

Fall 2011

For family, friends, and alumni of Cistercian Preparatory School

CISTERCIAN PREPARATORY SCHOOL IRVING, TEXASNTINUUM

FORMATION OF AN ABBOT

PACIS VISIO

*All Miklós Farkasfalvy
really wanted was to
realize his vision of
a peaceful home*

Abbot Denis Farkasfalvy
addresses the large crowd
gathered in the Abbey
Church to celebrate his 50th
Jubilee Mass in October.



Welcome to Cistercian!

Simple, elegant materials complemented by lots of natural light.

Ceremonial, yet compact. A stillness that whispers stability.

Just a hint of activity from offices hidden out of sight.

“Good morning,” laughs Mrs. Nevitt, snapping you out of your reverie. “This must be your first time in the new entrance building,” she says. “Everyone reacts that way.”



50th
anniversary

C A M P A I G N

The final phase

Contact Erin Hart 469-499-5406 or ehart@cistercian.org.



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Our 50th — a banner year

Understanding our roots and seeing our future unfold

The school year started exceptionally well. Br. **Stephen Gregg '01** and Br. **Lawrence Brophy '01** were ordained as deacons, taking the final step before following **Fr. Augustine Hoelke '00** and **Fr. Philip Lastimosa '00** as Cistercian alumni and Cistercian priests next August.



Letter from
the headmaster
Fr. Peter Verhalen '73

We also were richly blessed with the ordination to the priesthood of two beloved confreres: Fr. Thomas Esposito and Fr. Ambrose Strong. Fr. Thomas has returned to Rome to continue work in biblical studies, and Fr. Ambrose has assumed duties in the Prep School as Form Master to our youngest students, the Class of '19.

In October Fr. Abbot celebrated the 50th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood. In our feature story, **David Stewart '74** helps us

understand the sources of Fr. Denis's commitment to create a home at both the Abbey and School.

That sense of a home at Cistercian was apparent to the visiting accreditation teams from both the Independent Schools Association of the Southwest and from the Catholic Conference.

They left Cistercian with the impression that they had spent four days in our well-ordered, gracious home. Thanks to everyone in the Cistercian community — from students and faculty to staff and parents — who helped things run so smoothly.

Take note of the contribution from a 21st century alumnus, **Kenneth Spence '06**, who fills us in on social networking. And don't miss the column by **Smokey Briggs '84** on coaching.

We are truly blessed to be able to present to you on this, our 50th anniversary, such a rich edition of *The Continuum*.

May Cistercian always remain a place of peace, as Fr. Abbot longed for so many years ago in Hungary.

Volume 38, number 2

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With his world turned upside down at the age of eight, Miklos Farkasfalvy grew up determined to find his vision of a peaceful home.

By David Exall Stewart

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*Cover photography by
Jim Reisch*



Social Media

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The Cistercian community shares observations on the pros and cons of social media.

By Kenneth A. Spence

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, creed, national, or ethnic origin in the administration of its admission and education policies, financial aid programs, athletic programs, and other activities.

ACCREDITATION

Visiting teams impressed, make recommendations

Accreditation visits from TCCED and ISAS, which occur every ten years, began on Sunday of Homecoming Weekend and concluded three days later.

Preparations began “several years” in advance and involved countless hours.

At the exit meetings on Wednesday, the visitors shared some of their findings.

“Having visited Cistercian for only one day this past spring,” said Chris Bright, headmaster of The Casady School in Oklahoma City, “I felt that I was a better person.

“Having spent four days at the School during this accreditation visit,” he added, “I feel transformed.”

Recommendations revolved around the fine arts, technology, and foreign languages.

Quiz Bowlers off to hot start

Cistercian won’t sneak up on any of the state’s quiz bowl powerhouses this year.

In the state’s largest tournament this season, the Hawks took *both* 1st and 2nd place at Seven Lakes High School in Katy (Houston), TX on Saturday, Oct. 8, 2011.

The two teams, led respectively by **Ian Hunley ’12** and **Vimal Konduri ’13**, managed to win their way to the finals, where they faced off against one another.



FEARSOME FOURSOME Fr. Gregory with (l-r) Collin Nadarajah '13, Mitchell Weldon '13, Ian Hunley '12, and Vimal Kunduri '13.



Form IV students attended “To Kill a Mockingbird” with teacher Tom Pruitt at the Wyly Theater Nov. 3.

MORE FIELD STUDIES BY FORM

Form VIII
The Tempest
Wyly Theater

Form VII
Art of the American Twenties
Dallas Museum of Art

Form VI
Caravaggio and His Followers in Rome
Kimbell Museum

Form V
The Spiritual in Art
Meadows Museum of Art

Form III
Permanent Collection of Western Art
Amon Carter Museum

Form II
Fabled Journeys in Asian Art: East Asia
Crow Museum of Asian Art

Form I
A Christmas Carol
Kalita Humphreys Theater

EXPLORING CULTURE IN THE COMMUNITY

Fine arts initiative to integrate the area’s cultural arts into the school’s curriculum

In the first step in making the fine arts a more integral part of the curriculum in the years to come, Cistercian students this year are attending cultural events that dovetail with the content of their classes.

“This new program partly arose out of the accreditation ‘self-study,’ in which we outlined goals for the next ten years,” explained Peter Saliga, the newly appointed fine arts coordinator.

“While many of us would love to see a choir and other fine arts programs,” Saliga said, “the answer, at least for the moment, is fitting culture into the existing curriculum.”

Each form is being required to take at least one field study that relates to a cultural element formally treated in the classroom.

Saliga also is suggesting that all teachers consider how to “incorporate in their respective classes specific activities geared toward either the appreciation or the generation of art proper.”

“It is exciting to see the cultural scene in North Texas taking off,” he added. “We want our student body to more actively engage a cultural scene in North Texas that’s quickly becoming world class.”

Participation in the Junior Patrons’ Guild is being encouraged. Plans also include maximizing use of school facilities (e.g., theater productions, a student film festival, and movie nights).

“To ‘do art’ at all requires knowledge of a great many things,” Saliga pointed out.

“Thus Cistercian has pledged to more effectively round out its students’ inquiry into what is and what can be.”

2 Number of Cistercian Quiz Bowl teams that competed in the finals of the state’s largest tournament of the season at the Seven Lakes High School in Katy, Texas.

4 Number of forms that will have embarked on arts related trips into the community before the end of the year. Forms must take at least one such trip this year.

LEWIS '73 AND HAASER TO BE HONORED JAN. 28

An appropriately large 50th anniversary celebration is planned for the 2012 Jim and Lynn Moroney Award Dinner on January 28.

Tom Lewis '73 (below), whose missionary work in Sierra Leone was documented in the Spring 2011 *Continuum*,



will be awarded the 2012 Jim and Lynn Moroney Award.

In addition, **Bob Haaser** (below), who has served the school for 42 years, will be recognized with an



Honorary Alumnus Award.

Haaser becomes the school's second Honorary Alumnus (Rodney Walter won the honor in 2009).



TOP TALENT New teachers (l-r) Dr. Jonathan Gray (math), Dr. Olivia Villagra (Spanish), and Lisa Hernandez (Spanish).

CISTERCIAN'S NEW TEACHERS Foreign language department make-over

Cistercian's three new teachers bring a great deal of experience and wisdom to the faculty.

Jonathan Gray, who is teaching math in Forms III and V, holds a M.A. and Ph.D. from the University of Tennessee.

He has taught one year of high school math and six years of college.

"In all of my years of teaching," Gray said, "I have not had more well-mannered, hard-working, and gifted students."

Gray ended up in Dallas when wife Anna accepted a medical residency here.

Lisa Hernandez is teaching Spanish in Forms V-VIII.

"I am enjoying the close environment at Cistercian," said Hernandez, who most recently taught at Bishop Lynch for four years.

There, she established the dual-enrollment and AP program for Spanish classes and served

as a coach for the Bishop Lynch TAPPS academic team.

While earning her master's degree at UNT, she taught undergraduate courses.

She and husband Jeromy live in Garland with their two-year-old daughter, Lorelei.

Mexico-native Dr. Olivia Villagra is teaching Spanish in Forms V-VIII.

