

# ORA ET LABORA



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

Spring 2021



## FAITH AND SCIENCE AS PARTNERS FOR TRUTH

*Senior Ivan Shuran works on a physics experiment under the gaze of Divine Mercy.*

Page 12

# Easter – Living the Life of the Spirit

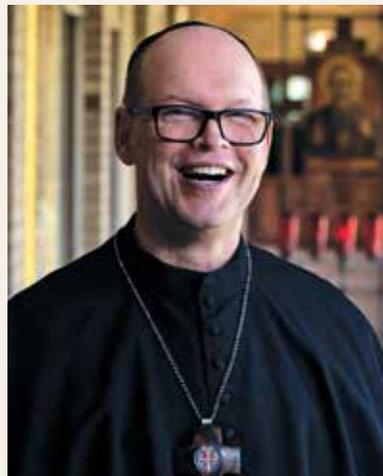
**ALLELUIA! CHRIST IS RISEN!** We are currently in the Easter season which lasts through Pentecost Sunday. As followers of Christ, we are an “Alleluia” people, not just for Easter Day, which we just celebrated, but for a lifetime!

Pentecost is the celebration of the Holy Spirit who came upon the Apostles, Mary, and the followers of Jesus while they were gathered together in the Upper Room in the dark times after Jesus’s crucifixion and murder, supporting and praying with each other, not knowing what was in store for them. A strong wind filled the room and tongues of fire came to rest upon all who were present allowing them to speak in different languages and enabling them to share the message of Jesus with others, no matter where they came from. The Holy Spirit also gave the Apostles various gifts, including speaking in tongues/various languages of the people to fulfill the great commission to go out and preach the Gospel to all nations.

Have you ever been in the presence of someone who radiates the Holy Spirit? You can just feel the presence of God all around them and coming from within them. I was blessed with having that happen a few times in my life. One of those times was in 1978; I was at John Carroll University when Mother Teresa

received an honorary Doctorate of Humane Service in Kulas Auditorium. I physically felt the radiance of God’s love and peace flowing from her from the moment she entered the auditorium and throughout her time with us even though I was not physically close to her. Just being in the same room with her, I felt the Spirit of Christ. Jesus Christ taught us that we are to simply love one another and care for them. Mother Teresa accepted the lessons of the Gospels and brought them to life. She was an amazing example of the nine fruits of the spirit: Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness and Self-Control.

It is easy to use Mother Teresa as a role model because she dedicated every waking moment to living out the message of Jesus Christ. While you and I may not ever be canonized a saint, God expects and asks us to be saintly in our own lives, in our own way, as Mother Teresa was true to God and to herself. God sent his son, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit to give us guidance in achieving our personal best. How can you



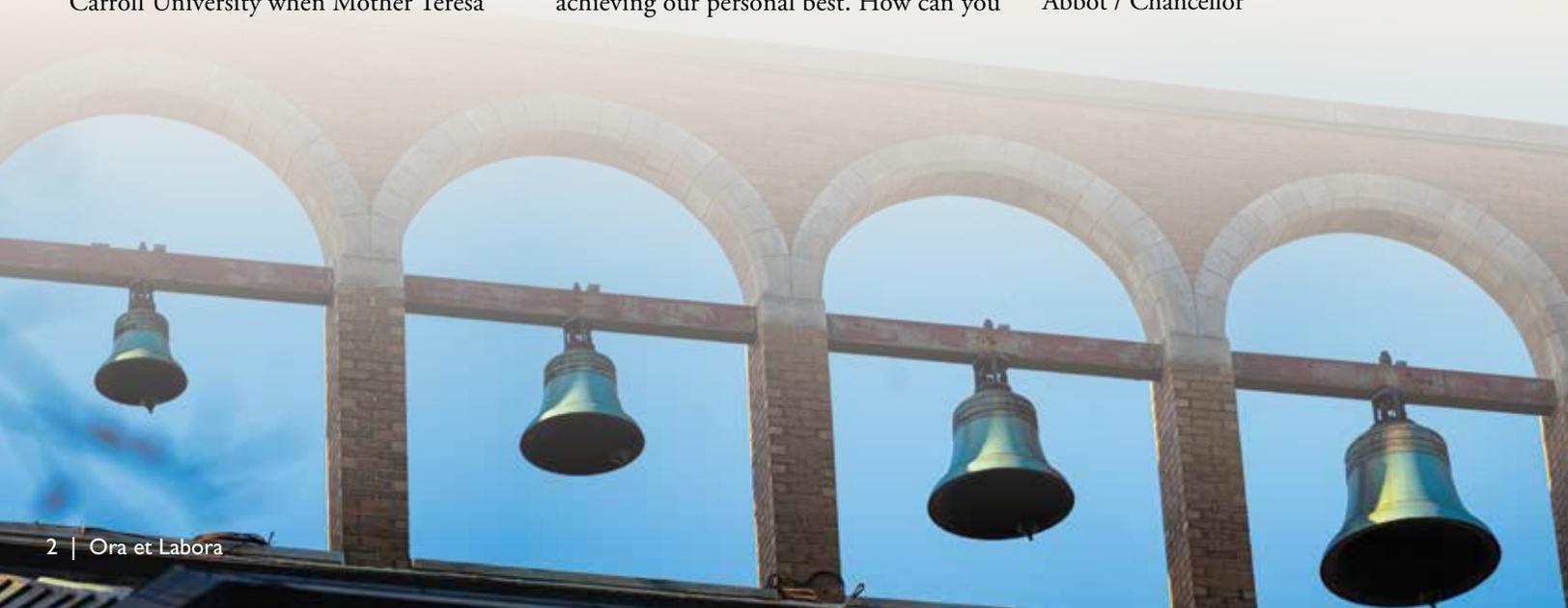
Rt. Rev. Gary A. Hoover, OSB '74

live in the life of the Spirit and share the fruit(s) of the Spirit to be your BEST? Which fruit of the Spirit is your strength? How could you use it in your life to make someone else’s life better?

Pentecost is a time to rejoice, a time to renew our relationship with God, a time to live in the Life of Spirit and find our BEST SELVES!

**“Go out into the world today and love the people you meet. Let your presence light new light in the hearts of people.”**  
Mother Teresa

Abbot Gary Hoover, OSB '74  
Abbot / Chancellor



# Benedictine in Motion

Physics class with Fr. Clement was admittedly an intimidating class for those of us Bengals who found greater comfort in the humanities. It was the numbers that were at the root of our apprehension. But Fr. Clement was able to demystify some of our preconceived notions and get us to think beyond the numbers by focusing on the concepts first. For better or worse, repetition does help in some cases with retention, and I will never forget that objects at rest tend to stay at rest, and objects in motion tend to stay in motion. With this in mind, I am proud to say that Benedictine High School is in motion, and that forward momentum is palpable.

We were so proud to announce last month that Benedictine High School has received a \$2 million gift from the Howley Foundation for continued support of tuition assistance for low-income students, as well as an investment to remodel the school's science wing and student transition support. This only adds excitement to the campus' capital improvement projects, which includes the Rufus Courtyard, a 5,000-square-foot atrium connecting the school's main academic building with the science wing, a remodeled cafeteria, and capital improvements to St. Andrew Abbey.

When we have folks and friends on campus to hear our story and to interact with our young men, they often remark

how they are inspired by our mission. In turn, we are inspired by the philanthropic spirit of Nick and Lorie Howley and all of our benefactors. Their generosity not only provides the young men of Benedictine with opportunities to experience a dynamic Catholic education, but the transformation of the science wing will be an important part of our overall campaign to give students the chance to learn in a first-class facility for years to come.

We are doubling down on our responsibility to be good stewards of our grounds and facilities and providing our young men with a unique learning environment. Progress is not always measured by all things new and shiny. It's the instruction, interaction, and spiritual



Mr. Ryan Ryzner '95

guidance that take place on this campus that will always make it special.

Benedictine is in motion. And you know what Fr. Clement said about objects in motion...

Blessings to you and your family,

Ryan M. Ryzner '95  
President-Principal  
Benedictine High School

THE HOWLEY  
SCIENCE WING

*Details of the \$2 million gift from The Howley Foundation to appear in the next issue of the Ora et Labora.*



Chris Lorber '04

## Alumni and Friends of Benedictine,

The last couple of months have been busy and productive as we pivoted our most important event of the year, The Blue and White Gala, to a digital format. We worked hard to get creative about how we could share our story with the public, as we weren't able to celebrate like we traditionally would in-person. We are pleased to share that it was you and your generosity that made this year's Gala the **most successful** in school history! We applaud you, we congratulate you, and most importantly, we thank you

for your investments to our mission. All proceeds from the Gala impact our tuition assistance and scholarship program - your participation and generosity provide our young men with many opportunities to develop in mind, body, and spirit.

Even though we weren't able to celebrate this annual event in-person, we were inspired by the messages and communications from our students which were produced by Brian Devers '08, the school's Director of Media and Communications. We hope you enjoyed hearing from the young men and learning what all they are experiencing at Benedictine through the gifts that you provide.

As the Gala Season concludes, we begin to think about our summer plans and what's to come. If you haven't participated in the events below, please respectfully consider joining as they are important to our Benedictine Community. Additionally, you will have fun and enjoy reflecting on why BHS is such a special place!

