

The

For family, friends, and alumni of Cistercian Preparatory School



Winter 2008

CONTINUUM

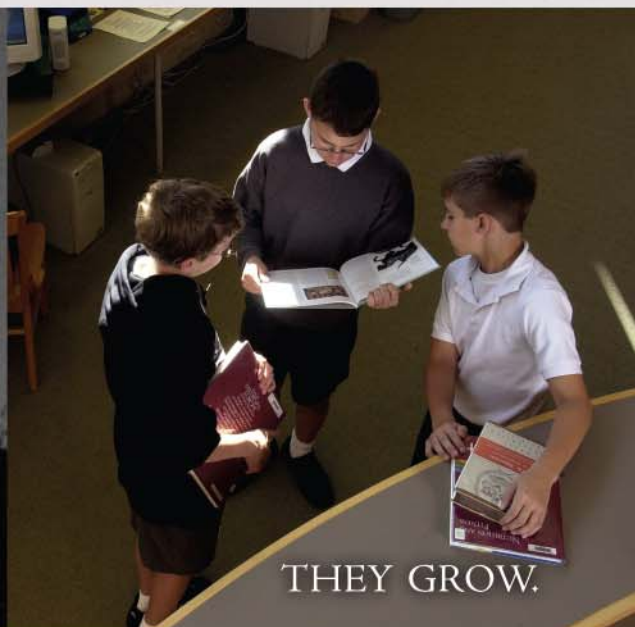


Senior stress test

An all-honors curriculum adds to the pressure of Cistercian's final year

Senior core teachers (l-r) Jason Joseph – Government, Fr. Gregory Schweers – English, Mrs. Judith Leonard – Physics (representing Mrs. Betty Sitton – Chemistry and Dr. Robert McGuire – Biology), and Dr. Richard Newcomb – Calculus.

THE GREATEST LEGACIES DO MORE THAN LAST.



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The Memorare Society was established for members of our community who wish to include Cistercian in their financial plans through bequests, trusts, wills, or other means. It's a wonderful way for people to include the school as part of their long-term financial planning.

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Shining examples of serving the other

I was recently asked, "What do you consider Cistercian's greatest accomplishment?" Proud as I am of our academic, athletic, and service accomplishments, I am proudest of our alumni as men who have learned to think of the other before the self.



Letter from the headmaster

Fr. Peter Verhalen '73

When I pick up a magazine, I start from the last page. Fr. Roch's reflection on riches shows how Cistercian parents and alumni think of the other and give of themselves in service to the other. This edition includes several more examples of service to others. **Rod Walter '83** offers a moving memory of his form master who recently passed away, **Smokey Briggs '84** offers a simple tale about another alumnus, **Dr. Steve Johnston '71**, who helped **David Stewart '74** through a transplant (thanks also to the generosity of kidney donor Beth Bontempo).

In our first feature, **Brian Melton '71** offers the story of the Cistercians' first years in Texas, when

they were called upon to give so much of themselves at the founding of the University of Dallas.

The Class Notes and News sections also tell of alumni like **Tom Lewis '73** and his wife Cathy Schanzer donating their time, talent, and resources — for 20 years now — to set up an eye clinic in Sierra Leone. Then there's Kelly and **Buck Smith '71** finding a way to serve several alumni artists, and the larger Cistercian community, by earmarking a donation for art produced by alumni.

In David Stewart's feature article on the stress of the senior year, **Jourdain Artz '08** reveals that he reacted to stress by making a sacrifice in his life to help others. It's an answer I hope each Cistercian student carries with him as an alumnus: by "giving up time with my friends and football," Jourdain wrote in his college essay, he was able to help out his family in their time of extraordinary need.

Whether we learn this lesson through prayer and meditation on Christ's cross or through the stories in this issue of *The Continuum*, every Cistercian alumnus, I would hope, has learned to hear the call to take up his Cross daily and to serve his neighbor out of love.

volume 35, number 1

in this issue



Laying a foundation 8

In the first years after their arrival in Texas in 1955, the Cistercians helped found the University of Dallas and secured a piece of land where they would begin building their monastery.

Senior stress test 14

In a hectic first semester senior year, students are stretched in many directions that make them stronger.

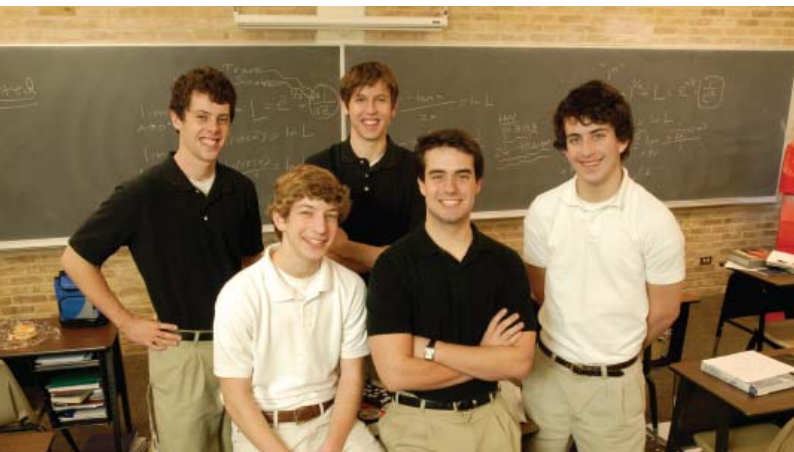


departments

School News.....	4-7
Sports	18-19
Class Notes	20-22
Afterthoughts by Smokey Briggs.....	23
On Prayer by Fr. Roch Kereszty	24
Calendar	24

Cover photography: Jim Reisch

Cistercian Preparatory School was founded with the aim of preparing talented boys for the colleges of their choice by challenging their minds with excellent academic programs, molding their character through the values of Catholic education, and offering them guidance with both understanding and discipline. Cistercian Preparatory School does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin in the administration of its educational practices, admissions, scholarship programs, and athletic and other school administered programs.



Photos by Jim Reisch

HAIL TO THE CHIEFS Five seniors have been named as Presidential Scholar candidates: (l-r) **Ian McLaughlin '08**, **Patrick Spence '08**, **Richard Newcomb '08**, **Philip Tarpley '08**, and **Jack Squiers '08**

Academic recognition Class of '08 boasts five Presidential Scholar candidates

Five of Cistercian's 44 seniors were nominated as Presidential Scholars in January, the most in the school's history.

Ian McLaughlin '08, **Richard Newcomb '08**, **Patrick Spence '08**, **Jack Squiers '08**, and **Philip**

Tarpley '08 were among the 103 candidates in Texas selected on the basis of SAT and ACT scores as part of the Arts Recognition and Talent Search.

Approximately 2,600 students were nominated nationally (41 from the Metroplex area). Application is by invitation only.

To be considered further, candidates must submit a variety of materials, including essays, self-assessments, secondary school reports, and transcripts. Candidates are evaluated on their academic achievement, personal characteristics, leadership and service activities, as well as their essay.

In late March, approximately 500 semifinalists are chosen by an independent, national committee of educators convened by the Commission on Presidential Scholars.

Six to twenty semifinalists are identified for each state/jurisdiction by the review committee. The number of semifinalists identified per state/jurisdiction is based on a proportionate number of test takers for that state.

In April, the Commission on Presidential Scholars makes the final selection of the 121 students. One young man and one young woman are chosen from each state, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of

Puerto Rico, and from families of U.S. citizens living abroad. In addition, up to 15 students are chosen at large.

Michael Montoya '07 and **Jim von der Heydt '92** are Cistercian's previous Presidential Scholars.

New talent Young monks at the heart of new crop of teachers and staff

This year, a large crop of new faces — including four young monks and four lay persons — appeared in Cistercian's hallways. A couple of them looked eerily familiar.

"By a mysterious process I have been living out several of Cistercian's aspects: as a student, a lay teacher, and now as a monk," said **Br. Stephen Gregg '01**, who taught at the school as Andrew

Gregg, two years ago. He is now teaching Latin in Form II.

"What makes Cistercian special is this experience of continuity and stability."

Another familiar face belongs to Carolina Pruitt, daughter of the esteemed and beloved Dr. Tom Pruitt. As assistant to the director of development, Pruitt enjoys "organizing alumni events with Jennifer Rotter and Michelle Prengle."

The new lay teachers include Jorge Santamaria, Tim Foxsmith, and J.P. Walsh. Santamaria and Foxsmith teach Spanish in Forms V through VIII.

FRESH FACES (Top, left to right): **Jorge Santamaria**, **JP Walsh**, **Carolina Pruitt**, and **Tim Foxsmith**. (Bottom, left to right): **Br. Nathanael Frei**, **Br. Ambrose Strong**, **Br. Thomas Esposito**, and **Br. Stephen Gregg**.



Presidential institutions

Texas schools with the most Presidential Scholar candidates in 2008

School	Number of candidates
Cistercian Prep (175)	5
Westlake HS* (2,442)	5
Allen HS (3,621)	4
St. Mark's (360)	4
Plano East HS (2,588***)	3
Plano HS (2,576***)	3
TAMS** (378***)	3

High school enrollment in parentheses.

* Austin, Texas

** Texas Academy of Mathematics & Sciences is located at the University of North Texas in Denton

*** Grades 11-12 only.

Santamaria, who previously taught at Lawton Chiles High School in Tallahassee, Florida, brings an “enthusiasm and passion for the Spanish language.”

“As far as I’m concerned,” said Foxsmith, who taught at UT Arlington and Tarrant County College before coming to Cistercian, “one of my main tasks is not just to teach the students Spanish but to show them ways to care for others who are less fortunate.”

Walsh comes to Cistercian from Hockaday. He teaches English Lab in Form I and coaches varsity soccer as well as Middle School cross country and baseball.

A Jesuit graduate, Walsh brings to Cistercian an innate “ability to relate to the boys.”

Br. Ambrose Strong, who teaches religion in Form IV, appreciates his students’ “gift for living joyfully as young people ... and their fervent desire to deepen their faith lives.”

