

ORA ET LABORA



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

Summer 2019



Graduating Seniors Look to Begin Next Chapter

Page 12

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Benedictine High School
and **Saint Andrew Abbey**

Summer 2019

Abbot Gary Hoover, OSB '74
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ON THE COVER:

Pages 12-13 highlight where some of this year's graduating seniors will begin their next chapters.



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Abbot Gary's Reflection

“Behold, I make all things new.” (Rev.: 21:5)

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!” (2 Corinthians 5:17)

Late December, a young man shared with me that he was going to be confirmed later this year. This decision was not based on being brought up in the faith, since he was not, but rather the impact and influence of the religious men he encountered while at Benedictine. His eyes gleamed and his voice was full of joy as he shared his dreams with me. He freely chose to enter the Catholic Church because of the testimony to Jesus from the lives of others. He was so excited to embrace the faith, but more so to embrace Christ and to have Jesus as the center of his life. He was just bursting at the seams to proclaim Jesus to others. His enthusiasm was so strong that I could feel it and so did everyone else who came into his presence.

Perhaps you have been in his shoes whereby your passion for your faith, life, family, job/ministry, or for whatever truly drives you, gets you up in the morning and motivates you throughout your day. As time travels on, for many of us that passion which took hold of us starts to fade, many times facing roadblocks on the path of life and we no longer wake up anxious to tackle the day. Sometimes we feel just lucky to make it through the day.

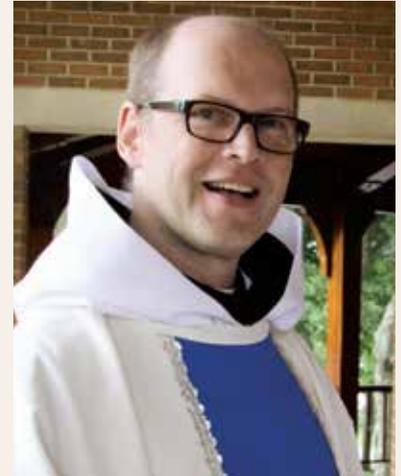
As summer approaches, for many it is time for vacation. Here in Ohio, as in many states, wonderful orange barrels appear. Anyone who has driven down the Interstates recently knows what chaos it

brings to our commute. Our lives sometimes feel that same way, we are cruising along and then we run into many barrels, which block or redirect our path. Just as the barrels in time will be removed and a new road revealed, Jesus Christ removes the obstacles and chaos we have on our own life's journey to reveal for us a new direction.

What are the everyday roadblocks we encounter? For some people just waking and getting out of bed is a roadblock. The stress of working, school, everyday life, can be a roadblock. Anything that is in our way of fully experiencing Jesus Christ is a roadblock. Jesus does not want us to be wandering through life without direction. He came into our lives in order to be our guide on our journey of life. Through his death and resurrection, Jesus paved the way for us.

How do we remove those roadblocks? The same way St. Benedict did, by taking time to **breathe** and **pray**.

We need to clear a way for Jesus to work through us and with us. We need to silence the noise for just a short time to listen to the plan Jesus has for you. We need to surround ourselves in His Love and Mercy to move past our roadblocks. We need to take the time to just **breathe** and **experience the presence of God**.



Rt. Rev. Gary A. Hoover, OSB '74

Taking the time to pause and take a breath when we hit a roadblock will not always be easy to do, but Jesus knows that and He will give us the opportunities to experience God's greatness. All we have to do is be aware and allow ourselves to be open to experiencing His Love.

We can allow ourselves to be strengthened in our faith to explore new and deeper depths of God. He makes us new people in Christ, as we know Him better through quiet times of prayer.

The next time you're driving through life and hit a roadblock, look around, listen and follow what Jesus has put in your heart. The next time you are driving down the Interstate, take a few minutes to **breathe** and **pray**. You might find your trip a little less chaotic.

Peace,

Abbot Gary, OSB

Brother Simon Professes Vows

Brother Simon Corrigan, OSB, 38, can be seen throughout the work day assisting in the sacristy. He works with Brother Gabriel Balazovic, OSB in flower arranging and liturgical preparations for the abbey church. “I enjoy working behind the scenes,” he comments. “It helps keep the reflective aspect of the monastic life even in my work.”



Hailing from Medina County, Brother Simon is a 1998 graduate of Highland High School in Medina and then studied Biology at the University of Akron from which he graduated in 2003. His deep baritone voice endeared him to the airwaves and he earned a diploma from the Ohio Center for Broadcasting in 2010. His parents, Thomas and Cheryl Corrigan, gave him a solid Catholic upbringing in their home with older sister Lizabeth. Members of Our Lady of Grace Parish in Hinckley,

the Corrigan family cherished their Catholic faith and Thomas soon found himself involved in many parish activities.

Living in the world, but not being satisfied with his life and the secular society around him, he began reading about the religious life. Visiting the Blessed Sacrament Fathers in Highland Heights, he yearned for something more reflective. Responding to a brochure about a weekend “Living with St. Benedict Retreat” in 2015, sponsored by the abbey, he enjoyed the experience and kept in touch with the monastic community through a number of subsequent visits. “Everything around me and my work pointed to an increasing secularized world that I knew was not enough for me. Sharing in the monastic life impressed me interiorly; the quiet was very influential in my decision, and I was drawn by the focus on the liturgy.”

Subsequent meetings with vocation director Fr. Thomas Sanders, OSB led to Brother Simon entering the Benedictine Order on June 12, 2017. After a six-month period called the *Postulancy*, in which a young man deepens the understanding of his vocation and the life of the Benedictines, he entered the *Novitiate* of the monastery: a year-long intensive study of Benedictine spirituality and the Rule in directly preparing a person for the monastic life. Brother Simon professed his triennial vows on January 26 of this year before Abbot Gary A. Hoover, OSB, the monastic community, his family and a small gathering of guests in the abbey church.

Working as assistant sacristan and with the abbey maintenance staff, Brother Simon can be seen repairing floors, laying tile, shoveling snow, keeping the kitchen and food service areas in good repair and a host of outside work on the abbey grounds.



Brother Simon Corrigan, OSB professing his triennial vows at St. Andrew Abbey.

“Brother Simon is a very conscientious worker,” comments Brother Gabriel Balazovic, OSB. “He is willing to help in any capacity and is very humble about it.” “I enjoy his smile,” said Mario Grandinetti, frequent visitor to the abbey and father of two recent alumni. “He makes you glad to be here and to share in the worship of the monks.” “His different experiences bring a wealth of knowledge and a willingness to learn in the classes in which he has participated,” says Formation Director Father Michael Brunovsky, OSB.

