

- + dump a bag of old wounds and grumpy gossip and replace them with a bag of compliments
- + donate an extra bag of prayers for world peace

■ In **Abbot John's** annual "State of the Institution" to the university's faculty and staff on February 13, he announced the separation of the business offices of the abbey and university to better deal with distinct priorities. He further commented on the success of the Abbey Guesthouse with its current 45% occupancy and satisfaction with the expanded Chapter House and Petters Pavilion. He



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Abbot John gives his annual "State of the Institution" talk.

previewed renovation and construction projects. The abbot reported that he, **Dietrich Reinhart, OSB**, **Columba Stewart, OSB**, and Donald and Mabel Jackson will present the Books of Wisdom volume of *The Saint John's Bible* to Pope Benedict XVI on April 4 during a visit to Rome.



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■ **Robert Koopmann, OSB**, professor of music, performed works by Johannes Brahms,

Maurice Ravel and Frederic Chopin at his February 28 piano recital and added a unique "Improvisations on Famous Paintings." Having previously done improvisations on hymns, Father Bob played musical reflections on the paintings of Kandinsky, Friedrich and Seurat with their works displayed on a backdrop screen of the stage.

■ A live webcam mounted on the façade of Alcuin Library now scans the campus from the Peter Engel Science Hall past the Abbey Guesthouse, across the front of the church to the Stephen B. Humphrey Auditorium. Access to the webcam is found at the lower left of the abbey's homepage www.saintjohnsabbey.org/.

March 2008

■ March came in like . . . maple sap collectors. On March 1 seventy volunteers first invoked a blessing on their work and then spread through Saint John's woods to tap 600+ sugar maple trees to begin Operation Sap-to-Syrup. Metal spigots were inserted in tree trunks and collection pails attached to catch the drip-drip-drip of the sap. We need sunny, warm days and cool nights for a bumper harvest.



Saint John's Arboretum

Maple tree sap collectors

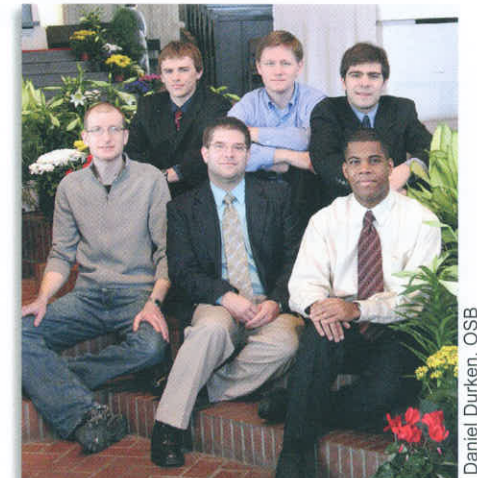
■ Construction on the 22,600 square-foot addition to Bede Hall, the academic building of Saint John's Prep School, is on schedule to be completed in time for the late August start of school.



Lee Hanley

The Prep School's addition is rising.

■ Eight men took part in the annual Lenten Triduum vocation retreat sponsored by **Paul-Vincent Niebauer, OSB**, vocation director. +



Daniel Durken, OSB

L. to r., back row: Charles Sawyer (Minnesota), Michael Hahn (Minnesota), Caleb Wenzel (Texas); front row: Eric Pohlman (Indiana), Daryl Jackson (Louisiana), André Heywood (Minnesota). Not pictured: Mark Coté (Massachusetts), David Kobza (Indiana).