The Bahamas’ Connection to St. John’s & St. Ben’s

...in the news thanks to Hurricane Dorian

The Record September 20, 2019

OUR VIEW
Support our Bahamian brothers and sisters

On Sunday, Sept. 1, 2019, Hurricane Dorian struck the Abaco Islands in the Bahamas as a Category 5 hurricane. As the winds continued to扑 through the Bahamas, images were sent across the globe, showing the extent of the destruction.

To our Bahamian brothers and sisters, it is our duty to support those who are in need. We must remember that we are one community. Our love and support will help each other through this difficult time. Your resilience is what sets the Bahamas apart from other countries. We stand with you.

The Record Sept. 20, 2019, p. 8


Our deep connection to the Bahamas began more than a century ago:

1) 123 Years of Service in the Bahamas, 1891 - 2005

- February 2, 1891: Chrysoptom Schriner, OSB, arrives in Nassau and finds 65-70 Catholics at Saint Francis Xavier Church, built in 1805-06.
- April 4, 1892: Father Chrysoptom is shipwrecked near San Salvador Island and vows to continue his work in the Bahamas if his life is spared. The ship's passengers and crew are rescued.
- June 23, 1893: Chrysoptom purchases Dunmore House, built in 1780 which is 'The Priory,' becomes the headquarters for Benedictines who begin to arrive.
- December 29, 1921: Alcain Deutch, OSB, is elected fifth abbot of Saint John's Abbey. He begins to aggressively support the Bahamas missions with personnel and money.
- January 3, 1928: Chrysoptom dies on San Salvador Island where he had retired. He is buried overlooking a probable site of Columbus' landing in 1492.

2005 Volume 05 Issue 01 Abbey Banner Spring p.20
https://cdm.csbsju.edu/digital/collection/SJUArchives/id/24098/rec/34
Father Chrysostom Schreiner

infiltrated at SJ as a cleric and also after his ordination
until 1891. He was appointed vice-president of SJ on 16 Apr
1898, and remained in that office until 19 Jan. 1891, when he
asked permission to go to assist Abbot Alcibiad at St. John's
Church, New York City. At SJ Father Chrysostom was a brilliant
young priest, exact and full of ideas. He had a tall, black
beard, and had a strong, vigorous, and commanding presence.
Because of his energy and drive, he got through some needed
academic reforms at SJ. In 1888 he was promoted to the
college, and the students respected him as a strict disci-
plinarian. By replacing the benches with chairs and introdus-
ing glassless spectacles, he refined the table manners of the
students. He was one of the prime movers to get a student pa-
per for SJ.

He was not in New York very long when Abbot Alcibiad
sent him to examine the possibilities of missionary work in
the Bahama Islands. He remained at Nassau from 1892 until
1905 as vicar forane and superior of the monks in the Ba-
ahama Islands. He shouldered almost the entire burden of the
work and returned the results of misunderstanding opponents
by building schools and churches and giving medical aid to the
poor. In 1895, he said the first Mass on Andros Island,
thus introducing Catholicism in the East Indies. After more
study he determined the spot where Columbus had landed at
1492 and had the name of the island changed from Wallings to San
Salvador. By 1926 he was physically worn down, and, leaving
most of the work to younger monks, he retired to Ridig Basilica,
San Salvador Island, to open a new mission. There he died and
was buried by Father Gabriel Bierig. O.S.B., his first co-
Jaenner in the Bahamas Mission.
“Father Chrysostom Schreiner left for the East to assume charge of the Bahama mission, which had been entrusted to the Fathers of St. John's by the late Archbishop Corrigan of New York.

With all his wonted energy Father Chrysostom took this difficult task in hand and despite countless discouragements bore the labors and hardships of this distant and humble mission with great patience.

Father Chrysostom’s departure from the institution elicited many expressions of regret from his many friends. He did not forget them, however, but gave an interesting account of himself and of the conditions prevailing in his new field of labor through the columns of *The Record* (which he had helped establish in 1888).
April 4, 1892
Faustus Chrysostom is shipwrecked near San Salvador Island and vows to continue his work in the Bahamas if his life is spared. The ship's passengers and crew are rescued.