Brother Simon has just begun his vowed life with the Benedictines. With God’s help, he will profess his solemn vows (life commitment) in three years. Considering the journey he has traveled and his life experiences, he offers this advice to those who might feel the call—no matter how small—to the monastic/religious life: “You have nothing to lose: respond to grace and place your trust in God. The experience will be well worth it.”

We wish Brother Simon Corrigan, OSB the best with his continued journey in the ways of St. Benedict and pray for his continued perseverance and the fruitfulness of his vocation. If you see him on campus, be sure to say hello; like any Irishman, he is a great conversationalist with a ready sense of humor!

St. Andrew Abbey Space Utilization Project

St. Andrew Abbey Leadership is Studying How Its Extra Space Can Serve the Surrounding Community

In the fall of 1921, the executive council of the Slovak Catholic Federation in Youngstown, Ohio proposed sponsoring the founding of a Benedictine monastery in Cleveland with a high school for the education of the sons of Slovak immigrants.

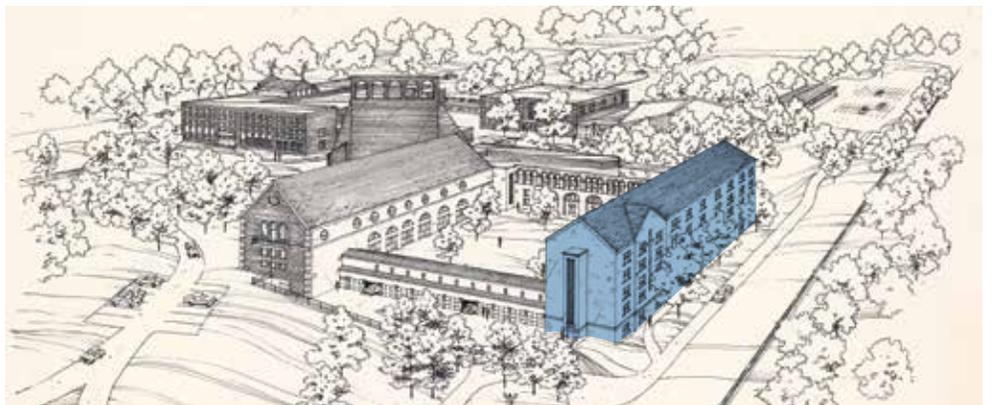
On January 9, 1922, the monastic chapter of St. Procopius Abbey in Lisle, Illinois voted to send monks to Cleveland to begin a new monastery at St. Andrew's Parish on Superior Street.

In 1928, the newly-created St. Benedict Parish on East Boulevard was established, and within a year, the monastery was declared an independent priory. Shortly after, land was purchased from Mt. St. Mary's Institute for Girls on Buckeye Road, with monks and students taking up their new residence in the fall of 1929. Rapid growth of the monastery followed, and on July 13, 1934, St. Andrew Priory became an abbey. Today, St. Andrew Abbey still holds the distinction of having the largest male Religious presence in northeast Ohio.

Despite this distinction of having these 25 monks in the community today, the abbey was built to house 80. The abbey took this mismatch as an opportunity to determine how the extra space could meet the Abbey's mission to serve the surrounding community. This project is happening at an especially relevant time with the new economic growth and unprecedented investment in the Buckeye-Woodland-Shaker and University Circle communities. These areas are the locations for the world-renowned Cleveland Clinic, the prestigious Case Western Reserve University, and many museums and businesses. That proximity makes the campus space an attractive location for tenants.



View of the west wing area of St. Andrew Abbey



The highlighted section of St. Andrew Abbey identifies the Space Utilization Project's area of study

The St. Andrew Abbey space utilization study was initiated with the objective to provide recommendations for the strategic use of the abbey's West Wing.

Funding for the study was provided by the National Religious Retirement Office (NRRO). The NRRO coordinates the annual national appeal for the Retirement

Fund for Religious and distributes financial assistance for retirement needs to eligible religious institutes.

So, like 1921 when leaders saw a need for an abbey to support this area, today Abbey leadership is following their lead to identify the community's needs that can be best addressed with the campus and its buildings.

For more information regarding the Space Utilization Project, please contact Abbot Gary Hoover, OSB at gary@cbhs.edu or 216-721-5300.

BEHIND THE SCENES:

The Slovak Institute Located at St. Andrew Abbey

Did you know the Slovak Institute Library is located in St. Andrew Abbey?

The Slovak Institute was created after WWII on September 15, 1952 by six founding fathers:

1. Fr. Andrew Pier, OSB
2. Dr. Karl Strmen
3. Dr. Frantisek Hrusovsky
4. Abbot Theodore Kojis, OSB
5. Dr. Joseph Cincek
6. Fr. Mikolas Sprinc

It was created to preserve and keep a rich history safe and available for all to benefit. Slovak individuals sent books, old maps, traditional clothing and family bibles to the Institute for safe-keeping when the communist party came to Slovakia. The Slovak Institute houses a collection of history that is unparalleled to any other museum's collection. Families all over the United States travel to Cleveland to reconnect to their Slovak heritage.

Many people who come are fourth generation Slovak Americans looking for a past that they wish to connect to. Guests pore over the countless books and maps to find their lost family history. The Institute has had many individuals make the pilgrimage from Slovakia to Cleveland to learn more about their past. Individuals have come to do research for books they are writing, to study, and work on college thesis work. When visited by individuals from Slovakia, they all say the same thing: "There is more valuable history at the Slovak Institute than what we can find in our own country."

Today, the Slovak Institute is placed under the watchful eye of Milan Kobulsky. Milan has been overseeing the Institute since August 2016. He cares for the past memories and with a great sense of pride he educates visitors on Slovakia history and customs.

People are still sending the Institute their Slovak memories to catalog a life that was rich in tradition that they hope to share with others.

If you wish to add to the collection or visit the Slovak Institute, please contact Milan Kobusky at 216-721-5300 ext. 294.



The Slovak Institute, located on the second floor of the abbey, houses thousands of books, maps, clothing, and other artifacts traditional to Slovak heritage.



Fall Feast

An Annual Benefit for Saint Andrew Abbey

SAVE THE DATE!
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2019

**The American-Croatian Lodge
34900 Lakeshore Boulevard
Eastlake, Ohio 44095**

1pm Mass

2pm Hors d'oeuvres & Refreshments

Followed by dinner, dancing, Slovak auction, live auction,
and fun festivities for the whole family

Invitation to Follow. For more details contact Debbie First at first@cbhs.edu.

