

6th Annual Blues & BBQ Festival Oct. 29-30

St. Bernard

Happenings

St. Bernard Preparatory School



Fall 2022

Service of Commitment, Blessing, Opens School

It was a moment of wonder and excitement mixed with a bit of emotional anxiety as 136 students at Saint Bernard Preparatory School made their way to the

Abbey Church on the opening day of school. In addition to the United States, five other countries are represented in the student body, including Spain, Brazil, Finland, China

and Austria.

Fr. Joel Martin, Headmaster of the school, opened with a prayer and welcomed students to campus. In an effort to remove some of the concerned looks, he took the opportunity to remind students that there is only one group of people who die at the monastery -- the monks. "The rest of you are going to be ok," he chuckled.

After a brief introduction of the Student Council Officers, Fr. Joel recognized the Senior Class and all faculty and staff. Abbot Marcus Voss of St. Bernard Abbey, issued a warm welcome to all and shared that in 1957 he too was a freshman at St. Bernard Prep. The Abbot extended an invitation to meet with them at any time. "My door is always open."

Jim Miller, CEO at St. Bernard Prep, shared his excitement of being at St. Bernard. "You have the opportunity to change the

(Continued on page 2)



Service of Commitment and Dedication

Audrey Gil, President of Student Council, leads students in reciting their vow of commitment and dedication to their studies at St. Bernard Prep. In the background are school chaplain, Fr. Linus Klucsarits, Middle School Headmaster, William Calvert, and Abbot Marcus Voss OSB.



International Students

Front (l-r): Rafaela Galhumi (Brazil); Isabela Reis (Brazil); Bruna Parolin (Brazil). 2nd row (l-r): Ramón Ibáñez (Spain); Yelena Vlasic (Spain) and Barbara Angeler (Austria). 3rd row (l-r): Nuutti Smolander (Finland); Gracia Jiménez (Spain); Pelayo Gallego (Spain); Violeta Castro (Spain); and Adriana López (Spain). Not pictured: Joy Wu (China); and Enrico Vidotti (Brazil).



Graduates are Honored

(l-r): Jim Miller, CEO; Abbot Marcus Voss, OSB; Claudia Fallin (General Excellence Medal), Maggie Holsomback (Valedictorian); John Pechon (Salutarian), and Fr. Joel Martin, OSB

St. Bernard Graduates Are Celebrated

Saint Bernard Preparatory School in Cullman held the One Hundred Twenty-third Commencement exercises on Sunday afternoon at 2 p.m. with President/Headmaster, Rev. Joel Martin, OSB Presiding. Fr. Joel welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming together to glorify God by honoring the Class of 2022.

Having graduated from St. Bernard and sharing a special love and bond of St. Bernard, Jim Miller, C'72, Chief Executive Officer at St. Bernard Preparatory School, delivered the commencement address encouraging each graduate to be themselves,

and to be useful wherever their feet are planted. He challenged the Class of 2022 to "go change the world."

After the commencement address Fr. Joel Martin announced this year's graduation awards. Maggie Holsomback received the valedictorian award while John Forrest Pechon was named salutarian. While giving the general excellence medal, the highest award given to a graduating senior, Fr. Joel stated that "the criteria for this award requires that a student must be enrolled at St. Bernard Prep for the last two

(Continued on page 2)

St. Bernard Happenings

Professional Development Days Held at St. Bernard

In preparation for the 2022-23 Academic Year at St. Bernard Prep, all teachers and staff members spent three days in meetings, professional development, and their classrooms anticipating the arrival of 130 plus students.

Cullman's nationally known speaker, Jenny Nolen, traveled from her home in Hattiesburg, Mississippi to deliver a fun loving, funny message recanting her life story titled "Lessons from an Invisible Child."

Nolen finds plenty of humor in everyday living, and told those in attendance that sometimes all we have to do is sit back, observe and listen. However, when it comes to children, adult roles must change to becoming caring, loving, selfless adults.

While her young life experiences were less than

perfect, Nolen experienced trauma and hard knocks that most couldn't imagine. From living in a children's home, and returning to a home with a mom who suffered physically and mentally, Nolen found humor as a way to overcome her many obstacles. She shared several examples of people in her life who had a great impact on her.

There are many ways to influence young minds by just being observant. Teachers have a special gift and can detect when something is going on with a child just simply by listening. "You impact the life of each child by what you say, what you do, what you wear, and how you respond."

"Time is precious and it carries a sense of urgency in everything we do," Nolen

said. "We can't waste one minute doing anything other than helping them."

The presentation touched on the role of social media in the lives of children. Often children/students share everything digitally, which has the potential for many challenges. When mishaps happen in this digital world, it may have a negative impact on our children and their sense of worth. Social media interactions create digital footprints and must be monitored by loving and caring adults. "Be role models for students by being leaders through faith and scholarship."

Following the presentation everyone gathered in the Abbey Church for Mass. Lunch was served in the Dining Hall, followed by

group sessions dealing with bullying, harassment and re-recruiting students.

Thursday's sessions included topics of student discipline, role of leadership teams, volunteerism, student/teacher relations and mandatory reporting. Other housekeeping reviews

included the faculty/staff handbook, and emergency "red bag" procedures.

Jim Miller, CEO and President, Fr. Joel Martin, OSB presided over the meetings.

The students arrived on Sunday, August 14 and classes began on Monday morning.

SBP Opening Day

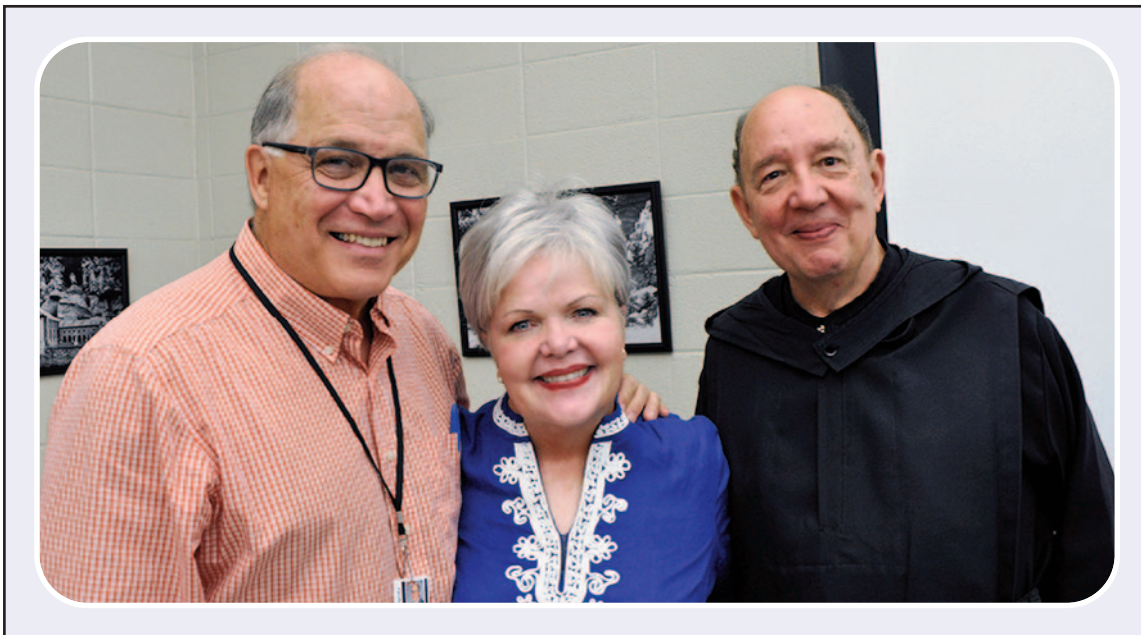
(Continued from page 1) world," he said. "Always do the right thing, be kind, and follow the example of Christ."

At the end of the assembly, students pledged to be men and women of integrity. They promised to give teachers the best of their talents and gifts; to strive to be a good example for one another; to follow the example of Christ; to dedicate themselves to the task of learning and to the pursuit of wisdom so that they might be strengthened in Christian holiness. Likewise, the faculty and staff pledged their dedication to the life of St.

Bernard students.

Said Fr. Joel, "St. Bernard is a unique place. The purpose of our school is to help people grow in knowledge and in grace." "We are all guests here," he said, "our real home is heaven, in God." "We are God's idea," Father explained, "so the spark of the divine is in each of us. Therefore how we treat fellow guests – each other – is how we treat Christ, how we welcome God. May our Lord help us to do that well."

