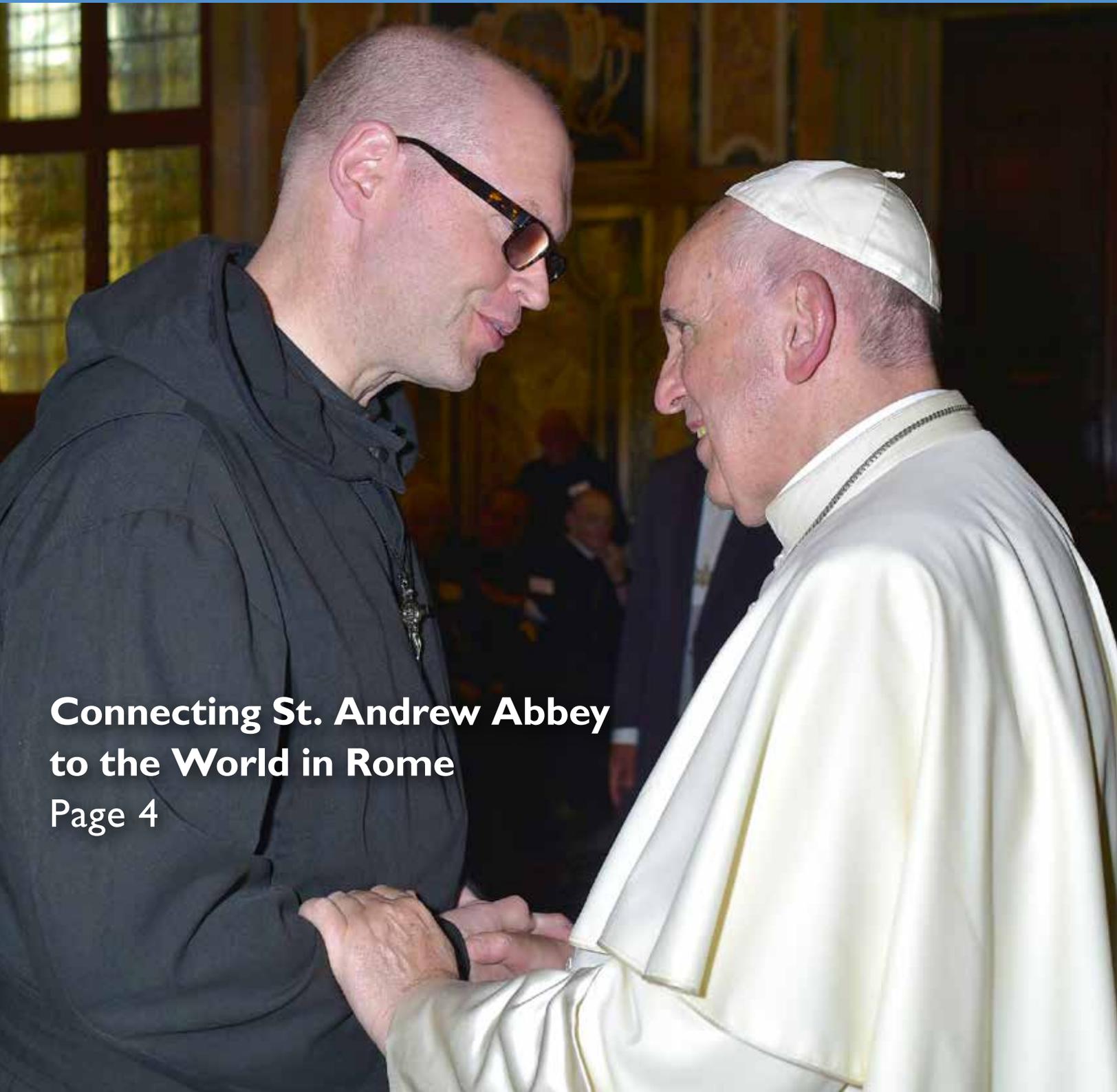


ORA ET LABORA



A publication of **Benedictine High School** and **Saint Andrew Abbey**

Spring 2017



**Connecting St. Andrew Abbey
to the World in Rome**

Page 4

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and **Saint Andrew Abbey**

Spring 2017

Abbot Gary Hoover, OSB
Publisher

Father Gerard Gonda, OSB
Editor

Amanda Zima
Director of Development Operations

Debra First
*Director of Events, Donor Relations
& Volunteers*

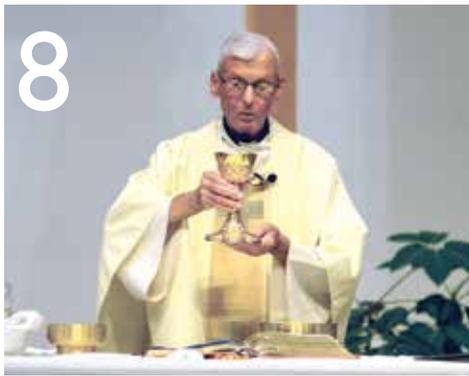
Kieran Patton
*Director of Alumni Relations
& Marketing and Communications*

Susan Pitts
*Advancement Coordinator
& Saint Andrew Abbey Representative*



ON THE COVER:

Pope Francis & Abbot Gary



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A reflection on Lent and Easter

About six years ago or so, I started my own Good Friday evening tradition of watching Mel Gibson's movie, "The Passion of the Christ."

The purpose of watching this movie was to help me focus more fully on the sufferings Jesus experienced for me. One aspect of His sufferings that stood out for me was Christ's loss of blood. Jesus began His journey to the Cross with perspiring drops of blood in His agony in the garden. Through each moment of His horrific scourging at the pillar, the crowning of thorns, carrying the heavy Cross, being nailed to the Cross and breathing His final breath, Jesus' blood was oozing out of Him. We see with the thrust of the guard's lance into Jesus' side, blood and water flowed out which indicated that Jesus actually lost all of His blood along the journey. How was it possible for Jesus to continue that agonizing journey as His blood was dripping out of Him?

Three years ago, while I was team building with a group of retreat leaders, I slipped on the ice and crushed my wrist. The doctor had to insert four plates and eight screws in my left wrist to assist in the healing process. During one of the homilies I gave at Mass, I shared that when I fell, I lost consciousness for a short period of time and the EMS was called and took me to the hospital. I didn't and still don't recall hitting the ground. After Mass, a medical professional came up to me and shared that the body goes into a natural preservation mode and shuts down (losing consciousness) when a person is in great pain.

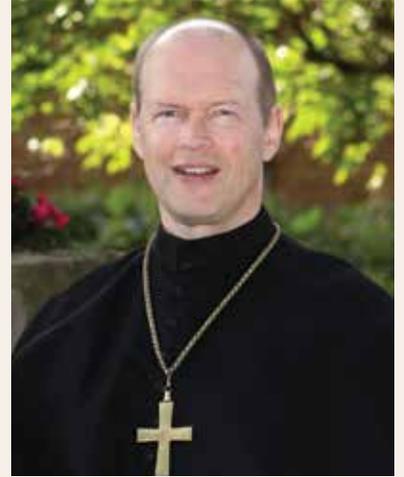
Shortly after that fall, I was watching "The Passion of the Christ" on Good Friday. As I meditated on His loss of blood, I questioned myself, "If my body had gone into self-preservation mode by briefly losing consciousness due to the pain I was in, then why didn't Christ's body shut down by going into self-preservation mode of unconsciousness? After all, Christ's pain was far greater than any and all of our pain we have ever endured." Then it hit me! It was only through His love for us that He endured all this agony. It was His love for us that drove Him to embrace His excruciating suffering when any other person would have collapsed and passed out.

And through His love, Jesus would do the unimaginable — He would rise from the dead, something that was never done before. He would rise from the dead and ascend into Heaven. Through Jesus, we have a new life, a new beginning. Yes, Lent leads us to His suffering, and God's love leads us through His suffering to the Resurrection. Let us take this season of Lent to help us embrace the sufferings of Christ and, through His love, live in the Spirit of the Resurrected Christ.

Peace,

Rt. Rev. Gary A. Hoover OSB

Rt. Rev. Gary A. Hoover, OSB '74
Abbot of Saint Andrew Abbey



Rt. Rev. Gary Hoover, OSB '74

*"Through Jesus,
we have a new life,
a new beginning."*

Connecting St. Andrew Abbey to the World in Rome

Last year in September 2016, I was invited to Rome, the Eternal City, and to the Congress of Abbots. I was hosted at the abbey of Sant' Anselmo which was a very wonderful experience.

The first week, I was involved with the orientation for all the new Abbots who had been elected since the last Congress.

During the time I was there, we elected a new primate, Abbot Primate Gregory Polan, OSB from Conception Abbey. The Abbot Primate is the first of the abbots and head of the order. While the Abbot Primate has certain jurisdictional powers, his primary role is to foster unity among the congregations and houses of Benedictines all over the world. He is assisted by an office of a treasurer-general of the confederation, two secretaries and an archivist. The Abbot Primate also represents the Benedictine Order at the Vatican and does so also with state and public authorities in Italy and abroad. He resides at the Abbey of Sant' Anselmo on the Aventine Hill in Rome. This abbey is primarily an academic institution. It has no monks of its own. The monastic community is made up of monks from all over the world who are students or professors at the Sant' Anselmo Athenaeum or other institutions in Rome, or are officials



lent by their home monasteries for service over a period of time.

Our schedule was very rigorous from seminars, workshops, tours (monasteries of Monte Cassino and Subiaco, the Vatican Necropolis and the Scavi tour), along with audience with the Pope, etc. While at Monte Cassino, I visited St. Benedict's monastic cell and had Mass above the crypt

where he and St. Scholastica were buried. The Scavi tour was awesome and we saw the relics and bones of St. Peter. In regards to meeting the Pope, I brought him greetings and blessings from Cleveland and invited him to stay with us next time he comes to Cleveland.