Proud Alumni bringing our Mission to Life

From a blockbuster movie like *Avengers: Endgame* to the NFL draft to grads and friends in the classroom, MOB have indeed **“become a leader of their family, businesses and communities.”**

- Walking out of the movie theater after watching *Avengers: Endgame*, I was struck by how our very own Russo Brothers (Anthony '88 and Joe '89) directed such a remarkable piece of art and entertainment. They are certainly deserving of all their success and I can't wait for more from that dynamic duo.
- I was so grateful that Justin Layne '16 stopped by to visit us at school on the eve of the NFL draft. I add my congratulations to him on being a third round pick by the Steelers. From a Bengal to a Spartan to Steely McBeam, Justin makes a huge contribution in talent and character wherever he goes. I can't wait for more from Justin.

Here at school, we've had more extraordinary help in bringing our mission to life with our **College Ready – Career**

Bound Program. We keep adding layers and dimensions to helping our young men connect their high school experience to their future. Here are just a few examples of the many that gave “extraordinary help.”

- **The business of Education:** Mike Zelenka '97 addressed the student body as part of our morning Convocation the week after he was inducted into the Benedictine Hall of Distinction for his leadership roles in Catholic education. His insights linked with our Benedictine Hallmarks and focused on the role of Catholic education in developing young men and women.
- **The business of Sports:** Bruce Manno '71 also visited the school after his induction into the Hall of Distinction for his career as an executive



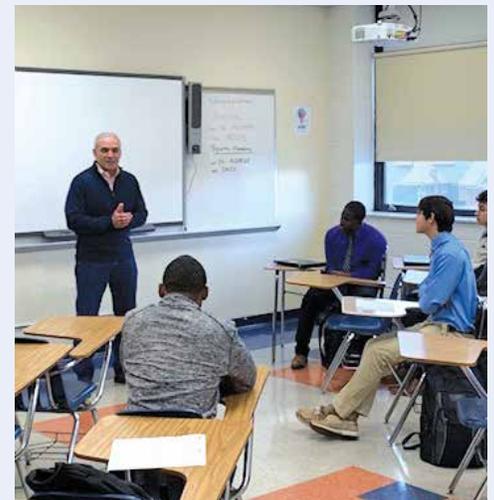
Dr. Frank Bossu '67

in major league baseball. He spoke to a class, providing great opportunity for questions and answers. As fascinating as his experience in the business of sports was to all our students, it was his career changing lesson of living up to your commitments that made the greatest impression.

- **The business of Philanthropy:** George Martin '54 and his wife, Anne, recently had their annual visit with the students from two near East Side Catholic grade schools who receive scholarship support from their



Joe '89 and Anthony '88 Russo take time to give an interview regarding their recent blockbuster hit, *Avengers: Endgame*.



Bruce Manno '71 speaks to a business class while in town for his induction into the Hall of Distinction.



Coach Mike Fratello shares life lessons and his experiences with some of our student-athletes.



endowment. They get to know their students better and provide context for their support.

Similarly, John DiPaola '78 met over a light lunch for a conversation with the students who are recipients of the Joe Marino High Tops Memorial Scholarships. This endowment in Joe's honor has a broad support from alumni and friends as it continues to grow each year. John is able to tell the students what Joe meant to Benedictine and what Benedictine meant to Joe, so they would better understand the expectations for their representation of this scholarship.

- **The business of being an Entrepreneur:**

Chuck Farro '67 met over lunch with students who own their businesses to discuss entrepreneurship and the types of problems they're facing relative to his experience in building businesses.

Mike Ford '76 met with a business class to discuss his own experiences building and selling different businesses in Southern California. He's able to talk from experience and answer questions based on his different types of businesses.

- **The business of Character Development:**

Chuck Farro introduced Benedictine to Mike Fratello, former coach of the Cleveland Cavaliers and currently a nationally recognized sportscaster. Mike Fratello met with some of our student-athletes to discuss the elements that led to success in his career and those of his players. His messages of hard work and dependability for successful professional athletes were consistent with Benedictine's Hallmarks of Ora et Labora and Discipline.

- **The business of Journalism:**

Terry Pluto '73, columnist for the *Plain Dealer* and author, spoke to Mr. Francioli's English class and *Bennet* staff about how being a lifelong learner has allowed him to adapt to the changing world of journalism.

May 9 was Career Day. I joined about 20 of our grads and friends to talk to our students about what I've done in the different stages of my career. Each of us had a slightly different story, but there was a common theme of finding our passion and learning to be principled leaders. By our presence, these learnings will bring the mission of Benedictine beyond the statement to the reality of ourselves.



Terry Pluto '73 visits with The Bennet staff earlier this spring.



Alumni and friends share their experiences during Career Day on May 9, 2019.

Again, consider this my personal invitation to join with our faculty, staff, alums and friends to be part of our College Ready-Career Bound Programs. These programs bring career professionals into contact with our students. Give a lecture. Sponsor a field trip. Mentor a student.

Your time is precious and your knowledge is invaluable for the development and inspiration of our young men. Please join us in bringing our Mission to Life. I can't wait for more from you.

Yours in Benedictine,
Doc Bossu '67

Principal's Message

Dear Friends of Benedictine,

As we recap another successful academic year of developing young men in mind, body, and spirit, I'd like to highlight, specifically, some of our academic successes over the last couple of months. We have so much to be proud of, as well as so much to be excited for with what is on the horizon regarding some of our programs and initiatives.



We kickoff our academic success by welcoming the newest members of the National Honor Society. Twenty-two students joined the eleven other Men of Benedictine in the Society on April 12, 2019. These students truly represent the four pillars of NHS which are: Scholarship, Service, Leadership, and Character. We are grateful for our guest speaker, Mr. Matthew Dober '14, a former NHS inductee and current History teacher at Benedictine, for his words of encouragement, motivation, and direction.



Additionally, we pay kudos to our Academic Challenge team under the direction of Mrs. Joy Whitbred and Mr. Rob Ryan. The team competed on the Channel 5 TV show "Academic Challenge" with an impressive 1st place victory over Gilmour Academy and Independence High School. Benedictine qualified for the 2019 Small Schools National Academic Challenge Tournament (2019 NAQT SSNCT), as well as the 2019 NAQT High School Nationals. In addition, both Stephen Zachlin '20 and Jonny Shell '19 qualified to compete in the 2019 Individual

Player National Championship Tournament (2019 NAQT IPNCT). The team traveled to Chicago at the beginning of May to compete against schools from all across the nation. Congratulations on all of your successes this year!