The service ended with singing the school's Alma Mater.



Jenny Nolen Speaks to Faculty, Staff

(L-R): St. Bernard CEO Jim Miller, nationally known speaker Jenny Nolen, and Headmaster Fr. Joel Martin, OSB.

St. Bernard Graduates Celebrated

(Continued from page 1)

full years, be dedicated to academic excellence, exercise leadership and represent the values of the school." The 2022 General Excellence Medal was presented to Claudia Rayne Fallin.

Diplomas were presented to the graduating seniors by Abbot Marcus Voss, OSB with Fr. Joel Martin assisting him. After the awarding of the diplomas, Margaret Holsomback gave the valedictory address, during which she highlighted their journey and wished each classmate much success.

Fr. Joel ended the ceremony calling

attention to the role that challenges play in life. "We need challenges because we come alive in struggles," he said. "We have high expectations for your future. You're made for greatness. Go and take St. Bernard with you."

The Class of 2022 has received \$3,262,522 in scholarship offers from colleges and universities in the United States.

Music for the graduation exercises was provided by Jannie Ratliff, as well as the Alabama Pipes and Drums Corps.

Following the prayer and dismissal, a reception was held in the St. Bernard Dining Hall.

Emotional Virtue

Sarah Swafford

Mother, author, and speaker of a variety of topics including faith, relationships, and interior confidence.

Wednesday, September 28th

Talk: "Looking From the Outside In" (For an adult audience only*)

Time: 7:00 – 8:30pm

Venue: St. Bernard Abbey Church

*For parents, teachers, coaches, priests, religious, or anyone close to a young woman or man transitioning through stages of life.

Thursday, September 29th

Talk: "Emotional Virtue for a Drama-Free Life" (Student talk*)

Time: 1:45 – 3:15pm

Venue: St. Bernard Abbey Church

*For co-ed audiences. Parents are also welcome.

\$5 entrance fee

More information:

srtherese@stbernardprep.com

St. Bernard

Happenings

New Faces on St. Bernard Prep Campus



**Mrs. Kirsten Dickerson,
Instructor in English,
High School**

Mrs. Dickerson has taught 10 years in public and private schools and is a Catholic girls boarding school alumna (St. Francis High School, Sacramento). She holds a B.S. in Secondary English Language Arts and a Master's degree in Instructional Leadership.



**Mrs. Christy Frederick,
Instructor in Latin**

Mrs. Frederick is a Vinemont native and SBP alumna, class of 1995. Before moving back home and getting married, she earned a B.A. in Classics from The University of the South in Sewanee, Tennessee and an M.A. in Latin and Greek Language and Literature through Durham University in England. She has

worked in secondary and university education for more than 18 years and has worked on archeological projects in Cyprus, Italy, and Spain.



**Mr. Phuong Nguyen,
Counselor**

Mr. Phuong, comes to us having served as counselor, assistant principal, and principal in the Alhambra School District in Los Angeles County California. He and his

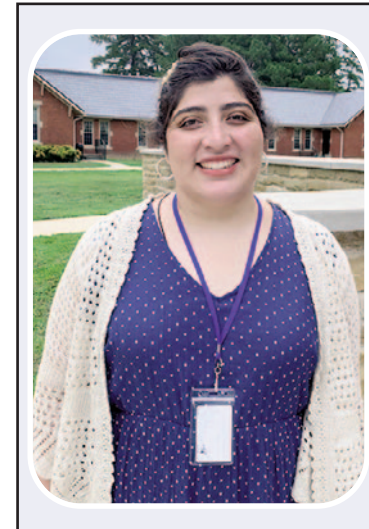
wife and six children – soon to be seven – made the huge move to Alabama some months ago.



**Mr. Peter Scheck, Boys Dorm
Director and Activities
Coordinator**

Mr. Scheck, began his studies at Florida's Ave Maria University, then served the Church as a missionary for four years in Central America, France and New Mexico. He

then completed his bachelor's degree at the Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus Ohio. He comes to us with other impressive academic and athletic accomplishments.



**Ms. Teresita De Jesus
Valencia, Girls Dorm
Director, Spanish II**

Ms. Valencia is a graduate of Ave Maria University in Florida. She is a dedicated Catholic, bi-lingual, and is anxious to share the Spanish language with St. Bernard students – and serve as "Mother" for the Girls Dorm this year. She brings love and dedication to her students.



Faculty and Staff

Front row (l-r): Sr. Gianna Casino, Amber Watts, Chanda Dabbs, Regina Gongre, LuAnn Gissell, Christy Frederick, and Sr. Marian Davis, OSB. 2nd row (l-r): Sr. Therese Lopez, Joyce Nix, Kim Whaley, Elicia Fallin, Phuong Nguyen, and Kirsten Dickerson. 3rd row (l-r): Martha Wells, Stacey Price, Shelley Perry, Fr. Linus Klucsarits, Br. Thomas Jones, William Calvert, Jonathon Farley, James Griffin, Yolanda Smith, Kirsten Dickerson, and Fr. Joel Martin, OSB. Back row (l-r): Dr. Craig Mann, Jim Miller, Matt Lader, Peter Scheck, Tim Bursleson, Matthew Shaddrix, Judy Bentley, Leah Messick, Teresita DeJesus Valencia, and Carrie Woods.



**Mrs. Amber Watts,
Instructor in English,
Middle School**

Mrs. Watts is in her 11th year as an educator in both private and public schools. She holds a B.A. in Fine Arts and an M.A. in English Education. Most recently she has been teaching at the Academy for Academics and Arts in Huntsville City Schools.

St. Bernard Happenings

Honor, Merit Rolls

SPRING SEMESTER 2021 - 2022

HONOR ROLL

Grade 9

Chavez, Roselyn
Cortes-Villegas, Saray
Caly, Cash
Garcia, Matthew
Gaspar, Nathaniel
Guevara, Camila
Hazard, Marissa
Hines, Rowan
Kerber, Madi
McBride, Abby
Smith, Willa

Grade 10

DeCicco, Scarlett
Gil, Audrey
Tafazoli, Amelia
Tombo, Andrew
Watwood, Sydney
Wu, Ethan

Grade 11

Bissot, Cole
Chiodo, Gabriella
Cockerham, Mary Ella
Garcia, Natalie
Gil, Charles
Hazard, Elizabeth
Morris, Ashley
Pautler, Xavier
Stidham, Allison

Grade 12

Fallin, Claudia
Gutierrez, Enrique
Holmes, Riley
Holsomback, Maggie
Keith, Joseph
Pechon, John
Schartung, Merrilee
Watson, Piper
Whaley, Campbell

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Grade 7

Arndt, Karly
Cron, Alexis
Daly, Sean
Sanders, Tessa

Grade 8

Guthery, Parker
Marks, Josh
Morris, Abel

Nacilla, Alexander
Roberson, Charli
Woods, Sarah

MERIT ROLL

Grade 9

Cron, Dylan
Metrock, Gigi
Nguyen, Jade
Rogalski, Anna
Shadowens, Joey
Stewart, Allie

Grade 10

Adams, Walter
Hernandez, Cesar
Lyons, Will
Penner, Ezra
Powell, Emma
Sidley, Caroline

Grade 11

Arriaga, Jiovany
Cortes-Villegas, Adrian
Hilb, Jacob
Powell, Ethan
Richards, Charley
Richards, Margaux
Tran, Peter

Grade 12

Benilla Calinao, Arturo
Freudenberg, Maybrit
McBride, Maddie
Pascual-Contreras, David
Sammon, Joseph
Shu, Xiran
Waites, Morgan
Whaley, Emma

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Grade 7

Adams, Ruth
Crabb, James
Gutowski, Emilie
Kretzschmar, Logan
McBride, Caroline
Myers, Sam
Tillitski, Lily
Wrisley, Kaelyn
Zimmerman, Gabriel

Grade 8

Bissot, Reid
Chamblee, Katie
Daly, Luke
Fallin, Nic
Lewis, Gavitt
Parrish, Aaliyah



High School Student Government Officers

President: Audrey Gil, Vice-President: Ezra Penner, Secretary: Cesar Hernandez, Treasurer: Cash Daly.



Middle School Student Council Members

President: Karly Arndt, Vice-President: Tessa Sanders, Secretary: Ella Davis, and Treasurer: Rafaella Guevara.

