

ORA ET LABORA



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

Fall 2019

Welcome Home, Mr. Ryzner

Page 10



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

Fall 2019

Abbot Gary Hoover, OSB '74
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ON THE COVER:

Nathan Mooney '23, Joe McDonnell '22,
Aristotle Wilson '23, Cole Ericsson '23,
and Levi Fair '20 take time in the summer
to introduce themselves and pose for a
picture with Mr. Ryan Ryzner.



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Abbot Gary's Reflection

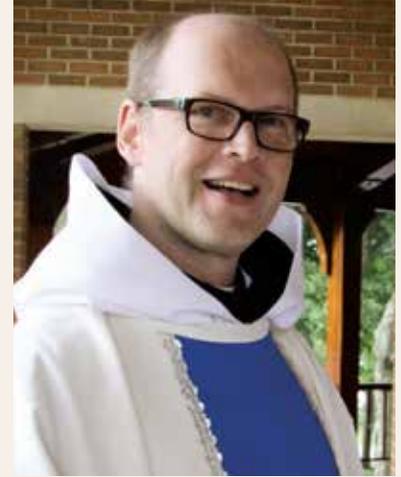
In the last Ora, I spoke about removing the “barrels/obstacles” in your life and learning to take a deep breath. For those of you who have tried taking that deep breath, does your life seem a little more manageable? Have you been able to realize more clearly what God has in store for you? Many times God is calling us to travel on a new road with new beginnings.

Do we dare venture down this new exciting path? Change is not easy, we find it easier to settle and complain about the obstacles, than move them. We forget to breathe. We find that sometimes we are afraid to venture into the unknown and to trust in God. We are challenged to follow, to say yes to God, and follow him blindly.



Many of us in the Benedictine Community are experiencing new beginnings. The Abbey is finding creative ways to build our community. We ask God daily to help in making decisions that will keep our Benedictine Community thriving. We have been traveling our road under the guidance of St. Benedict for nearly 100 years. Our focus has always been remembering our mission. One aspect is that we are here to create an environment of molding young men into “Men of Benedictine” spiritually, physically, emotionally and mentally.

New beginnings for administration, faculty and staff include developing ways to teach our young men to become Men of Benedictine. Over the past months, each have had to stop, breathe, and head down our path with new challenges. Our new principal, Mr. Ryan Ryzner '95, is looking at keeping the traditions he had as a student and creating new exciting ways to keep Benedictine High School as a school where young men want to attend. Faculty and staff are working towards enhancing the environment of Ora et Labora (pray and work), because that is what makes us who we are.



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

The Abbey may be downsizing living space and the high school roof needed an update; just as in your own life, you will face the many obstacles and new roads. God will always be there to guide the way. As St. Paul reminds us in Philippians 4:13 “I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.”

After we breathe, we all need to remember that with God new beginnings are not the exception; they are the road we travel.

Peace,

Handwritten signature of Abbot Gary, OSB.

Abbot Gary, OSB



Abbot Clement Zeleznik, OSB, Abbot Gary Hoover, OSB, Fr. Conrad Wald, OSB, Bishop Roger Gries, OSB, Fr. Edward Mazich, OSB and Fr. John Thompson, OSB take a group picture at Fr. Conrad's ordination.

The Ordination of Fr. Conrad Wald, OSB

The number of the priest monks of Saint Andrew Abbey increased to 19 with the ordination of **Fr. Conrad Wald, OSB** by confrere **Bishop Roger Gries, OSB '54** in the abbey church on Saturday, May 25, 2019. The next day Fr. Conrad celebrated his First Mass at Assumption Parish in Broadview Heights, Ohio with the pastor, **Fr. Justin Dyrwal, OSB** as the homilist.

Fr. Conrad, 55, was born in Germany but moved to Atlanta, Georgia at a young age. He is the son of Udo Wald of Bainbridge Island, Washington and Nan Marshall of Savannah, Georgia. He has one brother and five sisters.

He earned a bachelor's degree in political science and history from the University of Georgia in 1986 and a master's degree in political science from Ohio State University in 1988. He worked for a number of years in pension plan administration with companies in Cincinnati, Ohio and Rochester, New York. Raised in the Episcopal Church, he completed R.C.I.A. and was received into the Catholic Church at Easter in 2003.

Feeling a deeper call to religious life, he became a postulant of Saint Andrew Abbey in January of 2012 and professed his



Fr. Conrad Wald, OSB celebrated his first Mass as a priest on Saturday, May 25, 2019 at Assumption Parish in Broadview Heights.

first vows as a Benedictine monk in 2013. He began studies for the priesthood at Borromeo Seminary and John Carroll University and completed his four years of graduate theological studies at St. Vincent Seminary in Latrobe, Pennsylvania.

He has been assigned to the staff of Benedictine High School for the fall in addition to taking education classes at John Carroll University. He will assist on weekends at Immaculate Conception Parish in Madison, Ohio.

Ordination Anniversaries

Abbot Clement, Frs. Joachim, Dominic, and Timothy

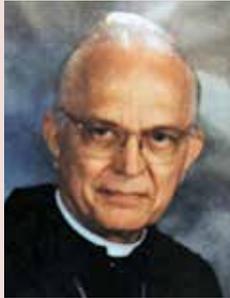
Four priests of Saint Andrew Abbey marked notable anniversaries of their ordination to the priesthood this year. Retired **Abbot Clement Zeleznik, OSB '50** reached his 60th anniversary as a priest having been ordained on May 23, 1959 and **Frs. Joachim Pastirik, OSB '60, Timothy Buyansky, OSB '60, and Dominic Mondzelewski, OSB '60** attained their Golden Jubilee. The three BHS classmates were ordained to the priesthood on June 7, 1969.

Abbot Clement graduated as the valedictorian of the Class of 1950. He entered the novitiate of Saint Andrew Abbey and professed his first vows in 1953. After his ordination, he achieved master's degrees in physics (University of Notre Dame), religious education (Loyola University of Chicago), and spirituality (Duquesne University).

He served as the novice master guiding the formation of new members of the abbey for 20 years from 1976-97 while teaching physics and theology at Benedictine High School from 1960-70 and from 1973-1997. He also served as an associate pastor of Assumption Parish in Broadview Heights, Ohio from 1997-2001. He was elected the fifth abbot of the abbey on June 8, 2001 and served until his retirement in 2008. From 2011-2018 he was the resident chaplain at Loyola Retreat House in Clinton, Ohio.

Now 87 years old, Abbot Clement continues to provide spiritual direction to many individuals and conducts evening programs in scripture studies and religious formation. He is the oldest monk of the abbey.

Frs. Joachim and Dominic are residents of Regina Health Center in Richfield, Ohio. Fr. Dominic left teaching in 2007 due to



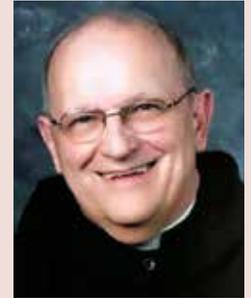
Abbot Clement



Fr. Dominic



Fr. Timothy



Fr. Joachim

complications from a fall that he suffered in 2005. He eventually was moved to Regina for rehabilitation and has remained there ever since. Fr. Joachim has been at Regina from 2014 to the present.

Fr. Joachim taught senior theology, technical drafting, studio art, and art appreciation at Benedictine High School from 1969-2001. He went back to school and earned a bachelor of arts degree in art education for secondary schools from Baldwin-Wallace College in Berea in 1976. His third floor art studio was one of the most popular classrooms at BHS during those years with a relaxed atmosphere and background music conducive to fostering creativity. Over the last 50 years, many former students asked him to witness their marriages. He served as subprior of the abbey from 1991-1995 and as prior from 1995-99. He also was the abbey organist and barber for over four decades.