You have read and learned about our College Ready-Career Bound program throughout the year. We are extremely excited to announce the 4th area of study which will be implemented as part of next year's curriculum – Media and Communications. The program's director, Mr. Mark Francioli '71, will provide over 40 years of experience and knowledge to this popular field. Recently, Benedictine partnered with Ohio University's Scripps School of Communications and Journalism regarding the launch of this new discipline. Additionally, we are pleased to announce and congratulate Mr. Francioli as he has been named a Fellow of Ohio University, a distinction that only nine other educators in Ohio will hold this year.



The Benedictine Engineering Design Speaker Series meets on Wednesdays during club period. The club is in its fourth year and has 55 current members. Our students come ready for competition

THANK YOU!

After five years of service in the positions of Academic Dean and Principal, Mrs. Sue Zulandt will retire from Benedictine at the end of this school year. During her tenure, Benedictine began its engineering curriculum that has expanded into its College Ready-Career Bound program to also include concentrated studies in Medicine, Entrepreneurship and Media. Benedictine also has made important advancements in its academic offerings of college credit courses.

We are grateful for Mrs. Zulandt's commitment and dedication to the development of our young men. In appreciation for all that she has done, we would like recognize her contributions and wish her the best in retirement.



Mrs. Sue Zulantt

and fun. The club has also participated in Manufacturing Day at NASA, visited TESLA's local distribution center and hosted guest speakers from Kent State University, Lincoln Electric and Virgin Orbit. Presently, the club is working with Cleveland State University to host a week-long summer camp with students from both Benedictine and Beaumont. In addition, as engineers are service oriented, we have partnered with Christ Child and made 60 blankets for their "MY Stuff" program. This program supports children in the Child and Family Services and/or shelters.

Our Entrepreneurship Program is directed by Mr. Rob Stircula '97. In addition to the traditional College Preparatory curriculum here at Benedictine, there are eight courses that each student must complete to receive certification in this field. The class instruction for the program is project-



based learning. Along with the coursework, the students involved in this program frequently take part in competitions, both locally and regionally. They participate in Teen Pitch Tank, The University of Iowa Jacobson Institute Innovation Competition, Think Big Competition, Pitchfest/Thinkfest, Veale Youth Entrepreneurship Forum Business Plan Competition and Venture Challenge. The Junior Achievement Titan Competition was another challenge in which our students participated. Our young men came in 3rd in this recent competition. Three of our young men have been highlighted and received accolades from the development, execution, and success of their businesses. The three students are:

1. **Matt Stauffer '20 (21 Sox)**
2. **Andy Barba '20 (GOAT Sports)**
3. **Derek Berdysz '19 (Keep it Clean Landscaping)**

Lastly, our fourth program is our BenMed Program. It is a Medical Program associated with St. Vincent Charity Medical



Center. BenMed is a proposed 4-year, 3 summer course of study for students interested in the medical field. This program, too, has a club that meets approximately 20 times a year. BenMed invites a career professional four times a year to speak to the young men. The students in the program go every Wednesday morning to St. Vincent Charity Medical Center for hands-on learning experiences and shadowing of medical professionals. Our students have the opportunity to observe operations, visit patients and go on rounds with the medical staff. The main objective of the program is to develop in the students an appreciation of the academic rigor required to enter their respective field of study upon entering an institution of higher learning. Along with the curriculum and hands-on learning experiences, the students also will be required to complete a summer internship in order to receive the BenMed certificate of completion their senior year.

As you can see, our young men are receiving many different learning experiences both in the classroom and in these specific disciplines. We are grateful for the partnerships that have been created, as well as all of the alumni and friends involved in our advisory panels and guest lecture series. We look forward to the programs evolving and sharing even more success that our Men of Benedictine are obtaining here at the "Home of Champions."

God Bless,

Sue Zulantt,
Principal

GRADUATING SENIORS LOOK TO BEGIN NEXT CHAPTER

530 applications to over 150 different colleges/universities with \$9 million in academic scholarships were awarded to this year's senior class. Just like Benedictine's diverse enrollment made up of students from all over Northeast Ohio, our graduating seniors will take their next journey all across the United States. You'll see and read a snapshot of where some of our young men will begin their next chapter.

YOANN AXEL AHYI

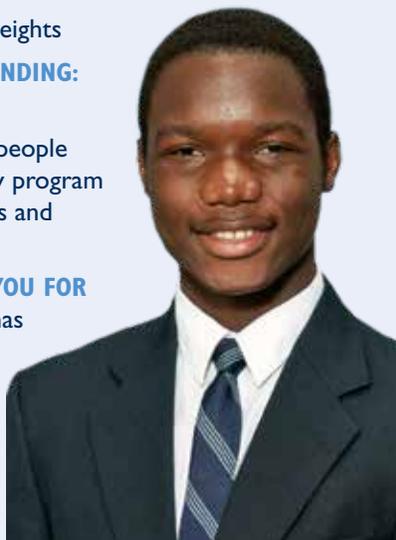
GRADE SCHOOL ATTENDED: I am from Africa

RESIDES IN: Warrensville Heights

COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY ATTENDING:
Miami University of Oxford

WHY? The campus and the people are amazing. The technology program offers me numerous choices and opportunities.

HOW HAS BHS PREPARED YOU FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY? BHS has helped me to be more responsible, take more leadership positions and I appreciate the diversity.



DEREK BERDYSZ

GRADE SCHOOL ATTENDED:

Twinsburg Public School

RESIDES IN: Twinsburg

COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY ATTENDING:
John Carroll University

WHY? One of the top business schools, religious based, a lot of connections, want to stay more local to keep my landscaping business growing, fantastic reputation.

HOW HAS BHS PREPARED YOU FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY? By helping me to grow up and become more independent. BHS gave leadership opportunities and roles that helped me grow.



BILLY BOEHLKE

GRADE SCHOOL ATTENDED:

St. Mark's

RESIDES IN: Cleveland

COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY ATTENDING: West Point

WHY? To receive a great education, continue athletics at the highest collegiate level, and to lead men.

HOW HAS BHS PREPARED YOU FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY? Provided a great work ethic and education to prepare me for college.



ANTHONY KUSNERIK

GRADE SCHOOL ATTENDED:

St. Albert the Great

RESIDES IN: Parma

COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY ATTENDING:
University of Dayton

WHY? I fell in love with the school and the campus.

