

# ORA ET LABORA 100 YEARS

1922-2022

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

**Spring 2022**



**THE NEXT GENERATION STEPS UP**

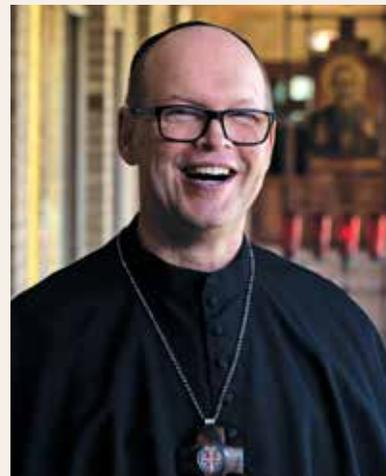
SEE PAGE 12



# He is Risen!

It is only right, with all the powers of our heart and mind, to praise You Father and Your Only-Begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Dear Father, by Your wondrous condescension of loving-kindness toward us, Your servants, You gave up Your Son. Dear Jesus You paid the debt of Adam for us to the Eternal Father by Your Blood poured forth in loving-kindness. You cleared away the darkness of sin by Your magnificent and radiant Resurrection. You broke the bonds of death and rose from the grave as a Conqueror. You reconciled heaven and earth. Our life had no hope of eternal happiness before You redeemed us. Your Resurrection has washed away our sins, restored our innocence and brought us joy. How inestimable is the tenderness of Your Love!

*St. Gregory the Great's Easter Prayer*



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

## Easter...A season to renew one's relationship with God!

During Lent we journeyed with Christ each day through prayer, penance and charitable works. This journey brought us to Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday, these three most holy days are called the sacred Triduum. On these days, the most beautiful and meaningful liturgical ceremonies take place – from the institution of the Holy Eucharist and Priesthood on Holy Thursday, through the Adoration of the Cross on Good Friday, to the great Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday

night leading up to the Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

The Resurrection is the beginning of new life for all those who believe in Jesus Christ. Easter is the season of hope as Jesus tells us: "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and whoever lives and believes in me shall never die" (Jn 11:25-26). The Resurrection should give us joy, knowing that Jesus has won the victory over sin and death and has given his own life to us.

Easter challenges us by not going back to our old ways but by living in the Spirit of Christ in everything, we do.

REJOICE AND BE GLAD!

PEACE,

Abbot Gary, OSB



# Benedictine in Motion

Whenever we get the opportunity, folks at Benedictine High School celebrate our good fortune and our longevity in numbers. A 1,500 year monastic tradition. A 100 year commitment of stability and ministry from the monks of St. Andrew Abbey in the City of Cleveland. A 95 year run of educating a diverse group of young men and shaping them to be leaders. Each one of these substantial figures is a pride point in our community, and they have been inspired by our mission and our Benedictine Hallmarks. While we recognize the importance of our cherished traditions, Spring reminds us to recognize that we are in the midst of a Renaissance on campus. This rebirth is manifesting itself in so many exciting ways.

First, the advancement of our Centennial Campaign projects is stunning. It is one thing to see renderings and drawings on paper and computer screens, but as demolition continues and vertical progress begins, our minds are racing with the idea that our 5,000 square foot atrium and our new Rufus Courtyard are just two seasons away from becoming a reality. With plans being finalized for the Howley Science Wing, three major upgrades will provide spaces that will benefit student learning and experiences, and it will instill a sense of pride for alums and Friends of Benedictine who have supported our vision.

Next, while the freshman class are technically our newest students, the Baby

Bengals have already announced their presence by contributing to campus life on many levels. Their performance in the classroom, their multiple intramural championships, and their presence in the student section at events have been noteworthy. This coupled with another talented incoming freshman class will allow us to continue to capitalize on the palpable uptick of school pride that has been established by our graduating seniors and upperclassmen.

Finally, new faces have joined our loyal (and greatly appreciated) benefactors in supporting our mission and the Men of Benedictine. Among other things, they have been a welcomed addition at our Gala, participants in our Day of Giving,



Mr. Ryan Ryzner '95

and guest speakers in our Ben-X Program. We are grateful to our alumni, our Board of Trustees, our parents and friends for being such great ambassadors by telling what we consider to be one of the most compelling stories in town.

With this special combination of old and new, it is easy to see we are positioning ourselves well to continue celebrating those pride point numbers for years to come.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ryan Ryzner". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Mr. Ryan M. Ryzner '95  
President



# Newest Monks Profess Commitments

One hundred years to the day that the first Benedictine monk, Fr. Stanislaus Gmuca, OSB, arrived in Cleveland, the two newest members of St. Andrew Abbey made formal commitments during a Mass at the monastery on Saturday, February 5, 2022. Celebrating the gift of new vocations that will impact the future was a significant way to begin the Centennial Year activities for the abbey.

**Brother Simon Corrigan, OSB** professed his solemn vows by which he promised to live as a Benedictine monk for the rest of his life. Brother Simon, 41, was born in Medina as the son of Thomas (deceased) and Cheryl Corrigan. His mother and his sister Lizabeth now live in Columbus. His baptismal name was Thomas. The family lived in Our Lady of Grace Parish in Hinckley where Tom got involved in various parish activities.

He was a 1998 graduate of Highland High School in Medina and then studied at the University of Akron where he earned his bachelor of science degree in biology in 2003. Working in a variety of jobs after graduation, he earned a diploma from the Ohio Center for Broadcasting in 2010. However, as he grew deeper in his Catholic faith, especially by reading the lives of the saints, he desired a lifestyle that would allow him the time and space to draw closer to Christ.

Tom first heard of St. Andrew Abbey and Benedictine monastic life from notices in his parish bulletin about a “Living with Benedict” retreat weekend at the abbey. He attended that weekend and enjoyed the experience so he kept in contact with Fr. Thomas Sanders, OSB, the abbey’s vocation director. He continued periodic visits to the abbey and applied to become a postulant in 2017.

After six months of postulancy, he was accepted as a novice and received the religious name of “Simon” after Simon of Cyrene who helped Jesus to carry his cross to Calvary. A year later he professed his first vows, valid for three years, on January 26, 2019.

For the last three years, Brother Simon has learned from **Brother Gabriel Balazovic**,



Bro. Simon Corrigan, OSB

Bro. Gregory Coyne, OSB

**OSB** the duties of the sacristan, the monk who is assigned to care for the sacred vessels and vestments used at liturgies or church ceremonies and how to prepare the abbey church for special events. Brother Simon was named to succeed Brother Gabriel as sacristan in the summer of 2020.

Also in the past year, Brother Simon has been taking classes in Hospitality Management at Cuyahoga Community College in preparation for working with the abbey’s food service. On a daily basis, he also works in basic maintenance of the abbey buildings and grounds.

Known for his deep, baritone voice, Brother Simon enjoys the blend of contemplative prayer and active work that is characteristic of Benedictine life. Quiet by nature, Brother Simon, nevertheless, is a good community member and a regular at the weekly UNO card game during the Abbey Wednesday recreation. He is also attentive to greet all visitors to the abbey with genuine Benedictine hospitality.

At the same Mass celebrated by **Abbot Gary Hoover, OSB** on February 5, **Brother Gregory Coyne, OSB** made his first commitment or oblation. Born in Lakewood, Ohio, he is the son of Tim and Mary Jo Coyne and has two brothers and six sisters. He was baptized Seamus Coyne in the former St. Rose of Lima Church in Cleveland. Up to the 8th grade, he attended Padre Pio Academy, a private, independent school in Lakewood that teaches a classical curriculum and was founded by lay Catholics.

Seamus then attended the former St. Gregory’s Academy in Elmhurst Township, Pennsylvania where he played on their state championship rugby team. He continued his education at Christendom College at Front Royal, Virginia, where he helped coach their national championship rugby team in 2017. He traveled and worked in a variety of jobs before coming to St. Andrew Abbey as a postulant in the summer of 2020.