June 23, 1893
Chrysostom purchases Dunmore

House built in 1786 which becomes the headquarters for Benedictines who begin to arrive.

December 29, 1921
Alcuin Deutsch, OSB, is elected fifth abbot of Saint John's Abbey. He begins to aggressively support the Bahamas missions with personnel and money.

January 3, 1928
Chrysostom dies on San Salvador Island where he had retired. He is buried overlooking a probable site of Columbus' landing in 1492.

2005 Volume 05 Issue 01 Abbey Banner Spring p.20
https://cdm.csbsju.edu/digital/collection/SJUArchives/id/24098/rec/34
April 4, 1891 (11 years before the Titanic)

“Oh my God, what a night of terrible suffering and anxiety. Eight men in a mere shell in a bed of sunken rock, a heavy sea rolling over the adjacent reef and rocking us to and fro, the volley of every heavy wave exposing the hideous surface of the rocks, and eight miles away from land.”

During the harrowing hours Father Chrysostom spent in the life boat, he made a vow that if his life was spared he would remain in the Bahamas for the rest of his days as a missionary.
Father Chrysostom had taught history at St. John's before going to the Bahamas, and his imagination was quickened by the thought that he was now a missionary on the very islands first touched by Columbus when he brought Catholicism to the Americas.
Arawak Indians Columbus found there, and called 'Lacayans,' disappeared under the pressures of European colonization and were gradually replaced in the eighteenth century by the many tribes of African slaves deposited in the Bahamas to grow cotton, sial for rope making, pineapples and tomatoes. When England replaced Spain as an American empire builder the islands passed under the control of Britain.

Worship & Work

(“...disappeared under the pressures of European colonization...and were gradually replaced...by...African slaves...” doesn’t convey the horrors of the genocide)

October 12, 1492: Columbus Lands in the Caribbean

Father Chrysostom organized the first expedition investigating Columbus' sailing and success through the same waters as Columbus had done. He arrived at the conclusion, after careful study and research, that Columbus had landed on the south side of the island where he could find a lee from the ocean swells, while on the rocky eastern shore there was no safe landing beach. In 1956 the Bahamas Legislature officially restored the name of San Salvador to the island. On 25 February 1951 a scientific expedition arrived at the same conclusion as Father Chrysostom had originally made, and erected a bronze marker on Landing Beach.

(Thus October 12th is Columbus Day – or Indigenous People's Day)

Photo: 2005 Volume 05 Issue 01 Abbey Banner Spring p.20
Map: https://www.nationalgeographic.org/thisday/oct12/columbus-makes-landfall-caribbean/
Photo: 2005 Volume 05 Issue 01 Abbey Banner Spring p.20
https://cdm.csbsju.edu/digital/collection/SJUArchives/id/24098/rec/34
The community was doing a great deal to foster education in the Bahamas. (Bishop Bernard Kevenhoester was in the class of 1897 at St. John's.)

The two milestone contributions to the Church in the Bahamas during Bishop Bernard’s reign were the founding of the convent of Blessed Martin de Porres in 1936 and of St. Augustine’s Priory and school in 1945. In the former a Bahamian teaching sisterhood was established, and at the time of the Bishop’s death five of its Sisters were taking a full-time active part in school and other educational work. In the priory Bishop Bernard hoped that local young men would seek admission and assist in carrying on the work of Benedictine education.

Existing local social and economic conditions were such during this period, however, that the fostering of vocations among the boys was almost an impossibility without some means of watching over them for the greater part of the day. The only solution to the problem appeared to be the founding of a secondary school for them in the environment of a monastery.