### **The Annual Joe Marino '78 Alumni and Friends Scholarship Outing: Thursday, June 3, 2021**

The Joe Marino '78 Alumni and Friends Scholarship Outing is a perfect opportunity to enjoy being outdoors, reminisce with friends and alums, and directly impact the Men of Benedictine by participating in a day of golf. The event takes place at Red Tail Golf Club in Avon and involves 18 holes of golf and a dinner immediately following which acknowledges the scholarship recipients and their families. Hole sponsors assist with the outing's revenue and scholarships offerings, so if you are interested in hole sponsorships, please contact me at [lorber@cbhs.edu](mailto:lorber@cbhs.edu) or 216-421-2080 ext. 246. Foursomes go fast with room for 36 groups - contact us to reserve your spot today!

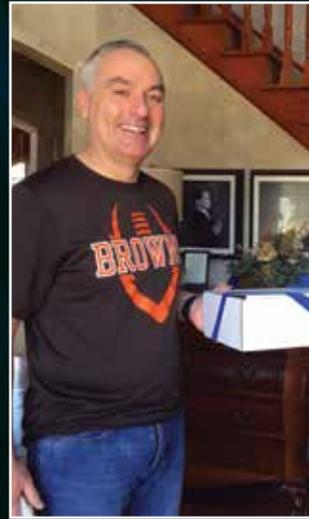
### **Reunion Weekend: Friday, June 18 through Sunday, June 20, 2021**

Reunion Weekend is such a fun time to reconnect with classmates, revisit memories, and celebrate special milestones. Due to the cancellation of last year's event, we look forward to having our classes ending in '0, '1, '5, and '6 back to campus Friday, June 18th through Sunday, June 20. The weekend's agenda is: Friday - Stag Night; Saturday - individual planned activities; and Sunday - Mass and breakfast. If you are interested in serving as a class agent, who assists in contacting classmates about attendance, please reach out to Mr. Anthony DiGeronimo at [digeronimo@cbhs.edu](mailto:digeronimo@cbhs.edu) or 216-421-2080 ext. 342.

It's a special time right now at Benedictine... and we look forward to you visiting us on campus (or at the golf outing) for you to see all the positive developments!

Yours in St. Benedict,

Mr. Chris Lorber '04  
Vice President of Advancement



Incoming freshman Brayden Ko Gala-in-a-Box to Mr. Ken Pietri



Freshman Nathan Zavoda del to the Koppitch family in Shak



John DiNovo '21 delivers a Gala-in-a-Box to Mrs. Annette Marra.



bylinski brings the zycki in Strongsville.



Alumnus Jade Davis '99 received his Gala-in-a-Box at his home in Twinsburg, Ohio.



BHS Board of Trustees member Jerry Joyce shows off his Gala-in-a-Box at his home in Timberlake, Ohio.



ivers the Gala-in-a-Box er Heights.



la-in-a-Box to

# Blue & White Digital Gala <sup>19th</sup> Annual

## Digital Blue and White Gala Breaks Records

The 19th annual Blue and White Gala looked a little different than previous years, however, we are ecstatic to announce that this year's Gala was a RECORD-BREAKING year with over **\$400,000** raised for student scholarships and tuition assistance!

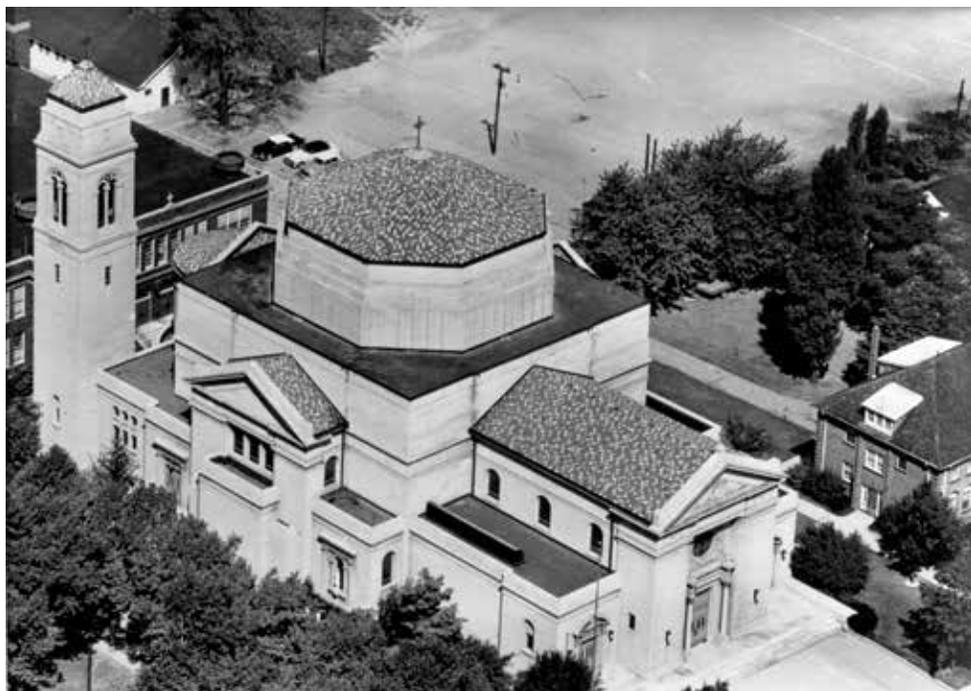
The weeklong celebration kicked off with our dedicated staff and volunteers commuting all over Northeast Ohio to drop off a "Gala-in-a-Box" for our digital attendees. Over 125 boxes, which included treats from the school's local partners, were made, filled, and delivered.

As more young men are provided with tuition assistance and scholarship support, we would like to acknowledge all of our alumni, friends, sponsors, and like-minded philanthropists who made our event such a success. Enjoy some of the photos from our delivery day!

Zachary Reisner '24 and alumnus Joe Carlton '95



Future Bengal Chase Arko hands over a Gala-in-a-Box to alumnus Josh Crocker '96 in Kirtland, Ohio.



Aerial photo shows the size of St. Benedict's Church when it was completed in 1953.



Fr. Leo Rehak, OSB, pastor from 1934 to 1959.

# Looking Back at St. Benedict's

by Fr. Gerard Gonda, OSB '71

From 1953 to 1993, many important events for Saint Andrew Abbey and Benedictine High School took place in the magnificent church of Saint Benedict's Parish on the corner of East Boulevard (now M.L. King Jr. Drive) and Lamontier Avenue. Since so many Benedictine alumni and friends have memories of this unique ecclesial structure that bordered on the BHS property, it is appropriate to re-visit this famous church with a Centennial Reflection.

Immigrants from Slovakia (then part of the Austro-Hungarian empire) began arriving in Cleveland in the 1880s. The first parish designated by the Cleveland Catholic Diocese to serve Slovak-Americans was St. Ladislav Parish which eventually built a church at East 92nd Street and Holton Avenue off lower Buckeye Road.

In 1922, the pastor of St. Ladislav Parish, Fr. Necid, built a church-hall combination at the site on East Boulevard (now Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive) as an extension of his parish. However, six years later in 1928, Bishop Joseph Schrembs established a new parish at that location with that building

dedicated to Saint Benedict Skalka, a Slovak monastic martyr. He entrusted the parish to the care of the Slovak Benedictine monks who had arrived in Cleveland at St. Andrew Parish on Superior Avenue in 1922. **Fr. Stanislaus Gmuca, OSB** was the first pastor.

In 1934 when Fr. Stanislaus was elected to be the first abbot of Saint Andrew Abbey, his assistant **Fr. Leo Rehak, OSB** became the second pastor of St. Benedict's Parish. The parish experienced rapid growth counting over 1500 families within the first 25 years. Plans for a new, larger church began in 1949 and a fundraising drive was launched which raised \$1 million, a

remarkable sum for that time and for the blue collar immigrant parish community.

The new St. Benedict's Church was dedicated on May 17, 1953 by Archbishop Edward F. Hoban. For that occasion, *The Cleveland Plain Dealer* called the new sacred edifice "One of the finest examples of Roman Baroque architecture in the country." It was the largest Slovak Catholic parish in the United States and the new church seated 1,300.

*The Cleveland Catholic Universe Bulletin* headlined their story of the dedication as "**Parishioners of St. Benedict Complete 'Little Basilica.'**" The story began with this description, "The new St. Benedict Church, rising 144 feet to the tower cross, looks a good deal like St. Peter's Basilica in Rome. The nave and the floor plan is the same as St. Peter's. And St. Benedict's also is topped by a cupola and has seven side chapels."

*continued on page 8*



*The magnificent high altar with golden mosaic baldachino was surrounded by a dynamic and colorfully painted depiction of the meeting of heaven and earth at each Eucharistic liturgy presided over by the Lamb of God as described in the Book of Revelation.*

With its massive central dome, unique among Catholic churches in Cleveland, which was 61 feet in height from the base of the floor and 53 feet in diameter, St. Benedict's Church was well-suited for Benedictine graduations and other large gatherings besides Mass, because there were no pillars to block the view of the congregation.

However, all attention was focused on the beautiful high altar and illustrated apse. In all, 6,748 pieces of marble, weighing 120 tons, were used in the church interior. The marble high altar stood beneath a semi-global canopy of Botticino marble and inlaid gold mosaics. The canopy, or baldacchino, was supported by four huge white marble columns. In the center was a silver and gold symbol of the Holy Spirit framed by a shining wreath of flowers and thorns which was illuminated with lights during the celebration of Mass.