“The combination of me being both young and a monk,” said Br. Nathanael Frei, who is teaching religion in Form II, “appeals to the boys. Last year they came to know Cistercian monks through Fr. Julius [Leloczky], and now they have two young, American monks (Br. Stephen as well) teaching them.”

“Outside of class,” said Br. Nathanael, who is an outstanding athlete in his own right, “I’m able to talk sports, make jokes with them, etc., such that they appear to have an active interest in me beyond simply being their religion teacher.”

“A highlight for me,” said Br. Thomas Esposito, who teaches religion in Form III, “has been my chance to assist coaching the 3rd Form soccer team.”

“I was very grateful for the chance to interact with the boys on an athletic level,” he explained. “The boys even gave me the nickname ‘Co-Bro-Toe,’ (Coach Brother Thomas).”

Community service fair Box founds multi-school community service fair

Over 300 high school students from local Catholic high schools attended the first annual Cistercian-Ursuline Community Service Fair at Ursuline Academy on January 30.

The brainchild of **Daniel Box '08**, the event attracted 41 service organizations, including well-known outfits such as

Voice of Hope, Central Dallas Ministries (represented by **Jeremy Gregg '97**), Catholic Charities, and Scottish Rite Hospital.

“It was awesome putting it all together,” admitted Box, who serves as the president of the Community Service Council at Cistercian.

“The idea was to inform and excite students about the opportunities available for community service,” Box said. “It also gave volunteer organizations the opportunity to promote their respective missions and to attract new volunteers.”

The fair was modeled on a college night where representatives set up tables from which they answer the questions of passers-by.

“My mother [Thelma Box] inspired my commitment to community service,” said Box, whose father passed away when he was just seven years old. “She has been a wonderful influence in the way she responded to my father’s death.”

“Performing service helps me feel like I am making a difference instead of feeling like a victim,” he added.

Fr. Aurel Mensáros 1934-2007

A man of music, patience & respect

Fr. Aurel, the form master of the Class of 1983, passed away last summer. In the fall, the class dedicated our contributions to the annual alumni Phonathon to Fr. Aurel’s memory.

This tribute inspired every member of our class to make a pledge in recognition of the special role Fr. Aurel played in our lives. In total, \$13,700 was raised. It gives us great joy to know that this sum will provide the funds for a full year of tuition for a student who might not otherwise be able to attend Cistercian.

Aurel Mensáros was born in 1934 in Gyula, Hungary to Illona Angyal and Colonel Andor Mensaros, a Hungarian military officer.

By the age of 10, Aurel was attending a Cistercian school, as was the family tradition. In November of 1944, Aurel’s father died tragically in the midst of the violent confusion of the Nazi’s retreat from their failed attempt to invade the Soviet Union.

The Soviet occupation of Hungary in the subsequent years proved tragic for Aurel’s family. Three family members were imprisoned by the Soviets, and one was beaten to death while in prison.

After graduating from high school in 1952, Aurel joined the Cistercian Order and began studying cello at the Budapest Academy of Music. After the Hungarian Revolution of 1956, Aurel studied in Paris and in Rome, where he completed his doctorate. It was here that he was called by Anselm Nagy, the Abbot of Our

Lady of Dallas Abbey at the time, to come and teach at Cistercian Prep School.

The Class of '83 first came to know Fr. Aurel in his music class during Second Form. The following year he was assigned as the new form master for our class, which at the time was being expanded to two sections.

While we may not have been the *most* difficult class that a form master ever faced, we are all well aware that we gave Fr. Aurel and our other teachers their fair share of challenges. Yet his love and patience always persisted.

“The words patience and respect come to mind,” said Michael Arras of Fr. Aurel. “We put him through a great deal as young adolescents but he never gave up on us. He stood up for us and never condemned us. He believed in us.”

“He cared for us as another parent,” Tom Moore added. “At our 20th reunion, he still had distinct memories of issues and challenges that he faced with each one of us, and how these were often learning opportunities for us.”

Personally, I had the unique opportunity to know Fr. Aurel through his part-time ministry at Mary Immaculate Parish in Farmers Branch, where I grew up. His thoughtful homilies and many friendships endeared him to this congregation.

May he know the fullness of God’s Love, and may we his students continue to honor his memory.

— Rod Walter, Jr. '83

Special honor

Squiers earns Cistercian's second Davey O'Brien Award

Jack Squiers '08 was announced as the recipient of the 2007 Davey O'Brien High School Scholarship during a luncheon at The Fort Worth Club on January 22, 2008.

It is just the second time that a Cistercian student has received the prestigious award. **Robert Schoenvogel '96** received the honor in 1996.

Squiers will receive a \$20,000 scholarship from the Davey O'Brien Foundation.



Jack Squiers '08 (left) and David O'Brien, Jr.

Winners are chosen on the basis of scholastic achievements, community service, character, leadership, and varsity sports participation.

Squiers is a National Merit Semifinalist and recipient of the Saint Bernard Gold Award, the highest honor Cistercian bestows on a student. He serves as vice

president of the student council and has spent the last two summers conducting research at UT Southwestern Medical Center.

Squiers also participates in three varsity sports: football, swimming, and baseball.

Math campaigns MS triumphs at Mathcounts, US 4th at Rice tourney

Cistercian placed five Middle School students in the top ten of the local MathCounts championship at UTA and advanced to the state championship for the 11th year in a row.

Will Squiers '12, earned third place, **Joseph Andrews '12** fourth place, **Paul Seitz '12** seventh place, **Jon Erickson '12** eighth place, and **Harry McGraw '13** tenth place.

Cistercian's Upper School Math Team placed fourth overall in the sweepstakes at this year's Rice High School Math Tournament in Houston.

Travis Sandy '08 placed first in the Calculus contest and finished fourth in the Advanced Topics. **Lance Lenzen '08** took second in the Advanced Topics.

On January 19, Cistercian hosted its first-ever Upper School math contest.

Over 50 students from nine schools attended, including

JIM & LYNN MORONEY AWARD

A meaningful evening at the Mo

David Stewart '74 reflects on gifts from kidney donor and Cistercian

The 16th annual Moroney Awards at the Tower Club on January 25, brought the usual laughs, but also some tears in a meaningful evening that honored **David Stewart '74** as the distinguished alumnus of 2008.

Jim Bloodgood '74 introduced Stewart as the Moroney Award recipient for serving as the founding editor of *The Informer* and for the last eight years as the primary force behind *The Continuum*.

But Stewart did not escape ribbing from Bloodgood, especially for his punctuality, frugality, and athleticism.

In describing Stewart's athleticism, Bloodgood scratched his head and could come up with only one word, "tall."

Bloodgood also introduced a special guest, Beth Bontempo, who donated her kidney to

Stewart on Dec. 18 (see story on p. 23). The nearly 150 guests stood to show their appreciation for her incredible generosity.

"Thanks to Beth," Bloodgood said, "Da-

vid will be able to attend many more Moroney Award dinners."

In his remarks, Stewart choked back emotion as he expressed his gratitude to those who made the transplant possible, especially "my donor Beth, my wife Katherine, and my medical guru **Steve Johnston '71**."

He suggested that timing and Fr. Denis' leadership played a key role in the number of Moroney Award winners from the Class of 1974.

"The school was putty in our hands in the early seventies," Stewart said. "This would not be true for later classes."

"Fr. Denis," he added, "also showed us what vision and attention to detail can accomplish."

Stewart pointed out that while Fr. Denis often had to make difficult and unpopular decisions as headmaster during the seventies, he has, of late, become one of the school's most beloved teachers.

At last year's ring ceremony, over half the juniors gave him a bear hug as they received their ring from him.

Stewart recalled discussing the phenomenon recently with the abbot who admitted, "I am not accustomed to being popular."

"Being on the receiving end of so many blessings," Stewart concluded, "from Beth Bontempo, my wife Katherine and Steve Johnston to Fr. Denis, my family and friends, I am humbled and grateful beyond words."

"These givers have set the bar very high and their gifts will inspire me and many others for a long time to come."



MO FUN (Left) Jim Bloodgood '74 hands David Stewart '74 the Jim and Lynn Moroney Award as the 2008 distinguished alumnus of the year. (Above) The Stewart family — (l-r) Daniel Stewart '08, Katherine Stewart, Ian Stewart '16, David Stewart, Peter P. Stewart, and Sarah Stewart — is all smiles after the program.

Photos by Jim Reisch



teams from Greenhill, Hockaday, Oakridge, Parish Episcopal, St. Marks, and Ursuline.

The faculty composed problems and Upper School math team members volunteered their time to help create a successful event.

Capital campaign Construction begins on Upper School renovation project

Construction begins March 15 on the first major addition to the Upper School building since it was first constructed in 1967.

The project, which is scheduled to be ready for use on August 15, will add two new junior classrooms (one of which will be suspended), remodel the college counseling area, add an elective classroom (seminar room), and replace three offices with two form master offices (slightly larger).

One regular-size office and two larger offices for four people will also be added.

The project includes remodeling the lobby of the west (old) gym into a spirit store and digital photography lab.

CLASS SUSPENDED The additions to the Upper School will include a junior classroom that will be suspended over an entrance (shown below).



Photo by Jim Reich



Alumni art finds a home

Kelly and Buck Smith gift funds purchase of alumni work

Cistercian has received a special gift from Kelly and **Buck Smith '71** specifically for the purpose of purchasing alumni artwork, as well as landscaping and beautification services from alumni for the campus.

One landscaping project has already been completed — the beautiful rework of the Abbey Courtyard — designed by **Robert Bellamy '71** and constructed by **Peter Godat '78**.

Several pieces of art have been added to new gallery spaces in both the Science Building and in

the Library Foyer.

A series of 16 black and white photographs, entitled *Pilgrimage*, taken and framed by **Hunter Darrouzet '02**, highlight the space upstairs in the Science Building, while five new Audubon-inspired lithographs by **Billy Hassell '74** are displayed outside the Biology Lab classroom.

