

CISTERCIAN CALENDAR

December

- 19 Ring Ceremony
- 20 Alumni Casino Night

January

- 6 Alumni College Day
- 30 Moroney Award Dinner
- 31 Admissions testing

February

- 7 Admissions testing
- 19 Arts Festival
(through Feb. 21)

March

- 7 Book Fair
- 14 MS Open House

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The CISTERCIAN CONTINUUM

For family, friends, and alumni of Cistercian Preparatory School

December 2003

On Prayer

“Our God is a consuming fire”

Hebrews 12:29

We know abstractly that God’s goodness and love are boundless, yet we have a hard time believing it because we are also aware of God’s justice and the eternal punishment of hell. The existence of hell and the real possibility of our ending up there makes us either question God’s mercy altogether or at least put a limit on God’s mercy. It cannot be pure and infinite love. In fact, it seems to be severely limited by his punishing justice.

This, however, is not the way St. Bernard and the Fathers of the Church think of God: God’s nature, according to them (and according to Scripture) is pure and infinite love, not limited or tempered in any way whatsoever. Yet, to the extent that we are sinners, God’s love remains hidden from us. Thinking of God becomes painful, a condemning judgment, a fire that we want to avoid.

Did we ever encounter a truly good person? Someone who was so

outrageously good that we wanted to escape from his presence because we felt ashamed and embarrassed by the way he looked at us? He made us acutely aware of our own dark side, our long cherished vices and sins. Since God is infinite goodness, our embarrassment and our urge to escape from Him may become quite intense. God, then, is love in his own nature, but only the pure of heart can experience it as love. To the extent that we remain opposed to him, we perceive his goodness as a threat. Instead of causing warmth and delight, the flame of his love burns us. This is the case even with the lukewarm and the half-hearted. When thinking of God, they also feel uncomfortable.

The good news, however, is that we are still alive and have time to act. Instead of staying a safe distance from God, we should expose ourselves to his fire. Even if it is unpleasant and painful, let us ask him to burn out all the trash from our hearts, all that is impure, selfish and duplicitous within us. Let us also ask him to give us opportunities to choose His will over ours, to provide situations in which our love for Him may become real. He will not refuse such a prayer. Then, gradually, we will be able to taste how good the Lord is.

— Fr. Roch Kereszty

IN MEMORIUM

Trey Hunt '74 of Palm Springs, CA, died April 25, 2003. He was a Broadway stage manager in New York City for 14 years. He is survived by his sister, Lora of Mason, Texas; his brother, Dane of Lewisville, Texas; and his mother, Jackie of Mason, Texas.

Cistercian classmates remember Trey for his quick laugh, his dramatic bent, and his beloved “Mumsie.”

Trey was a founding editor of *The Informer* (giving the publication its name) and attended Middlebury College in Vermont.

Abbot Denis will include a memorial for Trey in the program for the Class of '74's 30th reunion in June.

Built upon a tradition

*The people and values
that shaped Cistercian
architecture*

Gary Cunningham '72 and
the Abbey Church, which
he designed in 1991

Dear Cistercian Families, Friends, and Alumni,



Photo by Jim Reisch

This issue of *The Continuum* is arriving just before Christmas and, like Christmas, celebrates relationships. Through the birth of his Son in Bethlehem, our heavenly Father healed our relationship with Him and with one another. We prepare to celebrate that birth in Bethlehem by working on our relationships with God and with one another. In our often rushed days we try to put a bit more time into thanking one another, listening to one another, and directing our hopes and desires to joining our heavenly Father.

We are all proud of our beautiful facilities. However, the cover story by David Stewart '74 reminds us that our buildings reflect not just "working relationships" among architect and builder and owner. They also reflect a shared vision of excellence and

humility, of love and respect for nature, of service to God and to student. And they help foster those same attitudes in all who study and work here.

In the second article, David describes the journey a young man might follow in establishing the closest kind of relationship with Cistercian, in joining the monastery community. The stories of the three novices provide insight into the kind of efforts Abbot Denis and others are making to help young men discern where they are in their relationship to God and what He is asking of them.

This issue includes much more, and all the articles create an overpowering sense of gratitude for Cistercian and a joy in belonging to the Cistercian community. May this little celebration of joy and gratitude find you and your family preparing for the ultimate joy that is the birth of our Savior. Merry Christmas.

Fr. Peter Verhalen '73
Headmaster

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PREPARATORY
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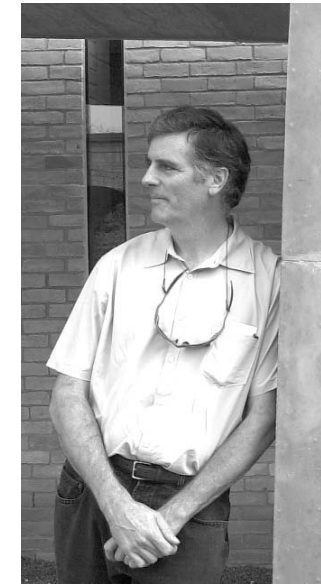
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F E A T U R E S

Built upon a tradition 6



From O'Neil Ford to Al Salem to Gary Cunningham, Cistercian's campus has been created by top-notch architects. While they may differ visually, each structure incorporates integral Cistercian values: excellence, honesty, and humility.



The heart 11
of the matter

The monastery has met a wave of interest in vocations with a committed effort to counsel these young men. We take a look at the young men whose vocations just might shape the future of the abbey and the prep school.

Seth Henderson
1985 ~ 2003

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Tom Pruitt comments on the Cistercian community's outpouring of support for Seth Henderson '03 and the Henderson family.



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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.

Bea Haggerty's death ends an era

Beatrice "Bea" Haggerty, matriarch of one of Cistercian's founding families, passed away Nov. 28. Mrs. Haggerty (mother of **Mike Haggerty '71** and grandmother of **Patrick Haggerty III '86** and **Clinton Haggerty '88**) and husband Pat Haggerty played a key role in the school's formation and were very close to the school's first headmaster, Fr. Damian. Their contributions were detailed in *The Continuum's* retrospective last year.

FORM MASTER ROTATION

Saliga hears the call, becomes Form I master

When Brother Gabriel decided to leave the monastery this summer, Fr. Peter had to think carefully about a form master for Form I. One name kept popping up as the headmaster reviewed his options: Peter Saliga.

"What a huge extension of confidence and trust on Cistercian's behalf," Saliga said recently. "Yet, I remember thinking, 'He has no idea what he's asking here ... I'm the last guy who should be a form master. Give me eight years with these forty guys and there's no telling how warped they'll be by senior year.'"

Saliga becomes one of a select number of lay faculty to be entrusted with a class.

"My chief goal is to form these little boys into honest-to-goodness men," Saliga said. "I want to share with them the richest 'stuff' life has to offer."

But the free-wheeling Saliga of yesterday has had to make a few adjustments.

Peter Saliga

"There are so many little administrative tasks that take up a lot of 'thinking time.'

"Then there is the paradigm shift from being a 'high school guy' who runs the Student Council to being a 'first form guy' who has responsibilities to these little guys not just this year but every year until they graduate."

It should be quite a ride for the Class of 2011.

GYM OPENS

New facility "phenomenal" at tourney time

Athletic Director and Basketball Coach Dan Lee was gushing with compliments over the way the new gym functioned during the Cistercian Tip-Off Classic Nov. 20-22 (in which the Hawks prevailed as champs).

"The facility is phenomenal," Lee said. "It was really nice having two games going on at once. By having the ability to stage two games simultaneously, we were able to start at 5 o'clock instead of 3:30, so none of the students had to miss class."