HOW HAS BHS PREPARED YOU FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY? It has given me the foundation I needed to be successful, and the freedom to grow to become the man I am today.



MAXWELL MONACHINO

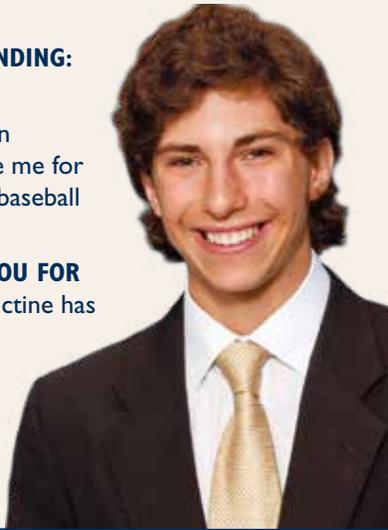
GRADE SCHOOL ATTENDED: Twinsburg Middle School

RESIDES IN: Twinsburg

COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY ATTENDING: Wittenberg University

WHY? Great school to get an education and it will prepare me for the future. I am also playing baseball there.

HOW HAS BHS PREPARED YOU FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY? Benedictine has taught me lessons about life while preparing me to be a man. Benedictine has instilled morals that I will always have with me no matter where I go.



JARRED MURRAY

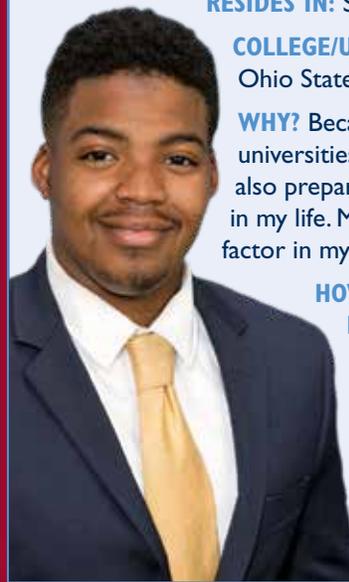
GRADE SCHOOL ATTENDED: Homeschooled

RESIDES IN: Shaker Heights

COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY ATTENDING: The Ohio State University

WHY? Because OSU is one of the best universities in the country. The school will also prepare me best for what I want to do in my life. My college scholarship also was a factor in my decision.

HOW HAS BHS PREPARED YOU FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY? BHS has taught me the value of work and discipline. Through my four years, I have realized that we are given all the tools to succeed, yet if we do not use them wisely then we are failing ourselves.



JOHN SALEM

GRADE SCHOOL ATTENDED: Kenston Middle School

RESIDES IN: Chagrin Falls

COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY ATTENDING: University of Notre Dame

WHY? My dad attended Notre Dame, and I have been a lifelong fan. I am excited to attend such a prestigious university.

HOW HAS BHS PREPARED YOU FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY? Benedictine encouraged me to pursue a Catholic education for years after high school.



ANDREW SCHIFFER

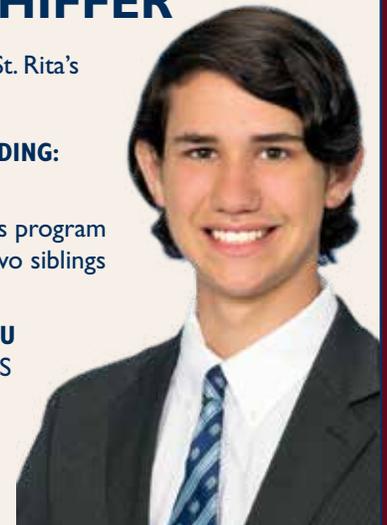
GRADE SCHOOL ATTENDED: St. Rita's

RESIDES IN: Aurora

COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY ATTENDING: West Virginia University

WHY? I really like the business program and the campus. I also have two siblings at West Virginia.

HOW HAS BHS PREPARED YOU FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY? BHS has helped me mature and become a better person, both in and out of the classroom.



JONATHAN SHELL

GRADE SCHOOL ATTENDED: Willoughby Middle School

RESIDES IN: Willowick

COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY ATTENDING: Walsh University

WHY? The school is like Benedictine, small size, feeling like a family, and a Catholic university.

HOW HAS BHS PREPARED YOU FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY? BHS has taught me to be open to anyone, no matter what your first impression might be.



KRISJON SPRING

GRADE SCHOOL ATTENDED: Monticello Middle School

RESIDES IN: Cleveland

COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY ATTENDING: Case Western Reserve University

WHY? Top-tier education with great value and internship opportunities.

HOW HAS BHS PREPARED YOU FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY? By instilling a sense of character along with constant support from teachers, administration and peers.



Hall of Distinction

On November 10th, 2018 four Men of Benedictine were inducted into our Hall of Distinction. The Hall of Distinction honors alumni who have earned the highest esteem of peers in their field, have achieved excellence in their profession, and have advanced the world and society in the tradition of St. Benedict. Dr. Tom Evans '59 – Clinical and Forensic Psychology, Bruce Manno '71 – MLB Administration, Development & Scouting, Mike Zelenka '97 – Education and Richard Paul '99 – NBA Agent & Entrepreneur were the four inductees for the seventh induction class. To nominate an alum for future inductions, please contact Mark Francioli at francioli@cbhs.edu. **Save the Date for this year's Hall of Distinction: Saturday, November 16, 2019!**



Mike Zelenka '97, Bruce Manno '71, and Dr. Tom Evans '59 pose for a picture.

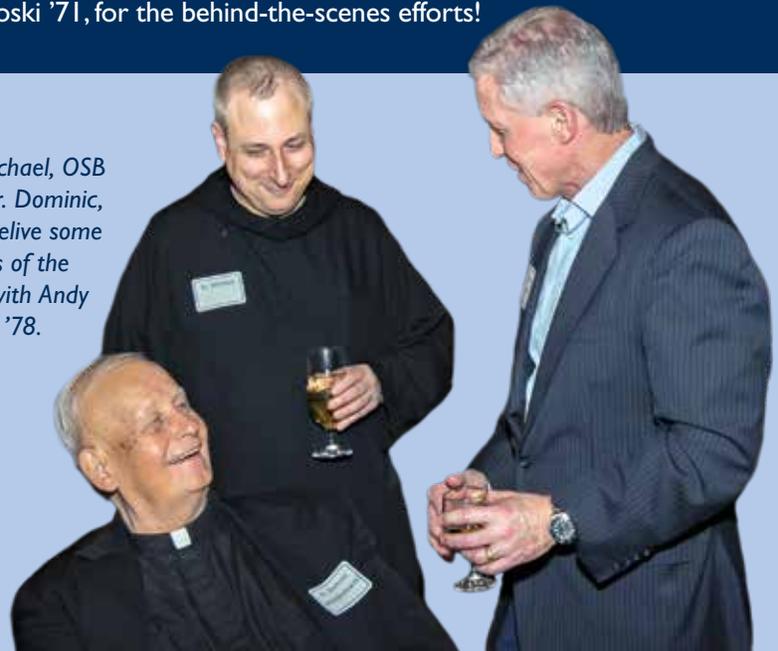


Family, friends, and alumni joined together at the Western Reserve Historical Center.