Photo: 2005 Volume 05 Issue 01 Abbey Banner Spring p.20
https://cdm.csbsju.edu/digital/collection/SJUA Archives/id/24098/rec/34
NOTE pronunciation: Saint ah-GUS-tin’s
In 1943 the time was judged opportune to begin such a school, and on January 3, 1945, St. Augustine’s School, the first Catholic high school for boys in the Bahamas, opened its doors to thirty-five ambitious young students. The school was then located temporarily in The Niche, a small building on the Priory grounds.
In 1943 the time was judged opportune to begin such a school, and on January 3, 1945, St. Augustine’s School, the first Catholic high school for boys in the Bahamas, opened its doors to thirty-five ambitious youngsters. The school was then located temporarily in the Niche, a small building on the Priory grounds. Plans were soon drawn for the new monastery and school, to be located on Fox Hill, four miles from the center of Nassau, by the Rev. John Hawes, a former architect.

St. Augustine’s Priory, Fox Hill, Nassau.
NOTE: “College” means “High School” in the Bahamas.
Saint Mary's Hall was added in 1954.

The Record Sept. 28, 1956, p. 2 (of the supplement)
https://cdm.csbsju.edu/digital/collection/CSBArchNews/id/30790/rec/1393
(A bit reminiscent of Saint John's Prep School & Middle School buildings, built into the hillside in Collegeville)

*The Record* Sept. 28, 1956, p. 2 (of the supplement)
https://cdm.csbsju.edu/digital/collection/CSBArchNews/id/30790/rec/1393
Color photo in CSB Archives: AC 07.47.F01 Box 3
Beginning with an original class of 33 boys and a faculty of five, the “college” soon moved to new facilities built for the monastic community and the students in the Fox Hill district east of downtown Nassau on New Providence Island. The school became co-educational in 1967 with the consolidation of Xavier’s College, an all-girls school founded in 1936 as an outgrowth of an academy begun in 1889 by the Sisters of Charity, the pioneer educators in the Bahamas.
Why Saint John’s University where winter temperatures are thirty-below-zero? We’re from the Bahamas where sixty-above calls for sweaters and fur coats.

The Bahama-Collegeville connection began when the original Benedictine missionary to the Bahamas, Chrysostom Schreiner, encouraged several young Bahamians to attend Saint John’s. Useph Baker and Etienne and Eugene Dupuch were among the first. Eugene composed the “Johnny Fight Song” and became a legislator, Queen’s Councilor and leading lawyer.

There are 240 Bahamian alumni of Saint John’s. As doctors, lawyers, teachers, politicians and civil servants their influence is felt.


Etienne Dupuch ’28, Useph Baker ’31, Eugene Dupuch ’34
To back up a bit:
In 1951, [Benedictine] Bishop Hagarty in the Bahamas petitioned Mother Richarda Peters to send sisters from St. Ben’s to help the native sisters (in the St. Martin de Porres order) to affiliate with the Benedictines....Thus began an affiliation between the two monastic communities.

*With Hearts Expanded*, p. 339

Bottom text: Text: Winter 1991 *Abbey Quarterly* p. 6-7

[https://cdm.csbsju.edu/digital/collection/SJUArchives/id/19759/rec/57](https://cdm.csbsju.edu/digital/collection/SJUArchives/id/19759/rec/57)
In 1960, two Sisters from the Bahamas attended CSB, graduating in 1962.

They were Sister Mary Bernard (Telzena) Coakley and Sister Bernadette Powell.

*With Hearts Expanded*, p. 340
1962-05 *The Benet* Volume 27 Number 04 p.8
https://cdm.csbsju.edu/digital/collection/CSBArchives/id/505/rec/1
Flag from https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/7/77/Bahamas_Flag.svg/1024px-Bahamas_Flag.svg.png
Bahamans program history The Record 2003 12 11 p.5
https://cdm.csbsju.edu/digital/collection/CSBArchNews/id/31624
Photos in CSB Archives
In 1973, when the Bahamas gained its independence from Great Britain, its government turned attention toward improving the country’s educational infrastructure. Its only homegrown college was a two-year teacher-training institution.

If the Bahamas were to succeed in their newfound independence, education was of the utmost importance.

