

# Faith Seeking Understanding

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

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new Foundation Board member  
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Foundation supporters make pilgrimage to Rome

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Most Rev. Notker Wolf, O.S.B.,  
Abbot Primate

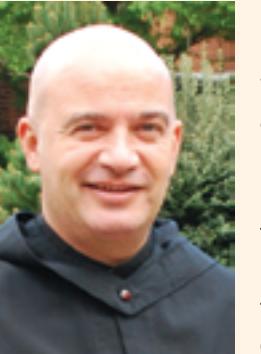
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## FROM THE PRESIDENT

Warmest wishes from Saint Vincent Archabbey in Latrobe, PA! We are busy here after a summer working for the Saint Benedict Education Foundation and I'd like to update you on a few things that have happened within the foundation recently.

In the first week of May I had the chance to travel to California where John Perchak and his wife Laurie, of Danville, California hosted a dinner for the foundation. The Perchaks established a scholarship endowment fund to support the education of African monks and nuns at Sant' Anselmo.

In January, and later in May, I visited some friends of Sant' Anselmo in Savannah, Georgia. We gathered a group of 20 people for a Bible study. It was very successful and we are looking forward to repeating this experience in the future.

In August, our local chapter organized its first fundraising event at the Winnie Palmer Nature Reserve in Latrobe, Pennsylvania. For that occasion I thank particularly the committee members who contributed their time, good spirit, and generosity to help make this first event a very

successful one. We are hoping to repeat it next summer.

In October, members of the Pittsburgh-Latrobe-Greensburg of the SBEF chapter accompanied me to Italy where we visited Rome and Sant' Anselmo for the opening of the academic year. We also traveled to Montecassino, Assisi, and we experienced the beauty of Tuscany. For many it was their first visit to Sant' Anselmo.

In other news, we welcomed a new board member, Rosemary Madonia, from Plant City, Florida. She has gratefully accepted this position on our board.

I would like to welcome to our team a new staff member, Carmen Eisaman, who is assisting me in my work for the foundation. I am looking forward to working with them in expanding the success of the Foundation.

This fall we will return to the Midwest for another fundraiser hosted by Saint Procopius Abbey and the Benedictine Sisters of Sacred Heart Monastery. Thanks to their great hospitality and generosity, we hope to continue to build our network of friends in this region of the United States.

The Saint Benedict Education Foundation is one way to spread the good news of Jesus Christ and we are grateful for your support of our efforts. Let us continue to work together

to help those young men and women who have chosen to give their lives to Christ.

Peace,

*Benoit*.  
Father Benoît

## FAITH SEEKING UNDERSTANDING

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Photographs by:  
Father Blasio Park, O.S.B.  
Lisa Poole  
Paul Whiteside



MASS FOR FOUNDATION PILGRIMAGE TOUR IN VATICAN CRYPT



## OUR MISSION

The Saint Benedict Education Foundation is a non-profit organization whose sole purpose is to raise awareness and funding for the Pontifical Athenaeum of Sant' Anselmo in Rome. The Foundation will work within the boundaries of North America and will focus its efforts on the funding for scholarships, and academic chairs for the Athenaeum.

From left, Br. Imre B. Gérecz, O.S.B., Sister Marianne Cablar, O.S.B., Rev. Olivier-Marie Sarr, O.S.B., Father Henry Chiza Balumisa, Br. Basilio (Oscar) Barriga, O.S.B., Sister Agnietė Ivaškevičiūtė, O.S.B., Br. Leopold Jagesic, O.S.B., and Br. Marie André Faye



*Patrons of the Western Pennsylvania Chapter at the Winnie Palmer Nature Reserve for "Sunset at the Barn."*

## LOCAL CHAPTERS FORMING

Local Patrons of Sant' Anselmo Chapters continue to form in various parts of the United States to support the needs of Benedictine sisters and monks who are studying for degrees in philosophy, theology and liturgy at our international Benedictine university in Rome. Currently four "Friends of Sant' Anselmo" Chapters are in various stages of development. They are in Western Pennsylvania; Tampa, Florida; Savannah, Georgia; and Lisle, Illinois, in the western suburbs of Chicago.