Lee also pointed out that the efficiencies of two gyms help Booster Club helpers who don't have to show up early. And the concession stand in the new lobby is well equipped to handle the



THE PRICE IS RIGHT Kristine Arras, Carolyn Thompson, Bob Crews, and Cindi Tenney enjoyed working the concession stand in the new gym during the Cistercian Tip-Off Classic.

crowds from two games.

"We have a serving counter, sinks for cleanup, dedicated counter space for each machine and a separate storage room for back up inventory," said Bill Novak, president of the Cistercian Booster Club.

"Everyone who has worked the concession has commented on the roominess and ease of work compared to our old set up," he said. "It really is a classy operation."

Then there was the excitement of the games.

"It was a lot of fun being in there," Lee said. "We had a great crowd on Saturday night that really got the kids

going." (See sports page 15.)

ALUMNI RELATIONS

Rotter heading up development department

Jennifer Rotter, Cistercian's new director of development and alumni relations, had to hit the ground running when she arrived in August.

The dedication of the gymnasium, the annual report of giving, homecoming, as well as the Sustentation and Alumni Phonathon drives helped

NOTEWORTHY

■ **Casino Night** Mark your calendars for Saturday, December 20, 2003 for the annual Alumni Casino Night. It's a great night to catch up with classmates, friends, and faculty while enjoying the auction and casino games. Some items that will be up for bid are restaurant gift certificates, sports tickets, Montana fly-fishing trip, artwork by **Fr. Damian**, and much more. If you are interested in donating a silent or live auction item (from trips, condo rentals and air miles to gift certificates and merchandise), please contact **Adam Nevitt '99** in the Alumni Relations office (469-499-5452, or anevitt@cistercian.org) for additional information.

■ **National Merit Scholars** Over half (24 of 42) of the Class of 2004 was recognized by the National Merit Scholarship Program this fall. Seventeen qualified as semifinalists; seven qualified as Commended Students. A list of the students can be found at www.cistercian.org.

■ **AP Scholars** Forty students (12 from '03, 22 from '04, and six from '05) were named AP Scholars by the College Board in recognition of their achievement on the college-level AP (Advanced Placement) Examinations.

Rotter quickly slip into the flow of things.

"I was very fortunate to have the help of Sally Cook and **Adam Nevitt '99** as I learned the ropes," she said.

Rotter comes to Cistercian with a wealth of development and alumni experience. Most recently, she served three years in Southern Methodist University's Office of Alumni Relations. There she was hired as the alumni relations web manager and was promoted to director of alumni marketing and communications.

Rotter also has served as the director of marketing and development at Hillcrest Academy and the assistant to the director of development at ESD.



Jennifer Rotter

ALUMNI DIRECTORY

New way to stay in touch with old friends

Out of circulation for a number of years, the Alumni Directory will return in time for Reunions Weekend in June.

Alums and their parents should look for a questionnaire and reservation form in the mail. Online responses will be welcome.

And yes, there are spots left for advertisers. Half page

Two alumni among four new teachers

Four new teachers joined the ranks of Cistercian faculty this fall. Two find their surroundings to be very familiar.

Peter Heyne '97, a UD grad, is teaching English Lab (Forms I and IV) and Latin (Form III). Coming back to Cistercian strikes up some interesting images for Heyne. "I feel so humbled and awed by my colleagues [on the faculty] who have taught here for thirty or more years. I feel like a little hobbit next to these giants and Gandalfs."

Heyne says he is amused by "my students [who] think of me as on the far end of the Great Adult Barrier Reef, but I am only 24 and not the Pre-Crustacean Mr. Chips — not yet."

Jeffrey A. Tinker '97, freshly graduated from Texas A&M, is whipping math students in Forms II and III into shape.

"It is nice to be back," Tinker said. "I owe so much to Cistercian, that it's nice to be able to give back." And it has its rewards. "The best part about being back," Tinker insisted, "would have to be listening to Fr. Matthew. I think he may be even funnier than when I was here."

The accent of French students in Forms V-VII should be improving with the help of Cistercian's new French



FRESH APPROACH New teachers include (l-r) **Jeff Tinker '97**, **Catherine Mathieu**, **Anthony Perri**, and **Peter Heyne '97**.

teacher, **Catherine Mathieu**. The French native and mother of three (ages 14, 12, and two) recently moved to the States with her husband who works for a French optical company. Having taught English in France, she has been pleasantly surprised by the reception she received at Cistercian.

"The faculty has made me feel welcome, made me feel like a real asset," Mathieu said. "Everyone is so ready to help, even the headmaster."

Anthony Perri first heard of Cistercian from **Wyatt Maxwell '00**, who was a freshman in the Notre Dame dorm where Perri served as resident assistant. After graduation, Perri served two years in Notre Dame's highly selective ACE (Alliance for Catholic Education) Program and taught middle school English in rural southern Louisiana.

Perri has been busy teaching English (Form II) and History (Form IV). Along with colleague Peter Heyne, he also enthusiastically supported the Form IV football team this fall.

advertisements go for \$60 and full page ads will set you back \$100.

For additional information, contact the Cistercian Alumni Office at 469-499-5400.

ACADEMIC CONTESTS

Mathletes and QBowlers win at TAMU & OSU

Competing in October against 40 high schools from Texas and Oklahoma, Cistercian's math team took first place in the Oklahoma

State University High School Math Contest. Cistercian's team includes **John Davies '04**, **Brett Naul '04**, and **James Peacock '04**. St. Mark's placed second.

In November, Cistercian mathletes again took first out of 35 teams at the Texas A&M High School Math Contest. Other Dallas schools placing were Greenhill (third) and St. Mark's (fifth).

Names of the participants can be found on **Dr. Richard Newcomb's** Web site at www.cistercian.org.

Cistercian's four Quiz Bowl teams cruised to first place in the Oklahoma

State University campus in September. The Hawks earned first and second place trophies for their efforts in a tournament that included the former OK state champions.

Just before Thanksgiving, the teams travelled to the TAMU tournament. The teams earned two trophies with a second and third place finish. Cistercian's other teams placed fourth and sixth. **John Davies '04** won honors as the all-tournament high-point scorer.

For more information on the Quiz Bowl program, go to **Fr. Gregory's** Web site at www.cistercian.org.

The roofs of the west gym, east gym, and Upper School reveal much about the era and architect of each.

Built upon a tradition

How three architects combined to create a campus grounded in Cistercian values

Text by David Stewart '74
Photography by Jim Reisch

THE SILENCE IN THE 1970 BOARD MEETING ached with tension. Fr. Denis Farkasfalvy, Cistercian's brash, 34-year-old headmaster, had just declared his intention to find a new architect to work on the school's newest project, a gymnasium scheduled to begin construction in 1971.

The school board members were stunned, especially Patrick Haggerty. The chairman of Texas Instruments (and an important benefactor of the school) had insisted on using O'Neil Ford to design the Middle and Upper Schools. The look on his face made it clear that he saw no need to switch architects now.

Bryan Smith, Haggerty's associate at TI, had enthusiastically supported the idea of using Ford to design the first two buildings. "Neil's involvement always promised something creative," Smith said recently.

"But there were ups and downs with Neil," added Smith. "You had to sleigh through that. While you usually got a product that was very worthwhile, you had to learn to deal with the eccentricities, like his failing to complete working drawings."

"The decision to hire another architect for the gym was an evolutionary thing," Smith suggested. "There were budgetary considerations. Personally, I felt that a gym wouldn't require Ford's talents anyway."

After some reflection, Smith supported the headmaster's decision to find another architect. But he has never doubted the importance of hiring Ford to design the first two buildings at Cistercian.

"Neil really made the ultimate contribution [to the Cistercian campus] by establishing the present design, structure, and arrangement of the total complex," Smith said.

The founders' decision to use Ford on the first two buildings "made a clear statement that this school would be dedicated to excellence," Smith emphasized. The founders and Ford succeeded with a design that helped persuade parents in the sixties that this school in the wilds of Irving would be special indeed; it is a design that continues to impress prospective parents nearly 40 years later.