Fr. Dominic was inducted into the prestigious Benedictine Hall of Honors this past spring in recognition for his achievement of serving the longest term of the 16 men and one woman who have served as principal of BHS. Considering his 17-year tenure as principal and the previous 7 years that he served as assistant principal, Fr. Dominic provided a quarter century of strong leadership during some of the most challenging years in the history of the school.

In addition to serving as an administrator, he also taught social studies and utilized his

interest and talent in athletics by coaching the varsity tennis team from 1969-1971, the junior varsity baseball team from 1971-1977, and the varsity cross country team from 1969-1981. After stepping down as principal in 1994, he assumed a full teaching load in the social studies department and continued to serve on committees and attended most Bengal athletic events.

In 1977 he began a new weekend pastoral assignment assisting with Masses at nearby St. Lawrence Church off Union Avenue. In 1997, he agreed to serve as administrator of the parish, a position he held until the parish closed in 2010.

Fr. Timothy currently serves as the prior of the abbey, a position he has held since 2014 and which he previously held from 1991-95. In 2017, he concluded 47 consecutive years on the Benedictine High School faculty serving as librarian and, since 1975, as the director of the BHS Drama Club. He also was the long-time moderator of the Ski Club.

Fr. Timothy served as the novice master of the abbey as well as director of the monks in temporary vows. In 1973, he began weekend parochial assistance at St. Paul's Parish in Euclid and continued assisting there until the parish was merged in 2009 and became St. John of the Cross Parish. Last year, Fr. Timothy began helping on weekends at the historic Shrine Church of St. Stanislaus in Slavic Village where BHS alumnus Fr. Eric Orzech '85 serves as pastor.

Mary Ann DeFranco and Her Lasting Connection to Benedictine

Mary Ann DeFranco, Abbot Gary's secretary for the last six years, has always had a special connection to Benedictine High School. It all began one cold night in the winter of 1965 when Mary Ann Bartsche attended a basketball game at Benedictine with her friends from St. Stephen High School. It was there that she met her future husband, Tony DeFranco '66, after the game. The rest, as they say, is history.

Tony and Mary Ann married in 1969 and had three children: Joe, Janine, and Jessica. Their son, Joe, followed in his father's footsteps and became a Benedictine legacy, graduating in 1988 and continuing the family's strong connection to the Bengal community.

After spending several years working as a stay-at-home mom, Mary Ann returned to the work force as the secretary of the primary building with St. Rita School in Solon.

Once she had been with St. Rita School for several years, Mary Ann found herself back at Benedictine working in the business office with Mr. Dave Smith. After her time in the business office, she transitioned to Advancement here at the school.

After six years working in the Advancement office, Mary Ann accepted a position at Beaumont School, working under the president, Sister Ritamary Welsh, OSU. Her daughters, Janine and Jessica, graduated from Beaumont School in 1992 and 2001, respectively.

Six years later, Fr. Gary Hoover contacted Mary Ann and asked if she would be willing to assist him in his position in the Alumni Office. Mary Ann held this position for two years before accepting a position at Julie Billiart School once Fr. Gary moved on to campus ministry. Mary Ann stayed at Julie Billiart assisting school President Sister Agnesmarie LoPorto, SND for six years until her retirement.

The tradition of Mary Ann returning back to the *Home of Champions* continued once Fr. Gary became the Abbot in 2013 and reached out to Mary Ann to be his secretary. Since then, Mary Ann has been the "gatekeeper" in Abbot Gary's office and has become a beloved coworker and friend to all those who know her at St. Andrew Abbey and Benedictine High School.

Speaking about her current position, Mary Ann said: "There is never a dull moment in the Abbot's office! There are good days and crazy days, but at the end of each day, Abbot always thanks me for my work. That small token of appreciation continues to mean a lot to me."



The gatekeeper to Abbot's Office, Mary Ann DeFranco.

Reflecting on all her years in Catholic education, Mary Ann said: "I hope I have left my mark at every Catholic school I've worked at. I touched many lives throughout the years and have enjoyed every minute of it, whether it be working with administration, or parents and students."



The DeFranco Family

When asked "Why Benedictine?" Mary Ann stated that "Catholic education has always been important to my husband and me because it focuses on living one's faith and helped my children realize their own personal gifts. Although we had to sacrifice to send them to Catholic schools, I would always choose the same and believe it was worth every penny."

For all of us in the Benedictine community, Mary Ann's positive attitude, uplifting spirit, and hard work ethic are cherished. We are forever grateful that Mary Ann decided to come to Benedictine that one night back in 1965, and hope she continues her legacy here.

Fall Feast

An Annual Benefit for Saint Andrew Abbey



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2019

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

1pm Mass

2pm Hors d'oeuvres & Refreshments

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

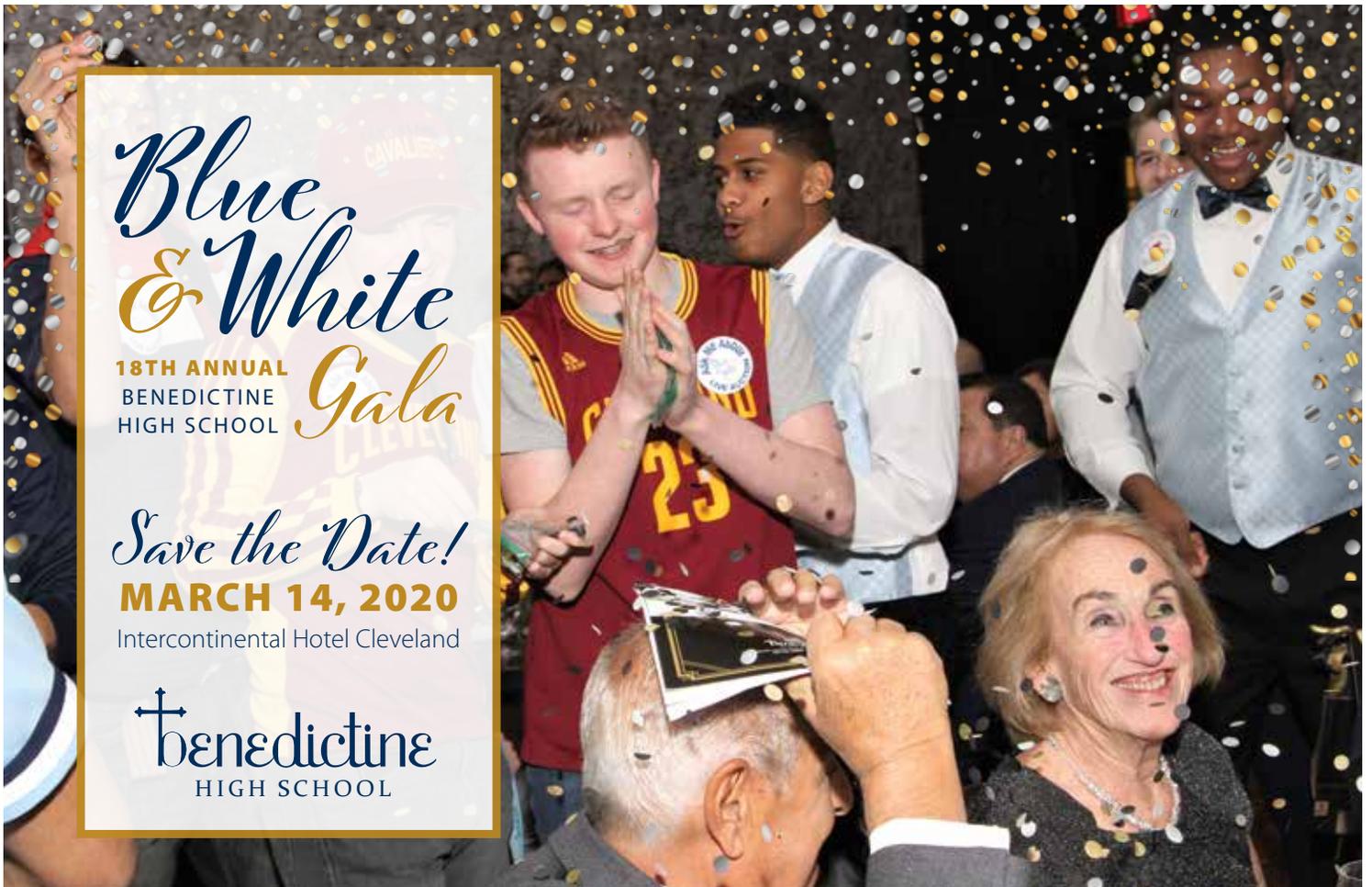
For more details, contact Debbie First at first@cbhs.edu
or 216-421-2080 ext: 156.