St. Bernard Happenings



Senior Class Officers

Front row (l-r): Student Council Representative: Ashley Morris, Secretary: Margaux Richards, and President: Natalie Garcia. Back row (l-r): Treasurer: Emmanuel Santiago, Vice-President: Will Lyons. Xavier Pautler, and Vice-President: Charles Gil.



Junior Class Officers



Sophomore Class Officers

Vice-President: Rowan Hines, President: Jade Nguyen, and Secretary/Treasurer: Madison Moody, Student Council Representative: Joey Shadowens.



Freshman Class Officers

President: Sarah Woods, Secretary-Treasurer: Katie Chamblee, Vice-President: Parker Guthery, Student Council Representative: Luke Daly.

Ordination Mass of Fr. Dominic Lee, O.S.B.

On Saturday, August 6th, the Feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord, Father Dominic Lee, O.S.B., a Benedictine monk of St. Bernard Abbey, was ordained to the Sacred Priesthood by the Most Reverend Steven J. Raica, J.C.D., Bishop of Birmingham in Alabama. Abbot Marcus Voss, O.S.B. and the monks of St. Bernard Abbey were pleased to welcome Bishop Raica, the family of Father Dominic, and the many guests to the festive ordination in the St. Bernard Abbey Church. Guests for the ordination included visiting Benedictine monks, priests and deacons of the Diocese of Birmingham, religious sisters, and many lay faithful, especially from the Huntsville area, from which Father Dominic hails. After the liturgy, a celebratory banquet was held in the Dining Hall, at which Father Dominic greeted the joyous crowd and imparted First Blessings.

The next day, Sunday, August 7, 2022, Father Dominic celebrated his Solemn Mass of Thanksgiving in the Abbey Church. He was assisted at his First Mass by two monk-deacons of St. Bernard Abbey, with whom Father Dominic entered the monastery: Brother Paschal and Brother Pachomius. The homily was given by the Very Reverend Kevin M. Bazzel, J.C.L., who spoke about the relationship between Father Dominic's monastic and priestly vocations. Father Bazzel preached powerfully, saying, "Seen in this light, when a monk is ordained a priest, rather than it being a 'promotion' of the particular monk, it is an added obligation to spend his life directed toward the salvation of the souls of his brothers. He does this certainly by offering the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass for the community, by hearing the confessions of his confreres, and by offering prayers and other sacrifices for the brethren."

Father Dominic is the third of six children of Mr. and Mrs. Davin and Janet Lee, of Huntsville, Alabama. He was homeschooled under the former Saint Peter's Academy and upon graduation began a year-long discernment process that eventually led him to Saint Bernard Abbey. He entered the monastery in 2014 at the age of 19. Interestingly, Father Dominic's sister, Sister Maria Raphaelle, O.S.B., had entered the Benedictine Abbey of St. Walburga in Virginia Dale, Colorado the year prior. She is now a solemnly professed Benedictine nun of that Abbey. After making his Simple Profession of Vows on August 15th, 2015, Father Dominic began undergraduate studies at Belmont Abbey College in North Carolina. He professed Solemn Vows on August 6th, 2018 and graduated a few months later from Belmont Abbey College with a Bachelor of Arts degree in both Mathematics and Philosophy. Father Dominic began studying Theology in Rome, Italy at the Pontifical Benedictine University of Sant'Anselmo in 2019. He completed his Baccalaureate of Sacred Theology just before his recent ordination.

In addition to exercising his priestly ministry at the monastery and at parishes on an ad hoc basis, Father Dominic will be taking up the duty of Master of Junior Monks in the monastery and Assistant Teacher at Saint Bernard Preparatory School.

To learn more about the monks of St. Bernard Abbey, please visit: stbernardabbey.com



Ordination

Upper left: The Most Reverend Steven J. Raica, J.C.D., Bishop of Birmingham in Alabama, Fr. Dominic Lee, O.S.B., Abbot Marcus Voss, O.S.B. Lower left: Vows before the Bishop. Upper right: Laying on of the hands

Homily given at the Ordination Mass of Fr. Dominic Lee, O.S.B. by Very Reverend Kevin M. Bazzel, JCL, Vicar General and Moderator of the Curia of the Diocese of Birmingham.

The monk provides a preeminent example of the exhortation of our Lord in today's Gospel, "*Do not be afraid any longer, little flock, for your Father is pleased to give you the kingdom. Sell your belongings and give alms. Provide money bags for yourselves that do not wear out, an inexhaustible treasure in heaven that no thief can reach nor moth destroy. For where your treasure is, there also will your heart be.*"

As Saint John Paul II said in his exhortation *Vita consecrata*, "In the consecrated life, then, it is not only a matter of following Christ with one's whole heart, of loving him 'more than father or mother, more than son or daughter' (cf. Mt 10:37) — for this is required of every disciple — but of living and expressing this by conforming one's whole existence to Christ in an all-encompassing commitment which foreshadows the eschatological perfection..." (§16)

Therefore, the life of the monk is meant to manifest to the people of God faith in and hope for the full possession of the Kingdom of Heaven. As we heard in our second reading, "*Faith is the realization of what is hoped for and evidence of things not seen.*" It is not hyperbole to say that the vocation of the monk is to be "*evidence of things not seen*" — like the Kingdom of Heaven. By showing the world how to live in the world without being worldly, the

monk proclaims that there is a greater world to come. And, by conforming his whole existence to Christ — to become, we might say, an image of Christ — the monk is called to be evidence to the world of the continued presence of Christ among us.

However, Father Dominic, now you are also a priest, and a priest is configured in a profound way to Christ crucified and risen. As you vest yourself with the white alb for the celebration of Holy Mass, everyone, including yourself, is reminded of the configuration of your soul to Christ, who is now risen from the dead and presiding at the Eternal Mass in Heaven.

The stole is placed over the alb, as a reminder that the Lord first laid down his life for his people. While the monastic vocation does not entail in its essence the care of a particular flock, though monks may be assigned as pastors of souls, the vestments of a priest remind you of the fact that you are called to lay down your life for the salvation of your brothers in view of the Resurrection to come.

And over both of these is the chasuble, the sign of charity. Charity is loving God above all things *for his own sake*, and loving our neighbor as ourselves, for the love of God — a complete selfless and self-giving love.

(Continued on next page)

St. Bernard Abbey news

Two Monks Advance to Juniorate at St. Bernard Abbey

The adventure continues for two of St. Bernard's monks-in-formation. Having completed their novitiate year, Brs. Joseph and Augustine entered into the next leg of their formation journey: the three-year juniorate program.

A ceremony held August 20, 2022, the Solemnity of St. Bernard of Clairvaux, marked the transition. Ascending the altar with their handwritten vows documents, the two brothers took time-limited vows of stability, obedience and "conversatio morum" – a hard-to-translate Latin phrase that refers to the day-to-day endeavor of striving after monastic ideals.

At St. Bernard, becoming a monk is a four-and-a-half-year process. At the junior

stage, the brothers' vows are still temporary. Both monks will continue discerning their vocations as the three-year juniorate program progresses. If all goes well, they will go on to take solemn (lifelong) vows when their simple vows expire in 2025.

During the vows ceremony, Abbot Marcus placed scapulars over the two brothers' shoulders and buttoned on their new capuches (monastic hoods). The capuche is a symbolic reminder that the path to the Kingdom of God leads along a straight and narrow road. The scapular, on the other hand, calls to mind Matthew 11:30: "My yoke is easy and my burden is light."

Early on in formation, the monks of St. Bernard are encouraged to brainstorm ways that they might use their unique, God-given talents and skills for the good of the monastery. To this end, monks-in-the-making consult with their confreres and meet with their spiritual advisors, who help them discover how God might be calling them to contribute to the monastery's work life.

Once a novice monk comes up with some viable ideas, he submits his list of proposals to the abbot, who prayerfully decides what the novice's initial role will be when he becomes a junior. Many monks go on to attend college during their juniorate, or use the time to learn some kind of trade.

Whatever plan is decided in the juniorate is by no means set in stone. The rule of life that Benedictine monks follow is often praised for its flexibility and the way in which it enables the full actualization of human potential. The average Benedictine monk takes on a rich and fulfilling variety of different jobs and responsibilities as his career progresses.

Br. Joseph plans on learning the art of carpentry during his juniorate while also serving as the monastery's beekeeper.

"Right now I'm working on learning how to make Benedictine crosses for the grotto gift store. It'll probably be a few years before we'll be ready to resume selling honey again, but I'm looking forward to doing that as well."

