

# Saint John's

The Magazine of  
Saint John's University

WINTER 2007

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# Saint John's

is published in the fall  
and winter and  
*CSB/SJU Magazine*  
is published with the  
College of Saint Benedict  
in the spring.

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## FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends,

This issue of *Saint John's* should be music to your ears. Our feature story, "The Scene: Johnnie Rockers and Musicians," is about the abundance of great alumni bands and musicians. I think you will be delighted by the variety of talent represented in this musical survey. And after you have read about the bands, singers and instrumentalists who have roots at Saint John's, you can go to many of their Web sites and treat yourself to a sample of their music.

As a partner to this tale of music and Saint John's, we include an article in the Arts and Culture section on the Saint John's Men's Chorus—a thriving musical institution founded over 60 years ago by Fr. James Kelly, OSB. We also feature alumni musicians in the Alumni Profiles section.

We formally mark the sesquicentennial year of the university with this edition of the magazine. The abbey was founded in 1856, and a year later Fr. Cornelius Wittman, OSB, one of the founders, became Saint John's first professor, presiding over a class of five students. Our university sesquicentennial story, "150 Years - Four Johnnies," gives you a chance to hear the stories of four men who attended Saint John's at 50-year intervals, beginning with that first class in 1857. It is fascinating to reflect on the themes that emerge from a "meeting" with these four, despite the eras that separate them.

Across the country, we are observing the university's sesquicentennial with *Saint John's at 150* events here and abroad, and have already hosted full houses in Winona, San Francisco, Chicago, New York, Los Angeles and Washington, D.C. We hope you will all get a chance to join us at one of these celebrations when we visit your area.

*The Saint John's Bible* continues to inspire museum-goers as illuminations and folios have gone on display from Broadway to the Beltway. In an article on the exhibit at the Museum of Biblical Art in New York City, *The New York Times* referred to artistic director Donald Jackson as "the rock star of calligraphy," while the Library of Congress extended the exhibition two weeks due to popular demand. In the coming year, this magnificent work will be on display in Naples, FL, and Phoenix, AZ.

We passed an important milestone this fall when the Abbey Guesthouse was dedicated and opened to the public! (See page 24). We encourage you to make plans to stay at the Guesthouse during a future visit to Saint John's.

Finally, I would like to direct you to "Johnnies in the News," which you will find in Alumni News. In this section, you can read about the accomplishments of alumni across our nation.

God bless!



Br. Dietrich Reinhart '71, OSB  
President

