



Faith Seeking Understanding

Volume 1, Issue 1

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





A MESSAGE FROM THE ABBOT PRIMATE

"We intend to establish a school for the Lord's service."

Among the many tenets of Saint Benedict, this is, perhaps, one of the most prevalent derivatives of his influence in Benedictine monasticism's rich history. Catholic elementary and secondary schools, colleges and universities throughout the world are concrete, physical examples of how Saint Benedict's guidance thrives, not decays, but centuries after his passing.



Monasteries of Benedictine men and women, followers of his *Rule*, continue to teach eager students about his way of life. Our colleges and universities continue to educate monks and sisters, who continue to go out into the world and enlighten future generations. This practice has repeated itself in an endless cycle for more than fifteen centuries.

As Abbot Primate of the Benedictine confederation of men, representing monasteries throughout the world, it is my pleasure to announce the establishment of The Saint Benedict Education Foundation. We are an organization focused on providing the means for our international Benedictine university in Rome, Sant' Anselmo, to continue this mission of Saint Benedict. As Abbot Primate, I also serve

as abbot of Sant' Anselmo, which has an enrollment of more than 400 future leaders of our Church, from Europe, Asia, Africa, and North and South America. Present-day leaders in the Church have received their educations here, including Cardinal Paul Augustin Mayer; former head of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Atlanta Archbishop Wilton Gregory; Bishop Thomas Tobin of Providence, Rhode Island; and the new shepherd of the Diocese of Joliet, Bishop J. Peter Sartain. Our alumni include the Pope's master of ceremonies, Archbishop Piero Marini, along with well-known theologians and writers, such as Father Demetrius Dumm, O.S.B., of Saint Vincent Archabbey, author of five books; and Father Jeremy Driscoll, O.S.B., of Mount Angel Seminary and author of ten books.

Many of our alumni, such as Father Driscoll, return to Rome to teach here at Sant' Anselmo, or they return to their abbeys and dioceses to teach, write, preach, serve in parishes, and work with many other organizations in the spirit of Saint Benedict.

This first publication of our new foundation comes in two parts. The masthead of our newsletter, takes its name Faith Seeking Understanding, *Fides Quarens Intellectum*, from the motto of Sant' Anselmo. Within this newsletter is a brochure entitled The Secrets of Sant' Anselmo, which is designed to allow you to become familiar with Sant' Anselmo, the place where my confreres and I work, pray, live and study in the name of Saint Benedict and in the name of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

Along with the staff of our new foundation, I invite you to learn about and become a part of our new endeavor.

In Christ's Love,

Notker Wolf, O.S.B.
Abbot Primate



THE SAINT BENEDICT EDUCATION FOUNDATION

Faith Seeking Understanding

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WHY POPE BENEDICT XVI CHOSE BENEDICT

A pope's choice of a name is a highly personal one, yet a highly public one, as well. Much as a parent carefully selects a name for a newborn baby, a new pope's choice of a name says much about his hopes and dreams for what his tenure as pope will come to mean in the minds and hearts of Catholics and non-Catholics around the world.



Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger reportedly commented prior to the conclave at which he was elected that he hoped the next pope would call himself Benedict; this would show "a desire to go beyond the Johns and Pauls and Piuses of recent decades to take up the tradition of the past and continue it into the future."

Soon after, he was able to make his hopes a reality, by selecting for himself the name Pope Benedict XVI.

Through his choice of name, he wanted, he explains, "to create a spiritual bond with Benedict XV" who was pope from 1914 to 1922. The majority of his pontificate took place during the First World War, and he tried desperately to avert what he called "the suicide of Europe." When that failed, he tried just as desperately to help end the war. Among the reasons for choosing Benedict, the Pope said, is "to place my ministry at the service of reconciliation and harmony between persons and peoples."

It is also not a coincidence that the Pope was born and raised in Bavaria, and that Bavaria is home to 17 Benedictine monasteries. He often made his annual retreat at one of them, and there is a tale that he at one time considered becoming a Benedictine himself.

The Pope has also cited two other reasons for his choice to associate his pontificate with Saint Benedict. The first is the role that Benedictines played in spreading Christianity across Europe. When the Roman Empire was close to its end, the Benedictine order was rising and spreading throughout Europe. Benedictine monasteries were the schools through which the wisdom and learning of the past were spread. Through their labors, the great works of ancient learning and Christianity were preserved, passed from generation to

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On The Cover:

Pope Benedict XVI processes on Ash Wednesday, 2006 from Sant' Anselmo to the Church of Santa Sabina to celebrate Mass. To the Pope's left is Archbishop Piero Marini, Master of Ceremonies for Papal Liturgies and a faculty member and graduate of Sant' Anselmo.

