A Gift from the Ridge

by Fr. Jerome Kadell, OSB

Anyone who has read Subiaco’s centennial history, A Place Called Subiaco (1978), by Father Hugh Assenmacher, will know about the fire of December 15, 1901. It destroyed the original monastery on First Ridge while the new monastery was being built at the present location about a mile to the northwest. Many treasured documents were lost in the fire, including manuscripts that had been sent from Einsiedeln, our mother Abbey in Switzerland. But also much of the correspondence and other information about daily life in the ridge monastery was lost. We were fortunate that the author of our first history, New Subiaco Abbey: A Retrospect (1917), Father Luke Hess, had lived in the original monastery and was able to incorporate many details of that period in his work.

When Brother Ephrem O’Bryan and I were appointed as archivists in the fall of 2019, we began a reorganization of materials that had been stored in the archives for various lengths of time. After several months we were nearing the end of the discovery phase when we found in a box of loose documents two small school composition booklets. I opened one of the booklets and jumped as I read the penciled heading, “1900.” As I read further, I realized it was a diary from within the monastery during the early
days when the community was still on the ridge. The first entries were: “June 22-23. Examination of the boys. June 24-25. Boys left for home.”

But I didn’t know whether the author was a monk, a lay teacher, or a student. The language was American idiom, but most of the monks at that time were from Europe and wrote English as a second language.

Eventually it emerged that the diarist was Edwin J. Hoyt, a novice in the monastery, who would profess his vows on October 16 of that same year and become known in our history as Father Lawrence Hoyt, who had a long and distinguished career in pastoral ministry until his death in December, 1952. Fr. Lawrence had been born to German immigrant parents in Iowa in 1877 and moved with them to Perry County, Arkansas, where he taught in public schools before coming to Subiaco in 1897. In his diary he notes that his parents and Uncle George came for his profession by wagon in an all-day trip from Adona by way of Dardanelle in October, 1900.

The diary has entries for every day from June 22, 1900, to July 21, 1903, where the entries in the second booklet end on the bottom of the last page. Whether there were more pages in that booklet or other subsequent booklets we will probably never know. But what we have is a real treasure. The period of the diary spans the last days of the community in the ridge monastery and the first in the new monastery. Three epoch-making events in the life of the Subiaco community happened during this time and with this diary we are given a view of the events from the inside.

The first of these events was the disastrous fire of 1901, and the diarist, who was Brother Lawrence by that time, tells how the community scrambled to find housing accommodations for the monks and students. The second was the drowning five months later, on May 15, 1902, of Prior Gall D’Aujourd’hui, the beloved “second founder” of Subiaco Abbey; and the third was the move of the community from the surviving school building on First Ridge to the new monastery in its final stage of construction at the present site.

Most of this diary is about the prosaic events of the day – the weather, the liturgy, the work, the classes – and would have no interest as a publication. But those familiar with the life and the history would recognize many of the people and the places mentioned, and enjoy bits of information about the progress of construction, and of the interaction among the monks and with the immigrant Catholic community.

Father Lawrence Hoyt produced another important publication later in his life. While he was pastor of St. Edward Church in Little Rock in the 1930s, he composed a children’s missal, together with a manual of everyday prayers, and published them as School Children’s Prayerbook and Missal. It was widely used in parochial schools across the nation, going through five editions with an estimated 100,000 copies.

The sad irony is that, with a book so popular and widespread, today we don’t have a copy of the School Children’s Prayerbook at Subiaco and have been unable to locate one anywhere. Perhaps one will still turn up. We ask our readers to be alert. After all, we found his diary, and we didn’t even know that existed.
A Prophet Without Honor

On one occasion, Jesus asked Peter, "Who do people say that I am?" Peter replied that some say John the Baptist, Elijah, Jeremiah, or one of the prophets. On the 14th Sunday of Ordinary time, the readings have us compare Jesus with the prophet Ezechiel.

Ezechiel lived during the time of the destruction of Jerusalem by the Babylonians. Twice, ten years apart, this army lay siege to Jerusalem. In 597 B.C., the king surrendered the city. He and his family and many of the influential inhabitants were taken captive to Babylon, and the invaders appointed a new king. The King started plotting with the Egyptians against the Babylonians, so the army returned, took the city, tore down the walls and destroyed the temple, taking the treasures of the temple back to Babylon. The plan was to destroy Judah as a nation by taking the Hebrew women back to Babylon also.

One of the captives carried away after the first siege was a priest named Ezechiel. Five years later, Ezechiel was called by God to be a prophet. His role as prophet was to prepare the captives for the future destruction of the temple. Solomon's temple was more than just a place for worship; it was a symbol of God's concern for the nation, and a reminder of all that God had done for them in the past—it was the symbol of God's covenant with the people. But they did not reflect that for close to 500 years; they had repeatedly violated this covenant. The Babylonian Captivity was God saying "Enough. It is time for a change." You can imagine that this message of Ezechiel was unpopular, and the prophet was ridiculed. He was a prophet without honor, but once the temple was destroyed, Ezechiel's message was vindicated, and his mission changed. Ezechiel was to be one of the voices trying to convince the people to change their way of thinking about the covenant, and ask God for forgiveness for violating it. It took about 70 years to change their way of thinking, but they did, and God forgave them. Finally, the Hebrews were allowed to return to their homeland to rebuild the city and a new temple.

