

*Wishing You and Yours*

# A Happy New Year!

# St. Bernard Happenings



St. Bernard Preparatory School

Winter 2019-2020

## Abbatial Blessing of Abbot Marcus Voss celebrated at St. Bernard

The abbey church was filled with hundreds of people who joined the monks of St. Bernard Abbey to celebrate the solemn abbatial blessing of St. Bernard's tenth abbot, the Right Reverend Marcus J. Voss, OSB, on Monday, October 14, 2019. The Most Reverend Robert Baker, Bishop of the Diocese of Birmingham, travelled to the abbey to preside over the Mass of Abbatial Blessing.

As abbot, he bears responsibility for the administrative and spiritual welfare of the

monastic community its affiliated apostolates and ministries, including Saint Bernard Preparatory School, Ave Maria Grotto, St. Michaels Church in St. Florian, and Sacred Heart of Jesus Church in Cullman.

Born in Cullman to Joe and Catherine Voss, Abbot Marcus has a

large family, including three siblings, Martha Thomas, Marcella Bailey, and Michael Voss, and many nieces and nephews. Baptized and raised at Sacred Heart in Cullman, he attended Sacred Heart School and Cullman High School. For his athletic accomplishments, he was inducted into the Cullman County Sports Hall of Fame in 2008.

After high school graduation, Voss enrolled at the University of Alabama, but during orientation week he

withdrew from the university, applying as a seminarian at St. Bernard College. After undergraduate studies at St. Bernard, he completed his theological studies at St. Bede Abbey, Peru, Illinois, and St. Louis University, St. Louis, Missouri, earning the degree of Master of

Divinity. He also holds a second master's degree in Christian Spirituality from Creighton University in Omaha, Nebraska, and later participated in summer programs in monastic studies at Sant'Anselmo in Rome.

At the time of his election, Abbot Marcus was serving as the Director of

Development and Alumni Affairs of St. Bernard Preparatory School. His recent responsibilities also have included the co-chaplaincy to the Benedictine Sisters of Sacred Heart Monastery in Cullman, Junior Master to monks in formation, and weekend pastoral assistance to parishes of the Diocese of Birmingham.



*Abbot Marcus receives the flame-shaped miter, which recalls the Holy Spirit's descent upon the Apostles at Pentecost and symbolizes his teaching responsibility in the Church.*



### St. Bernard Preparatory School Board of Directors

Saint Bernard Preparatory School Board of Directors held their annual Christmas Breakfast with employees of St. Bernard Prep School and followed with their quarterly meeting. Pictured are front row (l-r): Emily Santiago, Abbot Marcus Voss, Fr. Joel Martin and Br. Marion Sanchez. Back row (l-r): Fr. Linus Klucsarits, Fr. Francis Reque, Susan Brown, Jeremy Wootten, Frank LaRussa, Billy Faulk and Matthew Locke. Not pictured: Fr. Patrick Egan, Christopher Rooney, and Thomas Thornton.



### German Students Present Baskets

German Students presented Fr. Linus and Fr. Joel with authentic German baskets filled with Christmas cheer and treats. Pictured are from left: Torben Schiele, Fr. Linus Klucsarits, Chiara Schewczuk, and Fr. Joel Martin.



# St. Bernard Happenings

## St. Bernard Prep honors Senior Class

It was a beautiful day at St. Bernard as students from the Middle and High School joined together in the Abbey Church to honor the Class of 2020 for the annual tradition of the Senior Dedication Mass.

Abbot Marcus Voss served as homilist for the occasion and reminded students, faculty,

parents and other family members of the important role the members of the senior class play in the St. Bernard Prep School Community. "Your leadership, your ability to guide others, and your dedication to doing what is right and good, all set a tone that others will follow. Being a Senior means you have

a role to play in the overall well-being of our student body. May you excel in your role of leadership so that all students of St. Bernard Preparatory School may prosper and be well."

Each member of the senior class was called to the altar by Headmaster Fr. Linus Klucsarits as members of the faculty and

staff followed behind. School President Fr. Joel Martin and the faculty and staff implored God's blessing upon the seniors that they may faithfully serve as leaders in our school, worthy of the 128-year St. Bernard tradition.

Following the Blessing of the Seniors, Senior Class President Alison Gongre thanked parents, faculty and staff at St. Bernard for the wonderful opportunities that had been presented to them, and for their selfless acts of providing them with the St.

Bernard experience.

Benedictine Crosses were presented to each senior class member as a reminder of the commitment to God they are entrusted with as Christian servants of the student body.

Choral music was provided by St. Bernard Preparatory School's choir under the direction of Fine Arts Director Michael Kastner. Br. Peter Le was organist.

Following the Mass, lunch was held in the Abbey Byre.



*Senior Dedication*

1st Row (l-r): Gabrielle Bennett, Lauren Agnello, Chiara Schewczuk, Lluvia Ponce-Marquez, Bridget Gallegos, Yadira Echeverria, Abbot Marcus Voss, OSB; Yessenia Pascual-Contreras, Lizbeth Medina, Carly Tombo, Alison Gongre, and Ian Sidley. 2nd Row (l-r): Jay Kim, Jordan McCormick, Caleb Guthery, John Christian Rose, Hailey Snapp, Brayam Morales, Jenna Pechon, Claire Sanders, Lillian Nassetta, Amber Lin, Olivia Brown, Ella Buckingham, Macy Whaley, Thy Mai Nguyen, Daniela Hernandez, Aria McMillan, Emma Tafazoli, and Josh Spitzer. 3rd Row (l-r): William Tang, Jongha Park, Dee Gann, David Yi, Jimmy Schomburg, Alex Shoaff, TJ Uhler, and Torben Schiele.

## Honor, Merit Roll

### HONOR ROLL

#### Grade 9

Bissot, Cole  
Buckingham, Ava  
Cockerham, Mary Ella  
Cortes-villegas, Adrian  
Garcia, Kiara  
Garcia, Natalie  
Hazard, Elizabeth  
Morris, Ashley  
Nguyen, Tam  
Pautler, Xavier  
Stidham, Allison

#### Grade 10

Fallin, Claudia  
Hayes, Evehan  
Holmes, Riley  
Holsomback, Maggie  
Jose, Anahi  
Keith, Joseph  
Pechon, John  
Schartung, Merrilee  
Waites, Morgan  
Watson, Piper  
Whaley, Campbell

#### Grade 11

Anders, Justin  
Arriaga, Joseph  
Arteaga, Jackelyn  
Barck, Sara  
Borths, Nik  
DeJesus, David  
Garcia, Luis  
George, Kathleen  
Grey, John-David  
Guthery, Anna Beth  
Lewis, Alex

Norman, Caleb  
Pichardo, Marianee  
Stefani, Samantha  
Warden, Izzy

#### Grade 12

Agnello, Lauren  
Buckingham, Ella  
Gann, Dee  
Gongre, Alison  
Guthery, Caleb  
Hernandez, Dani  
Lin, Amber  
Medina, LizBeth  
Nguyen, Mai Thy  
Pascual-Contreras, Yessi  
Pechon, Jenna  
Rose, John Christian  
Sanders, Claire  
Tafazoli, Emma  
Tang, William  
Tombo, Carly  
Whaley, Macy

### MERIT ROLL

#### Grade 9

Arriaga, Jiovany  
Bryars, Annabelle  
Garcia, Brianna  
Gentry, Kole  
Gil, Charles  
Powell, Ethan  
Yohe, Thomas

#### Grade 10

Agnello, Rachael  
Gutierrez, Enrique

McBride, Maddie  
Pascual-Contreras, David  
Sammon, Joseph  
Whaley, Emma  
Woods, Mollie

#### Grade 11

Bamberry, Daniel  
Contreras, Gary  
Gutierrez, Daisy  
Kim, Helen  
Loyd, Eli  
Ponce-Marquez, Lupe  
Posey, Cole  
Shuper, Toni  
Taber, Sam  
Tombo, Chloe  
Tona, Francisco  
Yohe, Mary

#### Grade 12

Bennett, Gabrielle  
Brown, Olivia  
Echeverria, Yadira  
Kim, Jay  
McCormick, Jordan  
McMillan, Aria  
Nassetta, Lilly  
Park, Jongha  
Ponce-Marquez, Lluvia  
Schomburg, Jimmy  
Shoaff, Alex  
Spitzer, Josh  
Uhler, TJ  
Yi, David

**JOIN US!**  
**Saint Bernard Prep School**  
**OPEN HOUSE**

**Sunday**  
**March 8th, 2020**

**12:00 - 4:00 PM**

**(256) 739-6682**



# St. Bernard Happenings

## St. Bernard Prep hosts German Students

This past August, Saint Bernard Prep families opened their homes to host two German students for the 2019-20 academic year. Just recently five more students from Germany came to visit the campus for a couple of weeks to explore the possibility of spending their senior year at St. Bernard for the 2020-21 or 2021-22 academic year.