Hall of Fame & Hall of Honors

With over 300 people in attendance this year, the Hall of Fame – Hall of Honors induction ceremony brought in its largest crowd since the inaugural induction ceremony. Thank you to everyone who showed support and was able to celebrate the success of these eight deserving Men of Benedictine. A special thank you to BHS historian, Wally Mieskoski '71, for the behind-the-scenes efforts!

Fr. Michael, OSB and Fr. Dominic, OSB relive some stories of the past with Andy Smith '78.



The Garland Roofing Company provides a gift in memory of Frank Janoch '56 to Benedictine High School recognizing his professional career with the company. Tom Janoch '57 (right) accepted Frank's induction posthumously.



Congratulations to the 2019 Inductees!

From left to right: (standing) Jamie Georgeson '78, Tom Janoch '57 (On behalf of Frank Janoch '56), Wayne Bacik '70, Brendan Walton '84, (sitting) Kevin Coffey '96, Gary Barnes '69, Rev. Dominic Mondzelewski '60 & Jeff Chorba '63.



Families, friends, and Men of Benedictine celebrated the success of eight inductees at Windows on the River on February 24, 2019.

17TH ANNUAL

Blue & White

BENEDICTINE HIGH SCHOOL **GALA**

What a special night! Over 350 alumni, friends, parents, and community leaders gathered at The InterContinental – Cleveland to celebrate our student successes, as well as support student scholarships. The event generated over \$340,000 in financial aid assistance for both current and incoming students. This year's theme recognized our partnerships with St. Vincent Charity Medical Center and the Cleveland Clinic Children's Rehabilitation Center along with the learning opportunities in which they provide to our students. As always, the silent and live auctions were a hit, while the Fund-A-Need portion of the evening was a grand slam! We thank all who supported and look forward to next year's Gala.





SAVE THE DATE FOR 2020

***Benedictine High School Blue and White Gala
Saturday, March 14, 2020***



SWIMMING

Although the Benedictine Swimming and Diving team only had four competitors this winter, they made a big splash in the North Coast League. Four year letterman Lawrence Rummel was great in the 200 freestyle and was complemented by the performance of sophomore Jordan Myers. Other sophomores experiencing big successes were divers Chuck Malberti, who took a third place in the NCL diving and Luke Faulisi, who won the NCL diving competition and placed fifth in the state competition at Canton's natatorium.



BOWLING

The bowlers fielded a ten man roster behind Coach Jim Konzos. Successes were led by four year lettermen Casey Meinecke and Ryan Mersek. Senior Gavin Majikas also earned his second letter, while the balance of the roster was ninth and tenth graders who look promising for the future Benedictine keglers.



HOCKEY

Benedictine's resurgence in hockey under graduates Bob and Jim Kehres impressed the highly competitive Red Division of the Greater Cleveland High School Hockey League. The Bengals

finished league play with a 5-6-1 record and overall finished 11-14-1. Leading the way were seniors Matt Carson, Mike Iammarino, Andrew Schiffer and Mark Tisdale. Great play in goal by junior Tristan Cotter and big time contributions from many underclassmen helped the Bengals to wins over much bigger schools like Avon, Solon, Hudson, Strongsville and North Olmsted. Another highlight game was a 4-3 loss to Baron Cup and Red Division winner Mentor. Great things await the Bengal icers.

BASKETBALL



Rob Stircula's hoopsters captured the school's 14th District Title defeating Revere 70-54 at Stow High School. A tough Regional Semi-Final loss to VASJ eliminated the Bengals in Canton. Senior Rory Kilbane was awarded the Ronnie James Handcuff Award for his defensive play and senior JaKeith Scott-Choice received the Lad Hudac Award. Bowling Green State University recruit Davin Zeigler surpassed the 1,000 career point mark and led the Bengals to a 15-11 record including 7-3 in the North Coast League.



WRESTLING

The wrestling team qualified six student/athletes to the District tournament at Norwalk: Derek Berdysz, Christian Isom, Joe Marrone, Jalen Smith, Matt Stauffer and Thomas Jolly. Senior Derek Berdysz advanced to the State Final in Columbus where he went 1-2 and finished his career at Benedictine as a four time District qualifier and second all-time in school history for career wins at 122.

SAVE THE DATE!

REUNION WEEKEND 2019

JUNE 21-23, 2019

2014

5 YEAR REUNION

1974

45 YEAR REUNION

2009

10 YEAR REUNION

1969

**50 YEAR REUNION
GOLDEN YEAR!**

2004

15 YEAR REUNION

1964

55 YEAR REUNION

1999

20 YEAR REUNION

1959

60 YEAR REUNION

1994

25 YEAR REUNION

1954

65 YEAR REUNION

1989

30 YEAR REUNION

1949

70 YEAR REUNION

1984

35 YEAR REUNION

1944

75 YEAR REUNION

1979

40 YEAR REUNION

1939

80 YEAR REUNION

2019 Alumni Calendar Dates

JUNE 20

Mr. Benedictine Dinner

NOVEMBER 3

All Souls Memorial Mass

JUNE 21

Reunion Weekend Stag Night

NOVEMBER 16

Hall of Distinction

JUNE 23

Reunion Weekend Mass and
Breakfast

MARCH 14

Blue and White Gala

SEPTEMBER 22

Abbey Benefit – Fall Feast

APRIL 25

Festa

REUNION 2019

We are looking for class leaders and volunteers from classes ending in the 4's and 9's for our 2019 reunion to help celebrate anniversary years.

Please contact alumni@cbhs.edu.

50TH 1969

25TH 1994

10TH 2009

Class of 1959

Bill Gurnick was inducted into Ohio University's Hockey Hall of Fame. Bill was known for being a superb goalie and having made numerous saves for the Bobcats in their early years of the hockey program. After the 1962-1963 season, he received the honor of Ohio Hockey's Most Valuable Player. Bill played semi-pro hockey before teaching in Strongsville schools for 30 years. He now resides in Litchfield, OH.

