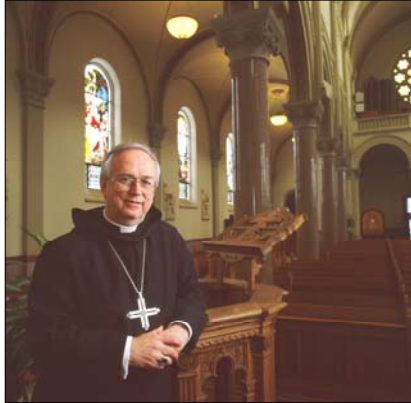


## MESSAGE FROM THE ARCHABBOT

A letter to Saint Vincent Students:

Welcome to Saint Vincent College! We celebrate an important milestone this year: The 200th Anniversary of the birth of our founder, Archabbot Boniface Wimmer. We will conclude our yearlong celebration of the bicentennial of Wimmer's birth on November 19. When Abbot Primate Notker Wolf, O.S.B., opened the ceremonies in January, he asked us to "imagine what would have happened, what would we have



here, if Boniface Wimmer would have given up or given in to the many critics in his time, the warnings not to start? No Saint Vincent with all its contributions to the Church and to education, to its foundations and all their contributions! Nothing, nothing at all! Thank God he withstood all these people with his stubbornness, which in view of the display of God's works through him I would call 'sacred stubbornness.' May the Lord revive that spirit in our times in all of our monastic communities!"

Dr. Jerome Oetgen, in a Threshold Lecture, noted that "the most important aspect of Boniface Wimmer's heritage is the Saint Vincent community as it exists today and as it will exist tomorrow—the community of monks and students and faculty and guests and friends and benefactors and parishioners. . .; in fact, the community of all those who have been welcomed into the Saint Vincent family as Christ Himself. Abbot Wimmer's letters show clearly that this community, this family, was the heritage that he valued most. It was he who took the ancient Benedictine idea of community — Saint Benedict's idea of community as family — and brought it to the United States, where he firmly established it at Saint Vincent in 1846 and then, over the next forty-one years, in dozens of other places."

Today, Saint Vincent Archabbey in Pennsylvania, founded by Wimmer in 1846, is the largest Benedictine monastery in the world. American Benedictines who trace their roots directly to Wimmer pray and work in more than 20 American states, as well as in Canada, Mexico, Puerto Rico, the Bahamas, Colombia, Brazil, China, and Japan. We welcome you to the Saint Vincent family, and hope you will be a part of it for many years to come.

May God bless you, guide you and inspire you during your time here.

Sincerely,

Archabbot Douglas