Jesus began his public ministry going to various places throughout Galilee, preaching in their synagogues. He was known as a miracle worker with the ability to drive out demons. Finally, he came to Nazareth. St. Mark leaves open the possibility that Jesus came a couple of days early and visited with his family, but "when the Sabbath came, he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astonished." St. Mark gives us the comments of some of the hearers, questioning the wisdom that had been given to him, and wondering where he got all of this. They were amazed at the mighty deeds he performed. The inhabitants started reflecting that they have known Jesus most of their life, and they knew his family, and, St. Mark says, they "took offense at him." Jesus' reaction was, "A prophet is not without honor except in his native place…" and Jesus was amazed by their lack of faith.

Because of our belief in Jesus, and our baptism, we now are adopted Sons and Daughters of God. But more than prophet, Jesus is Savior and Redeemer. He had a more important mission than being a teacher. By his death on the cross, he made reparation for the sin of Adam and Eve, and by his Resurrection, we are enabled to share his life in heaven.

Jesus was a prophet without honor in his native place. He was crucified and died on the cross for us. We believe in him and thank him for what he has done.

“More than prophet, Jesus is Savior and Redeemer.”

We are people who have faith, and we gather for the liturgy on Sunday to join with the Lord Jesus to offer praise and worship to the Father and to share his Eucharist, our pledge and promise of Eternal Life.

Jesus came as prophet to tell us and to show us how we are to live. But more than that, Jesus tells us that we have a new relationship with his Father.
JUNE

Usually, June begins with a flurry of activity, the Alumni Reunion, on the weekend following Memorial Day. COVID precautions delayed this large gathering until later in the summer, and monks settled into a quieter routine without the hectic beginning.

The second week of June is devoted to the monastic retreat and the General Chapter. (This is a meeting of all members in final vows to discuss the status of the Abbey.) After the retreat, gardening took center stage for several, including Fr. Jerome, Br. Adrian, and Fr. Richard. Fr. Jerome specialized in tomatoes and cantaloupe; Br. Adrian grew sweet corn and watermelons; Fr. Richard handles the Habanero peppers, the okra, and the blackberries. Fr. Mark provided some radishes, spring onions, lettuce, and strawberries, but these crops were pretty much finished by June.

The farm buildings—the horse barn, the granary, the tractor shed, the Butler building—are no longer in daily use, and “squatters” have moved in, i.e., families of raccoons, opossums, groundhogs, skunks, and the occasional feral cat. These animals make themselves at home, and help themselves to the nearby garden produce. Coons love sweetcorn; groundhogs favor the cantaloupe. Br. Adrian installed electric fencing around the sweetcorn patch, but the wily coons were not deterred. He and Fr. Jerome pulled Br. Joseph K’s live traps out of storage, and tried different enticing baits, including Honey Buns. The two trappers exchanged notes at the noon table, asking each other whether they had caught any “meat for supper.” I don’t think we have had any coon fricassee on the menu.

Camp Subiaco did take place, for one week only, beginning on Father’s Day. All seems to have gone well, in spite of COVID concerns, and the lack of a swimming pool (more on that later). Buses and vans ran several times daily to the Paris City Pool, to Cove Lake, Hidden Pool, and to Lake Dardanelle. Cove Lake is a WPA impoundment at the base of Mount Magazine. Hidden Pool is a nice swimming hole on Shoal Creek, featuring a large flat rock about ten feet above the water, perfect for jumping. The traditional deluge during Camp made for a very wet campout at the old Abbey site, and drove the go-karts from the playing field to the parking lot west of Centenary Hall. Campers told me that they liked the parking lot, without the flying mud and grass.

JULY

Fr. Elijah, in Rome, initiated a number of “crowd-sourcing” searches into the story of several early-day Subiaco monks, for whom we have little reliable information, and no pictures. Like a bloodhound, he got onto the scent of Meinrad Bisig, Benedict Weder, and Paul Saelinger. With a crowd helping (Fr. Jerome, Fr. Mark, Br. Ephrem) he managed to ferret out documented dates and spellings. It turned out that the tombstone plaques, in the Abbey cemetery, for these three, were in error. Fr. Elijah was able to locate the passenger manifests for sailings from Europe in the late 1800s. Fr. Mark found the death notice in the St. Benedict parish sacramental registry, with Latin comments about the circumstances of these deaths. Fr. Jerome found archival letters. Fr. Elijah even located pictures of two of them in the Einsiedeln Abbey archives, and spoke on the phone to relatives in Germany. The new plaques have been installed. For several weeks in July, the lunch time conversation centered on these sleuthing operations.