### **Western Pennsylvania**

The Western Pennsylvania Chapter (also known as Pittsburgh-Latrobe-Greensburg) has been very active recently and has as its goal a \$20,000 scholarship that will fund one student at Sant' Anselmo for one year. The group is close to this goal after a very successful fundraising event held in August on the campus of Saint Vincent College in



*Paul Whiteside  
Director of Development*

Latrobe, PA. The event was called "Sunset at the Barn" and was held at the Winnie Palmer Nature Reserve—a building that is an actual refurbished barn and is named after the late wife of golfing great Arnold Palmer. Nearly 90 people attended the event that featured excellent music, food and prizes. The net proceeds totaled about \$11,000, and will be used toward the scholarship fund.

Several members of this chapter traveled to Rome in October to visit Sant' Anselmo for the opening of the academic year. The visit also included participation in the opening ceremonies for the new academic year, which began on October 10th. The patrons had the opportunity to meet and talk with students, faculty and staff members, as well as Abbot Primate Notker Wolf, O.S.B., the chancellor of Sant' Anselmo.

### **Tampa**

In Tampa several wine tasting events have been held and plans are being made for a group there to travel to Rome



in 2012 to meet the students and administrators of Sant' Anselmo.

### **Savannah**

In Savannah, Father Benoît Alloggia, O.S.B. and Father Edward Mazich, O.S.B., have led a group of interested people in Bible Study classes. These events were hosted by Kim and Harry Haslam of Savannah at their home in that area.

### **Lisle**

In Lisle the foundation will soon be hosting its second annual fundraiser on Nov. 6, sponsored by Sacred Heart Monastery and Saint Procopius Abbey. The first event there was held in 2010. Abbot Primate Notker Wolf, O.S.B., will give a talk about the university and entertain the group with his musical expertise. ▀

## **HELP FORM A PATRON OF SANT' ANSELMO CHAPTER**

*To form a chapter, contact:*

**Rev. Benoît Alloggia, O.S.B.,  
Saint Benedict Education Foundation**

**300 Fraser Purchase Road  
Latrobe, Pennsylvania 15650**

**Telephone: 724-805-2890 Fax: 724-805-2891**

**email: [info@stbenedictfoundation.org](mailto:info@stbenedictfoundation.org)  
[www.stbenedictfoundation.org](http://www.stbenedictfoundation.org)**

## SAVANNAH BIBLE STUDY

**By Father Edward M. Mazich, O.S.B.**

**O**n the evening of Thursday, May 26th supporters of Sant' Anselmo from the Savannah area gathered at the home of Harry and Kimi Haslam near Savannah, Georgia, for a friendly dinner and a wide-ranging discussion on the Bible and its place in the life of Catholics. Father Benoît Alloggia, O.S.B., and Father Edward Mazich, O.S.B. guided the group through a presentation on the central importance of Sacred Scripture in the Benedictine tradition and in the Church at large, noting the emphasis which Pope Benedict XVI, himself a Benedictine oblate, has placed on the need for all Catholics to make reading and praying with the Bible a regular part of their faith lives.

About twenty-five people attended the evening's events, enjoying the opportunity to chat with old friends and to engage in a lively series of conversations and questions concerning the rich history of the Catholic use and study of the Bible. Those present also heard how the study of Sacred Scripture is one of several important subjects being taken up at present by Benedictine monks and sisters at Sant' Anselmo whose efforts are directly supported by the work of

the Saint Benedict Education Foundation.

The foundation offers its sincere thanks to all who participated in this gathering, especially Harry and Kimi Haslam, who graciously offered their home as a lovely and welcoming venue for the meeting.