Meanwhile, Br. Augustine will be helping out at the administration office as an Assistant to the Director of Development.

"It feels good to be able to contribute, doing work for the monastery that I'm already very familiar with doing," Br. Augustine said. "It's definitely a blessing that this position opened up at just the right time and that I can come in and contribute right away."

St. Bernard Abbey is home to 27 monks. Its ministries consist of Saint Bernard Preparatory School, Ave Maria Grotto, St. Bernard Retreat Center, and pastoral ministries. For more information, visit stbernardabbey.com.

Homily given at the Ordination Mass of Fr. Dominic Lee, O.S.B. by Very Reverend Kevin M. Bazzel, JCL

(Continued from previous page)

Therefore it is evident that only with the theological virtue of charity may a priest ever attempt to fulfill his mission – to act *in the person of Christ*, laying down his life for the people of God and being raised up to the glories of the Altar in Heaven.

Yet, underneath all of this is your monastic habit – the sign of, and a source of grace for, the stable foundation of your vowed life. Your monastic habit is the symbol of the stable foundation of the meaning and purpose of your life. The habit is not a mere piece of clothing, but an external sign of the vows you made on the day of your profession.

Even more, the monastic habit is a sacramental, through which you may receive actual graces for the living out of the life to which you were called – to be an image of Christ on earth. An image of Christ, who was completely obedient to the Father's will. An image of Christ, who made the world his home for the span of His earthly life. An image of Christ, who was in no need of conversion, but Who came to make it possible for us to experience the joys of the conversion of our lives.

Your ordination to the priesthood, therefore, does not *perfect* your monastic vocation, but *qualifies* it. Your acceptance of your vocation was already perfected at the moment you took your solemn vows of stability, obedience and conversion of life through the Benedictine Rule. The vocation of a monk is to excel in perfecting the life of Christ – to become an image of Christ Himself to the world – through the graces received from the faithful living of out of the vows he has made.

Seen in this light, when a monk is ordained a priest, rather than it being a "promotion" of the particular monk, it is an added obligation to spend his life directed toward the salvation of the souls of his brothers. He does this certainly by offering the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass for the

community, by hearing the confessions of his confreres, and by offering prayers and other sacrifices for the brethren.

Additionally, in being attentive to the labors entrusted to him by the Abbot for the good of the community, the monk who has been ordained a priest fulfills all his duties *in the person of Christ*. Therefore, the monk who is ordained a priest has an even greater obligation to ensure that the manner of the carrying out of his daily work reflects who he is interiorly – an *alter Christus*.

So, Father Dominic, yesterday you began your new life as a monk and as a priest. As one who is called to be *an image of Christ while being another Christ*.

An image of Christ while being another Christ. This might sound redundant. Nevertheless, you must remember that, because of the indelible mark placed on your soul through priestly ordination, you will be *another Christ* for all eternity. But this indelible mark does not guarantee that you will be an *image of Christ* even for a day.

Seen this way, one could say that you cannot have the perfection of your priestly life without the perfection of your monastic life. Therefore, ordination to the Priesthood gives you an even greater impetus to be more faithful to the heart of your vocation from God – your monastic vows.

Therefore, we pray today, that through the intercession of Saint Benedict, Saint Bernard, Saint Dominic, and Saint John Vianney, that you may continue to grow in perfection as a monk, so that your life will manifest to all of us the beauty of one who is called to be *an image of Christ while being another Christ*.

Christ, Who was obedient to the Father's will, Who made His home among us, and who made it possible for *us* to have conversion of our lives.

Christ, Who selflessly laid down His life for us, so that we might inherit the Kingdom of Heaven.



Br. Augustine Munkachy, O.S.B., Abbot Marcus Voss, O.S.B., and Br. Joseph Goode, O.S.B.

St. Bernard Happenings

St. Bernard Students Monitor Ecosystem

St. Bernard Prep Environmental Science students recently went into the woods to begin a study of two 33x33 ft. square plots in a forested section on the St. Bernard campus. Within the plots, the students were to identify the different types of trees and other vegetation as well as small wildlife and insects that inhabit each plot.

This task was accomplished through the use of several apps the students installed on their smart phones which allowed them to photograph specimens in the field. The app then identified the specimens by giving both a common name and a scientific name. Students made accurate measurements of the location of each species of vegetation within the plots. In addition, they noted any downed tree limbs that were in the process of decay.

These tasks were completed in order to make a site map of their plots. Soil samples were taken in several different places within each plot and will be analyzed to determine soil qualities. The students made video recordings of the sites to collect visual data as well as auditory data. They also captured various birds singing and a cicada symphony in progress.

Upon rolling over a decaying log, several students were amazed at the numerous inhabitants who had taken up residence under its shelter. Bruna Parolin, an international student from Brazil, was curious to find out about the spiders with the very long legs that went scurrying in all

directions. "Those are Daddy- Long-Legs," Emily Garcia-Cerna informed her. "They look scary, but they won't hurt you."

The students will monitor these sites throughout the school year to note any changes in vegetation, fungi presence, increases or decreases in wildlife, animal tracks, rainfall amounts, depth of fall leaf layers and soil analyses.

The goal of this project is for the students to get a better understanding of the components that make up this ecosystem and the interconnectedness of life.

While returning from the site, the students were delighted to spot a deer as it grazed a mere fifty yards away. "Anytime we can get high school students out into nature and excited about the natural world, is a win in my book and showing them how their smart phone can be used as a scientific tool is an added bonus," remarked instructor Martha Wells.



Martha Jiménez-Jose

We are
Hiring

Director of Admissions

- Highly motivated individual
- Manage enrollment process
- Ability to travel
- Results and detail oriented

Submit resume to:
jmiller@stbernardprep.com
St. Bernard Prep
1600 St. Bernard Drive, SE
Cullman, AL 35055



Caroline Sidley, Yizreel Perez



**2022-23
School Year
Theme**

Fr. Linus Klucsarits,
OSB, School
Chaplain, pictured
with 10th grade
student Madi Kerber,
who made the sign for
the 2022-23 School
year theme - "I can do
all things through
Christ who
strengthens me."

St. Bernard Happenings

Bernard Blues and BBQ Set for Oct. 29-30

The 6th Annual Bernard Blues and BBQ Music and Arts Festival is scheduled for Saturday, October 29, and Sunday, October 30, 2022. Preparations are well underway for the event located on the campus of St. Bernard Abbey and Preparatory School in Cullman, Alabama. This event is an anticipated autumn tradition that complements the spring Bloomin' Festival. The festival continues to grow each year in size and popularity as an immersive arts experience for Alabamians and a significant economic contributor to the region.

Bernard Blues and BBQ celebrates diverse southern arts showcased by vendors that participate in the festival from Alabama and across the southeast. The goal is to celebrate the arts while providing a quality experience for all, in a beautiful natural, historic setting. The festival is a juried event and participating vendors must create all art by hand. Examples of items presented include pottery, wreaths, wood turned bowls, clothing, birdhouses, quilts, honey, jewelry, soap, brooms, metal art and glass art.

Bernard Blues also celebrates the culinary arts with some of the best pulled pork around, kettle corn made the old-fashioned way, and freshly ground cornmeal and grits—all prepared on site. Live blues music from the likes of Eleanor Spencer, Earl Williams and the Juke Band, The Sinners and St. Bernard Jazz Band add to the highlights of the event.

Professional and amateur artists are welcomed to our event. The timing of this event aligns nicely with the start of the holiday shopping season, allowing artisans to promote early their one-of-a-kind art pieces as great, unique gift items with stories behind each one of them.

Rounding out the weekend, is the grand prize giveaway of sweepstakes cash totaling more than \$11,000.

To enter the sweepstakes simply make a suggested donation of \$25 to St. Bernard Preparatory School. Festival t-shirts and tickets are available online at <https://stbernardprep.com/bernard-blues-bbq>



*Blues and BBQ Festival t-shirts and tickets
are available online at
<https://stbernardprep.com/bernard-blues-bbq>*

Alumni Reception

**Friday, October 28, 2022
6PM - 10PM**

\$50 per person



Register online:

<https://one.bidpal.net/bernardbluesandbbq>

Price includes: food, beverages and admission tickets to
Bernard Blues and BBQ and Ave Maria Grotto.

