

The

For family, friends, and alumni of Cistercian Preparatory School

CNTINUUM



Fall 2010

**INSIDE:
INGENIOUS
ENGINEERING
MINDS**

A proud heritage

Twenty-one Boy Scouts from the Class of 2011 carry on an 80-year-old Cistercian tradition

Boy Scouts (l-r) Marty Gatens '11, Ryan Martinez '11, Andrew Skaras '11 and Will Venden '11 (near the tent) enjoy a campout.



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PREPARATORY
SCHOOL**

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A new generation of Cistercians

Even with two new priests, please continue to pray for vocations

The Feast of St. Bernard on August 20 brought Bishop Kevin Farrell to the Abbey Church to ordain five young Cistercians: three deacons and two new priests, **Fr. Augustine Hoelke '00** and **Fr.**



**Letter from
the headmaster**

Fr. Peter Verhalen '73

Philip Neri Lastimoso '00.

These five men help address our single greatest need: a new generation of Cistercians committed to a life of serving God in the Cistercian community.

Please see our coverage of the ordinations on page 7. I hope that it conveys some of the joy and gratitude of those who were present. Thank you for your prayers, and please continue to pray for vocations.

As we prepare for next year's ten-year accreditation visits from the Independent Schools Association of the Southwest (ISAS) and Texas Catholic Conference Educational Division (TCCED), we

hope to recognize and celebrate the School's past as we strive to plan for our future. The ordinations of the five young Cistercians and our upcoming 50th Anniversary give us all hope that we can continue the vision of our founders.

I think our first feature will surprise you with the historical connections between the Boy Scouts and Cistercian that Tom Pruit and David Stewart uncover. The story also spotlights the record number of scouts in the Class of 2011.

Cistercian has for many years earned a reputation as a math and science school and in our feature on "Ingenious Engineering Minds," you will want to read about the accomplishments of some Cistercian alumni in this vast field.

Finally, Smokey Briggs' very personal story about a fire that consumed his home in West Texas reminds us not only to "Be Prepared," but also to maintain perspective as we move through our lives.

I hope you enjoy this issue of *The Continuum*, and I look forward to seeing you as we celebrate our 50th Anniversary, if not sooner.

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By Tom Pruit & David Stewart



Photo by Jim Reisch

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Jim Reisch



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Ingenious engineering minds 12

As the problems of society and industry grow in size and complexity, engineering prowess will grow right along with them

By David Stewart

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.

Looking to the future



CAMPAIN

The final phase

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



Photo by Jim Reisch

Preston Oliver '10

Hillary Award goes to Preston Oliver '10

Preston Oliver '10 was awarded the Hillary Award at this year's Athletic Banquet.

Oliver stood out on the football field and baseball diamond. He also played on the Cistercian golf team which competed at SPC this year. He is attending TCU this fall.

GAP year fruitful for Keliher '09 and Haley '09

Joseph Keliher '09 and Connor Haley '09 chose to take a GAP year before hitting the ivory towers.

Keliher helped with the hard work of installing infrastructure in the likes of Australia, New Zealand, and Fiji last fall as part of the Carpe Diem program.

He spent the second semester in the NOLS leadership program of living outdoors (including three weeks in an igloo).

Keliher is now attending TCU in the honors program.

Haley worked as an intern for TheStreet.com, an investment newsletter founded by Jim Cramer during the fall.

Over the second semester, he interned at The Motley Fool, another investment newsletter.

He is studying at Harvard. Both alumni gave their GAP year high marks.

Making intelligent college choices

Practicality and programs guide Class of 2010's selections

The Class of 2010 will be remembered for its unusually large contingent of math and science types. So it is no surprise that many in the class chose to attend state schools that offer strong programs in these areas.

Schools like Texas A&M, Texas, Auburn, and Oklahoma also attracted students from the class for their programs, affordability, and school spirit.

"Parents and their sons are very good college consumers now," noted Janet Bucher-Long, Cistercian's college counselor. "They take the time to examine the programs at each school."

For math/science types as well as liberal-arts

types, these examinations occasionally led to some surprising conclusions.

"In the fall," said **Brandon Wainerdi '10**, who enjoys creative writing and served on the staff of *Reflections* for four years, "I saw myself at a Davidson or Wake Forest."

As the son of two Aggies (not to mention a grandfather who taught there), he was compelled to apply to Texas A&M although he could not picture himself in College Station. Until, that is, he visited and stayed overnight.

"I attended Muster where they fill Reed Arena and remember those students and alumni who passed away that year," he said. "I really felt the Aggie spirit and even though it was very different than Cistercian, there was still a strong sense of community."

He was accepted into A&M's honors business program.

"It's about 100 kids," Wainerdi emphasized, "so it is a very small section of the business school. But you are still a part of the larger university."

Instead of taking English courses, he plans to write for some of the organizations on campus that help young writers hone their craft.

The dollars played a role, too. A scholarship will help Wainerdi avoid accumulating any debt from college tuitions.

Other students chose state schools over private.

"**Matthew Butler '10** could have gone just about anywhere," said Bucher-Long. "And he chose A&M."

"All of the boys are excited about their choices," she added.

"I encourage them to take responsibility for making the college they attend the best it can be," she said. "I am confident they will."

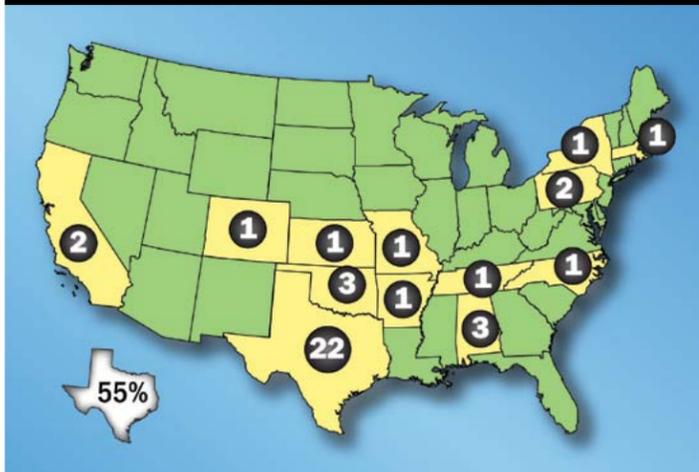


Photo by Jim Reisch

"In the fall, I saw myself at Davidson or Wake Forest ... [But in the spring] I attended Muster ... and really felt the Aggie spirit."