Bro. Gregory's family (l-r): Brigid, Mary Therese, Bernadette, Aaron Butler (brother-in-law), Bro. Gregory, Katie Butler with baby Radha and Megan, (behind center) parents – Mary Jo and Tim, Margaret, Connor, Madeleine (sister-in-law) holding baby Jack and carrying baby Finbar with Lucy in front, Deidre (sister-in-law), and Denton.



Bro. Simon and his family (l-r): Aunt Cindy Coykendale, Uncle Chuck Coykendale, Lizabeth (sister), and Cheryl (mom).

He was invested as a novice and received the religious name of “Gregory” on October 30, 2020. He knew about the abbey, in part, because of the support that is extended by the monks to the Cleveland Pro-Life community. During his novitiate year, Brother Gregory was given permission on Sundays to pray in front of the last remaining abortion clinic on Shaker Boulevard and to offer sidewalk counseling

to those seeking an abortion. He has a special interest in defending the unborn as well as persons with disabilities. Brother Gregory, who is 28 years old, is currently taking classes at Lakeland Community College and is open to serving in whatever way is needed in the apostolic work of the abbey. He also sees great possibilities for future Bengal rugby.

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**100 YEARS**

Sunday, September 18, 2022

Please mark your calendars to join the Monks of Saint Andrew Abbey for their 100th Anniversary celebrations on Sunday, September 18, 2022: Solemn Mass at Assumption Parish at 3:00 PM followed by the Gala Centennial banquet at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Independence.



*Thousands gathered at St. John's Cathedral in Cleveland on October 2, 1934 for the solemn blessing of Abbot Stanislaus by Bishop Joseph Schrembs.*

## Fr. Gregory's Dream, Part 2 (1930-1966) Centennial History by Fr. Gerard Gonda, OSB '71

# New Growth, New Location, New Challenges

When Fr. Stanislaus Gmuca, OSB mounted the pulpit at St. Andrew's Church at East 51st and Superior Avenue on Sunday, February 5, 1922, and introduced himself as the new pastor, the dream of Fr. Gregory Vaniscak, OSB that began in the hills of Slovakia several decades earlier began a new chapter.

Fr. Stanislaus was the only Benedictine monk in Cleveland and the parishioners were confused that their pastor of 14 years, Fr. John Liscinsky, had been willing to turn his parish over to Benedictine monks from Illinois. The parish was rapidly growing and a fund drive was underway to build a new church. The new pastor soon met with the parish council and agreed with the need to expand the facilities.

In July of 1922, Abbot Valentine of St. Procopius Abbey assigned **Fr. Celestine Drexler, OSB** as an assistant to Fr. Stanislaus in Cleveland. The two pioneer Benedictines conducted a parish census and by November reported that there were 400 families and 416 children in the parochial school. Additional property was bought and the Sisters of Notre Dame who taught in St. Andrew's School were asked by Fr. Stanislaus to move back to their motherhouse down the street and

vacate the convent. Fr. Stanislaus and Fr. Celestine moved into the former convent.

In the meantime, the Slovak Catholic Federation and the Slovak Catholic Educational Institute were eager to start raising funds for the proposed Slovak monastery and high school. In a letter to Fr. Stanislaus in 1923, Abbot Valentine expressed doubts that the proposed high school could get enough students in Cleveland and suggested that it might be better to build the monastery and high school in **Youngstown**. That would have completely changed the history of the "Home of Champions." Fortunately, Fr. Stanislaus did not respond to that suggestion.

By 1924, it was decided that there was not enough land to build a separate church and school. The architects came up with a clever solution – a two floor structure in which the lower floor was the church and

the upper floor was the school but with the external appearance that the entire building was a church. From the outside it resembled a Spanish mission church. The new Saint Andrew Church and school were dedicated in 1926.

The old rectory was moved behind the new church and combined with a house that had been purchased. The contractors made 12 private rooms, a chapel, dining room and living room so that it could function as the first monastery when more monks arrived. In 1927, Abbot Valentine sent **Fr. Leo Rehak, OSB** as an assistant at St. Andrew's Parish and **Fr. George Luba, OSB** to organize the opening of Benedictine High School. Four Benedictine brothers of Slovak background were also sent from Lisle to Cleveland.

With the approval of the monks of St. Procopius Abbey and the Vatican, the small monastic community in Cleveland



St. Andrew's Church and school, East 52 Street and Superior Avenue, was the first location of the abbey and high school.

was declared a **Dependent Priory** on **July 21, 1927**, the first step in the process of becoming an abbey. The Cleveland community would still have the support of St. Procopius Abbey. Abbot Valentine appointed Fr. Stanislaus as the first prior of the new dependent priory and the first president of Benedictine High School, as well as continuing as pastor of St. Andrew's Parish. **Superior Avenue was the first location of the monastery and Benedictine High School.**

Benedictine High School opened on **September 8, 1927** with 26 freshmen located in two classrooms above St. Andrew's Church. St. Andrew's Elementary School occupied the other classrooms. Almost immediately, Prior Stanislaus started looking for a larger property to relocate the priory and high school.

In a letter to Abbot Valentine from Prior Stanislaus dated January 20, 1928, there is the first mention of a possible new location on Buckeye Road, *"There is a 15 acre plot of ground near East 116th Street (sic) and Buckeye Road .... that would be excellent for a high school. It is owned by the Sisters of Notre Dame. There we could accommodate day scholars and boarders at the same time."*

The reference was to **St. Mary's Institute** (though he probably meant to say East Boulevard instead of East 116th Street).

In 1874, the Sisters of Notre Dame purchased the property and ten years later they opened an orphanage for girls. By May of 1928, Prior Stanislaus wrote to Abbot Valentine that it was a *"beautiful spot"* and that Bishop Schrembs supported the purchase for a renegotiated price of \$119,000.

In the meantime, Fr. Gregory Vaniscak, OSB had been balancing his duties as pastor of St. Michael's Parish in Chicago with frequent out-of-town trips to raise funds for the Benedictines in Cleveland from Slovak organizations. He finally received permission from Cardinal Mundelein to resign as pastor and come to Cleveland later in 1928.

In some ways, **Bishop Joseph Schrembs** can be considered a third founder of St. Andrew Abbey because he went out his way to insure the success of the new monastic foundation and high school. Not only did he help negotiate a lower price for the sale of St. Mary's Institute, but at the same time he decided to give the Benedictines a second parish in the diocese to increase the monks' income. In 1928 he announced that property at the corner of East Boulevard and Lamontier Avenue that belonged to St. Ladislaus Parish would become the site of a new parish named **St. Benedict's** which would be administered by the Benedictine monks.

Abbot Valentine appointed Fr. Gregory as the new prior in Cleveland in 1928 and Fr. Stanislaus as the first pastor of St. Benedict's Parish. Prior Gregory was responsible for remodeling St. Mary's Institute into a monastery, high school, and boarders' quarters. At the same time, the number of priest-monks reached six which qualified the community to become an **independent priory** totally separate from St. Procopius Abbey. Prior Gregory was elected as the first Conventual Prior of the now-independent community on October 3, 1929.

It should be noted that Prior Gregory assumed his responsibilities just as the Great Depression hit the country. It became almost impossible to raise money and the monks had large loans to pay off and new buildings to renovate and furnish. But they moved ahead with courage and faith. Each year a new class was added to Benedictine High School.