The semi-circular apse behind the high altar featured a breathtaking painted mural in striking colors which descended into the sanctuary as if coming down in the clouds from heaven. It depicted the meeting of heaven and earth during the Eucharist liturgy through which the faithful partake of the food of angels – the Body and Blood of Christ received in communion.

Yet, all this beauty was not enough to keep parishioners from moving out of the neighborhood in the succeeding decades. In the early 1960s newly-married couples and young families chose to purchase single family homes in the new suburbs of Maple Heights, Garfield Heights, and Parma instead of the older style two-family homes of the Buckeye area.

In the 1970s and 80s, population shifts caused more St. Benedict parishioners to move elsewhere. For a while, some dedicated families would return to the old neighborhood for weekend Mass, but it was not enough to keep the parish alive. With 110 registered members, the parish was closed in 1993. The parish buildings including the church were sold by the Cleveland Diocese to the congregation of



Admiring the rose window of St. Benedict the Patriarch of Monks that is now located in the narthex of the abbey are **Fr. Gerard Gonda, OSB '71** (left) who saw the window while attending St. Benedict's School from 1960-67 and V.P. for Advancement **Chris Lorber '04** who entered St. Gregory the Great School under that window from 1993-2000.

the Cathedral Church of God in Christ, which it is called to the present.

When the diocese sells a Catholic church, it removes all sacred objects like statues and stained glass windows. It catalogues these items in a warehouse and makes them available for purchase by churches both in town and out-of-town. So, St. Benedict's Church continues to live in a variety of locations today.

The majestic high altar with its golden baldacchino can be found in the St. Benedict Mausoleum at Holy Cross Cemetery on Brookpark Road near the entrance gates. The marble shrines dedicated to Our Lady of Sorrows and St. Ann are located in the back of St. Gregory's Church of Sacred Heart Parish in South Euclid. The large paintings of St. Benedict of Nursia with St. Benedict Skalka and St. Scholastica with St. Gertrude now hang in the abbey calefactory. The striking gold-leafed wooden carved statue of Mary with the Child Jesus that stood in the baptistry at St. Benedict's is now to be found in the abbey parlor. Other sacred windows and objects from St. Benedict's can be found in a number of local churches.

Recently, the abbey was able to purchase the beautiful rose window that depicts St. Benedict the Patriarch of monks which



The high altar from St. Benedict's Church can be found today in the St. Benedict Mausoleum inside the main gate of Holy Cross Cemetery on Brookpark Road.

was located high above the main entrance of the church. It had been purchased by Msgr. William Novicky and installed over the entrance doors of St. Gregory's Elementary School in South Euclid. When the school merged with St. Clare's in 2016 and subsequently sold, the current pastor Fr. David Ireland notified the abbey that the rose window was available. The abbey purchased it from Henninger's Religious Goods which installed it in the abbey church narthex.

# The Art of Spiritual Direction

Most people schedule monthly appointments with their medical professional, barber or hairdresser, their department colleagues at work, or even their financial advisor. However, a growing number of religious-minded individuals, especially Catholics, schedule regular meetings with their spiritual director.

**Sheila Flynn** is a lay spiritual director with a connection to Saint Andrew Abbey. A resident of Mentor, Sheila worked 32 years as a Cleveland Public School teacher. As a practicing Catholic, Sheila pursued opportunities to study her faith more deeply at St. Mary's Seminary and at John Carroll University after her retirement in the early 1990s. She was drawn to the abbey and the Benedictines because of a personal interest and desire for contemplative spirituality with an active mission.

At that time she became a **lay oblate** of the abbey. Benedictine lay oblates are lay men and women, both married and single, who have a primary job and residence outside of the abbey but who seek to live their lives in the world according to the spirit of the Rule of Saint Benedict. They are given a year of formation by the monk designated as the Director of Oblates (currently **Fr. Bede Kotlinski, OSB**), and then make a formal oblation, or offering of their lives to learn and live the spiritual principles of Benedictine life.

As an oblate, Sheila often attended the Liturgy of the Hours with the monks and regularly made private, weekend or multi-day retreats at the abbey using one of the five available abbey guestrooms. Fr. Bede conducts periodic Sunday afternoon conferences to which the current 30 lay oblates of the abbey are invited to attend.

In 2005, Sheila received training and certification as a director for **Ignatian Spirituality**, based on the famous Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola, one of the most popular schools of spirituality in Catholic tradition. Along with her knowledge and experience in personally living Benedictine spirituality, she began working with others who wished to deepen their faith life utilizing elements from these two traditions.

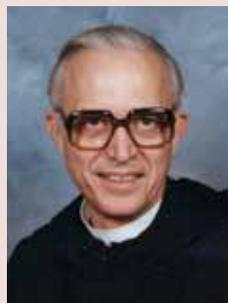
In the last fifteen years, Sheila has interacted with many individuals in spiritual direction. Several years ago when the abbey decided to move its infirm monks to Regina Health Center in Richfield, Ohio, Sheila was given permission to set up an office in Vaniscak Hall, the former abbey infirmary which now houses the Advancement Department offices for the abbey and high school.

Spiritual direction is not confession of sins, nor psychological counseling, nor problem-solving. Instead a person seeks a spiritual director who can help him or her to recognize and remove obstacles in order to experience a more authentic living encounter with Jesus Christ.



*Sheila Flynn in her office at Saint Andrew Abbey.*

In the past, spiritual directors were usually priests or religious. Not all priests have formal training in spiritual direction, but many courses that priests take in the seminary can help them to lead people to a deeper understanding of their relationship to the Lord. The same is true of consecrated religious men and women (monks, brothers, and nuns) who receive training during their formation for vowed life in ways to develop a more intimate relationship to Christ.



*Abbot Clement Zeleznik, OSB*

Retired **Abbot Clement Zeleznik, OSB**, now a resident of Regina Health Center, was a much sought-after spiritual director in the Cleveland area for many decades. Until his entrance to Regina over a year ago, Abbot Clement provided periodic spiritual direction to over 60 individuals, both lay and religious. Other monks of the abbey have made themselves available for spiritual direction on a more limited basis.

In recent decades with the shortage of priests and religious, more and more lay spiritual directors have received training and are available. If you are interested in contacting Sheila, call the abbey operator at 216-721-5300, ext. 100 and leave a message and Sheila will call you back. She meets with individuals either at her office at the abbey or, especially with COVID concerns, by phone. She has no fee for her services, but those who meet with her can always make a periodic offering to the abbey if they wish.

# Fr. Johnnie Smith and his Two Vocations

When Johnnie Smith graduated from Benedictine High School in 1959, he had no idea of the unique journey God had planned for him. But looking back six decades, he can clearly see Divine Providence involved at critical moments. These mysterious interventions would result in Johnnie being ordained as BHS's first African-American Catholic priest alumnus in 2010 on his 70th birthday.

Born in Alabama as one of six children of Johnnie and Nancy Smith, he moved north as his family migrated to Cleveland during World War II. His mother was a strong practicing Baptist and his father's family was involved in the Church of God in Christ. However, his dad later converted to Catholicism and even became a Fourth Degree Knight of Columbus.

For seventh grade, Johnnie was able to transfer from public school to St. Edward's Elementary School on Woodland Avenue because he had attended and enjoyed its summer Bible school. St. Edward's Parish was known as the Mother Church for African-American Catholics in Cleveland. One of the Precious Blood priests who ran the parish and one of the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament (St. Katherine Drexel's order) who taught in the school took a special interest in Johnnie and he converted to Catholicism in seventh grade.

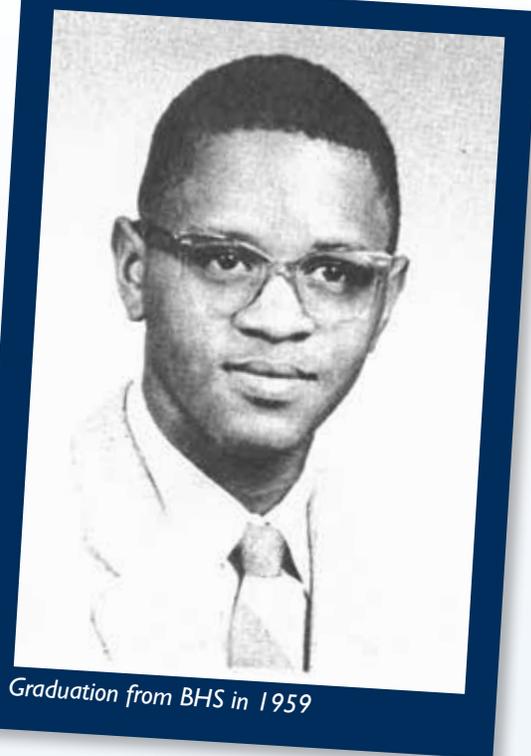
Johnnie was urged to go to the high school seminary conducted by the Precious Blood order when he graduated from eighth grade, but he made it known that he was more interested in attending Benedictine High School – even though Holy Name High School offered him a scholarship. His favorite nun called **Abbot Theodore Kojis, OSB** and before long Johnnie was accepted by BHS principal **Fr. Benedict Dobrancin, OSB** and became a freshman in 1955.

During his four years at Benedictine, Johnnie's interest in the Catholic faith

deepened, especially through his contact with the Benedictine monks whose life intrigued him. To offset his tuition, he was assigned to help **Brother Patrick Ryan, OSB** in cleaning the buildings after school. He enjoyed his conversations with Brother Pat, especially about religious life. However, he began dating in his junior year and met Octavia Hawkins, who later became his wife. That seemed to bring an end to his possible call to the priesthood.