The short-term program was designed to give younger German students an opportunity to “get their feet wet” during a twelve-day homestay/school shadowing program. Visitors got to know the teachers, make friends with many students and learn about the American home-life and culture.

Host families were asked to treat their visiting student as a member of the family, including them in all family

activities, even assigning chores as they do for their own children.

The German teens came to the United States through the Christian Youth Exchange, Inc., a long-time partner in education of St. Bernard. Since 1996 more than 30 students have attended St. Bernard for their senior year under the auspices of CYE.

Having these German students on campus for the school year is so beneficial to them but also to the St. Bernard student body, the faculty and the entire community. Having them attend St. Bernard is only possible because of the generosity and hospitality of the wonderful St. Bernard families who open up their homes and their hearts for these students.

Fr. Joel Martin, President at St. Bernard Preparatory

School said, “It’s a wonderful thing to offer these students

the opportunity to experience our American – and Southern

– life. And for us to get a taste of Germany!”



*German Students*

Front row (l-r): Alexander Kanter, Leonie Rose, Leona Köster, Chiara Schewczuk, Maybrit Freudenberg, Torben Schiele, and Niklas Christmann. Back row (l-r): Host families - Adrian Cortes-Villegas, Piper Watson, Elizabeth Hazard, Kiara Garcia, Riley Holmes, Josh Kennedy, Jacob Hilb, and Fr. Linus Klucsarits, Headmaster, St. Bernard Prep.

## 3rd annual Bernard Blues and BBQ in the books

Cullman, AL – The Third Annual Bernard Blues and BBQ was a lip smacking success as our Senior Class along with other volunteers at St. Bernard Prep served up tasty culinary delights including pulled pork, ribs, chicken, gumbo, strawberry waffles, and sandwiches as well as a wide variety of quality arts, crafts, and entertainment.

“It was incredibly hot both

days, and we are not used to being outside,” Festival Director Joyce Nix said.

“While the weather is beyond our control, we made the best of the situation. Our heartfelt thanks goes out to the many vendors and sponsors for participating and to all of the festival attendees and volunteers who supported the event!”

The St. Bernard Choir kicked off the event on

Saturday followed by the Cotton Pickin’ Kids.

Microwave Dave entertained the crowd from noon until 2 p.m. and at 3 p.m. Diedra – The Alabama Blues Queen took command of the stage, belting out a variety of crowd-pleasing hits. On Sunday the Southern Pride Band performed followed by the De’Ja Blue Horns who closed out the entertainment lineup that afternoon, serenading the

crowd with jazzy tunes.

Delores Clark of Cullman was certainly glad she attended. Not only did she enjoy the event, but she also won the grand prize sweepstakes of \$10,000. A complete listing of winners is as follows:

1st Place - \$10,000:  
Delores Clark, Cullman, AL  
2nd Place - \$1,000: Sylar

Philyaw, Cullman, AL

3rd Place - \$500: Wayne Hall, Florence, AL

4th Place - \$250: Joseph Bonin, Harvest, AL

5th Place - \$100: Sam Dunne, Hoover, AL

Visit us on Facebook to view a complete photo gallery of the weekend:

<https://www.facebook.com/bernardbluesandbbq/>

**36th Annual**  
**Bloomin’ Festival**  
**Arts and Crafts Fair**  
**April 18-19, 2020 9-5 p.m. both days**  
*Be watching for your tickets in the mail to win the following:*  
**1st Prize – 2020 JEEP® RENEGADE**  
**2nd Prize – Apple AirPods**  
**3rd Prize – Google Home**  
**4th Prize – Fitbit Inspire**  
**5th Prize – Midland Weather Radio**  
**Visit the website [www.bloominfestival.com](http://www.bloominfestival.com) or like us on**  
**<https://www.facebook.com/bloominfestival/>**



*She’s a Winner*

Fr. Joel Martin, O.S.B., presents a check to Delores Clark as the winner of the \$10,000 grand prize at the 3rd annual Blues and BBQ Festival.



# St. Bernard Happenings

## St. Bernard celebrates Thanksgiving

The students, faculty and staff of St. Bernard Prep School in Cullman, celebrated their annual Thanksgiving service on Wednesday before the Thanksgiving holiday

week. Thirteen clergy and personnel from the Cullman area and beyond took part in the service composed of prayers, psalms, scripture readings and hymns; and

students offered thanks and petitions to God as they lay symbols of the various aspects of their lives before the altar of the Abbey Church.

After several scripture

readings were heard in English, Chinese, German, Korean and Spanish, representing some of the various nations and cultures of students in the school community, those in attendance heard the message given by Mr. Dale Moore of St. Andrew's United Methodist Church in Cullman. Moore reminisced about sitting exactly where the students were that day of the service, but some forty-five years ago. He reminded all to be joyful, to pray without ceasing and to be thankful in everything – and thereby blessing others.

Instrumental music was provided by St. Bernard Preparatory School's Band, headed by Jonathan Farley, and Choral music was provided under the direction of Mr. Michael Kastner, Director of Fine Arts at the school. Organist for the service was Jannie Ratliff of Sacred Heart Church in Cullman, who also serves as organist of St. Andrew's Methodist Church in the city.

St. Bernard Prep President, Father Joel Martin, O.S.B., said, "This is an opportunity for all of us in the school community to give thanks to God for the many gifts we have received, and to do so along with those pastors, ministers and priests who are so important in the lives of our students. These men and women are very busy, so we are all impressed with and grateful for their taking time to join us in going to God with thankful hearts and minds."

The service was followed by a dinner for all guests, students, faculty and staff. The special guests were served by the students.

Representing Saint Bernard Prep was the founder of the first Thanksgiving Prayer Service at St. Bernard, Sr. Marian Davis of Sacred Heart Monastery; and Abbot Marcus Voss, Fr. Joel Martin and Fr. Linus Klucsarits, along with Deacon Tim Vaughn, who serves as instructor in the natural sciences at the school.



*Thanksgiving Service*

Front row (l-r): Sr. Marian Davis, O.S.B., Sacred Heart Monastery, St. Bernard Preparatory School, Cullman; Deacon Tim Vaughn, St. Elizabeth Anne Seton Church, Gardendale; St. Bernard Preparatory School; Mr. Dale Moore, St. Andrew's United Methodist Church, Cullman; Sr. Mary Vernon Gentle, R.S.M., Nazareth House, Birmingham; Fr. Patrick Cullen, Nazareth House, Cathedral of St. Paul, Birmingham; Deacon Jerry Jacob, Grace Episcopal Church, Cullman; Rev. Tommy Lee, Decatur Presbyterian Church, Decatur; Fr. Roy Runkle, St. Joseph Church, Florence; Deacon Robert McCormick, St. James Church, Gadsden; and Fr. Linus Klucsarits, O.S.B., St. Bernard Abbey, Cullman. Back row (l-r): Fr. Joel Martin, O.S.B., St. Bernard Abbey, Cullman; Deacon Peter Nassetta, Sacred Heart Church, Cullman; Rev. John Richter, St. John's Evangelical Protestant Church, Cullman; Rt. Rev. Marcus Voss, Abbot of St. Bernard Abbey, Cullman; Rev. James Peyton, Welti Cumberland Presbyterian Church, Welti; Rev. Jay Gardner, Grace Episcopal Church, Cullman; Fr. Charles Merrill, Annunciation of the Lord Church, Decatur; and Fr. Raul Posada Valencia, Sacred Heart Church, Cullman.