Register by phone with credit card:
(256)739-6682

**6th Annual
BERNARD
BLUES
AND
BBQ
2022 CULLMAN, AL
Arts, Crafts, & Music**

**WIN \$10,000
SWEEPSTAKES GIVEAWAY**

ELNORA SPENCER
OCT 29 | 11 AM - 1 PM

EARL WILLIAMS & THE JUKE BAND
OCT 29 | 2 - 4 PM

ST. BERNARD JAZZ BAND
OCT 30 | 12 - 1 PM

**AVE MARIA
GROTTO**
\$5

THE SINNERS
OCT 30 | 2 - 4 PM

**ADMISSION
DONATION**
\$10

[STBERNARDPREP.COM/BERNARD-BLUES-BBQ/](https://stbernardprep.com/bernard-blues-bbq/)
9 AM TO 4 PM

October 29 & 30

St. Bernard

Happenings

International Students Experience Game Day

By Benjamin Bullard
The Cullman Times

Sorry Auburn fans: This one’s all about the Tide. We Americans in SEC country take for granted that no sport’s bigger than football, as anyone in their right mind ‘round these parts should just instinctively know. But if you happened to be born half a world away, cultivating an appreciation for the Pistol formation and the Process comes with a steep, steep learning curve.

Alabama fans know plenty about that kind of thing – not to mention the spectacular, lore-steeped tradition that Crimson Tide football enshrines. But they’d still swap places in an instant with a group of local football newbies who scored sweet skybox seats to the first season opener against Utah State at Bryant-Denny Stadium. After all, no one in this

group had the foggiest idea of the on-field action and stadium theatrics that lay in store.

That’s because none of them had ever been to an American college football game—and most of them hadn’t even seen one on TV. But thanks to the generosity of St. Bernard alum (and ‘Bama ticket holder)Robert Blevins, a gaggle of nearly 20 current international students residing at the prep school got a firsthand crash course in Crimson Tide culture, enjoying the view from the stadium’s highest reaches as “Bama hammered the Aggies 55-0.

Did Tuscaloosa’s game day atmosphere turn this team of (mostly) soccer fans into instant Nick Saban acolytes? Well, that all depends on how you define it. “I tried to watch, but I didn’t understand anything,”

confessed Finland native Nuutti Smolander. “But the food –the food was very good!”

Call it a win for Bryant-Denny hospitality, then. But the play clock, incomplete passes, first downs, time outs, and penalties all conspired to befuddle even the most committed among this huddle of budding ‘Bama’ fans.

“For me, at least, I got the impression that they were fighting,” said Brazil native Arfaela Galhumi, who gave her spectator’s role her best Hail Mary. “And then they’d stop playing like every five minutes—and I wouldn’t know what was happening!”

A certain subset of Auburn grads love to point out that not everyone amid the nation’s ocean of ‘Bama fans seems to know what’s really going on at their adopted university – or, perhaps, even on the field. But they’d be hard pressed to weaponize that measure of good-natured antagonism against these kids –a group that included four Brazilians, six Spaniards, plus one student apiece from Finland, Austria, and China.

Why? Because despite their confusion, the group came away from their SEC encounter fully aware that they’d witnessed something special: something uniquely American, something uniquely southern, and quite literally, something uniquely Alabamian.

“We’re in Alabama, and we’re going to be here for months, so I feel like we should be (supportive),” said Barbara Angeler, St. Bernard sophomore by way of Austria. “I’d

heard that Alabama is, like, a really good team—and they really obviously showed that in the game. You could see from being there that they really know how to play; you could see that they’re really a team.”

That’s more than just fan service. By the time the day was done, Angeler had amassed just enough football knowledge to deter even Saban himself from turf-tossing his straw hat in disgust.

“I feel like I’d ‘get’ it, then you’d think about it, and then you’d see the process of it,” she said, inadvertently invoking one of the GOAT’s favorite phrases. “By the end, I kind of understood the goal and everything, and like ---there are ‘downs’? Like, three? Or four of them?”

On second thought....Look out straw hat---maybe we spoke too soon.



St. Bernard Students Enjoy Bama Game

2022 Volleyball Schedule				
Month	Opponent	Place	Team(s)	Time
August				
1	Vinemont, Falkville	Vinemont	JV/V	4:00
September				
6	Asbury	SBP	V	5:00
8	Vinemont	SBP	JV/V	4:00
12	Meek, Sumiton Christian	Meek	V	
15	Addison, Lynn	Addison	JV/V	4:30
19	Cullman Christian/Asbury	Cullman Christian	V	
22	Decatur Heritage	SBP	JV/V	4:30
24	Vinemont Tournament	Vinemont	V	TBA
27	Meek	SBP	V	4:30
29	Asbury, N. Sand Mountain	Asbury	V	6:00
October				
4	Decatur Heritage, Meek	DHCA	V	

St. Bernard Hosts German Teams

While the World Games were being held in Birmingham, Alabama, St. Bernard enjoyed being a resting and training spot

for the Men and Women’s Canoe Polo Teams for Team Germany as well as the Lifesaving Teams. The German Men’s and

Women’s Canoe Polo teams were unaware of the town’s German heritage, and was surprised to learn of Cullman’s

Oktoberfest and attractions like the German Christmas pyramid. However, team members were very appreciative of the Southern

hospitality.

While members from the women’s team were surprised to learn that the American South was more than banjoes and overalls, team member Hannah Kunz expressed her excitement on a certain stereotype that does hold some degree of truth.

“I love your cars here. They are so big and loud and tall,” Kunz said.

Due to some scheduling conflicts, the men’s team decided to make use of the “little lake” located next to Saint Bernard Abbey, to the delight of staff members.

“It was really exciting to watch what they do. It has been a great experience. I just wish they could have stayed longer,” said Diane Brewer, director of the retreat center.

The Men’s Canoe Polo finished with a Gold Medal and the Women’s Canoe Polo took home the Silver Medal behind France.



Team Germany Men

(Not necessarily in order): Arne Linus Beckmann, Jonas Gauselmann, Marco Hoppstock, René Kirchoff, Julian Oskar,



Team Germany Women

(Not necessarily in order): Elena Gilles, Katharina Kruse, Jill Lara Rutzen, Svenja Schaeper, Nele Schmalenbach, Jule Schwarz, Hilke Sophie Vogt, Leonie Wagner.



Cross Country

(l-r): Coach William Calvert, Reid Bissot, Cesar Hernandez, Luke Daly, Parker Guthery, Cole Bissot, Jiovanni Arriaga, Cash Daly, Gavitt Lewis, Sean Daly, Tony Ranelli, Johnathan McBride, Gracia Jiménez, Madi Kerber, Bruna Parolin, and Katie Clemmons.

2022 Saint Bernard Prep Cross Country Schedule

Brooks Invitational	McFarland Park	August 27 Florence, AL	VG: 8:00 am (1A-4A) VB: 8:30 am (1A-4A) JVG: 10:00 am (1A-7A) JVB: 10:30 am (1A-7A)
Chickasaw Trails	Oakville Indian Invitational Moulton, AL	September 10 Mounds Park	VG: 8:30 am (1A-4A) VB: 9:35 am (1A-4A) JVG: 10:40 am (1A-7A) JVB: 10:55 am (1A-7A)
Fairview Invitational	Fairview Town Park Fairview, AL	September 17	VG: 8:30 am (1A-4A) VB: 9:00 am (1A-4A) JVG: 10:30 am (1A-7A) JVB: 10:50 am (1A-7A)
Jesse Owens Invitational	Oakville Indian Mounds Park Moulton, AL	October 1	VB: 9:30 am (1A-3A) VG: 10:30 am (1A-3A) JVB: 11:35 am (1A-7A) JVG: 11:55 am (1A-7A)
Hay of a Run Fairview, AL	Fairview Town Park	October 6	VG: 4:00 pm (1A-7A) VB: 4:30 pm (1A-7A)
James Clemens Under the Lights	Palmer Park Madison	October 8	JVG: 5:30 pm (1A-7A) JVB: 6:00 pm (1A-7A) VG: 6:30 pm (1A-4A) VB: 7:00 pm (1A-4A)
Randolph Invitational	John Hunt Park Huntsville, AL	October 15	JVG: 8:00 am (1A-7A) JVB: 8:30 am (1A-7A) VG: 9:15 am VB: 9:45 am
NW AL Championship/OR Last Chance Inv.	Oakville Indian Mounds Park/OR Scottsboro, AL	October 20	NW AL/Last Chance VG: 4:00/5:00 pm VB: 4:40/5:30 pm
AHSAA Sectionals	Palmer Park Madison, AL	October 27	TBA
AHSAA State Championship	Oakville Indian Mounds Park Moulton, AL	November 5	TBA

Varsity Volleyball

Front row (l-r): Elle Tillitski, Jade Nguyen, Emma Powell, Emily Garcia, Marissa Hazard. Back row (l-r): Audrey Gil, Mary Ella Cockerham, Abby McBride, Amelia Tafazoli, and Coach Elicia Fallin.