"As you enter the campus, you certainly get the feeling that you are entering a special place, part nature preserve, part learning retreat center," said Scott Prengle, father of **Bobby Prengle '10**.

"I am struck by how well the design complements the setting," said Connie White, mother of **Aaron White '07**. "It is clear the founders had an appreciation for the environmental setting. I also think by being modern instead of traditional, it was very forward thinking and progressive. It suggests that fitting in does not have to mean adhering to a traditional mold; instead it means living for the future."

Duane Landry, the grandfather of **Nathan Helms '07** and **John Henry Helms '10**, served as Ford's project architect on both the Middle School and the Upper School.

"I worked most closely with Fr. Damian on the projects," Landry remembered. "Abbot Anselm and Fr. Philip Szeitz also were involved." (Szeitz would leave the priesthood in 1965.)

"The work of Ford and Landry here at Cistercian has held up extremely well," said David Dillon, who has served as the architectural critic for *The Dallas Morning News* for 20 years and has written a book on Ford (*The Architecture of O'Neil Ford, Celebrating Place*). "It is nice, clean, simple. Like much of

Ford's work, it uses a subdued palette with fine but not flashy detailing. There's lots of natural light and a strong connection with the environment."

The turquoise, red, and blue light fixtures on the outside of the building are typical of Ford's work and were made by Martha Mood, a longtime colleague of Ford's.

"She was a wonderful artist," Landry said, "Some of her stitcheries and appliqué work sit today in famous collections. The light fixtures were slip cast, and then before they were fired, she punched holes and drew lines in them. Then she'd fire them, paint them and fire them again."

The architecture of the Middle and Upper Schools feels good, literally.

"To appreciate Ford's work, you need to go around and touch things," Dillon said. "His work is very tactile."

Of course, boys are always happy to touch things and to explore the durability of their surroundings. For nearly 40 years students have enjoyed the feel of Cistercian's gray carpet, wood-paneled walls, Spanish tile floors, and Mexican brick.

Although Fr. Denis turned to another architect for the gym, Ford's architectural philosophy would continue to echo through the campus as new buildings were constructed.

ABBOT DENIS SAID THE GYM PROJECT resembled a mouse that grew into an elephant. But through the many dramatic evolutions and changes, Fr. Denis insisted on one constant: the gym must include the Mexican brick Ford had used.

"Ford used this brick on many of his buildings," Dillon said. "O'Neil loved the color and softness of the Mexican brick." The bricks' softness results from their being handmade and being dried in the sun instead of fired in a kiln.

"Before accepting delivery of the bricks, Ford insisted that they drop a few from the back of the truck. If half of them broke, they'd be sent back," Dillon said.

Covered in Ford's Mexican brick, the gym would bear at least some resemblance to the school buildings next door.

Fr. Schott, then president of Jesuit, recommended an architect named Al Salem, who had designed the gym at St. Rita. Salem's friendly demeanor and willingness to respond quickly helped him develop an immediate bond with the young headmaster. They worked easily together.

Fr. Denis, never renowned for his love of sports, began attending basketball games all over the Metroplex so he could study the benefits and shortcomings of various gymnasium designs.

One of his findings made a major impact on the appearance of the gym. "The windows along the top of many gyms," Fr. Denis remembered, "forced spectators to shade their eyes during afternoon games. I asked Al to incorporate a shade over the windows." That feature led to the buildings' signature white buttresses.

The project, which started out to be just a gym and some locker rooms, grew to include a large art room and a stage with state-of-the-art lighting. The cost of the project grew from around \$400,000 to \$750,000.

While not possessing the architectural panache of its prede-

"[The old gym] is a product of its time.

It's part of the biography of the campus. It's a period you went through. Sometimes, too much emphasis is placed on continuity and coherence."

— David Dillon,
Architecture critic,
The Dallas Morning News

cessors, the gym was universally deemed a great success upon its completion. Just as Ford's architecture on the school buildings had made a statement of excellence, the gym demonstrated that Cistercian was no longer handicapped in athletics, drama, and art. Applications skyrocketed the following spring.

"The gym's large two-story entrance is not of the same scale as the entrance to the Ford buildings," David Dillon remarked. "But it is a product of its time. It's part of the biography of the campus. It's a period you went through. Sometimes too much emphasis is placed on continuity and coherence."

Fr. Denis and Al Salem collaborated on several smaller projects (e.g., the connecting structure between the Middle and Upper Schools, the elevator at the monastery). But by 1983 when work

began on the school's next large project, the science center, Fr. Denis had stepped down as headmaster.

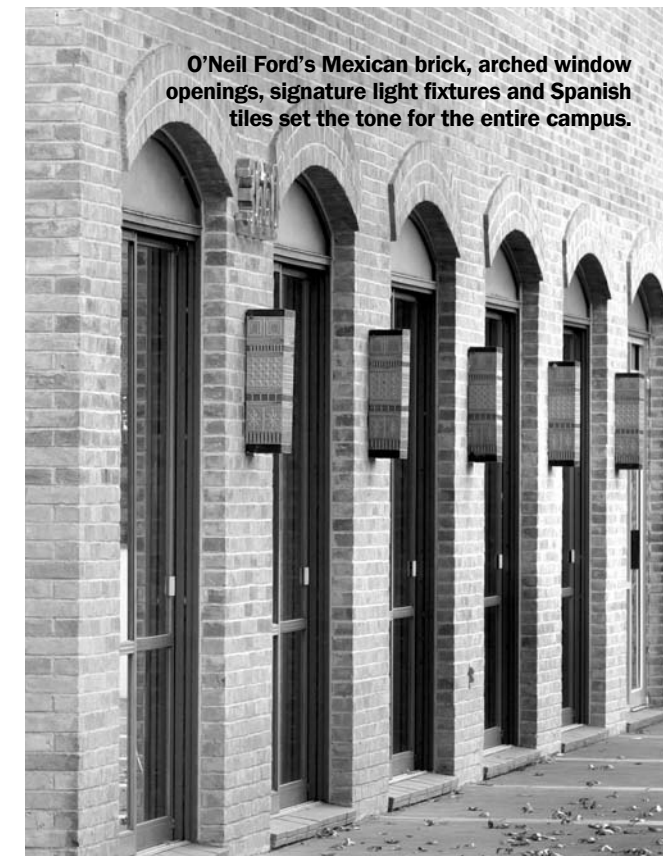
Salem would work on the science center with the new headmaster, Fr. Bernard Marton, as well as two 27-year-old fund-raisers, **Jere Thompson '74** and **Jim Moroney '74**.

"It was not as simple a process as working with Fr. Denis," Salem acknowledged.

"We visited Hockaday and St. Mark's, which had just completed new science centers," Thompson remembered. They helped the design evolve and grow to include key elements like a computer lab, large lecture hall (now the theater), and teacher offices. What was originally planned as a three-wing structure (one for chemistry, physics, and biology) became a two-story box.

But the decision-makers appear to have been influenced primarily by their years in the hallways and classrooms of Cistercian's Middle and Upper Schools.

They insisted on Mexican bricks, additional windows with



arched openings to provide lots of natural light inside, Spanish tiles, and the same light fixtures that O'Neil Ford had used on the school buildings. Outside, Moroney and Thompson wanted a landscaped courtyard between the science center and the Middle and Upper Schools rather than just a slab of concrete.

All of these elements helped to tie the new building in with the O'Neil Ford buildings and perpetuate a tradition.

Moroney and Thompson proposed that arches be used to connect the new building with the Middle and Upper Schools, at a cost \$80,000. The young fund-raisers found the money, and the arches were constructed. "The arches added a certain character and feel the area wouldn't have had otherwise," Thompson said.