*Knights of the Altar*

Front Row (l-r): Daniel Campos, Aaiyden Hayes, Jonah Hilb, Walter Adams, Jose Zatarain, Abbot Marcus Voss, John Christian Rose, Daniel Bamberry, Ian Sidley, and Jimmy Schomburg. Back row (l-r): Cole Bissot, Ethan Powell, Jacob Hilb, Campbel Whaley, Kole Gentry, Torben Schiele, John-David Grey, Caleb Norman, and TJ Uhler.



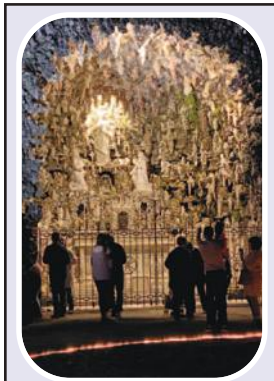
*Doves of the Altar*

Standing front (l-r): Bridget Gallegos, Luvia Ponce Marquez, and Yadira Echeverria. Back row (l-r): Maggie Holsomback, Isabella Warden, Abbot Marcus Voss, Sara Barck, Lauren Agnello.



# St. Bernard Happenings

## “Christmas at the Grotto” Features Festive Christmas Lights



For the first time in its 85-year history, the Ave Maria Grotto opened its doors to the public at night for *Christmas at the Grotto*, a special event that featured Bro. Joseph's magnificent art highlighted by festive Christmas lights throughout the park.

The event attracted close to 1,000 visitors over a 4-night period in late December and was considered a success by staff at the Grotto. “We decided to decorate the park in early December and didn't have a lot of time to market the event,” said Roger Steele, Director of the Grotto. “But, in spite of our worries, we had a really good turnout and we're very pleased with the positive feedback we've heard from many folks in the community.”

The idea for the event originated with Joyce Nix and Sherry Crawford, longtime employees of St. Bernard Abbey. Due to the beauty of the Grotto and everyone's love of Christmas lights, it seemed to Steele like a good formula for success. “When Sherry told me about the idea,

I instantly thought this could work and become something really special,” said Steele. “By lighting up the miniatures at night, it really brought out a sense of the divine that is unique to that presentation. We were really happy with the results.”

Due to its initial success, staff at the Grotto are already making plans for next year. “We

were overwhelmed with the response we had this year, so all of the positive feedback has really motivated us to make this an annual regional event for North Alabama,” said Steele. “We hope this becomes something that people look forward to and make it a must-see on their annual Christmas calendars.”

## Roger Steele Named Ave Maria Grotto Director

Roger Steele of Cullman, Alabama has recently been named the new director of the Ave Maria Grotto. The Grotto has long been a favorite destination for tourists coming to Cullman, and Steele is no stranger to local tourism.

Steele previously held the position of Director of Tourism at the Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce and will now be in charge of promoting and managing the Ave Maria Grotto.

During his first month on the job, Steele began planning a new event, *Christmas at the Grotto*, where many of the Grotto's famous features were accented with lighting for nighttime viewing during the Christmas Holidays.

When asked about his goals for the future of the Grotto, Steele said, “We want to establish the Grotto as one of the premier attractions (both religious and secular) in the state. We plan on improving the grounds, gift shop and also restoring Bro. Joseph's work in an effort to showcase what we believe is one of the outstanding artistic achievements located in the southeast. We also are looking to create new events, like *Christmas at the Grotto* in

order to showcase this art in different ways in order to create a sense of the divine in everyone who visits. Finally, we are working on ways to reintroduce the Grotto to the local community. So many people who live here have never seen Bro. Joseph's work and we want to see that change in the coming months and years.”



Roger Steele

## Dyron's Lowcountry Hosts 10th Anniversary Scholarship Dinner

For the past ten years, Dyron's Lowcountry Restaurant in Mountain Brook, Alabama, has



Scarlette DeCicco (8th grade) will represent Saint Bernard Middle School in the upcoming Cullman County Spelling Bee in February.

Pictured with Scarlett is SBP Headmaster, Father Linus Klucsarits.

opened its doors to host a fundraising dinner for St. Bernard Preparatory School in Cullman. This annual dinner is sponsored by Dyron (PS '94) and Sonya Powell, owners of the restaurant. Many friends, alumni, and supporters of the school gathered on Monday evening, November 25th, at 6 o'clock in the evening for a delightful four-course dinner prepared by Chef Randall Baldwin and paired with complimentary Holman Ranch wines from Carmel Valley, California, provided by provided by Tom and Susan Lowder. The first course was a She-Crab soup served with Holman Ranch “Jarman” Chardonnay 2015. For the second course a Terra Preta Farms Mixes mixed lettuces salad with a blend of satsumas, marinated beets, Marcona almonds, Stone Hollow chevre, and citrus vinaigrette paired nicely with the Holman Ranch “Susan's Saignee” Rose of Pinot Noir, 2018, Carmel Valley. Twelve-hour braised beef short ribs rounded out the entrée served with buttery mashed potatoes, Brussels sprouts, pearl onions, cauliflower, and red wine beef jus, served with Holman Ranch “Jarman” Pinot Noir 2014, Carmel Valley. The fourth course concluded the culinary experience with the dessert of Valrhona chocolate torte which consisted of a chocolate ganache, raspberry sorbet, and mint paired with Holman Ranch “Hunter's Cuvee” Pinot Noir 2014, Carmel Valley.

After the dinner Abbot Marcus Voss thanked all those in attendance for their support of St. Bernard. The goal of the \$100 a plate dinner was to raise \$10,000 for the St. Bernard Scholarship Fund. “We wish to thank Dyron and his wife, Sonya, and their staff for their kind hospitality. Dyron and Sonya are very active in

our school program whether it be entertaining children in their home, or cooking for our athletic teams. We certainly enjoy having both the Powells as members of the St. Bernard Family with their children continuing the St. Bernard legacy being currently enrolled at St. Bernard Prep School.”

As for Dyron who currently serves as president of the St. Bernard Athletic Booster Club, he beams with Bernardian pride at the

thought of Saint Bernard! “I am the only member of my family who has a college education. The education I received prepared me for college, but most importantly, I found my faith at Saint Bernard! We are proud to give back to the school that gave me so much!”

Dyron's Lowcountry Restaurant is located at 121 Oak Street, Mountain Brook, AL 35223, in the heart of Crestline Village.



Dyron and Sonya Powell welcome Abbot Marcus Voss



# Abbey news

## St. Bernard Abbey Monks Greet Alabama Clergy in Rome

Saint Bernard Abbey's Father Bernard Denson and Brother Dominic Lee, who are both studying in Rome, were honored to join the bishops of Alabama's two dioceses in our state's delegation for the bishops' Ad Limina meeting with Pope Francis in his office at the Apostolic Palace. Bishops of the world are required to make the Vatican visit quinquennially, or every five years, in order to update the pope on the state of their dioceses.

Father Bernard and Brother Dominic greeted Pope Francis as they accompanied Bishop Baker and other Birmingham clergy to the Holy Father's office at the Vatican for the Ad Limina visit of the U.S. bishops of the southeastern part of the country.



### *Greeting Alabama Clergy*

Pictured (l-r): Father Bryan Jerabek, chancellor of the Diocese of Birmingham and rector of the Cathedral of Saint Paul; Father Kevin Bazzel, priest of the Diocese of Birmingham and member of the Vatican's Congregation for Clergy; Diocese of Birmingham Seminarian Daniel Sessions; Bishop Robert Baker of Birmingham; Archbishop Thomas Rodi of Mobile; Father Brad Jantz, priest of the Diocese of Birmingham and doctoral candidate at the Pontifical Gregorian University, Rome; Father Bob Sullivan, pastor of Saint Francis Xavier Church, Birmingham; Father Bernard Denson, monk of Saint Bernard Abbey and licentiate candidate at the Pontifical University of Sant'Anselmo, Rome; and Brother Dominic Lee, monk of Saint Bernard Abbey and seminarian at the Pontifical University of Sant'Anselmo, Rome.



