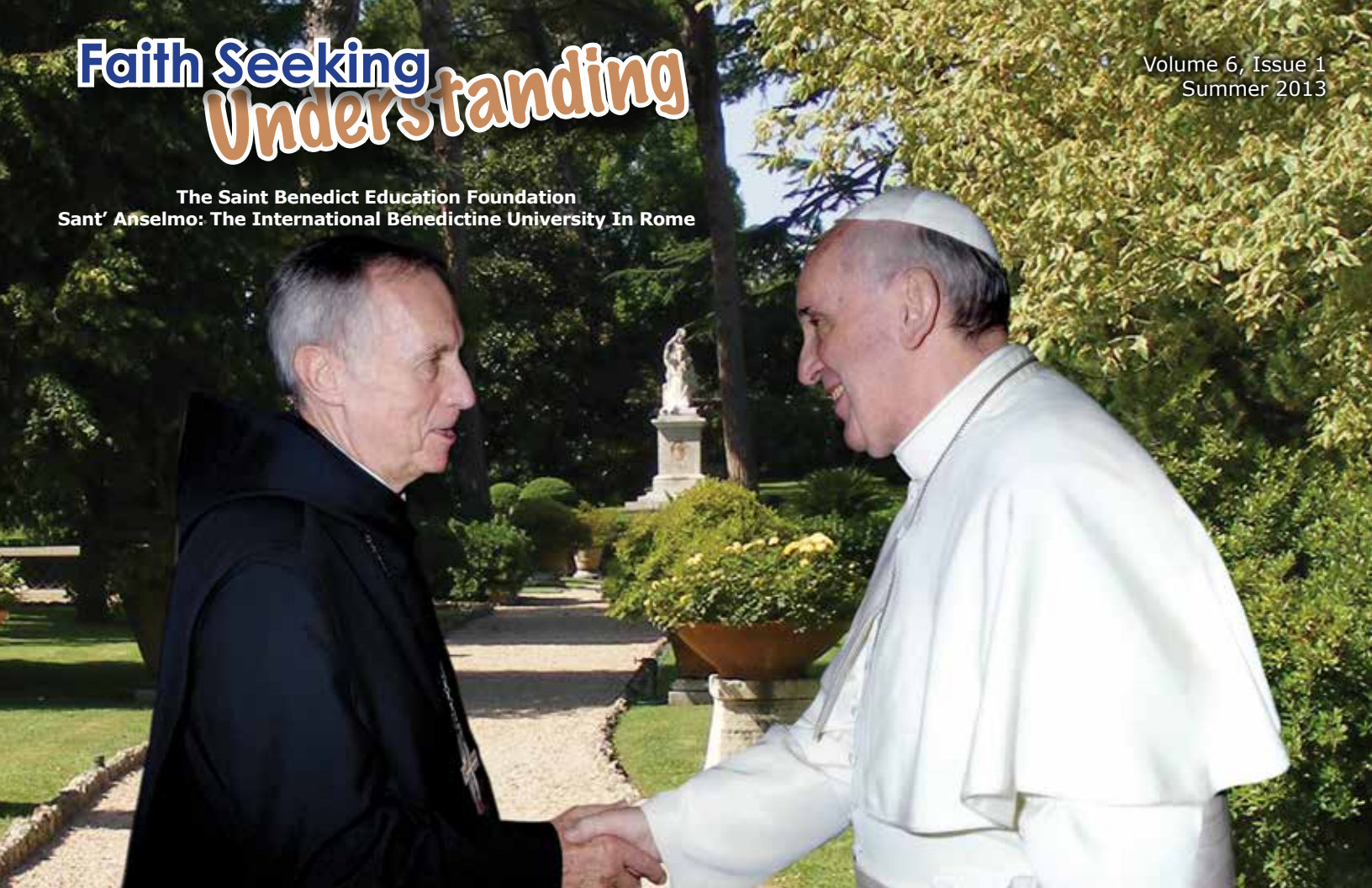


Faith Seeking Understanding

Volume 6, Issue 1
Summer 2013

The Saint Benedict Education Foundation
Sant' Anselmo: The International Benedictine University In Rome



SAINT BENEDICT EDUCATION FOUNDATION

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Pope Francis greets Abbot Primate
Notker Wolf at the Vatican.