Average precipitation for July is just short of four inches. This year we nearly tripled that, with several “gullywashers” of 2-3 inches. As a result, everything stayed green and lush. A Farmer’s Almanac maxim says that so long as the grass remains green the temperature will not reach 100º. The explanation: green grass indicates soil moisture; moisture allows for evaporation during daytime heating; the change of phase from liquid to vapor requires a heat input to effect the transition, and there is no temperature rise in that transition. Thus much heat is absorbed rather than raising the air temperature. So there you have it. Our grass is still green, and the temperature has not reached the century mark this summer.
Abbey

Journal

Of course, all that moisture in the air creates another less desirable condition—HUMIDITY—tropical, sticky, sweaty!

The delayed Alumni Reunion did happen, the weekend of July 16-18. There were fears, with the COVID Delta variant beginning to emerge. A few who had registered cancelled, but the large crowd in attendance escaped unscathed. Alumni members were SO ready to get together and relate normally. The heavy rain during the weekend tested the large tent on the mall between Alumni Hall and Centenary Hall. The brewery reported a brisk business on Saturday afternoon and the Saturday evening dinner and live auction were huge successes.

AUGUST

COVID restrictions were again imposed on August 1. That’s when Academy football players returned to campus for pre-season conditioning, and so safety protocols for the students began. Again, employees, Academy staff, and students are to be masked when indoors—and so also the monks whenever we might be close to employees or students. The Plexiglas dividers went up again on the cafeteria tables, visitors and guests were ousted from the monastic choir area in church, and monks attend Sunday Mass from the choir stalls with the congregation in the body of church. Just when we thought we had the virus on the run.

Advisors from the Post Winery in Altus recommended the picking of all the grapes in early August, even though none were ripe and sweet for winemaking. The vines had not been pruned, and so the gangly vines had put on far more bunches than the vine could support. Most of their leaves were shed, in a vain attempt to bring the fruit to maturity. The experts said that the stress on the plants would likely kill them, unless the fruit load was removed. So, on August 2, all the grapes were picked, crushed and cooked for jelly making. The thick purple juice looked and smelled richly grapey. A couple jugs were brought to the refectory, but the concentrate was so syrupy and so sour that few were willing to go beyond a small sample. Perhaps it will make a nice jelly.

The picking turned into a festive social connection with our neighbors. Parishioners at the Sunday Masses were invited to come help, and many did—of all ages and both sexes. All were treated to crackers and cheese and Abbey brew (soft drinks for the kids) in the brewery after the picking.

Abbot Leonard and Fr. Cassian attended the General Chapter of the Swiss-American Congregation, held at Benet Lake Abbey in Wisconsin. They were scheduled to return on August 2, but an airline snafu stranded them at Houston until Wednesday. St. Benedict says that travelers should not speak too freely about their trips, and the Abbot and Fr. Cassian observed this injunction. They finally got back late Wednesday night.

On August 20, the beer canning machine malfunctioned. Brother Sebastian and maintenance man Tom Newman finally got it going in the late afternoon. But beer was needed for Saturday sales, so Brother rounded up a crew for a Friday evening canning session. Petitions at Vespers likely included this unspoken one; anyway, the machine worked after prayers.

I promised “more on the pool” and almost forgot. The swimming pool has gone through half a dozen renovations for cracks in the concrete floor, but none were successful long-term. When the pool was drained for cleaning, patching and painting, ground water entered through these cracks, making it impossible to seal. When the pool was filled, water leaked out through the cracks at an estimated rate of 10-12 thousand gallons a day, based on an increased run time of the water plant. Right now a large excavator and truck are parked in the pool. The decking and concrete sides are being broken up and hauled away. That must have been HOT work last week. The new facility should be in place for next summer’s Camp Subiaco. I wish it were there today (August 29th).
Keeping the Faith in Mar Behnam

by Fr. Jerome Kodell, OSB

One of the most painful of the many tragedies associated with the wars and terrorism in Iraq has been the systematic attack on the Catholic Church in an area where Christianity has been a consistent presence since the early centuries. The persecution has created many martyrs for the faith and has forced thousands of the faithful to flee from their homeland.

One of the casualties has been the Syriac Catholic Monastery of Mar (Saint) Behnam in Khidr, Iraq, which dates back to the fourth century. Though by 2012 there would be only four monks in the monastery, they had continued the daily schedule of prayer and Mass and been a center for Catholics in the area, providing lodging for retreatants and welcoming up to 250 visitors on weekends, including Muslim friends.

In June, 2014, Islamic State militants began gradually increasing pressure on the monks to convert to Islam or to have their monastery confiscated and themselves evicted. Father Youssef Sakat, the superior, was concerned for the safety of the sacred vessels and especially for the 630 manuscripts in their library, dating from the 12th to the 18th centuries. He tried to move manuscripts to safer locations but was always apprehended and turned back.

