’ve had no significant rain since late August.



Horse barn: First 100 years

by Fr. Hugh Assenmacher, OSB

The horse was still “king” in road travel and “horsepower” still was the mainstay of farming operations when, in 1904, the building crew at Subiaco Abbey built the Horse Barn. The Abbey had moved itself about one mile northwest of its original site in mid-1902 and farm buildings were still needed at the new site. The dairy barn at the ridge monastery had been dismantled and rebuilt at the “new place.” (It later burned and was replaced by the present structure.) Horses, however, were to have their own new house. Abbey procurator, Father Meinrad Epp, and neighbor/builder Mr. John Eckart Sr., envisaged and built a barn reminiscent of structures familiar to the monks from Switzerland.

In the side of a slight hillock, a three-story structure began to rise on first-floor walls of cut stone from the abbey quarry. The bottom floor would have stalls for the many horses and mules of the abbey (between 20 and 30), with wooden floors (easier on horses’ hooves) and cut-flagstone drainage channels. Wide hallways between the stalls facilitated feeding the animals. Lest anyone not know what this first floor was for, over the main double doors on the north side was a large carved horse’s head, mounted in splendor. A curving stairway went to the second floor. Here was a living room for the “curator” of the horse barn, and a hay chute to deliver the hay to the horses below. This floor contained areas for loose hay, which came down from the “main” third floor, and also rooms for such horse feed as oats, etc. The floor here was of heavy oak planks.

The third floor was the unloading area for hay. Wagons reached this wide unloading hall by an earthen ramp on the west end of the barn. Inside,

the hay was unloaded to either side of the central hall to huge storage areas on the second floor. This “hall” could also be used for wagon storage. Later, a more “American” hay-fork apparatus was installed so that wagons could be unloaded from ground level on the east side of the barn. Over the double slid-



1904 Horse Barn

ing doors at the top of the ramp were the large metal numbers: 1904.

The stones for the walls of the ground floor, the floor beneath the wooden stall floors and the retaining walls on the side of the barn, were quarried in the nearby abbey stone-quarry. The wood for the structure was cut on abbey property and sawed in the abbey sawmill. The barn was painted red. The frame of this large and handsome structure is most remarkable and interesting. The inside framework consists of huge solid oak beams (8-10 inches square), held together by hundreds of oak-wood pegs, not nails. Finely crafted mortise and tenon joints join the rafters and joists. The frame, as solid today as in 1904, can withstand almost anything and would be impossible to replace.

The horses were gone by the mid-1940’s. They were replaced by cattle that “lounged” in the south half of the former horse stall area. The north half, now devoid of wooden floor, became storage areas. The “horse master’s” room on the second floor became a lumber storage room. The hay storage

areas, the main area of the barn, still hold huge stores of hay for cattle, now all baled.

In the early 1950’s, the ramp on the west side of the barn was removed, the first step in a plan to remove the top floor of the barn. However, the project was abandoned. For several years, there was no access to the third floor, making hay storage on that level very difficult. Soon the ramp was restored, using rock and dirt excavated from the present kitchen and northeast basement (the guest dining room area) of the monastery as fill.

The old, red walls are patched now, the east end needs repair, and the cut-stone retaining walls beside the barn need an urgent repair job. But we at Subiaco proudly point out and respect this part of our past and plan to keep it in operation. Our Swiss monk ancestors could readily see in their new horse barn, structures from their homeland, perhaps even from their own parents’ farm. It still stands, rather “un-American,” amid the abbey’s farm buildings and is still referred to by monks as “The Horse Barn,” and this comes out of their mouths with capital letters in the title.

The Second Century

by Fr. Mark Stengel, O.S.B.

The Horse Barn’s history provides a connection to the farming heritage of Subiaco’s first century. With the change in farming operations, several of the old farm structures have been demolished, and a new hay barn, suitable for storing today’s round bales, has been built. It is located on the knoll northwest of the “cemetery pond,” west of the old trench silos, which are no longer used. The new barn and the state-of-the-art corral

see “Horse Barn” on page 16

Abbey

Centripetal or Centrifugal

A Latin teacher—as I am—in this 21st century often faces the question: “Why is Latin, a dead language, still being taught? What use is it?” One use is its ability to animate the English language, to give arcane words a life and substance. *Exempli gratia*, the words “centripetal” and “centrifugal.” The words come from *centrum*, center; *petere*, to seek; and *fugere*, to flee. The velocity and energy of particles subject to these forces may be identical, but one “seeks the center,” whereas the other “flees the center.”

The tribute to Brother Henry remembers him as a man always on the move, running.

The Farm story tells of modern technology which speeds up the pace of cattle improvement, nature being far too slow and inefficient. Abbot Jerome’s ar-

ticle looks at the contemplative Mary—sitting, waiting, pondering, abiding in God’s presence.

Most of us complain about the frenetic pace of life, of being pulled in different directions.