She holds degrees from the "Universidad Autónoma de Guadalajara" (accounting), Columbia (M.A.), and Texas

A&M University-Commerce.

Dr. Villagra taught college in Mexico for over 10 years. For the last 25 years, she has worked as an English as a Second Language and Spanish professor at North Lake College.

"I am impressed by the quality of education at Cistercian," said Villagra, who is the proud grandmother of one and one on the way.

"In all my years of teaching, I have not had more well-mannered, hard-working, and gifted students."

— Jonathan Gray
Math (III, V)

NEW FORM MASTER

Fr. Ambrose assumes the reins of the Class of 2019

Less than a week after his ordination, Fr. Ambrose was on the job, preparing the Class of '19 for its eight-year march through the school.

For the third year in a row, a newly ordained monk stepped into the role of form master.

Next year, it appears that pattern will continue and all form masters in the Middle School will be young monks.



INDUCTEES Members of the 2012 chapter of Cistercian's Cum Laude Society.

CUM LAUDE SOCIETY

New members announced

The second half of the 2012 chapter of Cistercian's Cum Laude Society are: **Santiago Martin '12, Josh Fontenot '12, Andy Kistler '12, John Newcomb '12, and Shane Macedonio '12.** They will be recognized publicly at the Ring Ceremony.

The first half (**Michael Saad '12, John Paul Spence '12, Will Squiers '12, and Carlos Girod '12**) were recognized at last year's Closing Ceremonies.

Membership is based on grade-point average (the top 20 percent) over the first five/six semesters of high school.

"Cum Laude honors those who succeed in carrying out their many tasks," said Fr. Peter, "since these guys participate in the arts, in athletics, in service to others, in growth in their faith, and in a social life."

20

Age of Bob Haaser when he began working at Cistercian in 1969. He has served admirably in many roles including football coach (see page 23).

3

Young monks serving as form masters in the Middle School (Forms I - III). All began serving in their roles within days of the priestly ordinations in the Abbey Church.

Passing it on: Jesuit QB has legendary Cistercian genes

"It's every Dad's dream," said **Terry Buell '73** about watching son Brian throw the football for Jesuit. "A father can have no greater pride than watching his son succeed at something he has worked so hard for."



Terry Buell '73 (left) and son Brian Buell, Jesuit quarterback.

As quarterback for some of Cistercian's first teams, the elder Buell set the benchmark for Cistercian passers when he threw for 1,743 yards (and 17 touchdowns) his senior year.

This mark for single-season passing yardage now ranks third behind **Matt Walter '86** and **Matt Hawkins '88**.

In his seven games for Jesuit, Brian Buell threw for 2,069 yards and 28 touchdowns.

Hartnett '74 announces his legislating days are numbered

After twenty years as a Texas legislator, **Will Hartnett '74** (R-Dallas) announced that he will not run for re-election in 2012.

"I want to spend more time with my wife and three sons (including **Will Hartnett '17**)," he explained.



The Honorable Will Hartnett '74 with the gavel in the Texas House.

Hartnett is serving his eleventh term in the legislature and is the senior member of the House delegation from Dallas.

Texas Monthly named him one of the "Ten Best Legislators," calling him the "epitome of fairness."



OH! THE PLACES YOU'LL GO The Class of 1971 restaged their iconic *Exodus* photo inside the Trinity River trestle during Reunions Weekend.

PIONEERS REUNION, PART II - CLASS OF '71 The biggest little class ever reunites

The 40th reunion of Cistercian's tiniest graduating class would be, declared president-for-life **Buck Smith '71**, "nothing fancy."

On Saturday, June 4th, the mercury soared as the boys gathered at the old stompin' grounds and visited with Rodney Walter, Fr. Julius and other teachers, alumni, and friends.

But the "Trestle Ten" soon bolted to restage the iconic class photo shot by Tom Montgomery underneath the (always forbidden) Trinity River trestle in 1971.

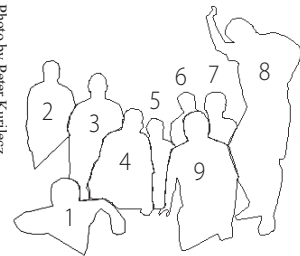
Just as they had 40 years ago, all ignored warnings to avoid "dee" trestle.

"Our graduating class might have been small," explained **Steve McAuliff '71**, "but we more than made up for it with creativity, respect for the individual and lock-step unity (when the moment required it)."

The reenactment, weeks in the planning, was recounted that evening — along with vintage 1962 - 1971 stories — at the east Dallas compound of **Robert Bellamy '71**.

Long-lost classmates Marty Cox, Paul DeCleva, Mark Pape, and John Rulien joined with alumni from the classes of 1970 through 1974 to sample delightful wines and savor a sensational buffet.

A nice note from former Form Master



CLASS OF 1971

1. Tom Montgomery
 2. Steve McAuliff
 3. Steve Johnston
 4. Buck Smith
 5. Brian Melton
 6. Robert Bellamy
 7. Joe Bush
 8. Mike Haggerty
 9. Mike Kurilecz
- Note: Chuck Dolan was unable to attend.

Greg Schmidt passed away in 2004.



THE ORIGINAL CAPER Not pictured are Mike Kurilecz '71, who was in Austria, and Tom Montgomery '71, the photographer.

Daniel Csanyi made the rounds, and former Form Master Jerry O'Brien and Form Master Fr. Melchior also joined the festivities.

"Toasts were raised to former classmates unable to attend," said **Brian Melton '71**, "including **Chuck Dolan '71**, Sebastian Larreta, Casey Sills, and Ted Sarosdy, as well as to **Greg Schmidt '71**, Mike Wunderlick, and John Pendery, three friends who can forevermore only join us in spirit."

11

Number of terms served in the Texas House by the Hon. Will Hartnett '74, who recently announced that he will not seek re-election in 2012.

7

The number of classes that graduated after nine years at Cistercian. The Class of 1971 was the first to complete the nine-year program. The Class of 1977 was the last.

PASSING ON

Louis Johnston M.D., 1926-2011

Dr. Louis Johnston, father of **Kevin Johnston '70** and **Steve Johnston '71**, was



far more than a highly regarded physician who cared for patients through St. Paul Hospital and the Samuel Clinic.

He was a trusted member of the founding School Board of Cistercian.

His wise advice and counsel, especially during the difficult early years, prompted Abbot Anselm Nagy to bestow upon Dr. Johnston the title of "*confrater*." It is the highest honor a layman may receive.

Dr. Johnston also served as a physician for many of the monks in the monastery (a legacy son Steve is proud to carry on).

He will be missed by all.

J.T. Hunter, 1990-2011

Jonathon Thomas (JT) Hunter, the beloved son of Mike and Carol Hunter, left this life on July 22, 2011.

JT left behind a loving family and countless friends, especially his brothers in the Class of 2008, who will forever recall his kindness, humor, and ever-present smile.

His free spirit and the welcoming warmth behind his smile were huge gifts to those who knew him well.

And you couldn't meet JT without immediately feeling like he knew you well already.

— Greg Novinksi '81



GENEROUS BENEFACTORS Burk and Elise Murchison's gift is helping to push the campaign, which is slated to conclude in May 2012, toward its goal of \$15 million.

50th ANNIVERSARY CAMPAIGN

Murchison matching gift of \$250,000 encourages contributions before the campaign ends in May

"Our kids wouldn't be who they are today without Cistercian," emphasized Elise Murchison, mother of **Will Murchison '06** and **Clint Murchison '08**.

"Burk and I want to do everything we can to help the school raise the money they need to build a beautiful entrance building," she said. "Cistercian deserves it!"

In the summer, Elise and Burk Murchison decided to offer a challenge match of \$250,000, so that their funds might spark the generosity of others.

"We feel very strongly about Cistercian," Burk Murchison added. "We hope our gift helps. We really do."

The Murchisons' passion for Cistercian stems from the very real help they feel their sons received, and continue to receive, from their form masters, monks, and teachers.

"Every young person goes through some difficulties, and men like Mr. Haaser, Mr. Novinski, Fr. Roch, they know how to help our boys through those times."