The Benedictine monasteries of 'Sacro Speco' and 'St. Scholastica' are built on a rocky cliff, overlooking the town of Subiaco which is located in the eastern Lazio region of central Italy, at the head of the Aniene Valley, close to a hill about 400 meters above sea level and across the slopes of the Simbruini Mountains.

The highlight of my trip was the audience with the Holy Father Pope Francis. On Thursday, September 8th, the members of the Congress had an audience with Pope Francis in the Clementine Hall of the Apostolic Palace in the Vatican. Reflecting on the monastic charism received from St. Benedict acquires special meaning in the context of the Jubilee of Mercy since, as



Pope Francis affirmed, “If it is only in the contemplation of Jesus Christ that we perceive the merciful face of the Father, monastic life constitutes a privileged route to achieve this contemplative experience and to translate it into personal and community witness.”

He stated, “Students in your schools, through study and your witness of life, can too become experts in that humanity that emanates from the Benedictine Rule. Your contemplative life is also a privileged channel for nurturing communion with the brothers of the Oriental Churches.”

He concluded, “Your service to the Church is very valuable,” expressing that the Congress may strengthen our Federation so that it is increasingly at the service of communion and cooperation between monasteries and urging the Benedictines not to be discouraged if their members age or diminish in number. He emphasized, “Conserve the zeal of your witness, even in those countries that are most difficult today, with faithfulness to our charism and the courage to found new communities.”

I attended several workshops while over in Rome, 1) “Leadership in the Rule of St. Benedict” 2) Opening one’s heart in monastic life. Is it a place for spiritual progress? How could the abbot make it more fruitful according to his responsibility? 3) Contemporary

Monasticism 4) Psychological Perspectives in Formation 5) Monastic Life and Unity of Christians and 6) Formation: Initial and ongoing.

Many great ideas came out of all the many seminars/workshops at the Abbots’ Congress. Being that I am a relatively new abbot and still learning, the workshop moderated by Primate Abbot Gregory Polan, OSB on “Leadership in the Rule of St. Benedict” shed a good bit of light for me. He stated there is no more powerful

manner of leadership than example, and St. Benedict knew this well. As abbot, I am called to get to know the strength and weaknesses of each monk in my community. Being the father figure, I must foster personal growth both for the well-being of the individual monks and for the welfare of the community. St. Benedict gives a good example of leadership in demonstrating the importance of “openness” to new ideas and the correction of faults, while holding respect for a serious living of *The Rule*.



Over the decades, the abbots of St. Andrew Abbey have been privileged to meet the successors of St. Peter in Rome. Abbot Jerome Koval, OSB (above left) greets Blessed Pope Paul VI in 1967 at the Vatican.



Christmas Viliya

Over 300 people crowded into the Benedictine High School Dining Hall on Sunday, December 4, 2016 to experience Slovak Christmas customs and taste homemade seasonal food at the annual Viliya Dinner. The meal was prepared by members of the Cleveland Slovak Radio Club with the proceeds benefitting the Slovak Institute of Saint Andrew's Abbey.

The Viliya or "Vigil" meal is the traditional ceremonial supper that gathered the Slovak family together each Christmas Eve. Religious symbolism was attached to the various dishes in reference to the life of Christ (i.e. the tartness of the mushroom sauerkraut soup was a reminder that the joy of Christ's birth would eventually lead to the sorrow of His passion). And fish was the main course due to the Catholic Church's designation before 1965 that Christmas Eve was a day of abstinence.

The annual Benedictine Viliya begins with Mass celebrated by the abbot in the abbey church and culminates with Slovak cultural entertainment. Since the early 1990s, it has been held each year on the first Sunday of December. Those interested in attending should call the abbey for information.



Nora Olexa, Victoria Alexandru, Jessica Chuba, Henry Strekal, Jacob Chuba, Joseph Snyder, John Chuba



Adam Hornack and Katie Hearn in back of picture



Lily Halley and Emma Halley



Randy Lacey spreads honey on oplatky wafer



Mary Ann DeFranco and Rita Burdick



Randy Lacey with Abbot Gary Hoover, OSB



Cloister Close-Up: The Abbey Kitchen

Chapter 39 of the Rule of Saint Benedict says, “Making allowance for the infirmities of different persons, we believe that for the daily meal, both at the sixth and the ninth hour, two kinds of cooked food are sufficient at all meals; so that he who perchance cannot eat of one, may make his meal of the other.”

In that chapter, St. Benedict reflects his characteristic adaptability and practicality when it comes to providing the necessities of life for the wide variety of personalities that usually make up a monastic community. To achieve the Benedictine balance of a healthy body, mind, and spirit, monks need to appreciate mealtimes not only for the sake of nutrition, but even more importantly for the sake of being together with their fellow community members.

The kitchen and dining room of Saint Andrew Abbey are located on the first floor of the new wing that was built in 1984. From 1929 to 1984, the monks had to walk through both old buildings of the former Mt. St. Mary’s Orphanage to arrive at the monastic kitchen. In those days the brother monks were the cooks. From 1929 to 1952, since the monastery, the high school, and the boarding school were all located in the same building, the kitchen was a busy place.

The legendary **Brother Benedict Klucas, OSB** was the abbey’s primary cook from 1945 to 1974. Born in Hazel, South Dakota in 1915, he moved to Vermilion, Ohio in 1923. He liked to brag that even though he was one of the first non-Slovak monks of St. Andrew Abbey, he quickly learned how to prepare the monks’ favorite Slovak dishes. Brother Benedict actually prepared the community’s Thanksgiving dinner only a week before his death on December 3, 1974.

Brother Ambrose Matulak, OSB reluctantly inherited the cooking duties from Brother Benedict even though he was primarily an excellent baker. **Brother Joseph Venonsky, OSB**, a meticulous cook, also assisted with weekend meals. Later, as Brother Ambrose became more involved in the *Abbey Deli* catering service that operated out of the high school cafeteria in the 1990s under the direction of alumnus **Dave Zelenka ’72**, lay cooks were hired at the abbey.

Even with lay cooks, monks continued to manage the abbey kitchen, especially **Fr. Anselm Zupka, OSB**, who actually went to Cuyahoga Community College to take classes in Hospitality Management, and **Brother Peter Ancell, OSB**, former manager of the BHS cafeteria.

New faces came to the abbey kitchen five years ago. When **Mike Conroy**, a salesman for Avalon Food Service, told Brother Peter that he was retiring, Brother Peter offered him the job of weekday breakfast cook and he accepted.

Andy Reichert joined the abbey kitchen staff as the weekday lunch and supper chef. A 1981 graduate of St. Joseph’s High School, Andy



(L-R) Brothers Benedict Klucas, Nicholas Pekar, and Method Tokarcik share duties in the abbey kitchen in 1946.



Fr. Michael gets a culinary lesson from lunch and supper chef Andy Reichert.



Fr. Thomas get his breakfast from morning chef Mike Conroy.

graduated from the culinary program at Columbus State Community College. He worked part-time as a chef in Columbus while studying at Ohio State University and liked it. After moving back to Cleveland with his wife, Melissa, Andy settled in the Gordon Square Arts District. When dealing with a neighborhood problem, he met **Dennis Ancell**, brother of **Brother Peter**, the abbey kitchen director at the time who was looking for an afternoon cook. Dennis connected Andy with Brother Peter who hired him.

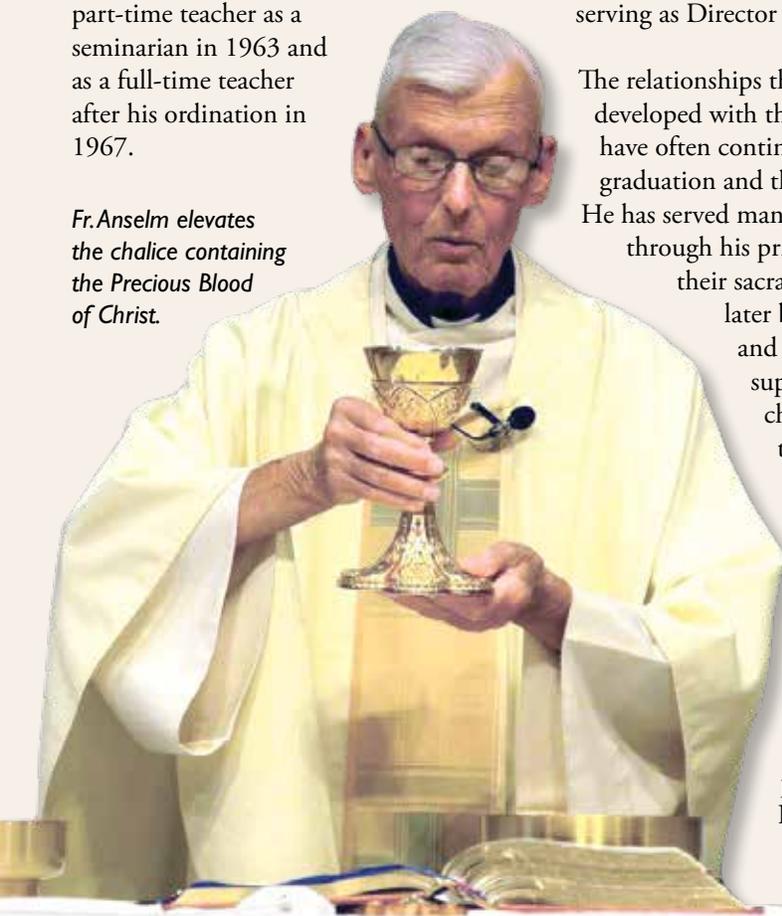
In addition to cooking for the 16 monks in residence, Andy feeds the abbey lay workers and visitors who may come by. From “soup to nuts,” he sees as his guiding principle St. Benedict’s admonition that “in all things, God may be glorified.”