JV Volleyball

Front row (l-r): Victoria Becerra, Ella Cron, Rafaella Guevara, Adrianna Lopez, Usha Venkat. Back row (l-r): Karly Arndt, Sarah Woods, Barbara Angeler, Charli Roberson, Lily Tillitski, Ella Davis, and Coach Elicia Fallin. Not pictured: Nora Bissot.

St. Bernard Happenings

SBP Student Receives College Board Recognition

Ethan Wu, a junior at St. Bernard Preparatory School in Cullman, has just received academic honors from the College Board National Recognition Programs.

Born in the U.S. and an American citizen, Ethan has spent the largest part of his young life in China, but began his St. Bernard career in 2020 as a day student in the 8th grade. He and his father are Cullman residents.

Ethan quickly became involved in cross country, soccer, basketball and track and field until a broken ankle temporarily sidelined him during his sophomore year. He immediately filled that void by preparing for not one, but three AP exams: Statistics, Calculus AB, and Physics C: Mechanics. Beaming with pride, St. Bernard Headmaster Fr. Joel Martin explained, "Ethan was enrolled in none of the three courses on which he was tested; instead he took the initiative to study the material on

his own during the summer, then prepared for the exams on the weekends last spring, and finally sat for the exams at the end of this past academic year, achieving the maximum score of "5" on each of them."

Students like Ethan are a teacher's dream. With his nicely accented English, Ethan said, "I find that I do well in math. I prepared for about a year on my own and decided to get these out of the way. I find my greatest challenge is English, which is why I decided to wait and try that this year along with AP Chemistry, AP History, AP Computer, AP Calculus BC and AP Physic C II."

For his accomplishment, Ethan was presented the National Rural and Small Town Award. "We are delighted to see the extraordinary accomplishments of our students, and are especially proud of Ethan for his achievements in the classroom and on his well-

deserved College Board recognition," Fr. Joel continued.

While Ethan has his sights set on attending an Ivy League school such as Stanford or Columbia, right now he is looking forward to basketball season, as he preps for his next big challenge.

Ethan is one of a select group of students from across the country to earn academic honors from the College Board's National Recognition Programs! The programs grant underrepresented students with academic honors that connect students with scholarship programs and universities across the country, helping them stand out during the admissions process.

"All of us at St. Bernard celebrate this prestigious honor with Ethan and his family," said Fr. Joel.



Ethan Wu

St. Bernard Offers Unique Summer Experience

Tom Mayer, The Cullman Times

With kayaking, horseback riding, hiking, rappelling, rock climbing, arts and crafts, and, of course, bounding from the Blob, Gabby Mitton's gush about her favorite activity at Camp St. Bernard comes like a curve ball.

"We learn a lot about manners," said Gabby, one the most mannerly 8-year-old summer campers you're ever likely to meet.

"And we pray," she added, her infectious smile getting bigger with each bite of cheeseburger and as she talked about her weeklong stay on the campus of St. Bernard Abbey.

"I learned a lot of manners — and ceramics," added 10-year-old William Remmert, a camper from Tuscaloosa who, like Gabby, signed up for the overnight camping experience.

For four weeks in June, the Camp St. Bernard offers both day and overnight options — including the chance to make new friends and become part of the St. Bernard camp family. Overnight campers stay in the residence halls used by the students at St. Bernard Prep during the academic year.

"I know a lot of people say how this or that

is a family, but I can attest that every single word they say about this place is true," said Ian Sidley, a camp counselor from Florence.

He should know. Sidley first attended Camp St. Bernard in 2006, when he was 6, and he never truly left. He's been a counselor at the camp since 2017 — three years before he graduated from St. Bernard Prep with a high school diploma in 2020.

Today the pull of the St. Bernard family is strong, but Sidley was at first unsure whether he wanted to attend a Catholic high school. It came down to "lunch with a monk," he said.

Now in college, Sidley counts as one of his best friends a past classmate who is one of the Benedictine monks at St. Bernard Abbey.

And the family grows.

That's the way it's been for camp director John Arndt. An assistant principal at Saint Rose Academy in Birmingham during the year, Arndt rejoins the St. Bernard family during the summers, something he's been doing for years.

By the time Arndt began his role, first as assistant director with the camp in 2006, he was already familiar with the school and abbey. He met his wife while they were both students in high school at St. Bernard, and for years they worked together at the summer camp. His reason for coming back year after year is uncomplicated.

"It's totally St. Bernard," he said. "It's family."

Well, that and the food, Arndt said while flipping burgers during a camp cookout on June 16.

"The campers say these burgers are the best they've ever had," he said. "I tell them they're just starving — we run wide open all day."

Gabby and William, two wide-open campers whose metabolisms keeps them in constant motion, agreed as they snagged cheeseburgers.

"The food is really, really good," William said.

"The pancakes," said Gabby, "are so good."

But good food aside, Sidley, the counselor from Florence, offered another reason for continuing to come back to the camp annually. His father had graduated from the school in 1991 before joining the Navy, and the roots of St. Bernard run deep in his family.

"Camp here for me were some of the happiest times of my life," he said. "Being able to have a little vacation with loving, caring people. ... And, what Mr. Arndt does here is amazing."

Amazing appeared to be the uniform consensus among campers during the June 16 cookout. From jumping off the Blob — a huge floating ramp positioned on the campus lake — to celebrating weekly Mass as a camp family, both Catholic and non-Catholic campers said they wait anxiously for summer to come so that they can return to Camp St. Bernard.

Sidley, veteran camper and now-camp leader, said that it was easy feel that way.

"St. Bernard taught me responsibility and how to capitalize on opportunities," he said. "It's led me to many, many places."

But at the end of the day, those places for many people seem to lead right back to St. Bernard.

"This place will always be home for me," Sidley said.



Enjoying Camp Food

William Remmert, 10 and Gabby Mitton, 8, share cheeseburgers and a laugh during a lunch cookout June 16, 2022, at Camp St. Bernard. Photo courtesy of Tom Mayer, The Cullman Times



**Clairvaux
Society
of
Saint Bernard**

Preparing For our Future through Planned Giving

Become a Member of the Saint Bernard Clairvaux Society

Including a bequest in your will or trust to the Clairvaux Society Foundation is an easy way to ensure the future of St. Bernard. It doesn't affect your current cash flow or assets. It's easy to change if your circumstances change. And, it may save estate taxes for your family later. Best of all, you have the satisfaction that goes with leaving a legacy that outlasts you.

We ask that you take a moment to make known your desire to become a member of this distinguished group of patrons and philanthropists in the Clairvaux Society. We invite individuals and families who have already designated the Abbey or Prep School in their estate plans to inform us so that we may recognize you as a member of this special group.

**You can contact us at:
St. Bernard Planned Giving Office,
1600 St. Bernard Drive, SE
Cullman, AL 35055.
Or give us a call (256)739-6682.**

St. Bernard Alumni news

Alumni Reunion Held at St. Bernard

Gas prices and heat indexes of over 100 degrees didn't keep some St. Bernard alumni away from the annual reunion held at St. Bernard the weekend of June 25-26. Near 100 guests travelled from around the country to re-live the fond memories of St. Bernard College and Prep School in Cullman, Alabama.

Fr. Joel Martin, President and Headmaster of St. Bernard Prep School, expressed his appreciation for all who made the trip to Cullman. "We know it cost you a fortune to get here with gas prices in some places over \$5 per gallon, but we're very grateful that you made the trip and are with us back home at St. Bernard."

Travelling from Alabama, Arizona, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, New York, North Carolina, Oregon, Pennsylvania, and Tennessee, alumni strolled around the St. Bernard campus and drove around the Cullman area, visiting and remembering.

Plans called for all meals to be held out-of-doors, but that changed as high heat was predicted. The Dining Hall was used throughout the entire weekend. On Friday evening, Freddie Day Catering provided a delicious fish fry consisting of golden brown catfish and, interestingly enough, frog legs, fries and slaw. Nothing was left.