For the first time, the Cistercian campus had some depth and its first partially enclosed outdoor space.

"This [courtyard] is the kind of space that Ford might have designed," David Dillon commented on a recent visit. "It has a nice sense of enclosure, yet it is not intimidating. The scale is of a very intimate level."

OVER THE DIN OF CLANKING PLATES AND glasses at the old Dixie House on McKinney Avenue in the spring of 1990, Jere Thompson and **Peter Smith '74** asked **Gary Cunningham '72** if he'd be interested in designing a church at Cistercian.

Thompson had heard Cunningham was making a name for himself and believed that having an alumnus design the church would make a powerful statement. (Thompson's fundraising pitch promised, "An alumnus will design it, an alumnus (**Wade Andres '75**) will build it, and an alumnus (**Fr. Peter Verhalen '73**) will say Mass in it.")

Cunningham expressed great interest to Thompson and Smith and soon met with Abbot Denis. Not long thereafter, the community of monks approved his appointment.

"You can see the beams ... Ford didn't hide the structure of a building. I think that's important so students can see the structure around them and know how it works.

Buildings can teach honesty."

— Gary Cunningham '72

Cistercian abbey churches in Europe along with information on the tradition of church building. Cunningham was particularly struck by a Vatican II document.

"It discussed the attitude for building a church," Cunningham remembered. "The three primary tenets were honesty, craftsmanship, and humility." All three tenets fit in nicely with Cunningham's own philosophy of building, which was influenced by the contemporary Cistercian tradition established by O'Neil Ford.

"Ford's architecture expresses honesty," Cunningham said. "For example, you can see the beams. The ceiling is what it is. Ford didn't hide the structure of a building. I think that's important so stu-

dents can see the structure around them and know how it works. Buildings can teach honesty."

Cunningham's design for the Abbey Church would be radically honest and straightforward, using limestone blocks as both exterior and interior walls, with no veneers, no plaster, no sheetrock to disguise the structure of the building.

Craftsmanship also jumps out at you in both Ford's and Cunningham's work.

"The Vatican II document suggested that in a church, one should 'avoid perfection,'" Cunningham said. "Elements should be made from human hands and express our humanity. The natural qualities of materials and human craftsmanship should stand out."

"Ford had a repertory company of craftsman around," David Dillon said. "One would do nothing but tile, another (like his brother Lynn Ford) nothing but wood and metal."

In the construction of the Abbey Church, Cunningham employed a wide variety of craftsmen, from the stonemasons who chiseled the 9' x 6' x 3' Champagne limestone blocks to the woodworkers who handmade the pews on the church floor. Cunningham himself along with artist David Sines created the crosses that grace the top of the church (Cunningham etched his name on them) and the Holy Water receptacles. Artist **Billy Hassell '74** designed the tabernacle doors.

"The building is not the most important thing," Cunningham insisted, however, in reference to humility. "The building is there for the people who occupy it. It is a backdrop to the activity or function of the building. It should not call attention to itself."

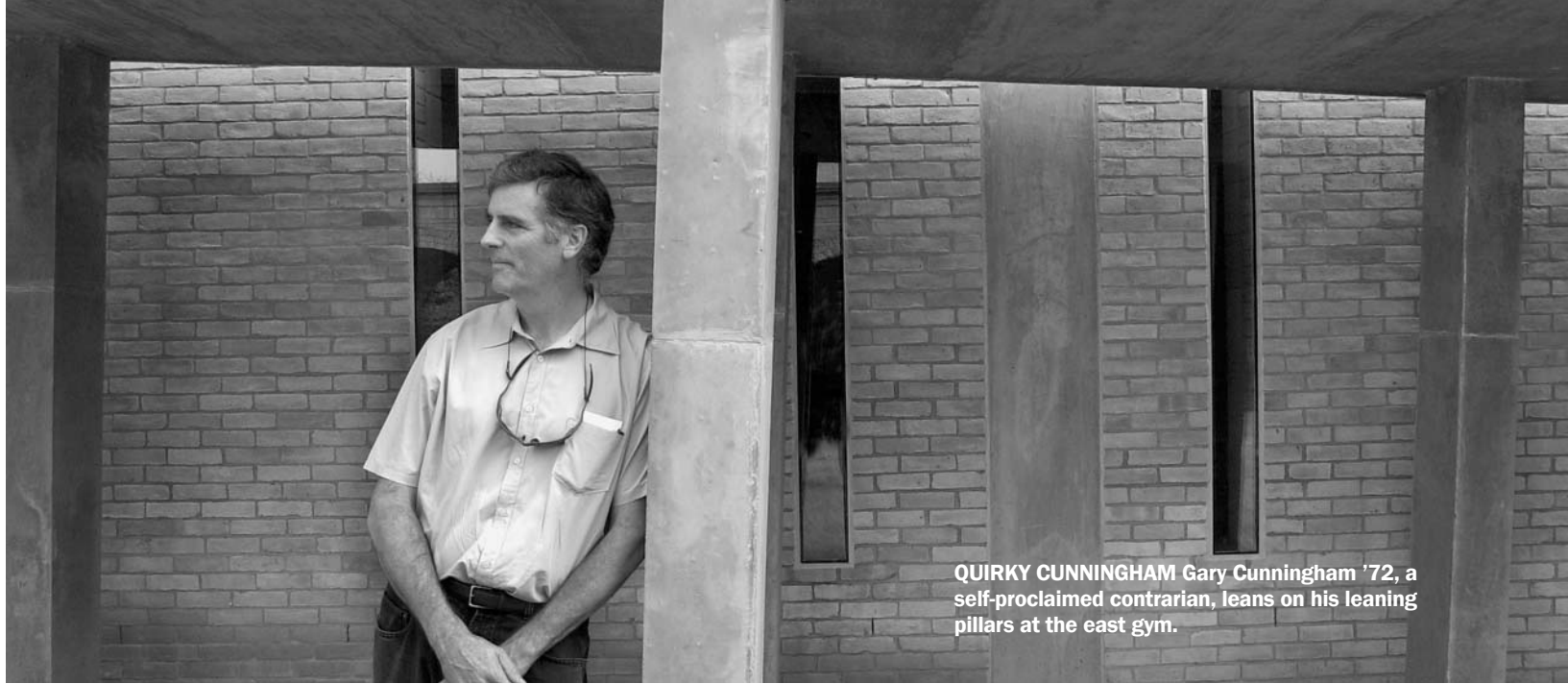
The Middle School and Upper School designs recall very humble "dog-trot houses" (i.e., two sections with an area in the middle to allow for ventilation), according to David Dillon. The design is friendly, not grandiose.

Inside the Abbey Church, attention isn't drawn to the sophisticated way the roof floats above the floor, but it is easy to sense the light as it changes when clouds glide lazily in front of the sun.

For Cunningham, it was a dream project. "Everything came together in an amazing fashion," he said. "The builder (Andres Construction Services), the subcontractors, the client, how I was working at the time — everything was aligned. The importance of this project inclined me to become really involved in every detail."

"I love it," David Dillon said. "It is one of my favorite churches in the Metroplex. And it was risky. Gary doesn't always choose the safest route."

"It really is an abbey church; it has the austere quality of an abbey church from the eighth or ninth century in certain ways —



QUIRKY CUNNINGHAM Gary Cunningham '72, a self-proclaimed contrarian, leans on his leaning pillars at the east gym.

the massiveness of it, the ruggedness, and yet the detailing of it is very delicately modern. The windows are very crisp. I love the roof and the light."

"We're so used to seeing stone veneer, architects using limestone that is 3/8" thick at best. It's almost like wallpaper. Here each block weighs several tons. It creates ancient Biblical associations with the rock and the cave."