Class of 1995

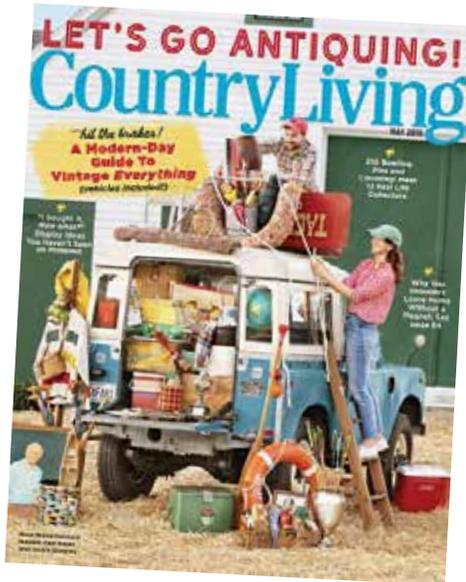


Ryan Ryzner was named the next principal at Benedictine High School. Ryan was part of the Benedictine faculty from 2001-2012, and most recently served as the Assistant Director of the Upper School at Gilmour Academy. Additionally, he has served as Gilmour Academy's Middle School Director. Stay tuned for more information, background and experience, and vision

for BHS in a future publication. Congratulations, Ryan!

Class of 2009

Paul Havel and his partner Jackie Greaney were voted by *Country Living* as some of the country's most creative people. They recently appeared on the cover of *Country Living* and are known to some as treasure hunters. Paul and Jackie have teamed up to use their design skills in a full-service studio working with big brands.



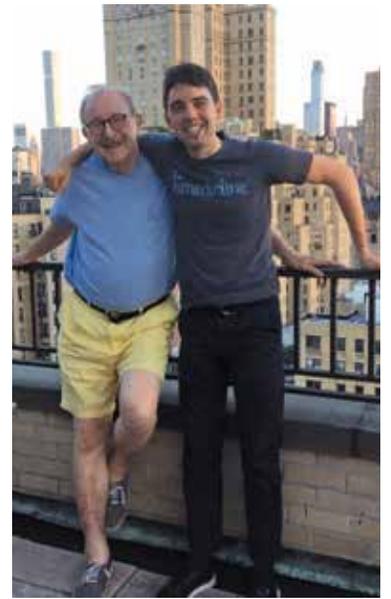
Class of 2010



Congratulations to **Fr. Martin Dober**, one of seven Dober brothers to attend Benedictine High School, who was recently ordained a priest at St. John Cathedral on Saturday, May 18, 2019 by Bishop Nelson Perez. Fr. Dober has been assigned as the parochial vicar (assistant pastor) of St. John Vianney Parish in Mentor.

Class of 2011

Luke Szabados had yet to meet anyone in his apartment building on Manhattan's Upper West Side. Little did he know, **Joe Owczarek '57** had been living four floors below him for over 40 years. It wasn't until their apartment threw an annual building party that the two Men of Benedictine met. Luke and Joe grew a bond that sometimes would have Luke cat sitting and Joe paying him with Polish dumplings. They celebrated their shared Benedictine brotherhood with others in the building, reminiscing on the different but similar experiences they had at BHS. Luke wrote, "It's certainly nice to know that the supportive web of the Benedictine community stretches beyond my expectations."



Class of 2013

Frank Vareska won the 2019 National Collegiate Landscape Competition. He finished with the leading score among nearly 800 competitors at the annual event held March 20-23 at Colorado State University. The annual competition challenges students in 29 individual or group events that require the expertise needed to work in the industry. It is organized by the National Association of Landscape Professionals. Frank's performance led Tri-C's team to a third-place overall finish at the event, which attracted more than 60 of the nation's top horticulture and landscape programs from two- and four-year schools. Tri-C placed first among community colleges.



Class of 2016

Justin Layne was drafted by the Pittsburgh Steelers in the third round of the 2019 NFL Draft. Layne was a three-sport athlete at Benedictine, also starting on the basketball team and setting records for the Bengals track program. He went on to Michigan State University where he switched his position from wide receiver to cornerback and became a force on the Spartans defense. Layne finished his career at Michigan State with 130 total tackles, 3 interceptions and 27 passes deflected. Congratulations, Justin!

Class of 2017

Billy First decided to take a different approach for his spring break trip this year. Rather than heading to the typical beach destination, Billy rode his bike to Boston in May ... 600 plus miles! His longest day was over 80 miles and the weather was not always seasonally appropriate; his coldest day was 30°F, wet and snowy, requiring him to purchase warmer gear en route. Billy followed the historic Erie Canal for much of the trip and mapped out many of his overnight stays at “Warmshowers” locations, an Airbnb-like community for touring cyclists. He also hammock-camped on nights he didn’t have overnight accommodations. Billy is majoring in philosophy and will graduate from The Ohio State University in 2021. His current plan is to continue his studies in philosophy to teach at the college level or attend law school.



BENGAL CLASS CHALLENGE

Some of you may have already received a letter from a class agent in your graduating class and some of you will be receiving those letters soon. The letter speaks on the Bengal Class Challenge, which is a challenge amongst all alumni to see which class has the largest Bengal Pride through their giving participation. Give a gift to help your class receive a trophy that will be displayed in the halls of Benedictine outside of the main office. No donation is too large or too small, the participation is what counts! ***An envelope is enclosed for your convenience if you wish to participate and make a gift to the annual fund.*** For more information or to see how you can be a class agent, contact Bryan Lacey at lacey@cbhs.edu or 216-421-2080 ext. 342.



Do you have any class notes that you wish to share with the Benedictine Community? Recently married? Had a child? Job promotion? Won an award? Had a unique travel or trip experience? If so, please contact Alumni Director, **Bryan Lacey**, at lacey@cbhs.edu or 216-421-2080 ext. 342.



Chris Lorber '04

Giving Back to the Home of Champions

Dear Benedictine Community,

As another school year concludes and each Man of Benedictine advances to that next level of challenge and responsibility, we are reminded that it is your support that gives our young men the special opportunity to attend Benedictine High School. Additionally, we are pleased to welcome the 92nd graduating class to call BHS their beloved Alma Mater!