After his marriage and the birth of his first son, Johnnie graduated from Kent State University with a degree in accounting. He continued to stay involved in parish activities serving on the parish council when St. Edward's was merged with Holy Trinity Church also on Woodland Avenue. His work in public accounting took him to Rochester, New York and his family grew to include two more sons. After a particularly bad winter, Johnnie moved his family back to Ohio in 1978, buying a house in Mentor and joining TRW as a financial analyst.

His spirituality developed under the guidance of a priest at St. John Vianney Parish in Mentor until he took a job as an audit manager with Hammermill Paper Company in Erie, Pennsylvania. At Holy Cross Parish there, Johnnie began teaching PSR (Parish School of Religion) classes and he and Octavia became active in the Renewal and Stewardship programs. Eventually his company transferred him to Memphis, Tennessee. In 1988, his wife had



*Graduation from BHS in 1959*

surgery for breast cancer and a successful rehabilitation. During the ten years he lived in Memphis, Johnnie attended daily Mass, became a Eucharistic minister, made a Cursillo retreat, and joined the Knights of Columbus.

Seeking a position in his company that would involve less traveling, Johnnie applied for the job as the construction controller for a new paper mill converting center that his company was building in Ashtabula, Ohio. He and a team of three engineers built a \$12 million facility with a budget of \$27 million in equipment on time and under budget. After that project was completed, he was promoted to facility controller.

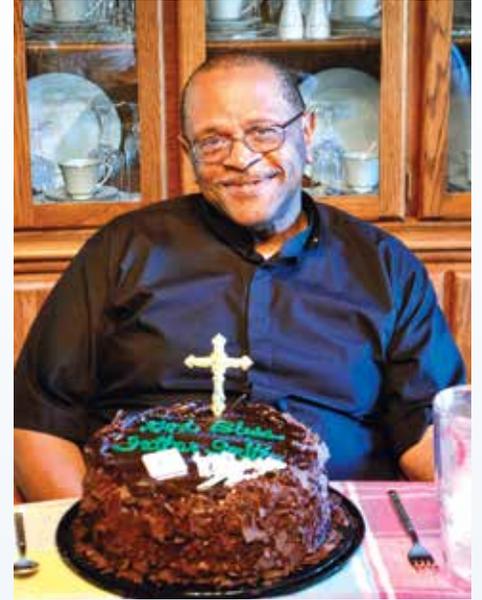
However, the cross fell abruptly upon the Smith family when Octavia's cancer returned after 11 years. Johnnie recalled, "Her suffering brought us closer to God, even to the point of experiencing her pain going away during our prayer together." Octavia died in 2005 at the age of 64. Around this time, his company sold their operation in Ashtabula to Mohawk Paper. The new owners were practicing Catholics who promoted Johnnie to manager of the internal audit.

At one point after his wife’s death, his son asked him, “Dad, what are you going to do now?” That question brought back thoughts of the priesthood and after much prayer and discerning, Johnnie decided to see if that dream was still possible to fulfill at the age of 65. To his surprise, the owners of his company fully supported his vocation plans and at his retirement party even presented him with a \$10,000 check. They would continue to send him occasional checks when he was in the seminary.

He decided to return to the diocese of Memphis, Tennessee where he had a number of priest friends. He was accepted by Bishop James Terry Steib, SVD, the first African-American Bishop of Memphis and sent to Sacred Heart Seminary outside of Milwaukee, Wisconsin which has a special focus for second-career vocations to the priesthood. Because of his many life experiences and training, he was exempt from his fourth year theological studies and was ordained a priest on June 5, 2010, which happened to be his 70th birthday.

After only one year as an associate pastor, Fr. Smith was appointed pastor of a very diverse parish of 400 families that also had an elementary school. The parish had many financial challenges which Fr. Smith was able to successfully address. After five years, he reached the retirement age for pastors (75) and became a senior priest at St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Cordova, Tennessee where he continues in active ministry. Since his ordination, he has celebrated the funerals of two of his sisters, his brother, and his oldest son. He has nine grandchildren, most of whom live in the Cleveland area. Two of Fr. Smith’s nephews are graduates of BHS: **Christopher Eggleston, Class of 1985** and **Jonathon Smith, Class of 2001**.

As he prepares to celebrate the 11th anniversary of his ordination this June, Fr. Smith looks back and points out, “I can see God’s hand in my life over the past 80 years. I see my life as the reception of God’s love, grace, and mercy.”



TOP LEFT: The Smith family in 1990 (l-r): Thomas, Jeffrey Lawrence, Gregory Bernard, Octavia, and Johnnie Smith.

TOP RIGHT: Fr. Smith in his rectory.

MIDDLE: Bishop Steib ordains Fr. Smith in 2010.

BOTTOM: Ordination Day with his sons and friend Bro. Hugh (far right).

# The Intersection of Faith and Science at BHS

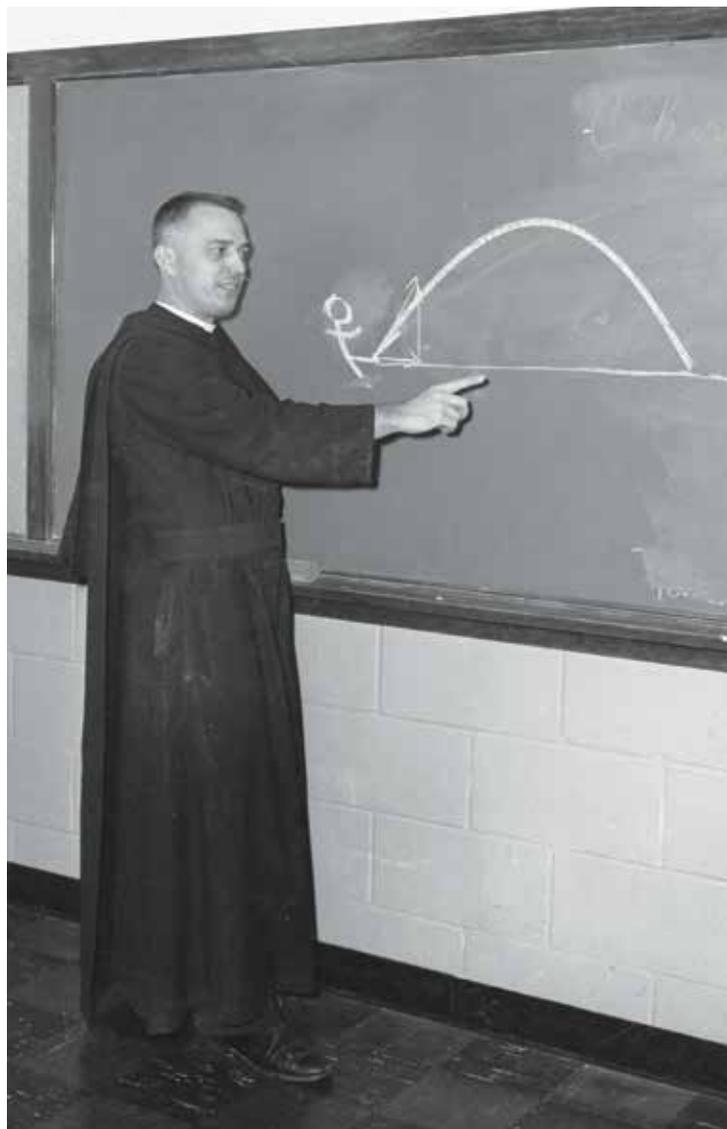
by Fr. Gerard Gonda, OSB '71

The French doctor who discovered the genetic basis of Down syndrome and spent his career advocating for the humanity of the unborn and for the immorality of abortion as a result of prenatal diagnosis recently took his first major step to possible sainthood. Pope Francis in January approved the “heroic virtues” of **Dr. Jerome Lejeune**, who lived from 1926-1994 and was particularly esteemed by St. John Paul II for his support of the dignity of all human life.

Some would find it strange that a man of science would be known for a heroic witness of morality based on his Catholic faith. Based on significant surveys over the last four years by Pew and Barna, data shows that over 40% of Millennial and Generation Z aged Catholics (born between 1981-2010) have left the Church and over 50% of those left solely because of a perceived contradiction between faith and science. They primarily don't believe their religious beliefs to be true nor rational. They contend that science provides no evidence for God's existence or the need for Christian spirituality. If nothing changes to directly address this issue, it is possible that the Church may lose over 50% of young Catholics within the next 7 years.

Yet, at Benedictine High School, religious faith has never been presented as a contradiction to science. For many decades, the majority of BHS science teachers with advanced degrees were Benedictine monks like **Fr. Cyril Novotny, OSB**, **Fr. Basil Hrin, OSB**, **Fr. (later Abbot) Clement Zeleznik, OSB** and **Fr. Raphael Zbin, OSB**. But these new trends of more young people rejecting religion show the need for students to develop and utilize greater critical thinking and reasoning skills to both explore and examine the evidence, logics, and reasoning to establish a faith that they can defend, especially to themselves as well their peers.

Younger Catholics, based on the surveys, are not satisfied with just knowing what is required to be Catholic or how to live as followers of Christ. Instead, they want to know “why” they should be a member of the Church and what is the evidence and reasoning to personally accept the proposal of Jesus Christ to accept His worldview as their primary way of life as a disciple.