Perhaps an important question for us is “Are the forces pulling at us centrifugal or centripetal? Is there a center toward which we are spiraling in all our busy-ness? Or is the center vacant, so that our course is erratic, tangential, perturbed by every passing fancy?”

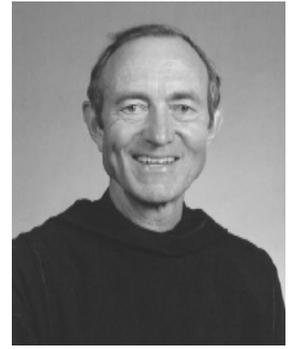
Brother Henry’s running was not frantic. Rather he gave all his energy and attention to the matter at hand, whether it was changing a tractor tire or reeling in a fish. He was whole-hearted and single-minded in everything he did, which is another way of saying he was centered, centripetal; everything

revolving around the will of God and service to his community. Unlike

Brother Henry, and our Blessed Mother, our running may seem to be a flying off in all directions—centrifugal.

In the case of humans, the centering or expansive force is not blind, unthinking physics at work. Mary had a choice. So did Henry, and so do we. In the book, *He and I*, by French mystic Gabrielle Bossis, she hears as God’s word to her: “By your own free will you come to me or fly from me.” Exactly. Centripetal or Centrifugal. Which will it be?

Fr. Mark Stengel



Br. Henry

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the light of life,” he felt right at home. Another early recollection of our home years was picking up rocks, one of the hated necessities of the upper Cooke County farms. It was a job barely above shoveling manure out of the cow barns. With his usual energy and speed, Br. Henry was picking up about three times as many rocks as the rest of us boys. One day we protested: “Why must it always be picking up rocks? We could be fishing” I kept saying. Henry finally called out “Der Papa hate gesage.” “Daddy said so.” The matter is ended. It is not surprising that Br. Henry was able to transfer with faith from “Der Papa hate gersage” to “Der Abt hate gersage.” How many times did we hear, “The Abbot said so.” The matter is ended.

In those days the long hot summer meant custom threshing with the

Fuhrmann machine. Our Uncle Henry, Br. Louis’s dad, once told Br. Henry to take a break and run the bundle wagon to the field with the Farmall tractor. He did, but in his joy, forgot to take the wagon along!

I know that Henry’s nephews and nieces, cousins and Texas friends here this evening recall with love the yearly visits Henry made to his Texas home. They discovered that saints wear overalls. His prayers and encouragement were not just a vacation for Br. Henry but a renewal for all. When he heard good news his expression was always “Congratulations!” When not so good, “We will have to put that to prayer.”

Fr. Bruno and I are grateful for Br. Henry’s help in getting us over the hump in our homesickness when we first came to Subiaco as high school students. He gave us jobs sweeping the

carpenter shop and even had Martin Schriver try to teach us how to use the wood lathe. Once he watched me try to turn out a baseball bat. Later he said perhaps I should just sweep. Br. Louis credits Br. Henry with giving him the courage to carry on in his vocation. Br. Louis, a model caregiver for Br. Henry the past few years, explained his role as a brother’s keeper: “We worked together for nearly 50 years. When there was a choice between the tractor and the shovel, Henry always took the shovel. Now I finally got the shovel.”

Now Br. Henry joins the cloud of witnesses who have gone before us to renew us still. He is among those who have heard the words: “You did run well. You did not run in vain. Now there is a crown prepared for you from the beginning for those who love the Lord.”

Few changes seen as school year begins

The academic year saw few changes in faculty and staff; yet returning students noticed significant changes.

One significant staff change is the appointment of Father Timothy Donnelly as Academic Dean. He previously held this position for 27 years.

The addition of a study period, or the new Teacher's Assistance period, has been perhaps the most dramatic change. Subiaco has always been respected for teachers' willingness to help students after school hours with academic problems. However the after-school aspect created problems for after-school athletics. Students were often late for practice. Extra help often meant extra laps.

Teacher's Assistance, or the former study time, is placed as a regular period in each day's schedule. Placed before the last period of each day, usually around 2 p.m., it lasts 25 minutes, usually enough time to meet for extra help with a teacher - or two.

This time can be used in many ways. Many opt to visit with teachers. Many choose to catch up on last period homework or begin the night's assignments.

The TA period is also a good time to visit the library, do research on the

internet in the computer lab, visit the Success Center, or visit with the college counselor.

Some just take a break. So far, the student body appears to enjoy the Teacher's Assistance, allowing them time to socialize with friends or to improve grades.

With the packed school day, the TA period has been used for Student Council elections and class and club meetings.

In the past six years, assemblies were held every morning for a time of school wide prayer and information sharing. This year assemblies are held Monday and Friday mornings only.

Students may need to read the Main Building bulletin boards more often. Information is posted on bulletin boards when needed, and intercoms are used on occasion for announcements.