Prior Gregory focused on growing the monastic community which had seven priests, four seminarians (clerics) and four brothers in 1929. He worked hard in corresponding with young Slovak-American men he had met in his fundraising travels to Slovak parishes across the country. In the summer of 1933, he astonished Abbot Valentine when he wrote to him asking if the tailor at St. Procopius Abbey would be able to make monastic

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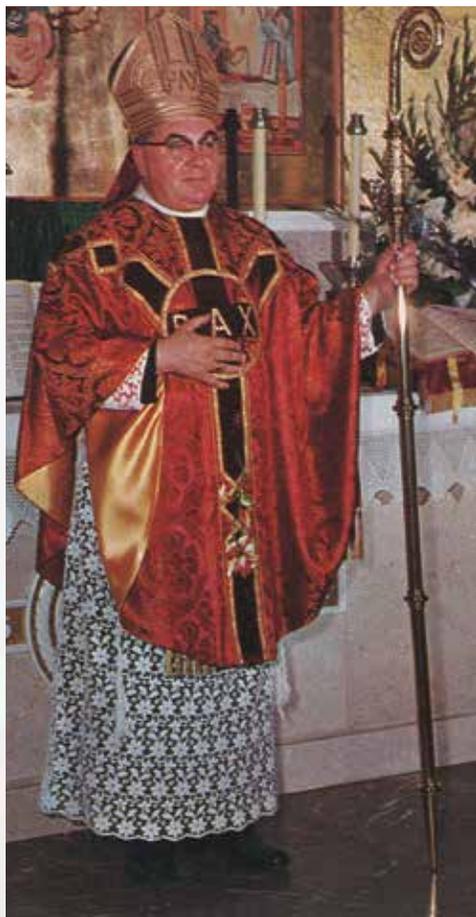
The former St. Mary's Institute which became the abbey and high school on Buckeye Road in 1929.

habits for the nine men who were ready to become novices for St. Andrew's Priory.

Abbot Valentine responded in a letter saying, *"I congratulate you and your community of having such a great number of novices and such fine young men. I do not think there is another abbey in our congregation that has such a number!"* All nine persevered and professed vows and the community grew quickly to 40 members in 1934 and received permission to become an abbey and elect an abbot.

Only the 13 priest monks of the abbey were eligible to participate in the election of the first abbot on August 8, 1934. To the surprise of many, Fr. Stanislaus, who was only 39 years old, was elected instead of Fr. Gregory, who was the senior monk at the age of 49. Although Fr. Gregory led the efforts to establish the Slovak monastery and high school for over 20 years, he had only been in Cleveland for five years. Many believe the election broke his heart.

Fr. Gregory was assigned as pastor of St. Andrew's Parish where he remained the



Abbot Theodore Kojis, OSB who served from 1946-66.



The new Benedictine High School under construction in 1940.

final three years of his life. He died of a massive heart attack on January 15, 1938 while walking home on Superior Avenue after hearing the confessions of the nuns at St. Francis Parish Convent. He was only 53 years old and the first member of St. Andrew Abbey to die.

The solemn blessing of Abbot Stanislaus took place on October 2, 1934 at the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist in downtown Cleveland with Bishop Joseph Schrembs officiating. Photos from the Mass show an overflow crowd which spilled out to the sidewalks and front plaza after the ceremony for the taking of official pictures. Slovaks from across the nation attended with pride because Abbot Stanislaus became the first Slovak-American Catholic prelate.

The election of the first abbot of St. Andrew Abbey made a great impact in several areas. First, it brought publicity to Benedictine High School which was only in its seventh year with a small enrollment of around 100 students. Five years later the student body would double in number. Abbot Stanislaus was a daring visionary when he broke ground for a new high school building in 1940 that would fit 1,000 students, an enrollment which would be realized only seven years later.

Abbot Stanislaus also helped increase the high school's enrollment by initiating the only machine shop technical program in a Cleveland Catholic high school in 1940. He felt that a number of Catholic students were choosing public schools that offered this program especially as the United States

came closer to entering World War II. This unique program lasted until 1956 and received praise from the U.S. government for the quality of its work.

As recounted in the Spring, 2021 issue of *Ora et Labora*, Abbot Stanislaus's pride and joy, the new Benedictine High School, opened in September of 1940, but averted a near major tragedy when the boilers exploded at midday on November 1, 1940 ripping through the cafeteria and two other floors. The "Miracle" was that it was All Saints Day, a holy day of obligation, and no students were in the building at the time.

As mentioned above, the fact that Abbot Stanislaus was the first Slovak-American prelate in the United States made a great impact in several areas. Though the notoriety helped increase support for the high school, the frequent invitations accepted by Abbot Stanislaus to officiate at Slovak events across the country eventually created a psychological distance between the abbot and the monks. The fact that Abbot Stanislaus had primarily lived and worked in parishes before his election also contributed to tensions within the abbey where life followed a different structure of times for "Prayer and Work" (*Ora et Labora*).

After meeting with officials of the American Cassinese Congregation of Benedictine abbeys in the United States, Abbot Stanislaus resigned his leadership positions in 1946 and was given permission to return to parish life in the Diocese of Pittsburgh where he remained until his

death in 1977. A successful builder of brick and mortar, he, sadly, could not find the same success in building up the internal life of the monastery.

The second new era in the history of St. Andrew Abbey began on June 20, 1946, when 37-year-old **Fr. Theodore Kojis, OSB** was elected the second abbot. At the time he was the youngest Benedictine abbot in the world. Born in Slovakia, he came to the U.S. as a child and grew up in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He was one of the first two novices to join St. Andrew's Independent Priory in 1929. At the time of his election, he was a math teacher on the faculty of BHS.

For the next 20 years (1946-66), Abbot Theodore would guide the abbey and high school through continued growth. The remarkable expansion of the Catholic Church in the United States with the "Baby Boomer" generation of young families following World War II characterized the two decades of Abbot Theodore's leadership.

Even the new high school building soon needed expansion with a growing enrollment that surpassed **1,000 students** for the first time in 1946. By 1947, the third floor of the main school building was completed with classrooms in each wing for 200 additional students. A new building was constructed south of the boiler room that housed the expanded machine shop and a weather station was added to the roof of the main building.

In 1952, with the financial assistance of Archbishop Edward Hoban, Abbot



The new Saint Andrew Abbey when it was dedicated in 1952.

Theodore was able to expand the industrial arts building four times its original size and construct an overpass to connect it to the main classroom building. (**That famous overpass, later named "The Brother Ted Spirit Bridge," was recently removed during construction of the new entrance atrium.**) By the 1960's, the science classrooms would occupy that building and a new gymnasium, cafeteria, and auditorium were added.

The biggest challenge facing Abbot Theodore, however, was the building of a new monastery to house the increasing number of monks. The monastic community that moved into the former St. Mary's Institute in 1929 numbered 13 monks. By the time of Abbot Theodore's election in 1946, there were 66 monks. While expensive additions were being made to the school in the early 1950's, loans were being negotiated and contracts were signed for a million dollar new monastery.

Abbot Theodore had a special interest in the design of the new abbey because he was remarkably able to earn a master's degree in Art and Architecture from Western Reserve University five years after his abbatial election. The final plans called for a traditional style quadrangle with a courtyard and a long, narrow church.

However, the special cut Indiana limestone chosen for the project proved more expensive than the budget. Only two sides of the quadrangle were completed without the church when the new abbey was formally blessed by **Abbot Primate Bernard Kaelin, OSB** from Rome on August 6, 1952. The two old buildings that had served as the abbey and high school since 1929 were partially kept in use by the monks. It would take another 32 years before the quadrangle and church were completed by Abbot Roger Gries, OSB in 1984.

