

News & Views

WHERE WILL I FIND THE TIME?

By Ryan Meier, Senior, Mechanical Engineering, La Porte City, IA



Papers to write, assignments due, a test to study for, finding time to pray. What? Finding time to pray? How does that fit in to my busy student schedule? Well, throughout the week of the Busy Person's Retreat, retreat participants found time to write their papers, complete their assignments, study for their tests, AND spend a half an hour each day in prayer and reflection.

One may ask, what is a Busy Person's Retreat? This Busy Person's Retreat began with a special blessing during the Sunday evening 7 p.m. Mass. After Mass the eight spiritual directors and 39 retreat participants gathered to begin their week of retreat. St. Thomas was blessed to have wonderful spiritual directors take time out of their own 'busy' schedule and meet with their group of retreat participants each day throughout the five days of the retreat. The directors included Fr. Warren Sazama, SJ; Sr. Joan Margaret Schwager, RSM; Sr. Janet May, OSF; Fr. Phil Gibbs; Fr. Albert Bruecken, OSB; Fr. Jim Hayes; Sr. Mary Ann Aman,

CHM; and STA parishioner Gary Guthrie. Each day, the retreat participants were asked to spend a half an hour in quiet prayer and reflection at a convenient time throughout the day. Upon completion of their prayer time, each participant then met with their spiritual director to discuss their thoughts, prayers, and reflections from their prayer time. The half hour of prayer time at the beginning of the week for some people seemed like two hours, but as the week progressed and with the guidance of the spiritual directors, the half hour seemed like ten minutes!

The Busy Person's Retreat concept is that prayer and reflection time can be continued in one's daily life. If one so chooses, the guidance and ideas from his/her spiritual directors can be taken into account and put into practice. When you find time for prayer, life takes on new meaning when you give your time to God.

The Busy Person's Retreat is one of the many Campus Ministry activities funded by the Msgr. Supple Endowment Fund.

2210 Lincoln Way
Ames, IA 50014

Keeping in Touch

Website:
www.stuorg.iastate.edu/csc

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Msgr. James Supple
Bickford Cottage
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Ames, IA 50010
515-292-0425

MSGR. SUPPLE PARTY

Please join us in celebrating Msgr. Supple's 91st birthday and 67 years of Priesthood!!

When: Sat., April 5th, 6-7:30 PM

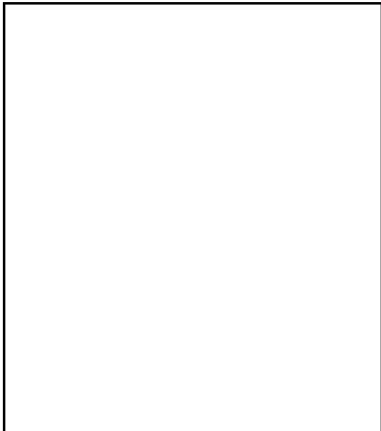
Brief program at 6:30 PM

Where: STA Lower Lounge

Light Buffet Dinner Provided

Why: To celebrate with an Irishman!

*Donations to Supple Endowment are appropriate in lieu of a gift. Please mail or deliver cards to St. Thomas Aquinas, Attn: Msgr. Supple Birthday, 2210 Lincoln Way, Ames, IA 50014

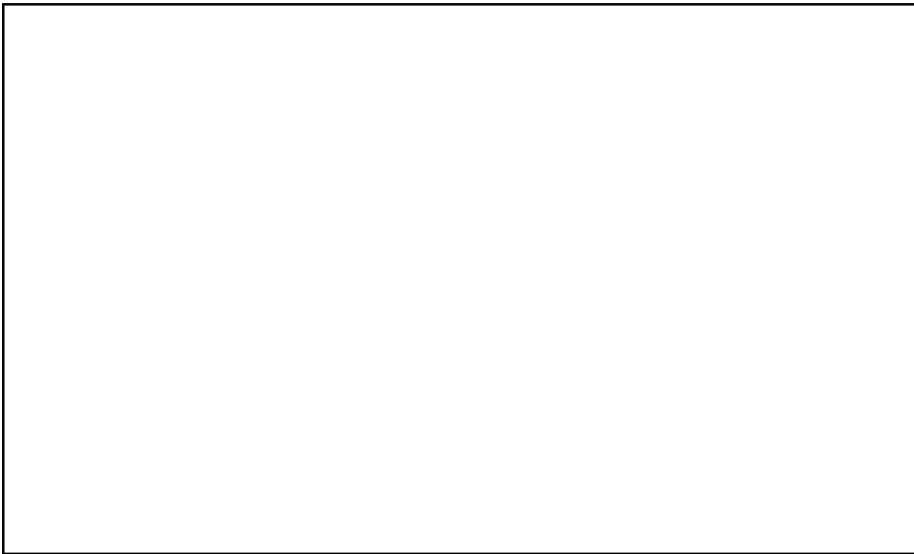


Msgr. James from Ames at his 90th birthday party last March.