Blue & White Gala

**18TH ANNUAL
BENEDICTINE
HIGH SCHOOL**

Save the Date!
MARCH 14, 2020
Intercontinental Hotel Cleveland


benedictine
HIGH SCHOOL



Media is Added to Benedictine's College Ready – Career Bound Program

Opportunities for Benedictine Students ... Opportunities for You To Be Their Inspiration

Starting August 2019, the Media discipline will become the fourth focus of studies in Benedictine's College Ready – Career Bound program. It joins Engineering, Entrepreneurship, and Medicine, and will offer our students experiences in journalism, film, video production, theater, public speaking, and podcasting.

A cornerstone of Benedictine, Mr. Mark Francioli '71 has been named the Department Chair of the Media program. Mr. Francioli is excited to have students use courses, clubs and internships to explore the different media areas based upon their particular interest.

Critical to students' learning is having career professionals and professional experiences during their four years in the Media program.

The four-year Media program begins with students participating in a Media Club their freshman year. Sophomore year requires that the student takes the new Media & Communication elective. The following years of electives would provide specialization into a student's particular area of interest. Internship experiences would occur after their sophomore year and result in a capstone project their senior year. Career professionals are embedded in each of these areas.

Adding momentum to the program, Mr. Francioli applied for and was awarded a grant

as an Ohio University Scripps College of Communication fellow. Mr. Francioli was one of 10 teachers selected for their second annual Communication Fellows program. Focusing on curriculum development in communication, the program provides funding and mentorship support. Mr. Francioli will develop and implement the Introduction to

Media & Communication course during the fellowship. The Communication Fellows program also provides Mr. Francioli training in new technology and a stipend toward equipping the classrooms. Students are now applying to the Media program and signing up to take the new Introduction to Media & Communication course.

As I was speaking to a retired graduate regarding his career in the arts, he explained that the pivotal point came when his professor in college gave him an article about the

business of theater. His finance major then became intertwined with theater classes and his successful career continued to blend management of the Arts with the production of the Arts.

Similarly, Benedictine College Ready – Career Bound programs seek at the high school level to help our students find their careers, while learning the necessary content for success in college. We do that by including career professionals and professional student experiences into the Benedictine learning environment.



Dr. Frank Bossu '67

For all of you with careers in media, you can contribute directly to the development of our young men by joining us in our new Media program.

It would be great if your career expertise could support our young men in the College Ready – Career Bound Media program. Please contact us to get involved.

Yours in Benedictine,
Dr. Frank Bossu '67

Benedictine Media Program Clubs and Extracurricular Activities

Art Club
Bennet Newspaper
Chorus
Concert / Marching Band
Contemporary Music Club
Drama Club
Film Club
Jazz Band
Literary Magazine Club
Marching Band
Photography Club
Speech & Debate Club
Yearbook



MR. MARK FRANCIOLI '71

After graduating from Benedictine in 1971, Mr. Francioli obtained a Bachelor of Arts degree in psychology and humanities and a Master of Arts degree in English from Case Western Reserve University. A Master of Education degree in guidance and counseling from John Carroll University followed. He began teaching at Benedictine High in 1978. He leads the award-winning *Bennet* newspaper, as well as the Speech & Debate Club and the Film Club. In addition to being awarded a grant from the Ohio University Scripps College of Communication, Mr. Francioli was an invited speaker at the Columbia School of Journalism. His student-led Italian Heritage Club works during the school year to provide scholarships for Benedictine students. He has also established and led the Hall of Distinction Awards program that honor graduates for their distinguished careers.



The Men's Chorus under the direction of Mr. James Litteral



The Drama Club performed *The Fantasticks* this past spring



The media-tech room is the home of 20 Mac computers, keyboards, and personal microphone stations



The Jazz Band performs at the Blue and White Gala

The Bennet – the school's nationally recognized student led newspaper

THE COLUMBIA SCHOLASTIC PRESS ASSOCIATION
awards this
GOLD MEDALIST CERTIFICATE
to
THE BENNET



The Bennet staffs through the decades

Welcome Home, Mr. Ryzner!



Mr. Ryan Ryzner '95

What an exciting summer we had here at 2900 MLK Drive. The campus was abuzz with academic enrichment programs, performing arts and athletic camps, and routine construction. As the faculty, staff and students brought life back into the hallways, we launched the 2019-20 school year, which has all the makings of another successful campaign designed specifically to nurture the next generation of Men of Benedictine.

Since I began transitioning into this role in April, and while it should not

come as a surprise given our long-standing hallmark of community, I have been stunned and humbled by the number of alums, families, and friends of Benedictine who have asked a simple question, "How can I help?" After putting much thought into it, I came up with a simple answer: Engage. It doesn't matter if it comes in the form of time, talent, or treasure. Engage.

Pick an event like the Blue and White Gala to attend each year. Come onto campus and speak to our Engineering, Media, or Business students. Donate on Augie Bossu Day. Come to the Christmas Concert. Celebrate Mass with us during a holy day of obligation. Host a Senior at your place of business during Project Real. Whichever cause, club, or organization means a good deal to you, however you feel you can support our mission, find a way to engage. And plan to do it each year.

If you are reading this, you know the impact that Benedictine has had on you, your sons, your families, and the Greater Cleveland community. That indelible experience that has transformed the lives of thousands of young men for decades has been made possible by the generosity of others. For all of this to continue for the present and future Men of Benedictine, we will continue to rely on your support. If you would like to share your availability or ideas, please go to the website under the Parents and Students or Alumni tabs, or send an email to engage@cbhs.edu.

In the meantime, our students, faculty and staff will be working to honor and preserve the traditions you hold dear. We will work to capitalize on the unique and ever-evolving opportunities with which we are blessed. And finally, we will work with a delicate blend of grit and grace, each day, to make you proud of the place we call the Home of Champions.

