

THE CLERESTORY

SPECIAL ISSUE

ST. PROCOPIUS ABBEY

Winter 2019

A Great Venture of Christian Discipleship

FOUNDED IN *faith*

1885

2019

FUNDING OUR *future*





O, God, you called Saint Procopius to gather to himself those who desired to draw closer to you through prayers of praise and service to their neighbor. By his intercession guide us also to pray and work in such a way that we may ever live in union with you. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the

Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

FROM THE EDITOR

This is a special edition of *The Clerestory* to announce to you our campaign, “Founded in Faith, Funded for the Future.” I am excited to report that we have already raised \$1,117,718 to date toward our campaign goal. The objectives of the campaign are outlined in the following pages.

Will you join us to achieve and even exceed our goal?

Perhaps you would like to donate:

- In memory of a family member, monk, loved one, or friend?
- In honor of someone in your life?
- From your IRA account when you turn 70.5 years old?

There are many ways you can contribute to the campaign, some are listed in the “Share Our Mission” section below.

To donate now, you may:

- Fill out the gift envelope in this issue and mail it to us.
- Go online to our secure website at procopius.org and

click on the giving tab, then look for the “Donate Now” button in the upper right-hand corner of the page.

- Contact me at (630) 829-9253 or bfranks@procopius.org.

God bless you for your generosity. Please know that the monks continue to remember you, your loved ones, and your intentions in their daily prayers and Masses.

Fr. T. Becket A. Franks, O.S.B.
Director, Abbey Advancement



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FACEBOOK**
The Clerestory Magazine of the
Monks of St. Procopius Abbey

THE CLERESTORY

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SHARE OUR MISSION

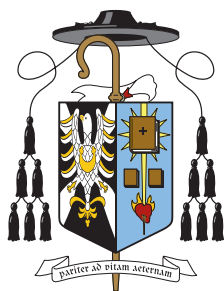
You can assist the monks in their great venture of Christian discipleship. If you are interested in giving to the monastic community, there are many options, such as:

- **Cash gifts**—You can make out a check to St. Procopius Abbey.
- **Stock gifts**—In making a gift of stock you may be eligible for a tax benefit.
- **Tribute or memorial gifts**—These honor loved ones, living or deceased; their names will be submitted to the abbey prayer ministry.
- **Matching gifts**—Many companies match or even double your charity.
- **Planned gifts**—You can make a bequest in your will or trust.
- **IRA Rollover**—A charitable rollover from your IRA may be a convenient way to make a gift to the abbey. Please call to receive more information about the potential benefits of this type of giving.

Our F.E.I.N. (Federal ID#) is 36-2169184. We are a tax-exempt institution and listed in the Official Catholic Directory under the diocese of Joliet, Illinois. Bequests, etc., are deductible for federal estate and gift tax purposes.

Call the office of Abbey Advancement for assistance with a donation or for more information at (630) 829-9253.

**Online Giving is available on the abbey website—
procopius.org/giving.**



DEAR FRIENDS,

For the past couple of years we have been prayerfully engaged in strategic planning for the current and future needs of our community and monastic home. We have reached out beyond our walls for input from friends about these priorities, and if you participated in that discussion, thank you. Building upon that input and the long-term planning done by the monastic community, we are happy to announce a major campaign to support our mission as we respond to God's call. The theme of the campaign is, "Founded in Faith, Funding our Future."

I ask that you please read the campaign article in this issue and prayerfully consider a sacrificial donation that will help us meet our goal of \$1.5 million. It explains the funding projects that, with God's grace and your support, will help our community grow in number as it moves into the future. The projects also signal our confidence that God will attract new members in the future and our commitment to ensure that we are responsible stewards of our building complex — which is an architecturally recognized building as well as our monastic home, where we pray to God, work each day, and live in community.

Last, but certainly not least, you will meet our chair couple, James and Patrice Lia. Jim and Patrice are wonderful people and good friends of our community. I wish to thank them for their leadership in our major campaign.

Peace in Christ,

Rt. Rev. Austin G. Murphy, O.S.B., Abbot





VISION STATEMENT

A community that seeks to grow in love, according to a monastic manner of life, for the glory of God and the Church.