### *St. Bernard Clergy greet Pope Francis*

Father Bernard (pictured left) and Brother Dominic (pictured right) greeted Pope Francis as they accompanied Bishop Baker and other Birmingham clergy to the Holy Father's office at the Vatican for the Ad Limina visit of the U.S. bishops of the southeastern part of the country.



## Oblate Retreat Held

The Oblates of St. Bernard Abbey had their annual retreat in December 2019. Sr. Priscilla Cohen, O.S.B., from Sacred Heart Monastery in Cullman, was the retreat master. The theme of the retreat was Benedictine hospitality.

"It's something we cannot hear enough about," said Br. Benedict Dyar who currently serves as Oblate Director at St. Bernard. "There is so much spiritual growth in the topic."

The Oblates of St. Bernard Abbey support the St. Bernard community through their prayer, work and other means of giving.



Pictured Lower: (l-r) - Bill Ellis, Vanda Antaillia, LuAnn Gissell, Sondra Nassetta, Deacon Peter Nassetta.  
Middle: (l-r): Sr. Priscilla Cohen, O.S.B., Tom Kalen.  
Top (l-r): Nancy Alemany, Pat Hilderbrandt, Br. Benedict Dyar, O.S.B., Steve Gordon.



# St. Bernard Abbey news

## From the Abbot's Desk...

When the year 2019 opened last January, I was in my comfort zone working in the Development Office for both the Abbey and our School. Along with the other St. Bernard monks, I knew that this year would hold a significant change for all of us as we prepared for the election of our next Abbot. Still, at the start of the year, I didn't expect it would cause much change in my life. But, as it turned out, such was not to be the case.

When the election was held on July 24th, the community asked that I serve as the 10th Abbot of St. Bernard. Walking in procession from the election hall, all of us

went to the Abbey Church to exchange the sign of peace and sing the "Te Deum," an ancient hymn of celebration. From there I went to the Abbot's office and so my life as Abbot began. In my first conference that evening, I told my fellow monks that it was an honor to serve as their Abbot and I looked upon this responsibility as a sacred trust. I asked their prayers as, together, we set our course for the days ahead.

Much has happened since that day in July. A highlight of these first five months has been the Abbatial Blessing that took place on a sunny day in October. It was

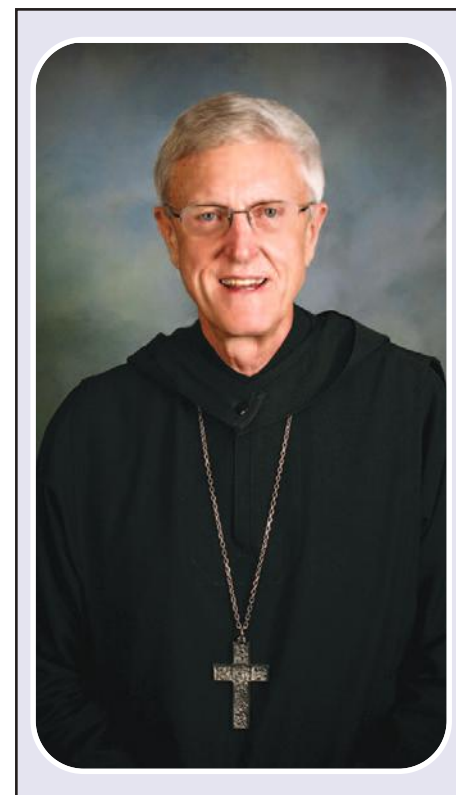
the 14th of the month when bishops, abbots and clergy joined with religious sisters, guests and family for the formal installation. The ceremonies began at 11:00 am and lasted almost two hours. The installation and the reception that followed is an event I will long remember.

In addition to preparing for the installation, I inherited a project that was already underway when I was elected. Because of hail-storm damage, new roofs were being installed on Founders Hall, Benedict Hall, the Dining Hall and the Abbey Church. I'm happy to report that all of these have been completed except for the new gabled roof on the Dining Hall. If our Alabama weather allows, the entire project will be completed by the end of January.

Looking to the months ahead, work on a strategic plan has begun and will address the future growth and needs of St. Bernard. This plan will formulate and set goals for our monastic community as well as the faculty and staff of our school. It will also address the many other ministries that the Lord in his goodness has given to those who are associate with this special place.

It's an exciting time whose success will depend on the support, love and commitment of our alumni, our many friends and our benefactors. Over the past several decades, the generosity of all those who support St. Bernard has made it possible for us to complete several major projects and for this I am most grateful. Much has been achieved because of our donors.

As we open this year of 2020, our desire is to build on what has been done in the past. With your support and the love and grace of God, we look toward a bright future for St. Bernard as we continue to move forward serving the people of God and providing a solid education for the



*Rt. Rev. Marcus J. Voss,  
O.S.B., Abbot*

students enrolled in our schools.

It is my sincere wish that God will bless you and your loved ones as we enter the New Year.

Sincerely in Christ,

*+ Marcus J. Voss, O.S.B.*

Rt. Rev. Marcus J. Voss, O.S.B.  
Abbot



*Voss Family*

Abbot Marcus is surrounded by his siblings who honored him with his Abbatial ring. (From l-r): Martha Thomas, Abbot Marcus, Marcella Bailey, and Michael Voss.

## St. Bernard Recovers from Hailstorm with Repairs, other Projects

A large hailstorm pushed through Cullman in 2018 causing major damage to homes and property in the Cullman area. Hailstones twice the size of golf balls broke windows, damaged vehicles and caused major damage to the roofs on buildings at the Saint Bernard campus.

After months of temporary repairs, work has been underway since early summer to restore the buildings affected by the hailstone damage. Eidson & Son Contractors of Cullman has served as the general contractors and supervised the overall repair, which has included the roofs, the dormers, the windows and other facilities damaged by the storm.

Benedict Hall, Founders Hall, the Abbey Church and the Dining Hall received new metal roofs. The new roofs for Benedict Hall and Founders Hall have the appearance of slate. "The slate roof on Benedict Hall was installed in the 1920s," said Abbot Marcus Voss. "The replacement roof has look of the original slate, which maintains the architectural look of the building. We also installed new dormers and new

windows for a total roof restoration of the building."

The Dining Hall roof, which was originally a flat roof, has been replaced with a gabled roof. All mechanical features which were placed on the roof of the facility have now been moved to ground level. "The Dining Hall has a completely new look," continued Abbot Marcus. "Along with a very attractive roof, we were able to install new porches on the main entrance, the monastery entrance and the President's Dining Room entrance. Our insurance coverage has made all this possible and for this I am certainly grateful."

A second project under construction has been the cloistered walk between the Abbey Church and the monastic dining room. During the last months of his term in office, Abbot Cletus Meagher spearheaded the construction of this project, which created not only a passage way but also a cloistered garden next to the monastery. The work was begun in early summer of 2019 and will be completed in the first quarter of 2020.



*Church and Dining Hall*



*Dorms and Founders Hall*



# 8 St. Bernard Sports



## Varsity Volleyball Girls

Kneeling from left: Emma Whaley (15), Gabrielle Bennett (24), Bridget Gallegos (12), Yessi Pascual (9), Jaya Bahadursingh (5) – Top: Toni Shuper (14), Claudia Fallin (32), Olivia Brown (13), Macy Whaley (25), Emma Tafazoli (2), Riley Holmes (22).

## Jr. Varsity Volleyball Girls

(13) Aubrey Hastings, (4) Ashley Morris, Emily Garcia, (10) Jade Nguyen, (20) Elle Tillitski, (7) Makenzie Cruce, (18) Brianna Garcia, (24) Amelia Tafazoli, (2) Dolce Diaz, (14) Kambelle Gentry, (15) Rebekah Hilb, (27) Lesly Garcia, (16) Ayla Loegler.