He realized that he would have to hide the manuscripts for safekeeping somewhere on the property. He and the other monks cleared out a long, narrow closet under a stairwell that was used to store cleaning supplies. Working through the night of July 19, 2014, they placed the manuscripts and several chalices and other sacramental vessels in nine steel barrels used for storing grain. Then, using cinderblocks that matched the surroundings, they built a false wall in the closet to hide the barrels. They painted the wall to blend with the others and put the cleaning supplies in front. By morning they were finished.

At 1:30 that afternoon, four Islamic State militants banged their way into the monastery, giving the monks an ultimatum which they could not obey. The monks were given 15 minutes to vacate the monastery and were required to turn over the keys to the monastery and the vehicles. The monks were transported two miles and left on the road, from where they walked to the nearest town, seven miles away.

In March, 2015, militants blew up part of Mar Behnam Monastery, and the rest of the building remained under the militants’ control until it was liberated in October, 2017. When Father Sakat was able to return to the monastery that December, he found the tomb of Saint Behnam, a Syriac Catholic martyr of the fourth century, heavily damaged and all crosses and other religious symbols defaced or destroyed. But the wall concealing the manuscripts was intact, and when it was chiseled away the steel barrels and their contents were found untouched. The manuscripts were carefully packed and transported to an archive for safekeeping.

Meanwhile, Father Sakat was assigned by the Syriac Catholic Patriarch to head the Syrian Catholic Holy Family Center in Beirut, Lebanon, where Iraqi Christians find safe haven while they are waiting to be resettled in Western countries, because they have no realistic hope of returning to their homes.

"They placed the manuscripts and sacramental vessels in nine steel barrels for storing grain."
If you have visited the campus of Subiaco Abbey in the last two years, especially during the warm weather months, you might have noticed the absence of a favorite recreational facility. Leakage of water in the tens-of-thousands of gallons prompted the draining and closing of the facility until a suitable replacement could be decided on.

Since the 1930s a swimming pool has been located at the bottom of the hill near the athletic fields. Many different constituents have enjoyed the pool. In preparation for a capital campaign for Subiaco, the needs assessment and project feasibility groups determined that the swimming pool should be on the list of important projects. Engineers and pool construction contractors helped the campaign facility committee determine that a new swimming venue in the current location would be the best option.

The new swimming pool will be 75 feet X 50 feet with a versatile footprint that will include three lanes for lap workouts and swim team practices. Removable starting blocks will also be installed for Trojan swim team use. The rest of the pool will include recreational equipment such as a slide and basketball goals. The depth will range from four to five feet and the pool will hold approximately 165,000 gallons of water. Underwater LED lights, new concrete decking, and attractive fencing will be part of this facility upgrade. Clarity Pools of Little Rock, AR, was awarded the contract. Demolition and construction began in late August with a planned completion of late spring 2022. Academy students and staff, monastic community members, summer campers, alumni and their families, guests of the Coury House and others will benefit from this exciting enhancement. It will also provide an attractive amenity for new groups considering camps or retreats during the warmer weather months.

Subiaco’s capital campaign, Legacy From Tradition: Onward Together, continues to move forward with the blessings and generosity of our friends and benefactors. The tremendous support generates enthusiasm and energy for projects like the new swimming pool, along with excitement for the future. We extend our grateful appreciation to all who have helped thus far, and we look forward to the partnerships yet to come as we advance to more projects being completed. Please take a moment to visit https://www.countrymonks.org/onward-together and learn about the wonderful changes and updates as part of this campaign. To learn about how you can become involved, contact us at 479-934-1026 or email campaign@subi.org.

Onward Together!
Rule of St. Benedict, Chapter 73  1. The reason we have written this rule is that, by observing it in monasteries, we can show that we have some degree of virtue and the beginnings of monastic life. 2. But for anyone hastening on to the perfection of monastic life, there are the teachings of the holy Fathers, the observance of which will lead him to the very heights of perfection.

Subiaco Abbey is truly blessed to have a number of monks currently in higher education, which you will read about below. However, the largest blessing comes in the support, both in prayers and finances, that these men are receiving during their education process. Whether living and studying abroad or taking online classes, the encouragement provided to them by the benefactors who view monastic education as an important element of formation keeps them on the journey toward the future. This time away is not easy, especially when hurdles and roadblocks cause setbacks. The generosity and enthusiasm of the members of their Subiaco family who freely give to the Monk Education Fund are their inspiration and driving force toward a more perfect life when they return to the monastery. Thank you to all who have helped and are continuing to assist with the expenses associated with our monks in education. Contact us at subiaco@subi.org for information on how to join this effort of education for the future of Subiaco Abbey.

Fr. Elijah Owens is residing in Rome at the Pontifical University of Saint Anselm (Pontificio Sant’Anselmo). By the end of this year he will complete his Doctorate in Liturgy and Monastic Studies, complete a certificate in religious formation from the Congregation of Consecrated Life, and obtain a diploma in Safeguarding of Minors from the Centre for Child Protection at the Pontifical Gregorian University. Fr. Elijah will return home to Subiaco in January 2022.