Advisor groups have also taken a major spin. Instead of meeting before Mass on Wednesdays, advisor group time is spent together at lunch on Wednesdays, sitting together at a common table or area. The informal setting should allow for more unity and improved conversations between students and advisor.

Many students and teachers have grumbled about the shorter lunch periods. Lunch is 30-35 minutes each day. At this pace, students cannot linger over the meal. "It's a get-in and get-out situation," said faculty member Mrs. Hermina Fox.

"The biggest bottle-neck is taking trays back during lunch," Fr. Timothy pointed out.

The one change that absolutely no one has complained about or suggested a change to is the shorter class day on Fridays. Getting out at 2:10 is loved by all.



3rd Annual Literary Symposium

Honoring

Bill Dwyre

sports editor of the

Los Angeles Times

Thursday, November 18

Ring ceremony begins new school year

by Jae-Sung Lee

The traditional ring ceremony for the 118th graduating class of Subiaco Academy was held August 15 in St. Benedict church.

"We used to have the ring ceremony at the end of the junior year. To make it a more special event, we changed it to the beginning of the senior year just two years ago," said Headmaster Father Aaron Pirrera.

At this ceremony, 40 seniors were called to the altar and presented with rings, which had been sprinkled by holy water and blessed by Fr. Aaron.

To show each ring's grave meaning of "unity," "stability" and "endless cycle," the presentation of rings is a solemn ceremony.

Fr. Aaron added, "The rings are not just material but the evidence of

spiritual growth."

The rings were displayed on a silver tray dating back to the 1600s from the Abbey of Rheinhau in Switzerland. The tray, like the senior rings, has a rich heritage.

"After boys leave Subiaco, the ring becomes an even greater symbol of the bond with Subiaco," said Fr. Aaron.



Academy

Success center established

by Jae-Sung Lee

Mr. Ira Hancock, a new student development director from Commonwealth Foundation, will assist students in developing better study habits.

Mr. Hancock said, "The student development program will figure out student's learning style and help the students with better study skills."

Mr. Hancock explained the four primary learning styles, called SMAC: Structure, Meaning, Action and Caring. He said students need to define their learning style and match up different tips.

The program includes college admission essay preparation and effective study strategies for SAT, ACT and AP exams.

Senior Ernesto Saldivar, who has visited his office said, "Mr. Hancock has been a very helpful source for practice in raising my ACT score and study skills. I believe the program will also be helpful to many other students at Subiaco." Academy counselor Mrs. Chandra Rush said, "Mr. Hancock is going to be a huge asset to Subiaco Academy. I'm looking forward to working with him in the tutoring program and the ACT and SAT preparation for our students."

Mr. Hancock's office, named Student Success Center, is in the Martha Platt library. He is available by appoint-

ments during study hall and teacher assistance. Anyone who is interested in contacting Mr. Hancock may reach him at ihancock@subi.org

The Commonwealth Foundation, located in Maryland, is an organization that supports educational programs and boarding school scholarship programs. The organization gives grants for educational research and health care. It offers grant money and personnel to partner schools who want to initiate a learning skills program. Subiaco qualified for the grant. Mr. Hancock previously set up a similar program at Storm King School in New York.

According to the school business manager Glenn Constantino, the grant will cover salary for the position, testing supplies, computer software, thesauruses and dictionaries in this academic year.

Mr. Hancock's "blended background" includes graduation from Mount Saint Mary's College in New York and majors in education and psychology. He worked as a radio broadcaster for 11 years, and has worked in schools, hospitals, recreation and learning centers.



Paris rivalry game

by Ross James

The Paris-Subiaco rivalry dates back to 1970. The last year Paris beat Subiaco was 1999. Paris won their first game in two years against Lamar on Sept. 3. They were extremely pumped up and ready to upset the Trojans for their second victory in two years. Six of seven sports reporters had chosen Paris to win.

Andy Koch and Ian Myers ran all over the Eagle defense for nearly 300 combined yards. Myers ran for four touchdowns and Chris West converted on two extra points. Koch scored on a two-point conversion earlier in the game.

Ian scored on the first series with a 9-yard run. West missed the extra point to the right. Subiaco and Paris traded punts. Subiaco got the ball back and Myers scored again on a 48-yard touchdown run.

Paris fought their way back and scored before the end of the second quarter. The score was 14-7 Subiaco at halftime.

Paris scored for the last time in the third quarter on a run. It was a grueling game going into the fourth quarter 14-14. Myers ran it in again for a one-yard touchdown. West converted on the extra point.

Paris got the ball back and instead of going forward they went backwards when West sacked the quarterback for a 20-yard loss on fourth down, which gave the ball back to the Trojans. Myers then scored on a seven-yard run.

The Eagles got the ball back. Instead of keeping it they fumbled it into the hands of linebacker Andrew Eubanks. Subiaco then fumbled the ball back to the Eagles.

Paris had one more chance, but not

cont'd on next page

Student Council Officers

The new Subiaco student council executive members are Scott Vitro, president; Erik Jakobs, vice president; Ernesto Saldivar, secretary; Ian Myers, treasurer; and Jack Willems, parliamentarian. The day student representative Ryan Bradley is not pictured.