ST. PROCOPIUS ABBEY

PRAYER | WORK | STABILITY

MISSION STATEMENT

Interior Life

Every monk of St. Procopius Abbey seeks to grow in the love that is of God and that unites to God. He commits himself to use the means available to grow in this love, especially the means of communal prayer, *lectio divina*, conquering self-will, and practicing good zeal. This growth in love is authentic only if the monk loves his neighbor, especially his confreres.

Monastic Identity

Called by Christ to live the Gospel in community, we seek God by a life of prayer, obedience, and personal conversion, according to the Rule of St. Benedict and the direction of the Abbot. Persevering in the monastery until death, we employ the tools of the spiritual craft in the school of the Lord's service, witnessing to the primacy of God in a community of mutual love that in all things God may be glorified.

Ministry

Both as baptized Catholics and as Benedictine monks, we enter enthusiastically into the life of the Christian community, the People of God. We do so first of all by providing the Church and the world with the gift of monastic life, with its witness to the primacy of God.

From this witness flow forth further works of ministry compatible with our monastic calling. At St. Procopius Abbey, we find hospitality, education, and parochial work to be especially valuable means by which we respond to the needs of our neighbors. May all we do as monks give glory to God in the Church and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever (Ephesians 3:21).

An invitation

TO SHARE OUR MINISTRY

In 1885, Benedictine monks from St. Vincent Archabbey in Latrobe, Pennsylvania, came to Chicago to pray and work among the city's Czech and Slovak immigrants. Shortly after arriving, the monks assumed direction of St. Procopius Parish. Known for his charity and love of the liturgy, St. Procopius became the namesake of the monks' monastic community.

In the early twentieth century, the abbey and its schools moved to the Village of Lisle where we continue today to pray, work, and live a life of stability as we minister to the needs of the local Church. Because of our prayer life, our faith continues to radiate out to the world through many diverse ministries impacting thousands of lives, including our work at Benedictine University and Benet Academy, both sharing "Catholic corners" with the abbey in Lisle. Individual monks also bring the joy of the Gospel to their ministries in the parishes they serve, social service centers they visit with students from the schools' campus ministries, and through retreats, spiritual direction, teaching, and publishing in scholarly journals.



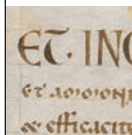
The Founded in Faith, Funding Our Future campaign is an invitation from us to share in our ministry, and an opportunity for you to make a sacrificial gift to support our special needs at this point in our history. It is because of your generosity we are able to continue our many ministries within the faith community.

The time is now.

The opportunity is yours.

Please give generously.

Our life of prayer is a life marked by lectio, liturgy and mindfulness.



Founded in Faith, Funding our Future.

A CAMPAIGN FOR ST. PROCOPIUS ABBEY



With this campaign we are investing in people, programs, and projects that will strengthen our presence for the future. For the last fifteen months, people have trusted our vision, mission, and stewardship and said “yes” to the campaign. To date, by the grace of God, our generous friends have donated or pledged \$1,117,718. That is, we have raised just over 74 percent of our goal of \$1.5 million. Now, we widen the campaign to seek your help. Because of YOUR GIFT:

- High school, college-age, and adult professional men are receiving information about monastic life, participate in “Come and See” weekend programs, communicate with monks through the website and other social media platforms, and receive spiritual direction as they discern God’s call to join the Benedictine community of St. Procopius.
- The monks of St. Procopius pray for you and your loved ones each day of the year as they participate in daily Mass and the Liturgy of the Hours in the newly renovated Lady Chapel.
- The monks live, pray, and conduct business with staff and visitors in a safe environment because of a newly installed fire suppression system.
- The monks of St. Procopius will move easily between their rooms, chapel, dining room and the outdoors in a safe and dependable elevator that will accommodate walkers and wheelchairs.
- Monks will receive expanded professional medical care in a renovated infirmary that will include new staffing, medical equipment for the office, and infirmary primary care rooms.
- Visitors in the future will attend daily and Sunday Masses in the Abbey church free from concerns about the results of inclement weather.