— Brandon Wainerdi '10

2010 COLLEGE LANDSCAPE



Auburn University (2)
Boston University
Drexel Univ.
Kansas State
Lehigh Univ.
Oklahoma State Univ.
Rice University

Rochester Inst. of Tech.
Southern Methodist (2)
Stanford University (2)
Texas A&M (5)
Texas Christian (4)
US Air Force Academy
Univ. of Alabama

Univ. of Arkansas
Univ. of Oklahoma (2)
UT, Austin (4)
UT, Dallas
Vanderbilt
Wake Forest
Washington Univ.



Photo by Jim Reisch

A FINANCIAL PLAN Six members of the Class of 2010 are taking advantage of full-ride scholarships: (l-r) Ian White '10 (Auburn), Zak Boazman '10 (Oklahoma), Arnaud Zimmer '10 (SMU), and Jonathan Monsalve '10 (Air Force). Joseph Micheli '10 (UTD) and Matt Kecip '10 (Oklahoma) are not pictured.

Six from Class of '10 earn full rides

Math, science, and engineering key to most scholarships

Six from the Class of 2010 are attending college courtesy of full-ride, four-year scholarships.

Zak Boazman '10, turned down other schools and opted for OU, where he won a full-ride scholarship and is studying in the honors program.

Boazman plans to take a pre-med curriculum, following his dream of becoming a doctor.

Matt Kecip '10 won a National Merit scholarship to OU, where he is studying math and science.

Joseph Micheli '10 is pursuing a physics major with his scholarship to UTD.

Jonathan Monsalve '10 is attending the U.S. Air Force Academy.

Ian White '10 is studying engineering at Auburn University.

Arnaud Zimmer '10 accepted the Presidential Scholarship to attend SMU, turning down opportunities to travel further from home.

Hoang '06 and Madole '06 win Fulbrights



Photo by Jim Reisch

Two members of the Class of 2006 received Fulbright Scholarships in May.

Court Hoang '06 graduated from Pomona College with a major in pure mathematics. Along the way, Hoang won several theater department awards.

His scholarship will send him to Vietnam to teach English next year. After his Fulbright year, Hoang plans to seek a master's degree in math. Music also continues to play a big role in his life.

Rob Madole '06 graduated from Princeton with a double major in German and creative writing.

He won recognition for both his German studies and his creative writing thesis.

Madole will travel to Berlin to spend his Fulbright year researching a German author from the Cold War.

Court Hoang '06 (left) and Rob Madole '06

Class of '10 notes

All nine members of the Class of 2010 who took the BC Calculus AP passed and eight earned a perfect score of 5.

Connor McGrath '10 spent the last two summers teaching math at the AwesomeMath Camp at both the UTD and Santa Cruz, California campuses.

For his senior project, **Zak Boazman '10**, enhanced Dr. Richard Newcomb's well-worn compendium of math formulas (used by the Math Club).

Boazman added examples and typeset the book with the same program used by textbook publishers.

Copies of the book are available through the math club and on-line at Amazon.

Brennan Clay '10 was awarded the grand prize of the Cistercian Literary Competition for his poem, "That's All There Is."

"In describing a wordless exchange of glances," one judge wrote, "the poem quietly summons Fitzgerald's [*The Great Gatsby*], not to say literature itself, into the recovery of what would otherwise remain inarticulate."

Clay is attending Wake Forest this fall.

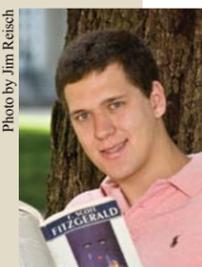


Photo by Jim Reisch

Brennan Clay '10

Wes Johnston '10 and **Scott Sloan '10** designed and built a cabin on the ranch of **Steve Johnston '71** for their senior project entitled *The Abe Lincoln Project*.

Johnston is attending TCU and Sloan is attending Vanderbilt.

Campaign notes

Erin Hart, director of development, reports that the 50th Anniversary Campaign has surpassed \$11.2 million.

The campaign's goal of \$15 million will allow the school to construct a new two-story entrance building with a small chapel.

Alumni notes

The University of Dallas awarded **Will Murchison '06** the Helen Corbitt Award for 2010, which is given to one outstanding male and female graduate each year.

Murchison graduated *summa cum laude* and Phi Beta Kappa with a degree in art history.

Dallas County recognized Murchison for his volunteer work at the Henry Wade Juvenile Justice Center where he organized an art class.

The former Cistercian running back is serving as an assistant varsity football coach this fall.

Faculty notes

Jackie Greenfield is turning over the reins as faculty advisor of *Reflections* to **Michael O'Brien '00**, a former editor of the literary magazine. Greenfield will serve as an advisor to O'Brien. Under Greenfield's guidance and care, *Reflections* won recognition as one of the very best literary magazines in the country.

Staff notes

Saranne Gans will be assisted in the library this year by **Jacquelyn Dudasko**. Gans is in her 26th year of service to the school. **Sylvia Najera** and **David Patrick '86** joined the Development Office last spring.

Haaser lauded for his 14 years of service

Fr. Paul prepares for admissions test

Fr. Paul McCormick has been named director of admissions. He succeeds the "face of Cistercian," **Bob Haaser**, who has served as director of admissions for 14 years.

"The move is designed to give Fr. Paul a chance to learn another key aspect of the school's administration," **Fr. Peter Verhalen '73** said.

Fr. Paul will continue to serve as form master (Form VI) and head of Middle School. **Tim Parker '91** will take on Fr. Paul's duties as community service advisor.

Haaser, the first lay member of the faculty to serve as director of admissions, leaves a record of great accomplishments.

During his 14 years, Haaser worked hard to generate applications from a broadening geo-

graphical area, one that reflected the growth of the Dallas-Fort Worth area.

Haaser reached out to Catholic parish schools in these growth areas, focusing a great deal of time and effort in the Mid-Cities.

Over the course of Haaser's term as admissions director, the number of schools represented in each class has grown.

Partly as a result of this widening distribution of schools and geography, Cistercian weathered the most recent admissions period without a decrease in the number of applications, despite the economic downturn.

"It is very fortunate that Fr. Paul will have Mr. Haaser to turn to as he learns this aspect of the school's operations," Fr. Peter said.