In addition, the new gallery space in the Library Foyer was given by the Class of '97 in memory of classmate **Mark Cochran '97**, and seven of Cochran's color photographs are displayed there.

Cistercian plans to continue to add to its alumni artwork collection and would like to rotate work throughout the campus.

noteworthy

■ **100 percenters** Behind the leadership of class agent **Brent Bulger '83**, the Class '83 has reached 100 percent participation for the Phonathon — for the second time. No other class has reached 100 percent even once. This year, the class paid tribute to the Fr. Aurel Mensaros, who passed away over the summer (see story on page 5).

■ **Homecoming auction** The Cistercian Alumni Association is pleased to report that the Homecoming 2007 Silent Auction raised \$40,000. The funds will go to the Coach Hillary Scholarship and to add to the growing **Mark Cochran '97** Scholarship that is close to being endowed. Samantha Durst and Robin Springer led the efforts of the many volunteers and supporters who made this special event possible.

■ **Three novices join the abbey** Br. Anthony (Ryan Bigney) and Br. John (Paul Bayer) took the novice habit on August 19. Currently, the Abbey has eleven brothers preparing for the priesthood.

■ **Matching gifts** Look for details in the mail on The Moroney Family's generous matching gift challenges to alumni.



(Top) A suite of prints by Billy Hassell '74 graces a corridor in the Science Building. (Above) Color photos, including "Sunrise at Phantom Ranch," by the late Mark Cochran '97 are exhibited in the new display space in the library's foyer.

Laying a foundation

Between 1955 and 1958, the newly arrived Cistercians helped found the University of Dallas, carved out a piece of land, and built a monastery.

By Brian Melton '71

Editor's note: This is the third in an occasional series of stories celebrating the Cistercian's 50 years in Texas.

By 1955, things finally seemed to be going right for the beleaguered Hungarian Cistercians. Behind them lay two intensely traumatic experiences: first, their harrowing escape from Soviet authorities back home, and second, the bitter disagreement with their own abbot general from Rome, Sighard Kleiner. His autocratic, imperious orders for them — to live a life of contemplative farm work and prayer at the tiny Spring Bank Monastery in Wisconsin — sat about as well as the forced Soviet suppression of their beloved abbey back home in Zirc (pronounced “Zeerts”), Hungary.

Ahead of them lay a glittering invitation from no less an eminence than the newly-appointed Bishop of the Dallas/Fort Worth diocese, Thomas K. Gorman — come to Dallas and help lift a brand-new project, the fledgling University of Dallas, off the ground.

Bishop Gorman's awareness of the Cistercians came from the Sisters of Saint Mary of Namur, who operated several Catholic schools throughout Texas and were the driving force behind creating the new University of Dallas. Already impressed by the performance reports of two Cistercians (Frs. George Ferenczy and Odo Egres) recruited to teach at the sisters' local secondary schools that previous autumn, Gorman saw definite dividends in encouraging the monks to move en masse from Wisconsin to Dallas. And many of the monks saw advantages in getting out of snowbound Wisconsin and away from frosty Kleiner.

Simply put, the monks needed jobs and Gorman needed teachers. The match seemed made in heaven. But as the Cistercians were about to find out, even providence had its limits.

Not that there was anything to complain about when it came to their new digs in Texas. February found the first seven monks (Frs. Damian Szödényi, Thomas Fehér, Lambert Simon, Benedict Monostori, George, Christopher Rábay, and Odo) living and working at Our Lady of Victory in Fort Worth and several other parishes and schools throughout Dallas. And when Fr. Anselm Nagy came down from Wisconsin in the spring, he established residence at the former Bishop Lynch's stately mansion on Dallas's tony Swiss Avenue (4946), which became the unofficial gathering place of his new little flock.

Even better, permission for a Cistercian residence in Dallas came straight from the Holy See and sailed effortlessly through the diocesan attorney's office in March, as did the incipient monastery's successful incorporation in the State of Texas. And in June, at the Order's request, Fr. Anselm was finally officially appointed “Vicar of the Abbot of Zirc” by the Holy See, thus giving him authority to act as leader for the refugee Hungarian Cistercians.

Nevertheless, challenges loomed.

The first came in April when, in a surprise move, the Sisters of Namur (the original proponents and prime movers behind the University of Dallas), backed out of the deal, leaving the monks nervous about the university's teaching prospects (see “Mothers, and sisters, of invention” on page 12).

Concerns also surrounded how the monks would staff the university. While virtually all of the Hungarians wanted to put Spring Bank and its lifestyle behind them, some were already settled into productive routines elsewhere in the U.S. and were hesitant to move to Texas — especially for the vague promise of a university that existed only in blueprints. And despite Anselm's new authority, he lacked the desire simply to order his little flock to Dallas. But happily, most of the priests felt no reluctance whatsoever about the move.

Fr. Benedict, for one, was delighted to shake the Wisconsin snow off his cassock. He looked forward to the change in scenery and professed jubilation about their future prospects. “For many of us and for me in particular,” he recalled recently, “there was no sense of desperation. It was a joyful time, a time of possibilities and expectation, full of planning and readiness. We were looking at the future, not the past, and personally, I was more than ready. Then again,” he added with a laugh, “we were young and foolish.”

Assimilating into Dallas

The exodus took place gradually over the course of months, as monks arrived individually or in small groups of two or three. They were quickly assigned housing at a Sisters of Namur school, or a local parish, or later the house on Swiss Avenue, which officially became the first Cistercian house in Texas on May 19, 1955, with solemn vespers and benediction by Bishop Gorman.

Fr. Melchior Chladek was one of those lucky priests assigned to live at Swiss Avenue. Although ordained in Milwaukee in 1955, he nevertheless chose to perform his first Mass at the new residence, one day after the official opening. His decision was symbolic, a deliberate statement that his new life had finally begun.

“For me, my new priestly life and my teaching vocation were now underway in my new home,” he said. “It seemed appropriate to celebrate with my very first Mass in Dallas.”

As the youngest priest in the community, Melchior found himself “low man on the totem pole,” tending to many of the various subordinate jobs that helped support the monks in their new community, including serving as errand boy and as Fr. Anselm’s unofficial administrator. Inexplicably, Melchior’s wide-eyed youth was also seen as a perfectly logical qualification to serve as the house’s general chauffeur.

“I was just 24 years old when they handed me the keys to a 1948 four-door Packard, which we received as a donation,” Melchior said. “The hood was miles long and it had whitewalls and an automatic shift, too, which was new and unusual at the time. One afternoon, I was stopped by the police as I was coming back from biology lab at SMU where I was taking courses. The officer said he’d followed me for two miles on Central Expressway and wondered why I was in such a hurry. I told him I was trying to get back in time for choir and prayers. He was flabbergasted but fortunately, I was wearing my Roman collar and he let me go with a warning. I remember that vividly,” he chuckled.

Another aspect of their new life that took the Hungarians some getting used to: the sweltering Texas heat.

“It was a furnace,” Benedict recalled. “You stepped out from the house onto the concrete sidewalks in the middle of July and couldn’t believe the heat. Now, was this worse than Milwaukee in the middle of winter? I don’t know, but it was certainly extreme.”

Fine dining became an indulgence from the old country that aided their adjustment. And it was one evening, over Fr. Lambert’s dinner of genuine Hungarian Chicken Paprikash that the priests,

along with Kenneth Brasted (U.D.’s incoming president) and several board members, began laying out the new school’s schedule and curriculum.

“There was no more doubt about the reality of the university,” recalls Fr. Melchior. “While everyone was new to the whole planning process, a good deal of significant headway was made in the hours before dinner. And after that, all I remember was that the Americans asked for second and then third servings, so everything must have been running well! And while we adapted to a vastly different way of life from what we had known back home, we were excited and ready to begin.”



CHARTER FACULTY MEMBERS

**Fr. Benedict Monostori (left)
and Fr. Ralph March (who still
teaches at the university)
served on UD’s first faculty in 1956.**

Wrangling at Turkey Knob

While the Sisters of Namur created the concept of the University of Dallas, it was Bishop Gorman who brought it to reality. And to the surprise of no one who knew him well, he assumed the project from the sisters with undisguised zeal. A talented administrator with a strong sense of urgency, he quickly assembled a distinguished board of trustees to help him handle the massive undertaking.

Their first step — find a location — fast.

As originally planned by the sisters, the new university would have been located in the Victorian building occupied by Jesuit High School, at the corner of Oak Lawn and Blackburn, directly across from Dallas’ Holy Trinity Church. But under Gorman, the project’s scope expanded so greatly that the grand old edifice was deemed insufficient.

After considering more than 20 sites, the board settled on an unincorporated parcel of nearly 1,200 acres in west Dallas county known variously as “Turkey Knob” and also, due to its high elevation, “Signal Hill.” The land acquisition cheered Fr. Anselm as much as Bishop Gorman, because it meant that real jobs at U.D. were not far behind. But for Anselm, the acquisition also meant that he was one step closer to a permanent home for the Cistercians, and he wasted no time in negotiating for a slice of the acreage.

Blessed with patience and a solid vision of his desired outcome, Anselm was also a master negotiator. As Fr. Benedict wryly noted,

“Anselm could argue with the devil and still get what he wanted.” Plus, Anselm knew he had leverage: the bishop desperately needed experienced teachers who could step up quickly and serve the new university over the long term.

On February 4, 1956, groundbreaking ceremonies signaled the start of construction on the first buildings at the University of Dallas. Around that time, a confident Anselm went to Gorman’s board with a request that seemed eminently reasonable: fifty acres for the Cistercians, which would provide enough for the seclusion of a monastery and still be in proximity to the new university.

The board immediately countered with an offer of ten acres. Gorman, no slouch in the negotiating department himself, undoubtedly

sor, Abbot Denis Farkasfalvy. “The goal was to build a monastery in a remote and isolated area with no immediate neighbors. Fifty years ago, that was not a problem. Today, even though enormous development is taking place nearby, we are still in a remote and isolated area with no immediate neighbors. It was really a very good choice.”