A Word from our Chair Couple

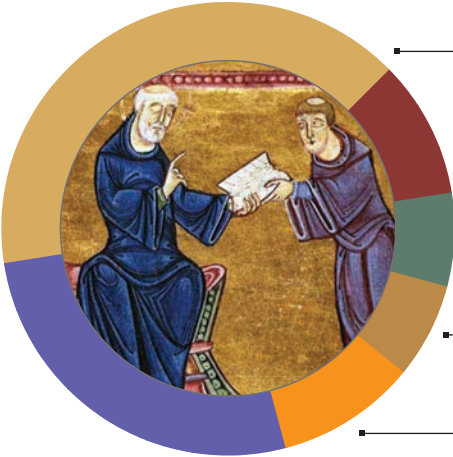
As grandparents, each time one of our grandchildren was born our hearts expanded and our love grew with each passing year. That is how we felt this past year — 2018 was wonderful and fulfilling.

Along with our ongoing commitment to St. Procopius Abbey, we participated in two very important Benedictine events. In August we flew to Rome to volunteer at Sant’Anselmo Abbey in support of Benedictine sisters from around the world at their two-week *Communio Internationalis Benedictinarum*, during which more than one hundred abbesses, prioresses, and sisters gathered to discuss the role of women in the Church. While in Rome, we were invited to a private audience with Pope Francis. If you have had the privilege to meet with any pope, you know what a moving experience it is.



INVESTING IN PEOPLE, PROGRAMS, AND PROJECTS

CAMPAIGN GOAL	\$ 1,500,000
PLEDGES AND CASH TO DATE	\$ 1,117,718
UNMET NEED	\$ 382,282



Abbey Church Roof.	\$ 600,000
Vocations	\$ 150,000
Elevator	\$ 100,000
Fire Alarm System	\$ 100,000
Infirmery and Nursing Personnel	\$ 150,000
Lady Chapel	\$ 400,000

Both of these events further deepened our love and commitment to the Benedictine family, and this year being part of the Benedictine experience has felt like a visit from the Holy Spirit. It reinforces our zeal to make sure that our Benedictine community—St. Procopius Abbey—continues to thrive.

In order for the abbey to have its greatest impact, we must assure that its assets — people and facilities — are well taken care of, and that vocations work, critical to their stability, is given the financial support it needs.

We go forth now with a heightened desire to assure that our Benedictine abbey remains a center of spirituality in Lisle. In this light, we are asking you to invest in the future of St. Procopius Abbey. We need your prayers and financial support. Please consider making a sacrificial donation to the “Founded in Faith, Funding our Future” campaign.

Patrice James
Patrice A. Lia and James J. Lia



Vocations \$150,000

God is the author of every vocation to our monastic way of life and prayer is the most important thing for promoting vocations. But of course, this does not mean we have no other work to do in promoting vocations. Accordingly, the abbey is committed to using the best means available to us for making our way of life known and for guiding those discerning a vocation to our life. Drawing upon our experience, research in religious vocations, and marketing consultants, we have identified the traits that are common among those pursuing religious vocations and that make a man fit for a monastic vocation at our abbey. From this profile of traits, we more effectively identify the venues for making our way of life known. We thus continually identify campuses, high schools, Catholic conferences, and other events to visit or to participate in. Also, the profile enables us to have an ever-stronger social media engagement with potential candidates. In addition, the profile of traits helps us to work with the contacts we have made to help them discern whether they have a vocation to the monastic life. This work of guiding our contacts entails personal attention, but also the use of marketing techniques to organize most efficiently our efforts at engagement. All these items involve costs in travel, advertising, social media work, marketing software, hosting retreats, and more. Any gift you can offer in this area is greatly appreciated.



STABILITY

Now the one who is to be received [into the monastery] should promise before all in the oratory his stability and conversion through a monastic way of life and obedience.

— RB, Ch. 58.17



PRAYER & WORK | That in all things, God may be glorified. — 1 Peter 4:11

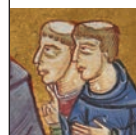
Lady Chapel\$400,000

As Benedictine monks, our strength and commitment to God comes from deep inside, fed by silence and communal prayer in an environment that is dedicated to God. The Lady Chapel (above), where we pray the Divine Office, is among the most sacred focal points around which all aspects of our life revolve. Since last spring, the Lady Chapel has undergone extensive

renovations that we supported from internal financial resources. New choir stalls, pendant lighting, and a new organ have been installed so the space and acoustics enhance our chanting of the Divine Office several times each day. The changes also allow visitors and friends to participate in that prayer for the needs of the Universal Church.