INSIDE:
*pg. 3: STA Homecoming 2002
*pg. 7: A word from Msgr. Supple & Fr. Hemann

ALUMNI SERVERS IN HOLY LAND

By Br. Neil Kieffe



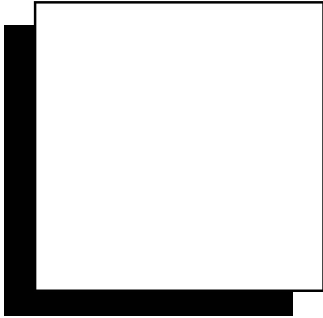
Br. Neil Kieffe (Bill Kieffe, AERO E '56) poses with three 2002 graduates of Bethlehem University proudly displaying their diplomas. Because of the current Palestinian-Israeli conflict the University could not have official graduation exercises this year, but gave the graduates their diplomas in a simple private ceremony.

Bill Kieffe, AERO E '56, now known as Br. Neil Kieffe, FSC, is a Christian Brother currently working as the Vice President for Academic Affairs at Bethlehem University in the Holy Land. Br. Neil has kept in touch with Msgr. Supple ever since his graduation from ISU. After working as an engineer for several years with McDonnell Aircraft and USAF, he joined the Brothers and spent about 30 years in the Chicagoland area as a teacher and administrator at several area high schools, and at Lewis University in Romeoville, IL.

In 1991, Br. Neil was asked to go to the Holy Land and join the staff of Bethlehem University. The university was founded in 1973 by the Christian Brothers, at the request of the Vatican, to provide an education for Palestinians, especially the Christian Palestinians in their homeland. Prior to that date, there were no universities in all of the West Bank and Gaza, and university aged students were forced to go abroad. Many did not return. The university now serves over 2000 students studying in a variety of fields. Keeping the university going for 28 years, all under the harsh conditions of Israeli occupation, has been a struggle. The university was totally closed for three years by

the Israeli army during the 1987-1991 Intifada. However, the 2001-2002 academic year, just completed, was the by far the most difficult in the history of the University. All seven of the buildings were damaged to some extent during an Israeli attack in October 2001 and the two newest buildings suffered severe damage in a second attack in March 2002. The town of Bethlehem was under complete lockdown for forty days because of the siege at the Church of the Nativity and for another sixty days during June and July 2002. During lockdown no one was permitted to leave his/her home for any reason for 24 hours per day, with the exception of periods of 4 or 5 hours each 3 or 4 days to buy food and medicine. Br. Neil reports that despite the difficulties, the university did manage to complete the Spring 2002 semester two months later than scheduled. He said, "It is a privilege to serve at Bethlehem University because the need for well educated Palestinians is so essential. It is also an honor to help the Christians of this land sustain and develop their faith in surroundings which, despite the presence of the sites of our Lord's birth, life, and death, are so hostile. This has been my most difficult assignment as a Brother, but also the most rewarding."

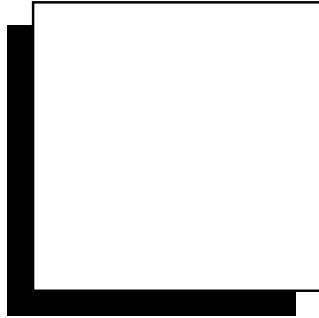
HOME COMING 2002



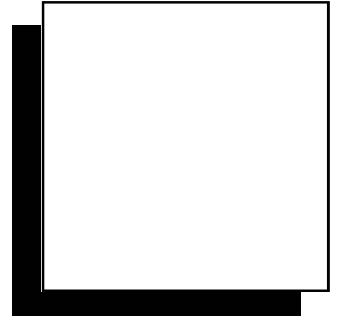
Jennifer Fliehler & Steve Gibney (1971)