Fr. Anselm – 50 years of Priesthood

On May 20, 1967, **Fr. Anselm (John) Zupka, OSB '58** was ordained a priest in the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist in Cleveland by Bishop Clarence G. Isseemann. On Sunday, May 28, 2017, Fr. Anselm will mark the Golden Jubilee of his priesthood with a Mass of Thanksgiving at noon at St. Charles Borromeo Church in Parma where he has assisted on weekends since his ordination 50 years ago.

With the exception of a recent four year assignment as chaplain of Walsh University in Canton, Ohio from 2011-2015, Fr. Anselm has been a constant presence on the campus of Saint Andrew Abbey and Benedictine High School since joining the monastic community in 1960 as a novice, joining the faculty as a part-time teacher as a seminarian in 1963 and as a full-time teacher after his ordination in 1967.

Fr. Anselm elevates the chalice containing the Precious Blood of Christ.



It would be realistic to say that almost every student who passed through the halls of the Home of Champions in the last five decades has had personal contact with Fr. Anselm since he has not only taught theology and German classes, but even more for the fact that he worked as a guidance counselor from 1966-2011, serving as Director of Guidance since 1969.

The relationships that Fr. Anselm developed with the Men of Benedictine have often continued after their graduation and throughout their lives. He has served many former students through his priesthood by witnessing their sacramental marriages, then later baptizing their children, and bringing spiritual support to them in challenging moments of their lives.

Being sent to St. Charles Borromeo Parish in Parma when he was ordained to assist with Masses and confessions on weekends was a very significant event in his priesthood. He took his Benedictine vow of Stability with him and

in the course of five decades has become a genuine and beloved member of that parish community. He has extended his service to St. Charles to include working the annual summer parish festival and helping chaperone the parish youth group on five World Youth Day pilgrimages to Denver, Rome, Cologne, Sydney, and Madrid.

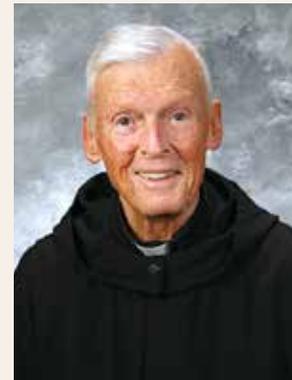
In 2000, Fr. Jack Carlin, pastor of St. Charles Parish, had a mural of several saints representing various nationalities in the parish painted on the ceiling of the church. Fr. Carlin gave the artist a photo of Fr. Anselm to use as the face of St. Benedict!

Fr. Carlin points out that not only is Fr. Anselm the only priest in the diocese who has been celebrating Mass continuously in the same church every weekend for 50 years, but he has also served all three pastors in the 94 year history of the parish. "It would not be St. Charles without Father Anselm," commented Fr. Carlin.

During his four years as chaplain of the student community at Walsh University in Canton, Fr. Anselm found ways to meet the students and make his priestly witness effective in their lives. He always ate in the student dining hall, moving to different tables each day. Working with his campus ministry staff, he surprised the returning students one year in August by cooking hot



Fr. Anselm as a newly ordained priest.



Fr. Anselm - Golden Jubilarian

dogs in the quad and giving them to any hungry student. He also traveled with the Walsh baseball team for their spring training and offered his culinary skills.

During his years as vocation director for the monastic community, he used to encourage those considering Benedictine life to “Join the abbey and see the world!” That motto was an accurate reflection of Fr. Anselm’s ministry in the high school because he always encouraged students to look beyond their comfort zone to become citizens of the world. His first trip to Germany with students was in 1979. This year for his Golden Anniversary, he is leading his 14th trip with students to Europe.

In the spring of 1996, he was given permission to spend three months in Rome in a theology renewal program at the North American College. While there, he personally met Pope St. John Paul II.

With the BHS German Club, he started the popular field trip to Amish Country and its popular “all-you-can-eat” dinner in 1971, which has become an annual tradition. He has also found German culture for his students at destinations like Epcot Center in Florida, German Village in Columbus, and Busch Gardens in Virginia. As moderator of the Travel Club, he has taken week long trips to Myrtle Beach in June for almost 20 years.

As guidance director he provided opportunities for BHS students to visit colleges by organizing tours on a chartered bus. Despite all his travels, he still hopes to someday visit Poland and Lithuania, where his grandparents came from.

Since returning to the abbey after his assignment at Walsh University, Fr. Anselm has made his priestly ministry available to students at nearby Notre Dame College. The oil from the anointing he received on the day of his ordination by Bishop

Issenmann may have dried up five decades ago, but the fire of the Holy Spirit that animates his priesthood as he acts “in persona Christi” (as a representative of Jesus Christ) continues to burn brightly.



Fr. Anselm as the “face of St. Benedict” on the ceiling mural of St. Charles Church.



“Grilling with the Chaplain” at Walsh University 2014.

Benedictine Order of Cleveland – Shared Services

“In keeping with the tradition of our Benedictine Hallmarks of Stability, Discipline, Stewardship and Community, I am pleased to announce our new Shared Services arrangement with Benedictine High School. This transition began with the provision of services to St. Andrew Abbey by the Development Office last year, and based on the success of that plan, will now extend to the sharing of services in our Finance, Transportation and Facilities Departments.

We are one community, and the sharing of our resources is not only financially prudent, but is a necessity of being good stewards to the generous donors of the Benedictine Order of Cleveland.

We thank our community, far and nearby, for their generous support of our mission through prayer, volunteering time, sharing of talents and donations. Our new Shared Services program is our commitment to our mission for many years to come and an affirmation that we appreciate your ongoing support.”

Abbot Gary, OSB



Amanda Zima

Our Endowment is Our Future

For almost 100 years, the Benedictine Order of Cleveland has continued to carry out the traditions of prayer and work, hospitality and educating young men in the Spirit of St. Benedict.

Saint Andrew Abbey is currently home to 26 monks who serve the Catholic community in the Greater Cleveland area by celebrating sacraments, leading retreats, providing spiritual guidance and educating the young men of Benedictine. Saint Andrew Abbey and Benedictine High School exist today due to the commitment of the monks and their perseverance to remain in the Buckeye neighborhood and their vow of stability.

As new monks profess their vows, it is the abbey's obligation to make sure these men receive the best education as they begin their studies for future work assignments. Currently, Fr. Thomas is pursuing a graduate degree in science education. Brothers Louis and Conrad continue their seminary studies.

It is also the responsibility of the abbey to provide for the health and well-being of all the monks, especially the elderly. Therefore, we are currently seeking to increase funding support and grow the endowment for the monks' health care, retirement and education needs, to preserve and celebrate the legacy of St. Andrew Abbey.

The abbey grounds is the sacred space where monks and students come together in celebration of their faith, and is also where retreats take place. Just like owning a home, overtime updates and improvements are needed. The monks, along with the maintenance and facilities staff, have sustained the physical space of the abbey, and donations made to the general fund help with updates and improvements.

I sincerely thank our loyal donors, alumni and friends for their commitment to our monks and the young men of Benedictine.



Fr. Placid Pientek, OSB, 98 years old, receives a surprise visit at Regina Health Center from former BHS art teacher Jose Cintron, 95 years old, on March 9, 2017. They both were on the BHS faculty in 1955.



Prior Timothy Buyansky, OSB '60 (right) joins classmates Fr. Joachim Pastirik, OSB '60 (left) and Fr. Dominic Mondzelewski, OSB '60 (center) in praying evening prayer during one of the monthly community visits to Regina Health Center in Richfield, Ohio where Frs. Placid, Joachim, Dominic, and former Abbot Christopher Schwartz, OSB are in residence.

Your support is also very much appreciated for the future needs of our seminarians who will minister as priests in our community in the next three years.

The photo shows the students and faculty at St. Vincent's Seminary in Latrobe, Pennsylvania. The two current seminarians from St. Andrew Abbey are: Bro. Conrad Wald, OSB (second from the left, third row from the top) and Bro. Louis Carey, OSB (fourth from the left, third row from the top).



St. Andrew Abbey Thanksgiving Eve Party November 23, 2016



(Front row - l-r): Fr. Dismas Boeff, OSB, Fr. Dominic Mondzelewski, OSB, Bro. Richard Richmond, OSB, Fr. Justin Dyrwal, OSB, Fr. Gerard Gonda, OSB, Auxiliary Bishop Emeritus Roger Gries, OSB, Prior Timothy Buyansky, OSB, Abbot Emeritus Clement Zeleznik, OSB, Abbot Emeritus Christopher Schwartz, OSB, Bro. Gabriel Balazovic, OSB. (Back row - l-r): Fr. Michael Brunovsky, OSB, Fr. Paschal Petcavage, OSB, Fr. Anselm Zupka, OSB, Bro. Peter Ansell, OSB, Bro. Philip Petrow, OSB, Fr. Bede Kotlinski, OSB, Abbot Gary Hoover, OSB, Bro. Louis Carey, OSB, Fr. Thomas Sanders, OSB, Bro. Conrad Wald, OSB, Fr. Finbar Ramsak, OSB, Bro. Nicholas Spisak, OSB, Fr. Kenneth Katricak, OSB. (Missing: Fr. Placid Pientek, OSB, Fr. Joachim Pastirik, OSB, Bro. Mario Parisi, OSB)



BISHOP GRIES 80TH BIRTHDAY

Two milestone abbatial birthdays were marked in recent months. February 23, 2017 was the 100th birthday of the late Abbot Jerome Koval, OSB (left) who died in 1993. On March 26, 2017, Bishop Roger Gries, OSB (right and below) (Abbot from 1981-2001) marked his 80th birthday. **Ad multos annos!**

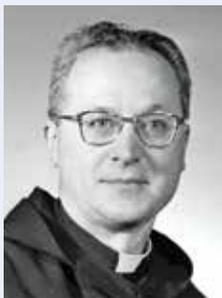


Home Grown Monks at BHS

It happened during my junior year at BHS (1969-70) and I believe it was in my math class which would have been Algebra II-Trigonometry. Never one to enjoy math, I began to day dream and eventually got caught up in some kind of mental image with spiritual influences. I pictured in my mind a long link chain that seemed to originate fifteen centuries earlier with Saint Benedict himself.