Br. Raban Heyer is presently in Assisi, Italy, where he is completing a four-month Italian language immersion program. In October he will move to Rome and study at the Pontifical University of Saint Anselm (Pontificio Sant’Anselmo). He will begin a three-year seminary formation program leading to his ordination as a deacon and priest, at which point he will return home to Subiaco.

Br. Gabriel Jannise is presently a Junior at Arkansas Tech University in Russellville. He does have five full semesters to go towards a Bachelor of Science in Nursing Degree.

Br. Matthias Hagge is completing his Masters of Divinity (M.Div.) degree from the Catholic University of America in Washington, DC, while residing at the Theological College Seminary.

Br. Sebastian Richey is presently enrolled in Brewing Science and Operations Master Program at Auburn University. He will take two classes per semester including the summer term for the next two years.
Conviction Control
by Linda Freeman, Director of Development Operations

When considering the challenges that we are facing in today’s world, it’s no wonder that people are divided. One very visible area of division is among the users of social media. They either chose to refrain from it all together, use it only for posting pictures of family or friends (those who are disciplined) or go on an all-out rant, blasting everyone, who they never knew anyway, for a particular belief or practice.

Just as we are all sinners, we could all likely admit to times when we openly judged others. Maybe it happened simply out of a misunderstanding. Perhaps it was an occasion when we worked long and hard for something, only to be overlooked or taken for granted. Is it possible that the ugliness of jealousy or envy might be trying to take up residence in our heart? Is it purely political? Whatever the root cause, we need to consider what brought us to that point of judgement to begin with.

People often become so fixated on their own personal convictions that they allow narrowmindedness to set in. And what does that generally equate to? YOU thinking of only YOU! Our convictions should be godly and help shape our lifestyles and choices, having a limited effect on our behavior and response toward others. They should provide direction so we are not steered toward accommodating circumstances or temptations. They are not justification or a basis for judgment on those who don’t share the same opinions, often confused with the freedom of speech.

The Holy Spirit can be our best source of strength in those times when we feel tempted to judge. Having the Holy Spirit within us, we possess the foresight to recognize deception. In Ephesians 5:6-7, we hear *Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of such things God’s wrath comes on those who are disobedient. Therefore, do not be partners with them.* Don’t allow the public display of personal convictions by others to draw you into the web of judgment. Instead draw from the power of the Spirit what is needed to observe, repent and correct personal shortcomings.

Stand firm in your convictions but keep them in check. Remember that our actions might allow what we claim as private convictions to quickly become public. It is a waste of time and energy to judge others when you could have used that time to focus on self-improvement and growing closer to God. Rather, we should practice being pleasing to God so that when we stand in His judgment, we have been faithful to Him and His Word.
Fall Senior Retreat
by Den. Roy Goetz

This year’s senior class enjoyed the first of a pair of retreats designed to bookend their last year as students at Subiaco. The fall retreat was held August 29-30 at the Ponca Bible Camp near the Buffalo National River. The retreats, designed and led by Roy Goetz and Rob Pugh, are a combination of recreation, relaxation, introspection, and prayer. Time was spent swimming in the Buffalo River and hiking the Lost Valley-Eden Falls Cave trails, which included a bit of spelunking in one of Arkansas’ most beautiful caves. Prayer services centered around the idea of “retreat” and Jesus’ instruction to “Come away by yourselves to a deserted place and rest awhile.” The closing message was a reflection that suggested the idea that most, if not all of our daily choices come down to three choices, To Help, To Hurt, or To Ignore. All of our relationships, be it with God or our neighbor, present us with these three. Roy Goetz commented that, “The seniors were an absolute joy to spend the two days with. They were cooperative, focused, and helpful at every turn.”

Ponca Bible Camp Chapel

Samuel Scott
FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL
August 16, 2021
SUBIACO ACADEMY
#OnwardTrojans

First day pictures of Subiaco’s newest students are popular with parents
Approximately two dozen students have signed up for the first wrestling season ever at Subiaco Academy. Although new to Subiaco, wrestling started in Arkansas 15 years ago. Currently, more than ten Arkansas colleges and universities offer competitive wrestling as do more than 50 high schools. Head coach Andrew Cannon said Subiaco “will be competing against schools ranging from 1A to 4A and have invitations from schools as far away as Lagrange, GA, Dallas, TX, and Miami, FL.” During the off-season, students can continue to attend events with trips tentatively scheduled to Missouri and Iowa. Already in the plans is a visit to the second Arkansas state tournament in alternative wrestling styles for a chance to compete in the USA Nationals in Fargo, ND.

