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The Nest

The Monk's Vacation

By Alex Banul, '20, honorary freshman

So, you think you had the best summer, huh? Got to travel around, enjoy some down time, and see your friends? Well, allow me to put those thoughts to rest—some of the monks had WAY better summers than you did. Sorry, it's just true—the possibilities are endless with the monks, as long as they head to bed promptly at 9:00pm.

We'll start with the admirable Father Gregory, forever may he reign. He began his summer attending a Renaissance exhibition in Raleigh, North Carolina (for those of

you who have studied under him, this may not come as much of a surprise to you). Next, Father received a call from his brother to fly out with him to London. They wanted him to be the family tour guide, because Father Gregory's brother did not want to act as both dad and tour guide. Father graciously obliged and had the opportunity to attend operas at the Royal Opera House and spend lots of time exploring the city.

He then received a call from his sister, asking if he'd be interested in going on a vacation with her. The kind man Father Gregory is, he again obliged, and they took a trip to Santa Fe to visit Native American pueblos and view more operas at the Santa Fe Opera House. Finally, Father completed his enthralling summer by paying visits to the sick and elderly in Houston hospitals.

The next monk we had the privilege to interview was Father Ambrose. His first big trip of the summer was in New Mexico with his form. While there, they went whitewater Rafting and hiked through some mountains, even holding Mass at the top of the tallest mountain in New Mexico, Wheeler Peak.

Next, Father Ambrose took a trip to Colorado with his family ("the fam", as Father Ambrose called them), and spent some time up there, fly-fishing among many other things. Finally, Father Ambrose joined students and other fellow monks on their mission trip to Nicaragua, which was a huge success, and an excellent experience.

The final monk summer we have to share with you is that of Father Philip. His first vacation was a family reunion. "About 20 Lastimosas gathered together in Hawaii," Father told us: 8 from the Philippines, 9 from the U.S., and 3 from Australia. They spent a week in Honolulu surfing, eating Hawaiian Ice and Dole whip, and also snorkeled. Father even had the rare opportunity to say Mass while wearing Converse All-Stars, or "#my-chucks," as he referred to them. He got to spend time with his parents as well as see the next generation of his family.

At the end of July, Father Philip went to Maine with Father Anthony and Brother Raphael and stayed at Father Anthony's family property near Moosehead Lake. Moosehead Lake is "the largest lake fully inside a state, east of the Mississippi," Father Philip said. "It's a great lake... not a Great Lake though; those are too great to be contained in one state." While there, they kayaked, climbed a mountain, went on a seaplane, "met lots of old ladies who liked meeting young priests", took a sailboat out into the Atlantic Ocean, and met with Father Philip's fraternity brother in Massachusetts. Thus concludes Father Philip's epic summer, but we left out all of the boring scheduling and stuff.

So now you've had a bit of a taste as to how the monks spend their summers—maybe some ideas for how you'll spend your summer next year?



The Nest

An Interview with Fr. John *By Calvin, Step. '20, who couldn't think of anything to put*

Required to give a one-word assessment of Fr. John, the monks provided multifarious descriptions. Intense. Hard-working. Enthusiastic. Exhausting. Studmuffin. All these words adequately describe the form master of the brand-new batch of first formers. Returning to Dallas after spending four and a half years in Rome, Fr. John recently sat down with me and shared his story and what he plans for the class of 2025.

Before joining the monastery, Fr. John was determined to become a lawyer. First attending the College of the Holy Cross in western Massachusetts, he then transferred to the University of Dallas. Still holding onto the possibility of a legal career, he was on the road to major in Philosophy while simultaneously taking pre-law. By senior year, however, Fr. John realized that he was drawn to the monastic life at Cistercian. Thus, post-graduation, he remained in Dallas to further discern such a life, a discernment that resulted ultimately in Fr. John, O. Cist.

If you don't remember seeing Fr. John around the hallways, it's probably because he's been in Rome while you were in school. He first left for Rome in 2012 and with few exceptions, has spent his semesters there since. He earned his license degree and is currently working toward his doctorate.