"We want to see this campaign end on a positive note."

To date, \$150,000 has been raised to secure the Murchison's matching gift.

Donors interested in helping the school secure the full amount of the matching gift should contact Erin Hart, director of development.



Rendering of the new entrance area.

Campaign to conclude in May

Contributions to the 50th Anniversary Campaign have surpassed \$13 million.

Fr. Peter has announced that the campaign will conclude in May. "We hope to raise the funds to accomplish all we set out to do," said Fr. Peter. "It's just a matter of how much we are able to spend on the entrance building."

"The funds are needed to ensure the new building makes alumni, students, and parents proud for the next 50 years."

6

Number of months (December through May) left in the 50th Anniversary Campaign, the school's largest and most transforming campaign ever.

4

Number of *confraters* of the abbey. They include Dr. Louis Johnston, Bryan F. Smith, James M. Moroney, Jr., and Dr. Ray Thomasson. All occupy a special place in Cistercian history.

THE FORMATION OF ABBOT DENIS FARKASFALVY

PACIS VISIO

With his world turned upside down at the age of eight, Miklós Farkasfalvy grew up determined to find his vision of a peaceful home.

BY DAVID EXALL STEWART

(Editor's note: No one has played a more important role in shaping the school's destiny over the past 50 years than Abbot Denis Farkasfalvy. Named headmaster at age 33 in 1969, he lifted and stabilized the school's standards, curriculum, and finances. Long after his 11 years as headmaster, he continues to play an important role in its development. Elected abbot in 1988, he directed efforts to build the Abbey Church and spearheaded efforts to attract new vocations. The abbot, 75, took time out after his 50th Jubilee Mass to share his thoughts on a wide number of issues, see photos, pages 10-11. Here, we share a perspective on the formation of this seminal figure in the Cistercian community.)

TWENTY-FIVE-YEAR-OLD Fr. Denis Farkasfalvy (born Miklós Farkasfalvy) had been waiting for the knock on the door for some time on the morning of July 23, 1961. According to the centuries-old tradition at the Abbey of Lilienfeld, three priests (including fellow Hungarian and superior Fr. Polycarp Zakar) had come to his room to escort him to the church for his First Mass.

Waiting for him downstairs was the abbot of Lilienfeld and its community of monks, who led him to the church entrance. A crowd greeted the procession of priests as they approached the church and watched as a group of children presented the young priest with gifts.

"It was a total surprise," remembered Abbot Denis Farkasfalvy as he reflected on the gold chalice and wooden crucifix he received.

"The abbot of Lilienfeld had spent a lot of money renovating the 800-year-old church," Abbot Denis suggested. "He was using this occasion to showcase the completed work to the community."

The elegant flourishes of the traditional ceremony also may have been orchestrated to honor a most promising young monk. Fr.



Denis had, only months before, earned his licentiate in Rome with *summa cum laude* honors. (It had been 15 years since a student had gained this distinction at Sant' Anselmo, the pontifical university run by the Benedictines.) To add further luster to the achievement, the precocious monk completed the five-year program in just four years.

During summer breaks from those studies in Rome between 1957 and 1961, Br. Denis had been captivated by the beautiful, isolated Austrian village and abbey of Lilienfeld (about 50 miles west of Vienna).

The abbey and its community of monks captured much of what he loved about the Cistercian Order — its long history, wonderful



traditions, and happy communal prayer life.

After the First Mass and his first blessings, the monks, as dictated by tradition, escorted Fr. Denis back to his room. There he tried to avoid thinking about the one unable to attend.

Despite months of pleading and bargaining, Soviet bureaucrats had refused to issue Mrs. Maria Farkasfalvy a passport to the event. Only the alb she had made for her son arrived.

There in his room in Lilienfeld, the young priest struggled to comprehend how his mother had coped with 16 years of war and oppression. He tried not to think of her sadness and frustration over missing his First Mass.

“She was the hero of our family,” the abbot reflected.



BOTH SIDES NOW Fr. Denis Farkasfalvy is greeted by children bearing gifts as he prepares to enter the church at the Cistercian Abbey of Lilienfeld in Austria for his First Mass on Sunday, July 23, 1961.



SNOW BEGAN FALLING ON A RAW NIGHT IN early February 1945 as large numbers gathered in the city square of Székesfehérvár, Hungary (population: 45,000, located 40 miles southwest of Budapest). Most were carrying bags, many packing them on sleds.

The Russian Army was back once again (they had captured the city over the Christmas holidays but had been pushed back by German troops). Most natives of the city knew there would be little left of Székesfehérvár when the battle was over.

Over the centuries this ancient town had seen more than its share of invasions. It resisted the Mongol invasion, succumbed twice to the Ottoman Empire siege, but was taken back by Christian forces. “It is impossible for people in my hometown to trace their ancestry back more than a couple of generations,” Abbot Denis commented. “Few families we knew in Székesfehérvár had lived there for more than a generation or two.”

Anxiety in the city square grew around 8 pm when the last remaining road to the West was rumored to be under attack.

A troop transport truck, open in the back with benches, stopped in the square near nine-year-old Miklós Farkasfalvy, his grandmother Mrs. Knazovitzky, mother Maria (39), father István (62), brother Gyuri (12), and sister Marika (11). They were told to load their bags and climb in. Others crowded around the truck attempting to jump in, but soldiers fought them off. All the seats had been assigned to families friendly with the mayor.

“As we left the city,” remembered Abbot Denis, “shells

exploded nearby. I buried my head into my mother’s winter coat.” There is no telling what was going through her mind.

For over three months, residents of Székesfehérvár wandered — homeless and strewn across cities, towns, and villages all over western Hungary — as the Soviets and Germans laid waste to their town.



CAUGHT IN THE CROSSFIRE

An aerial view of Székesfehérvár’s ancient town center. Saint Stephen I re-built this Roman village in the 10th century as one of his capital cities. Royal coronations and burials took place there for the following centuries. (Right) The Farkasfalvy’s home as photographed in 1972.



The Farkasfalvy family, like most, had to travel widely before finding accommodations. They eventually settled in a single room in the town of Szombathely (about 20 miles east of the Austrian border and 100 miles west of Székesfehérvár).

Attacks on Szombathely grew more intense as the Russians progressed westward in March. Then, during Holy Week, hell broke loose.

“The [Russians] were so close that the bombs hit before the sirens sounded,” Abbot Denis recalled. “Soldiers standing in line for food, civilians walking on the streets and POW’s working outside were killed before they reached their shelters.

“I saw their bodies scattered on the streets and was overcome by a sense of fear and horror.”

The war ended on May 8. About a week later, the Farkasfalvy family, along with thousands of others, returned to what was left of their pillaged and nearly destroyed town.

“Some were happy just to have returned to their homes,” the abbot recalled. “Others were unhappy. They wished they had perished alongside the nearly 10,000 who died in the siege.”

“There was immense physical misery,” explained the abbot. “Every living animal had been killed. There was no harvest.”



That summer, the Farkasfalvy family lived in the half of their home that was inhabitable; paper covered the window frames.

Late that summer, dysentery nearly killed Mr. Farkasfalvy and Marika. Mrs. Farkasfalvy, 39, sold her last bit of jewelry to procure doses of the new and expensive “wonder drug” penicillin on the black market.

It saved the lives of her husband and daughter.

“THIS GUY FARKASFALVY IS A REAL BRAIN,” roared Fr. Edgar Pötz O.Cist., form master of the First Form at the Cistercian school in Székesfehérvár in the fall of 1946, “but, O God, what a *Streber* (German slang for a pushy and driven student)!”

“Even at age ten and eleven,” admitted Abbot Denis, “I wanted to be better in everything than my oldest brother Pisti [Peeshtee] (eight years his elder), who made straight A’s at the Cistercian school in Székesfehérvár.”

“I wanted to prove to my parents that I, the youngest child, could be the best student of the four.”

At the Cistercian school, “I learned very quickly that I was not ‘cool,’ but priests like Fr. Edgar loved me dearly with a tough love of explicit criticism and high standards.

“Fr. Edgar also knew how to praise and recognize. I was totally devoted to him.”