The Bahamas needed more teachers with degrees—and its own bachelor’s degree-granting colleges—and they asked CSB for assistance.
Back in 1958, the sisters at St. Ben’s needed to attain higher education to be qualified to teach in the schools.

S. Mary Anthony Wagner established the Benedictine Institute for Sacred Theology (BIST), which evolved into the School of Theology.

Similarly, the teachers of the Bahamas needed to attain higher degrees to be qualified to teach and hold other positions in the schools, businesses and government of the Bahamas. They also turned to St. Ben’s.

See Benedictine Institute of Sacred Theology (BIST) and Mary Anthony Wagner, OSB [2015]
In 1974, S. Kathleen Kalinowski, CSB Dean of Continuing Education, went to the Bahamas to meet with Telzena and S. Maedene. (All three were CSB alumnae.) Together they devised a plan to assist in the education of Bahamian elementary school teachers, using the structure of the Continuing Education program being perfected in Minnesota.

Atkins, Annette. *Challenging Women Since 1913*, p. 150
Other photos in CSB Archives
Bahamans program history *The Record* 2003 12 11 p.5
 https://cdm.csbsju.edu/digital/collection/CSBArchNews/id/31624
Photo: Volume 05 Issue 01 *Abbey Banner* Spring p.21
 https://cdm.csbsju.edu/digital/collection/SJUArchives/id/24099/rec/34
CSB’s board of trustees approved a program in Nassau where local teachers offered evening and weekend courses and CSB faculty members offered classes in summer. Students in the program met CSB graduation requirements. More than 400 students participated during the program’s first 20 years.

The Bahamian students generally spent their last semester on the CSB & SJU campuses.

Atkins, Annette. *Challenging Women Since 1913*, p. 150, 152

The program succeeded because of the work of many, but a few key individuals carried much of the load.

In St. Joseph from 1978 to 1994:

S. Kathleen
S. Emmanuel Renner
S. Dolores Super

Atkins, Annette. *Challenging Women Since 1913*, p. 147
Super photo: 1991-92 CSBSJU Employee Photo Directory
Renner photo: Renner: O:\Archives\csbarchives\President's Office\President Emmanuel Renner, 1979-1996
In the Bahamas, S. Clare Rolle ran the program for a few years, as did S. Mary Patricia Russell in her wake. Telzenia Coakley directed it from 1977 to 1990.

Atkins, Annette. *Challenging Women Since 1913*, p. 147
Rolle photo from 1973-74 *Student Directory*; other photos in CSB Archives.
Under the direction of S. Kathleen, the Center for Continuing Education welcomed these nontraditional students.

1980 photo and newspaper clipping both in the CSB Archives
Over the years, CSB developed a strong base in the Bahamas, consisting of non-traditional students and an increasing number of college-aged Bahamian women.

More than 400 students participated during the program’s first 20 years.

1985 SJU Graduation. Photo in CSB Archives.
Atkins, Annette. *Challenging Women Since 1913*, p. 150
Most of them—well into adulthood and settled in their lives—left husbands and children behind, arriving in central Minnesota in late January to live in the International House Apartments in St. Joe.

May 24, 1985 Graduation. Photo in CSB Archives.
Atkins, Annette. *Challenging Women Since 1913*, p. 152
In a show of Benedictine hospitality, coats, boots, mittens, and scarves awaited the Bahamians arriving for the “spring” semester each year. Many reported finding welcome and support, especially among their teachers and especially in the Education Department.

May 1986 Graduation. Photo in CSB Archives.
Atkins, Annette. *Challenging Women Since 1913*, p. 152
The program thrived because it met the educational needs of Bahamians (and their families) who were willing to make sacrifices to get their degrees.
In 1983, Pamrica Ferguson graduated from CSB. She was 45 years old, a hospital infection control officer in Nassau who, upon graduation, planned to become an elementary school teacher. Her son was a SJU junior, and her daughter completed two years at CSB. She was the fourth female in her family to attend CSB.