CLASS OF YOUNG MONKS The young monks with Abbot Denis Farkasfalvy on August 20.

With ordinations complete, work begins

Five monks studying in Rome, Fr. Augustine assumes form master duties

Not long after the August ordinations, it was back to work or school for the young monks.

For **Fr. Augustine Hoekle '00**, it was a surreal transformation as the former Cistercian student took up his duties as form master of Form I.

"The most shocking feeling was attending my first meeting with all the form masters and the headmaster," said Fr. Augustine. "For the first time, I was sitting down with this group, most of whom had been my teachers not so long ago, as one of their peers. It was something."

He also will teach Latin (Form I) and an Upper School history elective as well as pursue his MA in American history from UTA.

Meanwhile, **Fr. Philip Lastimososa '00** is pursuing his MS in physics from UTD.

Five young monks are studying in Rome.

Br. Ignatius Peacher will study theology while Br. Thomas Esposito enters his second year at the Biblicum, where he is studying for a licenciante in Sacred Scripture.

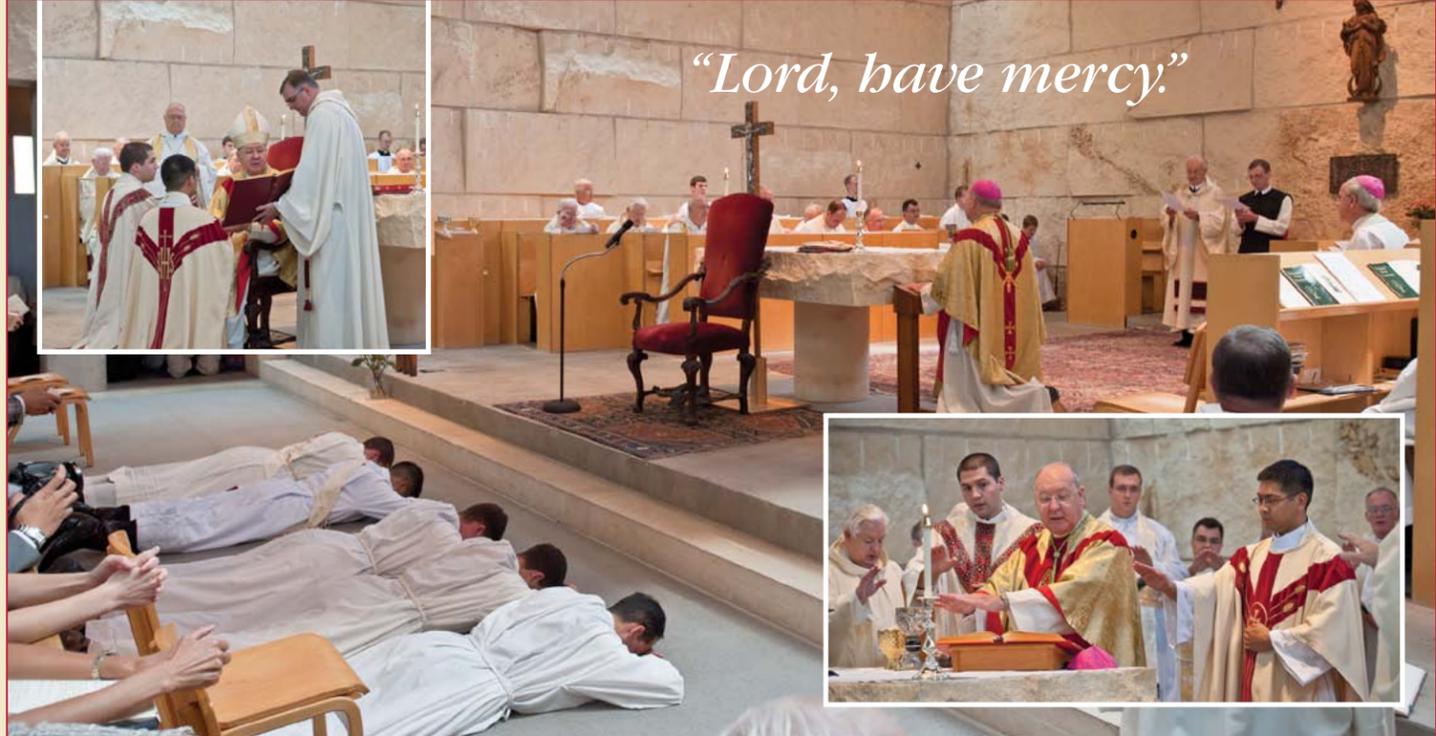
Br. Ambrose Strong will complete his license in moral theology at the Alphonsianum this year.

Br. Stephen Gregg '00 is studying for a license in Patristics at the Augustinianum (theology of the Church Fathers), and **Br. Lawrence Brophy '00** will complete his theology studies and work toward an STB at Sant' Anselmo.

Brs. Anthony Bigney, John Bayer, and Justin McNamara are continuing their theology studies at UD and teaching Religion in Forms IV, III, and II, respectively.

Photo by Jim Reisch

ORDINATIONS 2010



"Lord, have mercy."



Joy and support embrace new priests and deacons

Cistercian community fills Abbey Church to celebrate the ordination of two alumni

As the five young men clothed in white robes lay face down on the stone floor of the Abbey Church on August 20, the import of the moment sank in. The breadth and depth of their commitments and their blessings to the community overcame many in the packed Abbey Church.

"Lord, have mercy," said Bishop Kevin Farrell. Minutes later, **Br. Thomas Esposito**, **Br. Ignatius Peacher**, and **Br. Ambrose Strong** were ordained as deacons. Then, two alumni of the school were ordained to the priesthood.

Fr. Augustine Hoelke '00 and **Fr. Philip Neri Lastimososa '00** were cheered by many from the Class of 2000 who came to show their support and love. Many members of the Class of 2018 (Form I) came to cheer Fr. Augustine, their form master.

The bishop's homily emphasized St. Bernard's message that priests are called to be holy, an appropriate message on the Feast Day of the Cistercian saint. Being holy, Bishop Farrell said, must take priority over being a great teacher.

"This monastery is the center of prayer in our Diocese," the bishop paused to say prior to the conclusion of the ceremony. "I thank Abbot Denis and the community for their prayers because I know my efforts are backed by their prayers."