Let all guests be received as Christ. — Rule of St. Benedict (RB), Ch. 53

The Benedictine word for this way of life is conversatio, an ongoing transformation and “conversion” of the person into the life of Jesus Christ.





Abbey Church Roof. \$600,000

As one monk said, “It is always the roof!” He was not far from wrong, especially on days that severe rain and wind pelt the abbey church. Water literally runs down the walls and drips onto the sanctuary floor. That is when the “bucket brigade” must swing into action.

The material expense for the roof is just one component of the replacement budget. Because of the height and grade, the need for exterior scaffolding, and liability fees, the total repair cost for this project is a major commitment. To delay the roof’s replacement any longer would violate our commitment to responsible stewardship.



The monastery itself is a sign of a well-ordered community in which how much one owns and how much power one wields is subordinate to the capacity of one’s love for God and his creation. — Fr. Michael, “Building for the Renewed Community”

Elevator \$100,000

In planning the original abbey building, the monks envisioned a central area for movement between four floors— stretching from the basement storage area to the third floor which houses assisted living for the monks. The elevator has been assisting us to move between these floors for forty-nine years. After all this time, parts are not only wearing out, but many are no longer available. Camouflaged as a giant cement pillar close to the abbey parlors, we must replace this very important piece of equipment as it is central to our movement within the building.

Fire Alarm System. \$100,000

A new fire alarm system is crucial for our safety and well-being, and will enhance our relationship with the first responders of the Lisle-Woodridge Fire District. Like the elevator, the warning system is forty-nine years old, with some parts broken and others irreplaceable. The cost to update the system includes a new panel board, new alarm boxes, and testing throughout the year. Put simply, the system must meet code requirements for a building the size of the abbey and one that is home to twenty-one monks.

Infirmary and Nursing Personnel. \$150,000

The abbey has its own health care center, or infirmary as we call it. The infirmary is supervised by a monk with assistance from a day nurse who has been with us for twenty years and has computerized all medical records, doctor visits, and hospital stays for each of the men under her care. In the coming year, a study will be undertaken and recommendations made for how to further enhance care for all in the community, especially those in need of professional nursing assistance and/or around-the-clock care.



STEWARDSHIP

Let him regard all the vessels of the monastery and all its substance, as if they were sacred vessels of the altar.

— RB, Ch. 31



... that seeks to free a monastic to take delight in God’s presence within the self, the community and the world.



Founded in Faith, Funding our Future.

A CAMPAIGN FOR ST. PROCOPIUS ABBEY

We consider your financial help as a sacred trust since, according to our Holy Father St. Benedict, we are "to regard all the utensils of the monastery, including property, as if they were the sacred vessels of the altar."

— RB, Ch. 31

MAKE A GIFT TODAY

In our campaign, St. Procopius Abbey seeks gifts over and above what our supporters give to help us each year. These sacrificial gifts generally are given out of an individual's assets (as opposed to annual income) and may be pledged to the campaign over three to five years.

The most common gifts are given outright. In addition to cash gifts St. Procopius Abbey accepts gifts of securities (stocks/bonds), real property, and personal property.

Cash, Checks, Debit and Credit Cards | Please make checks payable to St. Procopius Abbey. We also accept gifts paid with a credit card. Gifts via Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) or with a debit/credit card can be set up monthly or quarterly. All contributions are tax-deductible as allowed by current United States tax laws.

Gifts of Personal Property | Gifts of personal property include, but are not limited to, works of art, manuscripts, literary works, boats, motor vehicles, etc. However, it is our policy to review each offer of a gift on a case by case basis.

Gifts of Property: Stocks, Bonds, Mutual Fund Shares | Gifts of property include stocks, bonds, mutual fund shares, and real estate. If your property has risen in value and has been held long enough to qualify as long-term property, you are entitled to two benefits: 1) you avoid paying capital gains tax; and 2) you receive a deduction for the full value of the gift in most cases. If your property has decreased in value, you should consider selling that gift first and then contributing the proceeds, which allows you to receive deductions for both the capital loss and the charitable gift. As standard policy, St. Procopius Abbey will sell securities as soon as possible after the transfer, and, will only accept gifts of real property after consultation with legal counsel.