Front: Myers & Vitro. Back: Willems, Jakobs & Saldivar.

AAA ruling being appealed

by Andy Koch

Subiaco Academy, the only boarding school in the state and a reputable educational institution for 127 years, is facing a very serious problem. Subiaco Academy has long received allegations suggesting recruitment for athletics.

This is partially true. Subiaco does recruit students; however, it is not done by the athletic department. Rather it is done by the headmaster and the Admissions Director.

Tim Tencleve, athletic director, says, "A student could not survive at Subiaco for sports." Due to the strenuous curriculum and code of behavior demanded of students at Subiaco, a student has to have a work ethic which carries off the court or field.

Proposal #6, the name of the new rule passed by the Arkansas Athletic Association, states that any student who is not an Arkansas resident may not participate in any athletics or activities.

This ruling would not go in effect until the next school year.

This rule could not only make Subiaco's athletic program obsolete, but possibly begin the demise of the institution.

A meeting is scheduled for September 29 to negotiate an amendment, which could excuse Subiaco from the ruling.

Athletics are a vital part of the Subiaco experience. 112 of the 162 students at Subiaco live out-of-state; 135 participate in a competitive sport or activity. That's about 83% of the student population.

Athletics provide camaraderie among teammates on the field and in the community not only between the players themselves, but also the fans, who are highly respected at Subiaco.

If the ruling is held, enrollment at Subiaco may suffer a major decline.



Golf season

by Andy Koch

Subiaco's Golf team teed off with a win in their first match at the Waldron Country Club on Sept. 8 against five conference teams.

With three returning players from last year's district championship team, the outlook is good for the Trojans. Senior Michael Lockwood said confidently, "We will be better than last year." Fred Black and Tony Miller are the other two returning players.

Lockwood scored a 35, Black scored a 39 and Miller scored a 49 at Waldron. The Trojans scored a total score of 123, which, Lockwood says, "needs to come down."

Senior Ren Oslica along with freshman Andrew Jarrett joined the team this year. They participated along with the three returnees in district play held Sept. 21-22 at the Waldron Country Club.

The Trojans came in third, a bit lower than expected. Lockwood was a medallist, the lowest scorer, with a 75. Miller scored a 95 and Black was right behind with a 96. Oslica and Jarrett both scored in the hundreds. The total score was a 266. Booneville and Ozark took first and second both scoring mid 250.

Lockwood confesses, "We didn't do too well as a team."

Regional will be held October 4-5 in Pea Ridge. Miller says, "We had a bad day but we plan to do well in regionals."

Lockwood, a senior played numerous tournaments over the summer including the U.S. Junior Amateur Qualifications and Nationals, in Greenville, Miss.

People from twelve different states and two countries played in this tournament. Lockwood placed in the top 20 out of over two hundred players.



Paris rivalry game

cont'd from page 8

for long when John Cauldwell intercepted a pass. The Trojans then sat on the ball and watched time expire. The final score was Subiaco 28 Paris 14.

Coach Kenneth Stovall said, "It was an emotional victory over the cross town rivals. We kept our emotions in check and remained focused on the task at hand."



Subiaco Trojans vs Paris Eagles

Periscope Subscriptions \$10
Send address and check to:
Subiaco Academy
c/o Journalism Department
405 N. Subiaco Ave.
Subiaco, AR 72865

Alumni

Who says you can't go back?

by *Don Berend*

Probably the question should be, "who says you can't come back?" Well, two members of the class of '57 proved you can this past month. In two separate visits last month, Jon "Mickey" Moore and Bernard Marion made their first return trip since leaving campus in 1957.

Mickey had left school before the end of the year and had never received his diploma. When notified that he was coming, Abbot Jerome checked the archives and found the diploma. So during the visit, the Abbot presented Mickey his diploma along with proper congratulations. Mickey and his wife Carolyn live in New Martinsville, WV, where he owns an industrial coating firm. They have six children and fifteen grandchildren.

Bernard's visit was unannounced when he stopped by on his way back to



Mickey Moore receives his diploma from Abbot Jerome.

St. Charles, MO. He has spent most of his career working in the Pacific Northwest and is retiring back to St. Charles.

Sometimes after being away for a long while it may seem embarrassing to come back, but rest assured you will always find the doors open and welcoming arms on "The Hill."

