+ dump a bag of old wounds and
+ grumpy gossip and replace them
+ with a bag of compliments
+ donate an extra bag of prayers
  for world peace

- In Abbot John’s annual “State of
  the Institution” to the university’s
  faculty and staff on February 13, he
  announced the separation of the
  business offices of the abbey and
  university to better deal with distinct
  priorities. He further commented on
  the success of the Abbey Guesthouse
  with its current 45% occupancy and
  satisfaction with the expanded Chap-
  ter House and Petters Pavilion. He

Maurice Ravel and Frederic Chopin
at his February 28 piano recital and
added a unique “Improvisations on
Famous Paintings.” Having previously
done improvisations on hymns, Father
Bob played musical reflections on the
paintings of Kandinsky, Friedrich and
Seurat with their works displayed on a
backdrop screen of the stage.

- A live webcam mounted on the
  façade of Alcuin Library now scans
  the campus from the Peter Engel
  Science Hall past the Abbey Guest-
  house, across the front of the church to
  the Stephen B. Humphrey Auditorium.
  Access to the webcam is found at the
  lower left of the abbey’s homepage
  www.saintjohnsabbey.org.

March 2008

- March came in like ... maple sap
  collectors. On March 1 seventy volun-
  teers first invoked a blessing on their
  work and then spread through Saint
  John’s woods to tap 600+ sugar maple
  trees to begin Operation Sap-to-
  Syrup. Metal spigots were inserted in
  tree trunks and collection pails
  attached to catch the drip-drip-drip of
  the sap. We need sunny, warm days
  and cool nights for a bumper harvest.