For further information on how to proceed, please contact the abbey advancement office at (630) 829-9253 or advancement@procopius.org.



FROM LEFT: SR. ANNA, SR. HELEN, SR. ROSE, SR. ROSARIA, MOTHER MARIE, SR. MARTHA, SR. BERNICE, AND SR. ANNE.

HOLDING FIRM FOR GENERATIONS:

The Vision and Mission of the Abbey's Benedictine Oblate Sisters

by Fr. James

In the year he turned forty (1901), our future third abbot, Fr. Prokop Neuzil, joined with Fr. Bartl Kvitek in visiting the Catholics of a number of the Czech settlements in Texas. As always, he hoped that this mission preaching would generate vocations to the Benedictine life. At the time, he felt he had made no great impression. He came, he preached, he left, and no one followed.

Forty years later, the same man, blessed by God with a long life and now the abbot, had occasion to marvel that “the children of the children” of those to whom he spoke in Texas were coming to Lisle in the persons of young women who made up much of the membership of the Missionary Oblates of St. Scholastica. While Abbot Prokop would die in 1946, the last of those Czech families touched by his efforts would continue on until 2018, more than eleven decades after the earlier mission.

It was another preaching expedition from St. Procopius that provided the immediate impetus for this missionary venture. Two monks, Fr. Emilian Shonka and Fr. Claude Viktora, spent some time in Texas in 1936 preaching missions in many of the small Czech settlements in the San Antonio area where Abbot Prokop had been thirty-five years before. Fervor was galvanized, and several women, teenagers or not much older, looked for a way to make real one of the themes of the missions, Pope Pius X's ideal of renewing all things in Christ.

The group slowly took shape during the next few years, and its members decided to dedicate themselves to assisting the missionary work of the monks in Lisle, who had been encouraged by the Holy See both to undertake ecumenical labor aimed at reunion of Catholic Church with Orthodox Christians and to establish a monastic foundation in China. Property near the Abbey in Lisle was obtained for what would

There are twelve steps of humility and twelve ways of wisdom that build on each other.





JUNE, 1942, THE DEDICATION OF THE CONVENT OF THE OBLATE SISTERS OF ST. SCHOLASTICA (ABBOT PROKOP, CENTER, WITH CROSS).

be called St. Scholastica Mission House, and in June, 1942, Abbot Prokop was able joyfully to record in the *Abbey Chronicle*:

After 5 o'clock, there was blessed the small house... not far away from St. Joseph's Orphanage, for the new convent of the Oblate Sisters of St. Scholastica. The convent would serve for the education of sisters who would help the Chinese and Russian, that is, Slav Missions. The little house is situated on a plot of ten acres which the oblates bought... from the Czech St. Joseph Orphanage.

The dedication, in itself remarkable, was held quietly and simply. Present were several fathers and clerics with the Abbot from St. Procopius Abbey, Abbot Prokop, several sisters of Sacred Heart Convent and some of their students from the Academy and mainly—five missionary oblate sisters of St. Scholastica, governed by Miss Marie Shonka, the blood sister of three Rev. Frs. Shonka [Fr. Emilian, Fr. William, and Fr. Richard], all of whom are teachers in St. Procopius College and Seminary.

After the solemn blessing the Rev. Fathers were treated to a dish of cherries already ripened on the property of the new institution and a pitcher of pure cold water from the well next to the institution. Since it was a nice warm day the drink was greatly appreciated. If the Lord will bless it, the new institution will be... destined exclusively for the purpose of the Slav and Chinese Missions.



ST. SCHOLASTICA MISSION HOUSE WAS A 10-ACRE SITE LOCATED AT 2350 MAPLE AVE., JUST A BLOCK WEST OF BENET ACADEMY'S MAIN CAMPUS IN LISLE, ILLINOIS.

Though the Oblate Sisters professed no formal monastic vows, their dedication to live the Rule of St. Benedict in a fervent and intentional manner held firm over the next sixty-seven years. They worked hard to be self-sufficient, having both livestock and a garden. They took part in the cannery operations at the Abbey. They assisted with the Church Unity Days conducted by the monks through the 1960s, and they helped also with many of the activities of the Benedictine Chinese Mission, with Mother Marie serving as the editor of *The Benedictine Orient* until her death in 1996.