The same architectural firm that designed several major buildings at U.D. was retained to begin drawing up plans for the first wing of the new monastery — 15 rooms, a small chapel, refectory, kitchen and office space, all equipped with central air conditioning, much to everyone’s relief. And even though the official deed to the property would not be handed over until autumn, the technicality was immaterial: “Our Lady of Dallas” was becoming reality.

But even with real estate and cultural challenges in the rear view mirror, the next challenge loomed as 1956 flowed into 1957 — staffing up for the University of Dallas, scheduled to open in a matter of months.

The clock is ticking

“I got the impression that everybody was scared, including me,” said Dr. Gene Curtsinger, describing the mood of the fledgling staff as they worked to assemble the university’s first-ever curriculum. A World War II veteran with a Ph.D. in English from Notre Dame, Curtsinger was hired to do double duty, serving as both U.D.’s first English department chair and academic dean. “I guess I overdid it on my job application, because I didn’t even know what an academic dean was.”

Any initial nervousness on his part was quickly soothed by the powerful, confident assurance projected by the Cistercians. “Fr. Ralph had given an impressive talk on Sartre in Milwaukee at Marquette that I happened to attend,” remembered Curtsinger. “So I was surprised to see him again and heartened to know that he, along with others, would be on our faculty.”

Curtsinger was even more impressed when he was invited to attend a dinner one weekend at the Swiss Avenue residence. “We sat around the table and the conversation roamed from English to Hungarian to French to German, complete with multilingual puns and intellectual asides that left me in the dust. I had complete admiration

for those men from that moment on. They weren’t beginners in the education field by any means; they were thoroughly bright professionals. You couldn’t always understand them,” he acknowledged with a chuckle, “but they knew what they were doing.”

While plans for the university progressed and construction continued feverishly on the new campus, negotiations with Bishop Gorman on an employment contract for the Cistercians were not keeping pace. Fr. Anselm grew increasingly nervous, aware that his bargaining strength ebbed every day. He also knew all too well that, while many of the monks had teaching experience back in Hungary and Rome, several lacked the degrees required for full professor positions in America.

“Prior Anselm was a skillful negotiator, especially given that he



felt the standing offer was eminently generous and threw his full support behind his board.

Anselm responded, not with another number, but with a strong justification for his request: the new Cistercian monastery, he explained, would be more than just a dorm for priests who taught at the university. Anselm envisioned a full-service monastery and as such, required facilities for novices and seminary students, eventually a secondary school (*gymnasium*, in the tradition of Zirc) and one day, a church that would perhaps even be combined with a parish.

The board responded with the observation that Jesuit High School managed to get by just fine with only ten acres. Anselm patiently pointed out that Cistercians were not carbon-copy Jesuits and reiterated that their order’s 900-plus year’s worth of monastic traditions called for space for permanent privacy and for developing extensive educational facilities. He then conceded that 40 acres might be sufficient.

Gorman nodded in agreement, the board approved, and it looked like the deal was done. But shortly thereafter, the bishop unilaterally lowered the offer to 35 acres and then finally delivered only 34 — “half in a flood plain and a veritable jungle,” noted Fr. Benedict. Nevertheless, Anselm was satisfied.

“The abbot’s decision not only stood the test of time, but in fact we now know just how lucky we were,” emphasized Anselm’s suc-

PIONEERING PROFESSORS
Several Cistercians can be seen in this 1956 photo of UD’s first faculty. Standing in the center to the right of the two sisters are (l-r) Fr. Ralph, Fr. Benedict, Fr. Christopher, Fr. Theodosius, and Fr. George. Fr. Odo is standing second from the right. Fr. Anselm is seated on the far right with Dr. Gene Curtsinger seated next to him. Fr. Damian and Fr. Louis are obscured.

was still so young at the time,” said Abbot Denis. “But the Cistercians had no money, status or backup support then. He was completely at the mercy of the university and, to a great degree, the contract he signed reflected that powerlessness. It was better than nothing,” Denis added quickly, “but it was by no means the perfect answer to their prayers, and he knew it all too well.”

Reluctantly, Anselm signed a group contract with the University of Dallas on June 23, 1956, and with that one pen stroke, nine Cistercian Hungarian monks were suddenly and exactly half the core faculty of eighteen teachers at the new institution (see box). Nevertheless, the contract terms left a bad taste in their mouths that lingered for years.

Anselm clearly had hopes that, as the monks grew into their positions and earned additional degrees, their pay would increase to reflect their expanding contributions. “That’s why Abbot Anselm suggested I go to Fordham for a degree in physics,” explained Fr. Benedict, “and I was glad to go and get it.” (He received his Ph.D in physics from Fordham in 1964 and headed up the physics department at U.D. as acting chairman (1962 to 1966) and as chairman (1971 to 1986).

But the hoped-for payoff failed to materialize until nearly 20 years later, when longtime Cistercian benefactor Bryan F. Smith, serving as U.D.’s chancellor and acting president (1976 to 1978), righted the ancient wrong and decreed competitive salaries for Cistercians a top priority.

Grumbles about pay inequities notwithstanding, the monks were much better off than they’d been a mere two years before, spinning their wheels in Wisconsin. With secure, if temporary, roofs over their heads, plans for a permanent home well underway and job opportunities both at U.D. and in various parishes aplenty, they were well on their way to a brighter future and to fulfilling their educational apostolate.

Who’ll stop the rain?

On Sunday, September 22, 1956, the University of Dallas opened its doors for business. And while the day was mercifully sunny, the year’s extended drought yielded to a soggy first semester for the 96 students and 18 teachers alike.

“Rain, rain and more rain,” recalled Curtsinger. “We had no sidewalks and after no rain for months, the mud just stuck like glue to the bottom of your shoes in layers. I’d walk from the car to my office and be seven inches taller.”

Fr. Damian, one of the first Cistercian monks to come to Dallas (and later first headmaster of Cistercian Preparatory School), taught philosophy and psychology that first year. He also served as U.D.’s first Dean of Men. However, his job description failed to encompass tasks like fetching a new pair of slacks for President Brasted, who

accidentally drove his car into a mud-swollen ditch and was forced to tramp to his office covered in muck.

“Damian was one of the most cultured men I’d ever met,” Curtsinger says. “His attitude was always great, but he was more accustomed to dealing with intellectual issues. But that’s not to say he didn’t have a streak of the dramatic in him. He came into my office one morning, waving around the recommended psychology text and refused to use it, declaring, ‘This is potty training!’ I told him, fine, teach what you want. And he did, and it was, of course, excellent.”

Fr. Damian continued to teach at the new university, but he quietly yet firmly declined the opportunity to serve another term as Dean of

Men. His ability to adapt to new situations was mirrored by the flexibility of his countrymen. But while the Hungarians were more than willing to adapt to American culture, they were steadfast about discipline and study routines.

“The Cistercians didn’t put up with any nonsense,” recalled Curtsinger. “Fr. Lambert taught chemistry, and if a student didn’t show up at 8 a.m., he’d go right over to the dorm and get him out of bed. And Fr. George always told me that if I needed to have any course staffed, just give him the textbook and a ten-minute head start and he could teach anything. And I believed him. He was smart enough to do it.”

Perhaps the most difficult adjustment for the Cistercians was adapting to what they perceived as a certain laxity about testing and student evaluation methods.

Fr. Benedict, in particular, remembered being “horried” by true/false and multiple choice quizzes. “Abomination! As a student in Hungary, you stood in front of a panel of teachers and answered the questions they put to you. Only in this way could the examiners be assured that the student knew the material. But in America, testing was simply

a guessing game. I never got used to it,” he said, adding with a chuckle, “and I still don’t like it.”

“The Cistercians simply had no experience with American traditions in higher education,” added U.D.’s associate provost and longtime historian Sybil Novinski, (also the energetic mother of five Cistercian Prep graduates). “So they perhaps had a little disdain for it at first, especially in high school, because they weren’t quite sure students were prepared. At first, that perception caused a few tensions between students and monks,” she admitted, “but it all worked out just fine, even with sorting through the ‘interesting’ language difficulties.”

“The Cistercians brought an international sophistication to this brand-new school out in the middle of nowhere,” she continued. “To be able to start a university with bright, educated monks, with traditions reaching back to the 11th century, was just amazing. The university’s intellectual reach and aspirations were strongly influenced by the Cistercians, and everyone knew that, even back then.”

UD’s “founding fathers”

Cistercian monks comprised one-half of the University of Dallas’s first faculty in 1956.

Fr. Damian Sződényi †

associate professor of philosophy and psychology and also served as dean of men

Fr. Anselm Nagy †

associate professor of theology

Fr. Benedict Monostori

instructor in philosophy and later, chair of the physics department

Fr. Christopher Rábay †

instructor in philosophy and theology

Fr. George Ferenczy †

assistant professor of languages and music

Fr. Louis Lékai †

associate professor of history

Fr. Odo Egres †

associate professor of philosophy and foreign languages

Fr. Ralph March

associate professor for foreign languages and music

Fr. Theodosius Demen †

instructor in physics and mathematics

† deceased

Curtsinger echoed Novinski's sentiment, "I'm sure we could have made it without them. We just would have been a lot dumber and slower. They were an amazing group of men."

Perhaps even more amazing were the events about to unfold back in Europe that would soon engender an entirely new challenge for their little monastery.

Revolution and renewal

Just one month and a day after U.D. opened, the October Revolution rocked Soviet-controlled Hungary. Within days, hundreds of thousands of refugees were streaming across Europe to new homes around the world. Fifteen of those refugees were Cistercians (including one high school student who later became a seminarian, priest and then headmaster of Cistercian Prep, Bernard Marton), who found themselves, after several nerve-wracking border crossings, in the safety of the west and Rome.