*Fr. Clement teaching physics in 1967.*

In the past two years, the current chair of the BHS Science Department, **Dr. Martin Lindway, Ph.D.**, has recognized this as the greatest challenge for the effective identity of Catholic secondary schools and has begun to implement a plan to meet this need. A lifelong Catholic and a graduate of the former Lorain Catholic High School, Dr. Lindway holds a doctorate in Engineering from the University of Massachusetts.



*Dr. Martin Lindway*

After a 25-year career in engineering and business, he made the vocational switch to education two years ago when he came to Benedictine to teach physics.

As his own faith grew intellectually through reading and experientially through formative encounters like retreats, he looked for ways to evangelize youth and adults at the parish level for over 10 years. But with the low number of young people participating in parish youth ministry, he saw Catholic high schools as the last and best structure for saving the faith of these youngest members of the Church.

“Based on a survey of my physics classes (1 freshman and 3 senior sections), over 60% classified their faith as unexamined or blind (just their parents’ faith) before taking our physics course,” he explained. Dr. Lindway made a major change in the Benedictine science curriculum last year by moving physics sequentially ahead of chemistry and biology. The Physics First initiative is supported by a significant amount of national education research for student benefits versus traditional science course sequencing and is supported by the Next Generation Science Standard (NGSS) as well as by the 2018 Ohio Education Science Standard.

“A focus in both the freshman and senior-level physics course is to provide a clear understanding of both the limitations and misconceptions of using the scientific method and the prevalent philosophy of scientism which only considers a physical (material) based explanation to problems and questions,” explained Dr. Lindway. The modifications incorporated into the BHS science curriculum will provide students with a broader framework using evidence and reasoning to primarily examine the most fundamental laws of physics and secondarily to apply these laws to the critical philosophical and religious questions of life.

In the new physics course, Dr. Lindway and fellow science teacher **Mr. Mark Kobylinski '93** seek to provide the scientific evidence to essential questions at the core of a Christian worldview such as evidence for a soul, for a creator (God), and for the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Mr. Kobylinski observes, “Students don’t just want to know what Christianity teaches, but they want to know **why** they should be a Catholic and Christian.”

In some ways, this merging of faith and science is not new to Benedictine. Long-time Honors Physics teacher, **Fr. (later Abbot) Clement Zeleznik, OSB**, who taught at BHS from 1960-70 and from 1973-97, pioneered this approach. With masters degrees in physics, religious catechetics, and formative spirituality, Fr. Clement challenged his students to see how the teachings of the Church



*Fr. Finbar discusses faith in his freshman Theology class.*

on the important questions of life fit logically into scientific inquiry. Ironically, Dr. Lindway’s self-understanding of his baptismal call to active discipleship was deepened through a retreat he attended given by Abbot Clement at Loyola Retreat House in Clinton, Ohio several years ago, though he wasn’t aware of Abbot Clement’s connection to BHS and its physics department at the time.

One key resource for this renewal of the science curriculum is the **Magis (Latin for “More”) Center**, a national, non-profit educational organization dedicated to promoting the complementary relationship between faith and science. It was founded by Jesuit priest and former Gonzaga University president **Fr. Robert Spitzer, SJ**. In May of 2020, the Magis Center recognized BHS as a pilot school for this approach, which gave Benedictine’s science and theology teachers access to advance modules and videos that present arguments from both believing scientists and atheist scientists for the essential questions of life.

Freshman theology teacher **Fr. Finbar Ramsak, OSB** also implemented content from the Magis Center modules in his course last fall which complements the ongoing initiative in the freshman physics course. Theology teacher **Fr. Michael**

**Brunovsky, OSB**, science teacher **Fr. Thomas Sanders, OSB**, along with Fr. Finbar and Dr. Lindway are currently participating in a yearlong course (with a summer component) provided online by the **McGrath Institute for Church Life** at the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, Indiana that provides discussions about the intersection of faith and science.

Students who have been exposed to this wider approach to science this school year appreciate how it has impacted their faith. Senior **Ivan Shuran '21** commented, “Before examining evidence regarding the existence of God, I falsely believed that there was science to prove that God didn’t do some of the things involving the universe. However, after examining expansion, red shifting, and a beginning of the Big Bang, I have concluded that scientific evidence and reason actually proves God’s existence even more.” Likewise, senior **Ryan Plisko '21** has also found his faith strengthened, “I have always believed that God was the Creator of the universe. Through the fine-tuning arguments, it is more proof that he had a plan and it was one that created life. According to this argument, if anything had changed even the slightest, there would not be life... This makes my faith stronger and my belief in God’s existence stronger.”



## BASKETBALL

The basketball team fought through adversity all season long. They battled through one of the toughest schedules in Northeast Ohio. Highlights of the season were defeating a talented Crestwood team on Senior Day, and also defeating Holy Name in the sectional tournament. Juniors Detric Hearst and London Maiden both were named Honorable Mention All-District Division 2.



## WRESTLING

The wrestling team had a strong showing at a number of matches this past season. A great highlight was defeating NDCL on Senior Day. The wrestling team had 4 wrestlers qualify for the OHSAA District tournament. Shareeff Williams, Jacob Dolan, Nick Abounader, and Ronald Williams were among the qualifiers.



## HOCKEY

The hockey team defeated a number of tough opponents including Strongsville and Hudson this past season. They showed significant progress in playing opponents with a size advantage. Luke Faulisi who plays on the hockey team, is also a diver. Luke finished 11th in Diving at the OHSAA Swimming Championships.



## BOWLING

The bowling team made progress as a program this season. They had enough numbers to form a JV program as well. The team went on to finish 8th in the OHSAA Sectional tournament.



## SAVE THE DATE

Augie Bossu Day is coming up on May 5th! Consider making a gift online or sending in a check with "Bossu Day" in the Memo in his memory. Let's continue to celebrate the legacy that Coach Augie Bossu lived!

# Creative Students Seek Robotics Championship



When alumnus **Ken Traben '86** left his job as a Senior Process Engineer at Kennametal, Inc. in January and joined the teaching staff at Benedictine, he found that a lot had changed in 35 years. First, there was the challenge of teaching both live and remotely during the COVID crisis. Then, he found that the back half of the library had been converted a few years ago into a Maker Space for engineering students (which was not taught in 1986). And finally, he met the Benedictine Robotics team preparing for a multi-school competition in April.



Alumnus Mr. Ken Traben '86 has been impressed with the BHS Robotics team.

Engineering came to BHS in the form of a club in 2015 with the help of volunteer coordinator Mrs. Yvonne Schiffer. Students were able to get experience laser cutting and engraving by working with Bro. Philip Petrow, OSB who began producing wooden religious articles. Half of the library was remodeled into a Maker Space for engineering projects in 2016 and Mr. Rob Ryan began teaching

pre-engineering classes. Students were also able to earn both high school and college credits in conjunction with Cuyahoga Community College's Youth Technology Academy. By 2017, Mechanical Engineering Technology (M.E.T.) was being taught at BHS for which a student could earn credit at Cleveland State University.

Benedictine students participated in early robotics competition at Cedar Point in 2016. In the past five years, additional courses have been offered in robotics at BHS as well as new opportunities for competition. This year junior **Ian Menefee** is competing for the second consecutive year in the FIRST Robotics competition as a member of the Tri-C Robotics team. Previously, another BHS student, **Adam Petrich '18**, competed with Tri-C during the 2017-18 school year.

However, on Saturday, April 24, 2021, Benedictine will compete for the first time in the RoboBots competition with 18 other schools at Fredon Corporation. Each school has partnered with a local company whose engineers are assisting in the construction of the robots. Jergens is Benedictine's corporate sponsor.



Benedictine's team consists of **Jordan Myers '21**, **Andrew Joyce '22**, and **Mason Adrine '23** who first agreed on the design of the robotic vehicle in Spring of 2020. Then Jergens' engineers helped to make 3D drawings of the RoboBot and each individual component before physically manufacturing the prototype vehicle. It was then tested back at Benedictine in the last two months.

"I am very impressed with the effort and creativity of these three students, and I can't wait to see this vehicle in action," commented Mr. Traben. Unique to the BHS creation is a "weapon" on the front that is a rotating piece that looks similar to the famous Benedictine "B." Hopefully the inclusion of the "B" design will also bring the Men of Benedictine closer to a robotics championship.



## Patrick Hurst '21

Senior Patrick Hurst soon will be concluding his academic career at Benedictine. However, his outstanding success in the classroom has not been limited to standard classes or even to BHS.

He has remained the top academic student in his class throughout his four years at Benedictine. He has not been satisfied with minimal challenges, but he has tried to maximize his learning opportunities by participating in four honors level courses as a freshman, four more honors classes as a sophomore including an Advanced Placement course, and two honors classes and another Advanced Placement course as a junior.