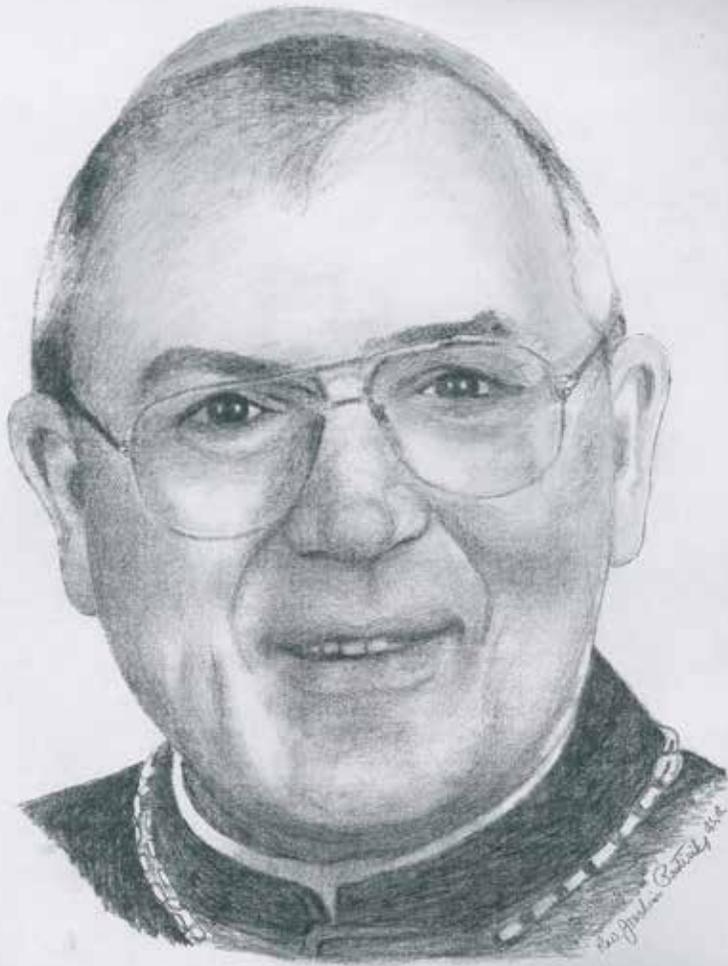
**By 1960, Saint Andrew Abbey reached its highest membership with 80 monks.**

Only four monks had died since the Benedictines came to Cleveland 37 years earlier. There were 30 monks on the faculty of Benedictine High School, 17 brothers working in the abbey, 15 priest monks serving at 8 parishes and chaplaincies in 7 states, and 8 seminarians. Abbot Theodore celebrated his 25th anniversary as a priest in 1961 and completed the construction of the new BHS gymnasium in 1962. There were winds of change stirring in the Church and American society as Abbot Theodore, after 20 years in leadership, announced his retirement in 1966 for health reasons. *To be continued . . . . .*



Monks process into St. Benedict's Church on October 3, 1959 to mark the 25th anniversary of the 1934 elevation of the abbey.

# Bishop Roger's 85th Birthday!



The entire Benedictine family congratulates Bishop Roger Gries, OSB '54 on his 85th birthday which he marked on March 26, 2022.

Bishop Roger celebrated Mass for the BHS student body last November. Pictured is Student Council President Will Kehres '22 handing him a donation from the Men of Benedictine for St. Augustine's Thanksgiving Food Drive. The pencil sketch on this page was done by Fr. Joachim Pastirik, OSB '60, retired BHS art teacher who is now in residence at Regina Health Center in Richfield, Ohio.



*Benedictine students and administrators attended the annual Bishop's Address at Windows on the River on February 10, 2022.*

*From L-R, (standing) Gabe Beltavski '23, Pat Morse '23, Mr. Tom Gallagher, Bishop Roger Gries, OSB '54, President Ryan Ryzner '95, Jeremiah Mayberry-Gest, Amare Murray '22, V.P. of Advancement Chris Lorber '04 (Seated) Peter Sterkel '22, Tyler Shean '22, and Marcello Chapman '22.*

# TRANSDIGM GROUP INC. PROVIDES ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIPS TO BENEDICTINE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Benedictine High School is pleased to announce the deepened partnership with TransDigm Group Inc. who have generously committed to supporting 20 low-income students with tuition assistance and scholarship support on an annual basis.

Headquartered in Cleveland, TransDigm Group Inc. is a leading global producer, designer and supplier of highly engineered aerospace components, systems and subsystems that are used on nearly all commercial and military aircraft in service today.

The Douglas Peacock Scholarship is awarded to five students per grade (20 annually) who demonstrate academic excellence, high character, extra-curricular involvement, and have a financial need to attend Benedictine High School. Douglas Peacock co-founded TransDigm in 1993 with close friend and business partner, Nick Howley, and was the CEO from 1993-2001. The scholarship pays tribute to Mr. Peacock's legacy and entrepreneurial spirit while providing financial support to assist economically disadvantaged young men receive a dynamic, high-quality education.

Kevin Stein, TransDigm Group's President and CEO, stated, "The pursuit of wisdom and knowledge coupled with a care and respect of individuals and individual differences in our society is absolutely critical to our advancement. TransDigm and Benedictine both believe in this, and that's why we are committed to this partnership to assist in the development of these young men in preparation for success in higher education and in life."

Mr. Ryan Ryzner '95, Benedictine High School President/Principal, states, "The relationship between TransDigm and Benedictine spans over a decade. Their belief in our mission and support will provide more young men the opportunity to benefit from a Benedictine education."

"The investment in these 20 young men's education is so inspiring. We are grateful to have high-level philanthropic support from TransDigm which ultimately will help change the lives of these students through their educational growth," says Chris Lorber, VP of Advancement at Benedictine High School.



These four young men along with four other classmates from their respective class years (20 total) are proud recipients of the Peacock Scholarship provided by The Transdigm Group in loving memory of co-founder Dr. Douglas Peacock. Pictured from left to right are: Micah Robinson (fr), Sam Ali (jr), Emerson White (so), and Nicolas Lewis (sr).



**MICAH ROBINSON '25**  
**Grade School:** Our Lady of the Lake  
**Favorite Subject:** Theology  
**GPA:** 3.7  
**What being a Peacock Scholar**

**means to you:** I'm grateful, but mostly it means I've been given a responsibility and I intend to uphold that responsibility through my studies.



**EMERSON WHITE '24**  
**Grade School:** St. Francis of Assisi  
**Favorite Subject:** English  
**GPA:** 3.3  
**What being a Peacock Scholar**

**means to you:** It means a lot to me that a corporation that doesn't know me would entrust me with this scholarship so that I can afford to be at an institution like Benedictine.



**SAM ALI II '23**  
**Grade School:** Citizens Leadership Academy  
**Favorite Subject:** Anatomy and Physiology  
**GPA:** 3.4  
**What being a Peacock Scholar**

**means to you:** I've worked hard to become educated and I'm happy to be recognized for it. I'm glad that the Peacock Scholarship has made an effort to recognize the accomplishments of black students.



**NICK LEWIS '22**  
**Grade School:** St. Stanislaus  
**Favorite Subject:** Physics  
**GPA:** 3.6  
**What being a Peacock Scholar**

**means to you:** It means my hard work has been noticed and it's paying off and it inspires me to continue to put in that work to maintain and better myself.



Young alumni from the Class of 2007 made their presence felt at the 2022 Blue and White Gala (l-r): **Nick Ward, Mike Schiavone, Jimmy Drake, BHS President/Principal Ryan Ryzner (Class of 1995), Richard Chlopecki, Kevin McKinley, Anthony Bencie, and Cory Pecoraro.** Many other young alumni, including **Barry Middleton '16 (cover, lower left)**, were in attendance as well.

## A New Generation Steps Up

Followers of Jesus always see the Easter season as a celebration of New Life. Nature itself in many climates emerges from the dead of winter with fresh blossoms mirroring the new life that Christ brought about by His Resurrection. As Lent of 2022 progressed in mid-March, BHS President and Principal Mr. Ryan Ryzner announced that current Assistant Principal **Mr. Dominic Fanelli** will become Principal for the 2022-2023 academic year. Mr. Ryzner will remain as President.

