

# CROSSROADS

## Belmont Abbey College

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BELMONT, N.C.

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## Abbey Elects New Abbot

The Very Reverend Peter Stragand, O.S.B. was elected abbot of Belmont Abbey on Friday, November 24.

Abbot Peter, 39, thus became the sixth abbot in the Monastery's 102-year history, and the first abbot to be elected since Belmont Abbey's status as a nullius diocese was terminated on January 1, 1977, and the Abbey became a part of the Diocese of Charlotte. A consequence of this termination is that Abbot Peter's election does not require confirmation by the Pope.

Forty-six members of the Belmont Abbey Community voted in the election, which was conducted by the Right Reverend Martin Burne,

O.S.B., president of the American Cassinese Congregation, the federation of Benedictine monasteries to which Belmont Abbey belongs. Abbot Martin is from St. Mary's Abbey in Morristown, N.J.

The selection of a new abbot was necessitated by the resignation of the Right Reverend Jude Cleary, O.S.B. on August 10, 1978. He had been abbot since July 1975 and a member of the Belmont Abbey Community since 1950.

Abbot Peter, prior of the monastery before Abbot Jude's resignation, has been serving as its administrator since that time. He assumed his new position as abbot immediately following the election. As abbot



ABBOT PETER  
STRAGAND, O.S.B.

he will also serve as chancellor of Belmont Abbey College, and an ex officio member of its Board of Trustees.

Abbot Peter is looking forward to his new role in the Monastery. "The decision of goals for our community should be a community effort," he said. "It's important that the abbot sit down with all the monks and develop goals together."

"We need to continue to grow together and come to a real appreciation of what life is about," he said. "We have the challenge of fostering a spirit of freshness and renewed growth of our religious commitment."

A native of Columbus, Ga., Abbot Peter grew up in Durham, N.C., where he

graduated from high school. He entered Belmont Abbey College as a freshman in January 1961 after serving four years in the Air Force. After completing two years of study at the College, he entered Illinois Benedictine College, Lisle, Ill., where he took a bachelor's degree in math. He received the M.A. degree from UNC-Chapel Hill in 1971, and taught math at the College until last spring.

Abbot Peter was professed as a Benedictine monk in July 1963 and was ordained to the priesthood in May 1969 after completing his theological training at St. Vincent Archabbey in Latrobe, Pa.

He is the son of Gilbert and Bertha Stragand of Durham.

## Alumni Respond To \$40,000 Challenge

The National Alumni Phone-A-Thon held in November took the first large chunk of the \$40,000 Alumni Challenge offered by the two Board of Advisor members. The challenge matches dollar for dollar any new gifts or increased gifts to the 1978-79 Alumni Annual Fund. \$17,039 of the \$21,387 in pledges were either new gifts or increased gifts over last year.

The \$40,000 Challenge also matches the amount contributed by the matching gift companies. Thus, of the \$2,112 which will be contributed by

matching gift companies, \$1,834 are new or increased. The total of new or increased gifts which will be matched by the \$40,000 Challenge is \$18,873.

"We still have a long way to go," commented alumni director Jay Briody, "but if enthusiasm is any factor, I think we may get it." Briody admits \$40,000 in new or increased gifts is a very high goal. "When you consider that our total Alumni Annual Fund Drive of last year totaled \$24,000, \$40,000 in new or increased gifts is asking a lot. However, the alumni almost

matched last year's entire total during the November Phone-A-Thon by pledging \$22,000. The alumni have accepted this challenge and a lot of them ask me 'How much do we have so far?' or 'Do you think we can get it?' Everyone is excited about this, including myself. Our soccer team came within one goal against Clemson and our basketball team came within 14 points - against Marquette. It would be great if

our alumni could come that close to the \$40,000 Challenge."

## Soden Brothers Accept 2nd Term

Dr. Kevin Soden and his brother Brendan have agreed to serve a second term as national chairman and co-chairman of the Alumni Annual Fund.

The Soden brothers will again aid the College in the Annual Fund Drive. The Annual Fund is composed of all gifts given by alumni, parents, corporations, foundations and other friends of Belmont Abbey College, except those earmarked for the Capital Fund.

Kevin received the B.A. degree in history from Belmont Abbey College in 1967, and the Master's in higher education from Florida State University in 1969. He then returned to the Abbey to complete his science

### Attention Former BAC B.B. Players

Former Belmont Abbey College basketball players are invited to participate in an "Old Timers" game, Saturday, Jan. 6, 1979. The game will be played at the Wheeler Center starting at 5:30 p.m. The Abbey will face Catawba College at 7:30 p.m. that evening. All players interested in participating are asked to notify Coach Bobby Hussey or Alumni Director Jay Briody at (704) 825-3711 or Belmont Abbey College, Belmont, N.C. 28012

March 30, 31 And April 1

## Alumni Weekend Make Your Plans Early

The weekend of March 30, 31 and April 1 is the date set for this year's alumni weekend. Activities will begin Friday evening and conclude on Sunday.

More details will follow in the next issue of CROSSROADS.

However, check off the date on your calendar

now and make your plans early.

This year the class of 1949 will celebrate its 30th reunion, the class of 1954 will celebrate its 25-year reunion, the class of 1969 its 10-year reunion and the class of 1974 its 5-year reunion. We hope the members of these classes make a special effort to attend.

## Abbey Chorus Presents Annual Christmas Concert

The Belmont Abbey College Community Chorus presented their annual Christmas Concert at 8 p.m. Monday, December 11 in the Abbey Church.

Excerpts from G.F. Handel's "Messiah" highlighted the program, which also included familiar Christmas carols, several with audience participation.

The Chorus was under the direction of Joseph V.

Laderoute. Mrs. Eve Dysart, choir director and organist at the First United Methodist Church of Belmont, was the accompanist.

Soloists included Tom Nicholson, tenor; Max Shoaf, bass-baritone; Treda Berry-Shadd, mezzo soprano; Theresa Clark, soprano; Catherine Fromberger, soprano; William H. Stroupe, tenor and J.V. Laderoute, tenor.

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