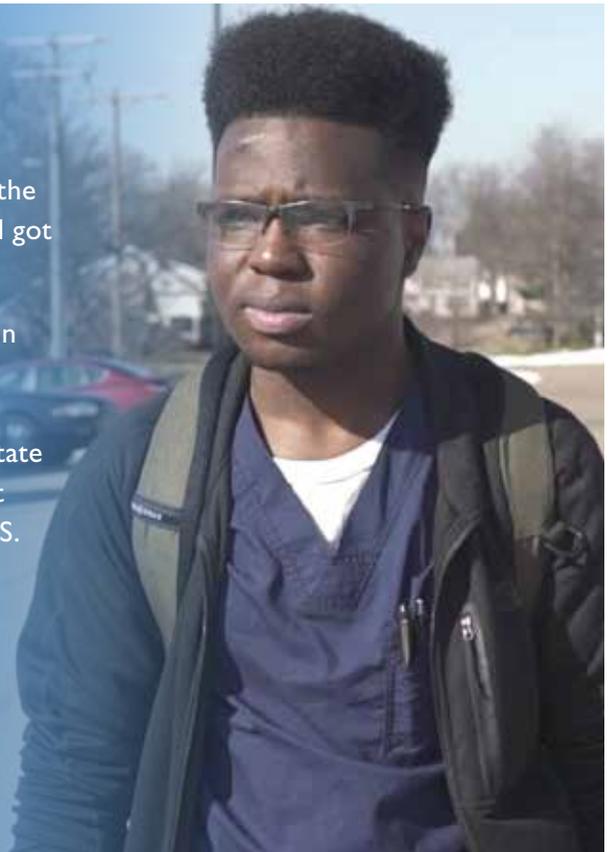
In addition, Patrick received approval to enhance his science credentials, in preparation for his eventual college major, by taking a CCP (College Credit Plus) Physics course through Baldwin-Wallace University. He added to his CCP course work by taking one course at BHS and an evening course at Notre Dame College. The College Credit Plus program allows qualified students to earn credits recognized both in high school and college.

## Clyde Sledge '21

While most people were doing their best to avoid any contact with other people that might facilitate the spread of the COVID virus in the past year, Benedictine senior Clyde Sledge made a heroic choice and got a job at O'Neill Healthcare at Fairview Park in July of 2020.

"I always wanted to be a nurse," explained Clyde. "I want to major in nursing when I go to the University of Toledo this fall." So when he heard of the staffing shortages as nursing homes coped with the outbreak of COVID, Clyde decided to get his STNA certification (State Tested Nursing Assistant). Also, his mother, a single parent, has that certification and works two jobs to help Clyde pay his tuition at BHS.

"I had to work with the COVID unit and it was very sad," he observed. As the months passed in his new job, Clyde was able to help his mother by paying half of his senior year tuition. He appreciates the diversity of students he meets at Benedictine and the generosity of BHS alumni and friends in providing funding for his scholarships and financial aid.



# SAVE THE DATE!

## REUNION WEEKEND 2021

### JUNE 18-20, 2021

*Celebrating classes ending in '0, '1, '5 and '6*

**2015/16**

5 YEAR REUNION

**1975/76**

45 YEAR REUNION

**2010/11**

10 YEAR REUNION

**1970/71**

**50 YEAR REUNION  
GOLDEN YEAR!**

**2005/06**

15 YEAR REUNION

**1965/66**

55 YEAR REUNION

**2000/01**

20 YEAR REUNION

**1960/61**

60 YEAR REUNION

**1995/96**

25 YEAR REUNION

**1955/56**

65 YEAR REUNION

**1990/91**

30 YEAR REUNION

**1950/51**

70 YEAR REUNION

**1985/86**

35 YEAR REUNION

**1945/46**

75 YEAR REUNION

**1980/81**

40 YEAR REUNION

**1940/41**

80 YEAR REUNION

## 2021 Reunion Weekend Dates

**STAG  
NIGHT**

**FRIDAY  
JUNE 18, 2021**

**CLASS  
PLANNED  
ACTIVITIES**

**SATURDAY  
JUNE 19, 2021**

**REUNION  
MASS**

**SUNDAY  
JUNE 20, 2021**

## REUNION 2021

We are looking for class leaders and ambassadors from the above classes to help get the best out of the celebration of your reunion milestone during Reunion Weekend 2021.

Please contact [alumni@cbhs.edu](mailto:alumni@cbhs.edu).

## Class of 2007



**Kevin Connelly** and his wife, Maggie, welcomed their first child, Theodore Richard, on January 15, 2021. He was baptized on February 7 at Holy Trinity Catholic Church in Avon where Kevin and Maggie were married in 2019.

## Class of 2008



*Baby Bengal Truett Julian*

**Matt Vanni** and his wife, Erin, welcomed baby bengal Truett Julian on August 5, 2020.



**Patrick DiVincenzo** and his wife, Kelly, were married on August 8th, 2020.

## Class of 2009

Bengal bonds brought together **Mitch Wilcosky, Marty Spies, Paul Havel,** and **Dave Zulantz** from three states for a ski weekend in New York State in January.



**Jarred Wilhite**, class valedictorian, and his wife Devaki now live in Euclid. He is a PhD candidate in the Mechanical

& Aerospace Engineering Department at CWRU and works in the Two-Phase Flow and Thermal Management Lab. His research focuses on developing and testing an innovative microfluidic cooling design to serve as a compact thermal management system for high-powered electronics in lunar and aeronautics applications.

He is also an aerospace engineer at the NASA Glenn Research Center where his work specializes in thermal analysis and heat transfer of aerospace systems. He also holds a B.S. & M.S. in Aerospace Engineering from the University of Cincinnati.

## Class of 2012



**John Kocsis, Jr.**, Broadcasting and Media Relations Manager for the Columbia, South Carolina Fireflies reports that the Class A ballclub has changed its affiliation from the New York

Mets to the Kansas City Royals. After the minor league season was cancelled in 2020 due to COVID, John is looking with anticipation to returning to the microphone in May to give the play-by-play for the upcoming 2021 season. The club's management provided alternate work for their employees last year by sponsoring community and private events at Segra Park Stadium.

## Class of 2016



**Micah Holmes**, currently part of the Junior Rotational Program of the National Football League, served as a panelist for the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation's

“From Theory to Action: Making Student Assets Visible, Applicable, and Transformative.” He was provided the opportunity to speak about his time at Morehouse College, giving back to the Cleveland, OH community, and highlighting the importance of asset framing, defining people by their aspirations, and not the challenges that they’ve overcome. Micah’s work with the NFL also gave him the opportunity to work this year’s Super Bowl. Prior to his time with the NFL, Micah has had professional experiences with the NBA, ESPN, and the Atlanta Falcons.



**DeAndre Penny** was recently accepted as an Experienceship Intern with the National Football League. The program provides only 95 students across all Historically Black Colleges and Universities with an opportunity to access professional development, networking, and training of certain skill sets for future positions within the NFL. With this role, DeAndre was able to work this year’s Super Bowl in Tampa Bay, FL, as well as have many positive professional experiences over the last 6 months.

## Class of 2017



**Noah Schrader** was accepted with a full scholarship to the Echo Graduate Service Program at the

University of Notre Dame in South Bend, Indiana. The program involves studying for a Master’s Degree in Theology for two summers on campus while working full-time during the academic year in a Catholic parish in an integrated effort to prepare to serve the Church in some form of ministry. Noah will graduate from Xavier University in Cincinnati this spring with a bachelor of arts degree in Criminal Justice and a minor in Theology. He also served as president of the Life after Sunday Catholic Student Club there.

## Class of 2019



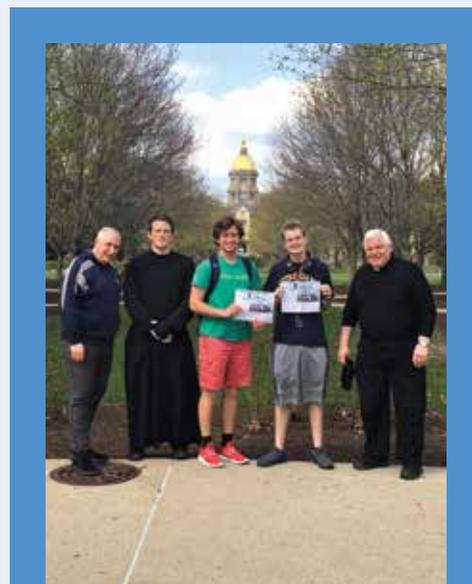
Class valedictorian **Jonathan Shell**, along with brothers **Thadeus (TJ)** and **Nicodemus Stary** of the Class of 2020, generously served

as pallbearers at Fr. Timothy’s burial service on March 3, 2021 at Calvary Cemetery. Jonathan and Thadeus were members of Fr. Tim’s final Drama Club during the 2016-2017 school year. Jonathan completed a year at Walsh University in Canton before transferring to Borromeo Seminary College in Wickliffe where he is finishing his first year as an English major while discerning the diocesan priesthood.



Bengal quarterback **Nick Demchuk** was featured in the North Royalton Post on February 17 noting that he is a Pre-Dental major at Gannon University awaiting the COVID-delayed start of the football

season on March 13 against Western Kentucky. Nick is a redshirt freshman quarterback.



During a post-Easter trip to do some Abbey Centennial research at St. Procopius Abbey near Chicago, (l-r) Fr. Michael Brunovsky, OSB, Novice Gregory Coyne, OSB, and Fr. Gerard Gonda, OSB stopped for a lunch visit at the University of Notre Dame with BHS alumni (l-r) Stephen Zachlin ’20 and Jack Salem ’19, who are undergrads under the Golden Dome.

## RECENTLY DECEASED

The following members of our Benedictine Community have gone on to Eternal Rest between September 1, 2020 and April 2, 2021. May they all Rest in Peace.