Saturday morning a town hall meeting was held to talk about the life of St. Bernard Abbey and its Prep School, Grotto, Retreat Center, and Camp St. Bernard. Jim Miller (C '76) kicked off the gathering by introducing himself as the new Chief Executive Officer of the school and provided an overview of the school and enrollment status. Abbot Marcus Voss presented updated information on projects underway in the Abbey and the status of new vocations as well as the ordination of

new monks to the priesthood.

"Freddie has always provided great food for our events, and he was right on this weekend," Fr. Joel said. Tyson provided the chicken for Saturday and it was smoked to perfection along with pulled pork, potato salad and baked beans.

Saturday afternoon several in the group made their way to Goat Island and enjoyed happy hour prices, and found amusing merchandise stating a brewery actually existed in Cullman, Alabama. Others stayed behind and plundered through old yearbooks and memorabilia and attended Mass in the Abbey Church.

Saturday evening capped off the weekend with a fabulous steak

dinner and all the trimmings. Fr.

Joel again expressed his appreciation for all in attendance. "It is great having all of you return to your alma mater, and especially the young prep school alumni, two of whom are now monks of St. Bernard Abbey."

Alumni are planning to return at the end of October to gather during the school's 6th Annual Bernard Blues and BBQ to be held on October 29-30, 2022. Said Fr. Joel, "We hope that everyone who has been associated with Saint Bernard College and Prep School will return along with all our friends and local community to enjoy the amazing experience of the fall festival on campus."



Pat Foster and Lou Gana declared themselves the "Best Alumni Golfers" at the Alumni Reunion

Class of 2002

Seated: Min Suh, and John Arndt. Standing (l-r): Ceci Caples, Veronica Hawsman, Julie Lockette, Jo Ellen Santos, and Cristy Castillo.



Class of 1958

James Richmond, Betty Nichols, Robert and Laura Christy, Jenny Folsom, Phil Cabri, Peggy and Bob Steward-Keighery, and Martin Poe.



St. Bernard Alumni news

NEW ARRIVAL



Niraan Mohan Bansal

Wayrayna Rungsakaolert (PS '03) and husband, Dhruv Bansal announce the arrival of their second child, Niraan Mohan Bansal who was born on May 30, 2022. Big sister, Bella welcomed her to their home in Missouri. Wayrayna recently accepted a position with Microsoft as Sr. Finance Officer.

WEDDINGS

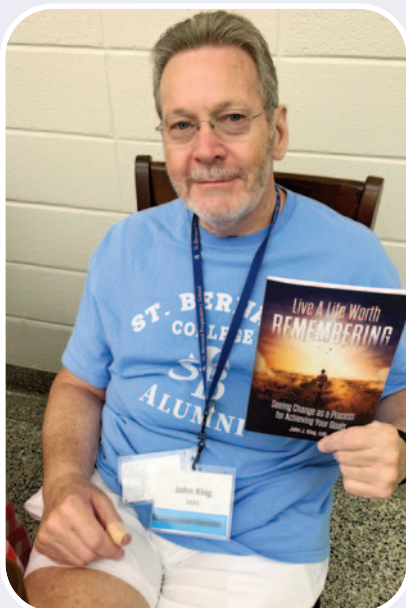
Anna Caroline Keefe and Jakeb Harper Lewis were wed on May 14, 2022 at St. Bernard Abbey Church. Fr. Joel Martin officiated the ceremony. Several alumni joined the wedding party, including Best Man Nathan Cline as well as Matt Herring.

Groomsmen from St. Bernard included Noah Lewis, Ethan Arndt, and Andy Woods. Sadie Pudles served as Maid of Honor for the Bride.

Hart Freeman (PS '06) and Josh Allen were wed in Fiji on July 18, 2022.



Mr. & Mr. Josh Allen



*John King,
(C' 73)
Author of
"Live a Life
Worth
Remembering,"
available on
Amazon.com*

CONGRATULATIONS



Abbot Marcus Voss, OSB, with Brigadier General Patrick R. Michaelis and his wife Bonnie

Brigadier General Patrick R. Michaelis (PS'84-85), was honored on August 30/31, 2022, during his retirement ceremonies as the outgoing Commanding General of Fort Jackson, Columbia, SC. In his early years, General Michaelis was a member of the freshman class when St. Bernard Preparatory School reopened in 1984. He earned his bachelor's degree from Texas A&M University and his Master's Degree in Strategic Studies from the Harvard Kennedy School of Government. During his illustrious 30-year career in the Army, he served in various command and staff positions both in the United States and abroad. He and his wife, Bonnie, have four children, Molly, Hannah, Madeleine, and Madison. They will be moving to Texas where General Michaelis has accepted the position of Commandant of the Corps of Cadets at Texas A&M University.

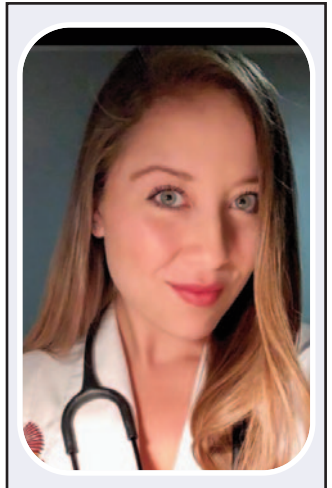
Fr. Thomas D. Weise (HS'54) commemorated his 60th Anniversary of ordination to the priesthood on Sunday, June 5th with a celebration held at Mother Mary Mission in Phenix City, AL. After a Mass of Thanksgiving, a reception and dinner was held in the parish hall/gym.



Dr. Matt Graham and Dr. Michael Graham

Dr. Matt Graham (PS '07) and his dad, Dr. Michael Graham of Graham Orthodontics recently achieved GOLD Invisalign Provider status.

Aimee Cortes (PS '15) graduated medical school at the Universidad Autonoma de Guadalajara School of Medicine in Mexico in May of 2020. She finished her first year medical internship and her first year of medical service and is preparing to take the US boards exams.



Aimee Cortes

Jang Kim (PS '15) Received his bachelor's degree in European Politics from King's College London in 2020 and served in the military the same year. He is currently working on his post-graduate law degree at the University of Bristol in the UK.



Jang Kim

Ernst & Young LLP (EY US) today announced that **Robert M. Lee (PS '06)**, CEO and Co-Founder of Dragos Inc., the global leader in cybersecurity for industrial controls systems (ICS)/operational technology (OT) environments, was named an Entrepreneur of the Year® 2022 Mid-Atlantic winner. Entrepreneur of the Year is one of the preeminent competitive business awards for entrepreneurs and leaders of high-growth companies who think big to succeed. An independent panel of judges selected Lee based on his entrepreneurial spirit, purpose, growth, and impact, among other core contributions and attributes.

Lee is a recognized pioneer in the industrial cybersecurity community. He serves on the Department of Energy's Electricity Advisory Committee, and is Vice Chair of DOE's Grid Resilience for National Security Subcommittee. He is also a member of the World Economic Forum's subcommittees on Cyber Resilience for the Oil & Gas and Electricity communities, and serves on the board of the National Cryptologic Foundation.



Robert Lee

St. Bernard Alumni news

In Memory

Prayers for the Deceased:

Charles Ray Acosta, (HS'58) departed this life Tuesday, July 5, 2022, at Southeast Georgia Health System, in Brunswick at the age of 82. He was a 1963 graduate of Auburn University with a B.S. in Industrial Management School of Engineering. Ray retired from Georgia Power as Coastal Region Manager after 38 years of service. He was passionate about community and economic development and served as Chairman of Brunswick and Glynn County Economic Development Authority. Survivors include his wife of 53 years, Mary K. Acosta of St. Simons Island, a son, Jason Acosta and wife, Carole, of Forsyth, Ga.; a daughter, Michelle Acosta Santangelo and husband, Will, of Marietta, Ga.; four grandchildren.



Carolyn Branch

Robert (Abbey) (PS '93) and William (Angela) Branch (PS '98) in the death of their mom, **Carolyn Branch**, who passed on June 9, 2022 at the age of 73. Carolyn worked at St. Bernard Prep in the alumni office for 18 years. In addition to her sons and their wives she is survived by three grandchildren: Lillian Branch, Aven Branch, and William Branch.

John T. Farrell (C'70) passed away peacefully in his sleep on Saturday, July 30, 2022. John was born in Orange, NJ and attended Delbarton High School, and St. Bernard College, Alabama. John served in the United States Navy as a Petty Officer, 2nd Class/Special Intelligence Analyst for 10 years. He was employed by the United States Postal Service as a Letter Carrier in South Orange, NJ for 23 years. A lifelong resident of South Orange, John enjoyed walking the Village and surrounding area. He is survived by his sisters, Ellen M. of San Francisco, CA and Jane M. of Toms River, NJ and many cousins.