SAINT BENEDICT EDUCATION FOUNDATION FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear Friends of Sant' Anselmo,

Greetings from Saint Vincent. Since our last newsletter in the fall, we have been making some progress to promote greater awareness of the important work of the Saint Benedict Education Foundation. Last October, a group of twenty from our different chapters traveled to Rome to meet with the Benedictine students of Sant' Anselmo. These women and men religious express their gratitude for the foundation's support. The support is making a major difference as they return to their own developing nations to spread the message of Jesus Christ. It will also make a difference in the lives of

thousands of young people whom they will help form in the years to come.

We will have another visit to Sant' Anselmo in the fall, between October 12 and October 20. We hope that you might join us.

Recently, two new members joined the board of the foundation: Karl Eiseman and George Derhofer. Both have been friends of the Benedictines for years and bring valuable experience to the mission of the foundation.

At our November board meeting in Lisle, Illinois, hosted by the Benedictine Sisters of Sacred Heart Monastery, Abbot Primate Notker Wolf reported on the recent strategic plan that has been implemented at Sant' Anselmo. Some key items in this plan include the addition of a fourth area of concentration, namely, Liturgical Music. Some courses will be taught in English. Online courses will also be offered to extend the opportunities of a world-class Sant' Anselmo education to all parts of the globe.

One of the major future projects is the construction of an Aula Magna (Grand Hall) which has been planned for many years. Approval from the Italian government had not been granted due to the concerns for archaeological findings, and ancient Roman ruins. Abbot Notker reported, however, that approval has recently been granted and fund raising has begun. The estimated cost of the construction is \$2.5 million. If you are able to contribute in any way to this major project, please contact me at the number below.

The Saint Benedict Education Foundation continues its mission to provide financial support to monks and nuns from monasteries in developing countries which lack adequate resources. We appreciate the generosity and support of all the friends of Sant' Anselmo.

With God's help, we will continue to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ!

Peace,



Father Benoît Alloggia, O.S.B.

FAITH SEEKING UNDERSTANDING

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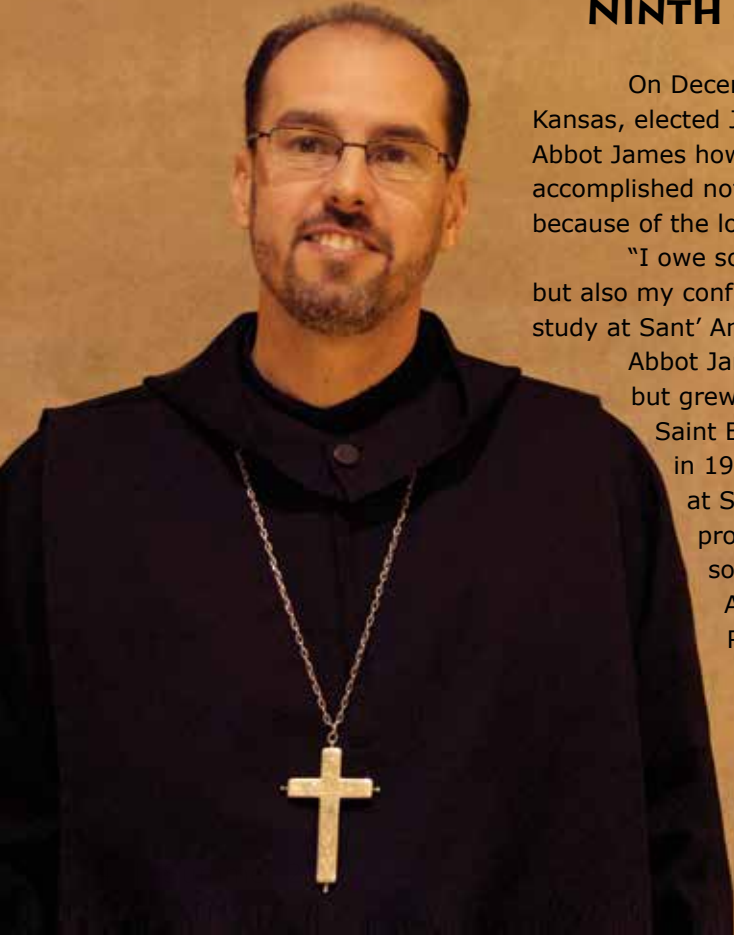
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SANT' ANSELMO ALUMNUS JAMES ROBERT ALBERS, O.S.B. NINTH ABBOT OF SAINT BENEDICT'S ABBEY