Subiaco Alumni Officers and Directors

Supreme Counselor: **Abbot Jerome Kodell '57**

President: **Ralph Bock '56**

President-Elect: **Steve Schmitz '91**

Past President: **Pat Franz '78**

Secretary: **Don Berend '57**

Directors:

Nino Ardemagni '91	Mike Mangione '82
Freddie Black '74	Henry Moore '80
Jack Borengasser '42	Brian Neumeier '81
Jay Bradford '58	Steve Osborn '74
Bill Elsken '58	Tom Sanders '58
Ryan Gehrig '91	E. J. Schad '66
Lawrence Handley '66	Tom Schluterman '80
Gene Hatwig '53	Bill Schwartz '63
Chris Hebert '99	Jim Sontag '49
Luke Hooks '98	John Walter '57
Jim Hornibrook '56	Pat Weaver '76
Ron Klober '64	Brian Weisenfels '86
Darian Layes '86	Larry Wewers '59

Tailgate party a success

The fact that this year's opening home game was against Paris assured that we would have a good crowd for the tailgate party. The cool, clear weather set the scene for a perfect evening of hot dogs and hamburgers on the lawn west of the Oskar Rust Field House.

About 130 enjoyed the food served up by **Pat Franz '78**, **Ron Kaufman '65** and **Don Berend '57**.

As an added treat this year **Paul**



Tailgate party food line

Oslica '57 and his son **Connie**, father of **Ren Oslica '05**, served up an appetizer of grilled duck and pineapple.

Women's Auxiliary Officers

President: **Virginia Lisko**

President-Elect: **Brenda Costello**

Past President: **Barbara Anhalt**

Secretary: **Shirley Reinhart**

Directors:

Adrienne Bernsen	Robin Mangione
Cathy Briseno	Alicia Minden
Kerri Franz	Bernadette Post
Mary Lynn Holland	Theresa Vogler

MAKE YOUR PLANS NOW

REUNION 2005

JUNE 3-4-5, 2005

Where are they now?

Working with several Knights of Columbus councils doing repairs around the campus this past summer were **Tony Reith '52**, **Gene Hatwig '53**, **Leon Walbe '48** and **Gilbert Koch '58**. Their help was greatly appreciated.

John Brooks '81 and his wife have a new boy. Hays Alexander was born May 6, 2004.

Adam Schluterman '00 married Rachael Marble June 26, 2004, at St. Mary's in Altus, AR. Adam is a 2004 graduate of the University of Central Arkansas with a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology and will attend Northeastern State University (college of optometry) in Tahlequah, OK.

Kevin Rieder '88 and his wife are the proud parents of a new daughter. Calliope Zigmont Rieder was born May 29, 2004.

Joel Nicolas '97, paralegal with a group of California lawyers, competed in the San Francisco marathon August 2004.

Michael Rauch '01 received an associate degree in electrical engineering and will continue for a B.S. in the same field at the University of Texas Pan American, specializing in software design.

Paul Hettich '57 sent a copy of his recently published book *Connect College to Career (A Student's Guide to Work and Transition)* for use by the Academy college counselor. Paul recently completed his 34th year at Barat College of DePaul University.

Alumni in Iraq: **Major Paul Frederick '78** is half way through his tour in Iraq. He says, "I keep on my toes and my head down; the bad guys come every few days." **Hayden Bullock '03** from Paris, AR, is serving in Iraq with



Gene Hatwig & Tony Reith flanked by other Knights of Columbus.

a headquarters battery. **Rod Lovan '96**, after a year and a half of intense linguistic training in the Arabic language, is interrogating criminals and terrorists in Baghdad. **Jeffery Pickartz '97**, as a member of the Green Beret team with the Fifth Special Forces Group, is disposing of Improvised Explosive Devices left behind by insurgents/terrorists.

Lynn Bock '74 commented recently on an interaction with his brother and fellow New Madrid attorney, **Riley '70**. In a jury trial prosecutor Riley faced defense attorney Lynn who described the occasion thusly: "It was loaded with all the fireworks one would expect when two Bocks go toe to toe." Riley has retired as prosecuting attorney and is now teaching high school English.

Jay Sorrows '88 is now the Director of Business Development North America for AK Industrial Contractors, Inc., located in Searcy, AR.

Gary D. Sharum '77 is now the Information Services Director for St. Edward Mercy Medical Center in Ft. Smith.

Carlos Campos '91 is working in international marketing for McCain, maker of French fries and appetizers.

Lee Amerine '99 married Jennifer Marie Jones, September 18, 2004, in Pearland, TX.

Pierson Callahan '89 has a new

son George Porter Callahan.

Dr. Keith Schluterman '91 has completed his Neurology residency at the University of Arkansas Medical Science. Keith has been Chief Resident at UAMS for the past year and has received numerous prestigious awards. He began in private practice July 1 as a partner in Arkansas Neurology, Inc. in Conway Arkansas. Keith and his wife Kym have three daughters, Lauren, Haley and Emma.

Rafael Granja '98 is currently working for the Secretary of Health in the southwestern state of Colima, Mexico. He graduated in June from medical school in the Autonomous University of Guadalajara as a General Surgeon. He hopes to start residency in Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery in the States in a year and a half.

Gus and Britt Felderhoff '92 were blessed with the arrival of their first child, Olivia Grace, on June 24, 2004.

Rehan Khan '03 is majoring in criminal justice and government at the University of Texas at Dallas.