Class	Name	Deceased Date
1946	George Buynak	4/11/20
1946	Robert Peck	3/27/21
1949	Fr. Ernest Hepner	12/31/20
1949	Edward Belin	2/3/21
1950	Roland Horvath	1/16/21
1953	James Fakult	1/22/21
1956	Al Jurcisek	11/13/20
1956	Gerald Scheid	2/11/21
1959	John Wesner	12/9/20
1961	Dennis Stefanek	11/21/20
1962	Frank Zummo	2/15/21
1962	Thomas Day	2/24/21
1964	Jude Lesly (Slovenski)	12/1/20
1964	Jeffrey Koscak	1/4/21
1965	Jim Vieland	12/21/20
1968	Paul Kowalski	12/2/20
1969	Gary Barnes	12/30/20
1973	Steven Gansy, Sr.	3/28/21
1974	Frank Malec	4/2/21
1975	Nicholas Repie	12/26/20
1980	Daniel Cash	2/14/21
1981	Michael Walden	11/27/20
1998	Anthony Lombardo	6/24/20
2007	Andrew Wilkins	12/20/20
2012	Jordan Charlton	2/2/21
2018	Thomas McGee	12/28/20
	Anna Lukac	4/11/20
	Fred Heyer	11/23/20
	Kathleen Carey	11/29/20
	Teresa Abood Martin	11/29/20
	George Hudak	12/2/20
	Bernice Hric	12/8/20
	Dave Fischer	12/13/20
	Ross Armelli	12/14/20
	Marilyn Allison	12/18/20
	Susan Champa	1/24/21
	Myra Gazo	1/26/21
	Anne Nugent	2/11/21
	Joan Germano	3/2/21
	Gerald Chase	3/14/21
	Paul Kotlinski	3/19/21

If anyone knows of other recently deceased alumni, please contact the alumni office at 216-421-2080 ext. 342 or [alumni@cbhs.edu](mailto:alumni@cbhs.edu)



1969 – New principal Fr. Roger with BHS's first lay administrator, Dean of Men Mr. Fred Heyer.

## In Memory – Fred Heyer (1941-2020)

It was with sadness that news reached the Home of Champions shortly before Thanksgiving that former Benedictine administrator, teacher, and coach **Fred Heyer** had passed away after a short illness on November 23, 2020. He was 79 years old and had attended the Bengals playoff football game against Walsh Jesuit on October 24, 2020.

At the time of his death, Fred was serving as a Lake Erie League commissioner and assigner capping a lifetime of service to high school athletics. In 2007 he was inducted into the OHSAA Officials Hall of Fame.

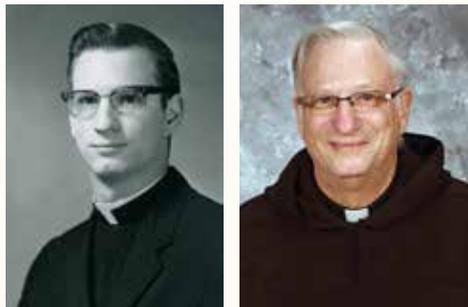
Fred graduated from John Carroll University and began his teaching career at the former St. Stephen's High School in Cleveland. He joined the Benedictine faculty in the fall of 1967 and would remain at the Home of Champions for the next 15 years teaching social studies. Two years later in 1969, Fred became the first layman to serve as an administrator in the history of BHS when he was named Assistant Principal and Dean of Men, replacing Fr. Roger Gries, OSB (later abbot and bishop) who had been named principal.

In 1968, Fred revived hockey at Benedictine when he helped to form the Greater Cleveland High School Hockey League. The teams played at the old Cleveland Arena. In the 1970 season, the Bengal icers were rated third best in the state, coming up short to Shaker Heights in the semi-final state tournament game.

Because of the COVID situation, there was no public visitation or funeral Mass. Many tributes were posted on the Chambers Funeral Home website including the following comment from Fr. Greg Schaut of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church in Wickliffe, who knew Fred from his parish and who had anointed him at the hospital, "He will be missed as our #1 senior server at the parish especially at the 8:30 AM Saturday morning Masses."

A lifetime bachelor, Fred leaves behind nieces and nephews and many Men of Benedictine who were positively influenced by his example.

# *In Memory – Fr. Timothy Buyansky, OSB '60 (1942-2021)*



Early in the afternoon of Thursday, February 25, monks working in the abbey and high school paused as they heard the tolling of the abbey church bell. Within a few minutes Abbot Gary announced the stunning news over the phone intercom that **Prior Timothy Buyansky, OSB '60** had died at the Cleveland Clinic of heart failure after undergoing a medical procedure. The prior had been in and out of the hospital since December with undiagnosed pain in his feet and later survived a bout with COVID only to return to the Clinic a few weeks later with pneumonia. He was 78 years old, in his 58th year of monastic life, and in his 52nd year of priesthood. His funeral Mass was celebrated Tuesday evening, March 2, 2021 in the abbey church.

Born in Cleveland on November 16, 1942, Fr. Timothy was the son of Vincent and Helen (Pokorny) Buyansky (both deceased) of Holy Family Parish on East 131st Street. He is survived by a sister Marilyn Lutz and a younger brother Kenneth Buyansky. He was preceded in death by his brother Don and sister Joan. He graduated from Benedictine High School in 1960 and entered the Benedictine Order after his sophomore year in college.

After ordination, Fr. Tim spent a year at Rosary College in River Forest, Illinois earning his master's degree in library science. He returned and was named school librarian, a position he would hold faithfully for the next 48 years. From 1979 – 1981 he served as Chairman of the High School Section of the National Catholic Library Association.

He also became the high school's multimedia specialist being the first to master new educational technology so that he could "teach the teachers." He was experimenting with computers before most of the faculty understood how to use them effectively. He also served as moderator of the Chess Club and the Ski Club for many years.

However, Fr. Timothy's life in the high school would undergo a major change in 1975 when he took over as director of the Benedictine Drama Club from Mr. Walter Cooper whom he had been assisting for several years. A lifelong fan of musical theatre, he suddenly had a chance to direct his own productions.

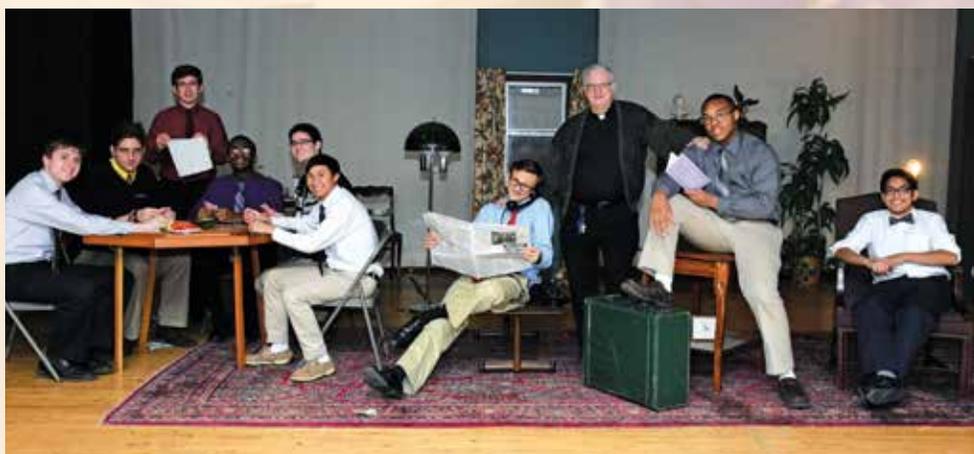
For 48 years, Fr. Tim spent countless hours after school in rehearsal with scores of young actors and actresses coaching them to grow in self-confidence and nurturing the unfolding of many previously hidden God-given talents. He personally directed over 80 plays and musicals, recruiting female participants from nearby Catholic all-girls schools to help fill his casts.

In the monastery, Fr. Timothy served as novice master from 1971-74 and as director of the junior monks from 1974-94. Twice he was appointed prior: from 1991-95 under Abbot (now Bishop) Roger and from 2014 to the present under Abbot Gary. As prior he was given responsibility for many

projects which he balanced with his school responsibilities until his retirement from the faculty. In 1973 he began providing weekend ministry at St. Paul's Parish in Euclid, Ohio which continued for the next 36 years when the parish was closed as part of a merger. He then continued to assist in the newly-created St. John of the Cross Parish from 2007 to 2017. Most recently he assisted at St. Stanislaus Parish.

Easy going and even-tempered, Fr. Timothy possessed a deep spiritual side experienced by those who came to him for confession and spiritual direction. He enjoyed hearing confessions for student retreats. His calm and friendly disposition hid years of physical suffering which he bore privately and patiently. Monks used to joke that you could find out information about any medical condition or treatment by consulting Fr. Timothy who seemed to be in the hospital on an annual basis.

Yet, he always seemed to bounce back from these episodes of illness. As recently as the summer of 2018, after recovering from a stroke and arterial surgery the previous year, the prior could be seen using a jet ski on Lake Erie during a community outing hosted by his brother. And in the past two months, when he was home from the hospital he would promptly show up for the weekly community UNO card game in his power wheelchair.



*Fr. Tim with his last Drama Club cast in 2017.*

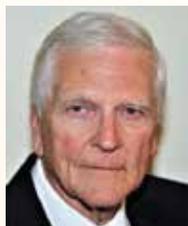
# In Memoriam

of alumni and friends of Saint Andrew Abbey and Benedictine High School



**Kathleen Carey, 76**, died on 11/29/20. She was the mother of Fr. Louis Carey, OSB of the Abbey who serves as parochial vicar of Assumption Parish in Broadview Heights, Ohio. She was married to the late Martin Carey and had five children. She loved Irish music and was a member of the East Side Irish-American Club. Fr. Louis celebrated her funeral Mass on

December 5 at Saints Robert and William Parish in Euclid.