He is very excited to become a form master. Being a spiritual father to a large group of boys for eight years is extremely exciting for him. When asked how he felt about taking on such a big responsibility, he stated, "Any apprehension I felt was only because of the amount of work I knew it would entail, but I was extremely excited." This year, he hopes that his first formers can succeed in forming a community that cares for each other, and that they can "kick a lot of butt academically".

Dr. R's Return *By Nico Walz '20, who went to the windows and then the Walz*

After a brief hiatus, Dr. Reinsborough, has returned to Cistercian and has taken charge of Sophomore chemistry. This was a welcomed return, since all the upper school fondly remembers her vibrant biology classes in middle school. Dr. Reinsborough shared her thoughts with us about the new science building and the opportunities that come from it.

Q: Are you pretty excited to move out of this office and into the new science building?

Dr. R: I am. This is already the second office I've had since I got here a week ago. So we were all in the library classroom and then I came in, and I had finally gotten all my stuff situated and I came in and they said 'we're moving to the reception area' and I went 'oookay'. So we moved here.

Q: Will chemistry be on the second floor?

Dr. R: Yeah. All science teachers will have an office on the second floor of the Chemistry... uh...Science building. But our chemistry lab will be downstairs.

Q: You were gone when they were planning the new construction, right?

Dr. R: I was gone but I knew about it because Mr. Parker would pull out the plans and let me see what was going on whenever I was doing some work here. So I knew what was going on.

It's gonna be amazing. It's gonna actually change the way we teach the sciences. Especially for chemistry and physics because we'll have areas that we can demonstrate things. It's really a cool thing to be able to do.

Other contributions to this article were provided by Tom Worth and Sam Sloan

The Nest

Ask Kattdaddy!

Before I can divulge the answers to some of the world – nay, the universe’s greatest mysteries I must do something quite uncharacteristic. I would like to apologize.

I am sorry, Ayden Kowalski. I could not get to your questions before I had to prevent a catastrophic disaster (information classified). I am also dedicating this Kattdaddy to him, and all the questions are solely from him.



What color is The Dress? (Blue/Black or White/Gold)

Ah, the Instagram trend of the yesteryear. The one problem with this question is your lack of feline knowledge. As you undoubtedly did not know, felines are the greatest species and as such see the world in its true colors: shades of blue, gray, and yellow. But I leave you one piece of advice: you look smashing in either color.

Who is the greatest soccer player of all time?

Because of unintelligent choices by the human-dominated society around us, cats are not allowed to play soccer. Due to this incredulous lack of judgment, I would not be the greatest soccer player. In my opinion, the best player is the soccer ball for it takes all the hits, makes all the goals, involved in every save, but never asks for or receives any credit.

Michael Jordan or LeBron James?

Neither of them play soccer...

What is the hardest subject in school, in your experience (which is infinitely greater than any other living being)?

I found the Biology textbook the hardest subject book. Perfect for whacking your fellow form members.

If a tree falls down in the forest, and no one is around to hear it, does it make a sound?

If a question is asked to Kattdaddy, and no one answers, was it really worth answering?

Submit questions to kattdaddyinformer@gmail.com to have them answered in a future issue!

Sports

Football Season Preview

By Jimmy Garda, '19, who is the least forgotten Garda

With a new school year approaching, the Hawk varsity football team looks forward to a new season. Last season, the Hawks had an unbelievable run which ended with a tragic loss in the SPC 3A championship. This year the Hawks look forward to “redeeming themselves” and completing their ultimate goal: winning the championship.

When asked about the team for next year, Coach Burk stated that he is very excited about the talent on the roster. He thinks that the most interesting development will occur “in the trenches” (the offensive and defensive lines). With only one returning starter on the line (Ben Fitzgerald, '18), Hawk Nation looks for a number of young men to step up and take these important roles.

Both Coach Burk and Coach Bruce agree that the linemen development will be interesting. Both coaches admit that these new linemen are very capable of the major roles. Offensively, Max Schieferdecker ('18) looks to tear defenses up through the air, and Harry Crutcher ('19) will cause trouble with the running game. Linebackers Chris Odom ('18) and Sid Reggie ('18) will lead the defense alongside fellow senior Mike Garnett ('18).



Cistercian Cross Country *By Alex Smith, '21, who is not related to any other Smith*

As a freshman, this is my first year on the high school cross country team, but considering how much we run, it feels like it's been 5. Some days the workout is absolutely pain-staking, and you have to push yourself to the limit. And even on other days, when coach requires less of you, one must still challenge himself to surpass what he thinks is possible.