Donald "Don" Green, (C'1958) 87, passed away on July 4, 2022. After graduating from Cullman High School in



Donald Green

1953, he attended Auburn University for his undergraduate degree, the University of Alabama for his master's degree, and earned his PhD from Texas A & M University. While serving in the Air Force Reserves, Donald attended Saint Bernard College (1958) and played on the baseball team. As a teacher and coach, Donald encouraged many young people to pursue an active and healthy lifestyle. Besides his love of teaching, Donald felt great civic pride and for 27 years served in public service. Donald served on many local committees and boards. In 1978, he became a member of the Cullman City Council and ended his public career with two terms as Mayor of his beloved hometown of Cullman. Donald is survived by Dean Drake Green, his wife for 63 years, his sons, Drew and Jonathan (Sherry), four grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

Dr. Robert M. Malatin, OD (C'69) of Richmond, Va., passed on July 15, 2022, in the York Hospital, York, Pa., from cardiac complications. Robert graduated from Southern College of Optometry in 1972 with a doctorate's degree in optometry. By the time he retired in 2012, he owned three practices and had provided excellent care of his thousands of patients. He was inducted into the Va. Academy of Optometry in 1983 and elected President of the same in 2009. He was a loving brother to Francine Molner and special uncle to nieces and nephews.

Philip H. Mink (C'72) of Anchorage, AK, passed to his eternal home on August 25, 2022 surrounded by his family at his home. After graduating from St. Bernard College, he married **Anna Flores (C'73)** and entered into the professional insurance business. In 1981, he and his family moved to Anchorage, AK. Phil had a career as a Property-Casualty Insurance Underwriter, and eventually as the co-owner of The Insurance Center, an Alaskan Corp. When not working, he was fond of spending time with his children and then

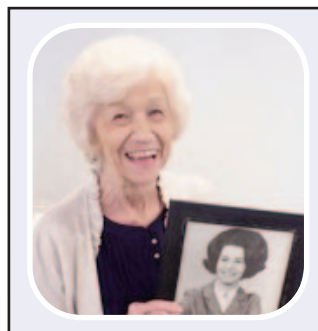
with his grandchildren at all of their sporting and academic events. He is survived by his sons, Johnathan (Laurie) Mink and Ryan (Louise) Mink; his daughter Angela (Josh) Korver; six grandchildren; his sister, Cynthia (Bob) Adelberg and is brother **(Paul [C'71-74] (Vickey) Mink.**

Fr. Augustine John Moore (HS'52 and JC'54) passed away at Orange Beach, Alabama, on May 28, 2022, at the age of 88, leaving to mourn his family and friends.

Martha

Faye Gentry Smith "Faye", age 82, died peacefully in her home March 10, 2022, surrounded by her loving family.

She is survived by her husband, **Jerry C. Smith, Sr., (C'60)** sons, Jerry C. (Vicki) Smith, Jr., Christopher G. (Becky) Smith; sister, Beverley Gentry Abercrombie; grandchildren, Whitney Smith (Justin) Shubert, Memory Smith and Corbin Smith; brother-in-law, Dock Abercrombie; sisters-in-law, Brenda Gentry, Yvonne Gentry, Judy Smith Crider; as well as a host of nieces, nephews and friends. Faye and Jerry were entrepreneurs, founding His and Her Shoes, Dollar Discount and Noble Ridge Plaza.



Martha "Faye" Smith



Daniel Turberville & Grandson

L. Daniel Turberville, Jr. (HS '61), passed away on June 25, 2022. After graduating from St. Bernard Preparatory School in 1961, he graduated from the University of Denver with both a B.A. (1967) and M.A. (1969) in History and Florida State University with an M.S. (1971) in Vocational Rehabilitation. Dan was a member of the inaugural class at Miles School of Law, having graduated in 1978 and was also a member of the Birmingham Bar Association. In 1991, he received the Clarence Darrow Award from the Alabama State Bar Association. He served on the Board of St. Bernard Prep School for many years. He also served in the United States Army Reserve from 1968 to 2002. He was married to Camilla Turberville (Schefano) for the last 24 years. Besides his wife, he is survived by his daughter Wynn Dee Allen, son-in law Richard H. Allen, and grandson Harrison Allen, all of Montgomery, Alabama.

ALUMNI - GET READY!!

**Big Changes are Coming
to the
SBP Alumni Reunion Weekend
SBP ALUMNI
APPRECIATION
WEEKEND
in 2023**

Details to follow.

St. Bernard Happenings

Classical Guitarist to Perform at St. Bernard

American classical guitarist, Giovanni De Chiaro, will be performing a benefit concert for Saint Bernard Preparatory School in the Abbey Church on Sunday, September 25, at 7 p.m.

Making his debut in 1976 in Carnegie Hall, one of the ultimate badges of musical honor, De Chiaro gave a performance that brought a rave notice from the New York Times. At that moment, De Chiaro launched a career of distinction that saw him return to Carnegie Hall at various

times to present six more solo recitals. Most recently, he performed there with the Mississippi Guitar Quartet, an ensemble he established. John De Chiaro has concertized throughout the United States, South America, Canada, Europe and Mexico and has performed for Pope John Paul II at the Vatican in Rome.

Mr. De Chiaro is a recording artist for Centaur Records in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. He recorded his guitar transcriptions of the complete works of Scott Joplin,

two Christmas CDs, a Broadway Collection and a Wedding Album. His latest release, entitled "Melodie d'Amore," features his guitar transcriptions of familiar piano masterpieces from the Romantic Period.

Published extensively with the Willis Music Publishing Company, he has released four anthologies of his transcriptions with Mel Bay Publications. Mr. De Chiaro has recorded two nationally televised programs for PBS, which have won top honors at several national

and international film festivals. He was also featured on the National Public Radio program "All Things Considered," discussing and performing several of his Scott Joplin transcriptions. His recordings are regularly featured on the NPR programs "Classical Guitar Alive," and "Performance Today."

With the Recordings and Publication of his Classical Guitar Transcriptions of the Complete Works of Scott Joplin, De Chiaro received the *Global Music Award for Outstanding Achievement*, and he received that same distinction for his recording of the *Concierto De Chiaro* with the London Symphony, and the "Best Instrumentalist Award," as well.

Mr. De Chiaro retired as Professor of Guitar at the University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg, Mississippi, having served there for twenty-five years. He currently resides in Hartselle, Alabama and teaches at the University of North Alabama in Florence.

For De Chiaro, attending Mass at St. Bernard Abbey in Cullman is a special blessing. "I love the atmosphere at St. Bernard. There is nothing like the acoustics of singing and playing in the Abbey

Church."

Following the concert, a "love offering" will be collected with proceeds benefiting St. Bernard Preparatory School. A meet-and-greet with the artist will be held in the Brahma Room of St. Bernard Dining Hall, complete with refreshments.

The public is invited to attend.



Alumni at Goat Island Brewery

Front row (l-r): Brooks Carter, Hank Kempton, Louis Chiozza, Ricky Bowling, and Harry Davies. Back row (l-r): Jim Miller, Kevin Bell, Woody Soderlind, James Almond, Jerry Weathersby, and Jim Flood.



Giovanni De Chiaro



Alumni Rings Available

Two of our St. Bernard Alumni display their newly replaced St. Bernard Class rings. Michael O'Brien (top), and Patrick Broadus (bottom), C'70 recently met up in Hilton Head S.C for some fun on the links with their wives (Caroline and Linda respectively). The Balfour company is continuing to accept orders. Both Michael and Patrick are genuinely pleased with the exceptional craftsmanship, beauty, and sentimental value the rings have. Should you be interested, you can go to the Balfour website and order your ring. Rings are only available to St. Bernard Alumni that attended and graduated from St. Bernard College with a 4 year degree (1958 through 1979). Should anyone have questions, please reach out to Michael O'Brien at: MJOB318F@YAHOO.COM

Michael J O'Brien 646.226.2019

Moving? Please correct the mailing label on this issue and return it to the address shown above

Non-profit
Organization
Permit No. 2
POSTAGE PAID
Cullman, AL



St. Bernard Preparatory School
1600 St. Bernard Drive, S.E.
Cullman, AL 35055