On December 28, 2012, the monks of Saint Benedict's Abbey in Atchison, Kansas, elected James Robert Albers, O.S.B., as their ninth abbot. If you asked Abbot James how he came to that position, he would quickly tell you he has accomplished nothing on his own. God brought him to that place in his life because of the love and support of others.

"I owe so much to my family," he said. "Not just my biological family, but also my confreres at Saint Benedict's Abbey who provided the opportunity to study at Sant' Anselmo in Rome."

Abbot James was born in Ost, Kansas, a small town west of Wichita, but grew up north of Atchison in Bendena, where his family belonged to Saint Benedict's Parish. He graduated from Midway-Denton High School in 1990 and Benedictine College in 1994. He entered the novitiate at Saint Benedict's Abbey in December 1995 and made his first profession on December 8, 1996. Three years later, he made his solemn profession on October 2, 1999.

After having studied at the Pontifical University of Sant' Anselmo, Rome, Italy, from 1997-2000, he was ordained to the priesthood in July 2000. Following his ordination he did a pastoral year at Saints Peter and Paul Parish in Seneca, Kansas, and served as alumni director at Benedictine College from 2000 until his appointment as prior of the Saint Benedict's monastic community in July 2002.

Photo courtesy of J.D. Benning

WORD OF THANKS FOR YOUR HELP! FATHER OLIVIER-MARIE SARR, O.S.B.



When I first crossed the threshold of the novitiate of the Abbey of Keur Moussa (The House of Moses) in Senegal in October of 1997, I would never have imagined finding myself sixteen years later in Rome at the Pontifical Athenaeum of Sant' Anselmo, teaching a course entitled The Theology of Liturgical Enculturation to seventy-four students who came from forty different countries.

Thanks to the generosity of the benefactors of the Saint Benedict Education Foundation I was able to continue my immersion in new cultures when my abbot at Keur Moussa accepted the invitation of Abbot Primate Notker Wolf, O.S.B., to send a young monk to study in Rome. This gracious invitation was made possible by the many people who have given of their own means to support the work

of the Saint Benedict Education Foundation, which strives to bring the top level education available at Sant' Anselmo to Benedictine men and women from developing nations, where vocations are often plentiful but the funds needed to train and form such monks and sisters is often lacking.

Now my task is to offer future pastors and members of the Christian faithful the knowledge to integrate the liturgical life of their local churches with their own cultural values, always within the context of the authentic worship and creed of the Catholic Church. This is a very special ecclesial service entrusted by the Holy See to the Benedictines at Sant' Anselmo.

For me personally, living in the unique atmosphere of Sant' Anselmo is a beautiful part of my vocation—lived for the glory of God and the salvation of the world. And you beloved benefactors, are God-sent agents of providence through your kind and generous support of the Saint Benedict Education Foundation!

With my deepest gratitude and prayers,

Father Olivier-Marie Sarr, O.S.B.