"I tried to fulfill in the Abbey Church," said Cunningham, "an image of what I saw in this community — permanence, roots that stretch back centuries, and a weighty, stable product."

"I told Gary at the time it was completed," Abbot Denis said, "I think there will be a time when this church will be among the architectural sites visitors want to see when they come to Dallas."

"CUT IT IN HALF," Abbot Denis told Cunningham in 1997 after months had been spent on a large-scale design for the school's new library. "The scope and budget are not in keeping with the school. It is too ambitious."

"We knew the budget was creeping upwards," Cunningham remembered, "but it was the abbot who had the clear vision of what was appropriate for Cistercian. He is the steward of the school and abbey."

Still, his behavior is often misinterpreted, according to Cunningham.

"The abbot may play a large role in issues, but it is not about him," he insisted. "It's about his job as abbot. He takes that very seriously. He is strong and protective. He has a real sense of duty."

With the project resized, Cunningham focused on the key architectural issues involved in the project.

"The library was the first building on campus that I did. While it involved the same players as the Abbey Church, it was a very different project because of all the issues related to Ford," Cunningham said.

"I had to respond. How do you build a wall? How do you build a roof, a window? I wanted to build it the same way as Ford would build it. That's the way I'd do it anyway. For example, solid masonry walls hold the building up."

But budgetary constraints forced Cunningham to improvise. "On the window openings in the Middle School, Ford used arches. Since we couldn't afford to do arches, we poured a concrete beam above the window to support the weight. We left the concrete exposed." Once again, the tradition of honesty.

As an architectural student at the University of Texas in the seventies, Cunningham had the chance to be instructed by Ford. He and his cohorts also spent many hours "just hanging out" in Ford's San Antonio office.

"He taught us to be independent-minded. He inspired us to buck the system and to do things differently," Cunningham remembered. "He was a contrarian."

To create covered walkways, Cunningham sought the most efficient, least expensive solution: simple columns and concrete slabs. Where possible, the slab roofs were cantilevered from the library itself to eliminate the need for columns ("Columns are expensive," Cunningham

remarked.)

When confronted with the issue on how to "blend" his no-frills covered walkways with the arches that had been built to connect the science building to the Middle School, Cunningham simply "stuck it to," uh, under the arches.

"I like to take the straightforward, functional approach," he said.

Cunningham, however, proved far more sensitive to the issue of how the library would interact with the monastery on one side and the campus on the other.

"Since the library was the last building built toward the abbey, we used a copper roof that slopes down," Cunningham explained. "The library almost disappears into the landscape when viewed from the monastery. That's important because the monks need to



Cunningham's approach is exemplified by how his slab-covered walkway intersects with the science center's arches.



Architect Al Salem in front of the gym he designed in 1971.



The east gym gives the campus a sense of completeness by containing the science center on the north and forming a new courtyard.

“The native plants will create a much more natural looking environment for the school. In two years, it will appear really rugged and simple, like the building.” (Fr. Peter already is so pleased with the result that he is considering a plan to install more native plants in other areas of the campus.)

Cunningham seems to thrive on such contributions. “The team around me is critical,” he said. “Lonnie Burns has worked with me for eight or nine years. Bang Dang gives me great ideas. And having a company like Andres Construction that can handle changes is great. Rodger Harrison, the project superintendent, wants to do what’s best for Cistercian and as long as we’re making the final

have their peace and quiet away from the school or they’re not going to be good teachers.”

On the school side, the roof slopes up towards the science center, opening the library up to the rest of the campus. The library and science center form a courtyard.

On his tour of the library, critic David Dillon remarked, “O’Neil would have loved this. The exposed beams, the natural light, the materials.”

“It is clearly a modern building,” Dillon added as he walked outside under the cantilevered covered walkway, “but it is not out of character with the other buildings. The way the windows are done, the way the canopy is done are all very much a modernist way of doing things and yet it fits in very nicely with what is here.”

“THE GYM IS MY FAVORITE BUILDING on campus,” Cunningham said. “It is so simple and so pretty. It does what it is supposed to do. I like the twist with the leaning columns on the covered walkway.”

Cunningham placed the columns perpendicular to the walkway that climbs up a slight incline (4.9 degrees). The columns look “off” when viewed in relation to the thin windows of the gym.

Those thin windows caused a great deal of debate.

“Some clients,” Cunningham commented, “don’t want to listen to new ideas or try anything new. At Cistercian, there are really no constraints. I am free to pursue a vision.”

“We debated about the windows in the gym,” Cunningham said, “but they let me do it. And now they love them.”

The structure appears to have added more to the campus than just one simple building. “It balances the library and contains the science center, forming a third courtyard,” Cunningham said. It results in a feeling of completeness and creates a new complexity to the campus.

“The landscaping was inspired by Fr. Peter’s request for plants that require less water,” he added. “We were all set to go with the more manicured look with Bermuda and Shumard red oaks. But Fr. Peter led us to create a plan of native plants, including buffalo grass, red buds, and cedar elms.

product better, Rodger is all for changes.”

“While Abbot Denis may make the final decision, he listens to five or six support people, like Fr. Peter, Peter Smith, **Warren Andres ’75**, Jere Thompson, and most recently, Pat Villareal. Without these people in the process, the product would be substandard. The project is only as good as the people involved.”

Cunningham also is working with Abbot Denis on plans to preserve the peace and solitude of the abbey. At the heart of the plan is the hill between the school and the monastery.

“The hill separates the school from the abbey, it preserves the peace of the abbey,” said Cunningham. “It also marks this place as something special. It should be preserved.”

The abbot is attempting to zone the hill so that nothing can be built on it. There is, however, talk of constructing a mausoleum for the monks within the hill.

So, Cunningham continues to build upon the Cistercian architectural tradition pioneered by O’Neil Ford, one that is sensitive to the mission of the school and to the environment.

“While they have very little in common visually,” reflected David Dillon, “O’Neil and Gary both share a love for materials. They also share a spirit. In Gary’s office, they really like to make stuff. He likes to have artisans around and work collaboratively. It’s an arts and crafts style. And that’s exactly the way Ford used to work.”

“They also share a real passion for architecture. It’s not some abstract, technical exercise,” Dillon added. “It is about your soul. It’s the most wonderful thing you can do with your life.”

Most recently, Cunningham worked with Abbot Denis and Andres Construction to renovate the west wing of the abbey.

“I know that Gary has no higher goal than to do the best for this community,” Abbot Denis stressed. “He wants this community to be as comfortable as possible. And in open meetings with the monks, he’ll remind us that the architecture should maintain the humility of the community. He watches over us.”

“It’s the Cistercian vision,” Cunningham said. “The monks set the tone. This is about Cistercian; it’s not about us. The architecture is only important so that the monks can do their work.

“I feel good about helping them,” he added. “but I don’t do it for that reason. I do it because it is needed. And I know how much they’re needed.”

the heart of the matter

A look at the young men whose decisions to join the monastery just might shape the future of the abbey and the prep school.

By David Stewart '74

“IT BEGAN TO SCARE ME,” Br. Abraham said. The Cistercian novice is one of three who began life in the monastery this summer. He was remembering his visit with Abbot Denis last fall. “The closer I came to making a decision about the priesthood, the scarier it became. I didn’t come back for a couple of months,” he admitted.

Abbot Denis and Fr. Roch, with whom Br. Abraham had first made contact, assumed another promising young man had been lost. It wouldn’t have been the first. Over the past four years, they have spent countless hours doing what they can to counsel young men interested in a vocation. They have promoted a consecrated life through bible studies, talks, literature, virtually every means possible.

The stakes are high: the future of the monastery and the prep school depends on a new wave of young priests. The clock is ticking.

“This is my highest priority,” Abbot Denis said. “I have spent hours and hours listening to people, following false leads.