"I also must confess I am jealous," he smiled, "I am envious of the Cistercians because Abbot Denis has ordained more priests and deacons today than I have in the whole diocese."



The bishop ordains Br. Ignatius to the diaconate.

(Top, left) Bishop Kevin Farrell ordains **Fr. Augustine Hoelke '00** and **Fr. Philip Neri Lastimososa '00**. **(Top, center, l-r)** **Br. Augustine**, **Br. Philip**, **Br. Ambrose Strong**, **Br. Thomas Esposito**, and **Br. Ignatius Peacher** lie prostrate. **(Top, right)** **Frs. Augustine and Philip** concelebrate the Mass with the bishop. **(Above, top)** **Fr. Augustine** says his First Mass at his home parish of **St. Maria Goretti in Arlington on August 21**. **(Above)** **Fr. Philip Neri** celebrates his First Mass at the Abbey Church on August 22.

A proud heritage

The 21 Boy Scouts in the Class of 2011 carry on an 80-year-old Cistercian tradition ♦ *Story by Tom Pruitt and David E. Stewart* ♦ *Photos by Jim Reisch*

"Sure, I can do that," Rodney Walter answered repeatedly during his job interview with Fr. Damian Szödényi in the summer of 1964. "I needed this job," he recalled years later. But when Fr. Damian asked about scouting, Walter's response bubbled with enthusiasm.

Walter had been a Boy Scout and might have pursued an Eagle had it not been for the chores of the family farm. He was very open to serving as scoutmaster of the Boy Scout troop that the headmaster hoped to establish in the fall for Form III (the Class of 1970).

On October 13, 1964 (beginning oddly enough at 7:29 pm), Walter presided over the initial "Scout Open House" held at the Cistercian Preparatory School campus on Walnut Hill Lane. Fr. Daniel Csányi served as the institutional representative and chaplain, and Charles Williams, Sr. (father of Charlie Williams '70 and Steve Williams '72) served as committee chairman.

Twenty-five scouts, mostly beginners, showed up to participate in one of the earliest non-athletic extracurricular activities at the young institution (which included grades four through seven at that point). Troop 670 had been born.

Forty-six years later, nearly as many Eagle Scouts will graduate from Cistercian's Class of 2011, a remarkable way to mark the 100th anniversary of the Boy Scouts of America.

With 21 Boy Scouts out of its 42 members, the Class of 2011's commitment to scouting stands heads and shoulders above Cistercian's previous 40 senior classes.

Still, they represent only the most recent chapter in a story that began in the late twenties at the Cistercian St. Imre School in Budapest. That's when scouting began to spread extensively through Hungarian schools.

Fr. Damian's search for a scoutmaster in 1964 had not been an idle nod to American culture. Nearly all of the Cistercians who played key roles in the founding of the prep school in the sixties had belonged to the Hungarian Scout Association in their youth.

The list includes Abbot Anselm Nagy, Fr. Damian, Fr. Daniel (who later left the priesthood), and Fr. Melchior Chladek. All attended St. Imre and were led by scoutmasters who were Cistercian priests.

They had learned, just as today's scouts are learning, the benefits of combining Cistercian's "Enkindle and Enlighten" with the Boys Scouts' "Be Prepared."

"At school," said Ryan Martinez '11, who earned his Eagle before 8th grade, "I am studying advanced subjects with classmates I have grown to know very well over eight years."

"In my troop in Plano, I have the opportunity to lead young scouts I hardly know on patrols and teach them how to tie knots, build fires, and cook meals."

Cistercian, from its classrooms to its playing fields, seeks to reach the boys where their heads meet their hearts.

Scouting tackles the rambunctious and unruly nature of boys head-on and teaches leadership, outdoorsmanship, moral integrity, and self-reliance through real-life experiences.

BOY SCOUT MEETING
The Class of 2011 includes
21 scouts, most of whom
are pictured here.

Scouting is playing a pivotal role in Hungary once again

Yet another Boy Scout joined the scouts in the Class of 2011 in the first few weeks of the school year.

Daniel Seidl, a senior at the Cistercian St. Imre School in Budapest, serves as a patrol leader in the Hungarian Scouting Association.

Both the Boy Scouts of America and the Hungarian Scout Association (HSA) are members of the World Scout Bureau. They are very similar except that girls may belong to the HSA.

“Religion is the most important part of scouting in Hungary,” explained Seidl.

“We always start and finish our meetings with a prayer,” he said. “The groups usually go to a Mass together with their leader, and of course, the leaders are trying to teach the scouts how to be religious and a good person before God.”

“Learning by doing and learning about the outdoors are next in importance,” he said. “All other aspects of scouting like service and leadership come out of these first three.”

As a group leader, Seidl spends nearly ten hours every week organizing, planning, and leading programs for his patrol.

Over this past summer, Seidl attended three different scout camps, including a ten-day campout in the forest with the entire First District of Hungary

He also participated in *Concordia 2010*, an international campout in August, just before traveling to the United States.

Seidl’s visit to our Cistercian school was made possible through the gift of an alumnus of St. Imre who wishes to remain anonymous. Seidl was selected on the basis of his extraordinary leadership in community service at the school.

The Jim and Ana Yoder family hosted Seidl. (“I thank them very much,” Seidl said. “They are a very nice, happy family.”)

Speaking of family, Fr. Roch Kereszty found Seidl’s last name familiar. The two discovered that indeed Seidl’s grandfather had led a young Kereszty when he was a scout in the forties.

The visit to the U.S. has been an eye-opener in other ways as well. “Everyone is so happy and open in America,” he said. “Hungarians are little less open.”

In some respects, Seidl is living today a life similar to those of Cistercian students in the thirties and forties. But 44 years of Soviet rule cut the knees out from under Catholicism, scouting, and the Cistercian Order in Hungary.

All three are rebuilding with the help of young people like Seidl who offer great promise for Hungary’s future.



Photo by Jim Reisch

FOREIGN RELATIONS
Daniel Seidl, Boy Scout and senior at the Cistercian School in Budapest.

“Scouts is a kind of a cycle,” suggested Andres Trejo ’11. “You spend your first two years learning. You learn how to start a fire with or without a match, how to cook and camp. But the rest of your career as a scout is made up of giving back, teaching the younger kids, serving as a troop guide, staffing a Cub Scout campout.”