## SBP Booster Club Sets Date for Annual Drawdown Dinner

The St. Bernard Athletic Booster Club has set February 1, 2020 (Super Bowl Eve), as the date for the annual SBP Athletic Boosters Drawdown Dinner. The event will be held in the Fazi-Richard Athletic Center on the St. Bernard campus. The proceeds from this event benefit the athletic programs at St. Bernard Preparatory School.

Newly installed SBP Booster Club President Dyrone Powell stated, "Tickets for the event are now available for sale at \$100.00 per ticket. Each ticket holder is entitled to dinner for two as well as an opportunity to win cash prizes. The grand prize is \$10,000.00." The event also includes a silent auction, raffles for prizes, Plinko games and of course, Bingo. Each Bingo winner receives another ticket for the cash drawdown.

According to Athletic Director, William Calvert, "More than 70% of the student body participate in one or more of the 11 different sports offered at St. Bernard. The sports currently offered at SBP are volleyball, cross country, swimming, basketball, bowling, cheer, track and field, soccer, tennis, and baseball. In addition, we are fielding an archery team for the first time next semester. The funds generated by the drawdown dinner help defray the expenses of such a varied athletic program.

"These funds have helped us buy athletic equipment, uniforms, and maintain

our athletic facilities and fields. The money is also used for coaches' education programs, assistant coach supplements and the annual athletic awards ceremonies.

The Saints athletic teams have enjoyed much success in the past few years. The Lady Saints won cross country state championships in 2014 and 2015 and earned 2 track state runner up trophies in 2018 and 2019. The Saints won both the boys cross country and track state championship in 2016 and took runner-up honors in track in 2017 and 2019. The Varsity Boys Basketball team captured area championships in 2015, 2016 and 2017 and advanced to the sub regional each year. Also the girls and boys soccer teams earned multiple trips to the state play-offs in recent years and the volleyball team has reached the super regionals twice. In addition, the boys' tennis team has reached the state tournament 3 straight years (2017, 2018, 2019). "The success of the annual drawdown makes it possible for us to maintain the opportunity for our students to continue being successful in the athletic arena," said Coach Calvert. "A safe and competitive environment is expensive to run and maintain. We couldn't do it without the Booster Club's support."

Calvert concluded, "We are grateful for the SBP Booster Club's efforts to financially support our athletic programs. I do encourage our supporters to attend the

Drawdown. It's packed with loads of fun and is vital to our continued success."

Tickets for the event may be purchased

at the school athletic office (256-739-6682 EXT 7135) or from any booster club member or SBP coach.



## Drawdown

Dyrone Powell, President of Saint Bernard Saints Booster Club, encourages Noah Carpenter to purchase a ticket for the Annual Drawdown benefit dinner for St. Bernard Prep School. Tickets are \$100 and available at the school, All Steak or any booster club member.





*Boys Cross Country*

(l-r): David De Jesus, Nikolas Borths, Francisco Tona, Caleb Guthery, Eli Loyd, Daniel Bamberry, Sam Tabor, Joseph Arriaga.



*Girls Cross Country*

(l-r): Liz Medina, Sara Barck, Kathleen George, Emma Powell, Madi Kerber, Claire Sanders. Not shown: Rachel Agnello and Chloe Tombo.



*JV Boys Cross Country*

(l-r): Jacob Hilb, Jiovany Aguilar-Arriaga, Peter Tran, Cesar Hernandez, Cole Bissot.

## Encore selects Kerber Athlete of the Month

Congratulations to Madi Kerber on being selected as Encore's Athlete of the Month. Pictured with Madi is Dewayne Fortenberry.



## Cross Country Team Results

### Boys Cross Country Team Season Results:

The Saints won 3 large Invitational meets - Athens Bible, Fairview Hay of A Run, and Scottsboro Last Chance and finished 2nd in 4 others - Cold Springs Kudzu Hills, St. Bernard Okotoberfest, Fairview and the prestigious Jesse Owens Classic. The Saints won the 3A Section 3 Championship for their 6th straight Sectional Championship. SBP capped off the successful season with a 3rd place finish in the 3A Division of the AHSAA State Meet on November 9th at the Oakville Indian Mounds.

### Individual Highlights:

The Saints were led by senior Caleb Guthery who made All-State for the 3rd straight year by finishing in 3rd place (16:54) at the state meet. Guthery won 5 first places and took 2nd twice during the regular season. He was also the sectional champion and posted a personal record of 16:32 for the 5K. That time places him as the 4th fastest runner in SBP history. Joseph Arriaga made All-State by finishing in 13th place with a time of 17:24. In addition, Guthery, Arriaga, David De Jesus, Jiovany Aguilar-Arriaga and Eli Loyd all earned All-Section awards by finishing in the top ten at the 3A Sectional Meet.

### Girls Cross Country Team Results:

The Lady Saints won 3 invitational meets - Athens Bible, Fairview Hay of a Run and Scottsboro Last Chance and place 2nd at the prestigious Jesse Owens Classic. They also took 3rd at the SBP Okotoberfest and the Cold Springs Kudzu Hills Meets. The girls won runner up at the 3A sectional meet, missing out on the championship by 4 points to J.B. Pennington. The Lady Saints placed 8th in the very competitive 3A division of the State meet.

**Individual Highlights:** The Lady Saints were led all year by 7th grade sensation Madi Kerber. Madi earned All-State honors by finishing in 8th place at state with a time of 20:48. She had 8 top 4 finishes in invitational meets including a first place finish at the Fairview Hay of a Run (21:03). Madi placed 2nd at the Jesse Owens Classic with a personal record time of 20:18. In addition, she finished as runner up at the 3A Section 3 Meet. Also earning All-Section honors for SBP were Emma Powell in 5th place (21:19) and Sara Barck in 6th place (21:31).



# St. Bernard Alumni-news

## Congratulations

Cullman Attorney **R. Champ Crocker** (PS '94) was appointed by Alabama State Bar President Christy Crow to the Board of Editors for "The Alabama Lawyer," the official publication of the Alabama State Bar. The Board of Editors assists in publishing "The Alabama Lawyer" and other publications assigned to it by the Board of Bar Commissioners. "The Alabama Lawyer" is published six times per year. Crocker received his undergraduate degree from Vanderbilt University and his law degree from Cumberland School of Law at Samford University. He has practiced law since 2001.



*R. Champ Crocker*

Bachelor's degree in Trade and Commerce and did it ALL in the German language!

This is how she explained it, briefly, "The first part, Einzelhandelskauffrau, is like an apprenticeship. But the second part, Handelsfachwirt (Bachelor of trade and commerce), was a further education course going beyond the realms of the apprenticeship."



*Richard men on hand for promotion of Admiral Charles Richard*

**Chas Richard** was promoted to Admiral of the Navy and Commander of STRATCOM. In attendance for the promotion & Change of Command for Admiral Charles "Chas" Richard, Commander of Strategic Command, Offutt Air Force Base, Omaha were his son, **Chase Richard**, (PS '10) and uncles **Max Richard**, (C '68), **David Richard**, (C '74) and **Dennis Richard**, (C '75). Admiral Richard is the son of Patricia Richard and the late **Charles A. Richard**, (HS '57 & C '61). He & his wife, Lisa, have 3 children: Chase, Allison & Emily.

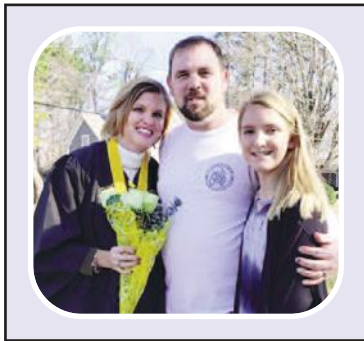
**John Paul Stolz** (PS '15) graduated from the University of North Alabama earning his degree in Technical Writing with a minor in Human Computer Interaction with User Experience (HCI/UX). JP is currently working for Adventech where he develops technical documentation such as work instructions and procedures.