“But it is never time wasted,” he said. “It just takes a lot of groundwork. The attention we have given

has helped many young men a great deal.

“Now we have three novices in the monastery and more are on the way,” he said. “You make your own good luck.”

Still, Br. Abraham’s return was a surprise.

“During that time, I felt something was missing,” Br. Abraham recalled. “So I came back in March. By this time, I had come to the conclusion that this was what God had called me to do. I met with Abbot Denis one more time. By April, I was writing my application.”

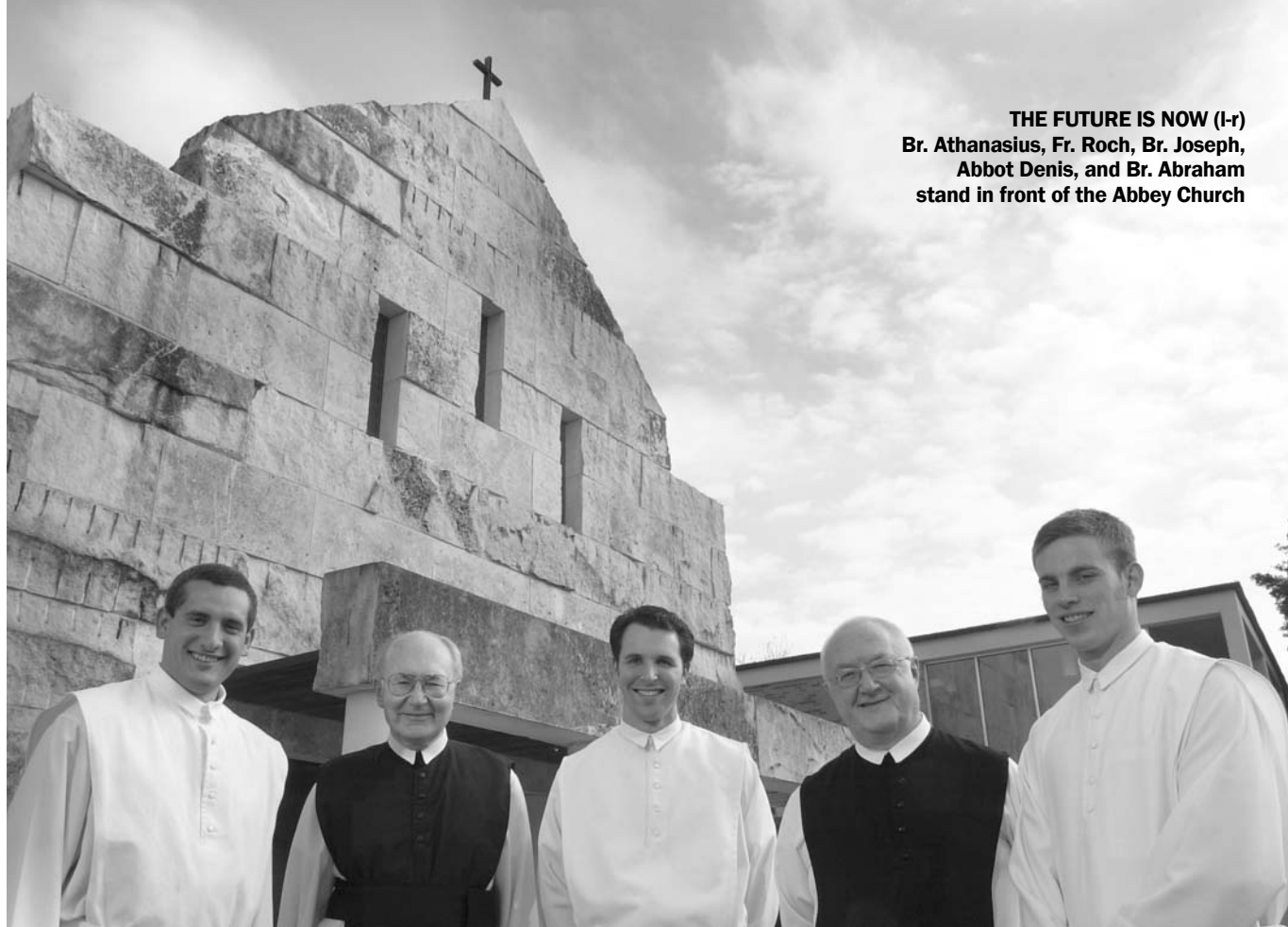
“Initially,” recalled Br. Joseph, “I did not have the maturity or insight to see past what the secular world would have us believe: that success in life necessarily means being loved by a woman, having plenty of money, and not answering to any authority above yourself.”

“As long as I thought of success in these terms alone, and as long as I was hounded by the idea that my natural and healthy desires for marriage and independence were proof that I wasn’t really called to the priesthood, I was simply unable to truly respond to my calling. Without contact with spiritual and insightful priests like the ones that I met here at the monastery,



**THE FUTURE IS NOW (l-r)
Br. Athanasius, Fr. Roch, Br. Joseph,
Abbot Denis, and Br. Abraham
stand in front of the Abbey Church**

Photo by Jim Reisch



I never would have come to see that a vocation is truly a gift, not a burden.”

One of the young men now considering a vocation, we’ll call him Daniel, is still going through this scary stage.

“In this day and age,” Daniel said, “it is somewhat difficult to face the reality of the priesthood and religious life. At first I was quite timid about even discussing the possibility of a vocation because it doesn’t follow the general trend of what people do with their lives. But Fr. Denis has helped to draw me out of that reluctance, that suppression of the reality of a vocation.”

Fr. Roch Kereszty wrote a brief document called “Steps in Decision Making” that provides some practical advice to young men confronting the inevitable indecision. It begins:

“When you begin to think about a vocation, it is so easy to start off with the wrong question, ‘Where could I be most happy?’ If your first goal is your own happiness, you will never reach it. ‘Whoever wants to keep his life will lose it’ (Mt 16:25). Instead, you should repeat Saul’s question he asked as he was lying in the dust of the road to Damascus: ‘Lord, what do you want me to do?’”

“Like all beautiful lifestyles,” said Br. Joseph, “[the priesthood] involves sacrifices, but what I had to learn was that, in the end, these hardships are so dramatically outweighed by what I receive: a unique opportunity to grow closer to the Incarnate God by imitating his pure and submissive love for His Father and for His people.

“These graces are hard to appreciate at first,” he emphasized, “and I think that many vocations are aborted very early because the blessings are hidden compared to the sacrifices. So long as a young man does not see God’s calling as a special and personal gift from a father who loves him, he can never really devote himself to exploring a way of life that involves sacrifices

as obvious as those involved in priesthood and monastic life.

“And I think that’s the unsung tragedy that exists behind the ‘vocation crisis’ that we are seeing these days: how truly unfortunate it is when somebody misses his true calling because he can’t see how wonderful it really is.”

BROTHER ATHANASIOUS, WHO RANKS AS the elder statesman among the three novices at 29, spent two years preparing to become a priest in the El Paso diocese. But he became disenchanted and left the four-year program.

He was introduced to the Cistercians at the University of Dallas where he was studying theology while serving as youth minister at All Saints Parish in North Dallas. He became acquainted with Fr. Roch, Fr. Denis, and Fr. David Balas.

“It was surprising even to myself, but it just kind of clicked,” Br. Athanasius said. “It felt really good.”

The theology the Cistercians offered rang true. “I was looking for a theology that was faithful to the teaching of the Church and Pope. That was really the most important factor for me. The Cistercians offered that.”

“It was little things, too. Fr. Roch started his class with prayer,” he said. “That sends a very important message. It puts the class in the context of prayer, asking for His guidance.

“At the masses here and the Liturgy of the Hours, I could sense the great reverence for the mass and the dignified worship of God. Mass in many parishes often appears more focused on the community, offering support to each other. While that’s important, the priority should be on God. It is through God that we become one body.