At the age of 33, Mr. Fanelli will become the youngest principal of Benedictine High School since **Fr. Roger Gries, OSB '54** was promoted to that position in the fall of 1968 at the age of 31. This appointment has brought about an awareness of how much a new generation of Benedictine alumni and friends 40 years of age and younger have been stepping up in their involvement and support of the Home of Champions in recent years.

Mr. Fanelli also represents a third generation of leadership at Benedictine from the Bossu family. His maternal grandfather, famed Head Coach **Augie Bossu**, joined the staff of Benedictine as an assistant football coach in 1953 and remained at Benedictine until his retirement in 2006. Augie's son, **Dr. Frank Bossu '67**, returned to his Alma Mater as a chemistry teacher and coach in 2005

and retired after three years as President in 2020. Mr. Fanelli is Frank's nephew and the son of Augie's daughter Theresa.

Mr. Fanelli grew up in Indianapolis and so brings a new perspective to the Benedictine tradition. Mr. Ryzner commented that "Dominic has brought energy, innovation, and a hands-on leadership style that has resonated with our faculty, staff, students, and parents. He is pragmatic, passionate, and collaborative."

As a graduate of the University of Notre Dame, Mr. Fanelli participated in its Alliance for Catholic Teaching Fellows program. From there he was granted a Fulbright Scholarship in which he taught English in Germany and coached basketball. Returning to the United States, he taught math at Democracy Prep in Central Harlem, New York and later

served as Academic Dean of Sacred Heart Highbridge School in the South Bronx. He went on to serve four years as principal of St. Mark the Evangelist School in Central Harlem.



*Mr. Dominic Fanelli*



Getting ready for Easter Sunday Mass in 2003 are (l-r back row): Bill Fanelli (Dominic's dad), Coach Augie and his wife Florence (Dominic's grandparents), and Dominic. Front row (l-r) are Dominic's siblings Joe, Mark, and Anna Fanelli.



Mr. Fanelli's mother Theresa (left) with her parents Florence and Augie Bossu.

His work in urban Catholic schools underscores the importance of religious faith in Mr. Fanelli's life. Along with BHS science teachers **Mr. Mark Kobylinski '93** and **Dr. Martin Lindway**, Mr. Fanelli is a regular participant in the monks' daily 6:30 AM Mass at the abbey.

He sees the role of faith and the Benedictine monastic tradition as essential components of training BHS students for life: "Other than the gift of faith, the greatest gift we can give our young men is that of resiliency. It may seem counterintuitive in the 21st century, but we find the greatest success in forming young men by going backwards to a 1,500-year-old rule written by a monk; a saint, and we have done so since 1927. We are in the business of forming our young men into Men of Benedictine: Men with faith and resiliency, prayer and work, Ora et Labora. With these gifts, habits and disciplines, they cannot lose and will be successful in this life and the next."

The optimism and hope of a new generation can also be seen in the large number of BHS alumni who have graduated in the new millennium and have chosen to return to work at Benedictine. These include Vice-President for Advancement **Chris Lorber '04**, Assistant Admissions Director **Mike Stircula '05**, Alumni Director **Anthony DiGeronimo '08**, Director of Media and Communications **Brian Devers '08**, theology and history teacher **Matthew**

**Dober '14**, and maintenance assistant **Sean Fazio '14**. There are also a number of younger alumni assisting with coaching.

More and more younger alumni are stepping up in their financial support of Benedictine. Instead of relying on their parents to make annual gifts, this new generation of alumni recognize their responsibility to give back to BHS after they graduate from college and have begun their careers. **At the recent record-setting 2022 Blue and White Gala, nearly 30 alumni under the age of 40 were in attendance.**

Alumni Director Anthony DiGeronimo '08 has recently formed a Young Alumni Council that meets periodically, either in person or virtually, to plan events that

would appeal to younger alumni. Charter members of this Council include **Matt Karpoff '08**, **Jeff Heinrich '06**, **Kevin McKinley '07**, **Cory Pecoraro '07**, **Nick Ward '07**, **Bill O'Hare '05**, **Mike Minnillo '07**, and **Jimmy Drake '07**.

Even the Abbey has seen a new generation of monks respond to God's call in recent years. BHS Theology teacher and soccer coach **Fr. Finbar Ramsak, OSB**, born in 1977 and science teacher **Fr. Thomas Sanders, OSB**, born in 1978, have stepped up to fill the shoes of veteran monk teachers who have left the teaching staff in the past decade. On February 5, 2022, **Bro. Simon Corrigan, OSB**, born in 1980, professed his final vows and **Bro. Gregory Coyne, OSB**, born in 1993, made his first commitment.



Anthony DiGeronimo '08, Alumni Director



Matthew Dober '14, History and Theology Teacher

# The 20th Annual Blue and White Gala was an unforgettable night from start to finish!

After two years of “virtual” fundraising and celebration, the Benedictine family finally had the opportunity to come together in person on Saturday, March 12, 2022 at the Intercontinental Hotel Cleveland near University Circle. Guests were welcomed by Men of Benedictine dressed in their formal Columbia Blue vests, white shirts, and ties to the sound of the Benedictine Jazz Band directed by **Ms. Hannah Westfield**. Singing classic hits were **Sam Ali '23** and **Javier Brewer '23**, backed by **Henry Peyrebrune '22** on bass, **Bobby Martello '22** on lead guitar, **Andrew Joyce '22** on piano, **Max Young '22** on trumpet with Ms. Westfield on the saxophone.

There was plenty of bidding on the Silent Auction, cocktails and appetizers, and tons of catching up between friends and family. “The All Roads Lead to Benedictine” theme was apparent with different cultural food stations and many guests eagerly made their way inside to sample Soul Food, Italian, and Slavic Village cuisine.

After being led in prayer by **Abbot Gary Hoover '74** and hearing from Board Chair **Bill Wilkinson '82**, Scott Mihalic took over and entertained the sold out crowd of over 500 guests and current Men of Benedictine with an incredibly successful Live Auction



*Bobby Martello '22 on lead guitar.*



*Nobby Lewandowski '55 announces a surprise gift.*

with great vacation, dining, and sports packages. Several thousands of dollars were raised from this portion alone!

Following the Live Auction, Scott introduced a short film, “Men of Benedictine,” produced by Director of Media and Communications Brian Devers '08 with assistance from **Leo Yane '22**, **Javier Brewer '23**, **Dylan Irelan '25**, and **Gabe Heskamp '25**. In the film, Senior **Bryce Brand '22** reflected on what it means to be a Man of Benedictine.

The Fund-a-Need portion of the evening was introduced with a remarkable challenge from the **Jamie Georgeson '78** family, **Dr. Frank Bossu '67** and his wife **Nancy Uridil**, alumnus **Nobby Lewandowski '55**, and the **Hank Bloom '73** family to match \$100,000 in donations from the floor. The attendees rose to the occasion and even doubled the original challenge. All proceeds were directed toward student tuition financial assistance.

Probably the most stunning event of the evening occurred when the second Mr. Benedictine, **Nobby Lewandowski '55**, stood up and captured the audience’s attention as he relayed his famous story of receiving a scholarship to attend Benedictine when he was in 8th grade at a time when his family could not afford the tuition. Nobby capped his emotional testimony about the impact of Benedictine on his life by committing an additional \$50,000 to the Fund-a-Need results.

The Men of Benedictine extend their heartfelt gratitude to all who attended the 20th Blue and White Gala and helped to make it a major success.



*Lucas Kaltenbach '25 with parents Jarrod and Paula.*



*Tammy and Jeffrey Brand, parents of Bryce '22 and Breelan '23.*

## A Special Thank You To Our Staff,

**Chris Lorber, Ashley Arko, Fr. Gerard Gonda, OSB, Nicole Kobylinski, Brian Devers, Anthony DiGeronimo, Debbie First, Amy Fischer, and Diane Roberto** along with our dedicated parent volunteers for their contributions aiding in this monumental evening.