To Anselm, the unplanned migration was a providential blessing. In his mind, the fifteen newly arrived seminarians were perfectly placed to continue their educations, gain their priestly ordination and when the time came, emigrate to Dallas and to become teachers, and not just at the University of Dallas. Because by the time the young monks were ready, he intended that the secondary school he envisioned would be ready, too.

As a result, Anselm wasted no time in flying to Rome in 1957 for what Abbot Denis called "a recruiting trip." At the time, he was not amused.

"When I crossed the border," Abbot Denis recalled, "people were still shooting at each other. Rome was on the itinerary, not America. Not yet, at least. And then Anselm comes into our meeting room and the first words out of his mouth were, 'Don't be afraid of America.' And I'm thinking to myself, 'We're trapped, he's not even asking us what we want to do, he's telling us what we will do and what will

Mothers (and sisters) of invention

The University of Dallas began as the brainchild of the Sisters of St. Mary of Namur

Founded by Cistercian Fr. Nicholas Joseph Minsart in 1819 near Namur, Belgium, the Sisters of St. Mary of Namur quickly established themselves as outstanding educators, organizers and missionaries, and began spreading their order throughout the world. But successful as they were, nothing could have prepared them for their arrival in — of all places — Waco, Texas, in 1873.

The oppressive heat, endless plague of insects on vast, dusty plains and serious lack of interest from locals spelled doom — only eight people attended their first organized High Mass in Waco, and an outbreak of yellow fever slowed their development work to a halt.

Nevertheless, the nuns gamely hung on and by 1952, they were operating seven schools throughout north Texas, and another 13 across the state. One school in particular, Our Lady of Victory Academy in Fort Worth, was bursting at the seams with new enrollments. The time seemed ripe to take their efforts to a new level and create a full four-year university, fully Catholic in heritage yet non-denominational in enrollment, with an integrated, coeducational student body.

The order's Superior, Mother Theresa Weber, called on Bishop Thomas K. Gorman and enthusiastically explained her idea for the new university. Just as enthusiastically, he accepted her offer to donate her order's services as administrators and teachers. And he welcomed her influential fundraising contacts throughout the Dallas lay community and their pledges to help get the project off the ground.

Meanwhile, entirely by coincidence, Fr. George Ferenczy, one of the Hungarian Cistercians living at Spring Bank in Wisconsin, accepted a summer music workshop scholarship at Midwestern University in Wichita Falls. Through a mutual friend, George was introduced to the sisters and heard about their need for teachers at their schools, as well as their ambitious plans for a new university. George immediately contacted his fellow priests back at Spring Bank and said, in no uncertain terms, "This is where we're supposed to be. This is the place."

By 1955, the Cistercians were making their way to Texas and preparing to become university professors and teachers at the order's secondary schools. But behind the scenes, the sisters were be-

ginning to second-guess themselves. Yes, their new enterprise, now called "The University of Dallas," had the support of the entire diocese and the expertise of the Cistercians. And yes, the sisters had done an incredible job of raising funds, acquiring land, finding additional teaching staff and even hiring a qualified president.

But every time they pondered the scale of their new enterprise, it seemed to grow tenfold. The sheer scope of their plan for a college has bloomed beyond their wildest dreams — and outgrown their capacity to effectively control the project with their available resources.

After much internal debate and discussion with their Mother General back in Belgium, the decision was made: ask Bishop Gorman to take over the project. He described the pivotal meeting: "Two weeping nuns came to see me and said, 'Here, take it, the responsibility, the \$2 million-plus raised, the thousand acres, the Our Lady of Victory accreditations, the president we hired, and our continued service.'"

But while the bishop agreed to take over the project, the sisters remained to carry on their missionary work of teaching and administering for the next several generations. When the University of Dallas officially opened on September 24, 1956, four sisters were among the original faculty and administration. Sister Mary Ellen served as the university's first Dean of Women until 1971. Sister Mary Margaret served as university Registrar until 1973. The first librarian, Sister Martin Joseph, served until 1961 and still tells wonderful stories about trying to collect, organize and shelve hundreds of books in time for the official opening. Sister Francis Marie served the longest term, teaching English until 1985. And while not an original faculty member, Sister St. John Begnaud taught English and developed the programs for seminarians, retiring in 2001.

While the sisters may have relinquished overall control of the project, their influence remained strong, creating a legacy that continues to permeate the spirit of the university today. Their founding concept, administrative expertise and spiritual wisdom continue to guide students, faculty and staff in the tradition set forth by the original Belgian Sisters of Saint Mary of Namur.

— Brian Melton '71

happen six years from now. Does this fellow have a crystal ball? Well, as it turns out, of course, he did, and most of us wound up in Dallas, quite happily so.”

A more surprising and unlikely prediction would have been the full and unconditional support for the Dallas-based Cistercian refugees by the icy Abbot General Sighard Kleiner. Yet in a shocking reversal, that’s exactly what happened.

What goes around, comes around

In a letter to the worldwide Cistercian Order, Abbot General Sighard Kleiner appeared to have undergone a complete change of heart and was now urging every Cistercian community within the order to help the beleaguered monks behind the Iron Curtain with whatever support could be mustered. Inherent in his letter was the message, “Whatever differences we had in the past with Zirc and any of its monks, wherever they may be, are done and finished with. We are all on the same team.”

This total about-face was welcome news on two fronts: one, it meant that bridges formerly thought burned with their superior were, in fact, intact. Two, Kleiner’s global call to action took financial pressure off the Dallas Cistercians, who were squirreling away every nickel in order to build their monastery as they also worried about sending desperately-needed financial support back to Zirc.

Abbot Denis attributed Kleiner’s change of heart to his practicality and acumen. “Kleiner was enough of a politician to see the handwriting on the wall. The Dallas Cistercians were making good things happen. It would have been foolish for him to continue in opposition, and he was no fool.”

So it was with high spirits and higher hopes that construction finally began on “Our Lady of Dallas” monastery on March 30, 1957, on the land granted by Bishop Gorman the year before. But even given Kleiner’s new-found amiability, it was a shock when the Abbot General agreed to make a special trip from Rome to Dallas for the express reason of attending the monastery’s official opening ceremony on February 9, 1958.

Bishop Gorman presided over the ceremony and with typical grace, welcomed Abbot General Kleiner warmly.

Upon his arrival, Kleiner shocked the monks again with his hearty optimism about the monastery’s prospects. All the things he had previously objected to — including the desire for independence and to open a novitiate — were dismissed with a wave of the hand. He eagerly approved of Masses with Gregorian chants, common prayer of all the hours of the Divine Office, and readings and meditations in common. And it was his positive influence that hastened the slow wheels of church politics, helping the little monastery achieve full abbey status on November 13, 1963 — a (relatively) short five years after opening.

Kleiner’s unabashed approval marked a fitting and providential coda to a long and winding journey for the Hungarian Cistercians. Not many would have given fair odds on the establishment of a European Catholic monastic religious order on the outskirts of

a burgeoning western American city not particularly renowned for religious, much less political, tolerance. Few more would have bet on the enterprise’s long term success.

Perhaps the arrival of the Cistercians at the seemingly destitute hills of what was once called “Turkey Knob” was happenstance, a random confluence of events that just happened to lead to the establishment of a major Texas university and one of America’s greatest secondary schools. Perhaps the events were pre-ordained: As University of Dallas President Donald Cowan (1962-1977) simply yet eloquently said, “There is a spirit that walks these hills.”

Providence or plain luck notwithstanding, there’s no doubt that the single-minded determination of the Hungarian monks to es-



SURVEYING THE LAND
(l-r) Fr. Aloysius Kimecz, Fr. Benedict Monostori, Fr. Henry Marton, and Fr. Melchior Chladek take a stroll on the Cistercian’s new corner of Texas (circa 1957).

tablish a meaningful, relevant educational institution had delivered them from state-led oppression to a new land of wide-open opportunity. And by rededicating their lives to what they knew truly mattered — education for the fulfillment of spiritual and intellectual longing — their example continues to imbue generations

of idealistic American students with a strong sense of moral responsibility and personal dignity in a boundless quest for virtue, knowledge and self-improvement.

A plaque in the Constantin Memorial Garden on the University of Dallas campus sums up the continuing Cistercian contribution to the North Texas community:

Cistercian Fathers of Our Lady of Dallas
Fleeing from persecution
Hungarian monks came to assist at the foundation
Of the University of Dallas
And to build their monastery and school
Adjacent to the campus
Their motto “To Enkindle and to Enlighten”

Reminds us of the inspiration they have provided in the search for Truth.

email: melt0032@hotmail.com



Senior stress test

Cistercian's program culminates in the first semester senior year as students learn to cope with an all-honors curriculum, college applications, and much more • By David E. Stewart

"ABANDON HOPE ALL YE WHO ENTER HERE," reads twin signs above the doors to Cistercian's two senior classrooms. Dante's frightening description of hell has been embraced by seniors at Cistercian for years. *The Inferno*, after all, plays a central role in the seniors' World Literature class, and the line captures the feelings of many seniors as they struggle through the most challenging months that Cistercian has to offer.

As the culmination of the school's rigorous curriculum, the first semester's all-honors program differentiates Cistercian from most every other private school in the country.

(Note: Magnet schools, such as the Texas Academy of Mathematics and Sciences, on the campus of the University of North Texas in Denton, require all college-level courses. However, the most prestigious East-Coast prep schools do not.)

At Cistercian, every senior must negotiate a gauntlet of four college-credit courses (Calculus, World Literature, Government, and a science). In addition, they take a foreign language, Theology, and an elective. The schedule allows for virtually no "down time" — two periods for extra-curricular activities and a form master's period. Time simply doesn't allow for a "free period" or a study hall.

Like seniors across the country, Cistercian seniors also struggle with the pressures of the college application process, athletics, social activities, leadership responsibilities, and extra-curricular activities.

"If they weren't stressed," emphasized Greg Novinski, form master of the Class of 2008, "I would be worried. By 'stressed' I mean that they should have full, busy, meaningful lives that push them to grow both individually and as a class."

In the last few weeks of October, stress levels rise precipitously, even by senior standards.