*John Paul Stolz*

### Kellie

**Anderson Curtis** (PS '01) recently graduated with a bachelor's double certificate in K-12 Special Education from Athens State University. She will begin graduate school in August '20 to receive Masters of Special Education in Instructional Leadership at The University of North Alabama.



*Kellie Anderson Curtis*

**Claire Stella** (PS '08) earned a BA in Psychology and Sports Development from Belmont Abbey College in NC. Now, she has passed her final exams and just received the equivalent of a



*Claire Stella*

## New Arrivals

**Emma (Schaffer) Schneider** (PS '09) and Benedict Schneider on the birth of their son, Leon Julius Schneider who was born on September 24, 2019. Leon weighed 8.3 pounds and was 21 inches.

**Katie (Eckenrod) Stipes** (PS '03) and Christopher Stipes on the birth of their second son, Patrick William Stipes, who entered the world October 7, 2019 weighing 8 lb 10 oz, and measuring 21.5 in long. He joins his Big Brother, Christopher at their home in Birmingham, Alabama. Fr. Joel Martin baptized Patrick at the family's home church, Prince of Peace Church in Birmingham on Sunday, December 1, 2019 making the occasion truly special as it is the same place his father and brother were baptized.



*Patrick Stipes baptism*



*Maisie Terese Monk*

**Danielle (Klopfer) Monk** (PS '12) and Dylan Monk announce the birth of their daughter, Maisie Terese Monk, who was born on Thanksgiving morning, November 28, 2019 at 8:08 am weighing 7 lbs. Maisie measured 21 1/2 inches long. She joins her family at their home in Florida.

**Jason (PS '00) and Carmela Dawn Rivera** announce the birth of their son, Jaidon Allen Carcosia Rivera, who was born on December 18, 2019 weighing 4 lbs. 12 oz., and measuring 17.75" long. He joins his big sisters, Adeline and Abigail at their home in Pulaski, TN.



*Jaidon Allen Carcosia Rivera*

## Pensacola Alumni Gathering

The St. Bernard-Sacred Heart Alumni Association of Pensacola, Florida held their annual Christmas Party on December 7, 2019 at Franco's Italian Restaurant in downtown Pensacola. Pictured above: (Seated l-r): Becky Fell Edmondson (SH '68), Margaret Bruno LeBeau (SH '68), Lynn Soderlind, Peggy Fell White (SH '65), Mary Ann Fell, Lisa Engel. (Standing l-r): Michael Engel (SB '72), Jacque LeBeau (SB '70), Larry O'Donnell (SB '71), Jerry Fell (SB '64), Woody Soderlind (SB '66).





# St. Bernard Alumni news

## In Memoriam

Prayers are requested for family and friends:

**Anthony Francis Beckman, (Tony)**, - (HS '54) of Conroe, Texas died on September 6, 2019 at the age of 83. Born to William and Emma Beckman on August 19, 1936 in Lawrenceburg, Tennessee, the 7th of 12 siblings, Tony attended high school at the seminary at Saint Bernard Abbey in Cullman, Alabama where he met his wife, Mary. Tony served in the Air Force for 9 years as a linguist, where he became fluent in Mandarin. His career took them to many different places with their growing family, with one of their favorites being Taiwan. After obtaining his bachelor's degree from Our Lady of the Lake University and later his Master's degree from Houston Baptist University, he continued sharing his love of education and knowledge with others, by becoming a Computer Science Professor for Houston Community College until his retirement. Tony is survived by his wife of 63 years, Mary; four children; Debra (Mark) Vinsand of Riverside, IA; Tom (Joni) Beckman of Ligonier, PA; Anita Pellerin of Conroe, TX; and Dana (Abby) Rassy of Houston, TX; eleven grandchildren; and six great grandchildren; along with a sister – Lourdes; and brothers – Raphael (Dale) and Leo and a multitude of extended family. A funeral Mass was held in Conroe, TX on September 13, 2019 with Fr. Tom Rafferty serving as the main celebrant. A memorial service will be held in the Columbarium at St. Bernard where Tony will be entered at a later date. The family has requested donations be made in honor of Tony to Saint Bernard Abbey, 1600 St. Bernard Drive, SE, Cullman, AL 35055.



*Anthony Beckman*

**Tobby Vance Blackwood**, 64, of Cullman, passed away Tuesday, Sept. 24, 2019 at his residence. He was born April 24, 1955 to Freeman Eual and Hilda Blackwood. He was a conductor for the CSX Railroad and a farmer. Survivors include his wife, Debbie Blackwood; mother, Hilda Blackwood; daughters, **Tova Blackwood Lindsey** (PS '96) and Tiffany Nash.

Former **Governor Kathleen Babineaux Blanco** peacefully passed away on August 18, 2019 surrounded by her beloved husband of 55 years, **Raymond Blanco** (HS '57), their children and other family members. The cause of death was ocular melanoma. The woman who would become Louisiana's first (and so far only) female governor was born on Dec. 15, 1942 in Coteau in Iberia Parish. She attended the University of Southwestern Louisiana (USL), which is now named the University of Louisiana at Lafayette and earned a degree in business education. She was an ardent supporter of her alma mater, education and children. She married in 1964. She brought six children into this world and maintained an active family life grounded on the values of her Cajun roots. She served in the Louisiana House of Representatives from 1984 to 1988 (first woman elected from Lafayette), then in the Louisiana Public Service Commission from 1988 to 1996 (first woman elected to LPSC and first to serve as its chairwoman). She served as Lieutenant Governor from 1996 to 2004, and as Governor from 2004 to 2008. Although she knew that her name would be forever linked with the aftermaths of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, it was her dying wish that she be remembered for her faith in God, commitment to family, and love of Louisiana. As Louisiana's first female governor, her prestigious career cannot be separated from her faith and family - all are intertwined. In her own words, her public service provided an opportunity "to be the voice of the voiceless, to shape the rising tide that lifts all boats, to advocate for policies and changes that make good common sense, and to have a positive impact on the lives of all people." Kathleen is survived by her husband, Raymond Blanco, and by their children Karmen Blanco-Hartfield (Jerry), Monique Blanco Boulet (David), Nicole Blanco (fiancé John George), Raymond Blanco, Jr. (Aprill Springfield Blanco), and Pilar Blanco Eble (Michael); and,

thirteen grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.

**Maddox Burts**, husband of **Mary Beth (Peterson)** (PS '98) died November 29, 2019 when the Medevac Alaska plane he was a passenger in crashed near Cooper Landing, south of Anchorage, Alaska. Maddox and Mary Beth have one daughter, Maddi. The family lives in Fairhope, Alabama.

**Thomas J. Collins** (C '69), 72, of Fall River passed away at Charlton Memorial Hospital on Thursday, August 15, 2019 after a short illness. He is survived by his wife of 34 years, Susan (Farrar) Collins. Born in Fall River, a son of the late Francis L. Collins, Jr. and Helen (Roberts) Collins, he was a lifelong resident of the city. He was educated in the public schools of Fall River and was a 1964 graduate of Bishop Stang High School. He also attended St. Bernard College. He began his working career in the family construction business, F. L. Collins & Sons, Inc. and served as office manager for many years. He later became a founder and served as Vice President of Collins Construction Co., Inc. until his retirement. He was an avid reader and known for his sharp wit and being a great conversationalist in discussing politics and current affairs. Besides his wife, he is survived by his step children, Scott Dupre and his wife Becky of Providence, and Bethany Sullivan of Fall River; a brother, Atty. Francis L. Collins of Tiverton, RI; a sister, Jane Shadid of Fall River and several nieces and nephews. He was also the brother of the late James H. Collins.

**Robert "Bob" Elam** (HS '56) passed away Saturday, December 7, 2019, at his home. After graduating from St. Bernard High School, he enrolled at the University of Kentucky and earned a degree in mining engineering. He dedicated over thirty years to ensuring mining safety and served as Deputy Assistant Secretary of Mining Safety and Health Administration for the U.S. Department of Labor. He is survived by his wife, Ann; his sons, Robert Andres Elam, Jr (Rose Ochoa), John Mitchell Elam (Monica); and his daughters, Robyn Leigh Evans and Danyelle Townsend (Kenneth Tew); and fourteen grandchildren.