Many blessings to you and your families,

Go Bengals!
Ryan M. Ryzner '95

PRINCIPAL'S PROFILE:

Name:

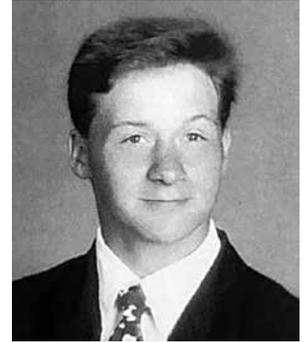
Mr. Ryan Ryzner

Education:

Benedictine High School '95

Allegheny College '99
(Undergraduate)

Cleveland State University '03
(Masters)



Professional Experience:

2001 – 2012: Benedictine High School
Teacher and coach

2012 – 2013: Lake Catholic High School
Teacher

2013 – 2018: Gilmour Academy
Upper School Associate Director
Director of Middle School
Director of VECTOR Program

Family:

Wife, Sarah. Children: Mary, Henry, and Jack



Q & A WITH MR. RYZNER

1.) Where did you grow up and what were the most compelling elements that made you want to become a Man of Benedictine?

I grew up in Cleveland Heights and went to St. Ann School. To me, the most notable characteristics of a Man of Benedictine were the quiet confidence and the spirit and unity that were demonstrated by the students. When I walked up the street to watch them play football at Cleveland Heights High School, they were always either a few inches shorter or a few pounds lighter, but they would never be outworked. I felt those qualities were directly in line with the experience that I wanted for myself as I began to define the young man I wanted to become.

2.) Who were some of your influences to get you interested in teaching, and then ultimately grow into administration?

Two of my older cousins were teachers, and when I was in third and fourth grade, I would help them grade tests. I knew I wanted to coach as well, so teaching was something that I felt I wanted to do very early on. Before attending BHS, I liked to write, but Mr. Francioli helped me grow from a reluctant reader into a more engaged one. As a result, I taught English for the majority of my time in the classroom. As the years passed, I liked the way that administrators were able to help shape philosophy, programming, and vision, which ultimately led me to this position.

3.) What is your educational philosophy, and what do you look to add to the Benedictine experience?

My educational philosophy mirrors the one that I have already witnessed as a student and faculty member at BHS: Meet the students where they are. We serve a student body that hails from more than 70 grade schools across Northeast Ohio. They come to us with varying skill-levels, hopes, and dreams, and it is our job to provide a solid academic foundation that will allow them to reach their goals by assisting them in meeting and exceeding their potential.

4.) What are some of your goals as the principal of Benedictine High School?

I am duty-bound as the principal at BHS to extend the traditions that guided

me as a student over 20 years ago because I recognize that they were established long before my time. They are the bedrock that has made this place unique and special, and they will continue to be as we approach 100 years of existence. I would like to provide a carefully curated curriculum that is a blend of both traditional and progressive coursework. It will also capitalize on experiential learning opportunities when they present themselves as we look to encourage our young men to engage with the businesses, organizations, and institutions in the Buckeye neighborhood and in the Greater Cleveland area as a whole.

5.) Are there any educational experiences or things that will be different or that you look to implement?

My goal is to be more intentional about how we engage our alums and families as it pertains to educational and networking opportunities. Our greatest resources are the men who have walked these halls and become leaders in their respective professions. In addition, many of our parents have also done the same. It seems only logical to reach out to these stakeholders to partner with us in helping to provide our students with shadowing, internship, and networking opportunities that could supplement their academic coursework in very practical and impactful ways.

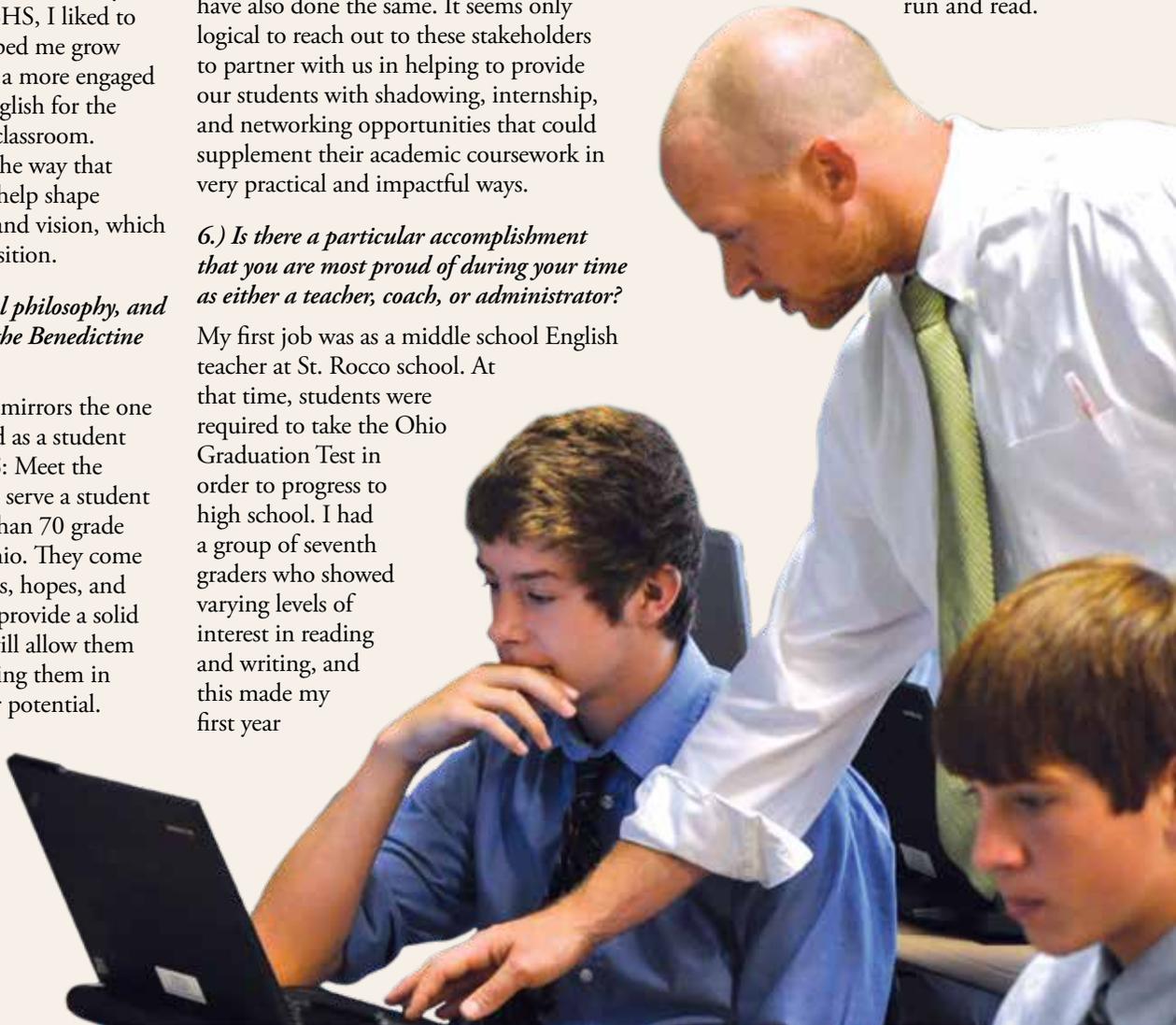
6.) Is there a particular accomplishment that you are most proud of during your time as either a teacher, coach, or administrator?

My first job was as a middle school English teacher at St. Rocco school. At that time, students were required to take the Ohio Graduation Test in order to progress to high school. I had a group of seventh graders who showed varying levels of interest in reading and writing, and this made my first year

extremely challenging. When they came back the next year as eighth graders, we worked hard to develop their skills, yet my expectations were tempered as to how they would fare on the exam. To my delight, each one of them passed. I was so proud of these students for allowing themselves the opportunity to be successful. I really knew it was an accomplishment when the principal, Sr. Judith, who was very selective with her compliment distribution, mentioned that we did a nice job. It meant a lot to me, and it still does all these years later.