Subiaco students participating in wrestling for the first time may find themselves learning a very different kind of sport. Unlike some other sports, any kid can excel, given the right attitude and effort. More important than size or athletic ability is the precision of the wrestling moves and the strategy behind them. The greatest coach in college wrestling history, Dan Gable, once said: “Once you have wrestled everything else in life is easy.” Because a student competes as an individual, they must have an exceptional sense of accountability. As students learn this level of personal accountability, they also gain the intangible tools they need to be successful adults. Wrestling builds leadership, courage, responsibility, mental toughness, and most of all the understanding that there is always work to be done.

Subiaco will be hosting dual meets this year using the gym but their practice facilities are still a work in progress. Currently, they are sharing multi-use space with other teams and PE classes, including the locker room. “Given the number of students already participating and the growth we are expecting, we already have a need for a larger space with two wrestling mats for the kind of practice we need to do,” said Cannon.

Interested in learning more about the wrestling program? Contact Head Coach Andrew Cannon at acannon@subi.org.

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**Subiaco Wrestling Fun Facts**

- Wrestling is a sport that any size kid can do with 14 total weight classes ranging from 106 lbs. to 285 lbs.
- Wrestling competes during the winter months from late November through February 19th.
- Over 25 years of competitive experience between head coach Andrew Cannon and assistant coaches Kinzer Matjazic and Nick McDaniel
- Two coaches were ranked #1 overall in their respective weight classes in Georgia during high school.
- All coaches competed for the University of the Ozarks.
- Head coach has close ties with wrestlers that have or are currently competing on the world stage. We plan on utilizing these athletes whenever possible.
New Staff at the Academy

JONATHAN COLLINS
"I grew up in Dardanelle and attended Arkansas Tech University. I've worked in various facets of the technology field for more than 20 years, most recently at ATU in Russellville. In my spare time, I enjoy playing and streaming video games. I live in Dardanelle with my wife, Brandi, our children, Drew and Meredith, and our dogs, Roscoe and Peanut."

KINZER MATJAZIC
"I was born in Arizona and lived on the Grand Canyon for two years, my family then moved to an island off the coast of Georgia where I was raised. After graduating high school, I moved to Clarksville and attended the University of the Ozarks, fell in love with the area and decided to stay. I have two wonderful dogs. I am excited to work as an Admissions Analyst at Subiaco, as well in Student Services."

JOSEPH PATRINOSTRO
"As the child of two teachers, I've always been around boarding schools. In high school, I participated in water sports and played lacrosse, continuing at the University of North Dakota. I enjoy leisure time on the water and in the wilderness and I'm excited to implement an assortment of lessons teaching leadership and self-determination at Subiaco along with instructing Language Arts I and English I, coaching both cross country and track, and assisting with the outdoor adventure program."

VERONICA ROSIN
"Born and raised on a small farm in the Rio Grande Valley in South Texas, I am one of six children. I love all things outdoors, including hiking, kayaking and riding horses. My motto is God first, family second, and ministry third. Holding a Bachelors of General Studies in Education, Family Science and Sociology, I am currently working on my Master of Arts in Teaching while doing classroom instruction in Spanish and English at Subiaco Academy."

JENNIFER SMITH
"I worked in business for many years before earning a Master’s in Education/Teaching. My teaching experience has taken me internationally to South Korea and domestically to central Texas and south Arkansas before coming to Subiaco. My focuses are on my faith, family, and I love to write. I teach Computer Graphics and Visual Arts."

ZACH THOMPSON
"A native of Neenah, WI, I attended three separate boarding schools during my high school years. I enjoy disc golf and photography, having done photo shoots for the Kansas Jayhawks and Arkansas Razorbacks. I am a Residential Life Assistant and help with student transportation."
The Evolution of the Alumni Reunion Raffle

In 1963 the Subiaco Alumni Association realized that they could not meet the promise to match a $25,000 donation by Mr. George Coury '24 and needed to do something quickly. Thus the birth of the 200 Club on January 4, 1964. One became a member of the club by contributing $100 to help pay the unpledged balance on the construction of the Coury House. In the first drawing of the 200 Club, the first prize was the choice of either a 1964 Cadillac, an Imperial, a Lincoln Continental, or $5,000 in cash. The drawing was held at Alumni Reunion on April 12, 1964, and the first winner was Mr. Tom Thorpe who chose to receive a check for $5,000. The idea of a new car for the first prize never caught on as records show in the first four years of the club, everyone chose to receive a check instead. In 1966 the prizes for the drawing were expanded to include, in addition to the car, six other prizes: a $500 bond, and five $100 bills. In 1969 the top prize was changed from a $5,000 check to a $5,000 bond. Then in 1970, the Board of Directors allotted the funds from the 200 Club for the Student Aid Fund, awarding a $5,000 bond, a $500 bond, and five more $100 prizes. The proceeds remained in support of student aid until the 200 Club was no longer an option.

In the 1980's the 70/30 Club was created offering a chance for younger alumni who could not afford to participate in the 200 Club to donate and also have a chance at winning a prize. In the 70/30 club, 70% went to the fund and 30% to the winner. At $20 a chance this revenue also supported student aid. Both the 200 Club and the 70/30 Club continued until 2009 when limitations were put on them by the state gaming commission.