In addition to the first quarter's last round of tests, a *Tempest* recitation, and a major Theology paper, many seniors are making final preparations for homecoming, some are wrapping up college applications to meet the November 1 deadline for early decision, and a slew are working to complete an edition of *The Informer*. Community service leaders also are preparing for the Down Syndrome Guild Dance.

Plus, 15 seniors from this year's senior class are playing varsity football, and another 10 are running cross-country. Many, of course, are engaged in a combination of sports and extra-curricular activities.

On most mornings prior to the first class, seniors would be huddled together in groups discussing a homework assignment or preparing for a test. But this October morning was different.

"Mr. Artz passed away over the weekend," announced Novinski.

CIRCLE OF SENIOR SUPPORT Jourdain Artz '08 (second from right) is surrounded by classmates (l-r) John Lancaster '08, Warren Loegering '08, and J.T. Hunter '08.

Everyone had known that Beryl Artz, father of Jourdain Artz '08, was suffering from cancer. But there had been hope.

"I want you to keep Mr. Artz, Jourdain, and the Artz family in your prayers," Novinski said. "It took a lot of strength for Jourdain to be here today. But please be considerate of him. Jourdain does not want a lot of attention right now. Please try to make his day as normal as possible."

"I almost got sick to my stomach when I heard," remembered Daniel Box '08.

Now, amidst the many pressures of one of the busiest weeks of Cistercian's most menacing semester, a real-life tragedy had taken center stage.

"STRESS IS A NATURAL PART OF LIFE," suggested Betty Sitton, who teaches Chemistry to the seniors. It "kicks in when unusual or challenging events or tasks turn up in our lives. It's not necessarily bad, and provides an important (and necessary) life lesson in how to handle stress positively and gracefully."

"Watching and taking in daily conversation with these guys," commented Peter Saliga, who serves as the assistant college counselor, "tells me that 'stress' is sometimes simply the bandwagon emotion that they feel they should be affected by during first semester."

Saliga estimated, along with 21 percent of the faculty surveyed, that about half of the seniors are "stressed" during the first semester.

"I would place the number much, much lower if I were to define 'stress' pathologically," he added.

Most faculty members, however, believed the majority of seniors were "stressed," by one definition or another.

"You don't get a quality education without stress," agreed Wells McMurray, college counselor at Greenhill. "[Our] seniors have real aspirations so their stress level is going to be reasonably high, but not pathological."

The vast majority of Cistercian teachers and students surveyed (95 percent and 97 percent, respectively) believed that senior stress levels stem primarily from a confluence of factors, including the college application process, the academic load, athletics, leadership positions, extra-curricular activities, plus parental as well as self-imposed expectations.

Students and teachers agreed that the college application process ranked as the single most important of the many factors contributing to senior stress levels.

"The media has placed such emphasis on the college process," said Casey Gendason, a college counselor at St. Mark's. "It is difficult today not to be curious and anxious about how the process will turn out. As a result, there is a normal and expected level of anxiety."

To reduce the stress levels surrounding the college application process, St. Mark's college counselors now casually meet with sophomores and their parents to introduce themselves and to outline the college counseling program.

In addition to college counselors, each student has an advisor with whom they meet daily. An advisory usually has a student-to-teacher ratio of 10 to 1. Greenhill and Hockaday have similar student-to-teacher counseling ratios.

Cistercian took a major step in reducing the stress of applying to college when Headmaster Fr. Peter Verhalen hired the school's first,

"I saw how down my brother and sister were. I could tell by their faces. I had to step up and let them know that things were going to be fine."

— Jourdain Artz '08

full-time college counselor in 2006. Janet Bucher-Long makes herself available at any time to help students research colleges and scholarships as well as to work on essays and applications.

Interestingly, seniors and their teachers disagree on the next most important factor that contributes to senior stress levels.

Those students surveyed believe that senior coursework contributes nearly as much to their stress levels as the college application process.

Teachers, on the other hand, believed that parental-imposed expectations ranked second to the college application process and ahead of senior coursework and self-imposed expectations.

Ninety-seven percent of the seniors surveyed said that the senior coursework was either much more difficult or more difficult than junior-level courses. But they believed that Cistercian's supportive faculty helped them to manage the load. Eighty-seven percent of the seniors surveyed believed that Cistercian teachers are either extremely or fairly supportive.

They also noted that a newly instituted senior calendar had prevented too many tests or papers from piling up on one day. Many, however, think it could be fine-tuned to account for athletic, college application, and extra-curricular constraints.

"I HAD TWO DAYS TO MAKE A DECISION," recalled Jourdain Artz. "I had spent all summer getting ready for football. I was out there having fun and was in great condition. I had thought my dad was getting better.

"Then the doctor told us he was getting worse."

Artz pulled aside friend J.T. Hunter '08 during two-a-days.

"I am thinking about helping my family out and working after school," Artz said.

"He was going to start at linebacker," Hunter remembered. "He was facing a really hard decision."

"Do what you have to do," advised Hunter. "Family comes first."

Football coach Steve McCarthy also fully supported Artz in his decision.

So, instead of hunting down running backs, Artz began "searching for something to keep the rest of my world from falling apart."

"I prayed consistently for God to guide me and give me strength," Artz wrote in his college essay. "I came to realize that my father not only held up my world, but also my mother's, my brother's, and my sister's worlds.

"I recognized how selfish I was being in concentrating on myself alone. Who would secure my mother and my siblings?

"I was the answer."

Suddenly, he stopped feeling sorry for himself.

"I saw how down my brother and sister were," he reflected recently. "I could tell by their faces. I had to step up and let them know that things were going to be fine. The world does not stop."

"I knew we would need an additional kid shuttle since my mom was always at the hospital," he explained. "I took Jacqueline to her dance classes and piano lessons. I filled in for my dad

at Nico's sporting events."

"I cooked dinner, stayed at home, and became the man around the house, doing chores like painting our backyard fence. I even became involved in my dad's business."

"I gave up time with my friends and football gladly so that I could help," he added. "As a result, we have grown so much closer."

Artz also took a couple of after-school jobs to help supplement the family's income. Then there were the rigors of the first semester senior year.

"I heard it was going to be really tough," Artz admitted. "But I didn't think it would be as tough as it was."

"As soon as I got into the first semester," he said, "I really felt bad for the guys who were playing football."

"Almost anyone else would have shut down under those circumstances," suggested Hunter. "But Jourdain remained upbeat and didn't seem to change."

By working hard on his studies, selling sports gear at Sun & Ski Sports for 15 hours a week, answering phones at Velocity for 10 hours

a week, cooking, and shuttling kids, Jourdain was growing up, fast.

"AT GREENHILL, WE NORMALLY CAP THE NUMBER OF Advanced Placement courses that a student can take at three," said Wells McMurray, college counselor at Greenhill. "Our philosophy is that the students are out there trying to do more than enough as it is and they can't contribute to other activities if they're taking too AP courses."

"Most of the time, students make their mark, not because of the AP courses they take," he said, "but because of the things they accomplish outside of the classroom."

At Cistercian, the single-track, all-honors program offers no curricular flexibility, so activities are forced to take a back seat.

The Cistercian students surveyed believe their work on college applications suffers the most from the course work, followed by their social life, athletics, activities/publications/clubs, and leadership positions.

Dr. Cambria Reinsborough, a senior parent, science teacher, and yearbook sponsor, has made adjustments to the *Exodus* production schedule to accommodate the seniors' heavy academic load.

"When I started, it was a senior-run publication," explained Reinsborough. "But it wasn't working."

"When things get rough for the seniors, you can read it in their body language. You know that there are some weeks when you cannot require one more thing of them."

So she began to implement changes. More sophomores and juniors were given responsibilities and the workload was spread over a longer period of time.

"There is no section with just seniors running it," she said. "We always have juniors and sophomores who share the responsibilities so that I can be sure that we meet our deadlines."

"We also begin working on the yearbook nearly a year before it is published with sophomores and juniors (the incoming juniors and seniors) to take some of the pressure off the following year."

"This year, we even added a third editor-in-chief for the same reason," Reinsborough added. "Now it is not such an overwhelming job."

Juniors have made a significant impact this year on *Reflections*, the school's literary magazine.

"Historically, most of our literary and artistic works were submitted in the second semester," said Jackie Greenfield, faculty sponsor for *Reflections*.

The difference this year has been the considerable art leftover from last year, the Inspirations literary contest in the fall, and a set of junior editors-in-chief.

LAYING IT ON THE LINE Exodus faculty sponsor Dr. Cambria Reinsborough has made adjustments to accommodate the academic load of her senior editors (l-r) Connor Heard '08, Calder Reinsborough '08, and Clay Gimenez '08.

Photo by Jim Reisch

The Continuum



"For the first time, in the fall semester, junior chiefs have already laid out some of the spreads and have submitted sample files to the printer," gushed Greenfield. "Never before have we had proofs of a few pages from the printer this early."

While no grades are earned by working on activities such as the literary magazine or yearbook, students learn many valuable lessons above and beyond image-editing and layout skills.

"I think the most valuable lesson is that working together requires capitalizing on the strengths of each editor," Greenfield said. "One brings technical expertise; one brings a positive attitude; and one brings joy."

"WE START AT A SPRINT," said Fr. Gregory Schweers who — like many teachers of the senior-curriculum — takes pride in preparing the students for what they will face in college and beyond. His World Literature class is considered by many to be the senior year's most difficult subject. (Sixty-one percent of the students who responded to our survey said senior English was "much more difficult" than junior English.)

Beginning the year with a meticulous analysis of *The Inferno*, seniors quickly learn about much more than literature. They learn "survival skills" for college.

"I think they're ready to step up to a close approximation of the course work of college freshmen," asserted Fr. Gregory, who has taught seniors for more than 20 years. "If you can survive the first semester here, you'll have no problem in the first year of college."

While many students suffer lower than normal grades in the first quarter, Fr. Gregory continually reminds them that they can always find him in his office prior to the start of classes, at lunch, or after school (for those not playing a sport).