Coach Roane has been one of the greatest coaches I've ever had, and it hasn't even been a month. He really knows how to push us, and help us improve significantly. It's also nice having a coach who's been in the same place as you. He understands where we are and the challenges that we face, as he was himself a D1 cross country runner. He ran for Dayton College, and supposedly, only ate pasta during his career.

Some of our days consist of running over at UD, on longer runs. Other days, we run hills at the semi-nary, or on our own campus. But the most challenging runs we've encountered so far are the ladders and interval training. These days are by far the hardest, between the amount of distance we ultimately cover, and the pace we keep. These workouts often include running many 1600's, 800's, 400's and 200's. And at the end of days like that, nothing feels better than a long stretch, some air conditioning, and cold water.

I feel that the talent of our freshman this year has really ramped up our already excellent team in terms of skill. Even the people finishing towards the end in practice are very talented. Last weekend, we had our first meet. Although it was only an inter-squad meet, I felt that there was a whole lot of competition since the top 7 would run varsity for the first official meet – the Marcus Invitational on September 2. And if you have some time to spare this Saturday morning, please come out and support the team.

Overall, this season, I believe, will be very successful no matter who makes top 7 or who makes SPC; again, we have a team full of depth and talent. Cross Country is a sport that pushes you to the limit, and we expect nothing less of that from each other as teammates.

The Arts

Juniors Patrons Guild

By Jake FitzGerald, '18, who should write more articles about JPG

Every year, dozens of Cistercian students participate in the Junior Patron's Guild with Hockaday and St. Marks students. JPG organizes a selection of Fine Arts events across Dallas on Sunday afternoons throughout the year. This year, Fr. Gregory and the rest of JPG have selected a diverse program of five events for the Guild to attend.

Kicking off the season is Beethoven's Emperor Concerto at the Meyerson Symphony Center, conducted by Maestro Jaap Van Zweden, the Music Director Designate of the Dallas Symphony Orchestra. In addition to the Concerto, where the piano will be played by Rudolf Buchbinder, the orchestra will perform Beethoven's 3rd Symphony, "Eroica," a piece originally dedicated to the Emperor Napoleon. Both bold and beautiful pieces should not be missed and will amaze both newcomers and seasoned listeners alike.

Later that month, JPG will return to the Meyerson to see the complete live score of *Raiders of the Lost Ark*. The John Williams score will be played while the movie is screened for the audience to view. It is a must see for both moviegoers and anyone who likes a good concert. Don't miss them playing the legendary theme, "Raiders March."

In November JPG will visit the Winspear Opera House to watch Verdi's *La Traviata*. The opera, sung in Italian, is one of the best known love operas ever written. Don't worry, there will be subtitles in English, so that following the story of Violetta, a Parisian courtesan, will be easy. With some of the most beautiful music in all of opera, *La Traviata* is a must see this season.

Riverdance at the AT&T Performing Arts Center is the only dance show included in JPG this year, but it is all that is needed. In March, as fourth quarter begins, Irish step dancing will be an exciting change of pace as everyone gears up for the end of the school year.

The final outing of the season is Cameron Mackintosh's production of *Les Miserables*, produced by the Dallas Summer Musicals at Fair Park. Though the story is well known by audiences everywhere, this new edition straight from Broadway gives the live show an almost cinematic feel that, according to DSM, makes it come alive as never before. *Les Miserables* is the perfect way to end the JPG 2017-2018 season.

The cost of JPG is \$320, including bus fare to and from the shows and a meal served after each one. If you can not afford the program, you can still participate. Just check the box on the form that designates financial aid. Have your parents check their Friday notes for details on how to sign up.

By The
Numbers

of People who
Read the Sum-
mer Reading

65%

of People who
Spark Notes the
Summer Reading

100%

of Seconds
the "Shark"
beat Phelps By

2

of Cats that
live on Campus

3

of fake
Eclipse Glasses

2
MANY

The Arts

Summer Movies

By Jake Fitzgerald '18, who doesn't look like his brother

There's no better way to fight the sweltering summer heat than relaxing in a dark movie theater with a large Dr. Pepper and a bowl of popcorn. This summer was no exception. Fans still came out in droves, despite increased competition from the home viewing platforms such as Netflix and HBO, due to the large number of box office behemoths that were released.