I was made to understand that each link of the chain represented men who became Benedictine monks in history carrying the Benedictine charism through the centuries up to the present. The last link of the chain was open and awaiting a connection to a new link. In some spiritual manner, I became aware that Christ wanted me to become the next link on that chain. Three years later, after my sophomore year in college, I joined Saint Andrew Abbey and became a Benedictine monk.

My story might seem far-fetched or the result of eating too much cafeteria pizza for lunch, but to this day I believe it was one of the special moments when the Lord called me to a religious vocation in monastic life. Every priest or religious will tell you that such calls are very subtle, yet very effective in awakening a desire to make a gift of your life back to God.



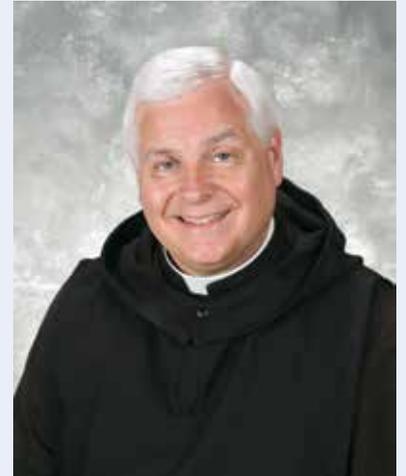
Fr. Benedict Dobrancin, OSB

Other influences along the way included two Benedictine monks. When I was in 8th grade at neighboring St. Benedict's Parish, **Fr. Benedict Dobrancin, OSB**, former two-time principal of BHS, was assigned as an assistant pastor. He interviewed each 8th grader individually and asked us about our future plans and what we believed God was calling us to be. I told him that I had thought about the priesthood, but not the Benedictines

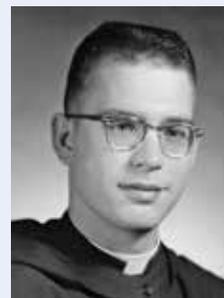
because they never were transferred like diocesan priests at neighboring parishes. He told me to pray the prayer called "The Memorare" each day for guidance. And I did.

Sadly, Fr. Benedict died only a year later in December of 1967 of brain cancer. One time during the summer while I was playing in the BHS parking lot, he came out in a wheelchair

being pushed by one of the monks. His head was shaved and I went over and talked to him. He was pleased to hear that I was going to be a freshman at Benedictine in August. He continued to urge me to pray about my future.



Father Gerard Gonda, OSB '71



Fr. Norbert Ozimek, OSB

Soon after Fr. Benedict's death, when I was at my freshman locker on the third floor, a young monk I didn't know came and introduced himself to me. His name was **Fr. Norbert Ozimek, OSB**. He told me he was going to be ordained in June and that he just got his chalice. He invited me over to the abbey to see it. I couldn't figure out why he came to my locker, but I did go and see his chalice.

Over the next four years Fr. Norbert talked me into becoming the manager of the BHS band of which he was the moderator. He also talked me into forming a Spirit Club that painted signs for the football rallies. He found many other ways to get me involved at Benedictine. Later, after I had joined the abbey, Fr. Norbert told me that Fr. Benedict, before he died, asked him to look out for me as a potential vocation. Over the years, I have done the same. Fr. Norbert died on August 26, 2015.

As I mark my 43rd year as a Benedictine monk this summer, I am beginning to think about that chain again. Now I see myself as the last closed link and I hope and pray that more recent Men of Benedictine feel that gentle pull from the Lord to make a gift of their lives back to Him. It's a wonderful life! To date, **32 BHS alumni** have spent their lives as members of St. Andrew Abbey. Benedictine High School will only remain Benedictine if young men, especially alumni, have the generosity and courage to become Benedictine monks. It's something to pray about. Who will be #33?

Fr. Gerard Gonda, OSB, M.Ed.
President

BHS Alumni Who Have Spent their Lives as Monks of St. Andrew Abbey / Pray that more alumni hear and respond to the call to Benedictine Monastic Life

- Fr. Cyril (Andrew) Novotny, OSB '31 *
- Fr. Bernard (Andrew) Slimak, OSB '31 *
- Fr. Thomas (John) Podobnik, OSB '31 *
- Fr. Aloysius (Peter) Jenco, OSB '31 *
- Fr. Maurus (Michael) Maruskin, OSB '32 *
- Fr. Louis (Andrew) Hudak, OSB '33 *
- Fr. Matthew (Anthony) Bonk, OSB '33 *
- Fr. Florian (Michael) Hudac, OSB '34 *
- Abbot Jerome (Matthew) Koval, OSB '35 *
- Fr. Placid (Francis) Pientek, OSB '36
- Fr. Gregory (John) Oravec, OSB '36 *
- Fr. Robert (Raymond) Wilkes, OSB '39 *
- Fr. Raphael (Albert) Zbin, OSB '39*
- Fr. Donald (John) Baydik, OSB '40 *
- Fr. Basil (Andrew) Hrin, OSB '41 *
- Fr. Lawrence (Anthony) Sevcik, OSB '44 *
- Fr. David (Lawrence) Vizsolyi, OSB '45 *
- Fr. William (Thomas) Matyas, OSB '47 *
- Abbot Clement (Leo) Zeleznik, OSB '50
- Fr. Ronald (John) Mahnke, OSB '53 *
- Bishop Roger (William) Gries, OSB '54
- Fr. Anselm (John) Zupka, OSB '58
- Fr. Norbert (Anthony) Ozimek, OSB '59 *
- Fr. Joachim (Joseph) Pastirik, OSB '60
- Fr. Dominic (Michael) Mondzelewski, OSB '60
- Fr. Timothy (Dennis) Buyansky, OSB '60
- Fr. Albert (Michael) Marflak, OSB '65 *
- Fr. Dismas (Raymond) Boeff, OSB '66
- Bro. Theodore (Lester) Girard, OSB '66 *
- Fr. Gerard (Martin) Gonda, OSB '71
- Abbot Gary Hoover, OSB '74
- Bro. Louis (Michael) Carey, OSB '88

* = Deceased



Thirty-three years of BHS history came together at the abbey's Thanksgiving Eve party on November 23, 2016 as four former principals found a corner to talk: (l-r) Bishop Roger Gries, OSB (1969-1977), Fr. Michael Brunovsky, OSB (2014-16), Fr. Gerard Gonda, OSB (1999-2005), and Fr. Dominic Mondzelewski, OSB (1977-1994).

Monks in the City



"A monastery has a public role in the life of the Church and of society."

- Pope Benedict XVI

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Mrs. Sue Zulandt

Principal's Message

Dear Friends of Benedictine,

It is hard to imagine that we are already into March. The time seems to fly by. However, we have had a very busy year and we continue to grow through all facets of the Benedictine experience emphasizing our mission of "Time, Talent, and Treasure."

In December, we shared our Benedictine Experience with St. Anselm's School. One hundred and four students, plus teachers and parents spent the day. They experienced Mass at the abbey, a choral and jazz band concert, tours of the abbey and high school, led by our students, and had lunch. Our Admission Director Mr. John Ellis and his "dip-n-dots" were a smash hit. It was an enjoyable day for everyone and our young men were fantastic!

We started the new year off with Catholic Schools Week. The students were thrilled because the first two days were snow days. However, on Wednesday, February 1, we began our day with doughnuts for everyone. In the afternoon, we held a speaker series, with 22 individuals representing diverse career opportunities. Most were alumni. Each student had the opportunity to choose three different sessions. The feedback from the speakers as well as teachers and students was extremely positive. It was a great learning experience.

Throughout the week, we held a Food Drive in which the students had to bring in enough canned food to reach a goal of over 7000 points (each can equaled 2 points and 1 dollar, 3 points). However, they had to reach the goal in three days instead of five. The prize was a day off from school.

On Thursday, we had our outreach day. Our Men's Choir and Drama Club went to Judson Manor to perform for the elderly. The Choir sang some traditional songs while the drama club performed an act from their current play, *The Odd Couple*. They were excellent and the audience was delighted. Also, on Thursday, we sent approximately 50 students to elementary schools throughout the area: Archbishop Lyke, St. Paschal Baylon, St. Francis School, Cleveland and Corpus Christi Academy. They read to students from Kindergarten through third grade. This was an enormous success. I received phone calls and emails from grade-school parents immediately who witnessed our boys in action. The comments on how helpful, polite and charming they were to the younger children as they were entering the building was heart-warming.

On Friday, we had a school wide volleyball contest in the afternoon. The students competed and the winner of the competition played the teachers. Much to the students' chagrin,

the teachers won. At that time the results of the Food Drive were announced. On Friday alone, the young men brought in over 1000 cans of food and \$1,000, surpassing our goal. Once again, the Men of Benedictine were successful!

In January, the Pro-life Club traveled to Washington, D.C. for the annual Right to Life March with Fr. Gerard. In addition, our Junior Statesmen of America (J.S.A.) also went to D.C. for the Winter Congress in February with Mr. Jim Shurtleff, joining over 600 students from Chicago to Florida to model our legislative process.

Our Jazz Band is scheduled to travel to New Orleans in April. They will spend four days in the city and perform at several venues. Right now, they are preparing for the spring trip and raising funds.

Our engineering program is expanding as we add classes in the fall. We presently have over a hundred students in class and Engineering Club combined. We are also opening our online store for items we can make with the 3D printer and those we can engrave or design on our laser engraver. We have set up a webpage for our products and the engineering students will be running the store. Some of the machines and products we need will be purchased through a \$50,000 grant that we received from the Diocese of Cleveland and a \$1,150 grant we received from Cleveland State University.

In addition, we would like to expand our curriculum by adding a medical track. In association with the University Circle Medical Institutions, we have several areas in which the students can participate. We will be working specifically with the Cleveland Clinic to keep Benedictine High School on the cutting edge.