## ROSEMARY V. MADONIA NAMED TO FOUNDATION BOARD

**R**osemary V. Madonia of Plant City, Florida, has been named to the Board of Directors of the Saint Benedict Education Foundation. The foundation supports and raises money for student scholarships for the international Benedictine university of Sant' Anselmo in Rome.

Ms. Madonia has 25 years of experience as controller with East Coast Brokers and Packers, Inc. In her duties, she maintains, analyzes and summarizes general ledger accounts; directs the budget and cost controls; analyzes and interprets financial data and recommends changes to improve systems and financial performance; presents financial information to senior management; supervises and reviews all payroll for over 1,000 employees; and sets financial goals and closely follows the budget to ensure financial order.



*Rosemary V. Madonia,  
newest member of the Foundation Board*

"I hold a deep-seated passion to be effective in securing positive change within the neighboring communities by working extensive hours within my local neighborhood, working with, and encouraging, the migrant community leaders, to guarantee better living arrangements, child care, and overall well-being of the seasonal employees in Florida and Virginia, and elsewhere," she said of her work.

She studied at Gannon University in Erie and holds a bachelor of science degree in political science and history from Florida Southern College, Lakeland, Florida. She is the daughter of Evelyn and Batista Madonia, Sr., also of Plant City.

# FOUNDATION REDESIGNS WEBSITE



The Saint Benedict Education Foundation has completed a redesign of its website, <http://www.stbenedictfoundation.org>.

The new home page will feature a multimedia slideshow or video, while all of the latest news is also available in a new format. In addition, the foundation has established

a YouTube® Channel, <http://www.youtube.com/user/StBenedictFoundation>. Videos from that site will automatically feed into the website as they are uploaded. The current video, "Secrets of Sant' Anselmo," has already received more than 500 views. The "Multimedia" section also includes photos of events and happenings of both the foundation and the university.

Links to the various Sant' Anselmo websites in Rome are featured, and the "People" section includes brief biographies and photos of the foundation board members, alumni, and contact information for staff members. Student articles, most notably those about students who have received scholarship aid from the foundation, can also be found in this section.

The "About Us" section of the site features a brief history of Sant' Anselmo, along with contact information and the university's mission statement. The "Events" page lists upcoming events, while the "Support" section provides online giving options by linking the various scholarships, chairs, and gift possibilities from its page to the online store.

Design work was completed by Jordan Hainsey, Matthew Miner and Kim Metzgar.



The *Transitus*, or passing into heaven, of Saint Benedict located in the Cloister Garden at Montecassino Abbey, Italy.



## FOUNDATION TRAVELS TO ROME

Supporters of the Saint Benedict Education Foundation are pictured on their trip to visit Rome at Sant' Anselmo for the opening of the academic year where they met with Abbot Primate, Notker Wolf. The group also traveled to Montecassino, Assisi, and Tuscany. For some, this was their first encounter with Sant' Anselmo.

## LETTERS FROM ROME

May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2010, Rome



Dear Friends,

My name is Brother Imre Gérecz and I am a monk of the Benedictine Community of the Archabbey of Pannonhalma, in Hungary. I am 27. I have taken temporary vows and am presently studying theology in the bachelor's degree program in the Atheneum of Sant' Anselmo in Rome. It is foreseen that at the end of the next academic year (2010-2011) my BA studies will be completed, a necessary step prior to ordination. A further two years are planned to obtain a licentiate (MA) in Sacramental Theology to become a professor at the Sapientia College of Theology of Religious Orders in Budapest and to be of service to my Benedictine Community, contributing to the formation of our student monks in the abbey and to the students of the Benedictine High School of Pannonhalma.

By this letter I wish to express my thanks for your generous contribution to cover the costs of my studies in Rome in the next academic year.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

*Imre*

Br. Imre B. Gérecz, O.S.B.