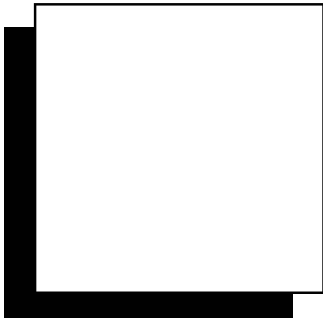
Jason (1998) & Holly (1999) Madison



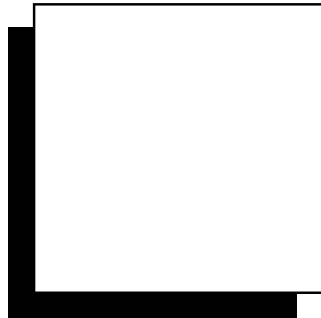
Emily Greazel (2001) & Brianne Osborn



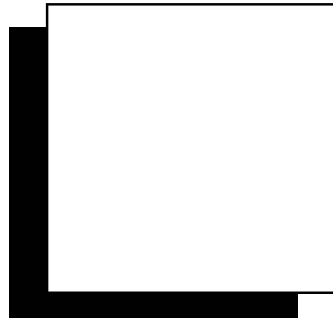
Greg Schrad (2002), Marie Maly (2001) & Fr. Ev



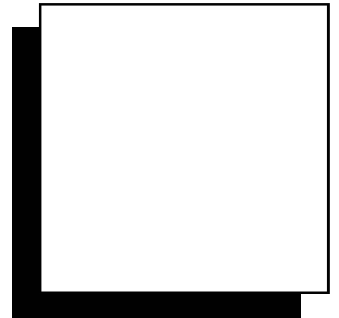
Kim Carlson & Shawn Spooner (2001)



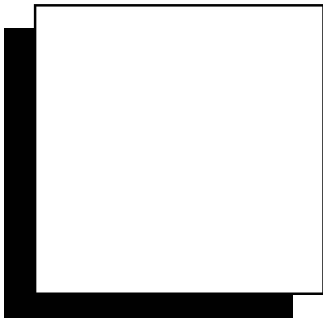
Sara Brenner (2002) & Fr. Ev



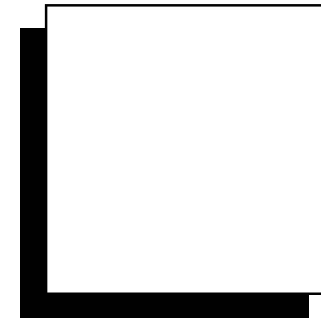
Fr. Ev Hemann & James O'Brien (1950)



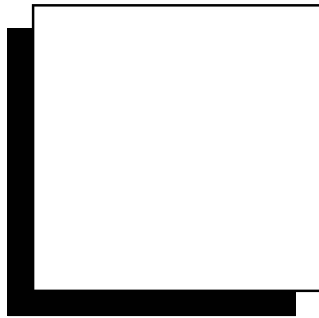
F to B: Peter, Matt, Marianne (Senior @ ISU), Alex, Kelly (Freshman @ ISU) Kirkendall



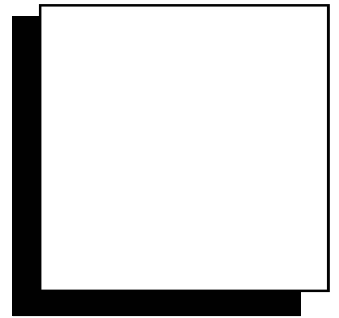
Miranda & Kevin Maher (1974)



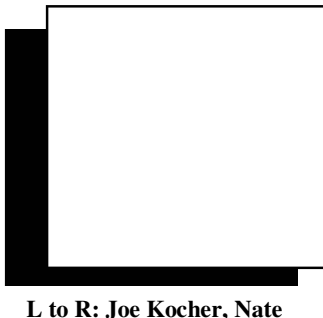
Rita (1979) & Mariah Stumpf



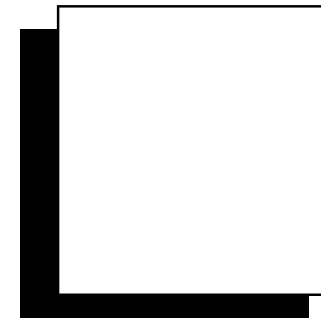
Roman & Audrey Dankbar (1948)