NEW BOARD MEMBER GEORGE N. DERHOFER



Gail and George Derhofer

George N. Derhofer of Greensboro, North Carolina, has been named to the Board of Directors of the Saint Benedict Education Foundation, based in Latrobe, Pennsylvania. The foundation helps raise funds for scholarships for students attending Sant' Anselmo, the international Benedictine University in Rome.

Mr. Derhofer has more than 30 years of executive general management, financial and supply management experience in fast growing entrepreneurial and global businesses. He oversaw profit and loss responsibility for diverse apparel businesses and global operations and technology responsibility for the world's largest publicly held apparel company. He has been a key member of the senior team that led the strategic transformation for a global company with leading consumer brands. He has participated in more than a dozen acquisitions and multiple divestitures to improve the business and growth trajectory.

After graduating from Saint Vincent College with a bachelor of arts degree in accounting in 1975, he began his career as a staff accountant for Arthur Young and Company, Pittsburgh; served as assistant controller of Condec Corporation, Conval Penn Division, McKeesport; and was senior vice president, treasurer and chief financial officer of AmBrit, Inc., in Clearwater, Florida. He is a member of the business advisory board of the Alex G. McKenna School of Business at Saint Vincent College.

He and his wife Gail have two sons, Garrett and Grant.



Karl E. Eisaman

NEW BOARD MEMBER KARL E. EISAMAN

The Saint Benedict Education Foundation announced the appointment of Mr. Karl E. Eisaman of Greensburg to its Board of Directors. The foundation provides scholarships for Benedictine monks and sisters from developing countries to attend Sant' Anselmo University in Rome.

Mr. Eisaman has served as president of McDowell Associates, Inc., since 1992, and secretary/treasurer of McDowell Realty, Inc., since 2011. He is a certified insurance counselor, accredited adviser in insurance, and a certified professional insurance agent.

Active in the community, he served as mayor of the City of Greensburg from 1996 to 2012 and as a member of Greensburg City Council from 1994 to 1996. He is the recipient of an honorary doctor of humane letters degree from Seton Hill University, the Greensburg Volunteer Fire Department Leo M. Bacha Humanitarian Award, and the Pennsylvania League of Cities and Municipalities Lifetime Achievement Award.

His memberships include the Westmoreland Chamber of Commerce, past chairperson; Greensburg Rotary Club, past president; Hilltop Social Club, past recording secretary and supreme trustee; Westmoreland Intermediate Unit Foundation, board member and vice president; Greensburg Foundation, board member; United Way of Westmoreland County, board member; Saint Anne Home, board member; Western Pennsylvania Insurance Agencies, board member and vice president; Knights of Columbus; Westmoreland Human Services, board member; Greensburg Hose Company #8, social member; Sigma Chi Fraternity.

He and his wife, Carmen, are members of Blessed Sacrament Cathedral Parish, Greensburg.



SPRINGTIME DINNER AT RIZZO'S

The Pittsburgh-Latrobe-Greensburg Chapter of the Saint Benedict Education Foundation hosted its second annual "Celebrate Springtime" Dinner on April 20th at Rizzos Malabar Inn in Crabtree. Over 100 patrons enjoyed a hearty hot and cold appetizer buffet and superb dinner of regional Italian food and wine. Paul Whiteside gave a brief review of the Saint Benedict Education Foundation mission, goal, and the chapters that are presently working to support Sant' Anselmo in the United States. Father Benoît presented Chef Rizzi DeFabo and his family with the Sant' Anselmo Medallion for their support and dedication to the foundation. The chapter will also host an evening under the stars with the "Sunset at the Barn" dinner and reception on Saturday, August 10th at the Winnie Palmer Nature Reserve.

Each chapter has an annual goal of \$20,000, which will provide a full scholarship for a Benedictine sister or monk from a monastery which does not have the resources to provide for advanced studies at Sant' Anselmo in Rome.