In Calculus, 13-year veteran Dr. Richard Newcomb teaches with an awareness of the diversity amongst the boys themselves.

"I place them into three groups," he said, "those that will take a third semester Calculus course in college, those that will repeat a first or second semester Calculus course in college, and those who will not take another math course."

"I see my job as keeping all the doors open for the boys since they don't know what they're going to major in or what career they'll enter."

"For college admissions, the all-honors curriculum is brilliant," said Bucher-Long. "Cistercian students have to be very capable in both the humanities and the sciences."

"On every single college application, the college counselor is asked about the difficulty of the student's curriculum," she added. "I check 'most rigorous' for every student."

Of the 35 members of the Class of 2006 who responded to a survey in the fall, 97 percent said they were either strongly prepared or completely prepared academically for college.

The same students were split down the middle on how the workload in college compared with that of Cistercian (40 percent said it was less, 20 percent the same, and 40 percent more). But

"Suddenly, things are no longer so black and white [senior year]. For perhaps the first time, [seniors] see past Hwy. 114 to a bigger, scarier world."

— Cart Weiland '04

most of them believed that the difficulty of college work was similar to that of Cistercian.

"THE SENIORS ARE DEALING with very significant issues of self-understanding and acceptance," said Fr. Peter, referring to the realities of being accepted or denied by colleges. "They also have to deal with keeping up with a group of talented peers, the anticipation of leaving home, the ability to satisfy parents and themselves."

"Both their parents and the school also hold high expectations of the seniors at a time when they are about to be on their own," he added, "so they are caught between high school and its rules and college and its freedom."

"I think a huge source of stress is located outside Cistercian," he suggested. "Dallas society looks for achievement, focuses on the material, the prestige, the outcome as the measure of one's worth and value."

Cistercian's religion classes, retreats, and homilies attempt to put these pressures in perspective.

"I really think, or would like to think," Fr. Peter added, "that the boys are generally more religious nowadays and therefore have a larger perspective on the trials of their lives and the resources they can draw on to face those trials."

"Through the religious program the boys are reminded again and again that their worth does not equal their achievement, that suffering has meaning and value, that they should be grateful regardless of the circumstances of their lives."

"Suddenly, things are no longer so black and white," noted Cart Weiland '04 about senior year. "For perhaps the first time, they see past Hwy. 114 to a bigger, scarier world."

For the Class of 2008, that scary world intruded abruptly and prematurely into the bubble of Cistercian life.

"As we began to realize what Jourdain was going through with his dad," commented Michael Massad '08, "we felt like we had nothing to complain about. It just couldn't compare to what he was dealing with."

"Through it all," said Hunter, "Jourdain stayed pretty strong. He came to school and never once showed that he was hurting. We knew he was staying strong for his family."

Cooperation and pride in the class grew to new levels.

"The seniors seem to define themselves by how well the class does," Bucher-Long emphasized, "not just the individual. So you often see teams of seniors going over material before classes begin. The level of cooperation is amazing."

Despite all the hardships of the first semester, nearly every member of the Class of 2008 achieved their highest grade point average of their high school career. (Artz earned a 4.0.)

Artz's example may have taught his classmates nearly as much as they were learning from their college-level courses.

"We all have hardships that we must overcome in order to grow," reflected Artz in his college essay. "These trials help us to figure out if we are the people we want to be or if we still need to develop."

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The Hawks shine in homecoming victory

"A couple of plays here and a couple of plays there," said Head Coach Steve McCarthy of the 2007 edition of the football Hawks, "and we had a chance to reach the championship game."

Instead, turnovers and big plays plagued Cistercian throughout the year, turning winnable games into frustrating losses and a 4-6

season record (2-6 in SPC).

"Despite some tough losses, these guys never quit on me," McCarthy emphasized. "They also practiced and worked hard to improve." Participation at the varsity and junior varsity levels reached all-time highs this year, McCarthy also pointed out.

As the young offensive line gained ex-

perience (only one starter had played in one varsity game), **Clint Murchison '08** began to find the daylight he needed to rack up monster games.

The highlight of the season came in the final game against Fort Worth Calvary, the unbeaten, number-one-ranked small private school in the state. Some prognosticators picked Calvary to spoil Cistercian's homecoming. "We came out ready to play," remembered McCarthy.

Murchison went into the game needing 50 yards to become the school's all-time career rushing leader (see box), which he promptly picked up on his first carry.

It was all downhill from there as four seniors — Murchison, **Daniel Stewart '08**, **Jordan Beardslee '08**, and **Calder Reinsborough '08** — scored for the Hawks in a 28-14 win. It was Reinsborough's first career TD.

In addition to his career mark, Murchison's 1,708 yards placed him second on Cistercian's single-season rushing yards list, just behind brother **Will Murchison '06**.

All-SPC honors went to Murchison, defensive end Calder Reinsborough and corner-back/receiver Daniel Stewart.



Clint Murchison '08

New career rushing champ

Clint Murchison's 1,708 yards in 2007 puts him first on Cistercian's career rushing list below.

Seasons	Player	Yards
'05-'07	Clint Murchison '08	3,238
'85-'88	Alex Lopez '89	3,091
'02-'05	Will Murchison '06	2,652
'97-'00	Ed Brophy '01*	2,524
'89-'92	Jeff Lockhart '93	2,467

* Br. Lawrence Brophy

Big early wins propel cross country team

Led by 10 seniors, the 2007 cross country team started strong, and like a good runner, pushed themselves all the way to the end.

In the season's first major meet, the Hawks were seeded with much larger 4A public schools. The team defeated them all and gained a lot of confidence.

"Our strength," commented Coach Ryan Gorman, "is our solid core of senior runners — ten in all. They led the team to run hard during workouts and it paid off."

At the Fort Worth Country Day meet, the Hawks again came out on top, defeating perennial cross country power Trinity Valley.

Richard Newcomb '08 served as the team's top runner and undisputed leader.

"Richard's got talent as a runner, but what separates him and really makes a great runner is his dedication."

Two freshmen, **Isaac Johnston '11** and **Ron Hammond '11**, surprised everyone by

making the varsity team.

After a solid showing at the Texas A&M meet and a win at Mountain View College, the team prepared for the SPC meet.

At SPC, Newcomb earned All-SPC honors with a 13th-place finish (17:03).

Another two runners finished in the top 50 — Johnston and **Chris Shea '08**.

"Our guys ran well at SPC and I was pleased with their effort," Gorman said.



Photo courtesy of Dr. & Mrs. Richard Newcomb

Swim team makes a big splash at SPC

With its best finish ever at SPC (third out of 14 schools), the Doug Moyse-coached swim team earned a new level of respect inside and outside the school.

The success at SPC in Houston started Friday evening when divers **Dash Jordan '09**, **Philip Tarpley '08**, and **John Lancaster '08** swept the 1-meter springboard competition.

Cistercian began the swimming competition by earning six points with a solid sixth place finish in the 200 yd. medley

SECOND PLACE 200 FREE TEAM (l-r) Bryan Hsu '08, Matt Roney '10, Jack Squiers '08, and Nick Shea '08 after their narrow loss to St. Mark's.

High-flying Hawks set scoring record

Cistercian's four-team high school basketball program (freshman, JVB, JV, and varsity) rolled to another fine year.

The varsity led the way by running to a 19-10 record with an exciting style that produced the highest scoring team in Cistercian

history (67.6 points per game, four points more than the '98-'99 team), a few fast-break dunks, and a record-setting 101-56 win.

"We had eleven guys who averaged over 10 minutes per game," said Coach Dan Lee. "The depth of talent and the boys' unselfish play gave us a very balanced attack."

The season's highlight took place at St. Mark's in late January, just days after a disappointing home loss to Greenhill.

After falling behind the defending SPC champs 26-14 in the first quarter, the Hawks flew back into the game with a 28-10 second quarter that secured the lead. Cistercian never trailed again.

Five players scored in double figures in the 83-71 win — **Daniel Stewart '08** (16, with eight assists), **Charlie Hoedebeck '08** (13), **Giancarlo Carleo '09** (12), **Addison White '09** (11), and **Max Tenney '09** (10).

"This was a real team," said Lee. "You could see it in playing time, scoring, and how they interacted. They were truly a joy."

All-SPC honors went to top-scorer Daniel Stewart (13.5 points/game). All-North-Zone honors went to Giancarlo Carleo (10.3 points/game) and Addison White (9.0 points/game).



OK TRIP Drew Albert '09 hits a jump hook in the Hawks' win at OKC Casady.

relay (**Philip Tarpley '08**, **Nick Shea '08**, **Ian McLaughlin '08**, and **Jack Squiers '08**).

The most exciting race of the day pitted John Cooper's All-American and 2007 SPC champ Zac Mijares-Shafai against Cistercian's future All-American **Matt Roney '10** in the 200 yd. freestyle. Roney won by two seconds (1:42.19).

Brian Hsu '08 won the 50 yd. freestyle sprint (22.69 seconds) and earned a fourth-place finish in the 100 yd. freestyle.

Roney manhandled the field in the 100 yd. butterfly with a time of 51.91, winning

by three seconds.

The Hawks 200 yd. free relay team (comprised of Hsu, **Nick Shea '08**, Squiers, and Roney) gave St. Mark's all they could handle before finishing 0.4 seconds out of first place.

In the final event of the day, the team of Hsu, **Michael Lawson '09**, **Chris Shea '08**, and Roney took third place in the 4 X 100 yd. free relay.

Cistercian's 86 points earned third place and helped John Cooper unseat St. Mark's after the Lions' 17-year reign atop SPC.



Photo courtesy of www.puentephoto.com

ON THE RUN Ramón Cordova '09 escapes pressure in the SPC-II championship game.

Cistercian kicks its way to 2nd in SPC-II tourney

A new coach and a new attitude worked wonders on the Hawks varsity soccer team.