“I was working hard at developing a vibrant prayer life. You

could see that prayer was a big priority for them.”

But while Athanasius was receiving a spiritual boost at the Cistercian monastery, he was considering his options. He became interested in an order in Boston called The Oblates of the Virgin Mary.

“Athanasius called me after his visit to Boston,” Abbot Denis remembered. “He wanted to talk about whether or not he should join that order. I told him, ‘Look, I cannot discuss with you another religious community that I do not know anything about. If you come to me, I will tell you to join us.’”

Athanasius still wanted to talk.

“OK,” Fr. Denis sighed. “Let’s talk.”

Two weeks later, Athanasius submitted his application to the Cistercians.

“There were a number of factors,” Br. Athanasius said. “The fact that the Cistercians are teachers is very important to me. I also like the fact that the Cistercians are here in Dallas. I was raised in Texas. It is home. But the clincher was the relationships I established. I trust Fr. Denis and Fr. Roch. They care about me. They are men I respect. I feel very comfortable placing my life in their hands.”

While the Cistercians’ orthodox theology, the opportunity to teach, and the trust engendered by the monks played the key roles in the decisions of all three novices, each has been very excited by their exposure to the larger Cistercian community.

“We couldn’t walk five feet at the football games without being swarmed with people,” said Br. Abraham. “The sense of gratitude the parents have for the monastery and the school is remarkable.”

“The community is a very strong force,” Abbot Denis said. “The novices are very impressed with the way we are anchored and emotionally at home with our boys. They are astonished when we talk about them at meal times. We know so much about them.

There is this ongoing memory of hundreds of boys. They can see how rich this life is in personal relationships. It is a fruitful, dedicated life we lead. We are not spinning our wheels.”

“And,” he added, “there are more and more boys to be raised.”

“WE BEGAN TO SEE A NUMBER of young men coming to the abbey for counseling about two and a half years ago,” Abbot Denis reflected. The sudden wave of interest in religious life from students at the University of Dallas is as unmistakable as it is unexplainable.

“I don’t know what is behind this phenomenon,” said another one of the UD students who is considering a vocation (we’ll call him John). “I can’t exactly think of any one particular reason why now or what it is in these particular guys. But, I have been deeply impressed by the level of spirituality in the classes immediately above and below me at UD. It seems that many people at UD are very interested in taking an active role in their faith at a young age.”

John became interested in the monastery through his involvement in UD’s liturgical choir, the Collegium Cantorum,

which often performs in the Abbey Church.

“That helped me to view the abbey in a different way,” explained John, who happens to be an alumnus of Cistercian Prep School. “I saw the serious, adult side of how the faith is practiced over at the monastery.”

“Then I spoke at length to Fr. James Lehrberger and to Fr. Robert Maguire who taught me English at UD,” he added. “I didn’t know either of them from the prep school, but I was very impressed by them and their contentment with their vocation, their feel for their faith and monastic life.”

While the wave of interest in vocations surprised everyone, the monastery was prepared. Approximately one year before, Abbot Denis had formed a vocations committee comprised of himself, Fr. Roch (the novice master), Fr. Bernard Marton, **Fr. Peter Verhalen ‘73**, and Fr. Paul McCormick (the vocations director). Meeting about once a month, the committee members set goals, report on activity, share wisdom, and provide encouragement.

Each understands that increasing the ranks of the monastery is of the highest priority.

“The committee helps us remain focused. This endeavor takes that kind of effort,” Abbot Denis insisted. “You have to keep the fire burning.”

“I will interrupt anything I am doing to take a call from a young man considering a vocation,” said Abbot Denis. “I have no higher priority.”

“Perhaps there was no shortage of vocations before,” Abbot Denis postulated, “just a shortage of responses to them.”

The five members of the vocations committee bring to bear approximately 142 years of experience in shaping young men. Between their commitment and their experience, the Cistercians are certain to respond enthusiastically to those seeking a vocation. And they can be expected to do so with patience and

care.

The abbot’s commitment to the young men — not just to swelling the ranks in the monastery — speaks volumes.

“First and foremost,” said Daniel, “his general interest and concern is for me. He wants to see what is really in my heart, to see if God is calling me. He is not so much into assigning me to a priestly vocation but seeing what is going on in my life.”

“I am grateful that there isn’t constant pressure,” John said. “I had been holding off dating for some time because I felt I might join the priesthood. But when I began struggling with the idea of joining the monastery last year, they encouraged me to begin dating again. That freedom helped me come to a more permanent decision.”

“To this day,” John said, “I still struggle with every sort of doubt that the mind and imagination can conjure up. But at moments of peacefulness, contemplation, and prayerfulness, the certainty in my heart has been a constant.”

“These young men always have to make up their own minds,” insisted Fr. Roch. “Basically, it is God’s grace that decides such things. It is so independent from us.”

“For years, we had very few vocations,” he added. “We put in a lot of effort but received few lasting results. All of a sudden, these guys are falling out of the sky. We have a role to play, but they are really an undeserved gift.”

**“To this day,
I still struggle
with every sort
of doubt that
the mind and
imagination can
conjure up. But
... the certainty
in my heart has
been a constant.”**

— John,
young man
considering a vocation

IN A HEAVY SOLEMNITY, we watched the gym slowly fill, first in the 500 red chairs arranged around the front and sides of the altar, which stood on a raised platform against the gym's west wall, then around the perimeter where an additional 500 mourners stood three, four, even five deep.

In the midst of Pachelbel's *Canon in D*, various pieces by Bach, a setting of Psalm 19, *Ave Maria* and *The Lord's Prayer* came something unexpected and wonderfully fitting — the exploding timpani drums from Copeland's *Fanfare for the Common Man*. Suddenly I could see Seth in his strength, speed, and grace running the option along the line of scrimmage, and I knew that all would be well with the rest of the afternoon.

What a difficult, exhausting ordeal had, for so many, preceded this moment! What an accumulation of tragedy and sadness and grief; yet, simultaneously, what an expression of love and loyalty and faith! All such contradiction seemed to be gathering in that gym in the hope of being shaped into a meaning beyond the immediate mix of emotions and memories. That shaping movement had, in fact, begun the night before at the rosary prayed at the Chapel of the Incarnation on the University of Dallas campus. Christa Arias's poem, *Goodbye Voices*, one of several reflections made immediately after the rosary, was written from Seth's point of view, and seemed to speak to everyone.

Theresa Powers, one of the trauma nurses at Baylor who was assigned to Seth during the five weeks he was there, said, "I see so many emotions with family members. I try to put myself in their shoes, knowing that I can never truly comprehend their grief but only wishing I could help in some way. How do you not question God at a time like this?" She and Fr. Eugene Azorji, one of Baylor's Catholic chaplains, attended the memorial service. They had shared the grief and pain of the Henderson family and were both deeply moved by the family's love for each other, their gracious reception of the near-constant stream of friends and well-wishers, and their unshakable faith. "It was very clear that Bob and Marilyn and their sons depended on God first, and put the whole affair in His hands and knew that He would take care of it," Fr. Eugene remarked.

The strength of this faith was especially important for Seth's classmates and many friends, too young perhaps to comprehend the situation fully yet all willing to make any sacrifice, to run any gauntlet that might give them in the end some assurance that Seth would be O.K. Yet, such assurance was not to be. Despite the roller coaster of hopes and fears reflected in oldest brother Tucker's daily updates on the hotline — the reports themselves a daily testimony to the power of faith, hope, and charity — the end came on August 29. The long ordeal was over.