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REMEMBERING OUR FRIEND, GENERAL JOHN SPISSO

When John E. Spisso of Latrobe, Pennsylvania, died April 14, 2013, he left a lasting legacy to the Saint Benedict Education Foundation, as did family members and friends who made memorial contributions in his honor. He was a decorated combat veteran of World War II, serving in the Southwest Pacific Campaign with the famed 38th Infantry Division, "The Avengers of Bataan." He survived a Japanese kamikaze attack on the troop ship Marcus Daly, and won the Combat Infantry Badge, the Bronze Star, Battle Stars for New Guinea, Leyte, Bataan, Luzon and the Zambales Mountains, the Philippine Liberation Medal, a Presidential Unit Citation and the Order of Saint Maurice Primicerius.

He was buried in Arlington National Cemetery beside his wife, Patricia, who died October 9, 2011 (she was featured in the spring 2012 issue of this magazine). Both John and Patricia were members of Saint Vincent Basilica Parish, and friends of many members of the monastic community at Saint Vincent Archabbey. That friendship turned into support for the worldwide Benedictine

community, as they learned about and encouraged other family members and friends to support Benedictine monks and nuns from monasteries with meager resources to attend Sant' Anselmo.



After John's discharge from the military, he served as a civilian liaison for the Secretary of the Army, visited veteran's hospitals, and comforted those afflicted by the horrors of war. He also bore witness in classrooms throughout the region to the events he and his comrades experienced while serving the nation in World War II. He retired from Modulus Corporation after many years of service and was active for more than 65 years in community, veterans and charitable and youth organizations.

He is survived by his children, Johnette and her husband, Dr. Richard Seecof, of Latrobe; Johnese and her husband, Dr. Ross Hartling, of Seattle, Washington; retired Sergeant Major John B. Spisso and his wife, Lona, of Phoenix, Arizona; five grandchildren, Mara, Marco and Abra Spisso, Olivia Seecof and Veronica Hartling; and his sister, Louise Ross, of Mt. Pleasant.



In the photo Abbot John Brahill of Marmion Abbey is joined at the Sacred Heart/Saint Procopius Fundraising Dinner by local contributors Dennis and Rosemary Wisnosky of Naperville, and Father Edward Mazich, O.S.B. of Saint Vincent Archabbey. Rosemary Wisnosky is an Honorary Consul of the Slovak Republic in the United States. Her late uncle, Father Hubert Macko, O.S.B., a monk of Saint Vincent Archabbey, was a prominent advocate of Slovak language and culture in America. Dennis and Rosemary Wisnosky celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on July 13, 2013.