## LETTERS FROM ROME

May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2011, Rome



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ and Saint Benedict,

My name is Bro. Basilio (Oscar) Barriga, O.S.B. and I am a Benedictine seminarian from Mexico, where I am a member of the Benedictine Monastery of Our Lady of Angels.

I am writing to express my deepest gratitude for your wonderful and generous financial assistance of \$2,000, which you so generously extended to me so that I could continue my studies at the Monastic Institute at Ateneo Sant' Anselmo in Rome, Italy, during the academic year 2010-2011.

This donation represented to me a clear sign of Divine Providence which, through your generous assistance, enables me to continue my studies and seek to correspond responsibly and with much diligence to the expectations of all those who have lovingly helped me with my monastic formation.

I humbly ask the Lord to continue to shed His blessings upon you and your families for your generosity and for all the work that you do on behalf of our beloved Church.

Affectionately in Christ and Saint Benedict,

*Basilio*

Br. Basilio (Oscar) Barriga, O.S.B.

## THE BENEDICTINE OBLATE SPONSORED SCHOLARSHIP FUND



The Saint Benedict Education Foundation has established a new scholarship that honors Benedictine Oblates and their support of the international Benedictine university in Rome, Sant' Anselmo.

This fund encourages Benedictine Oblates from throughout the world to make contributions on a regular basis to help develop a scholarship for a Benedictine monk or sister who is undertaking graduate studies at Sant' Anselmo. When the fund reaches a level that will enable a student to pay full tuition for one year, a student will be selected by the board members of the Saint Benedict Education Foundation in cooperation with the administration of Sant' Anselmo to receive this award.

## BOARD

### Board of Incorporators

Abbot Primate Notker Wolf, O.S.B.  
Archabbot Douglas R. Nowicki, O.S.B.  
Abbot Gregory Polan, O.S.B.

### Board of Directors

Dr. Stephen Butler, *chairman*  
Mr. Robert Cahill Jr., *emeritus*  
Sister Judith Ann Heble, O.S.B.  
Mrs. Camille Kiely Kelleher  
Rev. Benoît Alloggia, O.S.B.  
Rosemary V. Madonia  
Rev. Edward Mazich, O.S.B.  
Dr. Leo J. Shea, III  
Mr. Paul Whiteside

## HELP EDUCATE A BENEDICTINE THE GIFT OF GIVING

Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta often spoke of the great gift she personally received from the giving that was involved in her life of service to the poor and outcasts of Calcutta. Her response when asked about her care for the sick and dying was: "They give me far more than I could ever give them." The Saint Benedict Education Foundation invites you to receive the same gift by giving to Benedictine students at Sant' Anselmo who are from economically disadvantaged communities.

### SANT' ANSELMO CHAIRS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

Enclosed is my gift in support of the students and programs of Sant' Anselmo:

\$1,000 President's Council    \$500 Fellow    \$250 Associate Member    \$100 Century Member   Other \_\_\_\_\_

Please direct my gift to:    The Cardinal Mayer Chair    Scholarship Funds of the foundation

Mastercard    Visa    Discover   Card Number \_\_\_\_\_   Expiration \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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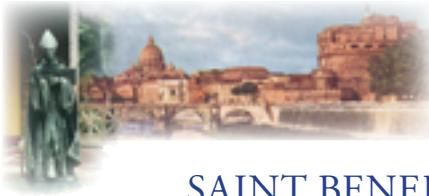
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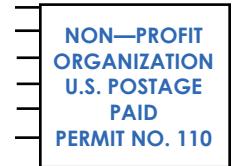
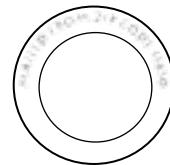
Please send your contribution to the  
**SAINT BENEDICT EDUCATION FOUNDATION**  
300 Fraser Purchase Road, Latrobe, PA 15650-2690.  
For more information call  
Paul Whiteside, 724-532-6740  
email: [pwhiteside@stbenedictfoundation.org](mailto:pwhiteside@stbenedictfoundation.org)



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