“As scouts, we become accustomed to taking advantage of these opportunities to serve,” Trejo emphasized.

The scouts in the Class of 2011 belong to a wide variety of troops – from Plano and South Dallas to Flower Mound and Irving – and interact at official scout events only occasionally during the course of the year. But the number of opportunities for unofficial scout “events” has grown significantly over the past few years.

To earn the rank of Eagle Scout, a young man must complete an extensive service project that the Scout plans, organizes, leads, and manages. But he needs workers.

With 21 budding Eagle Scouts, Eagle projects have required a seemingly endless flow of manpower to complete.

That has not been a problem in the Class of 2011.

“All of the scouts in the class have been very supportive of each other,” commented Jack Bobzien ’11. “And it hasn’t been just the scouts. Lots of guys in the class have helped out.”

“We had one three-week period where there was an Eagle project every weekend,” he said. “It was amazing how many people turned out to help. It really brought our class closer together.”

The project by Andrew Skaras ’11 – installing landscaping on the parking lot side of the science building – attracted nearly 20 members of the class, including many non-scouts.

“I thought it might take a couple of work sessions since I had no idea how many people would show up,” Skaras remembered. “With all the help I got, we knocked it out in about five or six hours.”

“We have become very accustomed to working together,” Bobzien said. “At the end of working on one project, we went paint-balling together. The projects have created great bonding experiences. They give us something we can rally around.”

“They are all very comfortable being asked to do anything,” noted Peter Saliga, form master for the Class of 2011. “No one is above rolling up his sleeves and doing the dirty work.”

“We don’t have a small core of leaders like most of the classes ahead of us have had,” Martinez said, “The leaders in those classes sometimes appeared to be overworked.”

“In our class, we have a huge group of people — scouts and non-scouts — who are ready to help out,” he added. “So, it’s much easier to get things done for academic, athletic, and social events.”

“The St. Imre Boy Scouts troop, Troop 25, was very popular among the students in those days,” recalled Daniel Csányi of his time as a scout in the forties. “The troop master was always one of the priests, and the troop consisted of several ‘swarms’ named after saints like St. Bernard or St. George.”

“Troop meetings involved games, character building activities, and learning various skills, such as Morse code, signaling using semaphores, camp cooking, whittling, first aid, etc.”

“I loved the weekly hikes into the hills around Buda,” added Csányi, who now lives in South Bend, Indiana, “and especially the three-week summer camp. My original attraction to the Cistercian Order blossomed when one of the summer camps was held in the

vicinity of the Abbey of Zirc.”

“The white-robed monks in candlelight,” Csányi remembered, “and the strains of the *Salve Regina* soaring into the darkened arches of the Abbey Church captivated my heart.”

“Hiking side-by-side with the priests, singing along with them at the campfire, having the opportunity to play pranks on them, and eating the same horrible camp grub produced over a wood-burning stove bonded boys and their teachers for life.”

One experience still stands out for the former Cistercian monk.

By January 1946, Hungary had been ripped apart by fierce fighting between the retreating German army and the advancing Soviet forces.

With the cities and countryside bombed and looted, essentials like food, clothing, and even firewood became precious items. Yet, scouting activities persisted.

“I arrived to the weekly meeting of my swarm one evening,” Csányi remembered. “Both of my shoes were completely worn through. Melting snow soaked my socks and my feet were freezing.”

“I pulled up a chair to the stove and put my feet as close as I could to the heat.”

“Fr. Placid Csizmazia (who would later come to America and teach in the prep school) was the leader of the swarm and he was bustling to and fro in preparation for the meeting. He greeted me warmly.”

The next day at St. Imre, Fr. Placid asked Csányi to accompany

“Hiking side-by-side with the priests, singing along with them at the campfire, eating the same horrible grub bonded boys and their teachers for life.”

— Daniel Csányi, on scouting with Cistercians in the forties

him after school to the priests’ residence and visit his room.

“He opened his closet and handed me a pair of high-top shoes,” Csányi said.

“Try these on,” instructed Fr. Placid. The shoes fit perfectly.

“One of the old priests died,” Fr. Placid said matter-of-factly, “and I got his shoes. They don’t fit me. I have no use for them.”

“On the bartering market in those days,” Csányi insisted, “those shoes would easily have fetched a twenty-pound smoked ham, and a large loaf of bread to go with it.”

“I think he told a little white lie that day,” said Csányi. “Fr. Placid, my swarm leader

was one of my heroes. So were several other Cistercians.

“Besides my parents,” Csányi added, “they had the biggest impact on a defining stage of my life.”

It is no wonder that the founding monks of the prep school hoped to weave scouting into the school’s activities.

“When you start at Cistercian,” Martinez remarked, “graduating eight years later seems so far away, and such an improbable task.

“It’s the same with scouting,” he said. “You have to take those small ranks one at a time.

“You have to work really hard — sometimes ridiculously hard — to earn a Cistercian diploma and to become an Eagle Scout, but they both give you an incomparable sense of satisfaction.”



PITCHING A TENT Will Venden '11 (l-r) and Nicholas Petersen '11 prepare a camp site.

ingenious engineering minds

As the problems of society and industry grow in size and complexity, engineering prowess will grow right along with them.

By David E. Stewart

Anticipation, engineers, and the smell of coffee filled a conference room at Lockheed Martin's sprawling plant west of Fort Worth on Friday morning, March 2, 2007. All the chairs around the room's central table were filled with managers and engineers assigned to the F-35, America's newest and most advanced fighter jet.

There were all kinds of engineers — structural engineers, mechanical engineers, electrical engineers, software engineers, materials engineers, systems engineers, test engineers. They spilled over into the chairs that lined the perimeter of the room. Groups of two and threes stood in the corners.

"We knew something big was coming," remembered Will Buchanan '96, who earned his mechanical engineering degree from UT Arlington.

High hopes are riding on the F-35, which is expected to dominate the skies for the next half century. It is loaded with technological wonders from its armaments and stealth capabilities to its sensors and avionics.

Not surprisingly, the project's many new technologies have caused complications and costly delays. Already the most expensive defense program ever, the cost of the F-35 seemed to grow every

year (each plane currently goes for between \$89 and \$112 million). Between 2005 and 2007, Lockheed executives were feeling intense pressures to reduce cost overruns and speed up production.

Out of this necessity, Lockheed managers and engineers came up with a brilliant way to shave years off the delivery schedule.