Cardinal Augustine Mayer, O.S.B. Chair in Sacramental Theology

The Saint Benedict Education Foundation announces the establishment of the Cardinal Augustine Mayer, O.S.B., Chair in Sacramental Theology. Establishment of this scholarship will enable Sant' Anselmo to hire a full-time professor in Sacramental Theology.

Cardinal Mayer was born on May 23, 1911 in Altötting, Germany. He entered the abbey of Saint Michael in Metten and in 1931 made his monastic profession. He studied Philosophy at the University of Salzburg, Austria and Theology in Rome at Sant' Anselmo. He was ordained on August 25, 1935 in Rome, and in 1937 he received his doctorate in theology. He was



assigned to teach in 1939 at Sant' Anselmo. He was a member of the faculty there for 27 years, and served as Rector from 1949 to 1966. As rector he founded the Pontifical Liturgical Institute. During this time he was also consultor of the congregation for seminaries and universities (1950) and then apostolic visitor of seminaries in Switzerland (1957-1959). He also collaborated with the movement of Catholic university graduates, missionary associations and with various contemplative monasteries. He was nominated secretary of the preparatory commission of Second Vatican Council and of the council and post-council commission for Catholic schools and the formation of priests. In 1965, he was nominated ecclesiastical delegate for the Focolari Movement. In 1966 he was elected Abbot of Saint Michael's Abbey in Metten, Bavaria.

In 1971 Pope Paul VI named him secretary of the Congregation for Religious and Secular Institutes. On January 6, 1972 he was nominated titular archbishop of Satriano and received episcopal ordination from Pope Paul VI on February 13, 1972. From 1985 until 1988 he served as Prefect of the Congregation for Sacraments and Divine Worship. From 1988 to 1991 he was president of the Commission *Ecclesia Dei*. He was created Cardinal by Pope John Paul II in the Consistory of May 25, 1985. In 1991 he retired at the age of 80. In 1996, he was named the Cardinal Priest of Sant' Anselmo.



Roof Reconstruction

The roof reconstruction project at Sant' Anselmo is progressing. A portion of the courtyard roof above the door to the Church collapsed this spring. That roof has been replaced, and work will begin soon on the roof of the Church.

CARDINAL MAYER CHAIR IN SACRED THEOLOGY

Yes, I am interested in supporting the Cardinal Mayer Chair.

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Abbot Primate Visits Saint Leo University

"My power is seated in my powerlessness. And, my job is to take care of the poor."

—Abbot Primate Notker Wolf, O.S.B.

Abbot Primate Notker Wolf, O.S.B., head of the Benedictine Confederation, believes his job is to take care of the poor. Living a life of travel, he has committed himself to visit Benedictine abbeys and monasteries to explain the goal of The Saint Benedict Education Foundation and how it fits into Pope Benedict's quest to teach the liturgy.

The Abbot Primate visited Holy Name Monastery and Saint Leo Abbey, where he met with the Benedictine and Saint Leo University communities. He also spoke with the press and toured Saint Leo University.

Abbot Notker believes that discipline will challenge people to think of different ways to structure monastic life for the future. "The world is my home," he said.

Abbot Notker spoke of his love for music, education and the arts. He plays guitar in a rock band and sees it as a way to stay in touch with young people. He also spoke of how to eliminate fear in your life. "We only fear what we can't have or we think we can't have," he said.

His monastery is Saint Anselmo in Rome, which is the home for the Pontifical Institute of Liturgy.



Abbot Primate Notker Wolf, O.S.B., the highest ranking Benedictine in the world, spoke at the Saint Leo Abbey about the Saint Benedict Education Foundation, as well as about Pope Benedict's quest to teach the liturgy.

Born in Bad Grönenbach, Bavaria on June 21, 1940, Abbot Notker has been an abbot for 29 years. For the last six years, he has served as the Abbot Primate. He is fluent in English, Italian, German, French, Spanish, Latin and Greek. He also studied Hebrew, can read Portuguese, Swahili, and Dutch and is now studying Croatian. He was elected Abbot Primate six years ago.