**Stuart John Fruman** (HS '57) passed away peacefully surrounded by family and loved ones on September 20, 2017, in Pensacola, Florida. He was 79. He received his high school diploma at St. Bernard Preparatory School in Cullman, Alabama. After high school, Stuart felt called to serve as a monk in the Benedictine Order at St. Bernard Monastery for eight years. Joining the Navy, he was stationed on a destroyer at Subic Bay in the Philippines. After serving his country in the Navy, Stuart returned to Alabama and received a B.S. degree from Florence State University. He then went on to receive his M.S. degree in History from Appalachian State University in Boone, North Carolina. Stuart taught high school and later worked as an assistant principal in the Greenville, South Carolina, Public School System. After his time teaching, he moved to the Washington, DC area where he was the manager of a Peoples Drug Store. In 1981, Stuart joined the Smithsonian Institute, where he served as Assistant in the Office of Facilities Services until his retirement in 2010. Stuart is survived by his brother, Herbert J. Furman, Jr. and wife, Marian P. Furman, Camden, Alabama; his sister, Margaret Tidwell, Florence, Alabama; five nephews, four nieces, and 27 great-nieces and nephews.

**Nancy Dowdy Gossett** passed away on October 15, 2019. She graduated from Simpson County High School. She was a member of Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church. Nancy was a member of several bridge clubs and loved to travel. She had a smile and a hug for everyone she met.

She was preceded in death by her husband of 67 years, Harry Stanford Gossett, her father, Rufus Lloyd Dowdy, her mother, Thelma King Dowdy, and son, Harry Stanford Gossett, Jr. She is survived by her daughter-in-law, LuAnn Gossett, son, Gregory Lloyd Gossett, son, Timothy King Gossett, daughter, Mary Margaret Peterson (Pete), son, Thomas Leland Gossett (Debbie), son, James Christopher Gossett (Laura); eleven grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

**Dr. Leonides V. Santos**, 72, of Russellville, AL passed away Thursday, November 28, 2019. He is survived by his wife, Anna Maria Santos; and

four children who are graduates of St. Bernard Prep: daughters, **Kimberly Rose Santos** (PS '99), and **JoEllen Santos Mays** (PS '02) (Dr. Johnathan Mays); sons, **Joseph Leonides Santos** (PS '05) and **Michael Leonides Santos** (PS '05). Abbot Marcus Voss and Fr. Joel Martin concelebrated the funeral mass.

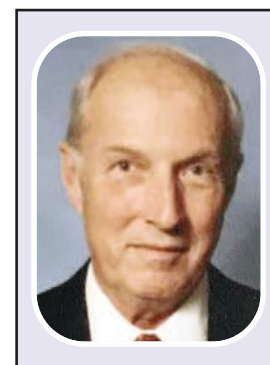
**Ione R Shine** died on July 5, 2018 Ione earned her BS degree in education at Ohio State University in 1943. She joined the WAC in the Army Air Forces in 1944 and was discharged with the rank of sergeant after two years of service. In 1950 she married **Henry Shine** (HS '40). Ione had a loving heart, a strong sense of southern hospitality, and a servant spirit. Survivors include her children Robert (Bob) Henry Shine, Jr., Mary Kay Potlock (Jay) and Drs. James William Shine (Susanne); eight grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

**Dorothy Francis Sinyard** (C '62) 83, of Bremen passed away April 8, 2018 at her residence. Dorothy retired from the Cullman County School System in 1994, after teaching 41 and a half years. She taught most of those at Cold Springs Elementary. Survivors include her husband, Gerald Sinyard; daughter, Charlotte (Phillip) Aaron; one grandchild and one great-grandchild.

**William James (Bill) Sullivan, Jr.** (HS '39) passed away on Saturday, Dec. 14, 2019. Bill attended St. Paul's High School in Birmingham and graduated from St. Bernard Prep School, Cullman, in 1939, where he formed enduring friendships. Bill then attended Birmingham Southern College before graduating with honors from Vanderbilt University in 1943. Bill Served in the US Navy during WWII as a Turret Officer on the heavy cruiser U.S.S. Wichita in the Pacific Theater. Following the war, Bill entered Law School at the University of Alabama where he earned his degree. It was during those years that he met and married his late wife Dorothy Agnes McGeever. Bill began his practice of law as an associate at Sadler & Sadler in Birmingham. He remained at the firm until his retirement from Sadler Sullivan, P.C. in 2003. Bill represented the Catholic Diocese of Birmingham for over 50 years. He was a member of the Knights of Columbus and was awarded membership in the Knights of St. Gregory by Pope John XXIII. Bill was founding president of the Parish Council at Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church in Homewood. Bill is survived by his daughter, Mary Anne Sullivan; sons Brian, Tim, and Dan Sullivan; daughter-in-law Rosalind Sullivan; five granddaughters, one grandson and many great-grandchildren, nieces, and nephews.

**Katherine Woodruff Slaton** died December 12, 2019 at her home in Decatur, Alabama after an extended illness. She is survived by her husband of almost 45 years, Luther Glaze Slaton, and two sons, **Caleb Tutwiler Slaton** (PS '95) and his wife Alexandra of Berwyn, Pennsylvania and **Franklin Arthur Slaton** (PS '99) of Frederick, Maryland and his friend Leslie Pierce of Manhiem, Pennsylvania; two grandchildren, Beatrice Ardell Flannery Slaton and Robert Doyle Tutwiler Slaton, both of Berwyn; brothers Robert Franklin Woodruff and wife Margo of Savannah, Georgia and Dr. Frederic Doyle Woodruff of Rome, Georgia; sisters Margaret Thomason Woodruff and Nelle Thomason Woodruff, both of Charleston, South Carolina and Elizabeth Woodruff McQuagge and husband Joel of Gainesville, Florida.

**Edward F. McKee** (HS '48, JC '50) age 89 of Glen Ellyn, beloved husband, loving father and cherished grandpa, passed away peacefully on January 2nd, 2020. Edward is survived by his wife Dorothy (nee: Kosmal), four children Edward Jr. (Mamie) McKee, Noreen Shanahan, Kevin McKee and Michelle McKee and nine grandchildren Edward III, April, Kristen, Christopher (Katie), Steven, Katelyn (Peter), Kevin, Carolyn and Liah.



*Edward F. McKee*

## Father Kevin McGrath, O.S.B., 1947-2019

Father Kevin Daniel McGrath, O.S.B., a monk of St. Bernard Abbey, Cullman, Alabama, died suddenly, but not unexpectedly, on November 23, 2019.

Daniel was the second son born to George and Evangelist Gaffney McGrath on June 18, 1947 in Nashville, Tennessee. Both his father and older brother died when he was a very young boy and his mother later married William Millard Choate. Young Daniel formed close bonds with his maternal grandfather, a vice president of the L&N Railroad, who engendered in him a lifelong love of trains and the railroad system. It was on frequent rail journeys with his grandfather that he became acquainted with St. Bernard and later enrolled at St. Bernard Preparatory Seminary in the fall of 1961. With the closing of St. Bernard Prep in 1962, Daniel transferred to Subiaco Abbey Prep School and finished his high school education there in 1965. Returning to St. Bernard in the fall of that same year, he studied at St. Bernard College for two years before entering the novitiate and receiving the religious name Kevin. He professed his first vows on July 7, 1968 and then resumed his studies at St. Bernard College where he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Philosophy. In the fall of 1970 he began his priestly studies at St. Meinrad Archabbey Seminary; in the summer of 1971 Br. Kevin professed his Solemn Vows. He received a Master of Divinity and was ordained to the Priesthood by Bishop Joseph G. Vath in the St. Bernard Abbey Church on May 27, 1974. Fr. Kevin celebrated his Mass of

Thanksgiving on Pentecost Sunday at St. Ann's Church, Nashville, Tennessee.