“I would wake up at 5:15 every morning to serve at his 6:30 am Mass.”

But the relationship would not last. After Farkasfalvy finished Second Form (sixth grade), the Soviets banished the Cistercians (and all religious) from teaching in schools. The Cistercians were replaced by civilian teachers, often with little or no experience.

While priests were vanishing from his schools, they remained role models in his life.

In the spring of seventh grade, on Easter Monday 1949 (the day

after Easter), 13-year-old Miklós Farkasfalvy and his 15-year-old brother Gyuri (who was pursuing a vocation with the Cistercians) attended the 10th anniversary of the installation of Abbot Wendelin Endrédy at the Abbey of Zirc.

“The event was, at least for me, truly spectacular,” recalled Abbot Denis.

“More than 200 monks, mostly young (some 20 novices and 60 junior monks) gathered in the abbey, a huge 18th-century building with a magnificent baroque church.

“Everyone there exuded a sense of brotherhood and pride in belonging to the Cistercian Order and their 800 years of tradition. Young people flocked into the church.”

ABBAY OF ZIRC, EASTER 1949

“The view that opens from the top of the tower upon the valley that surrounds the monastery remained in my mind for decades.”

— Abbot Denis

Denis. “It was there that I received the feeling that this was the place to which I wanted to belong.”

“As my brother and I took the train back home the next morning, I was like somebody who has had a vision. In a few weeks I made a decision that I would become a Cistercian at the Abbey of Zirc.”

Today, the abbot likens the experience to the hymn: “*Urbs Jerusalem beata, dicta pacis visio...* [Holy City of Jerusalem, called vision of peace].”

“*Pacis visio* was the meaning of my experience,” he said. “At the age of 13 it may be too precocious to thirst for peace.

“But, my experiences of the war,” the abbot suggested, “prepared me for a vocation whose central theme was a deep longing for a peaceful home.”



FIRST COMMUNION

POLITICAL

FAMILIAL

PERSONAL

EDUCATIONAL

WW II
endsClass
warfareReligious
suppressedAbbey of Zirc is closed,
Abbot Wendelin is arrested

1944

1950

Rebuilding
beginsBrother moves
to AustriaMoney arrives
from AustriaFamily moves
to BudapestTurns 10
years old*Pacis visio*
at ZircMakes vow
as oblate at ZircForms I - II, Cistercian
SzekesfehervárForms III - IV, State
SzekesfehervárForms V - VIII, Benedictine
Pannonhalma

THE PLIABLE FRAME OF MIKLÓS FARKASFALVY HIT the gym floor at Pannonhalma with a thud. A new friend named Kálmán, athletic and muscular, had quickly overpowered Farkasfalvy and pinned him. Kálmán's lure of a "friendly" wrestling match had been a ploy to expose Farkasfalvy's new status as an oblate of the Cistercian Order.

"He opened the front of my shirt and grabbed the scapular lying on my chest," remembered Abbot Denis. "I defended it in vain."

Kálmán threw it on the floor for all to see.

Days before, Farkasfalvy — along with a group of Cistercian aspirants from Pannonhalma — had taken a two-day trip to the Abby of Zirc.

They were led by a Cistercian named Fr. Bálint Kisgergely, who was serving as a clandestine advisor of the Cistercian aspirants at Pannonhalma.

The group traveled the 20 miles south on Saturday for the service on Sunday, October 8, 1950.

"Even with the eyes of a 14-year-old child," recalled Abbot Denis, "the whole scene appeared to be bizarre and eerie. Only the abbot, his closest co-workers, 27 novices and their novice master, Fr. Lóránt (Lawrence) 'Sigmond, remained in the immense building. People were packing."

Despite the impending upheaval, young Farkasfalvy participated in the divine office with members of the community and felt an "incomprehensibly happy atmosphere, translucent with a spiritual awareness of God's presence."

The abbot even took time to meet briefly with Fr. Bálint and the oblates on Saturday; and on Sunday, in a very small private ceremony, Fr. Lawrence gave each oblate his grey

habit and scapular.

A week after the ceremony, on October 15, the Soviets shut down the Cistercian Abbey of Zirc; the abbot was forced to sign over all its assets to the state. Abbot Wendelin was arrested and imprisoned a few weeks later. A show trial was staged.

He would suffer six years of extreme torture at the hands of the Soviet regime.

CHRISTMAS 1950 DID NOT FIND the Farkasfalvy family well. Fourteen-year-old Farkasfalvy returned home from Pannonhalma to a "family living in disarray, poverty and at the brink of breaking up."

The Soviets were dialing up the pressure everywhere in the fall of 1950 and the family was reeling from its effects.

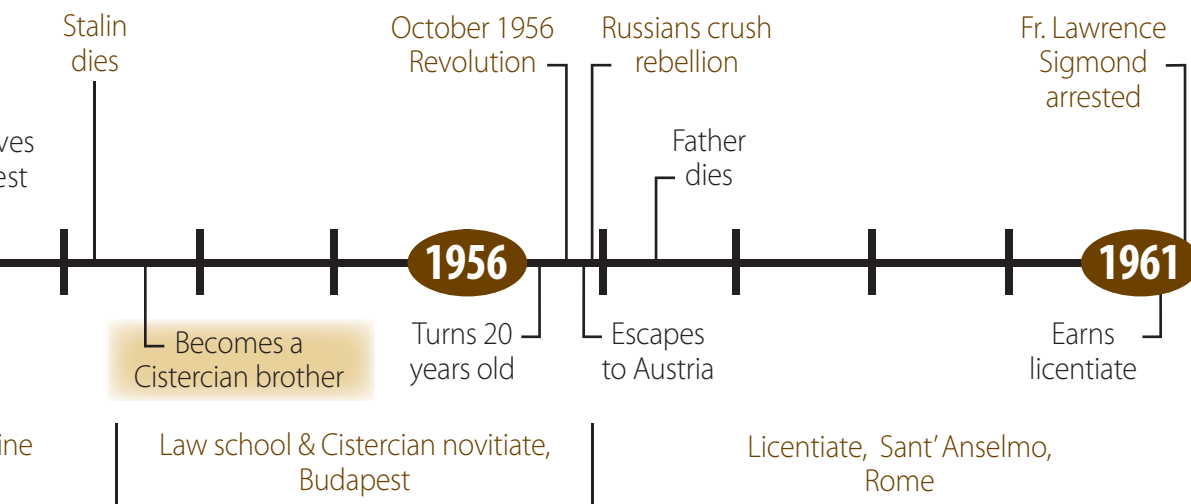
In the fall, Mr. Farkasfalvy received a notice from the Soviet state. His pension had been terminated; no appeals would be heard. (Mr. Farkasfalvy, an engineer by profession, had been forced to retire from his job as a government supervisor in 1944 by the right-wing Nazi government. He had been collecting a pension ever since.) By Christmas, he had already found a new job, but at less than half his pension. The new job required him to commute weekly to Budapest.

Brother Gyuri, who had been expelled in the fall of his senior year of high school for his religious connections, moved to the big city and joined the Cistercian novices who had gone into hiding there. Sister Marika moved to Budapest as well to pursue a career in dentistry.

The Knazovitzky family's former prominence in



MAJESTIC The 18th century baroque church (left) at the Abbey of Zirc transfixed 13-year-old Miklós Farkasfalvy during the celebration of Abbot Wendelin's 10th anniversary as abbot. Prior to the end of WW II, the abbey was known throughout Europe as a spiritual, intellectual, and economic center.



FIRST MASS

Székesfehérvár was causing unwanted attention from the Soviet authorities. Mrs. Maria Farkasfalvy's father had founded a clothing store early in the century that had grown into one of the town's largest retailers. Mrs. Farkasfalvy's two older sisters and their husbands had operated the business since the founder died; but, the government targeted the entire family for special attention as "exploiters and oppressors."

The pressure on the family came to a boil during the fall of 1950, when Mrs. Farkasfalvy's sister was arrested on trumped-up charges. She would spend four years as a political prisoner.

With the family scattered, their income at an all-time low, and the family under attack, things couldn't have appeared much bleaker.