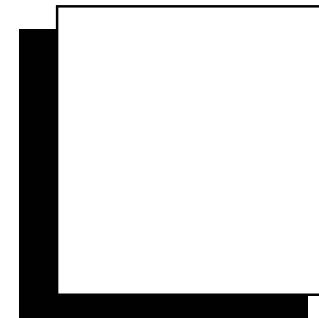
Marc Nicolas (2002)



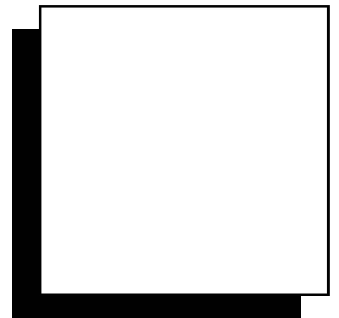
L to R: Joe Kocher, Nate Morris ('02), Sara Sullivan, Katie Rau ('01), Ty Vande Vorde ('01) & Fr. Ev



Brad Rozema (2001) & Tom Rastrelli (1969)



John Jr. & Cecilia Cairns (1957) & Fr. Ev Hemann



Fred Diehl (1958)

Friends and Alumni

Notes



Zian Kies Bautista, son of Jason and Amy Kies Bautista (1998)



Frank (2000), Sally, Mary Liv, & Vincent Casey at Mary's baptism.



Dan (1997) & Sara (1998) Cox



Sarah Hood (2001) in Japan holding a python!

Amy Kies Bautista (1998) achieved her Master of Science from Eastern Illinois University on July 5, 2001 and married Jason Bautista on July 28, 2001. They reside in Seattle, WA. Jason is employed with Boeing. He's a 1996 Aerospace Engineering graduate from Texas A&M. On Aug. 27, 2002, Zian Kies Bautista was born. Amy goes back to work as a Physical Education teacher at Evergreen Middle School in Everett, WA after the holidays. Amy and Jason are actively involved with a young adult group within their parish. [\(photo above left\)](#)

Frank Casey (2000) writes: "I live in Fargo, ND and work at North Dakota State University as an assistant professor in the soil science department. I married my wife, Sally, in summer 1999. In addition to Mary Liv (Liv means life in Norwegian) who was just born on Nov. 1, we have another child, a son, named Vincent Michael who turned 2 on Nov. 17. My wife also recently converted from ELCA to Catholicism and we are both making awesome discoveries of the wonders and truth taught by the Holy Catholic Church." [\(photo at left\)](#)

Dan (1997) & Sara (1998) Cox met in Chicago in 1999, where they both work. They were married on Oct. 6, 2001 in

Olathe, KS. They currently live in Arlington, IL. Sara is a graphic designer at Hans Design and Dan is an electrical engineer at Motorola. Dan and Sara are expecting their first baby in June. [\(photo below left\)](#)

Jim Currans (2002) just graduated last May with a degree in Management Information Systems. "While I was there (STA), I was active in the music ministry. I sang in the choir at the 7 p.m. Sunday Mass and occasionally cantored as well. I moved to Kansas City after graduation to work at Cerner Corporation, a software firm for the healthcare industry. My position is a product specialist. What that means is I support the software that Cerner makes. My product is microbiology. Clients and associates call or email me when they have problems with our software and I help them fix it. Outside of work I have begun to cantor at the Cathedral Parish downtown, and I also might begin to help out with a Youth Mass at St. Gabriel's."

Br. Gabriel (Ronald) Hodges (1988), professed temporary vows as a Benedictine monk of St. Meinrad Archabbey on Aug. 6. Br. Gabriel returned to his priesthood studies in the School of Theology this past fall. He also is assistant rectorian in the monastery. Temporary vows are for three years and involve

continued study of the monastic heritage. At the end of three years, they may be permitted to profess solemn vows, binding them to the St. Meinrad community for life.

Sarah Hood (2001) writes: "Since graduating from ISU in December 2001, I have worked as a Youth Minister at St. Cecilia Catholic Church in Ames, and am currently teaching English as a second language in Japan. My weekdays are busy teaching all ages, and my weekends are full of traveling adventures. The biggest adventures so far have been hiking Mt. Fuji, biking around Lake Biwa (the biggest lake in Japan), and eating foods such as crab brain and raw octopus. I am learning a lot about life and discovering new aspects of my faith in this predominately Buddhist country. I am definitely looking forward to a good American meal (that only my mother could cook) when I get home!" ([photo bottom pg. 4](#))

Paul (1957) & Marlys Kelly are still in the real estate business in Britt, IA. Their son, Steve, and his wife, DeAnna, are starting to take over the business. Steve is also employed at Waldorf College as head wrestling coach and assistant director of the Academic Achievement Program. Paul and Marlys' nine children and their families surprised Paul on his 70th birthday on Oct. 7. Their son,

Pat, had made an hour tape of Paul's life and family life. Paul and Marlys enjoyed the STA Tailgate before the Texas Tech game. They wish all the best to Msgr. Supple.