"I was pleasantly surprised with the level of talent on the team," said J.P. Walsh, the new varsity soccer coach, who came to Cistercian from Hockaday. Walsh, who played at Jesuit, also coaches with the D'Feeters Soccer Club.

"With a new head coach, I knew that the boys wanted to impress me," he said. "And they did. They trained really hard. They recognized that I expected a lot."

The elevated expectations paid dividends immediately.

After losing by a large margin to St. Mark's last year, the Hawks were determined to prevent such a debacle in their first game with their new head coach.

With two goals by **Ramón Cordova '09** and one by **Paul Pesek '09**, the Hawks defeated the Lions 3-1.

"It was a really exciting win and a great feeling for all of us," Walsh said. "It gave them a lot of confidence that carried over for the rest of the season. Nobody was able to dominate us the rest of the way."

The Hawks qualified as the top seed in Division II and defeated Episcopal Houston (2-0) and Trinity Valley (2-0). While the team came up short in the championship game, "I was proud of how hard the boys worked," said Walsh. "We had a very competitive and enjoyable season."

Paul Pesek was named All-SPC. All-North-Zone honors went to **Jordan Beardslee '08** and goalkeeper **Simon Raad '08**.



Photo by Fr. Gregory Schweers

I'll allow you to draw your own conclusions

Folks, this edition, I'm simply going to tell you a story. It is a good story that affirms all of what we hope for from our fellow man.

Let me introduce you to the main characters:

David Stewart '74 married his wife Katherine in 1984, and has three children. **Daniel Stewart '08** is an 18-year-old senior at Cistercian. Sarah is a 14-year-old freshman at Hockaday, and 9-year-old Ian will start Cistercian next year.



Afterthoughts

Smokey Briggs '84

In 1992, David learned he had polycystic kidney disease. That is not a good thing.

Dr. Beth Bontempo is a psychologist, and mother to Rachel, 21, and Rebecca, 17. About 13 years ago, she was recently divorced, and moved into a house on Joyce Way in Dallas.

The house on Joyce Way was a natural for Beth and her girls, and their new neighbors, the Stewarts. Beth and Katherine Stewart became best friends, and according to Beth, her children were at the Stewart home, or the Stewart children were at her home, constantly.

Eventually the families moved apart, but the friendship remained. These days Beth is married to John Anson, and is a visiting professor at Stephen F. Austin State University.

Dr. Stephen Johnston '71 is the third character in this story. Steve is married to Trish, and has three children: **Will Johnston '08** is an 18-year-old senior at Cistercian, **Wes Johnston '10** is a 16-year-old sophomore at Cistercian, and Kit, 12, and attends Shelton School.

After graduating from U.T. Medical School, Steve was drawn to cardiology. He interned at Baylor University Medical Center, where he practices today.

Steve and David did not know each other well when they were attending Cistercian. But then Steve's son Will joined the Class of 2008 in the second form. Daniel Stewart was in that class, and the two became good friends. At sporting events and school functions, Steve and David and their families got reacquainted.

"We were at a football game last August when Katherine asked me what I knew about kidney issues," Steve said. "It says something about the kind of person David is — that he was that sick, and nobody knew it. Katherine told me he was near dialysis and needed a transplant."

Now, most cardiologists could not help you much with a kidney problem.

But, it just so happens that Steve serves on the transplant committee at Baylor, so he knows quite a bit about transplants.

Prior to that game in August, David had been informed that he would start having to take dialysis treatments soon.

Dialysis may keep a kidney patient alive, but it is not a cure. Each year a patient is on dialysis, the mortality rate increases.

Just as important, a transplant into a patient who is not on dialysis has a better chance of success, as do transplants from a living donor.

Time mattered.

From that day on, David may have been carrying the ball, but he had an all-pro fullback in front clearing out the linebackers.

"Steve is the kind of guy who is energized by helping people. All his patients feel like they are his favorite patient. He was there for us all the way through — when paperwork was stuck, in the waiting room, in pre-op, and ICU. Having someone like Steve watching over

you makes all the difference in the world," David said.

Unfortunately, there was no donor.

One by one, David's and Katherine's family members were ruled out. Dialysis and a long, dangerous wait on the transplant list (for a cadaveric kidney) looked likely.

What do you do when you need a kidney? How do you ask for something like that?

If you are David Stewart, you don't.

David and Katherine simply let people know that David needed a kidney, and left it at that.

From Stage Left, enter Beth Bontempo:

Beth found out in May 2007 that the disease had progressed so far that David was going to need a transplant in the near future.

She had already decided to be tested to see if she could donate.

"I knew in my heart that I would be a match," she said.

"It was incredible," Steve said. "Here was their next-door neighbor. They had moved away and gone their separate ways. She is an unbelievable person for doing this, and it has to be because of David...the type of person he is. For somebody to give you a kidney... what a compliment."

How good a guy do you have to be for your ex-neighbor to offer you one of her kidneys?

Well, pretty good, I suspect, but Beth admits that David was not her only consideration. "A lot of my motivation was so their children would have their father into the future. Katherine and David are such a great couple, and such great parents, and I feel very close to their children. They are part of my family, and I think my children are part of theirs. He needed it, and I was able to help," Beth said. "It really did not seem like that big of a deal. I'm in good health and you only need one kidney."

Even after the initial testing, there was a long list of hurdles before the transplant could become a reality.

Under Steve's watchful eyes, the medical hurdles were cleared one by one.

Then, in October, there was a new hurdle.

Beth's husband John was not onboard with her decision.

When Beth told me about this during our interview, my first thought was, "Well no kidding. What husband would not balk at something like this? I would. A husband's first responsibility is to his wife — her health and welfare."

So Beth made the trip from Nacogdoches to Dallas to tell David and Katherine that the deal was off — she could not go through with it if John was opposed. Beth felt her first duty was to her marriage, no matter how much she felt donating one of her kidneys to David was the right thing to do.

"They were so gracious," remembered Beth. "I was there telling them this horrible news and they were comforting me."

And then John saw how devastated his wife was. A few days later he reversed course and insisted Beth go through with the transplant.

"Once we made the commitment together, he was extremely supportive," Beth said.

The transplant took place on December 18, 2007.

Donor and recipient are recuperating nicely and are in high spirits. (Personally I can testify that David is well enough to keep pestering me about that "deadline" thing. I told him fine writing is like

continued on page 24

It is easier for a camel to pass through a needle's eye

This is one of those sayings of Jesus which has caused much anxiety for many people (Mt 19:24). The first to be disturbed were the apostles themselves. "Who then can be saved?" they ask Jesus. He restores their peace: "This is impossible for men but for God all things are possible" Mt 19: 26).



On Prayer

Fr. Roch Kereszty

In other words, wealth can be an insurmountable obstacle if someone is so attached to it — as in the story of the young man whom Jesus told to sell all he had, give the money to the poor and literally follow him.

But Jesus did not give the same command to every rich person. He even accepts invitations to rich people's homes. He does not demand from Simon the Pharisee that he sell his property. Instead, he tells his audience in a Pharisee's house that when they invite people,

they should invite the poor, the crippled, the lame and the blind, those who cannot repay the host (Lk 14: 12-14).

We also learn from the Acts of the Apostles and from Paul's letters that there were rich people among the first Christians (Acts 20:7-12). Their homes served as meeting places for the local churches in every city where Paul established a Christian community (Rom 16:23, 1 Cor 16: 15,19, Phlm 1-2). Paul does not despair about their salvation as long as they are sharing their wealth with the poor generously and serve the needs of the Church.

A just social order does not mean that everyone has an equal share of goods — an impossible ideal anyway. It is one in which everyone who works and those who cannot work — such as children, the sick and the elderly — have a fair share in the goods of the world. In our sinful world, however, we must strive for this goal, but we will never fully reach it.

Yet we can turn this sorry state of affairs to our own advantage. Are we affluent? This indicates our vocation to use our wealth to help those who are in need and in this way learn to be generous and even humble when we realize that some of the poor would more deserve the good life than we ourselves do. Are we poor or indigent? We can learn gratitude toward those who are helping us.

The Fathers of the Church and more recently Paul VI explained in

his encyclical *Populorum Progressio* that what is truly superfluous to the rich man and his family does not belong to him but to those in need. This, of course, cannot mean that all superfluous wealth ought to be given away in the form of charitable donations. That would ruin the economy of any society.

But wealth should be used to provide job opportunities, endow foundations, promote better health services and better education for children who are caught in the vicious circle of poor neighborhoods and poor schools.

There are people, however, who are extremely generous with material help but also extremely proud of their status, talents and virtues. They can belong to the poor in spirit to whom the kingdom of heaven belongs only if they discover their real situation: all that they have and all that they are is an undeserved gift, a cause for gratitude rather than pride.

Blessed are they if they realize this fact before death deprives them of all they cherish.

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continued from page 23

good wine — expensive, and I don't get paid.)

And that is our story, David, given the gift of life a few days before Christmas by ex-neighbor Beth, assisted by Steve, an extraordinary doctor whose oldest son happens to be classmates with David's oldest son, at the same school David and Steve attended as young men.

I will leave you to draw your own conclusions as to coincidence, timing, angels, character, life, and the Divine.

I know mine.

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(For those wondering, "What can I do for Beth?" Well, she has a soft spot for dogs and other four-legged creatures. Animal control in Shelby County, where she now lives, consists of the Sheriff and a shotgun. Husband John is president of P.A.W.S. and is trying to build a shelter there. Instead of doing something for Beth, anyone so moved, is invited to donate something to the effort. The Stewart-Bontempo Animal Shelter Fund has been established at Amegy Bank, 6310 Lemmon Ave. Suite 100, Dallas, Texas 75209, Attention: Misty Anderson. For more information, visit www.shelbyPAWS.org.)

calendar

March

24 Easter Monday-holiday

April

**21 Alumni/Booster Club
Golf Tournament**

23 Abbot's Circle Dinner

May

17 Commencement

23 Closing Ceremonies

June

6-8 Reunions Weekend

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