7.) Outside of serving as the school's principal, what are some of your other hobbies or areas of interest?

As a fortunate husband and a father of three young children, I enjoy spending time with my family. In addition, my coaching focus has shifted from the high school ranks to youth soccer and coach pitch baseball. I'm an unabashed ambassador for the City of Cleveland and die-hard fan of our Cleveland sports teams. When the time presents itself, I like to run and read.





A group of seniors pose with their certificates acknowledging their academic excellence.

End of the Year Academic Awards Ceremony



Students with the highest GPA per class along with the school's valedictorian and salutatorian



Daniel Keenan, Max Monachino, Alex Gilliam, and Derek Berdysz are recognized for their above and beyond service to the community.



Christian Witness Award Winners

HIGHEST ACCUMULATIVE GPA'S IN THEIR CLASS:

Freshman ~ William Kehres, 4.62 GPA
 Sophomore ~ Patrick Hurst, 4.55 GPA
 Junior ~ Stephen Zachlin, 4.50 GPA
 Senior ~ Jonathan Shell, 4.56 GPA

SUMMA CUM LAUDE 4.0 AND ABOVE

Freshman Class of 2022

Cory Fox
 Andrew Joyce
 William Kehres
 Frank (Joe) McDonnell

Sophomore Class of 2021

Luke Beltavski
 Joseph Fallon
 John Hannan
 Terrance Hollon
 Patrick Hurst
 Michael Kenney
 Erik Rainey
 Ivan Shuran
 Phillip Skipper

Junior Class of 2020

Andrew Boothe
 Ian LaForest
 Thadeus Stary
 Matthew Stauffer
 Stephen Zachlin

Senior Class of 2019

Yoann-Axel Ahyi
 Joshua Bazdar
 Derek Berdysz
 Devin Faulhaber
 Liam Haney
 Kevin Hurst
 Gavin Majikas
 Ryan Mersek
 Jared Murray
 Oscar Perez
 Jason Repasy
 John Salem
 Andrew Schiffer
 Jonathan Shell
 Krisjon Spring
 Luke Stergar

OTHER AWARDS

Benedictine Service Award ~ Daniel Keenan and Maxwell Monachino

Students with outstanding work in service and social justice

Kiwanas Scholarship Award ~ Derek Berdysz and Alex Gilliam

Tim Bartoszek Memorial Award ~ Peter Morey

Nominated by faculty to a student who reflects hard work, dedication and love of Benedictine.

Sonny Powell Scholarship Award ~ Rory Kilbane

Recognizes students who demonstrate leadership, responsibility and cooperation in leading the Italian Heritage Club.

Notre Dame University Club of Cleveland Book Award ~ Thaddeus Stary

Student whose academic achievement helps to raise the social consciousness and awareness of those around him.

Yale Book Award ~ Ian LaForest

Yale Alumni Association of Cleveland recognizes a student for outstanding personal character and intellectual promise.

North Coast League Peyton Award ~ Andrew Schiffer

Student who demonstrates strong faith commitment, a love of athletics, positive school spirit, good sportsmanship and respect for players, officials and fans.

Benedictine's 92nd Graduating Class!

Benedictine's Class of 2019 graduated 81 seniors. Graduation, held at St. Gregory the Great Church, was filled with proud families, friends, faculty and administrators. The Benedictine Hallmarks of Humility, Hospitality, and Stability were reflected in each of the Valedictorian, Salutatorian, and Mr. Benedictine. The excerpts were taken from each respective speech. Congratulations and best of luck as you embark on your journey!



Salutatorian, Gavin Majikas, describes Benedictine's Community with the Hallmark of Humility.

Gavin Majikas will be attending The Ohio State University

"What makes our class so noteworthy is what makes all Benedictine staff, teachers, monks, students, and community members so special.... which is that Benedictine possesses a certain humility found nowhere else."

"No one student is too prideful to put in work. No student lies about themselves and pretends to be who they are not. They have the humility to accept how God made them. Benedictine has opened me to some of the most genuine friendships and open honest relationships I have ever had. That's not because Benedictine guys are just so 'friendly' or 'chill' or whatever, but because no student is too good for another. No one puts themselves above another."



Mr. Benedictine, Billy Boehlke, describes Benedictine's Community with the Hallmark of Hospitality.

Billy Boehlke will be attending West Point Military Academy

Until I chose to go to Benedictine, my neighborhood around my blue house on the West Side of Cleveland was my world. I was the only student in my school to attend Benedictine that year. However, the feeling I had from shadowing Benedictine on that early November morning and the desire to

be different is what fueled my decision. I left my familiar neighborhood and traveled the highways past flame spewing smoke stacks on I-490 to enter the unknown land of East Cleveland. I was nervous going to Benedictine for the first time, but our freshman football coach allowed me to join the team late and our varsity coach gave me a chance as a punter my following year. Those teammates became some of my closest friends.

"I think the diversity is what really separates Benedictine from all other private schools in Northeast Ohio, maybe even all of Ohio. I've made so many friends here that I would have had no chance of meeting at other schools. We have kids from rich suburbs, poor suburbs, the inner city, the outskirts... heck, we even have a kid from Fairport. However, no matter the background or cultural divide between us, we are all brothers, bound together by Benedictine. It's the same reason why I was instantly pulled into the atmosphere."



Valedictorian, Jonathan Shell, describes Benedictine's Community with the Hallmark of Stability.

Jonathan Shell will be attending Walsh University

"I missed a couple of weeks of school this past year and was worried about how that would affect my grades and achieving my goal to be Valedictorian. But my teachers worked with me during my time out of school and then more when I returned to help me catch up. My classmates reached out to me during that time and kept me connected."



The Class of 2019 walk down the aisle on graduation night held at St. Gregory the Great Church.



The senior class conclude the graduation ceremony with the singing of the Alma Mater.



Anthony Sweet smiles for the camera after receiving his diploma.

REUNION WEEKEND 2019

Reunion Weekend 2019 was a blast! We had a great group of alumni come to campus as we recognized the classes ending in '4 and '9. Stag Night once again proved how much fun we can have when you bring a bunch of Bengals back together. Thank you to all of the families that joined us for the Reunion Mass in which Abbot Gary '74 was our celebrant, who was also being recognized for his 45th reunion. A special thank you to all the members of the Class of 1969 for coming to celebrate your 50th Reunion and making this a very special weekend.



Recent graduates enjoy their first experience at Reunion Weekend



Members from the class of 1989



Classmates from 1964

The class of 1969 celebrate their 50th year reunion!