The young men who received their diploma last week will soon ask the same question that so many of you, our graduates and close friends, ask... *"How can I help?"*

A common response of mine is... **"by getting involved: participating in an event; visiting campus and sharing your story; attending Reunion Weekend; helping the next generation of students by contributing to the Annual Fund."**

The current student body, and those new students whom we will welcome in August, benefit from each of those activities of involvement identified above. If you are a graduate of Benedictine, you were a beneficiary of those who came before you, too. We thank you for keeping our rich history alive by partaking in one or all of those areas each year!

Reunion Weekend will recognize the classes ending in '4 and '9, but **ALL** Men of Benedictine are welcome back the weekend of **June 21-23, 2019**. Congratulations to the graduates from **1994** and **1969** who celebrate their 25th and 50th milestones. If you are interested in attending and reminiscing with old friends, as well as visiting the campus and reliving special memories, please contact Alumni Director, Mr. Bryan Lacey, at lacey@cbhs.edu or 216-421-2080 ext. 342.

As our fiscal year will end on **June 30, 2019**, we still have students that need your help. If you have not yet made your annual gift or wish to make a second gift, please use the enclosed envelope to do so. In addition to mailing in a gift or making a donation online at www.cbhs.net/giving, we're excited to share that you can donate through the convenience of your phone by texting the word **BENGALS** to **74121**. We hope you enjoy that new feature and modernized approach to philanthropy!

I thank you for your consideration in **helping** and changing the life of a student, multiple students, or the entire student body as we conclude yet another year of developing young men in mind, body, and spirit.

I look forward to seeing you at a future event.

Yours in Benedictine,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Chi L '04". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mr. Chris Lorber '04
Vice President of Advancement

In Memoriam

of Benedictine High School and friends of
Saint Andrew Abbey



Martin Svec '50 passed away on January 3, 2019 at the age of 86. A standout pitcher for Joe Rufus' 1950 Bengal baseball squad, Marty ran the varsity's consecutive shutout innings to 21 with a four hit victory over Collinwood and then later beat the Railroaders again 7-1. His nephew Fr. Gerard Gonda, OSB celebrated his funeral Mass at Our Lady of Hope Parish (St. Pius Church) in Bedford.



Gerald Bush '53, the first "Mr. Benedictine," died at the age of 84 in Fort Wayne, Indiana on January 30, 2019. At BHS, Jerry was a City All-Scholastic on the football team and ran track. Jerry received a B.S. in Education from the University of Dayton and an M.S. from the University of St. Francis. He taught and coached at BHS from 1957-60 before moving to Indiana.

Jerry retired after a lengthy career in teaching, coaching and school administration in the Fort Wayne area. In retirement, he was active with St. Charles Borromeo Parish.



Rita Smith, 82, passed away on February 11, 2019 and was buried from Gesu Church. She was the wife of 61 years of former BHS business manager David Smith and mother of six including BHS alumni Andy '78 and Dan '82 and grandmother of Dylan '06 and Riley '08.



Joseph Banas, 98, of the Class of 1938, died on February 23, 2019. From May 6, 2018 until his death, Joe held the title of *Oldest Living Alumnus of Benedictine High School*. Joe received a degree in Mechanical Engineering from Fenn College and spent 30 years in the steel industry, along with another 20 in civil and medical positions. He served in WWII as a

Second Lieutenant in the South Pacific and was most proud of his experience in helping rebuild a Catholic Filipino Cathedral that had been bombed during the war, one of the stories he recounted when he spoke to BHS history classes dressed in his WWII uniform in 2011. Joe's second cousin, Fr. Gerard Gonda, OSB, celebrated his funeral Mass at St. Columbkille's Church.



Mary DiGeronimo, 92, was buried from Holy Rosary Church on March 28, 2019. She was a faithful member of the late Fr. Placid's volunteer group and the mother of veteran BHS teacher Richard '73, longtime BHS transportation department mechanic David '80, and alumni Dennis '71 and Victor '72 and grandmother of Anthony '08, Michael '10, and Nick '14.



Angela Koers, 91, was buried from St. Andrew Abbey Church on April 13, 2019 with Abbot Gary as the celebrant. Mother of alumnus and former BHS Transportation Director Dean Koers '78, Angie worked in the BHS cafeteria from 1981-90 and was one of the late Fr. Placid's loyal volunteers for many years.



Betty Bednarski, 90, was buried from Saints Robert and William Church in Euclid on April 15 with her nephew Fr. Anselm Zupka, OSB as the celebrant and homilist. Betty served as Fr. Anselm's secretary in the BHS Guidance Office from 1971-76 and often entertained monks from the abbey when they attended BHS football games in Euclid.

RECENTLY DECEASED

The following members of our Benedictine Community have gone on to Eternal Rest between 2/23 and 4/15. May they all Rest in Peace.

Class	Name	Deceased Date
1938	Joseph Banas	2/23/2019
1945	George Drda	2/14/2019
1949	George Gregus	12/21/2018
1949	Rudy Holpit	1/9/2019
1950	Martin Svec	1/3/2019
1951	Frank Petsock	12/31/2018
1951	Richard Putka	1/4/2019
1952	Joseph Bokar	12/24/2018
1953	Gerald Bush	1/30/2019
1953	James Sekerak	3/26/2019
1958	Raymond Baumbich	11/29/2018
1958	Frank Riha	4/17/2019
1962	John Janoch	12/21/2018
1963	Walter Kaltenbach	12/18/2018
1967	James Kickel	11/24/2018
1967	Gregory Roberson	4/10/2019
1969	Andrew Hanis	11/21/2018
1972	Gerald Easter	2/14/2019
	Anthony Szabo	12/20/2018
	Olga Horvath	1/21/2019
	Rita Smith	2/11/2019
	Sam Miller	3/7/2019
	Mary DiGeronimo	3/24/2019
	Angela Koers	4/13/2019
	Betty Bednarski	4/15/2019

Please pray for William Strazinsky '64, who passed away on 1/11/2018, but was not listed in the previous publication.

If anyone knows of other recently deceased alumni, please contact Bryan Lacey at lacey@cbhs.edu or at 216-421-2080, ext. 342

ORA ET LABORA

St. Andrew Abbey/Benedictine High School
2900 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive
Cleveland, Ohio 44104-4898

Change Service Requested

UPCOMING DATES & ACTIVITIES

Thursday, June 20

Mr. Benedictine Dinner

Friday, June 21

Reunion Weekend Stag Night

Sunday, June 23

Reunion Weekend Mass and Breakfast

Sunday, September 22

Abbey Benefit – Fall Feast

Sunday, November 3

All Souls Memorial Mass

Saturday, November 16

Hall of Distinction

Saturday, March 14

Blue and White Gala

Saturday, April 25

Festa