Nevertheless, even this dark cloud had a silver lining. Elaine Bethea, the mother of one of Seth's close friends expressed the thought of so many: "The outpouring of love for Seth and his fam-

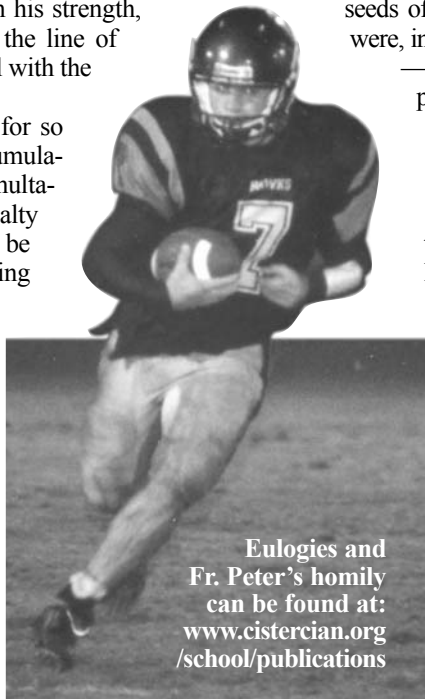
ily during his time in the hospital truly touched us. In fact, my husband and I discussed our feeling that the Cistercian community acted exactly as we think God envisioned 'the church' — a community not bound together by zip codes but by the love all share for God and for each other. The practical ways this was exhibited are a perfect example of our willingness to share each other's burdens and to live in obedience to God's desire for us ... 'to love one another as God loved us.' It blessed us to be a part of it."

Thus, in the midst of all the tragedy were sown the seeds of hope; Seth and the entire Henderson family were, in fact, surrounded by a community of "sowers" — willing hearts who gave themselves over to plowing the hard ground, broadcasting seed, and bearing fruit in many acts of kindness and of love — of bringing food and sharing pictures, running errands, providing conversation and hugs and laughter. In the terrible struggle there were others' faces to look into, hands to hold, hearts to bring encouragement, minds to probe for understanding, spirits with which to walk the difficult journey. And in the memorial mass all that seed was watered and nourished and began to grow. As one alumnus, **Stephen Collins '76**, reflected after the service, "What an awesome tribute to Seth. But perhaps even better, what an awesome tribute to our Cistercian community. I had never seen a pulling together of the broad Cistercian community as I saw today. Nor had I seen such depth of reach or emotion — the tentacles of our Cistercian bonds reached far and wide today, in person and in spirit."

In his homily Fr. Peter directed us to a Scriptural analogy as he spoke about the gymnasium as the setting for Seth's memorial service; it is like Bethany, the home of Mary and Martha and Lazarus, a place in which moments of great sorrow had succeeded moments of great joy. "But in Bethany there was more than the joys of life and the sorrow of death. There was infinitely more, for Jesus Christ himself was there, teaching and giving life. The warmth and love and support represented by so many people here, the uplifting memories and funny stories — these tell us about the reality of life, the way we deal with the inevitable loss and suffering, the way we support one another. But Christ wants to teach us today, and I believe that Seth now wants to teach us, about life after death. He asks us to believe Him when He says, 'I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he should die, will live.'"

Following the eulogies and Abbot Denis's final blessing, one could hear once again, as the crowd followed the family out of the gym toward the reception in the school lunchroom, those timpani drums from Copeland's *Fanfare for the Common Man* vigorously proclaiming Seth's presence. "I will not leave you comfortless" they seemed to proclaim to all present and left us knowing that the Spirit had kept His promise and we were all — Seth, the Henderson family, the Class of 2004, parents and friends — most assuredly in His strong, gentle hands.

— Tom Pruitt



Eulogies and Fr. Peter's homily can be found at: www.cistercian.org/school/publications

"THE GREATEST STORY of them all," said Tyler Bethea '03 in his Sept. 1 eulogy, "is what has occurred in the hospital the past five weeks and in this [gym] today. Seth was always a captain on the field, calling on his team to come together in times of difficulty. On this day it seems as though Seth is playing captain again."

First-time offensive starters fuel Hawks' 2003 attack

Team wins four of final five games, including a victory over eventual SPC II champ Oakridge

The All Saints tackler rocked the world of running back **Connor Arras '04** on a first quarter carry. The hit to the face-mask would have stunned any player, but this Cistercian tailback had not played football since Form IV. Arras stumbled to the sideline, wobbly kneed and dizzy. The coaches expected he was done. His mom and his dad, **Oscar Arras '78**, wondered how their boy would react.

They found out in the second half when Arras returned to the field, rushing with a vengeance and gaining over 100 yards for the night.

Arras' performance that September night mirrored the performance of the Hawks this season, a year in which they won only one of their first five games, then went on to win four of the final five.

"The turning point," said Head Coach Steve McCarthy, "was Oakridge. It was the first time all season that we put together two good halves." Oakridge came into the contest with just one defeat (a three-point loss to Holland Hall). They would not lose another game all season and would win their first-ever SPC Division II championship.

"Coach Taylor deserves a lot of credit for preparing our defense for their no-huddle offense," McCarthy said. "We took the run away from them and forced them to pass more than they wanted."

An interception returned for a touchdown in the closing seconds of the first half helped Oakridge to a 14-7 advantage.



QB Jordan Campbell '04 was one of four offensive starters who excelled at a position they had never before played at the varsity level.

In the second half, "we dominated," McCarthy said. "The offense took care of the ball and the defense stuffed them."

The Hawks were on a four-game winning streak before losing to an ESD team that ended up in the SPC Division II championship game against Oakridge.

Arras, who led the team in rushing with 76 carries for 450 yards, was not the only player to step into a new situation for the 2003 Hawks. All of the team's top offensive weapons succeeded in positions they had never played before at the varsity level.

Quarterback **Jordan Campbell '04** proved to be a quick learner, ending the season with 1,088 yards passing, with 10

B-ballers win first tourney in new gym

The Hawks defeated Denton Liberty 55-34 in the championship game of the Cistercian Tip-Off Classic on Nov. 22. Cistercian was led by Tournament MVP **Chandan Vangala '04** (#2 guard) and All-Tournament players **Bobby Crews '06** (#1 guard), and **Eric Ojeda '05** (post). The tournament victories helped the Hawks jump off to a quick 6-0 start.

Chandan Vangala drives to the hoop during a win over Prestonwood Christian in the Tip-Off Classic.



Photo by Jim Rensch

FWCD to replace Greenhill on 2004 football schedule

Beginning next autumn, Greenhill and Cistercian will no longer meet on the gridiron at the varsity level.

The Hornets will be replaced on next year's schedule by Fort Worth Country Day, which is moving down to Division II. With the addition of Country Day, the Hawks will play eight SPC Division II opponents, one Division I opponent (Houston Episcopal), and Pantego Christian.

Cistercian's last win against Greenhill came on October 8, 1999, during Coach Tom Hillary's final season. It was one of Coach's finest moments.

touchdowns and only four interceptions. He also gained 371 yards on the ground.

Then there was wideout **Stephen Bailey '04**, who had not played since he was a sophomore. Bailey finished with 53 receptions for 621 yards.

Finally, **Matt Chee-Awai '05** stepped in at running back, rushing for 380 tough yards on 76 carries. He also had not played the previous year.

"You can't do what these kids did at most schools," McCarthy insisted. "This is part of what makes Cistercian so special."

Not all of the team's stars were newcomers to their positions. **Steve Kinard '04** (FB, LB), **Cart Weiland '04** (OL), and **Parker Wolf '04** (OL, DL), have anchored the team for years and each won All-SPC honors along with Bailey and Campbell. Bailey, Kinard, and Campbell were selected to play in the Tom Hillary Classic (the All-Star game for private school players) held just before Christmas.

Honorable Mention SPC recognition went to Arras, **Austin Nevitt '04**, **Matthew Lawson '04**, **Jacob Arias '04**, **Tony Johnston '05**, **Michael Abola '05**, and Chee-Awai.