Jeremiah Spence '97 is working on his M.A. in communications from the University of Texas at Austin and plans to pursue his Ph.D.

Clyde Williams '98 is an English teacher with the Peace Corps in Belene, Bulgaria. He is working with 9th-12th graders in the area of drama. Several of the babas (any grandmother type in Bulgarian) have offered to marry him to someone or another.

Darian Layes '86 formerly a public school principal in Ft. Smith, is now working as coordinator of student services out of the district service center.

Nick Choffel '03, after a "tough" summer cruise based in San Diego, is at Texas A & M University on a Navy ROTC scholarship.

Bill Lawbaugh '60 is the new Resident Chaplain at Western Maryland

cont'd on next page

Alumni

Obituaries

Tom Stringer '48 died in Pine Bluff, AR, on August 20, 2002. After graduating from Subiaco Academy he went to the University of Arkansas where he received a Bachelor of Arts degree. He played football for the Arkansas Razorbacks from 1949 to 1953. He also served in the army.

Stringer was employed by the Arkansas Boys' Training School for 30 years as a teacher, coach and counselor. He was a member of the Pine Bluff Sever Commission and sang in the choir at St. Joseph's Catholic Church.

Survivors include his wife of 52 years, Louise; four sons, Bill, Bob, Don and Brad; and five grandchildren.

Eugene Fox '38 passed away in Little Rock, AR, on April 13, 2004, at the age of 85. A veteran of WWII, he was a Eucharistic Minister and a member of the Senior Group of Our Lady of Holy Souls Catholic Church. He was an avid fisherman, hunter, card player, gardener and Razorback fan.

He is survived by his wife of 55 years, Helen; son, Jimmy; daughter, Barbara Waller; granddaughter, Katie Waller; brother, Harry Fox '41; sister, Virginia Solas.

William J. Hartmeier '47 died April 18, 2004, in Jacksonville, AR. He was 74 years old. He was a retired Marine Major having served in Korea and Vietnam. He was a member of St. Anne Catholic Church, an avid golfer and a member of Moose Lodge.

He is survived by his wife of 50 years, Pat; son, Eddie; daughter, Nancy Loney; brother, Thomas and two grandchildren.

Joseph G. Kordsmeier '35 died in Memphis, TN, on July 29, 2004. He was 88 years old. He was a member of the United States Navy in WWII and served at Pearl Harbor and Midway Island.

His career with Mobil Oil spanned 38 years. As a member of Mobil's Fleet Division, he played a principal role in securing the Arkansas Lock and Dam project during the 1960s.

He was a lifetime member of the Knights of Columbus Council 812 and a member of the Fourth Degree.

Preceded in death by his daughter, Rosemary Matthews, Mr. Kordsmeier is survived by his wife of 68 years, Roberta; two sons, Joseph and Robert; one daughter, Melinda Needham; eight grandchildren; ten great-grandchildren; and a brother, Otto Kordsmeier.

E. E. "Buddy" Lett '49 of Slidell, LA, passed away July 8, 2004. Buddy started school at Subiaco in the seventh grade.

He is survived by his wife, Betty; three daughters; seven grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren

Harvey Wheeler '37 died in his home in Carpinteria, CA, on September 6, 2004. He was 85 years old.

Wheeler was born in Waco, TX, but came to Subiaco in his junior year from Greensburg, IN. He said he came to Subiaco to play football, but after a

career ruining fracture of his leg, at Fr. Louis Deuster's urging, he developed a love of learning.

He went on to earn a B.A. and M.A from the University of Indiana and a Ph.D from Harvard University. He taught political science at Johns Hopkins University and at Washington and Lee before joining the Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions in Santa Barbara, CA.

He co-authored the novel *Fail Safe* with Eugene Burdick, which was based on a short story by Wheeler. The novel inspired a movie and a live television play by the same title.

He also wrote a number of nonfiction books and articles over the years and was the editor of the Journal of Social and Biological Structures.

At the Subiaco Literary Festival in November 2002, Wheeler was honored by the Academy for his writing and scholarship and presented the first *Tablet for Literary Achievement*. In an address to the students he expressed the idea that between the ages of 14 and 16, students have a window of time in which to develop the ability to think abstractly. He went on to say that if they don't learn to think abstractly at that age they probably never would.

He is survived by his wife, Norene; three sons, David, John and Mark; and a brother, Walter.



Where are they now?

cont'd from page 11

Health Systems in Cumberland, MD. He is also the newest aspirant for the Anglican Benedictine Community of Celebration in Aliquippa, PA.

A. J. Jeu '03 is now a baseball player for the Cavaliers of St. Gregory's (OK) University.

After 28 years in The Windy City, **David Rust '72** has moved to New York City to join Scholastic as VP/General Manager for Education Paperbacks.