CATHOLIC SCHOOL WEEK

Benedictine students visited St. Francis and Archbishop Lyke schools and read to the children.



Anthony Sweet '19 – St. Francis



Aubrey Ward '17 – St. Francis



Jordan Parker '17 (left) and Lorenzo Burnett '18 (center) – Archbishop Lyke School



Malik Houston '20 – Archbishop Lyke School

The VEALE Program, our entrepreneurship plan, is continuing to grow. Mr. Rob Stircula has expanded the program and freshmen are also participating. Matt Stauffer, a current freshman, has excelled and competed in the Veale Venture Challenge on March 14, 2017 at Case Western Reserve.

Our winter sports teams have done their best to carry on the tradition of Benedictine. The Swim Team made it to districts in 7 events. The Bowling Team did fantastically in their individual tournaments. The Hockey Team has performed well. Congratulations are in order for senior Nick Moner, sophomore Matt Carson, and freshman Tristan Cotter on their selection to the GCHSHL White South Division 1st Team! In addition, our first-year head hockey coach, Joe Primiano, was selected as the Coach of the Year. Our basketball team finished its season with a

17-5 record and were district runner-up champs.

Our last three months are packed with activities and the Fall looks promising with our new Freshman Class. In conjunction with the administration, faculty and staff, I want to extend a warm welcome to all to visit the Home of Champions, the most unique school in the Cleveland area. Thank you for all that you do to make Benedictine a success.

May God Bless you and GO BENGALS!



15TH ANNUAL
BENEDICTINE HIGH SCHOOL

Blue & White Crystal Gala

The weather cooperated and so did the over 435 attendees at the 15th annual Benedictine High School **Blue and White Gala** that was held for the first time at the beautiful Westin Cleveland Downtown on Saturday, March 11, 2017.

This annual celebration of Benedictine education has become the most popular event of the year for bringing together the famous, the familiar, and the first-timers of Benedictine yesterday and today. As guests arrived they were escorted by current Men of Benedictine to the festivities on the third floor. During the cocktail hour, attendees examined a wealth of interesting items and baskets for silent bidding while listening to the energy and skill of the Benedictine Jazz Band.

After opening remarks by BHS president **Fr. Gerard Gonda, OSB** and BHS Board of Trustees Vice-Chair **Matt Joyce '90**, and a surprise "pre-80th birthday" cake for **Bishop Roger Gries, OSB '54**, guests enjoyed their dinner while the live auction took place for prizes as diverse as a Three Night Stay at the Morongo Casino and Spa in Cabazon, California including airfare for four, a Hungarian dinner for 20 at St. Andrew Abbey catered by the famous Balaton Restaurant, an afternoon of golf with Bishop Roger at the Chagrin Valley Country Club with dinner, an overnight stay at the Detroit Athletic Club with dinner, and a private party on the 38th floor of the historic Terminal Tower.

With nearly 75 current Men of Benedictine watching, those in attendance showed their love for the Home of Champions by pledging over \$100,000 in the fund-a-need portion of the evening with this money being especially designated for scholarships and financial aid. Talks by principal **Mrs. Sue Zulantz** and **Abbot Gary Hoover, OSB** gave way to an emotional singing of the Alma Mater before guests began to leave and claim their prizes.

Special thanks to the Gala Committee of **Rita Boswell (Chair)**, **Amy Fischer**, **Meg Furlich**, **Peg Kenneley**, and **Holly Tube** and the BHS Advancement staff of **Amanda Zima**, **Debbie First**, **Kieran Patton**, and **Susan Pitts** for making the Crystal Gala one of the best ever.



Dale Jakab '68 and his wife Peggy and youngest son Jordan '06



Emma Dosen, Craig Mares, Lisa Mares, Joanne Sturges, Deborah Dosen, and Matt Gnatowski '16



Dr. Frank Bossu '67 and his wife Nancy Uridil with Tony Russ '66 and his wife Virginia



Andrew Boothe '20, Nicholas Pietrzycki '20, Ian LaForest '20, Michael Albertone '18, and Matthew Slaughter '17



Philomena O'Hare,
Brandon Quarterman,
Bill O'Hare

Michael Williams
& John Boswell



Board of trustee, Gala
chairman, Matt Joyce



Cleveland coffee
gift from Brendan
Walton '84



Nick Costa leads the "Men of Benedictine" in the Alma Mater

Amy & Desmond Fischer,
William & Debbie First,
Spencer & Meg Furlich



Bishop Roger celebrates
his 80th birthday



John Dosen & Tom Jakubowski sell bracelet raffle to Tom & Donna Harlan



Ron Trzcinski '62 (left) introduces Dr. Edward Mansour (center) to Hank Bloom '73.



Billy First '17 and Louise Raffin



(Left to right) Ms. Marie Golias and her brother, Mr. Richard Golias '74, Mr. John T. Sabol '63 and his wife Jeanne.



(Left to right) Bob Malloy, Gino DiPaola, John DiPaola, Chris Bauer



(Left to right) Mr. Brian Avsec and his wife Debbie. Mr. Joseph A. Sweeney and his wife Rhonda.



(Left to right) Clare Long, Donna Dudas, Gina Smith

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Thank you for making the 2017 Blue and White Crystal Gala a success!



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Beginning in July the Admissions team of Ursula Szabados, John Ellis and Mike Stircula took over the reins and hit the ground running. Leaning on our 90 year tradition and taking the Hallmark of Hospitality to a new level, the A-Team visited over seventy northeast Ohio grade schools delivering a gift card, hand-written note, a smile and a handshake to all the 8th grade teachers.

From this initial outreach and consistent marketing initiatives, the results are in, acceptance letters sent and exposure to Benedictine is at an all-time high. Through open houses, private tours and our CYO outreach campaign, we've had the opportunity to meet families from across northeast Ohio. We've welcomed over 200 visitors, administered over 180 entrance exams and as a result received 132 applications to date.

It is our hope through our personal touches and support from our faculty, staff and alumni that we continue to attract the most well rounded — Men of Benedictine.



John Ellis, Director of Admissions



Mike Stircula, Assistant Director of Admissions



Ursula Szabados, Admissions Administrative Assistant

BHS Senior Raises Money for St. Benedict's Monastery

BHS senior Matt Laurienzo read about the 6.6 magnitude earthquake that hit the historic town of Norcia in Italy in October of 2016 and saw that it inflicted great damage to the 14th century Basilica of Saint Benedict and the neighboring monastery of Benedictine monks. Saint Benedict was born in Norcia around 480 AD.



Members of the Caserta family enjoy the pasta dinner prepared by BHS senior Matt Laurienzo.

Soon Matt was inspired to use his senior service project to aid in the rebuilding efforts of Norcia. He was able to get the owner of the Great Scott Tavern in Euclid where he works to make the restaurant available for a benefit pasta dinner on Sunday, March 12, 2017. Together with his father Tom, who is the manager of the Great Scott Tavern, Matt put together a publicity campaign and solicited donated raffle baskets, table favors, and desserts.

When he informed the monks of Saint Andrew Abbey of his idea, BHS president Fr. Gerard Gonda, OSB realized that as a branch of the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association (FCSLA), the abbey could apply for matching funds for the benefit dinner. In addition to Fr. Gerard, Fr. Michael Brunovsky, OSB, Bro. Gabriel Balazovic, OSB, and Fr. Paschal Petcavage, OSB volunteered their time to work at the dinner.

The successful benefit pasta dinner raised over \$2,000 to help the Benedictine monks in St. Benedict's hometown to rebuild their basilica and monastery.



BHS president Fr. Gerard and BHS senior Matt Laurienzo prepare for the Pasta Benefit Dinner at the Great Scott Tavern in Euclid.

Benedictine Art Department

Chapter 57 of the Rule of St. Benedict is entitled, “The Artisans of the Monastery.” It says, “If there are artisans in the monastery, they are to practice their craft with all humility, but only with the abbot’s permission.” Over the centuries monastic life fostered love of art especially in the Middle Ages when monks drew elaborate, colorful illustrations in the margins and with opening letters and words on the manuscripts they were copying by hand.



Mr. Cintron instructs Robert Singer '59 on drawing the human figure.

During the first two decades of the history of Benedictine High School, art was offered sporadically but without a program of courses. However, art became a popular mainstay of the curriculum in the fall of 1954 when principal **Fr. Benedict Dobrancin, OSB** hired a 32-year-old Spanish teacher named **Jose Cintron**, a native of Puerto Rico, who also offered to teach art. Mr. Cintron had previously taught at Cathedral Latin High School and heard about BHS when **Augie Bossu** transferred from Latin to the Benedictine faculty the previous year.

Soon the Men of Benedictine were learning how to draw portraits of their classmates, still life, watercolor paintings, and landscapes. During his tenure at BHS from 1954-1961, Mr. Cintron produced a number of future artists including **Tony Greco '55** who went on to become a

professor of painting and drawing at the Atlanta College of Art in Georgia and **Dan** and **Don Boncela '61** whose interest in art conservation led them to open **Boncela Framing** in Willoughby Hills. Ironically, it was **Don Boncela** who painted the new Fighting Lion mural that hangs on the wall of the new gymnasium at Notre Dame-Cathedral Latin High School in Chardon.

Other notable artist alumni from the 1950s include **Daniel Gorski '57** who earned his Master of Fine Arts at the Yale University School of Art and Architecture and classmate **Frank Zippay '57** who was an illustrator at the Cooper School of Art.

After leaving Benedictine, Mr. Cintron went on to teach at the Cleveland Institute of Art and the Cooper School of Art until he was 86.

Today at age 95, he looks back with pride and gratitude for his many years in the art classroom, “I loved teaching. I really miss the daily contact with the students.”