E.R. (Gene) Offenbecher (1948) has been married to his wife, Mary Lou, for 56 years. He also has two kids, four grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. Gene is a retired forensic civil engineer. He and Mary Lou live on the northeast corner of Lake Washington. Gene asks, "Does anyone remember hustling between Friley Hall and the Memorial Union while going to confession with Fr. Kliener long before there was S.T.A.?"

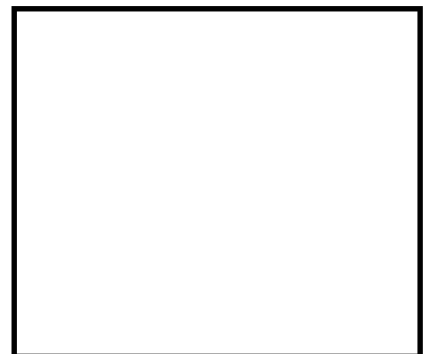
Tony (1992) & Kim (1994) Sleezer live in Manassas, Virginia, where Tony works as a systems engineer for Lockheed Martin. Kim is a high school English teacher, but is taking some time off to be at home with their son, Cael. Kim says, "Our involvement with St. Thomas Aquinas, which included being married there, is something we hold dear to our hearts. STA provided us with a firm foundation in our Catholic faith, and we carry this faith with us as members of the RCIA team at All Saints Catholic Church in Manassas, Virginia."

([photo at right](#))

IN MEMORIAM:

Mrs. Louise Riley writes to tell us that her husband, Charles R. Riley (1951) passed away on June 20, 2002. The funeral Mass was at St. Malachy's Catholic Church in Geneseo, IL. Charles was buried at St. Mary's Cemetery in East Moline, IL.

Harriet Spanel (1961) writes: "I want to let you know that Les Spanel (Ph.D. Physics 1964) died of cancer on October 8, 2002. Les and I were married at St. Thomas June 3, 1961 by Fr. Supple. We both had fond memories of St. Thomas and 'James of Ames'".



Right to left: Fr. Paul Grankauskas, priest at All Saints Catholic Parish, Tony (1992), Kim (1994) & Cael Sleezer with Erin Bell (Kim's sister & Cael's godmother), and Todd Bell (Kim's brother & Cael's godfather).

Attention Friends & Alumni: If you would like to be included in these "notes", please fill out the information sheet on the back of this newsletter and return it to St. Thomas Aquinas.



STA ALUM PUBLISHES BOOK

BY JENNIFER FLIEHLER, STA DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR

Dedication, hard work, and never giving up on a dream. After five long years of research, interviews, patience, endurance, and frustrations, those traits inspired Curtis Cretin to finish his dream of having his first book published. What makes this alumni any different than any other Iowa State student that has worked on their major thesis, or had their paper published? Curtis has been an active member of the St. Thomas Aquinas family since his freshmen year of 1997.

There were two major events that inspired Curt to write a book. Both major events happened over Christmas break of his sophomore year at Iowa State in 1998-99. Curt was working on his speech that he would give that February for the St. Thomas Antioch Retreat. As he was writing it, Curt would also take breaks by watching the college football bowl games. It was during the Rose Bowl that he watched the University of Michigan's Marching Band play at halftime. Curt had just finished his second year in Iowa State's Marching Band, which saw another losing season for Iowa State's Football team.

Sitting at home, watching that game, Curt's dream was to march during halftime of any bowl game. The only problem--the last time Iowa State made it to a bowl game was in 1978, the year Curt was born. Realizing that his dream may never be met, Curt's older brother gave him a book about the Big Ten Conference which talked about traditions of the Big Ten. One of those traditions was marching bands of the Big Ten.