Classmates of 1984



1974 graduates smile for a picture



Along with dinner and drinks, tours of the school are provided during Reunion Weekend

2020 REUNION WEEKEND DATES

STAG NIGHT – 6/19/20

REUNION MASS – 6/21/20

2015 5 YEAR REUNION

2010 10 YEAR REUNION

2005 15 YEAR REUNION

2000 20 YEAR REUNION

1995 25 YEAR REUNION

1990 30 YEAR REUNION

1985 35 YEAR REUNION

1980 40 YEAR REUNION

1975 45 YEAR REUNION

1970 **50 YEAR REUNION GOLDEN YEAR!**

1965 55 YEAR REUNION

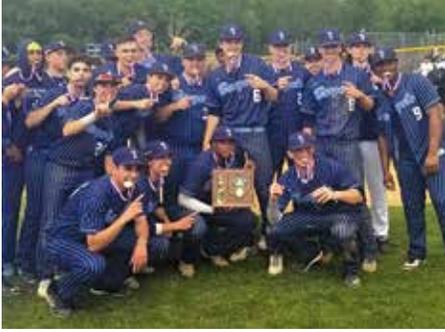
1960 60 YEAR REUNION

1955 65 YEAR REUNION

1950 70 YEAR REUNION

1945 75 YEAR REUNION

1940 80 YEAR REUNION



BASEBALL

This spring when the Cleveland Indians were struggling to get healthy and waiting for the weather to warm up, our Benedictine Bengals were putting together their most competitive baseball season in

decades. For the first time since Larry Wanke '86 and Tom Zdanowicz '87 teamed up, the Bengals won a District Title and played in the Regional Final. Along the way to an overall record of 23-8, senior John Bufford was named Division II All-Ohio and in the post-season garnered the Most Outstanding Pitcher for the All-Ohio Series. Head Coach John Ellis received the Coach of the Year Award from the Northeast Ohio Baseball Coaches Association.

There were many big games throughout the season including regular season wins over Gilmour, Mentor, St. Ignatius, Walsh, Kirtland, St. Vincent-St. Mary and Copley. In addition to the Walsh victory, other North Coast League wins came at the hands of Lake Catholic, Hoban twice, and Padua twice. The two victories over Padua were both no-hitters. The first gem was thrown by sophomore Ronnie Schultz, and the second by Mr. Benedictine himself, Senior Billy Boehlke.

The Bengals smashed the ball all over the park scoring in double figures 13 times and seven or more runs on six other occasions. Every man in the starting line-up made All-NCL first team, second team or honorable mention. The evidence of time spent in Benedictine's two new outdoor batting cages, recently dedicated to Bengal great Nobby Lewandowski '55, and the indoor cage in the gym was on display time and again as the Bengals battered opposing pitchers into submission. "It helps to have great players," Coach John Ellis said. "They were willing to put in the work and it paid off tremendously."

When the playoffs arrived it was go time. The Bengals came back on Ravenna to win the Sectional Title 11-4. In the District Semi-Final it was CVCA's turn to be mauled, 11-3. The District Title game saw an overmatched Aurora team fall to its knees much the same as basketball season and the Bengals won 14-4. Against perennial playoff contender Tallmadge in the Regional Semi-Final, Bufford flashed his All-State credentials and the Bengals swatted the ball on their way to a 5-1 victory. The Regional Final was a tough loss to state runner-up Gilmour 13-6. Most of the damage had come with two outs versus the Lancers leaving the Bengals just a game shy of the state final four.

It was a season to be remembered. The Bengals fell just short of their first appearance in the final four since 1978. Other baseball teams in Benedictine history to reach the final four include 1948, 1955, 1956, 1962 and 1964.



LACROSSE

The Bengal lacrosse team reached a milestone this season on April 6th when they defeated Canfield High School 14-4 for the program's 100th win. Coach Mike Fink said it was a proud day for not only him and this year's team, but those that came before. "Every win counts the same and they're all special," said Fink. "I'd like to thank all the student/athletes who have contributed to the program over the years, it's been great."

Other highlights of the season included an overtime win at Holy Name and a triple overtime win at Louisville. The Bengals finished the season 7-11 with a playoff loss to Canton Central Catholic 16-12. In the North Coast League, the Bengals finished 1-5 with the lone victory coming against Notre Dame-Cathedral Latin. Leading the way among the senior laden team were goalie Mike Iammarino and leading scorer Matt Carson. Evan Tytko received the Most Valuable Player Award and Mark Tisdale won the Most Improved Award.

TRACK

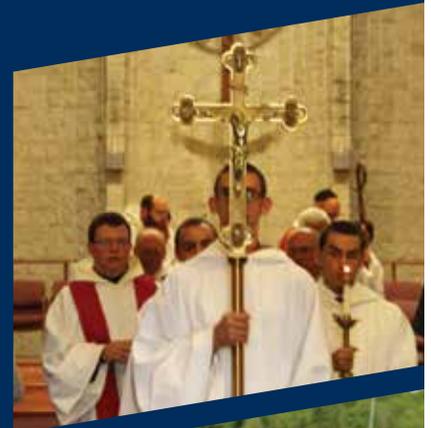
The track team made some noise this spring under first year Head Coach Bryan Lacey '12. "We started out very inexperienced but continued to improve throughout the season finishing as the runner up in the Dan Potopsky Invitational at Independence and going down to Regionals in multiple events," Lacey said.

The most notable performances were put in by underclassmen. Qualifying for the Regionals were juniors Kelan Mayberry and Charles Rosser as well as the 4x400 team. Mayberry qualified in the 400 on his own as well as being a part of the 4x400 squad. Other participants in the 4x400 were freshman Terrell Grier, junior DeShaun Valentine, and junior Uchenna Nzekwe. Junior Charles Rosser qualified in the 110 hurdles and just missed qualifying in the 300 hurdles as well. Valentine had qualified for the District meet in the 800 as did relay teams in the 4x100, 4x200, 4x400 and 4x800.



benedictine

A 1,500 year tradition in preparing young men for life



HOME OF CHAMPIONS

MEN OF BENEDICTINE

Community • Discipline • Hospitality • Stability • Work

PLACEMENT TEST

OPEN HOUSE

Wednesday, October 9, 2019
5:00 pm to 7:30 pm

Wednesday, April 1, 2020
5:00 pm to 7:30 pm

Saturday,
September 28, 2019

9:00 am to 12:00 pm

Saturday,
October 19, 2019

9:00 am to 12:00 pm

Wednesday,
November 13, 2019

5:00 pm to 8:00 pm

Saturday,
December 7, 2019

9:00 am to 12:00 pm



◀ Download the Benedictine High School Smartphone App



/BenedictineHS

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Jakab Named Director of Student Services

We are pleased to announce that Mr. Dale Jakab '68 will be the Director of Student Services at Benedictine High School for the 2019-20 school year. This position has evolved from the previous Academic Dean position to have responsibilities linked more closely to overall student success. Dale will work to enhance the growth of the Men of Benedictine in all facets of their lives, including the social, behavioral and spiritual. Dale will report to the Principal, Mr. Ryan Ryzner '95.

In addition to being an important contributor on our current staff, Dale brings a wealth of experience in student learning and teacher development programs to this Benedictine position. After graduating from Benedictine, Dale majored in psychology and obtained his Masters in School Psychology. With 28 years in an administrative leadership position in the Solon schools, Dale chose to work at Benedictine as a School Psychologist/Counselor for the past two years. In that role he worked closely with many students,

their families and teachers. He has remained involved with Benedictine for more than 50 years, serving on the Alumni Board, Board of Trustees, and as a dad with his sons Justin '01 and Jordan '06.

When asked about his new position, Dale said: "I'm excited to use my 44 years of experience as a school psychologist, administrator and educator to serve the young men of Benedictine and help them achieve academic success and personal growth through my partnering with our faculty/staff and each student's family. I have found excellent communication is key to all of us working toward a student's success, so I look forward to meeting our students' families."



Dale Jakab '68

BHS Welcomes New Teachers for the School Year



Kylie DeCorte joins our English Department. She received her bachelor's degree at Cleveland State University. She furthered her studies at CSU, earning her master's degree as well. She recently completed a year-long residency as a teaching intern at Facing History New Tech High School. She currently resides in her

hometown of Lakewood.