*The Men of Benedictine stand to sing the Alma Mater.*



The Benedictine Bengals have wrapped up the 2021-22 Winter Sports Season that was marked by the return of the student cheering section after capacity restrictions were lifted and successes in hockey and wrestling that haven't been seen in quite a few years!



Nick Abounader '22 and Jake Dolan '23

## WRESTLING

The Wrestling Team, led by coach David Armstrong, was a fierce competitor this season. Although the team didn't field every weight class, the Bengals trotted out many successful experienced and younger grapplers. The final regular season Tri Meet was particularly exciting when the Bengals almost swept Fairview and V.A.S.J. with a packed student section cheering the Bengals on. The Bengals had a strong showing at sectionals with Antonio Hobbs '25 (132lbs), Chris Maloney '25 (157 lbs), Nick Abounader '22 (150lbs) and Sectional Champion Jake Dolan (138lbs) qualifying for Districts with 5th place finishers Finn Murphy '22 (165lbs) and Brayden Kobylinski '25 (190lbs) as alternates.

Jake Dolan '23 and Nick Abounader '22 advanced to States after strong showings at the Regional Tournament at Norwalk High School. Jake and Nick fought valiantly and Nick advanced all the way to the Consolation Final and finished his Benedictine Career with a senior season record of 40-6 and a 4th place finish at the State Tournament!

## BASKETBALL

The Bengal Basketball Team was led by seniors Reggie Walker, Marvin Conkle, and London Wimberly in a season of growth under new head coach Chris Salata. Reggie Walker '22 was selected to play in the GCBCA All-Star game on 04/07 for his stand-out play. The Bengals had contributions from players across all grades with some freshmen stepping up to play on J.V. as well. Good luck next season, Bengals!



Reggie Walker '22

## HOCKEY

The Hockey Team was incredibly exciting to watch this year. Led by senior cousins Will and Jack Kehres and senior Andrew Bernard, the Bengals finished the season with a 18-8-2 record. Junior Luke Parker and Freshman Ryan Kehres scored quite a few goals for the Bengals this year as well. After beating Olmsted Falls 3-1 in the first round of the OHSAA playoffs, Luke Parker put in the game winning goal in overtime to push the Bengals past Amherst Steele to advance to the District Semifinals against St. Ignatius. After a tightly contested 0-0 1st period, the Bengals weren't able to stop the Wildcats from scoring the first goal late in the 2nd period on a power play. The Wildcats scored 2 more late in the 3rd, and the Bengals bowed out despite an incredible 50 save performance from junior goalie Michal Pelc. Losing these seniors will be tough, but the future of this team is bright!



## BOWLING

The Bowling Team had high expectations for itself this year and met some of them but not all. With seniors Bryce Brand, Rodney Washington, and Chris Rice leading the way, the Bengals finished 6th at the sectional tournament, just out of contention for advancing. The bowling program has improved steadily for several years and with Sam Ali '23, Ben Andel '23, and Wyatt Toth '23, they have a strong foundation for next season.



Bryce Brand '22

# SAVE THE DATE!

## REUNION WEEKEND 2022

### JUNE 17-19, 2022

*Celebrating classes ending in '2 and '7*

2017

5 YEAR REUNION

1977

45 YEAR REUNION

2012

10 YEAR REUNION

1972

**50 YEAR REUNION  
GOLDEN YEAR!**

2007

15 YEAR REUNION

1967

55 YEAR REUNION

2002

20 YEAR REUNION

1962

60 YEAR REUNION

1997

**25 YEAR REUNION**

1957

65 YEAR REUNION

1992

30 YEAR REUNION

1952

70 YEAR REUNION

1987

35 YEAR REUNION

1947

75 YEAR REUNION

1982

40 YEAR REUNION

1942

80 YEAR REUNION

## 2022 Reunion Weekend Dates

**STAG  
NIGHT**

**FRIDAY**

**JUNE 17, 2022**

**CLASS  
PLANNED  
ACTIVITIES**

**SATURDAY**

**JUNE 18, 2022**

**REUNION  
MASS**

**SUNDAY**

**JUNE 19, 2022**

## REUNION 2022

We are looking for class leaders and ambassadors from the above classes to help get the best out of the celebration of your milestone reunion during Reunion Weekend 2022.

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

## Class of 1950



**Joe Kocab** celebrated his 90th birthday in grand fashion at the Bohemian National Hall on Saturday, March 5. In attendance representing Benedictine were **Fr. Michael Brunovsky, OSB** and **Fr. Gerard Gonda, OSB '71**. A large crowd of friends enjoyed good food and fellowship to mark nine decades of Joe's very interesting life that found him hosting the "Czech Voice of Cleveland" radio show for 48 years, teaching and serving as administrator of John Adams High School, South High School, and Rawlings Junior High School, and promoting cultural and neighborhood gatherings at the old Karlin Hall on Fleet Avenue. Joe has also supported a scholarship fund at Benedictine for many years. (Photo shows Joe with Fr. Michael (left) and Fr. Gerard (right) at his 90th birthday party.)

## Class of 1951



### **Msgr. Thomas Ansgar Laczko**

is a retired pastor of the Archdiocese of Washington, DC now living in a cabin in a rural area near Martinsburg, West Virginia. A son of the former St. Benedict's Parish near BHS, Msgr. Laczko joined St. Anselm's English Benedictine Abbey in Washington, DC and was ordained in 1960. In a newspaper interview in 2020 he explained, "What inspired me and drew me to the Benedictines was a life of prayer and being

able to commune with the Lord. I still enjoy that now."

After teaching math and theology at St. Anselm's Abbey School in Washington, DC for 15 years, he was incardinated as a diocese priest in 1975. He earned a master's degree in guidance and counseling from the Catholic University of America and served as a pastor at a number of parishes in the archdiocese before retiring in 2007. He continues to assist parishes near his home in West Virginia. After 62 years in the priesthood he reflects, "My greatest blessing has been to serve others, especially to serve in parishes, ministering to them with the sacraments, being with them in times of joy and sorrow."

## Class of 1971

On Friday, March 25, members of the Class of 1971 hosted their former principal **Bishop Roger Gries, OSB '54** for an 85th Birthday Lunch at Bruno's Italian Restaurant on West 41st Street. Present for the sold-out affair were: (Left to right – outer ring): Jack Tochek, Mike Andrako, John Hopko, Paul Sobczyk, Jack Siemen, Bishop Roger, Joe Oriti, Cardell Parker, Joe Reccord '72, Bob Downey, Wally Mieskoski, Tim Armelli '74, Paul Antonelli '70. (Left to right – inner ring): Fr. Gerard Gonda, Paul Jakubowski, Tom Ennemoser, Steve Andrassy, Jess Veneri, Steve LaBonte, Joe Gambatese, Tom Armelli, Jimmy Jones.



## Class of 1974

**Denis Gonda** married Terri Marsh on Saturday, October 9, 2021 in Saint Andrew Abbey Church. His brother, Fr. Gerard, OSB '71, celebrated the Mass and classmate Tom Pavelka '74 was the best man.



## Class of 1977



**Ben Holbert** was named Omega Psi Phi 2021 Citizen of The Year. Holbert is currently serving as Mayor of Woodmere, and is also a board member of the Cuyahoga

County Association of Mayors and Managers.

## Class of 1999

**Rich Paul** recently visited Benedictine and spoke to the basketball team about the impact the Home of Champions had on his life. Rich is the CEO of Klutch Sports, and currently the agent for a number of NBA stars including LeBron James, Darius Garland, and Colin Sexton.



## Class of 2002



**TJ Powell** is a Cleveland Police Detective. He was recently featured on Fox 8 News this past winter for helping families in need throughout Northeast Ohio for Christmas.