Since the Subiaco Alumni Association no longer charged annual dues for the men, a vital source of income to continue projects that the SAA sponsors, like funding for Senior Banquet expenses, or support for special Academy projects (tennis uniforms for example) was lost. The Alumni Reunion raffle, as we know it today, began in 2017 when the Arkansas laws changed once again. Today information about the raffle is sent out well before Alumni Reunion in hopes that even those who are unable to attend the reunion might still support the cause. There are four drawings for $500 each held during the live auction at Saturday night's banquet. This year’s four winners were Larry Meinert '72 from Texas, Nick Liewer '70 from Oregon, Ted Kelly '81 from Texas, and Sally Westphal, wife of Fredrick Westphal '70, from Louisiana. Among the four winners, $750 was donated back to the Alumni Association, giving an overall net income of $6,430. Since the raffle began in 2017, Subiaco Alumni Association has seen it increase for the most part. In the inaugural year, the raffle raised $2,670; in 2018 it raised $2,030 and in 2019 $3,365. Chances for each of these prizes has remained at $20 each since 2017.
Alumni Reunion 2021 Recap

After being canceled in 2020 and being pushed back to July, the Alumni Association was able to hold its annual Alumni Reunion. The reunion honored the anniversary classes that ended in 1s and 6s and it also honored those classes from the previous year (0s and 5s due to the cancellation). A few alumni trickled in on Thursday evening to be checked in before the Fr. Harold Golf Tournament on Friday; however, Friday had storms in the area and the golfers were not able to play. Instead, they enjoyed their lunch and spending time with fellow Subiaco brothers. Back on the Hill, more Subiaco alumni were checking into their rooms, wandering around the campus to see what had changed, and were visiting with their classmates and alumni. The first event of the reunion was the Abbot’s Reception, which is held in Centenary Hall (P.A.C.) and under the tent in front of the church.

On Saturday morning, the Alumni Board met ahead of the General Assembly. Numerous people address the alumni at the G.A. meeting, one of which was Glenn Constantino, Procurator of Subiaco Abbey. Glenn spoke to the alumni about the current campaign, “Legacy From Tradition: Onward To Together.” At the General Assembly two honorary Alumni were introduced; Rudy and Kim Hess ’88 and Nick and Kathy Disabella ’73. Following the meeting, alumni were invited to have their class pictures taken in front of the church. Following lunch, most of the alumni walked down to the old farm office, which now is the Subiaco Abbey Taproom. After sampling the new brews on tap and buying all the merchandise and peanut brittle they could, it was time for Mass. At Mass, Abbot Leonard Wangler introduced the 2021 Distinguished Alumnus, John “Tree” Adams ’41. John’s daughter, son-in-law, and grandson were attending and received the award with much pride.

Following Mass rain moved back over Subiaco, but that did not dampen the mood. Everyone was eager for dinner at Fuhrmann Hall. The Day Dog Committee grilled steaks for everyone as the side dishes and desserts were whipped up by the kitchen staff. After dinner, the Live Auction began. The Class of ’91, wearing matching 3peat Field Day Champions t-shirts and showing off the Field Day trophy, seemed to bid on almost every item and ended up winning a fair amount.

During the auction, the Foundation Board hosted an open bar with honorary alumni Dennis and Dawn Epping ’77 and other board members serving up drinks. Following the auction, most of the alumni retreated to different spots across campus and spent the final evening trading old stories with classmates… or anyone that would listen.

Sunday morning, the annual Thanksgiving Breakfast was enjoyed by all before they made their journey home. Abbot Leonard announced newly elected members and officer of the Ladies Auxiliary and gave a final blessing as everyone departed.

We would like to thank all of those that make the Alumni Reunion so successful and enjoyable.
**Weldon William Bezner ’47**

Weldon William Bezner ’47 of Lindsay, TX, passed away June 3, 2021, at the age of 91. Weldon was a Seabee in the U.S. Navy from 1951-1953. He was a farmer, rancher, and businessman, living all of his life in Lindsay. Weldon is survived by seven children: five sons and two daughters; 14 grandchildren; 11 great-grandchildren; and two sisters.

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**John G. Hendriks ’47**

John G, Hendriks ’47 of Decatur, AL, passed away May 7, 2021, at the age of 92. John received his Bachelor of Science in Industrial Engineering from the University of Arkansas and retired from the U.S. Army Missile Command in 1987 having authored several patents. John was an avid outdoorsman and soloed a small plane. He is survived by two daughters; two sons; a sister; six grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

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**Robert S. ‘Bob’ Peters, Jr. ’50**

Robert S. ‘Bob’ Peters, Jr. ’50 of Little Rock, AR, passed away Sunday, June 6, 2021, at the age of 89. Bob owned Peters MFA Insurance Agency and Peters Travel Agency, retired from Printing Services at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, and was a Naval Reserve retiree. He is survived by his sister-in-law; nephews; and a niece.

