



Message from the President

On January 26, the spring faculty lecture series kicked off as members of the audience were invited to take a stroll down memory lane. Four former faculty members—Dr. Mary Abkemeier, Sr. Mary Carol Anth, Dr. Donald Burgo, and Dr. Susan Lenihan—entertained the audience with stories and memories of their time on the Fontbonne University campus. Reminders of the 40 CSJs who lived on the third floors of the former Fine Arts and Science buildings, memories of the faculty/staff dining room, and tributes to former faculty, staff and administrators delighted those in attendance. The evening concluded with one of the panelists quoting Daniel Webster who was speaking of another liberal arts institution when he said, “It is a small school, but there are those of us who love it.” The love of Fontbonne was clearly evident both in the panelists’ reminiscences and the audience’s responses. For those who were unable to attend the presentation and would like to hear a recording, please contact Wendi Valenti in the Alumni Office. The lecture series will continue on February 28 with Ben Moore, March 30 with Kelly Lane de-Graaf and April 20 with Corinne Mason; all of these will be held in the Lewis Room at 7 p.m. I hope you’ll join me in supporting our colleagues and learning about the interesting research that conducted!

This semester the CSJs are graciously opening the Motherhouse for two additional tours on April 20 at 10:30 a.m. with lunch following and on April 26 at 4 p.m. with dinner to follow. The deadline to RSVP to Yvonne Farmer for either date is March 20. Please consider signing up for one of these tours to learn more about the women who founded Fontbonne 100 years ago.

Preparations are well underway for our gala, one of the culminating events of

our centennial year, which will be held on May 13 at the Ritz-Carlton in Clayton. The evening promises to be festive with a lovely reception and dinner, followed by a student presentation, a tribute to current and former faculty and staff, and a surprise reveal. The evening will conclude with dancing to the music of Mirage. Tickets are already going fast! If you plan to join us, please contact Wendi in our alumni office soon to secure yours. Faculty and staff may buy tickets for the reduced price of \$150 and use payroll deduction for the purchase. I hope to see you at the Ritz as we recap highlights of this 100th anniversary year and announce plans for the future!

- Dr. Nancy H. Blattner, President

Mark Your Calendar

FEBRUARY

28: Dr. Ben Moore. "Feeding the Great War's Workers: St. Louis's First Neighborhood Kitchen"

For a full list of events, click on the below buttons:

Student Activities & Events

Centennial Info & Events

Athletics Schedule

From the Archives

New traditions have begun in recent years. Casino Night is a popular event with Fontbonne students, and even went on with some modifications in 2020! See more of Fontbonne's history and traditions at [GriffinShare's photo collection](#)

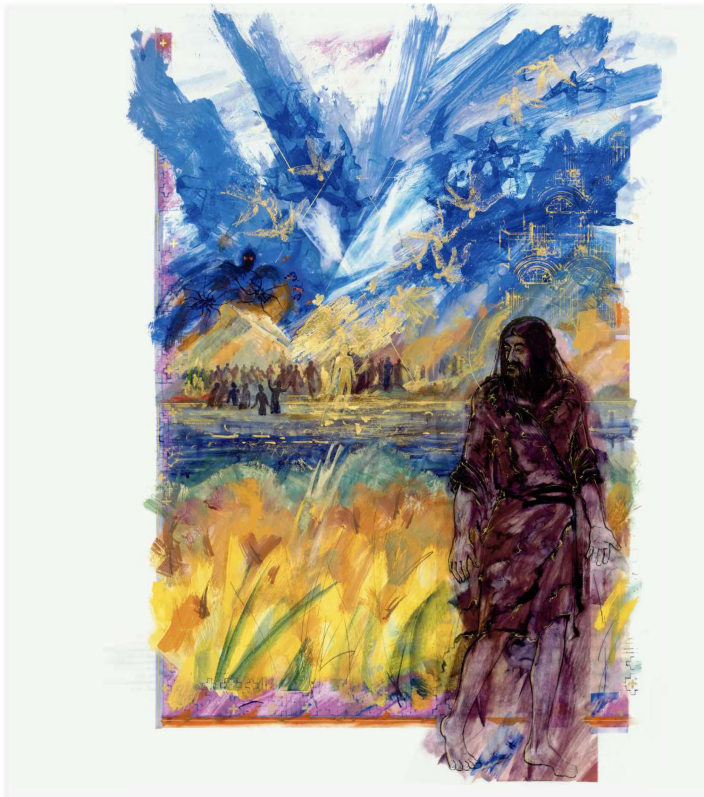


Centennial Collections

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The Saint John's Bible: Understanding the Illustrations

Baptism of Jesus



MARK 1:1 - 29

"And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him."

Where do you see the markers of humanity and divinity, the two worlds of heaven and earth, and how do they come together in this illumination?

"John the Baptist is the patron of Saint John's Abbey, and so it was important to give him a strong place in the illuminations. Mark's gospel is the one account that states John actually baptizes Jesus. Although Luke's gospel covers the ministry of John the Baptist more extensively, this account gives the fullest story of the baptism. As the gospel that focuses most exclusively on Jesus' ministry, Mark opens with not his birth but his baptism. This passage gave Donald Jackson the basis for a complex and exuberant illumination.

At the front of the frame is the Baptist. The fact that it is John the Baptist and not Jesus who is the focus of the illumination is itself unusual. Notice his hands and feet. He moves forward, and he gestures in invitation, even as he looks back. He is not contained by the frame of the image. He is the Forerunner, placed before the image depicting the main event. His gaze backward is not to the past but to the scene of the baptism itself, the story he sent to proclaim. In the scene are many figures: a crowd on shore, others in the water, and Jesus truly rising up, almost indistinguishable from the gold swatches surrounding him.

The sky is open and angels, much like those in the illumination of Jacob's ladder, descend and ascend. More angels- or are they birds?- circle the heavens in blue. Remember the special properties of birds we've seen from Creation through Wisdom Books and Prophets, metaphorically linking the divine and human worlds.

The image is not without darkness. Red eyes peer out from the left-hand side, along with two large spiders. These images introduce the temptation awaiting Jesus in the desert. According to the text, after the baptism Jesus heads immediately into the desert where he is tempted for forty days and nights. John the Baptist is not a celebratory figure in this scene but a somber one, as though he sees more deeply into the revelation of Jesus' divinity. Above John is also the stamped figure of the arches of Compostela we've seen so many times. They could be a reflection of the larger ministry and the role of baptism as initiation in the church."

Extracted from "The Art of the Saint John's Bible" by Susan Sink

Reserve the Saint John's Bible

Please use [this form](#) to reserve the Heritage edition of Gospels & Acts for your class or event. For questions, email rvankniest@fontbonne.edu or call 314-719-8046.



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