After a brief assignment as Associate Pastor to Our Lady of the Shoals Parish in Tusculumbia, Alabama, Fr. Kevin began graduate studies in Sacramental and Liturgical Theology at The University of Notre Dame, South Bend, Indiana. Thus began an enduring devotion to all things Notre Dame, especially Notre Dame football. In years to come, he and Abbot Cletus would make an annual "pilgrimage" to "worship at the altar" of the Fighting Irish. After studying at Notre Dame, Fr. Kevin was invited by his Alma Mater, St. Meinrad Archabbey Seminary, to join the faculty and teach sacramental theology. This he did for the next few years until he was called home to St. Bernard by Abbot Hilary to assume the Office of Prior. As Prior he also served variously as Novice Master, teacher and Headmaster of St. Bernard Prep School, and in pastoral assistance to the Diocese of Birmingham.

At the recommendation of the newly-elected Abbot Cletus, Bishop David Foley appointed Fr. Kevin Pastor of Sacred Heart Church in Cullman, Alabama in 1995. In the late afternoon he could often be seen walking the parish campus and to the nearby Cullman Train Depot. Serving as Pastor Bonus of the people of Cullman for nearly 15 years, Fr. Kevin was once again called home to take up the Office of Prior and Novice Master, offices he held for the next five years. In 2014 Fr. Kevin's health began to decline and his mobility was increasingly limited. He remained faithful to the monastic horarium as his health permitted and

continued to enjoy the fraternity of communal life, never missing the chance to offer the "Irish Toast" when he found a glass of wine in his hand.

In the final months of his life Fr. Kevin resided at the Folsom Center Nursing Home where he could receive the skilled care he needed; he enjoyed regular visits from his confreres. On November 22 Fr. Kevin suffered cardiac arrest and was taken to Cullman Hospital. Having received the Anointing of the Sick, Fr. Kevin died early on the morning of November 23 with Abbot Marcus at his bedside.

Fr. Kevin is survived by his sister, Johanna Choate Shadoin, and brother, Millard Choate, Jr., and two nieces and one nephew. We commend our brother, Father Kevin, to your prayers. Please offer the customary suffrages of Masses for the repose of his soul, according to the manner of your participation in the Priesthood of Jesus Christ.



*Fr. Kevin McGrath, O.S.B.*



# St. Bernard Happenings

## St. Bernard Announces Inaugural “Giving Day” in March

The St. Bernard Development Office is pleased to announce that St. Bernard’s inaugural Giving Day is set for Saturday, March 21, 2020 – the Feast of St. Benedict. Development and Alumni Officer Tyler Hooper (PS ’07) said of Giving Day, “I am thrilled that we are undertaking this new fundraising initiative. More and more educational institutions are innovating outside of traditional fundraising models and incorporating a day of online giving that is connected directly to or symbolic for the institution. We already offer online giving and this will bring more awareness to the platform. In looking at St. Bernard connections along with our existing development calendar, it only made sense for us to have our Giving Day tied directly with the Feast of St. Benedict.”

Giving days are increasing in popularity across the United States outside of traditional time frames

and not just with educational institutions. Varieties of non-profits are seeing the benefits of creating more inviting and inclusive campaigns which reach a wider audience of past donors, current donors, and new donors while fostering existing relationships, developing new ones, and reviving old ones. Hooper said, “2020 will be an exciting year for St. Bernard! Programming and initiatives are in the works now to be unveiled in the spring of 2020 to our circle of donors with the goal of making that circle even more inclusive of all alumni, with an emphasis on our younger and prep school alumni. In addition to Giving Day we are also working to create better programming to connect more of our young alumni back to St. Bernard at the time of year when we see the majority of them return ‘home’ which is during Bloomin’ Festival.”

The Development Office recently concluded a successful social media-based campaign, “30 Days of Thanks and Giving” as a test-run event for Giving Day 2020. Hooper said of the campaign, “I am very pleased with the response from the St. Bernard Family in providing quotes of thanks and the response by our donors with gifts to this new campaign. It received a lot of engagement organically, which was by design. School Facebook page followers shared posts and helped drive interest around the campaign which brought about more awareness to the benefits of making tax-deductible gifts to the school – all of which directly benefited the St. Bernard Educational Foundation that provides scholarships to our students with financial need.”

Giving Day will be rolled out across the school’s website and social media platforms in the coming months while St. Bernard’s faculty, staff, students, and board will be encouraged to serve as “champions” for the school. Hooper said, “I want to emphasize that Giving Day is for and accessible to everyone. St. Bernard would not exist were it not for our generous donors. I issue a challenge to all St. Bernard alumni, friends, family, and benefactors, especially our prep school alumni, to participate. It sounds cliché, but truly no gift is ever too small! Many donors even have their companies match their charitable contributions, so these gifts add up quickly to create major impact for us. It is important that we promote and continue the cycle of giving to St. Bernard. Donors before and during our school years helped us to receive our educations and current and future Bernardians are now

depending on us to lead the way into a new decade of giving.”

The Development Office is currently determining a goal to be raised in the 24-hour period and is actively seeking nominations of alumni for Giving Day Honorary Co-Chairs to help champion the fundraising efforts (self-nominations are accepted). A lead donor, either individual or corporate, is also being sought to serve as the Giving Day Match

Sponsor. The fundraising goal should be announced in January 2020 with Honorary Co-Chairs and a Match Sponsor announced by February 2020. If you would like to make an Honorary Co-Chair nomination, are interested in serving as a Match Sponsor, have questions, or would like to learn more about the Development Office’s work, contact Tyler Hooper at (256) 255-5857 or [thooper@stbernardprep.com](mailto:thooper@stbernardprep.com).



### Christmas Breakfast

St. Bernard Abbey monks enjoyed a great Christmas breakfast at the home of Mr. Roy Drinkard, America’s oldest living Marine, over the holidays. Picture are seated (l-r): Br. Marion Sanchez, Abbot Victor Clark, Roy Drinkard, and Abbot Marcus Voss. Standing back (l-r): Br. Lexiss Gallegos, Br. Leo Borelli, Fr. Linus Klucsarits, Fr. Patrick Egan, Br. Michael Gregersen, Br. Christian Peterson, Br. Paul Adams, Fr. Isaac Simmons, Br. Christopher McBride, Br. Peter Le, and Br. Charles Manning.



*Fr. Joel Martin, O.S.B., discusses the First Annual Day of Giving, set for Saturday, March 21, with Tyler Hooper*

## Alumni Reunion Set for June 25-28

Saint Bernard is pleased and excited to extend this year’s invitation to all alumni and friends who have been a part of the Saint Bernard tradition for the past 129 years to attend the annual Alumni Reunion scheduled for June 25-28, 2020.

Abbot Marcus Voss said this is a wonderful weekend for the alumni to return to their roots and re-connect with friends. “We love hosting this event and giving everyone the opportunity to come back to the place they called home for several years of their early lives.”

As in the past, the school will host the ever-popular golf tournament but at a new location, Terri Pines Country Club in Cullman, AL. “We want as many golfers to participate as we can get,” Abbot Marcus said. “Terri Pines has a beautiful course and will also provide lunch in the clubhouse at noon.”

Most of the meals are being catered locally to showcase

Cullman’s flourishing culinary scene. Freddie Day of Freddie Day Catering will provide a delicious catfish dinner on Friday evening and a barbecue lunch on Saturday. The world-famous All Steak will be in charge of serving the Saturday evening reception and dinner. Fr. Bede Marcy and his staff will prepare breakfast on Sunday morning.

Ave Maria Grotto will once again host a reception on its beautifully landscaped grounds at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, June 27. Mass with the monks will be offered at 5 p.m. on Saturday in the Abbey Church.

Mark your calendars now and bring the whole family to enjoy a weekend of fun! Whether you enjoy tennis, basketball, running, walking, or just socializing, we hope you will join us. The entire weekend is \$100 per person. Golf is an extra \$125. Look for more information in the mail and online at [www.stbernardprep.com](http://www.stbernardprep.com) to register.

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