Pamrika Ferguson, Delta Epsilon Sigma 1984
Atkins, Annette. *Challenging Women Since 1913*, p. 150
Her three sisters all came from the Bahamas for her graduation.

Atkins, Annette. *Challenging Women Since 1913*, p. 150
In the late 1990s the BUC would be located in the older building at St. Augustine’s – which needed a little work first.

Bahamans program history *The Record* 2003 12 11 p.5
https://cdm.csbsju.edu/digital/collection/CSBArchNews/id/31624
Photo in CSB Archives: AC 07.47.F01 Box 3
Bahamans program history *The Record* 2003 12 11 p.5
https://cdm.csbsju.edu/digital/collection/CSBArchNews/id/31624
Photo in CSB Archives: AC 07.47.F01 Box 3
(SJP's 2008 Middle School addition, also built into the hillside, bears some resemblance!)

Left photo in CSB Archives: AC 07.47.F01 Box 3
Right photo, by the archivist, in SJU Archives.
Photo in CSB Archives: AC 07.47.F01 Box 3
WINTER 1992 14 January, the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the College of St. Benedict/Saint John’s University Continuing Education Program was celebrated. That program was begun two decades ago by the College of St. Benedict to assist in a program that would provide a bachelor’s degrees program for Bahamians.

Over the years, faculty members from the College of St. Benedict and Saint John’s University taught in the program in Nassau and arranged for Bahamian students to spend a semester or more completing course requirements at either Minnesota Benedictine campus.

During the past 20 years, over 400 Bahamian men and women have earned their BA degrees through the program in which some 35 SJU and CSB faculty members have participated. Last year the program became known as the CSB/SJU Bahamas Campus, its offices, classrooms and library recently relocated in the newly renovated facilities at Saint Augustine’s College.

Photo in CSB Archives: AC 07.47.F01 Box 3
Bahamas Benedictines Activities

By Daniel Dufresne, OSB

St. Augustine's College

The chief work of the Bahamas Benedictines is the sponsorship of St. Augustine's College (SAC) which has just begun its second half-century of operation. The current enrollment in grades 7-12 is 942 students, just eight short of capacity. About 35% of the students are Catholic. The faculty numbers 60 teachers, 54 of whom are native Bahamians. The rest come from such countries as Canada, Ireland, Scotland, England, and the United States. Two 1995 graduates

The school offers a well rounded educational program focused on college preparation. Forty percent of its graduates go directly to colleges in the USA; 30% attend the two-year College of the Bahamas in Nassau or take classes at the Bahamas Campus of the College of St. Benedict/St. John's University continuing education program and then transfer to schools abroad. The cost of a SAC education is currently $4,900 per year.

An indication of the popularity of SAC is that in late January of this year 460 students took the entrance exam for the 180 available places in the seventh grade for the fall term.

A cloister walk of Saint Augustine's Monastery, BL.
In 1997, longtime CSB faculty member, dean, and VP Chuck Villette was named director and dean of the BUC.

Photo in CSB Archives: AC 07.47.F01 Box 3
Photo in CSB Archives: AC 07.47.F01 Box 3
Biernai, Named to Succeed Villette as Rector and Dean of Benedictine University College (Bahamas)

After discussions with Dr. Charles Villece concerning the direction for Benedictine University College (Bahamas) and his own professional and personal concerns, we mutually recognized that a change in the leadership of BUC is necessary. We have approved the changes in the appointment. Dr. Villece will be relieved of his ongoing responsibilities as rector and dean of Benedictine University College by the end of this fall term. We wish to thank him for the dedicated and promising service which he.

Economist Barry Eichengreen to Speak as Part of Clements Lecture Series

The SJU Clements Lecture Series will host economist Barry Eichengreen to present a lecture on “The Asian Flu and the Global Financial Crisis: Can We Prevent This from Happening Again?” The lecture will be held on Monday, Nov. 2, at 8 p.m. in the Stephen B. Humphrey Theater of SJU. The series is funded by a gift from William E. and Virginia Clements of St. Cloud.