"At that moment over the Christmas holidays," the abbot recalled. "God's protective arm reached out in our direction.

"One day an unknown woman came to our house and brought a 'short message' from my brother Pisti in Vienna."

(After serving in the Hungarian Army, Pisti had moved first to Budapest, and then to Austria in 1948 at age 20. In Vienna, he quickly found financial success.)

"The note came with the promise that each quarter my brother would provide this sum of money," the abbot said. "Our family gained an unforeseen stability and strength."

Since the Soviets outlawed the transfer of funds into Hungary (in attempt to keep the Hungarian currency strong), the money had to be carried by smugglers. The promise of a healthy sum every three months came with a price: the fear of being detected.

Without attracting too much attention, Mrs. Farkasfalvy took the money and upgraded the family's wardrobe.

"She took the filthy clothes off me," laughed the abbot, "and burned them."

In the spring of 1951, prominent families were being deported to the countryside, often to live in deplorable conditions.

While many continued to hope that Soviet oppression would soften or disappear, Mrs. Farkasfalvy took a hard look at the facts.

"My mother assessed the truth," the abbot recalled. "Communism was here to stay."

She sold all of the family's belongings in Székesfehérvár and moved the family into the relative anonymity of an



PROMINENT FAMILY Having founded and operated the leading clothing retailer in Szekesfehérvár, the Knazovitzky family (of whom Maria Farkasfalvy was the youngest daughter) became wealthy and socially prominent. Photographed circa 1938, Miklós stands at the front (age 2) flanked by sister Marika and brother Gyuri. Mr. István Farkasfalvy is at the far right next to the family's patriarch, Mr. Knazovitzky (note: the two men were close in age). Mrs. Maria Farkasfalvy stands behind her father (top right) with her son Pisti (far right). Mrs. Knazovitzky is seated to the left of Miklós, holding the bouquet of flowers.

apartment in Budapest.

Furthermore, she insisted that 18-year-old Gyuri return to live with the family at their Budapest apartment and find employment until the authorities would allow him to finish high school.

"Education," Maria Farkasfalvy repeated to Gyuri, as she had to all her children, "is the one thing they can't take from you."



“I KNELT AT MY BED AND PRAYED IN THANKSGIVING,” remembered Abbot Denis, “for having been brought to a place of learning and faith.” Somehow, even on his first night at the Benedictine school in the Abbey of Pannonhalma in September 1950, the fourteen-year-old seemed to understand how blessed and lucky he was.

“The next morning, in the glorious light of a bright autumn day, I was surprised to see the unbelievable beauty of the magnificent monastery.

“In my wildest dreams, I could not have asked for a better place for my high school years.”

The school served in the early fifties as the Soviet state’s “model” religious school where foreign diplomats might see that high quality religious teaching remained alive and well in Hungary.

Here, in an idyllic location on a hill overlooking miles and miles of countryside, many of the country’s top students were gathered. They came from the most oppressed families as well as from the schools of the many suppressed religious orders.

At Pannonhalma, they would be taught by Benedictine monks, some of them highly trained specialists, who had been relieved of their duties as university professors after the state declared that religious faculty members

were unwelcome, even at the college and university level.

“My life in Pannonhalma was one continuous process of speedy intellectual, social, and spiritual growth,” gushed the abbot.

In addition to challenging subjects and talented classmates (including aspirants to a number of religious orders), the cultured, collegial teachers served as role models for young Farkasfalvy on a number of levels.

“The priests would even gather to play music for the students,” the abbot recalled. “They would allow you to go to their room to borrow a book just so they might have a conversation with you about it.”

“These priests also were pursuing serious scholarly subjects,” he added.



A MODEL SCHOOL Between 1950 and 1954, there may not have been a better high school in Europe than the Benedictine school at the Abbey of Pannonhalma. Former university professors taught many of the country’s finest students in an atmosphere that was insulated from the oppression that pervaded life in the rest of Hungary during the fifties.

“Under the tutelage of a Benedictine priest named Fr. Mike [Meekeh] Jámbor,” the abbot said, “I joined a small group who began taking private lessons in French.

“It was a program that in the plans of God’s providence not only gave me tools for fruitful years of studies, but also expanded my horizon and enriched my life immensely.”

(Years later, Fr. Denis would publish his dissertation in French, after translating it from the original Latin text, at the School of Theology at Sant’ Anselmo in Rome. Fr. Mike was gratified to receive a copy.)

He became passionate about Hungarian and French literature, poetry, math, and chemistry.

While Farkasfalvy had felt uncoordinated and self-conscious in sports at previous schools, at Pannonhalma he began playing soccer and volleyball.

His role in a theater production ("The Government Inspector") earned him regular roles in subsequent plays. Socially, his confidence grew, and he made many friends, especially among the Cistercian oblates, many older than he.

"During 1952, the worst point in time of Communist oppression," recalled the abbot, "I lived as if in a dream in Pannonhalma. We were truly exempt from the worries and fears that turned the life of my contemporaries (and parents) into a nightmare."

Farkasfalvy was chosen by his peers to speak at the graduation, serving in 1954 as the valedictorian of the class of 70 boys and six girls.

"My mother attended and was very proud," said the abbot.

While he would have to tackle many academic challenges in the future, "I never felt behind in any scholastic contest after my years at Pannonhalma."

UPON EXITING THE protective "bubble" at Pannonhalma, the realities of life under Soviet rule weighed on young Farkasfalvy like an iron boot. Denied his wish of attending the Faculty of Letters to study French and Hungarian Literature, he was offered two dismal choices: study law in Budapest or study Russian Language and Literature in Eger (a small provincial town).

"Under pressure from my friends and mother," the abbot explained, "I chose Law School in Budapest."

Efforts to transfer his field of study to literature were "judged as a lack of dedication to the Law School, so I was officially warned to make up my mind, or else."

"I knew that if I was not enrolled in an institution of higher learning at the age of 20, I would be forced to join the Army."

So Farkasfalvy submitted to a regimen of courses including Marxism-Leninism, Constitutional Law, History of Law, Roman Law, and Statistics.

"I wouldn't open a book all semester," he admitted. "Then I would work hard for a month and made straight A's."

While he appeared to be a law student to the authorities (and even to his father), Farkasfalvy and Pannonhalma classmate Ferenc Égi had begun their Cistercian novitiate.

"By God's grace," recalled the abbot, "my novitiate was rich in spiritual consolation, a great deal of joy and learning about Cistercian and monastic history, the rule of St. Benedict, the liturgy of the hours, biblical studies, introduction to theology, and Gregorian chant."

"The suppressed Cistercian Order," the abbot marveled, "was

still able to offer a full range of courses through teachers, who commuted from town to town and taught the young in whom the fire of a monastic vocation still burned."

Fr. Lawrence, who had given him the oblate's gray habit and scapular at Zirc in October 1950, guided the entire underground network as the novice master and vicar. Despite constant pressures to protect his young monks and himself, Fr. Lawrence maintained personal, compassionate ties with each brother.

Since Fr. Edgar in First Form at the Cistercian school, priests had served as beacons for young Farkasfalvy.

Fr. Bálint, who had led the group of aspirants from Pannonhalma to take their vows as oblates at Zirc in October 1950, "became one of the few shining stars in my life," said the abbot.

"He loved me for the rest of his life. Fr. Bálint was one of the few Cistercians who — without ever speaking about it — regarded me as a great gift of God deposited under his care. He tried to form, encourage, and guide me, never forgetting to ask me if I was also happy in the life I had chosen."

"His presence in Pannonhalma for a year provided guidance, stability, and the sense of being at home."

Then, in his last years at Pannonhalma, there was the weekly contact with Fr. Mike Jámor for French.

"This developed into a true relationship with an intellectual mentor," the abbot suggested. "Fr. Mike respected and loved me unselfishly."

"He gave me what my parents and my siblings did not: a sense of responsibility for my intellectual and personal gifts."

On October 23, 1956, Farkasfalvy marched along with his law school classmates in the initial demonstrations that would, later that day, explode into the October Revolution. It would capture the imagination of the entire world for two weeks. Then the Russians returned with a vengeance.