With the help of the monks, the simple farmhouse dwelling of 1942 was gradually expanded, and at its height the Mission House contained seventeen members. As the years wore on, vocations to this uncommon form of Benedictine life (a residential oblate community) became fewer, but the Oblate Sisters carried on their activity. A number of them worked at St. Procopius and then Benet Academy, most notably Sr. Anne Sandrik, the gentle nurse whose good cheer heartened several generations of students. Rumor had it that every now and then a student would take advantage of her kindness to miss a quiz or test!

After Mother Marie's death, she was succeeded by Mother Helen Kallus, who in 2008 led her dwindling community in the painful decision to leave their home and relocate to Villa St. Benedict, the senior citizen development created by the Benedictine Sisters of Sacred Heart Monastery. With the help of the Abbey, the ten acres the Missionary Oblates owned on Maple Avenue came into the possession of Benet Academy. The Academy gradually transformed the property into much-needed athletic and parking space, and the ten acres continue to remember the good work of the Oblates by being now known as the St. Scholastica Campus of Benet Academy.

The Oblate Sisters continued their life of prayer at Villa St. Benedict until 2018, when first Mother Helen and three months later the last member, Sr. Margaret Williams, died. Their funerals occasioned many happy memories of a distinctive expression of the Benedictine charism that marked their presence in Lisle for most of the twentieth century.



MOTHER MARIE SHONKA SERVED AS THE EDITOR OF *THE BENEDICTINE ORIENT* UNTIL HER DEATH IN 1996. IT WAS AN INFORMATIONAL AND FUND-RAISING PAMPHLET PUBLISHED SEVERAL TIMES A YEAR TO ASSIST WITH THE WORK OF THE BENEDICTINE CHINESE MISSION.



ABOVE (L TO R) SISTERS ANNA PAVLICK, HELEN KALLUS, AND ROSE OKRUHLIK PREPARING THE MAILING OF THE *BENEDICTINE ORIENT*.

FAR LEFT: SISTER ANNE SANDRIK WORKED AS A NURSE AT ST. PROCOPIUS ACADEMY, WHICH BECAME BENET ACADEMY IN 1956.

LEFT: SISTER MARGARET WILLIAMS MAKING ROSARIES.



LEFT: SISTER HELEN KALLUS SPRAYING FRUIT TREES.

BELOW: SEPTEMBER 1, 2015—ABBOT AUSTIN STANDS AT THE ST. SCHOLASTICA ATHLETIC CAMPUS WITH SISTER MARGARET (LEFT) AND SISTER HELEN, THE LAST REMAINING OBLATE SISTERS WHO ONCE LIVED AT THE ST. SCHOLASTICA MISSION HOUSE.



Instead, they prize good stewardship, the wise and moderate use of material things for the good of all, both present and future.

obedientie
f. In prim
um: ab eo p
s. Vt qui n



by Fr. James

Vocations Ministry



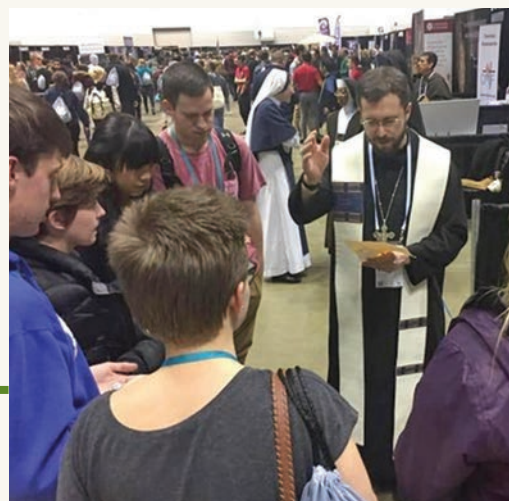
Benedictine Balance

Once again, Abbot Austin and I spent some pleasant days in early January at a FOCUS (Fellowship of Catholic University Students) event. Held in Indianapolis, SEEK2019 brought some eighteen thousand souls together to “encounter something more,” as this year’s theme had it. The “something more” was, is, and ever shall be, Jesus Christ and His Gospel.