From 1961 until 1965, art took a temporary leave from the BHS curriculum. However, 1965 saw the hiring of **Mr. Ray Jay Ashdown** as the new art teacher and the remodeling of the former third floor school chapel into a very creative, multi-level art studio. Mr. Ashdown, who at one time had been the art supervisor for the Ashtabula City Schools, entered his students’ work into many competitions until 1970 when he moved to Cleveland Central Catholic High School. He died on St. Benedict’s Day, March 21, 1973 at Holy Family Cancer Home. He was 57.



Mr. Ashdown points out improvements to (l-r): Francis Wanner, Bill Brisky, and Frank Tomaro in 1967.



Fr. Joachim in 1983

Upon ordination as a priest in 1969, **Fr. Joachim Pastirik, OSB**, taught theology for a year before beginning his studies in art education at Baldwin-Wallace College from where he graduated in 1976. For a record 32 years, from 1969 – 2001, Fr. Joachim helped scores of Benedictine students discover their hidden artistic talents as well as helping many of them with his advice and counseling during class on a variety of topics as the third floor art studio became the most popular classroom in the school.

Fr. Joachim was the master of color pencil drawing, but when Cathedral Latin High School closed in 1979, he was able to obtain pottery wheels and a kiln from its art department. Soon BHS art students were making gifts for their parents and girlfriends as well as learning to silk screen t-shirts. It became a tradition each year for the seniors to paint a mural on the outer wall of the art studio.

A number of Fr. Joachim's students went on to successful careers in art including **Joe Kanasz '78**, who became a medical illustrator for the Cleveland Clinic. **Bill Reid '84** is a graphic designer in Chagrin Falls. **John Keglovich '86** operates Frame Center Gallery in Chagrin Falls, and **Vince Sanelli '94** teaches art at Mentor High School.

From 1998-2001, **Ms. Barbara (Henry) Shannon** worked with Fr. Joachim as a part-time art teacher at Benedictine. She had two brothers who graduated from BHS and had grown up in neighboring St. Benedict's Parish and while at Regina High School participated in Benedictine drama productions. She worked for 20 years as a graphic designer and illustrator after graduating from the Cooper School of Art where one of her teachers was **Jose Cintron**.



Ms. Shannon compliments Oscar Perez '19 on his self-portrait.

Since Fr. Joachim's retirement in 2001, Ms. Shannon has been the director of BHS's art department. She teaches a full load of art classes including Painting 1,2; Drawing 1,2; Sculpture; Graphic Design, and Animation 1,2. She points out that BHS art students have been competing in the Cleveland Clinic's Art Expression Competition over the last decade. In 2012 Benedictine won more awards than any other school, with our students winning \$750 in prize money.

In recent years computers have entered the art classroom and many students have become skilled in using technology for graphic design and animation. Ms. Shannon explains, "Career opportunities seem to be multiplying every year in the field of art and design. I get very excited to find out that alumni have pursued and are working in creative fields."

Alex-Prudic-Dennis '04 went to the Kansas City School of Art and worked on animations in one of the scenes in the movie

"Transformers 2 – Revenge of the Fallen (2009)." Ms. Shannon's son, **Will Henry '06**, is a web designer having earned a BFA from the University of Cincinnati. **Joe Fox '09** is working for the Los Angeles Times as a graphics and data journalist. **Paul Havel '09** writes, animates, and edits 15 second videos for companies in Brooklyn, New York. And **Jordan Charlton '12** completed a degree in animation and now works for Case Western Reserve University creating animations of procedures used in the medical school.

There have also been talented BHS alumni who have become successful architects including **Lawrence Marek '56** who earned a master of architecture degree from the Graduate School of Design at Harvard and has operated a successful architectural firm in Manhattan since 1972. **Joseph Owczarek '57** has also been an architect and interior designer in New York City. **Joseph Shuster '58** has been an architect in Mentor, Ohio. Fr. Joachim's brother **John Pastirik '60** served as chief architect for the City of Cleveland. **James Skala '69** earned his degree in architecture from CWRU. **Bruce Wolf '84** is an architect for Westlake, Reed, and Leskosky in Cleveland. **James Smith '89** is an architect for D.H. Ellison Company in Cleveland. And **Renato Gilberti '94** received his master's degree in architecture from North Carolina State University and works in Chicago.



An historic photo taken March 9 as 58 years of BHS art teachers meet (l-r) Barbara Shannon, Fr. Joachim, and Jose Cintron.

Cy Levkanich Retires

The long career of Cy Levkanich as Benedictine track and cross-country coach has crossed the finish line.

After five decades on the Benedictine athletic staff and serving as assistant or head coach in those sports, Levkanich has stepped down. He taught at Benedictine from 1978 until 2006.

Serving as an assistant to Fr. Dominic Mondzelewski, O.S.B. '60 for four years, Levkanich took over the program and was the school's head cross-country coach from 1982 until 2015. His cross-country teams often won or made strong runs for the team title in many invitational meets. Three times the Bengals qualified as a team for the state championship meet.

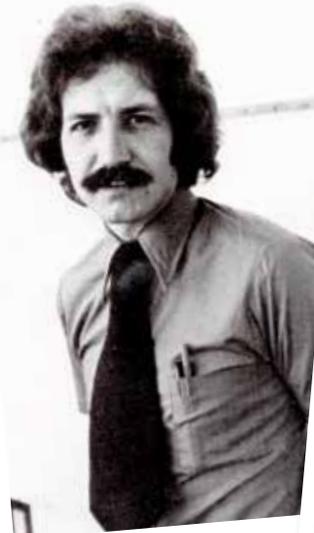
He served three stints as head track coach. He was the head coach for one year in 1987 and from 1994 until 2003. In the 2010 and 2011 seasons, he took over the reins again.

He won three Division II state championships in track in 1997, '98 and '01. He coached 11 different athletes who became state champions whether in an individual event or on a relay team. Overall, he had 29 different athletes who scored points in the state championship meet. In addition to the three state titles, Levkanich's track teams won eight district titles, five regional championships and had two regional runner-up finishes.

The state title in 1997 was especially gratifying for Coach Lev, as he is known. It completed a Benedictine Triple Crown of state titles in that 1996-97 academic year. The Bengals had won the Division III state title in football, Division II state title in basketball and then the Division II state title in track. It was a feat unparalleled in Ohio history.



Coach Lev with the 1990 cross country team which finished 10-1.



Coach Lev when he came to BHS in 1978.



Coach Lev speaks at the Fall Sports Banquet.

His secret was simple. "My goals are for these students to have a great experience running track or cross-country, to have them work hard, and to see progress in their efforts and get satisfaction from their results," Levkanich said.

"I feel very fortunate to have had the opportunity to coach at Benedictine," said Levkanich. "I was able to coach in my own style, and always had the support of the Athletic Department and school administration."

"And I can't overlook the great parental support of the teams, especially in cross-country, that made it such a pleasure to coach these young men."

"When I started coaching here, I had a lot of good role models to pattern after: Coach Bossu, Joe Rufus, Tony Russ, Chuck Palsa, John Mastrey, and others," said Levkanich. "And I was able to develop my talents as a coach."

"But in reality I owe my coaching career to Fr. Dominic, who hired me as an assistant cross-country coach in 1978 and then promoted me to head coach in 1982," said Levkanich. "I am forever grateful to him."

According to Benedictine historians, Levkanich, with his 38 years as cross-country coach, has the second-longest continuous coaching tenure in school history. Augie Bossu was a teacher and a coach in football and baseball at Benedictine for more than 50 years. Bossu died in January 2008 at age 91. Levkanich is a graduate of Collinwood High School, where he was a successful distance runner, and is a graduate of John Carroll University. He lives with his wife, Charlene, in Brecksville.

Student Gymnasts

Most high school athletes follow the traditional sequence of seasons with football, soccer, cross-country, hockey, wrestling, swimming, basketball, lacrosse, track, and baseball. However, Benedictine senior **Jacob Gricar** and freshman **Charles Malberti** follow a different calendar as they compete in gymnastics.

Since boys' gymnastics is not currently recognized under the Ohio High School Athletic Association, Jacob and Charles belong to the Lakeshore Gymnastics Boys' Team, a long standing member of USA Gymnastics and AAU Sports. They practice at the Lakeshore Gym located in Mayfield Heights. Gymnastic clubs are organized with six levels of competition (4-10) that are further divided by age groups.

Jacob is now at Level 10 and has competed around the Midwest in Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, and Illinois. Last year he went to the Junior Olympic U.S.A. National Championships. It brings together the best gymnasts from around the country. He placed 42nd in the nation, 24th on floor events and 15th on vault events. Jacob also holds the Ohio State Champion title on floor, vault, parallel bars, and as All Around Champion.

"I practice 16-18 hours a week," he said. In addition to the physical challenges, there are also psychological barriers to overcome.

"The biggest challenge is fear: the fear of getting hurt, the fear of not being good enough, and the fear of failing when it counts," he admitted.

Jacob is the son of Matthew and Carol Gricar and came to BHS from St. John of the Cross School in Euclid. He lives in Wickliffe with his sisters Cassie and Alexis. After graduating from Benedictine in May, he plans to continue his education with the goal of earning a master's degree in Fine Arts to prepare for a job with Disney, Dreamworks, or Pixar movie studios.

Still moving up in the world of gymnastics is freshman **Charles Malberti**. Now at Level 8, he came to the Home of Champions from Saints Robert and William Elementary School in Euclid. He is the son of Dennis and Shelly Malberti and has a sister Kara. He got interested in gymnastics at the early age of three. "I always thought it was cool to jump and do flips," he explained.



Jacob Gricar



Charles Malberti



Jacob Gricar (far right) with his Level 10 teammates.

Charles finds himself in the gym about 13 hours a week and took second place all around in his last competition. He too has traveled around Ohio and to Michigan and Indiana for meets. Admitting that the biggest challenge is possible injuries, Charles nevertheless said, "I recommend it to others because it will make you work and keep you in shape."