**John Wesner, 79**, Class of 1959, died on December 9, 2020. He is survived by his wife of 55 years, Marion, and three children and four grandchildren. John was a mechanical engineer for 44 years with Eveready Battery Company, retiring in 2009. He was a Past Grand Knight of the Fr. Ragan Council #3269 of the Knights of Columbus. His Memorial

Mass was celebrated at Holy Spirit Catholic Church in Avon Lake, Ohio on February 6, 2021.



**Marilyn Allison, 77**, former veteran BHS teacher, died from injuries sustained in a car accident on December 18, 2020. Marilyn taught chemistry and various science courses at Benedictine from 1984 to 2005 and also served as a guidance counselor and moderator of Academic Challenge and the Culinary Club.



**Ross Armelli, 91**, died on December 14, 2020. He is survived by his wife of 68 years, Mary "Betty" Armelli. He was the father of BHS alumni Tom '71, Tim '74, and Terry '77 and Jerry and Mary Ann. Ross was a past President of the BHS Parent-Boosters Club and co-founder of the Willowick Football League and was a Little League football and baseball coach for many

years. He also was a Past Grand Knight of the Knights of Columbus. His funeral Mass was celebrated at Saints Robert and William Church in Euclid.



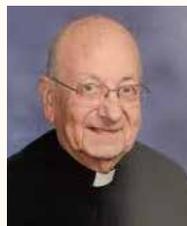
**Jim Vieland, 74**, of the Class of 1965, died on December 21, 2020, after a valiant struggle with COVID-19. Born in the Buckeye Road neighborhood, he enjoyed his ethnic culture and was an accomplished accordionist. He served in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War and worked as a senior scheduler with ABB until his retirement. He always carried the "Home of Champions" close

to his heart and attended many Benedictine events. He is survived by his wife of 52 years, Joyce, and two children and four grandchildren. A devout and active Catholic, he was buried from St. Mary's Church in Chardon, Ohio.



**Thomas McGee, Jr., 21**, of the Class of 2018, died on December 28, 2020 of injuries sustained in a car accident in New Mexico where he was stationed with the U.S. Air Force as an Airman First Class. Tom played football and wrestled for the Bengals and was a member of the Engineering Club. His memorial service took place on Saturday, January 9, 2021 in the

Trueman Memorial Fieldhouse on the Benedictine campus.



**Fr. Ernest Hepner, 89**, of the Class of 1949 died on December 31, 2020 in South Carolina where he lived and worked in priestly ministry since his retirement in 2001 as pastor of Holy Trinity Parish in Bedford, Ohio. Fr. Hepner studied at the North American College in Rome and was ordained a priest in St. Peter's Basilica in 1961. He earned graduate degrees in

theology from the Gregorian University in Rome and in psychology from Case Western Reserve University. He served many years on the faculty of St. Mary's Seminary in Cleveland. His first pastorate was Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish in Wickliffe, Ohio.



**Gary Barnes, 69**, of the Class of 1969, died on December 30, 2020. He was inducted into the Benedictine Athletic Hall of Fame in 2019. As a record-setting receiver and Bengal football team captain, Gary earned all scholastic honors from the *Plain Dealer*, *Cleveland Press*, and *Cleveland Call and Post* as well as All-District mention. He caught a school record 47 passes

to help the Bengals to the East Senate co-championship in 1968. He went on to play football at the University of Louisville under Lee Corso where he ranks sixth all-time in receptions, yards, and touchdowns for the Cardinals. In his career, he was an account executive in Marketing and Sales for MPC promotions in Louisville. His brother Bruce graduated from BHS in 1972 and his nephew Brian is a 2011 Bengal grad.



**Edward Belin, 91**, of the Class of 1949 died on February 3, 2021. He was the beloved husband of 70 years to Florence and had five children (2 deceased), six grandchildren, and eight great-grandchildren. His son David '69 and grandsons David '97, Tom '01, and Jeff '02 are all BHS alumni. Ed was inducted into the Benedictine Athletic Hall of Fame in 2015. Ed

was a halfback who played on the Bengals' first undefeated, untied football team. That 1948 team went 10-0 and won the school's first city championship. In basketball as a starting junior guard, he helped the Bengals win the 1948 Cleveland City basketball championship. A faithful Catholic, he was buried from St. Paschal Baylon Church in Highland Heights.



**Susan Champa, 91**, passed away on January 24, 2021. She was the wife of the late Ray Champa who had his own polka orchestra. She was the mother of four Benedictine alumni: Ray '68, Ken '72, Greg '75, and Jerome '78, the grandmother of 12, and the great-grandmother of 13. She loved to cheer

for the Cleveland Indians and Benedictine Bengals. Bishop Roger Gries, OSB '54 celebrated her funeral Mass at St. John Vianney Catholic Church in Mentor. Fr. Martin Dober '10, the parochial vicar of the parish, preached the homily. He is one of seven brothers who are BHS alumni.



**Gerald Chase, 75**, died on March 14, 2021. He is survived by Barbara, his wife of 53 years, five children, and 16 grandchildren. Jerry was a well-known high school educator and coach for various schools in the Cleveland area. He taught math and coached baseball at Benedictine from 2011-

2015. He was inducted into the Ohio High School Baseball Coaches Association Hall of Fame in 2017. He was buried from St. John Bosco Catholic Church in Parma Heights, Ohio.



**Robert Peck, 93**, of the Class of 1946, died on March 27, 2021. He and his wife Dolores were married 70 years ago by Fr. George Luba, OSB, the founder and first principal of BHS. He is survived by his wife, his son Greg, a 1970 BHS alumnus; daughters Victoria Koehn and Laura Senel-Woodworth. A

son Mark is deceased. His grandsons Robert '89, Erol Senel '98, and Kenan also attended Benedictine. He earned two master's degrees, in English and in German. He taught for many years and then had multiple business ventures. Bob taught German and English at Benedictine and coached football and tennis from 1954-56.

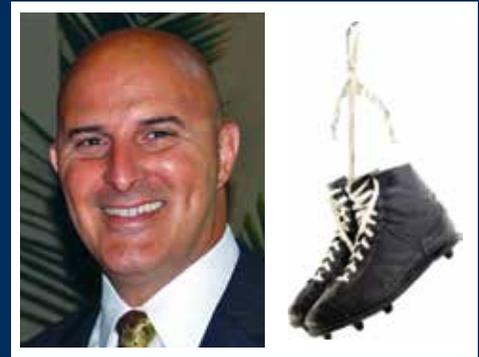


**Frank Malec, 65**, of the Class of 1974, died on April 2, 2021. He is survived by his wife Wendy Ann and children Sarah, Frank (BHS 2006), and Mallory. He was the President and Chief Operating Officer of FGM Media, Inc./Klawhorn Industries, Inc. Frank played on the 1973 Bengal State

Championship football team and was a three-year member and league all-star of the BHS hockey team. He began coaching with the Benedictine Varsity Hockey team in 2007 and served as head coach from 2009-2016.

# 5th Annual Joe Marino Memorial

## Alumni and Friends Scholarship Golf Outing



**Thursday, June 3, 2021  
Red Tail Golf Club  
4400 Nagel Rd. Avon, OH 44011**

**9:00AM Registration  
10:00AM Shotgun Start  
4:00PM Barbecue Dinner  
and Awards**

To **RSVP** your participation,  
visit [cbhs.edu/marino-outing](http://cbhs.edu/marino-outing).

**Contact:** Mr. Chris Lorber '04 at  
[lorber@cbhs.edu](mailto:lorber@cbhs.edu) or 216-421-2080 ext. 246  
for hole sponsorships and questions.



# ORA ET LABORA

St. Andrew Abbey/Benedictine High School

2900 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive  
Cleveland, Ohio 44104-4898

Change Service Requested

**Ora et Labora: A publication of  
Benedictine High School and  
Saint Andrew Abbey**

Abbot Gary Hoover, OSB '74  
*Publisher*

Mr. Chris Lorber '04  
*Vice President of Advancement*

Fr. Gerard Gonda, OSB '71  
*Editor and Donor Relations*

Mr. Brian Devers '08  
*Director of Media and Communications*

Mr. Anthony DiGeronimo '08  
*Alumni Director*

Mrs. Ashley Arko  
*Advancement Operations Manager*

Mrs. Nicole Kobylinski  
*Advancement Associate*

Mrs. Debra First  
*Advancement Associate*



## CHAMPION DAY CAMPS

MIND | BODY | SPIRIT

Boys 4th–8th grade. Join us at Benedictine High School for Champion Day Camps.

**JUNE 7 – JULY 30. SIGN UP FOR A SINGLE WEEK OR THE WHOLE SUMMER**

Week-long camps include:

- Day Camp | Fitness, Conditioning, Multiple Sports, Guest Speakers, Fieldtrips, Contests, And More!
- Football Camp | Learn what makes a CHAMPION on and off the field.
- Python Coding | Design and write computer code.
- Academic Camps | Strengthen your academics and prepare for success in the classroom.
- **And More!**

  
benedictine

**REGISTER NOW!**

For More Information or to register, visit  
[cbhs.edu/camps](http://cbhs.edu/camps) | email [camps@cbhs.edu](mailto:camps@cbhs.edu)