We were blessed this year with some invaluable assistance for our booth, in the persons of Jeanine and John Jelinek, and Dominic Senese. Jeanine is Abbot Austin’s Executive Assistant, and she and her husband John were good enough to accompany us; as also was Dominic, a freshman at Benedictine University and an associate member of the Abbey, discerning a possible monastic vocation. We are grateful to all three for their generosity, for while FOCUS gatherings are spiritually enriching, they are hardly restful, with so much youthful enthusiasm everywhere in evidence!

Our own theme for this conference was Benedictine Balance, as represented by this sure-footed pachyderm. While assuredly visibly striking, the ability to hold steady, as this fellow does, might not tell the whole story about balance in a monastic setting. Steadiness is a virtue, but monks are not meant merely to balance oneself in place, but to move forward: individually and communally towards God, individually and communally towards accomplishment of the monastery’s mission.

The challenge with balance in a dynamic setting is indeed to move forward while remaining faithful to the integrity of one’s life — and not fall to pieces while doing so! The Jenga game we had available (and much used) at our booth is a demonstration itself of the problem. Blocks of wood, three in a row, maybe ten rows high, are rearranged by removing a block and stacking it on top of the pile. Some truly impressive results come from this, as the structure grows higher and higher, despite the reduction of many rows



ABBOT AUSTIN AND FR. JAMES HANDED OUT AND BLESSED BENEDICTINE MEDALS, AND OFFERED INSIGHTS ON LIVING A LIFE IN BALANCE.



from three blocks to two and even one. Eventually, however, with Jenga, it all collapses—one cannot continually maintain equilibrium without adequate support.

In real life, collapses have effects a bit more serious than in a Jenga game! How do we avoid stagnation on the one hand, falling apart on the other? The ancient Romans had a phrase, *ne quid nimis*, not too much of anything. Avoid excess, in other words; attend to soul and body; look to recreate (i.e., re-create) oneself no less than to accomplish.

Benedictine life seeks balance not only to keep one's blood pressure down (not that health should be discounted), but so that one can accomplish many good things while still remaining faithful to the fundamental human task of seeking God. Do we always succeed? Of course not. But for fifteen centuries—and this is the message we strove to bring home to the FOCUS participants—the wise prescriptions of the Rule, summed up in the motto, *Ora et Labora*, have assisted untold thousands of men and women to cope better with a perennial human challenge.

 FIND US ON FACEBOOK
Fr. James Flint, O.S.B.



COME AND SEE

2019 EASTER TRIDUUM VOCATION

DISCERNMENT RETREAT | APRIL 18-21

Catholic men, ages 18 to 45 who are thinking about a religious vocation, are invited to St. Procopius Abbey during the Easter Triduum. Beginning Holy Thursday (4:00 p.m.), and going through Easter Sunday (1:00 p.m.), this retreat offers an immersion into the monastic life at St. Procopius Abbey. Join the monks for prayer, work, and meals as they prepare for and celebrate these holy days. During this time, participants will learn about monastic life and receive assistance to discern God's call.

RESERVATIONS Please contact Fr. James if you are thinking of joining us for this retreat. We look forward to meeting you. (630) 829-9279 • vocations@procopius.org

... especially in the mundane areas of everyday life, is demanded of everyone with no other reward than the building up of the community.



ABBHEY ADVENTURES

Chronicling our great venture of Christian discipleship.

2018 Jubilarians

65 YEARS OF ORDINATION

FR. EDWARD KUCERA

(seated) was professed a monk in 1947 and was ordained to the priesthood in 1953. Fr. Ken spoke about him at the jubilee dinner and remarked that he is a “jack of many trades.” From the halls of the dorms in the college and the academy, to the history classroom and the athletic office at then St. Procopius Academy, to the U.S. Air Force as a chaplain rising to the rank of Colonel, to the chapel of now Benet Academy where he ministered as part-time chaplain, and now to the retirement community of Benedale Center at Villa St. Benedict, Fr. Ken remarked that Fr. Ed always teaches us a lesson about life.



40 YEARS OF MONASTIC PROFESSION

FR. BECKET FRANKS (center), was professed a monk in 1978 and ordained to the priesthood in 1986. Fr. Gabriel spoke about him at the jubilee dinner and told the community about Fr. Becket's creative energy and humor. He added that his greatest accomplishment was the willingness to accept things that have happened in his life. It is a feat that only happens when we open ourselves to the Grace of God.