Dr. Martin Lindway joins our faculty as the new Science Department Chair. He earned a B.S. in Chemistry from the University of Akron and Ph.D. in Polymer Science and Engineering from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. He has over 25 years of global industry experience in his field with General

Electric and Dow Chemical in key leadership positions as a Global Research & Development Manager and Global Industry Marketing Manager. He currently resides in Westlake with his wife and three children.



Dr. Kathy Mallak joins the Science Department for the 2019-2020 school year. She completed her undergraduate studies at the University of Notre Dame, medical school at the University of Michigan, and her master's degree in education at Ursuline College. Along with spending time with

her three children, she enjoys hiking and tennis.



Mike Mesi joins the Math Department as a recent graduate of Cleveland State University. He completed his practicum and a year-long teacher apprenticeship at Euclid High School. He enjoys watching soccer, rugby, and fishing.



Joe Prevesk '94 joins the Benedictine faculty after teaching elementary Physical Education for the past 20+ years at St. Gregory the Great, Communion of Saints, and Corpus Christi Academy. After graduating from the Home of Champions, Joe received his undergraduate degree from Mount Union College. In addition

to his teaching responsibilities, he will serve as an assistant varsity football and baseball coach. Joe lives in Lyndhurst with his wife, Maria, and children Joseph '18, Alyssa, and Gino.



Jeff Teringo joins Benedictine as the school's new Athletic Director. Jeff brings over 35 years of experience in education and administration. He began his career teaching business courses at Mayfield High School. He then moved on to Mentor High School, where he served as a unit principal and athletic director, managing

41 athletic teams and their respective facilities. He most recently served as an assistant principal at Wadsworth High School. Jeff, and his wife, Suzanne, live in Mentor. The couple has two daughters and two granddaughters.

Boehlke Elected 67th Mr. Benedictine!

Billy Boehlke has been elected the 67th Mr. Benedictine. Other finalists were Derek Berdysz, Rory Kilbane, Gavin Majikas, Jared Murray and Maxwell Monachino.

The voting took place May 9th for seniors and May 10 for underclassmen. The finalists were voted on by every Benedictine student after being narrowed down by both the faculty and seniors.

“Billy is a really hard-working guy. I respect how he uses his talents to improve our school,” senior Devin Faulhaber said about Billy Boehlke.

Billy Boehlke is a four-year varsity letterman of the baseball team and holds two varsity letters in football. Along with his athletic achievements, Billy is also an editor of the yearbook and lent his talents to JSA, the blood drive and marketing club.

“If there were a city-wide-competition for anything, I would send Billy to represent Benedictine because I know he would compete for whatever is needed to be done. He represents himself, his family and Benedictine exceptionally well,” Dean of Men Jarritt Goode said.

Billy will be attending West Point Military Academy for his collegiate endeavors and will be playing Division I football during his time there.

Finalists for the Mr. Benedictine distinction were Derek Berdysz (John Carroll University), Rory



Billy Boehlke

Kilbane (University of Cincinnati), Gavin Majikas (The Ohio State University), Max Monachino (Wittenberg University), and Jared Murray (The Ohio State University).

This summer, Billy joined former Mr. Benedictine winners for their annual dinner and induction in the Abbey’s Dining Hall.



Derek Berdysz



Gavin Majikas



Max Monachino



Jared Murray



Rory Kilbane



The annual Mr. Benedictine dinner was held on Thursday, June 20 in St. Andrew Abbey’s Dining Hall.

Joe Marino High Top Scholarship Golf Outing

The 4th Annual Joe Marino High Top Scholarship Outing **sold out** with 37 foursomes participating and over 180 total guests joining to celebrate Joe's legacy. The event's proceeds provide tuition assistance to four students who meet the scholarship committee's criteria specific to academics, character, extra-curricular involvement, community engagement, etc. The four recipients are: Freshman AJ Slemc, Sophomore Derrel Beddingfield, Junior Ronnie Schultz, and Senior DeShaun Valentine. **Save the Date for next year's outing: Thursday, June 4, 2020 at Red Tail Golf Club!**



CLASS NOTES

Class of 1958

Angelo Farro reporting that he is retired and living in Encinitas, CA. He was last working as the CEO of Global Design Technology.

Class of 1960

Ronald Strnad is getting ready for retirement from the United States Marin, Inc. He plans to enjoy retirement by traveling, fishing and playing golf.

Class of 1963



Congratulations to **John Sabol** for being honored by the American Nationalities Movement with the Freedom Award. John is the host of the New Czech Voice of Cleveland radio program which airs on Sundays from 3-4pm on WHKW 122 AM. He has written 4 books that document the history of Cleveland Czechs, Cleveland Slovaks, Cleveland's Buckeye Neighborhood, and Kelleys Island.

Class of 1966

Robert Vejdovec reports that he has moved to a condominium in Twinsburg, OH.

Class of 1969

Jeffrey Molnar reports that he is enjoying retirement in Florida.

Class of 1972

Mike Hodgkiss has retired from the Navy after 48 years of service including active duty, contractor, and civil service. His last assignment was the C4I Mission Assurance Engineer for the Navy's segment of the Ballistic Missile Defense (BMD) Program. Prior to his retirement, he was nominated and selected as one of the 2017 Copernicus Award winners presented by the US Naval Institute for sustained superior performance in the C4I arena.

Class of 1976

Tony Peters reports that he is gearing up for retirement in 2020.

Class of 1977



The Village of Woodmere has nominated Mayor **Benjamin Holbert** into the Cleveland Leadership Center's Class of 2020. Mayor Holbert has many years of experience as a

local TV news anchor. He is also a business owner and has served as Mayor of Woodmere Village since January 2018 after serving as Councilman for six years. This leadership program aims to give members a better understanding of the role of diversity within the community and cultivate relationships with leaders across a wide range of sectors, industries and backgrounds.

Class of 1978



John James has been named the new President and CEO of Foxwoods Resort Casino. James was previously serving as the Chief Operating Officer for Morongo Casino Resort & Spa.

His deep expertise across key business units allows him to take a whole-brained approach to growth and profitability to continue the great direction that Foxwoods has already been headed.

Class of 1980



Hall of Distinction inductee **Kevin Riley** has testified before Congress along with other journalism-tech industry leaders in support of Journalism Competition and Preservation Act 2019. The bill would allow news organizations to negotiate with tech giants regarding the terms on which their content is distributed.

Class of 1988 & 1989

Congratulations to **Anthony Russo '88** and **Joe Russo '89**, directors of the Avengers movies. *Avengers End Game* has now overtaken *Avatar* as the highest grossing movie of all-time.

Class of 1999

Rich Paul has been very busy during NBA free agency as LeBron and Anthony Davis' agent, but he found time to stop by Benedictine this past July. Paul was inducted into Benedictine's Hall of Distinction in November of 2018 and was on the cover of *Sports Illustrated* this past June.



Class of 2005

Jean-Marc Chounet and his wife have been married for over 3 years now. They had a son in May of 2018 and Chounet has been working as Head Coach of the Robert Morris University Club Baseball Team.

Class of 2007

Joseph Petric reports that he was married in April of 2016 and bought a house in June of 2018.

Class of 2011

Brandon Barrett reports that he has started a new position at K&L Freight Management in Chicago, IL September 2018.

BENGAL DAY OF GIVING – NOVEMBER 16TH, 2019

Benedictine will be celebrating our Day of Giving on November 16th, 2019. Please join us and participate by making an online donation to our young men. Please stay tuned for information provided through e-mail and social media. We look forward to your support on this special Bengal Day of Giving!