BHS Pro-Life Club vice-president Tim Shean (left) and president Blaise Rudmann (right) present a check for \$215 from the club's Christmas fundraiser to Eileen Murray, Executive Director of Womankind, a maternal and prenatal center in Garfield Heights.



Fr. Gerard Gonda, OSB, moderator of the BHS Pro-Life Club looks on as Pro-Life Club president Blaise Rudmann (left) and vice-president Tim Shean (right) present a special card of appreciation signed by members of the BHS Pro-Life Club to Mrs. Cynthia Maleski, president of the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association in appreciation for the generosity of the FCSLA in welcoming the Men of Benedictine on their buses for the annual March for Life in Washington, DC.



Hall of Distinction

On November 12, 2016, three alumni were inducted into the Benedictine High School Hall of Distinction during a dinner reception at The Norton Gallery of the Western Reserve Historical Society. This was the sixth induction ceremony for the Hall of Distinction which began in 2012.

Alumni may be nominated for the Hall of Distinction who have left their mark by receiving the highest esteem of their peers in their particular occupation or field of endeavor. They also must be individuals who have made improvements in their disciplines and who have enriched their communities in the Benedictine tradition.

Each summer the selection committee reviews nominations from a revolving list of 14 career fields: the Catholic Church, health, fine arts, public safety, government services, business, communications, science and technology, the military, the trades, law, education, the humanities, and culinary arts and hospitality.

This year's inductees were **Dr. John A. Bednar, MD** of the Class of 1958, **Dr. Thomas Oleksiak, PhD** of the Class of 1981, and **Terry Pluto** of the Class of 1973.

Dr. John Bednar, '58 HEALTH SCIENCES



Although he's in the Hall of Distinction for his remarkable career as an obstetrician/gynecologist, John Bednar might easily have been inducted in the categories of "Military" or "Education." He was a Major in the U.S. Army and a professor of medicine at six colleges. But it is for his work as a medical doctor for 30 years who

brought 6,000 babies into the world and performed over 2,000 operations that we honor him now.

The bulk of his experience was at Desert Regional Medical Center and Eisenhower Medical Center in Palm Springs California, from 1977-2006. In addition to his practice, Dr. Bednar has also been a guest speaker for pharmaceutical companies, lecturing on women's health, osteoporosis, breast cancer and hormone replacement therapies. He has travelled the world as a guest lecturer for the American College of OB-GYN, the International Menopause Society and the North American Menopause Society. From 1971-74, John attained the rank of Major in the U.S. Army in Honolulu, where he was an instructor and clinical professor of obstetrics and gynecology at the John Burns School of Medicine at the University of Hawaii. He has also held teaching positions

at MacDonald House of University Hospitals, Cleveland, Magee Women's Hospital and the School of Medicine of the University of Pittsburgh, and the Desert Regional Medical Center of Palm Springs.

John graduated from St. Charles Elementary School in Parma, then went on to the Home of Champions where he was president and salutatorian of the class of 1958 and a member of the National Honor Society. He played basketball for one year and baseball for three for legendary coach Augie Bossu. From there it was to John Carroll University, where John made the Dean's List every year, was President of the Scientific Academy and graduated with honors with a Bachelor of Science degree. He graduated with honors from the University of Pittsburgh Medical School, vice president of his class and in the top 10.

John continues to be a medical consultant in the Coachella Valley of southern California. He has been married for 52 years to JoAnn, a '59 graduate of Lourdes Academy. They have three children, Jill, Jane and Jay and eight grandchildren.

In a career that has spanned many years and continents, Dr. John Bednar has dedicated his knowledge and experience to delivering and improving health care for all. The Hall of Distinction proudly admits him to membership.

Dr. Tom Oleksiak, '81 SCIENCE



If you knew Tom Oleksiak when he was a student at Benedictine, you would have good reason to predict that he would pursue the sciences in college and his career. After all, he excelled in math and sciences, took chemistry at Notre Dame College his senior year and was his class's Phi Beta Kappa Award winner. But you might also

wonder if he would pursue his interests in theater and speech as well. For true to the liberal arts tradition, Tom also excelled in drama and was on the speech and debate team.

Today, Dr. Oleksiak is the principal lubrication scientist, in charge of rolling lubricant research and development, of Novelis Corporation, the world leader in rolled automotive and can sheets and aluminum products. Tom has also provided his expertise for Lubrizol, Castrol and Nalco corporations as a lubricant chemist. At Lubrizol, Tom was honored with the title of "Technical Fellow," and, at Nalco, he was named "Researcher of the Year" in his first year.

Tom has authored six patents, with three more pending, and over 20 technical papers and presentations. Tom is a nationally recognized expert in aluminum rolling lubrication and coolant emulsification.

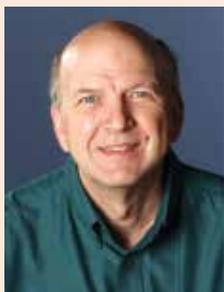
At Benedictine, Tom credits his math and science teachers for instilling a love of those fields in him. He especially remembers Ken Rados, Fr. Clement and Bishop Roger for their instruction and encouragement. Fr. Timothy and Mark Francioli also get a nod for their help in drama and writing critical arguments, respectively. Theater director Fr. Tim helped Tom break out of his shell and enjoy high school through drama productions and the drama club, which Tom presided over as president.

After graduation from Benedictine, Tom studied chemistry at John Carroll University, from which he graduated in 1985. He was awarded a research fellowship to pursue a doctorate at Duke University, where he received a PhD in physical chemistry in 1989. From there, he began a 26-year career in lubrication chemistry at Nalco.

Tom and his wife Denise have three children, Zach, Haleigh and Joshua. In his spare time, Tom enjoys reading, family time, church choir and cheering the Cleveland sports teams, which has been a lot easier this year.

In recognizing his status as a leading scientist and his commitment to his faith and family, the Hall of Distinction committee proudly admits Dr. Thomas Oleksiak to membership.

Terry Pluto, '73 JOURNALISM



Few can combine sports, writing and faith the way that the author of 23 books and "perhaps the best American writer of sports books" (Chicago Tribune) can. Terry Pluto has been the chronicler of Cleveland sports for decades now, winning awards from just about every organization that reads the sports pages. But he has also touched lives with his honest and pertinent columns on faith.

Previous to his current job on the Plain Dealer, he wrote for the Akron Beacon Journal, leaving in 2007. His awards and recognitions are numerous, including "Top Columnist" for medium-sized newspapers by Associated Press (twice), "Ohio Sports Writer of the Year" (nine times), induction into the Cleveland Journalism Hall of Fame, inaugural recipient of the "Chuck Heaton Award," and "Ohio Associated Press Best Sports Writer" (2010). In addition, the Plain Dealer's recognition by the Ohio Associated Press as having the "Best Daily Sports Section" (2007, '10, '11) owes more than a little to Terry's reporting and analysis.

Terry's books range from old Indians baseball to LeBron James, from franchise stories to individual lives, from the rise and fall of the Browns to the fall and rise of the Indians. His book *The Curse of Rocky Colavito* was chosen by the New York Times as

one of five notable sports books of 1989, and his take on the American Basketball Association, *Loose Balls*, was ranked #13 by Sports Illustrated's top 100 sports books of all time. His writing skills have also been put to good use in his weekly faith column, in which Terry has used the Bible and interviews with religious leaders to help people deal with a variety of issues, including loss, depression, addictions and forgiveness.

In addition to his busy career as a writer, Terry also is a frequent guest on radio and television sports shows. He is a popular public speaker on sports and faith and visits his alma mater's journalism class and newspaper staff to offer tips of the trade. Currently, Terry is at bookstores signing his latest book on the Cavs, *The Comeback: LeBron, the Cavs and Cleveland*.

As a high school student, Terry was a sports writer, editor of *The Bennet*, played basketball and baseball, was president of the National Honor Society and an officer in student government. After his graduation from Benedictine, he earned a degree in secondary education, with specialties in social studies and English, from Cleveland State University.

Terry's writing has helped to reflect, shape and bolster Clevelanders' image of themselves. With his insights into faith and living, Terry Pluto has used communications, in the Benedictine tradition, to improve and entertain all of us, and for that we proudly admit him into the Hall of Distinction.

CLASS NOTES

1958

Ron Gawryszewski – Retired, living in Killeen, TX. Loves hunting ducks, geese, dove, turkey, squirrels, deer, elk, hogs, varmints, and many other wild animals. Spends many hours with his wife, watching their six grandkids playing sports and dancing.

1960

Ron Kaczmarek – Retired from Northrop Grumman's Electrical Systems and returned to Cleveland settling in Chagrin Falls. Son, Daniel is an '89 graduate of BHS. We are blessed with 5 grandchildren.

1963

John Sabol – Has written four pictorial histories for Arcadia Publishing: Cleveland Czechs, Cleveland Slovaks, Cleveland's Buckeye Neighborhood and Kelley's Island. Also works as a freelance editor and writer and provides archival organization and preservation consulting and genealogical research services. Has become recognized nationally as a speaker on Cleveland history and genealogical research topics. Became a host of the Czech Voice of Cleveland Radio Program (now known as the New Czech Voice of Cleveland) WHKW-AM 1220 in Cleveland. Previous host was Joe Kocab '50.

1969

David Belin – Started his 30th year at Niagara LaSalle Corporation in January. Retirement is not too far off! His highlight of 2016 was a motorcycle trip to "The Tail of the Dragon" on the Tennessee/North Carolina border. It's in the Smokey Mountains, and has 318 turns in 11 miles. Two of his sons, David '97 and Jeff '98, joined him and they all have Harley-Davidsons. Next year we look forward to third son, Tom '01 and David '97 getting married.



Bengals 1997 Champions Reunion 20th Anniversary of BHS 1st Basketball State Championship and part of our Triple Crown School Year of 1996-97.