25 YEARS OF MONASTIC PROFESSION

BR. GREGORY PERRON (right), was professed a monk in 1993. The prior, Br. Guy, spoke about him at the jubilee dinner and thanked him for his service as infirmarian. There were many times in the middle of the night or on a weekend morning that Br. Greg rushed a confrere, including Br. Guy, to the emergency room. Then Br. Guy wished Br. Greg all the best in his studies at Rice University, in Houston, where he is pursuing a doctorate degree in theology.

BR. RICHARD PORO (left), was professed a monk in 1993. Abbot Austin spoke at the jubilee dinner about Br. Richard's faith and willingness to serve and support others. People appreciate him at Benedictine University where he is available as a dependable Benedictine presence on campus. He is a good listener and ministers not only to students, but also to the faculty and staff, in campus ministry and student activities. The abbot thanked him for his volunteer work with the poor in Hopkins Park, Illinois.



■ **Abbot Dismas** turned ninety years old on January 1, 2019. The students and faculty of Benet Academy hosted a birthday party after Mass in the third floor chapel where he is a part-time chaplain. Above, Abbot Dismas and Mike Doerries.

■ **Abbot Austin** and **Fr. James** visited Benedictine University's Mesa campus in 2018, visiting classes, speaking to the faculty and staff, and joining groups from the campus in prayer.

■ In the middle of 2018, **Fr. James** represented the President's Council of the American Cassinese Congregation of which he is a member at the visitation at St. Gregory's Abbey in Shawnee, Oklahoma, and then joined the meeting of the council here at our abbey in the fall.

■ In June 2018, **Fr. James** preached the monastic retreat at St. Bernard Abbey in Cullman, Alabama; and in July, he took part in the congregational vocation directors conference at St. Mary's Abbey in Morristown, New Jersey.

FEEDBACK

From the Advancement Office:

We would like to update our records. Please respond if applicable.

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Please tear off this form and return it in the enclosed envelope. Your responses are appreciated. Thank you.



■ **IN THIS ISSUE**—The image used in the campaign logo is of St. Benedict delivering his Rule to St. Maurus and the other monks of his order. The illustration is from an illuminated manuscript created in 1129 by the scribe Petrus Guillelmus in the abbey of St. Gilles, Nîmes, in southern France, and is now part of the collection of the British Library. Artwork highlights appear in the page sidebars, along with text about Benedictine hallmarks.

■ We ask for your prayers for our new associate member of the Abbey, **Dominic**, a freshman at Benedictine University, as he spends the next two years discerning a possible monastic vocation. Our hope being that while benefitting from his college experience, he will grow in his knowledge of Benedictine monasticism in general and of this community in particular.



IN MEMORIAM

*of all of our confreres, relatives,
friends and benefactors*

- + Dr. Richard C. Becker, first lay president of Illinois Benedictine College (now Benedictine University), friend of the abbey
- + Lillian Hlava, mother of Br. Charles
- + Cecilia Marth, mother of Stephen Marth, principal of Benet Academy
- + Loretta M. Moravec, president of the abbey's "Mothers Club" for thirty-eight years
- + Dr. Bernard Toussaint, professor of philosophy, Benedictine University, friend of the abbey

ABBEY PRAYER & WORSHIP

The monks invite you to join them for morning and evening prayer, especially solemn vespers on Sundays. These are the usual Mass times. Please call the abbey switchboard at (630) 969-6410 or visit procopius.org to confirm Saturday or Solemnity times or any other schedules.

All prayer in the Lady Chapel, except Mass, which is in the Church.

Monday thru Friday

Lauds.....6:00 a.m.
Mid-day Prayer12:00 noon
The Conventual Mass.....4:50 p.m.
Vespers.....7:00 p.m.

Saturday

Lauds.....6:25 a.m.
The Conventual Mass.....7:00 a.m.
Mid-day Prayer12:00 noon
Vespers.....5:00 p.m.
Compline7:00 p.m.

Sunday

Lauds.....6:25 a.m.
The Conventual Mass...11:00 a.m.
Solemn Vespers.....5:00 p.m.
Compline7:00 p.m.

Our vow of obedience is a commitment to listening and consequent action with our abbot and the community.

videtur
abbas.



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