They gutted a Boeing 737 (the same plane Southwest Airlines flies) and planned to outfit it with all of the F-35's advanced systems. This would allow lab testing and airborne tests to be conducted concurrently (rather than back to back) aboard the odd looking bird dubbed the Cooperative Avionics Test Bed or CATBird (see inset photo above, left).

As the meeting opened on March 2, the F-35 project manager stood and announced that the Fort Worth engineering team in the room would blaze a new trail in missions testing by taking

responsibility for the CATBird project.

The room erupted with joy and pride; the manager had to quiet the buzz as he, with the room's lights dimmed, presented an outline of the project.

Work would begin immediately, he explained. The excitement began to wane as they recognized the scale of the project and that the production schedule of the F-35 rested on their shoulders.

"We felt overwhelmed," Buchanan remembered. "We wondered how we could squeeze what should take years into months."

But within two weeks, Buchanan and the other structural engineers had three separate machine shops churning full-throttle on newly designed parts for the CATBird.

"What so many don't understand and wholly underestimate," reflected Buchanan, "is the power of determined engineers moving

in lockstep, cutting a coordinated, calculated swath through the technical challenges and setbacks.

"It meant working long days full of coffee, doughnuts, and computer time to remake the 'possible' in our own minds — then transfer that to the real world."

For their efforts, Buchanan and the entire CATBird engineering team received Lockheed's highest honor: the Aero Star Award.

"It's an award for doing what engineers everywhere love to do," Buchanan said, "find the challenge and redefine the possible."

The CATBird program played a key role in expediting the production of the most advanced fighter in history.

To date, nineteen F-35s have been delivered; thirty-one are in assembly.

The factory is gearing up to produce nearly 250 per year.



21st CENTURY ASSEMBLY LINE
Will Buchanan '96 above the Lockheed factory floor where the F-35 is assembled.

Pied piper of engineering

Many in the Class of 2010 have followed the lead of Jimmy Hartnett '10

THE LABORATORY Jimmy Hartnett '10 is surrounded by electronics in his work room at his parents' home.



Photo by Jim Reisch

"Gallium is an interesting metal," said Jimmy Hartnett '10. The SMU freshman will pursue engineering studies, along with 15 of his classmates. No one at Cistercian can remember a class with so many engineering types.

"Gallium melts at approximately 86 degrees or when it comes into contact with human skin," he explained.

This unusual characteristic led Hartnett as a sophomore to consider how his school chums might react to this silvery metal.

Hartnett saw a possibility for some fun. And a teaching moment.

"I showed it to a number of people at Cistercian," Hartnett remembered. "It caused quite a stir. Everybody thought it was mercury. It created a scene in the junior class that turned into a desk-dumping war."

By the end of that day, everyone in the Class of 2010 (and many others in the Upper School) knew about gallium's unusual characteristic.

Just another day in the life of Jimmy Hartnett, Cistercian's answer to Bill Nye the Science Guy.

"Jimmy's love for engineering projects started before he even began attending Cistercian," remarked Fr. Mark Ripperger, form master of the Class of 2010.

"My grandfather (mother's side) was interested in how things worked," Hartnett recalled recently. "He'd help me build things."

"In third and fourth grade, he helped me build an electronic board game. If you matched the wire, it would send out a little green light."

By fifth grade, he began building larger and more complicated projects.

With a flare for promotion and an unflagging curiosity about anything involving chemistry, mechanics, or electricity, his reputation spread, not just in his class, but to upperclassmen.

He assembled 1000-volt shockers that made for startling and entertaining games among groups of Upper Schoolers.

"It didn't hurt too much," Hartnett insisted. "I used it on myself to demonstrate that."

If Hartnett didn't have something new to show you, he'd tell you about the latest project he was working on in his work room at home. Some of the items in Hartnett's "R&D" lab were fascinating.

One recent alumnus remembered hearing that Hartnett was working on a micro-controller that was small enough to hide in his pocket but powerful enough to send a current to the school bell that would make it ring. This device sparked the imagination of many merry pranksters.

"I never put it to use," Hartnett shrugged.

For his senior project, he set out to build a suitcase-sized submarine with the help of Fr. Mark (who served on a nuclear submarine).

"The project started out overly ambitious," commented Fr. Mark, "but once it was pared down, Jimmy dealt with a number of mechanical failures and made it work by the deadline by piecing together some odd things (e.g., a submersible pump).

"He made his own user interface that he could work with his cell phone." (There was not an app for that.)

When he wasn't busy tinkering with some new piece of equipment or taking something apart, he pursued photography with a zeal for capturing split-second explosions (e.g., balloon popping).

"Jimmy's strong presence made engineering seem like something fun," Fr. Mark reflected recently. "I think he broke that stereotype that engineers are locked up in a room working on products that have no relevance."

Almost half of the senior class opted for physics. That hasn't happened in years (physics forces you to learn calculus before you learn it in senior math).

"I think Jimmy had a lot to do with so many in our class selecting to study engineering," said Fr. Mark. "He also had some help from an economy where those with liberal arts degrees are having a tough time while engineers are needed across the country."

"Jimmy's strong presence made engineering seem like something fun."

— Fr. Mark Ripperger

"Only one type of person can get away with wearing pocket protectors and plaid pants," laughed Gabi Ferenczi '06, who graduated in May with a mechanical engineering degree from Florida Institute of Technology, "and that's definitely engineers."

"People think that we're pocket-protector wearing, humorless nerds," said Dean Henigsmann '80, who has a degree in civil engineering from Rice and has worked in a number of roles at Kimley-Horn and Associates during the last 18 years. "Okay... there are some of those out there, but just like with any other group of people, there is a wide range of personality types."

By the way, don't worry if an engineer doesn't make eye contact in a conversation. Introverted engineers look at their shoes during a conversation; extroverted engineers look at your shoes.

"People picture engineers as folks who spend most of their time sitting at a computer, designing something," Henigsmann added. "The reality is that there is a tremendous amount of interaction with others that takes place, and the ability to do that well is critical to being a good engineer."

"In my occupation," commented Shafique Kassam '99, who is a Strategy/IT Consultant for Pariveda Solutions, "I'm delivering presentations to executive boards, showcasing demonstrations or proofs of concept to business stakeholders, entertaining clients at happy hours and dinners, and giving back to the community through frequent service events."