Barry Eichengreen, an accomplished young scholar in international finance and economics, is head John L. Simpson professor of economics and professor of political science at the University of California at Berkeley. He has just completed a term as deputy under secretary for the International.
Sister Ann Marie Biermaier takes over for Dr. Villette in 1999

Biermaier Succeeds Villette as Rector and Dean of Benedictine University College (Babson)
Ann Marie Biermaier O.S.B., associate professor of education, will succeed Charles Villette as rector and dean of Benedictine University College. Her responsibilities began January 1999. Biermaier has had long experience with Benedictine University College throughout its growth over the past 25 years.

https://cdm.csbsju.edu/digital/collection/CSBArchives/id/6616/rec/26
1999-03 Saint Benedict's Saint John's Magazine Spring p.13
Close-up 1998-10-29 Connections p.1
https://cdm.csbsju.edu/digital/collection/CSBArchives/id/2212/rec/25
Despite the differences in geography, race, and culture between the Bahamian students and the white Minnesota students, CSB and the Bahamian students from 1973 to 1994 developed a special relationship that grew out of CSB’s continuing education program.

Since the 1920s, CSB and SJU have welcomed Bahamian students—more than 1,000 women and men—to their campuses. Many of those students are “college-aged” and throw themselves into multiyear degree programs; they join campus organizations (often the International Student Clubs) and serve in student government.

Text from Atkins, Annette. *Challenging Women Since 1913*, p. 147
The Benedictines had succeeded: Bahamians were able to access higher education.

CSB/SJU funded college in Bahamas closed Dec. 2000

By S. Carol Berg
CSB archivist

On July 10, 1973, the Bahamas celebrated independence from Great Britain.

That same year, two alumnae of CSB: S. Madlene Russell, OSB, superintendent of Catholic Schools in the Bahamas, and Ms. Telzeca Coakley, senior officer in the government’s Ministry of Education, sought assistance from the College of St. Benedict to provide an upper-division program for Bahamians.

For many years, summer offerings were made at the University College, offered all the majors and degrees of the sponsoring bodies, CSB and SJU.

New colleges sprang up in the Bahamas by the mid-1990s, offering more competition to BUC.

The College of the Bahamas decided to become a four-year bachelor degree institution, and in 1994 a Baptist Institution opened up.

Recruitment for BUC fell, and by 1998 there was a large budget deficit. In December 2000 BUC closed.

Bahamans program history *The Record* 2003 12 11 p.5
https://cdm.csbsju.edu/digital/collection/CSBArchNews/id/31624
Twenty-five years ago, the College of Saint Benedict began a relationship with the people of the Bahamas by responding to a request to assist with inservice programs for teachers. The initial program was intended to serve the needs of elementary teachers who were seeking a four-year bachelor's degree.

This small and focused beginning was encouraged by the Ministry of Education and, by 1975-76, the CSB Board of Trustees agreed to the addition of evening classes in the accredited teacher certification program. Since 1994, the CSB Board of Trustees and the SJU Board of Regents have jointly sponsored the CSB/SJU Bahamas Campus. In 1997, CSB/SJU Bahamas campus was officially registered as Benedictine University College, Nassau, an accredited undergraduate college. This relationship has proved most successful. Currently, Sister Ann Marie Bienmaier OSB, is the rector and dean of BUC.

When the program began in 1974, there was no other four-year institution on the island and few two-year options. Since then, educational options in the Bahamas have expanded to include several two and four-year programs — options not available to students in 1974. The work of the Benedictine sisters in the Bahamas set the course for a successful, readily available education in Nassau.

The mission of the two U.S. Benedictine communities to serve God through worship and work in the greater community will always continue. The work of Benedictine University College offered a unique off-site opportunity provided by one, then two and most recently two, Benedictine institutions of higher education in the United States. The educational needs once served here are now met by others. The ongoing liberal arts education we offer is centered in Minnesota where we continue to welcome Bahamas students to participate at CSB/SJU as four-year students, much as they have since the early part of the 20th century.