Development Director's Message

Abbot Jerome received a letter from **Paul Hettich '57** a couple of months ago that began an interesting research. So many things seemed to come together. Paul is soon to retire after a 35-year career teaching at Barat College, which is connected to DePaul University. He has just coauthored a book on "college-to-work transition issues." He has two sons who recently returned from serving in Iraq. Paul was thanking Abbot Jerome and the community for our prayers for his sons. In the letter he mentioned that his father, Cyril Hettich, would have been one of the first development directors at Subiaco Abbey. As a director of publicity here, his father was instrumental in finding the money that made it possible to complete the Jewett Annex in 1940. In the same year he also helped begin the publication of *The Abbey Message*.

I asked Brother Vincent to have a look in the archives and see if he could come up with any information about Cyril Hettich's work here. The result is a reproduced page [see below] from the June-July, 1940 issue [the second issue] of *The Abbey Message*. Mr. Cyril Hettich is described as a "lay advisor and friend employed by the Abbey; traveling Registrar in Central States and Director of Publicity." According to Paul Hettich, his father's specialty was "working on campaigns for Catholic institutions."

Many of you will also recognize Father Harold Heiman who recently celebrated 70 years of profession. Former Abbot Michael Lensing is described as the "youngest priest-monk in the community."

What is perhaps most striking about this issue of *The Abbey Message* is that the message then was so like our

message today. The monks were asking to be able to join with all their friends in praying for their needs "In These Troubled Times." On page 16 a novena in honor of Our Holy Father St. Benedict was announced. "We shall keep on knocking with and for you, and above all, we shall have St. Benedict knocking with us." "Send your intentions whether you can send an offering or not. We want to help you now and feel confident that you will help us when you can."

Presently work is progressing on the renovation of the Jewett Annex, completed with the help of Cyril Hettich and the many benefactors of the Abbey in 1940, and renovated with the help of many more benefactors in 2004.

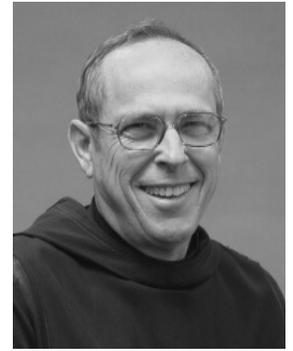
The Abbey Message, begun in 1940, also received a renovation this year when we brought together all the various publications of the abbey into one Abbey Message.

In this issue of the new combined Abbey Message we announce the institution of a hotline that will be manned by one of the monks from 6:30-7:30 every evening. In keeping with our tradition, we want you to know that we look forward to hearing from you about your prayer needs.

Once again, I want to thank you for your prayerful support. We are truly blessed with wonderful friends.

May God Bless You,

Fr. Richard Walz, OSB

Development

Recent Memorials

There are times when everyone wants to do something with lasting spiritual meaning for his or her loved ones. Subiaco Abbey provides such a way. Loved ones can be remembered daily in the monks' Divine Office and their Masses through the Memorial Enrollment Program. To make this possible the abbey offers two types of memorial cards that will be sent to the family or friend that you specify. One would be sent to the family of a deceased person, and a second would be sent to a living person being remembered. Living memorials include anniversaries, birthdays or other occasions.

DONOR	HONOR/MEMORIAL	DONOR	HONOR/MEMORIAL	DONOR	HONOR/MEMORIAL
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Charles Colwell	Br. Henry Fuhrmann	Mrs. Rose A. Hudspeth	Br. Henry Fuhrmann	Josephine W. Rodgers	Celeste Scott
M/M C. Mike Cone	Cliff & Jean Fielder	Mary J. Johnson	Eugene Nieman	M/M Orlan Roper	Orlan & Joan Roper
Bro. George C. Conine	Br. Henry Fuhrmann	M/M Louis Kordsmeier, Jr.	Cyril Plafcan	M/M Geoffrey Sherman	Melvin Cannatella
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M/M Paul A. Dean	Raymond Fuhrmann	M/M Leo E. Lazzo	Christine Wekenborg	Mrs. Rose Stoffels	Br. Henry Fuhrmann
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L. A. Erdman	Frank Buckley	M/M Kenneth Lillard	Shirley Webb	M/M Robert Tacker	Nicholas Fuhrmann
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Dr./Mrs. L. A. Erdman	Tom Zoltolski	Sr. Georgeanna Mankel	Augusta Higginbotham	M/M James C. Troxler	James Kirchner
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Glenn's	Br. Henry Fuhrmann	Charlie McMurtry	Joseph KordsmeierM/M	Arthur J. Wade	John & Irene Wade
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To request a Memorial, clip, fill in coupon, and mail.

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

My Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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

(Name)

(Name)

Commemorating: (Anniversary, Birthday, Special Occasion) _____

Send special card to: _____

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City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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

Abbey establishes prayer hotline

Throughout history, the primary ministry of monks has been to intercede for the prayer needs of God's people. In our desire to better meet your prayer needs, Subiaco Abbey has now instituted the Prayer Hotline. This prayer line is open 24

hours a day, every day. One of the monks will be available from 6:30p.m.-7:30p.m. daily in order to acknowledge and include your prayer needs in the daily prayers of the monastic community. At other hours of the day you will be able to leave

a message that will be picked up during the time when the line is monitored. We encourage you to make use of the Prayer Hotline. Let us join you in praying for your needs.