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**James Anthony Saab ’55**

James Anthony Saab ’55, of Sunrise Beach, MO, passed away August 15, 2021, at the age of 84. Jim served his country in the Army Reserves, owned and operated Jim Saab Real Estate, and was a developer for the HUD government housing program. In addition to his wife, Ruth, he is survived by a son, James Anthony Saab, Jr. ’76; three daughters; ten grandchildren; and twelve great-grandchildren.

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**Dwight Louis Ruelle ’59**

Dwight Louis Ruelle ’59, of Houston, TX, passed away August 9, 2021, at the age of 80. He spent a career in automotive sales and was active in his parish and Knights of Columbus. He is survived by his wife Ruth; three daughters; and brothers Dean ’54 and Dornell ’59.

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**John Thomas Olendorff ’65**

John Thomas Olendorff ’65 of Tulsa, OK, passed away February 11, 2021, at the age of 73. John enlisted in the U.S. Navy, serving in Vietnam for four years as a corpsman. John spent 28 years as a Systems Analyst for PSO and after retirement worked at the VA Call Center. John is survived by his wife Diana; two sons; and three grandchildren.

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**Br. Andrew Suarez, OSB ’65**

Br. Andrew Suarez, OSB ’65, of Subiaco Abbey, passed away July 11, 2021, at the age of 73. He had been a professed monk for 32 years, having made his solemn profession of final vows as a monk of Corpus Christi Abbey on January 6, 1992. When Corpus Christi Abbey closed in 2002, he transferred to Subiaco Abbey on June 4, 2002. He is survived by one brother and sister-in-law.

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**Thomas Leon Forst ’66**

Thomas Leon Forst ’66, of Long Beach, MS, passed away June 11, 2021, at the age of 72. He was a native of Subiaco, AR, and earned a bachelor’s degree from Arkansas Polytechnic College. He worked at Keesler Air Force Base and later retired from NOAA after 32 years of government service. He is survived by five sisters; and four brothers; Fred Forst ’63, Sam Forst ’71, Louis Forst ’72, and Richard Forst ’77.
Alumni

Upcoming Retreats and Events at Coury House

October
1-3  Diocese of Little Rock Diaconate Retreat
8-10  Arkansas Knights of Columbus Couples Retreat
11-15  Priests Retreat, Diocese of Tulsa and Eastern Oklahoma
15-17  Diaconate Retreat, Diocese of Tulsa
22-24  DOLR Diaconate Formation NWA Hispanic
23-24  St. Stephens Arkansas Knights of Columbus, Bentonville, AR
29-31  Subiaco Academy Parents Weekend
29-Nov. 1  Dr. Gary J. Oliver Healthy Leaders, Flourishing Ministries

November
6-7  St. Joseph’s Women’s Retreat, Conway, AR
12-14  JBU Tracy Balzer Honors Staff Retreat Balzer
15-18  Dr. Gary J. Oliver Healthy Leaders, Flourishing Ministries
20-21  Major Donors Retreat
21  Benefactors Day of Thanksgiving
26-28  DOLR Diaconate Formation NWA Hispanic
26-30  Centering Prayer: The Journey Continues, Nicholas Cole
29-Dec. 2  Dr. Gary J. Oliver Healthy Leaders, Flourishing Ministries

December
3-5  Dan Egan Retreat
6-9  Dr. Gary J. Oliver Healthy Leaders, Flourishing Ministries
9-12  Quilting Group
17-19  DOLR Diaconate Formation NWA Hispanic
31- Jan.1  New Year’s Evening of Recollection (open)

All guests, either private or on group retreats, are welcome to join the monastic community for daily prayer and Eucharist.

For more information or for reservations, either call Coury House at 479-934-1290 or email couryhouse@subi.org

Upcoming events may be found on our website, www.subi.org.

Planned Giving can---
• Empower donors to be proactive in defining their own legacy
• Have a significant, lasting impact on a cause that matters to the donor or family
• Provide comfort to family and loved ones who know that the donor is making a difference in the world beyond his or her own lifetime
• Inspire others to make planned gifts

Contact us today to learn more about this opportunity to support Subiaco Abbey and Subiaco Academy.
Fr. Jerome Kodell, 479-934-1165, frjerome@subi.org
Glenn Constantino, 479-934-1026, gconstantino@subi.org
Visit our website https://subiaco.givingplan.net/pp/legacy-change/208

Sending Brothers Home cont’d

James “Jimmy” Francis McHardy ’68, of Rosedale, MS, passed away July 12, 2021, at the age of 73. Jimmy is survived by his wife, Kris; three sons; five grandchildren; and two sisters.

Andrew Stratton Poindexter ’84 of Houston, TX, passed away July 22, 2021, at the age of 55. He attended Tulane University, Hendrix College, and the Art Institute of Houston. He was a devoted friend, unique furniture designer, avid gardener, and creative chef. He is survived by his parents; a brother and a sister; a niece and nephew.