First was *Wonder Woman*, released at the start of June. Starring Gal Gadot, it was the highest grossing movie of the summer, grossing over 400 million dollars at the box office, which is not surprising. *Wonder Woman* combined a well loved superhero, starring in her solo debut, with a historical World War I backdrop. This combination appealed both to longtime fans and general audiences. Also, the movie had a particular appeal to people who were eager to see a super heroine fighting bad guys. Senior Frank Saldaña cited the feminist aspects of the movie as one reason he liked them. "I liked it because it was very pro-woman, without being anti-man." It also left fans excited for DC's next release, *Justice League*, in November 2017.

Another well loved summer movie, *Baby Driver* came out later the same month. Starring Ansel Elgort and Kevin Spacey, it was a unique story that combined love, music (the movie is named after a Simon and Garfunkel song), and car racing within a crime movie. It follows a young getaway driver trying to escape from his larceny-filled life. Senior Jacob Bartz encapsulates what most people were saying about the movie, "It portrayed a well-worn storyline, but both the chase scenes and the attention given to avoid clichés turn it into an instant classic." *Baby Driver* also had undoubtedly the best soundtrack of the summer.

Looming large was another superhero movie, *Spider Man: Homecoming*. It was Tom Holland's second time playing Spider Man, and many thought he was the best Spider Man yet. It was because, unlike Andrew Garfield and Tobey Maguire, he played a more believable high school student than either of the previous actors. It didn't hurt that the movie co-starred Zendaya Maree Stoermer Colema as Michelle and hilarious breakout actor Jacob Batalon as Peter Parker's best friend Ned.

There were a few other popular movies, such as *Dunkirk*, *the Big Sick*, and *Despicable Me 3*. The senior class voted *Spider Man: Homecoming* as the best movie of the summer, with *Baby Driver* & *Wonder Woman* tied for third and *Dunkirk* in fourth.



Check out our website, cistercianinformer.com, for more articles!

Letter From Stu. Co.

Student Body,

As summer wraps up and we transition into yet another school year, I would like to let you all know what Student Council has been up to, and go over some of our plans for the year. The biggest event, as you can imagine, is our game-themed Homecoming dance. Whether you love classic board games like Monopoly or prefer video games such as Super Smash Bros., there will surely be something for you. One thing that I think we have not had at past dances is a great DJ. After weeks of research, the Student Council finally agreed to hire DJ Andre 7, a veteran of SPC and Dallas area dances. I anticipate that his great music and electric personality will make this year's dance the place to be on October 7th. If you have any ideas for the Homecoming dance, make sure to talk to your representatives soon while we still have time to make changes.

Another event that we spent a lot of time planning over the summer was Prom. We have chosen the City Club in the Bank of America plaza building as the venue for this year's Prom. With breathtaking views and a classy interior, the city club is one of the premier event spaces in the Dallas area.

While the two dances are certainly the biggest events of the year, I am also looking forward to some of the smaller events coming up this semester. One such event is the Freshman Baptism, a Cistercian tradition that marks the entrance to High School for all Fifth formers. With one of the most athletic form masters in recent memory, I think everyone is curious to see if Fr. Lawrence will be able to top Fr. Ambrose's flip from two years ago. No matter what happens, it will certainly be a memorable event for all of the freshmen.

Some other events to get ready for are the volleyball tournament and Brave Art Live, more commonly known as Coffee House. All of the musically gifted students should start getting ready to show off their talents at Coffee House. It's an event that always brings a good time and great snacks.

There's a lot to be excited about this year. Of course, these events are not possible without your help. Please feel free to come talk to me about any student council ideas that you may have.

Thank you,
Chris Odom

JOIN THE INFORMER!

We have several high-level staff positions that are unoccupied at the moment. You can also submit articles to cistercian.informer@gmail.com to have them published on our website! We are and will always be looking for articles for every section, and we are especially looking forward to Middle Schoolers writing articles for our brand-new "Middle School" section. If you have any interest in art, graphic design, or website development, we'd love to have you on our team too!