The telephone number to call is:

1-800-350-5889

Blessings from our benefactors

Many of the things that have happened around here remind us constantly of our benefactors. During the last 12 months, on the academy side we have seen Heard Hall renovated, including a new and more efficient boiler system. This was made possible by a \$50,000 grant from Commonweal Foundation – matched by an equal amount from the Journey of Faith Capital Campaign. Two new efficient boilers have been installed in Oskar Rust Gymnasium. New bathrooms were erected at the pool and old ones improved at Rebsamen Stadium. A new fire alarm system was installed throughout the academy.

On the monastery side, the leaky roof on the inner court was completely replaced and pressure washing and waterproofing of the stone exterior of the church and other buildings is ongoing.

A grant from SOAR! [Support Our Aging Religious!] covered half the cost of a handicap accessible van for use by the health center monks. With the help of another SOAR! grant we installed new lighting and floor covering in the health center rooms and are presently upgrading two rooms near the health center for assisted living. While we are celebrating the centennial anniversary of our Horse Barn, we also were able to build a new hay barn south of the highway.

Added to all this we have the most obvious works going on with the addition to Coury House and the renovation of the Jewett Annex living quarters for the monks. Presently we are told that the Jewett renovation ought to be finished by the end of this year. So we have set a tentative date for the blessing of this area for Saturday, Jan. 8, 2005.

One of the problems with singling out these major projects is that the multitude of smaller but very important gifts go unnamed – the gift of a car or tractor or lawn mower, computer equipment or cattle, a serving line in the new refectory, a work of art or altar furnishings for the Coury House chapel. There are many of these gifts and we are thankful. And then we could mention the many volunteers who come to help build a sidewalk, stuff envelopes, paint a fence, serve on a board or one of the many other ways we are helped.

Without a doubt we are blessed with many loyal supporters. You are all in our prayers and in our daily Masses. Thank you and may God bless you.



Horse barn

cont'd from page 5

and farm office support Subiaco Abbey's new certified Black Angus operation. Father David Bellinghausen, Prior and avid farm promoter and worker, recently explained the thrust of Subiaco's second century of farming.

He says that the guiding principle for the Abbey's cattle farm is the question "What are we breeding for?" Formerly, a rancher used the "eyeball" method of detecting desirable traits in his/her stock, looking for large, healthy calves and cows with good mothering instincts. Nowadays, technology provides new tools for identifying promising sires and dams and the means for transmitting the traits desired in today's markets.

To answer his own question, Fr. David says that the Abbey farm is breeding for animals with a relatively low birth weight (for ease in calving), but which gain weight rapidly, and which exhibit desirable carcass characteristics. The Abbey farm uses artificial insemination exclusively, from sires with proven records for producing offspring with these traits. Farm manager Butch Geels does all the AI work and performs pregnancy checks. Of course, the mothers contribute equally and so the Abbey also uses embryo-transfer technology. By means

of embryo flushing and transfer to surrogate mothers, cows with the genes for specific traits can be the genetic mothers of many calves. The weighing of yearlings determines their growth potential.

To determine carcass characteristics, the Abbey is now using ultrasound technology. Ultrasound images of the internal muscular development of these yearling calves yield data on the comparative amounts of fat and lean muscle, the amount of intramuscular "marbling" (the presence of fatty tissue within the muscle mass), and the size of the "rib eye" muscle. A licensed technician does the ultrasound examination, and the images are interpreted in Ames, Iowa. Numerical values are assigned to the various characteristics, and number crunching yields a "bottom line" number, called the EPD, the "Expected Progeny Difference." A positive number means that the breeding program is successfully producing the desired traits.

These animals are more likely to receive a rating of "prime" or "choice" in the slaughterhouse, or to transmit their own traits to future offspring, if used as breeding stock. Fr. David reports that the techniques are yielding the desired results, and that these are objective, proven traits, rather than just

deciding that an animal "looks good." "Nowadays," he says, "people want cows and bulls with proven genetics" because they know that "these characteristics are highly heritable."



The Abbey Message
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Coury House

cont'd from page 1

Sub-Committee on Tourism.

I am positive that Coury House will be able to meet the needs of groups who are seeking an atmosphere where the stress of our fast paced, hustle and bustle world, can momentarily be put aside – a place to relax in, a comfortable atmosphere without the distractions we are bombarded with daily. Coury House can provide formal and informal settings for businesses or organizations. Quality meals, served in the Guest Dining Room, and hospitality can also be arranged.

We are anxiously awaiting the completion of our new addition and know that it will be a great asset to our retreat ministry as well as providing a new and excellent meeting facility for management and business.