## Class of 2005

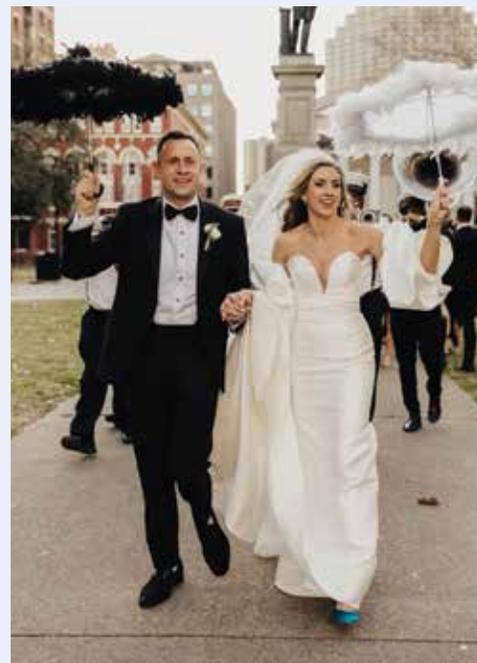


**Jahmal Brown** was recently named Defensive Coordinator at Youngstown State University. He previously had the Defensive Coordinator

position at Lenor-Rhyne for the past three seasons.

## Class of 2007

**Michael Minnillo** and his wife, Bridget, were married on March 4th, 2022.



**Aaron Horn** was recently named Assistant Women's Basketball Coach at West Virginia University. Aaron previously served as an assistant coach at the University of South Dakota for six seasons.

## Stephen Fogg '01 Finds New Life in Fitness, Fellowship, and Faith

by Fr. Gerard Gonda, OSB '71



TOP: Stephen and Julie with their daughters Emma and Lily.

MIDDLE: Stephen during his mission trip to Peru.

BOTTOM: Steve on the day of his confirmation with his pastor and his sponsor Stephan Richter and his wife.

Every Easter is a time for alumnus Stephen Fogg '01 to celebrate the gift of New Life, both physical and spiritual as he looks back on the amazing events of his life as a young alumnus of Benedictine High School who graduated in the new millennium.

After completing his four years at BHS where he played football and was a member of the Travel Club, the Student Council, the Guitar Club, and the Pro-Life Club, Steve began the next phase of his life at Bowling Green State University. He earned his bachelor of arts in Communications-Telecommunications in 2005 and headed south to sunny Charlotte, North Carolina working at CBS radio for four years while looking at opportunities in the fast expanding field of digital media.

However, 2009 turned out to be a Lent with an almost unbearable cross as he faced a serious diagnosis of cancer. At the age of 27, Steve found himself alone and fearful as he faced an uncertain future. The Catholic faith of his childhood soon was overcome with anger toward God and life in general.

To his credit, Steve never lost hope and also maintained his connection to Benedictine and the monks. He gradually renewed his trust in the Lord. Over the next seven years of treatment and tests, he was blessed to be joined in marriage to his courageous partner Julie and experienced the miracle of the birth of two beautiful daughters, Emma and Lily. For the next six years, he enjoyed a succession of new jobs that allowed him to flirt with high profile experiences such as 21st Century Fox and *The Daily Show with Jon Stewart*.

With the successful end of his cancer treatments, Stephen took the bold step of starting his own company, Fogg Media, in August of 2017. It is a marketing agency dedicated to the healthcare industry and was recently recognized as one of the "Top 10 Healthcare Marketing Agencies" in the country by Healthcare Business Review. Fogg Media specializes in strategic communications, digital marketing, creative services, and public relations.

Steve's journey to physical health eventually led to a second journey – to renewed spiritual health. During the successes and sorrows of the past decade, he had drifted

from active membership in the Catholic Church. But the ways of Divine Providence would seek out this prodigal son through an interesting series of coincidences and events.

Ironically, this second journey began during Lent when Steve and his family decided to attend a Lenten fish fry at a nearby Catholic parish in Charlotte. There he ran into an old co-worker who was a member of that parish's Men's Club. He introduced Steve to the group and Steve spent the next several years helping out with events at the church, everything from selling Christmas trees, being an usher during Mass, and helping with Church dinners. Interestingly, he introduced the parish to pierogies reflecting his Slavic heritage from Cleveland. It was a big success.

Through his involvement in the Men's Club, Steve and his family joined St. Gabriel's Parish. He was challenged to really "jump back" into being a real Catholic when a friend asked him to be his son's sponsor for confirmation. Steve was hesitant because he never was confirmed. However, after being encouraged by his connection at BHS, he agreed and it motivated him to complete his own confirmation as well as to get his marriage to his Methodist wife recognized by the Church.

As Steve's business has continued to grow and develop, so has his Christian faith. He soon was introduced to a national organization of 40,000 men that was founded in Charlotte called "F3" – **which stands for Fitness, Fellowship, and Faith.** Its mission is to plant, grow, and serve small workout groups to invigorate men in body, mind, and spirit. Through the peer-led Bible study, Steve says that he has realized how God has always been in his life, not just during challenging times. Last year, Steve was tapped to serve on the F3 Shared Leadership Team in the role of the "Third F" which is to spread Faith and male leadership in the Charlotte region. Before COVID, Steve traveled to Peru on a mission trip to rebuild homes with F3.

Indeed as the Easter Season continues to renew the Church, Stephen Fogg and his family proclaim their "alleluias" with genuine joy and thanksgiving.

# In Memoriam

of Benedictine High School  
and friends of Saint Andrew Abbey



**Albert Grossman, 100**, Class of 1939, died on March 18, 2022. At the time of his death, Al was the oldest living Benedictine alumnus and the last BHS student to have attended all four years in the old high school building. He was the first BHS alumnus to reach his 100th birthday last May. He is survived by his three sons: Robert '61 of Wyoming, Tom '64 of Westlake, and Brother Nathaniel (William), OSB '66 of St. Bede's Abbey, Peru, Illinois. During his combat service in the Air Force during World War II, he was a B-17 pilot in the European theatre. **He credited many harrowing escapes to his devotion to the Immaculate Conception whose medal he continued to wear all his life.** For 37 years he served as the Operations Administrator of the Cleveland Museum of Art. He was buried with full military honors from the chapel of St. Mary of the Woods assisted living facility in Avon. Representing BHS at his funeral Mass were Abbot Gary Hoover, OSB, Fr. Gerard Gonda, OSB, and president/principal Mr. Ryan Ryzner.



**Richard Kubicina, 90**, Class of 1950 died on December 10, 2021. Richard was a U.S. Army Veteran and an avid sportsman and a handyman extraordinaire. He was single and very involved with his faith and in support of Pro-Life ministries. In 2020 he won the Money Tree at the virtual Abbey Benefit and donated it back to the Benedictines in recognition for the impact they

made on him during high school. His funeral Mass was celebrated at St. Angela Merici Church in Fairview Park.



**Deacon Thomas Long, 71**, died on December 13, 2021 at the age of 71. Tom taught physics at BHS from 2003 to 2010. He earned his master's degree in physics from John Carroll University and was ordained as a permanent deacon of the Catholic Church. He was buried from St. Christopher's Parish in Rocky River where he assisted for many years.



**Louis DeMarco, 68**, Class of 1971, died on Christmas Day, 2021 after a short illness. Lou was the devoted husband of Mary and the father of Louis and Meredith DeMarco. At his graduation from John Carroll University, he received the Beaudry Award which recognizes outstanding service in four areas and is voted on by the senior class. Lou was a lifelong learner and an entrepreneur. His funeral Mass

was celebrated at Holy Rosary Church in Little Italy.



**Stephen Langa, 77**, Class of 1962, died on December 30, 2021. Steve was faithful in helping to organize his BHS class reunions every five years. He was the manager of local Value City stores for 30 years. An avid golfer, he assisted his wife, Sandra, in baking and selling popular homemade nut and poppyseed rolls each week during the summer at the Seven Hills outdoor market. He leaves his son,

Stephen, and daughter, Doreen.