Curt read the book in two days and really enjoyed working on his Antioch speech. He grew to enjoy writing so much, that he decided whatever would happen in his next three years at Iowa State, he would write a book about it. Iowa State's Marching Band was set to head to London the very next year to march in the Millennium Parade, so he figured he could at least write about his trip to London. From that time forward, Curt could never have dreamed of what would happen next.

That winter and into the spring semester of 1999, Curt would work countless hours on his Antioch speech, and with the help of the Campus Ministry Team at St. Thomas, Curt was inspired to change careers from

agriculture to journalism. He spent the next three years keeping journals on marching band practices and events, writing rough drafts of his book, and trying to turn a "dream" into a reality.

His project grew more than he first anticipated that cold winter day back in 1998. After writing about trips to London, Kansas City, Michigan, and Arizona, Curt decided to take a step back and work on writing about the entire marching band. In the fall of 2001, Curt spent countless hours devoted to observing practices as he was not a direct member of the marching band. Curt also followed a given section each week, and interviewed as many of the 280 marching band students as he could. He followed the 2001 Big XII season as an observer, and never passed an opportunity to talk about Iowa State traditions.

With well over 350 pages written by January of 2002, Curt began the tedious process of editing and revising his rough draft, and finally turning his manuscript into a book. After five years of attending ISU, Curt finally graduated in May 2002, with a degree in PSA (Rural Sociology) and an emphasis in Ag. Communications. His final "dream" was published in December 2002, and Curt is now working on marketing and selling his book to stores across Iowa.

Currently, Curt lives in Waterloo and works in Cedar Falls as an Associate Editor with Pro Farmer Newsletter, which is owned by Farm Journal. Curt is very anxious for the day when he can return "home" to Ames, and is waiting for any opportunity to return back to the area. His longer term goals are to continue to write on countless subjects, including Cyclone Athletics, a history of St. Thomas, and a history of agricultural events that have impacted both him and his family.

Fr. Ev & Curt Cretin (2002)

From the Pastor

Dear Alumni & Friends:

I am impressed as I read each News and Views with the wide diversity of alums. This issue reports on people from Boston to Seattle, Bethlehem to Japan. I am daily conscious of that as I minister at STA. Your gifts enable us to make an impact on people throughout the USA and around the world.

Fr. James Hayes is on academic leave this semester to complete his Doctorate in Ministry from Aquinas Institute. He is doing research on preaching and is writing about several dioceses which have formation

programs for lay preachers. We miss him, especially his preaching. Now people are lulled into sleep each Sunday by me.

As I write, we are beginning a cyber educational program for college students. We have several students who will work with a staff Campus Minister to research and respond via email to the multitude of "faith" questions we receive online. Over 2000 ISU students will benefit from this program.

Over the years, I have developed an email distribution list of alums. If you would like to be on it, receiving an email from me 3-4 times annually, simply email me <ev@iastate.edu>. You should also check out our web page at www.stuorg.iastate.edu/csc.

Along with the STA staff, I assure you of our prayers as we get ready for Lent and Easter. These liturgical seasons call us to deepen our faith and renew our commitment to announcing God's love. Peace to you.

Rev. Everett Hemann



James from Ames

Dear Alums and Friends:

Jennifer does a great job with News & Views. I appreciate that she lets me write a letter. This enables me to respond to all your letters rather than individually as I used to do. I find it difficult to write a large number of letters. So, I use this to respond to the many cards and letters sent to me at Christmas.

I am still living in my apartment in Bickford Cottage, one of 34 residents. It's a nice place as it provides security and 24-hour a day nursing care—CNA's, CMA's (they can dispense medication), and of course, RN's. The meals are not the greatest, but they'll do, and of course, I

don't have the appetite that I used to. It costs me \$90/day to live here—the most expensive hotel room that I've stayed in! I do get local visitors and occasionally alums in town. I really appreciate visitors. Many people send letters and they brighten each day. Jennifer puts your current addresses into our database and thus I can be assured that you will get this copy of the News & Views. Many of you also support the Student Center with your prayers and donations. I appreciate that help, as well.

Fr. Ev has a chauffeur to bring me to Mass every day and someone to pray Evening Prayer every night. On Tuesdays and Thursdays I eat with the area priests who gather for dinner. I really enjoy that.

Don't believe people when they talk about the **GOLDEN YEARS**—I'm coming to discover there is a lot of rust in those years. I appreciate all the mail and the visits, but please pray for me. I would very much like to get strong enough to return back to being able to offer Mass for all of you.

Msgr. "James of Ames" Supple