Historically, the goal of making quality higher education available to the Bahamian people, the CSB Board of Trustees and SJU Board of Regents voted and approved a resolution on Friday, May 5, recommending the Benedictine University College discontinue its operations by December 31, 2000. Benedictine education in the Bahamas is firmly rooted in the secondary level at St. Augustine’s College and will continue to be. We will continue to encourage the enrollment of Bahamian students interested in attending CSB/SJU, and will work closely with current Bahamian students and faculty during this time of transition.

“Coakley is considered a trailblazer, both at CSB and in the Bahamas. Aside from directing Benedictine University College, she had a powerful role in enriching, molding, and strengthening the relationship between CSB and the women of the Bahamas.”

https://cdm.csbsju.edu/digital/collection/CSBArchives/id/9439/rec/34
2017-09 Saint Benedict’s Magazine Fall p.39
As for the Monastery:

1967 – Saint Augustine’s Monastery becomes an independent priory.


...but its independence didn’t last:

4 June 1990—Saint Augustine’s Monastery is reaffiliated with Saint John’s Abbey as a dependent community.
Five years later:

Benedictine University College Discontinues

Having fulfilled the goal of making quality, higher education available to the Bahamian people, the College of Saint Benedict Board of Trustees and the Saint John's University Board of Regents voted and approved a resolution on 5 May, recommending the Benedictine University College (BUC), Nassau, Bahamas, discontinue its operations by 31 December 2000.

Since BUC's founding, initially in 1974 when there were no other four-year institutions on the island and few two-year options for the Bahamian people, several two- and four-year programs have been founded there, and can now meet those educational needs of the people.

Benedictine education in the Bahamas is still firmly rooted on the secondary school level at Saint Augustine's College, a seventh through twelfth grade school that will continue its work and encourage enrollment of Bahamian students interested in further education at the College of Saint Benedict and Saint John's University.

Abbey Quarterly Spring 2000

Abbey Quarterly spring 2000 p. 12
https://cdm.csbsju.edu/digital/collection/SJUArchives/id/20251/rec/103
On January 18, 2005, the Saint John's monastic chapter voted to close Saint Augustine's Monastery (SAM) in Nassau, Bahamas, as a dependent priory and apostolate of the abbey, effective June 30, 2005, due to the lack of monastic personnel to adequately staff the monastery.

2005 Volume 05 Issue 01 Abbey Banner Spring p.20
https://cdm.csbsju.edu/digital/collection/SJUArchives/id/24098/rec/34
Though Saint Augustine’s Monastery has closed, Saint Augustine’s College (high school) still exists. The former BUC site is now home to Omega College.

Image: https://www.google.com/maps/@25.0477232,-77.3049699,94a,35y,168.54h,71.6t/data=!3m1!1e3?hl=en
Omega website: Omegahttp://www.omegacollegebahamas.com/about.htm
https://www.google.com/maps/place/Omega+College/@25.0382703,-77.353813,13431m/data=!3m1!1e3!4m5!3m4!1s0x892f7c3e5a7e7d13:0x2a7834efdeb1186e!8m2!3d25.0458099!4d-77.305202?hl=en
To learn more about St. Ben’s connection to the Bahamas:

*With Hearts Expanded: Transformations in the Lives of Benedictine Women, St. Joseph, Minnesota, 1957 to 2000*

404 pages

Available online in the CSB/SJU Libraries' Digital Commons collection and in print in the libraries.

*Challenging women since 1913: the College of Saint Benedict*

266 pages

Available in the CSB and SJU Libraries' print collections.

https://cdm.csbsju.edu/digital/collection/CSBArchives/id/9439/rec/34
2017-09 *Saint Benedict's Magazine* Fall p.39
To learn more about St. John's (and St. Ben's) connection to the Bahamas:

*Upon These Rocks: Catholics in the Bahamas*

by Colman Barry, OSB

582 pages

Upon these rocks; Catholics in the Bahamas by Colman Barry OSB, 1973.