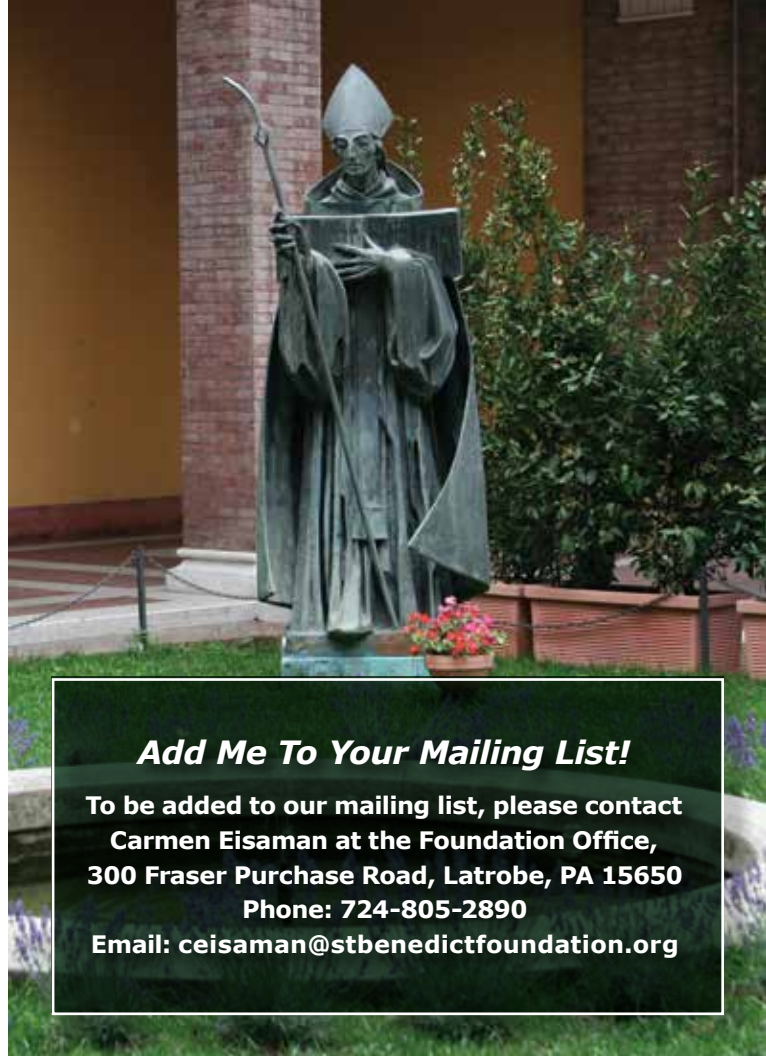
LISLE BOARD MEETING

On the evening of Sunday, April 14, 2013, a group of about fifty guests joined the members of the Saint Benedict Education Foundation Board of Directors at a festive wine tasting reception and dinner at Villa Saint Benedict, operated by the Benedictine Sisters of Sacred Heart Monastery in Lisle, Illinois. The celebration was hosted by Sister Mary Bratrsovsky, O.S.B., Prioress, and Sister Judith Ann Heble, O.S.B., of Sacred Heart Monastery, and Abbot Austin Murphy, O.S.B., of Saint Procopius Abbey. Abbot Primate Notker Wolf, O.S.B., Archabbot Douglas Nowicki, O.S.B., St. Vincent Archabbey, Abbot Philip Davey, O.S.B., St. Bede Abbey, Abbot John Brahill, Marmion Abbey, along with monks from Saint Procopius Abbey, Marmion Abbey, and Saint Vincent Archabbey all participated in the event.

Dr. Stephen Butler of Plant City, Florida, Chairman of the Saint Benedict Education Foundation Board of Directors, served as the master of ceremonies for the evening, and was assisted by sommelier Chad Bertelsman. The excellent wines for the evening were all Spanish in origin, having been carefully selected and

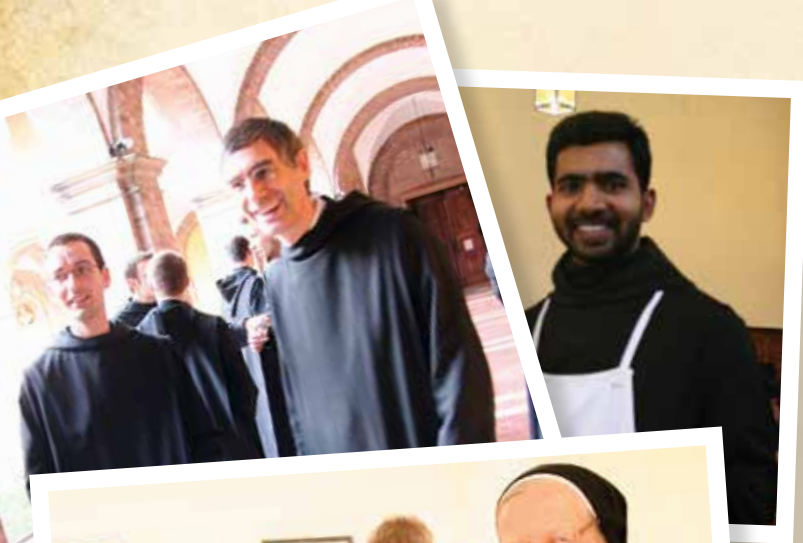
paired with the dinner courses. Previous wine-tastings in Lisle have focused on French and Italian vintages, and have likewise been matched with classic dishes from the culinary traditions of those nations. The event raised funds for the Saint Scholastica Endowment for Benedictine Women, which provides educational funding for Benedictine sisters from developing countries, enabling them to pursue graduate studies at Sant' Anselmo, the International Benedictine University in Rome.