"We play fantasy football too," added Kassam, who earned a BS in computer science and a BA in economics from Vanderbilt.

"Most undergraduate degrees," added Abel Lopez '02, who earned his mechanical engineering degree from UT Arlington, "are sort of precursors for graduate degrees."

Lopez works as a supply chain engineer for TSP, a supplier of parts to large oil field equipment companies.

"An engineering degree puts you on the fast track to any industry you're interested in," he added, "and you don't need a graduate degree."

"Generally, people talk about engineers in terms of their scholastic disciplines (e.g., electrical, chemical, mechanical, nuclear, etc.)," mentioned Ryan Sitton '93. "But outside of school, it becomes more logical to segregate engineers by their industries or sectors."

Sitton took his mechanical engineering degree from Texas A&M to Houston and the oil and

"An engineering background allows you to decipher data quickly ... That's important since the real world is all about complex systems."

— Sebastian Arthur Sobczak '95

gas industry.

Between 2003 and 2005, while consulting for refineries and chemical facilities, he saw an opening.

In 2006, Sitton founded Pinnacle Asset Integrity Systems, which provides consulting and software tools to help some of the world's largest oil and gas producers (including Chevron and Valero) monitor degradation of their operating equipment and reduce the risk of failure.

After the Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico this past spring, the safety implications of this service are clear.

"Chernobyl changed many things for me and my classmates," explained Murray Moore '80, who had just completed his M.S. in nuclear engineering from Texas A&M in 1986, the same year the Ukrainian nuclear power plant exploded.

"A good number of my classmates in the graduate nuclear program are now employed in the petroleum industry."

Moore decided to earn a PhD in Mechanical Engineering where he specialized in the relatively obscure field of aerosol science (the study of particulate matter in air and fluid flow).

This early exercise in adaptability and flexibility would come in handy at his job as a staff member in the Radiation Protection Division at Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL), located northwest of Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Moore spends much of his time solving health and safety

PATENT PENDING
Murray Moore '80 at Los Alamos National Lab with his patented device that tests air sampling devices.

Photo for The Continuum by Sandra Valdez, Los Alamos National Laboratory



problems related to airborne radioactive particulates. Occasionally, he has investigated national security issues related to biological and bacterial threats (including anthrax).

But he also is called upon to protect LANL employees who work with radioactive substances like plutonium.

LANL had installed air sampling devices, so that in the case of an accident, an alarm would sound to notify employees of a release of radioactive dust.

But Moore found these air sampling devices difficult to test in a realistic and reliable way. With the safety of workers at stake, he



Photo courtesy of Pinnacle AIS

ENGINEERING SOLUTIONS
Ryan Sitton '93 and his team at Pinnacle Asset Integrity Systems.

That's saying a lot since his research into mathematical biology and epidemiology earned Kribs a Fulbright Fellowship and a Marie Curie Fellowship.

“Engineers are problem solvers first and foremost,” commented Tim Bock '85, an enterprise tech for Dell who earned his degree in aeronautical engineering from University of Southern California, an MS in business administration from Boston University, and MS in Telecommunications from the University of Colorado.

“An engineering background,” suggested Sebastian Arthur Sobczak '95, a venture capitalist with a chemical engineering degree from Columbia and an MBA from the University of Chicago, “allows you to decipher [relevant] data quickly, gauge probabilities, and make decisions that optimize given circumstances.”

“That’s important since the real world is all about complex systems,” he added.

The future? “Genetic engineering,” according to Sobczak.

“In the future,” Moore predicted, “I believe that biological and chemical engineering will have the greatest impact.”

“Although many technological challenges remain in energy and the

environment, truly revolutionary developments are possible in food production, pharmaceuticals, materials processing, etc.

“There might be a biological/chemical leap in the next 40 years, similar to constant advances we now see in computers and communications.”

“Nanotechnology and micro-electromechanical systems (MEMS), with tiny systems and tinier parts, are where things will be moving in devices and systems,” suggests Tom Cecil '01, an intellectual property attorney with an electrical and computer engineering degree from Franklin W. Olin College of Engineering.

“It’s hard to imagine that the push to make things smaller, faster, cheaper, and less power-hungry will ever go out of fashion.”

“It will be the young engineering minds of today,” Ryan Sitton said, “who develop realistic ways of harnessing and producing clean energy in the future. These developments have the potential to revolutionize our lives in almost every way.”

“Bioinformatics (the application of statistics and computer science to the field of molecular biology) is not always recognized as an engineering science,” added Kribs, “but applications of engineering to biology will have a tremendous impact on this century, as cutting-edge science developments begin to be implemented on massive scales (as is already happening with genome mappings).”

“Over the course of human history,” he emphasized, “all fields of engineering have responded to real life problems.”

“As science continues to face new challenges, completely new engineering fields are likely to open up.”

began to study ways to test the devices more effectively.

The solution he developed, based on the mechanics of a simple wristwatch, was accepted by the U.S. Patent Office this year.

“The patent application doesn’t mean that I will be able to retire early,” insisted Moore, who often runs in the mountains surrounding Los Alamos.

“But, I am fortunate that Los Alamos National Lab pays employees 30 percent of the royalties from any patents they attain. That’s unheard of at most U.S. corporations.”

The patent also does not provide tenure.

“I was once asked to work on a project that required laser diagnostics, robotics and motion control issues,” he said.

“Now, I was not originally hired to do robotics,” Moore shrugged, “but that’s exactly what I had to do to keep working in my group!”

“Change is a constant among engineers,” nodded Chris Kribs-Zaleta '85 who transitioned from industry to academia.

Kribs earned his undergraduate degrees in electrical engineering and math from Duke, his master’s in electrical engineering from Georgia Tech, and his PhD in math from the University of Wisconsin.

After working on speech processing at TI early in his career, Kribs searched for other meaningful ways to apply his knowledge.

“Probably the most important thing I’ve done,” Kribs reflected, “is the program I developed and currently teach at UTA to provide professional development to math teachers of elementary and middle grades.”



HAWK ACE
Pitcher Nick Gurguis '10 prepares to hoist one toward home plate.

Photo courtesy of Linda Oliver

BASEBALL

Seniors lead Hawks on the diamond

In the final contest of a difficult stretch of games at the end of April, the 2010 Hawks baseball team delivered perhaps its best performance, one that captured the heart of this team led by 10 seniors.