**Darlene Triska, 84**, died on January 7, 2022. She was the wife of the late Jerry. When her son Stephen, Class of 1978, attended Benedictine, she met the late Fr. Placid Pientek, OSB and worked as his volunteer for special projects for many years. She was a licensed practical nurse and worked at the former St. Luke's Hospital. Her funeral Mass was celebrated at Our Lady of Peace Church.



**Derek Donley, 44**, Class of 1995, died on January 14, 2022. He is survived by his parents Bill and Anna Marie, son Devon, and brother Joe (BHS Class of '94). Derek was a certified chef and worked for a number of local restaurants and catering services. Despite health issues in recent years, he was a faithful follower of Bengal sports. His funeral Mass was celebrated at St. Charles Church in Parma

where the pastor Fr. Jack Carlin recalled how helpful Derek was with parish activities. Representing BHS at the funeral Mass were classmate Ryan Ryzner, BHS president and principal, and Fr. Gerard, OSB.



**Gerald Kohanski, 73**, Class of 1965, died on January 24, 2022. He served on the Aurora school board for 24 years. For two of those years, he was the board vice president and for his final 22 years on the board, he served as its president. "There is no question that Jerry had an immeasurable impact on the community of Aurora," Aurora Superintendent Michael Roberto

wrote in an announcement that went out to district families. "His leadership and care for our kids will be missed." He is survived by his wife, Mary, and three children. His funeral Mass was celebrated at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in Aurora.



**Daniel Saunders, 95**, Class of 1944, died on March 28, 2022. After graduating from BHS, he attended Western Reserve University, graduating in 1950, and worked as an accountant until his retirement, most recently as the senior accountant for the City of Bedford. His unwavering passion for sports, especially baseball, spanned his whole life. He traveled the U.S. with his late wife, Viola,

playing sports while raising seven children who survive him along with 12 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. His funeral Mass was celebrated at Our Lady of Hope Church in Bedford.

# In Memoriam

of Benedictine High School  
and friends of Saint Andrew Abbey

## RECENTLY DECEASED

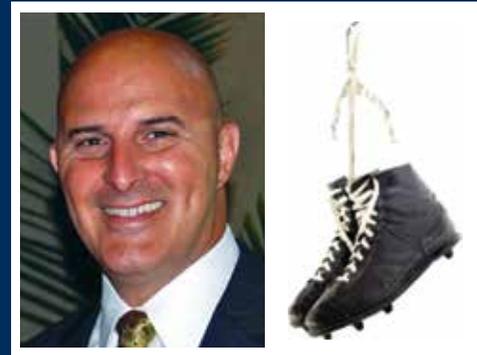
The following members of our Benedictine Community have gone on to Eternal Rest between September 1, 2021 and April 2, 2022. May they all Rest in Peace.

Class	Name	Deceased Date
1939	Al Grossman	3/18/22
1944	Daniel Saunders	3/28/22
1950	Richard Kubicina	12/20/21
1952	Ray Zelesnik	12/20/21
1954	Thomas Balog	1/31/22
1962	Stephen Langa	12/30/21
1965	Gerald Kohanski	1/24/22
1970	Terrance Kurimski	11/29/21
1971	Louis DeMarco	12/25/21
1995	Derek Donley	1/14/22
	Bertha Popovic	10/30/21
	Deacon Thomas Long	12/13/21
	Martha Keenan	12/23/21
	Darlene Triska	1/7/22

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)

# 6th Annual Joe Marino Memorial

## Alumni and Friends Scholarship Golf Outing



**FOURSOMES SOLD OUT**

**Thursday, June 2, 2022**  
**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.



Dear FirstName,

### IMPORTANT NOTICE

Benedictine High School recently launched a comprehensive data verification project. We are requesting all alumni of Benedictine High School to contact us for this important project.

We've assembled the information currently listed in our alumni files and now **need your help** to confirm the accuracy of your data and fill in any information gaps.

**Please call 1-866-000-0000 (toll-free) to take care of this important matter today.**

Up-to-date alumni information is critical for developing career placement guides to benefit students and alumni as well as determining our ranking in national evaluations.

Your prompt assistance is greatly appreciated. Please call to verify your data today.

You will always be a Bengall

Sincerely,

Your Invitation ID:

Chris Lorber '04  
Vice President of Advancement

2022 © Benedictine High School

Benedictine High School is working with PCI to create the new Benedictine Alumni Directory. You likely have received these postcards in the mail. It will be of great benefit to make sure your information is updated by calling the number listed on this PCI postcard. Thank you for your cooperation!

# Alumni and Friends of Benedictine,



Chris Lorber '04

Amazing! A single word to communicate the atmosphere, camaraderie, and success of the 2022 Blue and White Gala.

With over 500 people in attendance and 50 young men in their Columbia Blue tuxedos, friends, parents, faculty, staff, supporters of Catholic education, and Men of Benedictine (clap, clap, clap) joined together and reached new heights to have the most successful Blue and White Gala in the school's 20 years. Thank you!

I am often heard communicating that "the Blue and White Gala is the best platform for us to share the Benedictine story." For the 500 people in attendance and those following along from your homes, I hope my often-used comment was accurate and remained consistent. The appreciation for Benedictine High School and its mission from all different constituency groups was evident on Saturday, March 12, 2022.

The event is made possible from all who dedicate their time, talent, and treasure. A special recognition and acknowledgment goes out to the many who assisted behind

the scenes: Mrs. Ashley Arko, Mrs. Amy Fischer, Mrs. Nicole Kobylinski, Mr. Brian Devers, Fr. Gerard Gonda, OSB, Mr. Anthony DiGeronimo, Mrs. Debbie First, Mrs. Diane Roberto, and the over 20 parents who were a part of this year's committee.

As we conclude Gala Season, I remind you of our upcoming opportunities to celebrate Benedictine High School (Reunion Weekend) while also celebrating St. Andrew Abbey (Centennial Benefit) in the near future:

## Reunion Weekend: Friday, June 17 through Sunday, June 19, 2022

Are you a graduate from the class years ending in '2 or '7? If yes, congratulations - It's your milestone year! Each year, the advancement department celebrates Reunion Weekend during the third week of June by honoring classes back to campus for Stag Night (Friday) and Mass & Breakfast (Sunday). Actually, graduates of any class are welcome to attend. Classes are encouraged to assist and recruit classmates back for this joyous occasion to share memories, reconnect, and tour the beautified campus and grounds of 2900 MLK Jr. Dr. For more information or to help and serve as a class ambassador, please contact Anthony DiGeronimo at [adigeronimo@cbhs.edu](mailto:adigeronimo@cbhs.edu) or 216-421-2080 ext. 342. Congratulations to our golden

reunion class, 1972, as you celebrate your 50 year milestone!

## 100 Year Centennial Celebration: Sunday, September 18, 2022

Save the Date! The Benedictine Order of Cleveland (St. Andrew Abbey) invites you to participate in the 100 year Centennial Celebration on Sunday, September 18, 2022 with Mass at Assumption Parish at 3:00PM and Dinner at Embassy Suites in Independence to immediately follow. As we celebrate this significant milestone of year 100 of the Benedictine monks' arrival to Cleveland, we seek your attendance to honor and pay tribute to the monks who are deceased, to recognize the current members of the Order, and to celebrate those who are called in the future. More information to follow!

As always, please know you are always welcome to visit us at either Benedictine High School or St. Andrew Abbey. We would be glad to give you a tour and show you the transformation taking place on our beautiful campus. You make the difference!

Yours in St. Benedict,

Mr. Chris Lorber '04  
Vice President of Advancement



Andy Smith '78 celebrates Gala success with Chuck St. John '54 and Colin St. John '09

# 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  
*Director of Advancement Operations and  
Events*

Mrs. Nicole Kobylinski  
*Advancement Associate*

Mrs. Debra First  
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