"I am going to try leave the country today," Farkasfalvy quickly explained to his father one morning in November 1956. Mr. Farkasfalvy, who was shaving, turned around with a quizzical look. "But things might not work out," the son admitted. "So I might see you at lunch." He wouldn't; father and son would never meet again. Mr. Farkasfalvy passed away in 1957.

"My parents, and people like them," reflected the abbot, "were the victims of this life in which everything they worked for amounted to nothing under the Soviets."

Perhaps back at Pannonhalma freshman year Kálmán had done Farkasfalvy a favor by ripping the scapular off his chest. Farkasfalvy had learned "to keep [my religious life] behind my books and buried in my heart." It had come in handy in Soviet Hungary.

In the West, he would make the most of his stellar education, his growing understanding of life's inequities, and the opportunity to practice his priestly vocation openly.

There, Fr. Denis would be free to help build the peaceful home he was seeking.



BURIED SECRET Miklós Farkasfalvy, 15, after his first year at Pannonhalma.

ARE SOCIAL NETWORKS HELPING US WIN OR LOSE?




By Kenneth A. Spence '06

Since Facebook was invented in 2004, social media has wormed its way onto almost every website on the internet and into most people's friendships. Even the bookish confines of the Cistercian Abbey and School have felt the impact. According to the 351 respondents to *The Continuum's* October survey, a majority of students, alumni, parents, and even some of the monks are making use of interactive web applications like Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, and Google+.

Facebook ranks as the most popular network (no surprise since there are 800 million users worldwide).

Half of social-media-using respondents also maintained a profile on LinkedIn, the more business-like platform that lets users post their resumes and build a virtual network of business connections.

Google+ was third, with 37 percent of social media users having a Google profile. (Google+ is Google's alternative to Facebook: the platform aims to capitalize on Facebook's weaknesses.) So far most users have created a profile and are waiting for the service to become more popular before using it every day, but the Cistercian community seems to be in the technological lead — a plurality of respondents check their Google+ accounts each day, and 70 percent check them at least once a week.

Our survey of the Cistercian community reveals some answers about these tools and how to use (and not use) them.

Twitter was fourth in popularity among respondents: 28 percent of social media users were on Twitter. Fourteen percent of

our respondents did not use any social network at all.

How does the Cistercian community use social media?

Aside from casual interaction with family and friends, social media serves a number of specific purposes. About a third of our respondents use newsfeeds to follow specific organizations and businesses. This is the focus of most companies' and non-profits' social media efforts, the goal being precisely targeted exposure to clients, customers, and sympathetic followers.

The organization of events falls partially into this category: social media has made birthday parties, sales, and even protests easier to put together. A smaller portion (15 percent) of the community uses social media as a platform for political and social commentary. Most users find, however, that the debates on Facebook, Twitter, or Google+ aren't all that meaningful.

Businesses are racing to learn how to make use of social media — the first social media publicity firm was only started in 1999 — and for the most part have discovered that a Facebook or Twitter presence is only worth what's backing it up.

Joe Norman '95 is a freelance artist who uses social media to interact with clients and

Favorite social media percent using an app once/month or >

Facebook	75.5
LinkedIn	44.8
Google +	31.3
Twitter	24.2
None	14.1
Other	9.2 (includes foursquare)

RESPONDENTS' AGES Eight percent were under 22, 17 percent were age 22-30, 17 percent age 31-40, 37 percent age 41-50, 17 percent age 50-60, and 1 percent were over 60.

with other artists. He lives in Salt Lake City, and he finds social media a valuable tool in a place where ten years ago he might have been more isolated.

Norman has found his Twitter feed and Facebook page are important tools to build a fan base and to keep in touch with other artists. His artwork at shows is labeled with QR codes (the square bar codes that can be read by smart phone cameras) so that artists and patrons can contact him online.

Social media “is about the content, no matter how flashy” the delivery, insists Norman.

Students at Cistercian have been using the internet forums to communicate with one another for years. Now, it’s easier with a class Facebook group, according to John Paul Spence ’12.

“We coordinate everything from who brings breakfast to science class, to the right way to solve a certain kind of Calculus problem.”

The class makes use of Google Docs to collaborate on review sheets. Google’s spreadsheet and word processing services allow multiple account holders to edit documents simultaneously, so that, for example, the Physics stars can build a review sheet that the rest of the class can use, or everyone can make sure that the list of quotations for Fr. Gregory’s *Tempest* exam is complete.

Cistercian alumni use social media to keep in touch with one another, but it is generally agreed that Facebook, Twitter, and other platforms are too limited to sustain alone the deep friendships between classmates.

Zach Horton ’11 is in his first semester at Princeton University, and he explains that, thousands of miles away from many of his friends, he found digital means of communication insufficient.

So he got out his Parker Quink ink and began writing letters. He keeps up a written correspondence with a dozen or so classmates and friends, and finds that “letters tend to *explain*, to be a bit more

Once-a-day percentage of daily users for each app

Facebook	53.9
Twitter	45.5
Google +	39.8
LinkedIn	12.4
Other	46.3

While LinkedIn ranked high in weekly usage, only a small percentage of its Cistercian users log on daily.

HOW TO BUILD YOUR CISTERCIAN NETWORK

- Remember to note Cistercian as your high school on profiles
- Be sure to sign up as a follower of the school’s Facebook page
- Join the school’s Linked In group
- Join Google + and form a Cistercian group

thoughtful and profound. Though they may deal with ‘out-of-date’ information, they highlight more important elements of what we experience.”

That is not to say that his classmates don’t use social media. Though friendships formed over eight years at Cistercian cannot quite be maintained through 140 character messages on Twitter and Facebook Wall posts, social media has its uses. Photographs are shared on Facebook, Flickr, and other platforms, for example.

More than half (57 percent) of respondents to our survey said they use social media to share pictures with family and friends.

Some of the Cistercian community’s best recognized social media users are monks.

Fr. Bernard has more than 500 Facebook friends, a healthy feed of photographs at the top of his Wall, and the languages section of his profile is almost too impressive. (“Knows American English, Français, Italian, and three others.”)

“Before I travel to a city,” said active social media user and frequent business traveler Peter Kurilecz ’70, “I often check my Cistercian LinkedIn group to see if there are Cistercian alumni there that I

might email to see if they’d like to meet.”

“If they went to Cistercian, then we have something in common to talk about.”

Social media may promote wasting time and it may not allow for the deepest of conversations, but it does help you make contact.

“[Social media] makes it relatively easy to contact someone,” admitted Andrew Van Kirk ’00, “even as it makes us numb to being contacted.”

The good and the bad of social media are all in the eye of the user.

But, if you’re interested in building relationships within the Cistercian community, these tools can help.

TWEETING ABOUT SOCIAL MEDIA



“It makes it easy to contact someone, even as it makes us numb to being contacted.”

— Andrew Van Kirk ’00



“My generation spends WAY too much time on this ONE website!”

— Paul DiFiori ’09



It’s a fantastic way to build a network that can be relied on for support, advice and feedback.

— Jeremy Gregg ’97



“I had a student just last week who listed her hobby as social networking, ha!”

— Patrick Haggerty ’86



“I spent a month in Egypt four years ago, ... and only as a result of Facebook can I keep up the relationships.”

— Matthew Lawson ’04



“I was in NYC and felt an earthquake. There were not yet any news stories—but Twitter feeds confirmed it.”

— Stephen Fox ’07

TENNIS

Hawks net semi-finals

The tennis team advanced to the SPC semi-finals and Coach Skip Boyden sees good things ahead.

William Howard '14 and **T.J. Skipworth '14** competed as the #1 and #2 singles players respectively.

Both gained valuable playing experience and will lead the Hawks in the future.

Connor Flanigan '12 played well as the team's #3 singles player.

Graham Albert '11 competed as part of the #1 doubles team.

Coach Boyden is excited to have a large familiar group coming back next season (many of whom he's coached since Form III). They include **Connor '12** and **Drew Roberts '12** plus **Santiago Martin '12**.

Boyden expects all to build on their progress from last year making Cistercian a formidable squad going into the 2012 season.

— Brennan Clay '10



Hurdler Luke Tomaso '12.