Abbot Notker is interested in the role of adolescents in today's society. Young people are concerned, he said. They know that something is happening. "Did you know that the Romans sent their youths to be educated with the Benedictines?" he asked. "We believe in educating the whole person."

(from Saint Leo University public relations)



Father Cajetan Homick, O.S.B., president of the Foundation, accompanied the Abbot Primate. Abbot Notker spoke first with the sisters at the Holy Name Monastery, then with the monks at Saint Leo Abbey. Following his talks, a press conference was held in Saint Leo Hall, located on the Saint Leo University Campus.

FIDES QUÆRENS INTELLECTUM: "FAITH SEEKING UNDERSTANDING"

Saint Anselm, founder of medieval scholasticism and himself a Benedictine, conceived of his work as *fides quaerens intellectum* (faith seeking understanding).

The studies at Sant' Anselmo are inspired by this sapiential approach.



ARCHBISHOP LECTURES AT SANT' ANSELMO

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr. Rowan Williams, drew from the *Rule* of Saint Benedict in a November 21, 2006, lecture at Sant' Anselmo. He noted that modern civilization needs to discover a proper sense of the values of time, authority and participation if it is to renew its sense of purpose and enable communities to cope with modern pressures. Among those on hand for the lecture were, in the top right photo, Cardinal Walter Kasper, President of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity in the Roman Curia (left) and Very Rev. Mark Sheridan, Rector of Sant' Anselmo, who introduced the Archbishop.



WHY POPE BENEDICT XVI CHOSE BENEDICT

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generation in hand-written copies.

Saint Benedict's spirituality is the second reason that Pope Benedict cites for his choice of names. The monks' purpose is the search for God—to this purpose they dedicate their lives. Over the hundreds of years, Benedictines developed a rich treasury of spiritual wisdom

and produced many classic works of Christian spirituality that still have the power to move and instruct. Benedict XVI is often heard quoting an expression from the Benedictine *Rule* "Prefer nothing to the love of Christ." And as he began his pontificate, he prayed to Saint Benedict "to help us keep Christ firmly at the heart of our lives." Through his choice of a name, Pope Benedict XVI has indicated to the world his drive to be a force for peace in our time.

GIVING IS GOOD AND REWARDING

By Robert J. Allen

Believe it or not, there are many Americans today with sizeable 401K or IRA accounts who do not need the income their accounts generate! Furthermore, the Internal Revenue Service forces people to begin to withdraw funds from their retirement account when they reach a certain age. This creates an immediate tax consequence for the account holder. Fortunately, for people in this position, over 70 1/2 years old, thanks to changes in the Federal tax code for 2006 and 2007, there is an easier way to make a gift to Benedictine education. The Pension Protection Act of 2006 allows you to make a direct gift to the charity of your choice from your IRA with absolutely no tax consequences. In the past, when withdrawing funds from your IRA, the money had to first be declared as income, then the gift to the charity declared as a deduction. In most cases, this resulted in a negative tax consequence to you, the donor. Under the new law, you can contribute up to \$100,000 from your IRA directly to the charity of your choice. For the tax years 2006 and 2007, an IRA rollover gift creates neither new income to report nor taxes to pay. The gift is essentially a "wash" from a tax perspective, making it even easier than writing a check.

While the new law is only in effect through the 2007 tax year, we are hopeful that it will be extended. Since we do not know if that will occur, however, it may be important to act soon to take advantage of this change. Please consult your tax attorney or accountant to discuss the specific details of this change and how it applies to you.

No matter how you choose to make a gift, there is no nation or group of people more generous than Americans. The charity of the American people is only outdone by God—and he doesn't need a charitable deduction. So why are we so good to so many—over a million different charities? Surely not because of the deduction or because

we are pressured to do so. I believe it is because we who give realize that our good fortune comes from God's blessings. If we cannot be personally involved in a charity's good works, we can support their causes through our blessings.

Your gift, no matter how you choose to donate, does make a difference both for the charity and for you, the donor. All gifts are important and are received in the spirit of God's command to love Him and love one another. God will not forget or be outdone in your generosity.



Tower on the campus of Sant' Anselmo on the Aventine Hill in Rome.

Add Me To Your Mailing List!

To be added to the Saint Benedict Education Foundation mailing list, please contact Jan Fox at the foundation office, 300 Fraser Purchase Road, Latrobe, PA 15650, 724-805-2901, email: info@stbenedictfoundation.org.



Courtyard with the statue of Sant' Anselmo.

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