In the 2-1 victory over St. Stephen’s, **Nick Gurguis '10** threw a two-hitter in a scrappy outing.

The team’s ace pitched in 48 innings over the course of the season, striking out 64 and concluding the year with a 2.01 ERA.

The game also highlighted the hustling play of center-fielder **Steven Imaizumi '10** and left-fielder **Liam Flanigan '10**. Imaizumi’s undying spirit lifted

the team (even when a head-first slide into home against Greenhill broke his hand).

Flanigan hit seven doubles, two triples, and one home run with a .527 average and 27 RBIs.

Second-baseman **Preston Oliver '10** contributed with a steady bat and the highest fielding percentage on the team. Behind the plate, three-year starter **Brennan Clay '10** gave everyone confidence (Coach Mark Gray let him call all the pitches).

Imaizumi earned All-SPC honors for the second time while Gurguis and Flanigan were recognized as All-Central Zone.

TENNIS

Young talent lifts doubles teams

The tennis team did not compete for the Division-II SPC championship this year.

But as in past years, “Our team has fun,” commented Coach Skip Boyden.

Scott Sloan '10 earned the role as the team’s number one player.

“Scott competed fiercely,” Boyden said, “We will miss his leadership.”

Two singles players — **Graham Albert '11** and **Will Schweinfurth '11** — formed the number one doubles team.

Santiago Martin '12 and **George Joseph '12** teamed up as the team’s number two doubles team.

They were honored at the athletic banquet as “newcomers of the year.”

Sloan earned MVP and All-SPC honors.

FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

2010 Hawks

Aug 27	Grapevine Faith	7:30
Sep 4	Pantego Christian*	7
Sep 10	@ Prestonwood Ch.	7:30
Sep 18	Country Day*	7
Sep 24	@ Casady	7
Sep 30	St. Andrews**	7
Oct 8	@ Oakridge	7:30
Oct 15	Trinity Valley***	7:30
Oct 22	@ ESD	7:30
Oct 29	@ All Saints	7:30

home -- away * Saturday

** Thursday *** Homecoming

Veteran defensive players to anchor the Hawks defense

Friday-night lights will cast their glow on both new and familiar Hawks during the 2010 season.

The defense, in its second year under Coach Andre Bruce’s 4-2-5 system, is expected to improve with its growing familiarity with the system and with the development of vets like **Ikenna Nwafor '12**, **Graham Albert '11**, **Pete Smith '11**, and **Patrick Ryan '11**. At 6’4” and 320 lbs, Ikenna should

be fun to watch after a summer of hard work.

But big things also are expected from DE **Michael Machak '12**, DT **Kevin Blonien '11**, and free safety **David Novinski '12**.

The offense will be focused on the talents of **George Adesanya '11** and **Patrick Cruz '11**, two trusted players who are ready to take on the load.

A large and athletic offensive line, including tackles **Ikenna** and **Clay Tillotson '11**, will help spring Adesanya and Cruz as well as protect sophomore quarterback **Ford Albert '13**.

calendar

OCTOBER

**15 Homecoming
vs. Trinity Valley**

NOVEMBER

**1-2 Alumni Phonathon
14 Memorare Mass**

DECEMBER

18 Alumni Christmas Party

JANUARY

29 Moroney Award Dinner

CISTERCIAN PREPARATORY SCHOOL

3660 CISTERCIAN ROAD
IRVING, TEXAS 75039

Contemplating our greatest non-material treasure

What if I asked you, “What do you think is the greatest possible, non-material treasure that a Christian can possess already in this life?” Some of you might say, it is my faith, others might point to all the three divine virtues, faith, hope and charity. Still others might mention sanctifying grace which transforms us into a child of God and provides the entrance ticket to heaven.



On Prayer

Fr. Roch Kereszty

I would say all these are invaluable treasures, but there is something infinitely greater than all these, that in fact is the source of all these treasures: the presence of Jesus Christ himself within us. He made this promise: “If anyone loves me, he will keep my word and my Father will love him and we will come to him and make our home in him” (Jn 14:23. Cf. also 1 Jn 3:6, 3:24, 4:12, 4:15).

Finding a home within us is the goal of God’s plan with mankind: He created us and he sent his Son among us as a true and simple human being; for this reason he died for us so that he might become nourishing food and life-giving blood for us and thus enable us to welcome him in our body and soul so that we might be more perfectly transformed into him by each Holy Communion.

Even though we know this fact in theory, we live most of our lives as if Jesus were far removed from us in heaven, and had more important things to attend to than being present in us. As a result, we leave our guest alone, since we rarely return home, to our own hearts. Exciting sounds, thrilling movies, garrulous friends keep us busy. At every waking moment we need something new and stimulating. How could we have energy and time to welcome Christ in our hearts and listen to Him?

Perhaps we ignore Him because we are afraid that in His presence we would have to change – change our thoughts, feelings and attitudes. Yes, in fact, we would need to change – but for the better. It is not about assuming a rigid and unctuous posture, nor putting on a façade. All we would have to do is be ourselves: admit our sins and request a gentle “radiation treatment.” Let the radiance of his love burn out the cancerous growths in our hearts and make us shine with Christ’s own light and love. God loved King David as

he was dancing with abandon before the Ark of the Covenant. We should also alternate “dancing,” rejoicing and joking with awe and adoration.

We cannot outdo Jesus in generosity. If we provide a home for Christ within us, he will also provide a home in himself – a safe shelter of peace and tranquility. The words of St. Bernard will prove true also in our lives: “Tranquillus Deus tranquillat omnia: The calm God calms down everything.” Unexpected upheavals may come and shake us but they will not destroy us nor can they take away our peace.

If we make a home for Christ, he will stretch our heart wide open so that it might become a home for all those who come to us for help but especially for those who are entrusted to our care. There are too many shipwrecked human lives, poor and affluent, estranged from themselves and from their own families, children and adults, who have never experienced unselfish love in their lives.

Then, at the moment when our earthly life comes to an end, we will not find ourselves alone because Christ will accompany us on this final journey. As we fall asleep in death, we will awaken to the dawning of the day that never sets and to the “morning star rising in our hearts” (2nd Pt 1:19).

email: fr-roch@cistercian.org

Remember

Please remember Cistercian in your estate plans and become a member of the

**MEMORARE
SOCIETY**

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