Class of 2014

Vince Calabrese is the Art Director for the film *Swan Song* that is set in Sandusky, Ohio. The film is about a hairdresser whose life is turned upside down after receiving a request in a deceased former client's will. Directed by Todd Stephens, shooting for the film began July 10th, 2019 and includes actors Udo Kier, Linda Evans and Michael Urie.

Class of 2017

Nolan Hopkins will be working for the Buffalo Bills this football season as a Quote Team Member. Nolan will be a junior at Canisus College where he is the sports editor and multi-media director of the school's paper, the *Griffin*.

Class Challenge

Congratulations to the **Class of 1954** for winning the 2019 Class Challenge! The class challenge is a competition among all alumni classes to see who can have the most Bengal Pride through their giving participation. No donation is too large or too small, the participation is what counts. Make your gift between now and 6/30/2020 to be counted in your class total!

In Memoriam

of Benedictine High School and friends of Saint Andrew Abbey

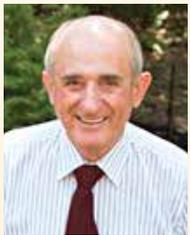


Bro. Gregory (Bernard) Frantz, C.P.P.S., of the Class of 1946, 91, died peacefully at St. Charles Center, Carthage, Ohio, on Monday, May 27, 2019. He lived and ministered at St. Charles for nearly all of his life as a religious brother. He and his twin brother, Fr. Henry, who died in 2015, both entered the Missionaries of the Precious Blood after graduating from BHS in 1946 where they both were very involved in the band and

eventually started their own orchestra. Bro. Gregory closely followed Bengal sports in the Dayton area newspapers.



Richard (Red) Cawley, 88, of the Class of 1949, died on June 28, 2019. Red was one of the boarding students who lived at the abbey while attending BHS. He worked for the Erie Railroad and later for Heinens. He is the father of alumnus Kevin '70, and his nephew Fr. Gerard Gonda, OSB '71 celebrated his funeral Mass at Mary, Queen of the Apostles Church in Brook Park.



Jerome (Jerry) Trausch, 76, of the Class of 1961, passed away suddenly on July 30, 2019. He was the father of BHS alumni Ken Traben '86 and Christopher '93. Jerry was the retired vice-president of MarJet Communications, a computer cable installation firm that he started in 1984. He was generous in helping BHS get properly wired for the increased use of computers. His daughters were active in the BHS Drama Club. His funeral Mass was at St.

Barnabas Church in Northfield, Ohio.



Deacon James Vincent (Kuczmarski), 69, of the Class of 1968, passed away on June 28, 2019. Married to Michele for 47 years and the father of two and grandfather of seven, Jim was ordained a Catholic permanent deacon in 1996 and served parishes in Brook Park and Independence, Ohio. He was a fire protection officer at Ford Motors.

RECENTLY DECEASED

The following members of our Benedictine Community have gone on to Eternal Rest between 4/15 and 7/31. May they all Rest in Peace.

Class	Name	Deceased Date
1946	Br. Bernard J. Frantz	5/27/2019
1947	Mr. Michael V. Dzurilla	5/19/2019
1948	Mr. Fred Kabat	6/3/2019
1949	Mr. Richard M. Cawley	6/28/2019
1949	Mr. Raymond J. Gembarski	5/18/2019
1951	Mr. John J. Kolenich	4/30/2019
1952	Leonard Belak	4/23/2019
1957	General Joseph T. Ellis	6/26/2019
1958	Mr. Leonard G. Galicki	7/4/2019
1958	Mr. Stephen T. Pirosko	6/6/2019
1958	Mr. Alan F. Tomsic	5/16/2019
1960	Mr. Al A. Grigaliunas	6/6/2019
1961	Mr. Jerome E. Trausch	7/30/2019
1968	Deacon James C. Vincent	6/28/2019
1968	Mr. John A. Wiecek	5/2/2019
1973	Mr. Ernest J. Seech	4/28/2019
	Ms. Helen Tomba	4/28/19
	Ms. Catherine St. John	7/23/19
	Ms. Nancy Zingales	7/30/19

Below are the names of our deceased alumni that were not recognized in a previous issue.

Class	Name	Deceased Date
1953	Edward Repic	9/24/18
1955	Edward Filakosky	6/29/2018
1955	Thomas Nahra	12/27/2018
1964	John Singler	3/22/2019
1967	Greg Roberson	4/10/2019
1967	Michael Strazinsky	6/2/2017
1968	John Wiecek	5/2/2019

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



Chris Lorber '04

Be a Champion for Benedictine

Dear Benedictine Community,

As the faculty introduce the students with all that will be covered and learned this semester, and the upperclassmen share with the freshmen the quickest ways to get from one classroom to another, we're collectively excited and energized to be a couple weeks into our 93rd year of educating young men.

Our students are afforded this opportunity to experience what the Home of Champions offers through our alumni and friends generous financial assistance. The Annual Fund, the school's most important platform of giving, fills the "GAP" associated with tuition costs and other general revenue means. Specifically, contributions made to the Annual Fund support academic programs, extracurricular and athletic experiences, and most importantly, financial aid to 89% of our current and prospective students. Your contributions offset the \$11,900 tuition for families to attend Benedictine, and for that we are so extremely grateful.

Last year we had a special year of support with benefactors doubling their gift from the year before or increasing their gift to recognize the rise in tuition (**BHS tuition for 2019 increases another \$500 this year*) or became a first time donor to our Annual Fund and experienced the fulfillment of passing on what was once provided to them. All examples are equally as important, and we ask those who haven't participated in the Annual Fund in the past, to consider a gift this year and help change a student's life.

We look forward to you joining us this year and being part of our students' educational experience. In addition to participating in the Annual Fund, please consider attending one of our events this year where you'll see our young men in person.

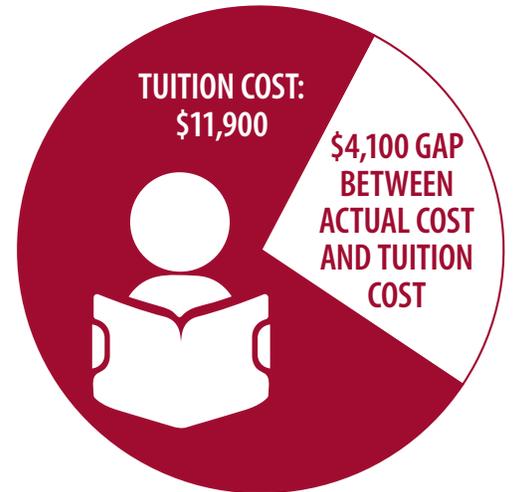
We are confident that our mission is molding the next leaders of society, and it's through your support that provides more young men the special opportunity to attend Benedictine High School.

Thank you for your role in assisting with the development of our student body.

Yours in Benedictine,

Mr. Chris Lorber '04
Vice President of Advancement

ACTUAL COST TO EDUCATE:
\$16,000



ORA ET LABORA

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

Change Service Requested

UPCOMING DATES & ACTIVITIES

Sunday, September 22
Abbey Benefit – Fall Feast

Sunday, November 3
All Souls Memorial Mass

Tuesday, November 19
Bengal Day of Giving

Saturday, March 14
Blue and White Gala

Saturday, April 25
Festa

Tuesday, May 5
Augie Bossu Day of Giving

Thursday, June 4
Joe Marino Memorial
Golf Outing

Thursday, June 18
Mr. Benedictine Dinner

Friday, June 19
Reunion Weekend Stag Night

Sunday, June 21
Reunion Weekend
Mass and Breakfast