TRACK

Eighteen-year-old shot put record falls to Nwafor

Greg O'Hagan '84 held the school's shot put record (48') for 27 years.

Ikenna Nwafor '12 broke it once, twice, well he broke it a number of times in the spring, capping it off with a 51'-1.5" heave at SPC that earned him second place.

In the two-mile, **Isaac Johnston '11** placed fifth (10:30.78). Johnston placed eighth in the mile (4:47.31).

The field events saw **Tyler Young '13** take fifth place in the high jump (6') and **Mark Hartman '11** triple jump to eighth place (40' 2").

The Hawks fared better as a team at the Cistercian Meet, where they placed second overall to Greenhill.

Antanas Madhavapeddy '13 placed second in the 300 hurdles.

Sam McGraw '12 earned second place in the 110 hurdles.

In the discus, the throw by **Forrest Rahn '12** won him second.

Young placed second in the high jump.

Nwafor may well place the shot put record out of reach for another 27 years.

BASEBALL

Hawks come together late for a strong push

The baseball team played well this year in spite of the team's overall youth. Though the team had only two seniors, they put up a respectable 11-13 record in 2011, and hope to build on their experience going into 2012.

The team was led by senior captain **Patrick Ryan '11** who contributed at a number of positions including short stop, third base, catcher, and pitcher. Ryan batted .375 with 11 doubles and 14 RBIs.

Juniors **Andy Kistler '12** and **Ethan Noel '12** started on the mound in most of the Hawks' games.

In addition to pitching well, Kistler batted .369 with six doubles and 14 RBIs.

Noel, the team's ace, was a force at the plate as well, hitting .411 with 19 RBIs in the cleanup spot. On the base paths Noel had nine stolen bases.

Highlights of the team's season included their victory over

Tulsa's Holland Hall in SPC zone play and winning the Lutheran Invitational Tournament.

In the SPC tournament, Cistercian played an all-time high four games in two days. The team went 2-2 in the tournament and played quality baseball throughout.

The team's future looks bright with the emergence of several young players. Sophomores **Ford Albert '13** and **Matthew Imai-zumi '13** saw significant playing time and grew as players on the diamond.

The Hawks started three freshmen this year with **Robert Erickson '14** covering first base,



John Kane '14 at shortstop, and **Jack Bitterman '14** in left field. Each made significant strides while playing on the varsity for the first time.

"With so many players coming back for next year's team, we are looking for good things in 2012," said Coach Mark Gray.

— Brennan Clay '10

51'-1.5" The new shot put record established by Ikenna Nwafor '12 at SPC. Greg O'Hagan '84 held the old record.

.411 Batting average of pitcher Ethan Noel '12 who drove in 19 RBI. Noel also serves as the team's top pitcher.

CROSS COUNTRY

Team-oriented approach helps Hawks succeed at SPC

A young and enthusiastic group of runners responded well to new Coach Franz Klein and his team-oriented approach to cross-country running this fall.

At SPC, the Hawks were actually able to shave one minute off their team time from last year (although the team ranking slipped from 14th to 15th place).

Cistercian's top runner, **John Kane '14**, finished in 75th place. He had company. The team's ten runners finished within just over two minutes of each other.

"As a team, we really didn't have a weak link," said Klein.

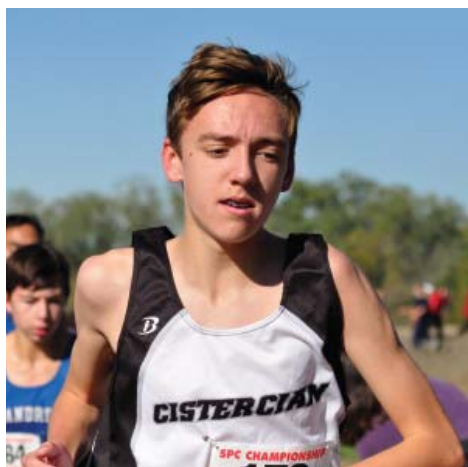
Kane (18:24), **Joshua Maymir '15** (18:28) and **Jeremy Garcia '14** (19:07) set personal records at SPC.

Prior to the SPC meet, the Hawks won first place at the Lone Star XC Festival.

Cistercian also placed second as a team at the Carrollton Christian Invitational.

Throughout the season, **George Joseph '12** served as team captain and top runner.

"George was a steadying influence," said Klein, "along with a great group of upperclassmen, including **Austin Hill '12**, **Ben Horlick '13**, **David Kolski '12**, **John Paul Spence '12**, **Michael Machak '12**, and **Josh Fontenot '12**."



Joshua Maymir '15 at SPC on November 5.



David Novinski '12 dives to the one-yard-line in the fourth quarter against ESD. Novinski scored on the next play in the 21-14 victory over ESD.

FOOTBALL

Hawks end season strong with near-win vs. All Saints

The Hawks flashed their best performance of the year in the team's final game against All Saints, which fell to Oakridge in the SPC-II championship game.

"It was the best game by far we played all year long," Coach Steve McCarthy said. "Playing like that, we might have found ourselves in the SPC-II championship."

The game came down to the Saints holding Cistercian on a fourth-and-one with under 1:48 to play on the All Saints 27-yard-line. From there, the Saints marched down field in an 11-play drive, and scored with two seconds left on the clock.

The Saints won the toss in OT and scored a TD after the Hawks settled for a field goal by **Shane Macedonio '12**.

David Novinski '12 starred in the game by leading the team in tackles on defense and running the ball for 99 yards on offense.

The Hawks played nearly all their quality opponents close games, despite some key injuries, including **Matthew Lancaster '12** (ACL), **Nick Capasso '13** (ACL), and **Daré Odeyingbo '15**, who fractured his collarbone in week seven. Odeyingbo, who had rushed for 840 yards by then, was on pace to break the school's record for rushing yardage by a freshman (1,056 yards by **Alex Lopez '89** in 1985).

The running attack relied on the heavy lifting of offensive linemen **Peter Thompson '13**, **John Erickson '13**, **Tommy Emmet '14**, **Jake Shimek '13**, **Noah Edwards '12**, and tight end **John Tulloh '13**.

QB **Ford Albert '13** threw for 1,181 yards and seven touchdowns with **John Newcomb '12** catching the lion's share of attempts for 524 yards and four TDs.

The defense was anchored by tackle **Forrest Rahn '12**, linebackers **Bennett Turner '13** and **Andrew Dudasko '13**, and defensive backs **Luke Tomaso '12** and Novinski.

WINTER SPORTS
TEAM PREVIEWS

SOCCER

Coach J.P. Walsh's defending champs will be anchored by goalkeeper **Nico Artz '12**, sweeper **Luke Tomaso '12**, and stopper **Austin Burns '12**. Brothers **Blake Rutledge '12** and **Kyle Rutledge '15**, will team up in the midfield, while **Shane Macedonio '12** leads the attack.

SWIMMING

Coach Doug Moyse's roster boasts a record nine seniors. With veterans **Jake Waters '13**, **Aidan McLaughlin '12**, **Sam McGraw '12**, **Josh Fontenot '12**, **Andrew Jacob '13**, and newcomer **Davis Benn '15**, the Hawks may be poised to challenge for the SPC crown.

BASKETBALL

Coach Dan Lee's team return skillful posts **Forrest Rahn '12**, **Ikenna Nwafor '12**, and **Peter Thompson '13**. Talented wings **Johnny Garnett '13**, **David Novinski '12**, and **Robert Erickson '14** will be led by point guard **Matthew Imaizumi '13**.

7 Number of Cistercian cross country runners who ran times within one minute and 30 seconds of one another at SPC in early November.

840 Yards Daré Odeyingbo '15 gained over seven games in his freshman year on varsity. The mark breaks the record set by Alex Lopez '89 in 1985 season.

Here's to coachable moments: Thanks Coaches H & B

My beautiful wife Laura and I publish two newspapers in the West Texas communities of Monahans and Pecos.

Ten months ago The Monahans News found itself without a sportswriter, and in the middle of an oil boom.