Abbot Primate Notker Wolf, O.S.B., and Br. Oliveto Gerardin, O.S.B., a monk of Notre Dame de Maylis Abbey, France and a student of Sant' Anselmo, gave a small recital at the Board Meeting.



Add Me To Your Mailing List!

To be added to our mailing list, please contact
Carmen Eisaman at the Foundation Office,
300 Fraser Purchase Road, Latrobe, PA 15650
Phone: 724-805-2890
Email: ceisaman@stbenedictfoundation.org



Thank you!
**SAINT BENEDECT
EDUCATION FOUNDATION**

Dear Saint Benedict Education Foundation,

My name is Sister Edith Im O.S.B. I belong to the community of Missionary Benedictine Sisters of Tutzing (Seoul Congregation). I just arrived in Rome to study the Rule of Saint Benedict at Sant' Anselmo. For our community it is very important that one of our sisters knows the spirituality of Saint Benedict very well. With my studies at Sant' Anselmo, I can further help my community to follow the Rule of Saint Benedict. I don't know how to thank you enough for your scholarship.

With thankful prayers and joy,
Sister Edith O.S.B.



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I am currently studying at Sant' Anselmo in Rome where I am working towards a Licentiate in Monastic Studies. To study in a foreign land using a language not my own is truly very difficult. But I know that despite this, there are many hands awaiting to help me, like angels leading me on. The sharing of yourselves and your gifts are truly a consolation for me; my endless gratitude to all! I am confident that my studies will be of use to not only my community, but for the entire Church in Korea. I thank you again with all my heart. Be assured of my humble prayers for each of you.

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Sister M. Eucharia, O.S.B.



Dear Friends of the Saint Benedict Education Foundation,

Greetings in the Lord! I belong to the abbey of the Benedictine Nuns of the Eucharistic King in the Philippines. I am a third year theology student at Sant' Anselmo. I am fully aware that not everyone is given the opportunity to pursue studies abroad. Your valuable contributions to the foundation make my academic studies now, and in the future, a reality. I hope to be of help to our sisters and oblates from other Benedictine communities in the Philippines once I graduate. On behalf of my Mother Abbess and community I thank each one of you! Be assured of my continued prayers for you and your loved ones. May God reward you greatly for your kindness and generosity!

In Christ,
Sister Marianne, O.S.B.



SERVING GOD'S PEOPLE

The Saint Benedict Education Foundation funds scholarships and academic programs for Benedictine monks and sisters who will become the teachers and preachers of the Gospel Message to future generations.

Remember The Saint Benedict Education Foundation in your will.

Our Legal Title is:

THE SAINT BENEDICT EDUCATION FOUNDATION

300 Fraser Purchase Road
Latrobe, PA 15650-2690

Contact: Father Benoît Alloggia, O.S.B., 724-805-2607
email: president@stbenedictfoundation.org



GIVE A GIFT OF EDUCATION

Please help with your tax-deductible gift to the Saint Benedict Education Foundation.

Enclosed is my gift in support of Sant' Anselmo:

\$1,000 \$250 \$50 other

\$500 \$100 \$25

I would like to pledge \$_____ per month to support a monk or sister at Sant' Anselmo

I would like to establish a scholarship fund in memory/honor of (*minimum gift: \$10,000*)

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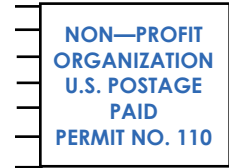
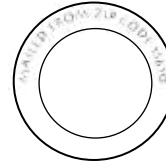
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