Coach Marty Hyland, Coach Steve Casey, Jacob Johnson, Anthony Holly, Casey Behm, Bill Mandich, and Tim Lorber were able to join us with their family and friends.

Great night for the Bengals and a big win over Lake Catholic.

Andrew Halasz – Retired from Amerex Corporation after 22 years. Moved back to Raleigh, North Carolina from Birmingham, AL. Enjoys being back in North Carolina residing in Raleigh, or at his beach place in Southport. Loves spending time with their four grandkids that keeps them busy and all are close by.

1970

Paul Antonelli – Married 37 years to Patricia. Father to 3 sons, Paul, David, and Michael. Grandfather to Sophia. Over 30 years ago, his wife Patricia founded a construction company to sell, design and install safe patient handling equipment for the developmentally disabled population.

Jerry Magyar – Retired from the Department of Defense after 44 years, living in Mechanicsburg, PA.

1984

Peter Balint – Moved to Austria after meeting his future wife at the end of 2014. Since his arrival, he has been studying German and teaching English and working independently in film production and web development. Although the ubiquitous culture shock and language barriers present some challenges, he feels like he can call Austria home now.

1989

Michael Kavalecz – Owner of Anthem Professional Services, Inc. Anthem Security. Provides training and consulting services on all security concerns. Also is an adjunct faculty at Cuyahoga Community College Public Safety Institute and Instructor for Police Academy, Corrections Academy and Private Security.

CLASS NOTES

2001

Jeffrey Snitzer – Has an MBS from Ursuline College and is a Business Analyst at the Cleveland Clinic.

2002

Thelemon Powell Jr. – In his 9th year as a Police Officer for the City of Cleveland. Currently is a detective after serving 8 years in the 4th District.

2011

Brennan Hall – Pursuing a Master of Divinity at Saint John's Seminary - School of Theology with a projected graduation in May 2018. Married Laura (Fox) Hall on July, 2016 at Saint John's Abbey Church in Colledgeville, MN.

2012

David Long – His a cappella group, Rhythm and Roos, advanced to semifinals of the International Collegiate Competition of Acapella in 2016. Based from the University of Akron they perform throughout Northeast Ohio.

2015

Max Furst – Qualified for the National Collegiate Wrestling Association National Championship Tournament placing second in the Great Plains Conference for Colorado State University Wrestling Team at 197lbs.



For the first time in BHS history, the baseball team has a permanent outdoor batting cage erected by Coach John Ellis on newly-acquired property next to the main BHS classroom building on M.L. King Drive.

Paul Joseph Triolo '16

Congratulations to **Paul Joseph Triolo** for receiving the Eagle Scout Award this past January! Paul attended BHS and graduated Summa Cum Laude in 2016. He played the trumpet and mellophone in Benedictine's marching, concert and jazz bands and acted in multiple productions for the Drama Club. He was the cartoonist and an editor of Benedictine's newspaper, *The Bennet*. He was also a three-year cross country letterman and team captain his senior year. PJ currently attends Syracuse University, where he is studying Citizenship and Civic Engagement and Geography. He is a member of the Outing Club and the Entrepreneurship Club at Syracuse.



PJ works as a camp counselor at Camp Christopher in Bath, Ohio. In his spare time PJ enjoys listening to music, watching movies and TV shows and hanging out with his friends. In the future he hopes to become a city planner.

PJ began his scouting career at Pack 71 at St. Ann's and he crossed over to Troop 22 in May of 2008 joining the Rocket Patrol. He served as Assistant Patrol Leader of the Turtle Spies Patrol, Patrol Leader of the Phoenix Patrol, Assistant Patrol Leader, Senior Patrol Leader and finally Junior Assistant Scout Master in his final year. His favorite campouts include two trips to Dorchester International Camporee, High Adventure at Sea Base and Canoeing in Algonquin. His Eagle Project involved the creation of a prayer garden around the statue of St. Michael the Archangel on the grounds of St. Andrew Abbey.

*As an addendum to the Annual Report that was included in our last issue, **Michael Monteleone '66** should be included on the Honor Roll of Donors at the \$10,000 – \$24,999 giving level as a charter member of the Scholars' Club whose members donate one full tuition each year to support incoming freshmen who score in the highest level of our entrance exam.*

In Memoriam

of Benedictine High School and friends of Saint Andrew Abby



Norbert Hongosh '54 died January 8, 2017. Norb was a lifelong musician and played the guitar and banjo with Kenny Bass and the Polka Poppers. He was a proud 1954 graduate of Benedictine High School and was featured on the cover of the Spring 2014 "Ora et Labora" with his three grandsons who were attending BHS and playing hockey.



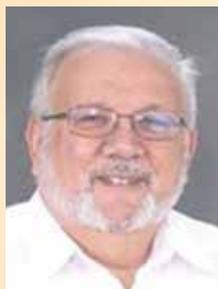
James Kazel '55 died on February 27, 2017. He is survived by his wife Dorothy and six children. Jim spent his life in sales and traveled to many interesting places. He was the brother of Ursuline Sister Dorothy Kazel who was martyred in El Salvador in 1980 and the brother-in-law of Joe Chapon '57.



Richard Palcie '67 died on December 15, 2016 in his beloved St. Casimir's Church shortly after finishing decorating the church for Christmas. Rich was active in the successful efforts to re-open St. Casimir's after it was closed by the diocese. He was also a very ardent Bengal football fan who attended as many games as he could and supported the annual BHS scholarship drive.



Andrew Piskura '67 died on February 20, 2017. He earned a master's degree in Social Work from CWRU and served as a social worker for the Cuyahoga County Board of Human Services. He was one of five brothers who graduated from BHS: Chuck '64, Tom '69, Jim '72, Joseph '75 and the uncle of the late Kevin '02.



Anthony Discenza died on December 14, 2016. Tony also was an adjunct instructor of Economics at John Carroll University, Lakeland Community College, and other local schools for many years and served as president of the Benedictine High School Board of Governors in the 1990s. His son Dan is a BHS alumnus of 1992.



Scott Hollifield '07 died on December 6, 2016 of injuries he sustained in a hit skip car accident in Barberton on November 30. He was a member of the Army National Guard.



David Nicolli '97 died on January 3, 2017 of complications following a stroke. He was the beloved husband for 8 years to Katie (nee Davey), devoted and loving father of Ella (age 4) and Avery (age 2). He was preceded in death by his father alumnus David Nicolli '61 in 2010. He is survived by his brothers Jason '93 and Anthony '95.

RECENTLY DECEASED

Class	Name	Deceased Date
1948	Stephen Trudick	1/25/2017
1951	John Phillips	11/4/2016
1954	Joseph Hongosh	1/2017
1955	James Kazel	2/27/2017
1955	Eugene Turski	1/12/2017
1957	George Shantery	11/11/2016
1958	Walter Luchka	12/31/2016
1958	Joseph Zelenka	1/13/2017
1958	Anthony Schilero	1/17/2017
1960	Joseph Zahorsky	12/2/2016
1960	Dennis Swenton	3/7/2017
1963	Emil Hirselj	11/9/2016
1967	Richard Palcie	12/14/2016
1967	Andrew Piskura	2/20/2017
1970	James Angelone	3/24/2017
1971	John Ruppert	12/4/2016
1972	Ronald Alten	12/2/2016
1985	Thomas Haluska	3/11/2017
1997	David Nicolli	1/3/2017
	Joseph Volenec	11/30/2016
	William Buzdon, age 40	3/11/2017
	<i>Father of Charles '20</i>	

If anyone knows of other recently deceased alumni, please contact Sue Pitts, Advancement Coordinator, spitts@clevelandbenedictines.org or 216-721-5300 x262.

ORA ET LABORA

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UPCOMING DATES & ACTIVITIES

BACCALAUREATE MASS
Sunday, May 21, 2017 at 2pm

CLASS OF 2017 GRADUATION
Tuesday, May 30, 2017 at 7pm

**2ND ANNUAL JOE MARINO
GOLF OUTING**
Thursday, June 1, 2017

MR. BENEDICTINE DINNER
Thursday, June 22, 2017

**ALUMNI REUNION
WEEKEND**
Friday, June 23 – Sunday, June 25,
2017

ALUMNI GOLF OUTING
Thursday, June 29, 2017

ST. ANDREW ABBEY BENEFIT
Sunday, September 24, 2017



HOME OF CHAMPIONS



JOIN US TO DISCOVER THE TRADITION OF BENEDICTINE HIGH SCHOOL

All campers will receive an exclusive Bengals "Dry-Fit" shirt.

ENGINEERING CAMP

Grades 6 – 8
Monday - Friday, 2 Weeks
July 31 - August 3 & August 7 - 10
9:00 am - 3:00 pm
Cost: \$200

Build a tank-style robot while learning how to code in Arduino. Starting from the ground up, we build the robot and then learn to program it to drive, back-up, turn, and stop. After, we will learn to add sensors like a push button and an ultrasonic distance sensor. Learning Arduino, students will learn to control the autonomous actions of the robot while learning how to add additional sensors for the future.

BASKETBALL SKILLS CLINICS

Grades 4-8, Cost: \$75
Monday - Wednesday, June 12-14
9:00 am - 12:00 pm

BASEBALL CAMP

Grades 4 - 8, Cost: \$75
Monday - Wednesday, June 19-21
9:00 am - 12:00 pm

HOCKEY CAMP

Summer 2017. Cost: \$25

LACROSSE FUNDAMENTAL SKILLS CLINIC

Grades 6-8, Cost: \$25
Monday, June 19
5:00 - 8:30 pm

BENGALS FOOTBALL MINI-CAMP

Grades 4 - 8, Cost: \$25
Saturday, July 22
9:00 am - 12:00 pm

SOCCER SKILLS BOOT CAMP

Grades 5-8, Cost: \$50
Tuesday-Thursday, June 20-22
3:00 - 6:00 pm

REGISTER TODAY!

To register or for more information visit www.cbhs.edu or call 216.421.2080 ext. 356