Afterthoughts

Smokey Briggs '84

(Notice the football-esque metaphor. That's a hint BTW. And the BTW — text/email/modern speak for “by the way” — is my head nod toward the social-networking story in this issue. That's about all you'll get from me because I don't do much social networking and I don't text.)

Back to linebacking at a newspaper.

When we are short pressmen, I'm the pressman. When we are short in accounting, Laura handles the books. (I'm not allowed in the bookkeeping office. Fr. Denis, who presided over my progress in Algebra II, knows why.)

When my editor is out sick, I edit.

You get the picture.

So, for nine months, I've been the sports writer in Monahans.

Since the beginning of two-a-days in August, I have been immersed in the good, the bad and the ugly of Texas football.

Monahans (the Lobos — yes they spell it with an “e” and that is a whole ‘nother story) is AAA, and football matters here. During away games you could rob the entire town, unmolested. The place is a ghost town.

The Lobos are 6-2 this year, but I'm not writing this to tell you about their season.

I'm writing this to talk about coaching.

For three months I have been knee-deep in football coaches, Lobo (no “e” in the singular, go figure) coaches, Seminole coaches, Pecos coaches, Andrews coaches, Greenwood coaches, Ft. Stockton coaches, Big Spring, Sweetwater, Snyder, Shallowater, Borger — lots of coaches. I've talked to them, watched them, watched the kids they coach, observed them on and off the field, seen what they inspire, or fail to inspire, and reported on the results.

Some are good, some fair, and some I would not put in charge of a rain barrel during a drought.

I pulled a football helmet over my head for the last time for Cistercian in the fall of 1983.

Bob Haaser was our head coach, and Mike Bulger coached the line all through my high school days.

Coach “B” was the dad of Brent Bulger, who graduated in 1983, a year ahead of me.

I have to make a confession at this point.

When I started writing this, I had to write an alum to find out what Coach B's first name was, he was simply Coach B, and that was good enough.

Covering a sport you cannot help but see some of its less-than-pretty underbelly.

This year I've watched coaches start players in the name of politics, destroy their own team's confidence as they berate their players down after down, and blame anybody but themselves for a loss.

When you boil them down, their style of coaching can be summed up in one word — selfish.

It's not about their team, or their kids, it is about them.

Cistercian was not a football powerhouse in the early '80s. We managed an 8-2 season my freshman year (best ever at the time) and then struggled through some .500 seasons the rest of my days. My senior year we went 6-4.

I was proud of that year. We won some games we were not supposed to win, and gave some other outfits a good scare. The game I will remember all of my life was Trinity Christian. We were supposed to be a cakewalk for them and I wanted to defeat them more than about anything else except maybe a passing grade in Calculus.

It's been 25 years so you can't hold me to exact detail, but late in the third quarter Trinity Christian was sweating bullets. Either we were ahead by a point or two, or they were, I really don't remember. Either way, they were in a dogfight they had not expected.

In the fourth quarter they wore us down and scored a few touchdowns. I was disappointed in the score, but not the game. The Hawks played that night — really played.

I cannot remember a game when our team did not leave 100 percent on the field.

Our coaches were the reason.

During those years Coach Haaser and Coach B never let us settle for losing, and never allowed us to consider a loss a defeat.

They demanded that we win, in the true meaning of the word.

That is a fine line to walk, and they walked it well.

I think the reason they walked that line so well is that the game was not about them — it was about their team, their players. They weren't worried about how a loss affected them. They worried about us.

They coached football as they lived their lives, and in the process set fine examples for their players. They were as men should be — totally committed to winning the battle, incapable of being truly defeated, generous in victory, unbowed in defeat.

And they communicated this to their players.

That is what good coaches do.

That bit of wisdom took root in my mind a few weeks back having watched a team — cursed with the exact opposite for coaches — lose a game they probably should have won, and then listening to those same coaches after the game (the losers were not the Lobos, BTW).

Sometimes you do not realize how good something was, until you see the other side of things.

Looking back, I realize that for me, playing football at Cistercian was good training for life.

Life is a long campaign. Along the way, no matter how smart, strong, fast, well-educated and well meaning you are, you are going to lose a few battles.

Successful people, happy people, the real winners in life, learn how to lose a battle and show up again the next day, committed to winning — unbowed.

I learned a lot about doing that wearing the Cistercian black and white.

Thanks Coach (both of you).

Community calendar

DECEMBER

17 Alumni Christmas Party

JANUARY

28 Moroney Award Dinner

APRIL

25 Abbot's Circle Dinner

JUNE - 50th Anniversary Conclusion

1 Golf Tournament

**2 Reunions Tournaments
& Picnic**

**3 Community-wide
Celebratory Mass/Brunch**

CISTERCIAN PREPARATORY SCHOOL

3660 CISTERCIAN ROAD
IRVING, TEXAS 75039

Putting the little things into an eternal perspective

There is an old Latin phrase that, hopefully, you can translate even if it was some fifty years ago that Fr. Matthew taught you his famous acronym: PAIN.

The phrase I have in mind is *sub specie aeternitatis*. It means that you should look at everything from the perspective of eternity. It is no easy task, especially for those alumni who are in their twenties, bristling with energy and beaming with happiness.



On Prayer

Fr. Roch Kereszty

But let's stop and think for a moment. If, in fact, we have only this short span of life on earth, then human existence is not much more than a cruel joke of fate, a brief wave on the river of life, an absurd tale in which goodness is, at the end, always defeated by evil, since death is stronger than

love, non-being always prevails over being.

But, you may interrupt me here: "This sounds great but you must stop dreaming and accept reality. This is the only life we know."

In a sense that is true, but St. Paul says, "Eye has not seen, ear has not heard what God has prepared for those who love him."

Paul and the rest of the New Testament look at everything from the perspective of eternity: we all are encouraged to wait for "the resurrection of the body and life everlasting."

Here I would like to sketch out some of those experiences on earth by which God intimates a foretaste or preview of eternal life to those who do not harden their hearts.

I am always amazed by the fact that whatever we think, feel or will, we always do it with at least a dim, background awareness of the eternal, absolute or infinite. If we say something is "temporary," it makes sense only if we semi-consciously compare it with eternity.

If we establish that something (e.g., happiness, life, wisdom, goodness, being, beauty) is finite, we must have tacitly compared it with what is eternal, absolute and infinite.

Even if we say that all truths are relative, our statement makes sense only if we meant at least this one truth absolutely. Otherwise,

only one option would remain for us: to stop thinking and speaking.

There is, however, a more positive way to sense eternity.

If we look at our deepest experiences, we find many small signs that speak to us about another dimension of reality, another existence of which our earthly life is only a vague reflection.

When spring comes and fresh new leaves and budding flowers dazzle us in the sunlight, we feel that this new life comes to us not as a deceitful lie, but as a sign of hope that life ultimately is victorious over death and decay. When we look at the distasteful caterpillar wiggling under our foot, we know that one day it will turn into an enchantingly elegant butterfly.

These promises of new life and beauty of nature, however, dwarf in comparison to what we experience within ourselves.

"We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love our brothers" – writes St. John (1 Jn 3:14). Thus, through love of our brothers and sisters it is possible to have some foretaste of eternal life here on earth just as there is an intimation of eternal death for those who hate their brothers.

Such brotherly love can seem easy, but only if we share in the love that comes from God and is God. Otherwise, the closer some persons are to us, the harder it becomes to

forgive, accept and cherish them. In some cases, it's even harder than loving of our enemies since we know that, in the latter case, we are doing something heroic.

But those who love their brothers and their enemies will have many instances on earth of a foretaste or even a preview of eternal life. Heaven will not be a place of lazy rest but a state of eternal ecstasy: we will be drawn out of ourselves (*ec-stasy* means literally staying outside of ourselves) in order to give over ourselves to God and to each of our brothers and sisters.

This will be our supreme delight, and it will increase our desire to see and enjoy the infinite riches of God even more.

According to St. Gregory of Nyssa, heaven will be for us both *stasis* and *kinesis* (i.e., rest and movement); resting in God's infinite goodness, but always moving us deeper into the delightfully bright abyss of his love and wisdom.

Brotherly love can
seem easy, but only if
we share in the love
that comes from God
and is God.