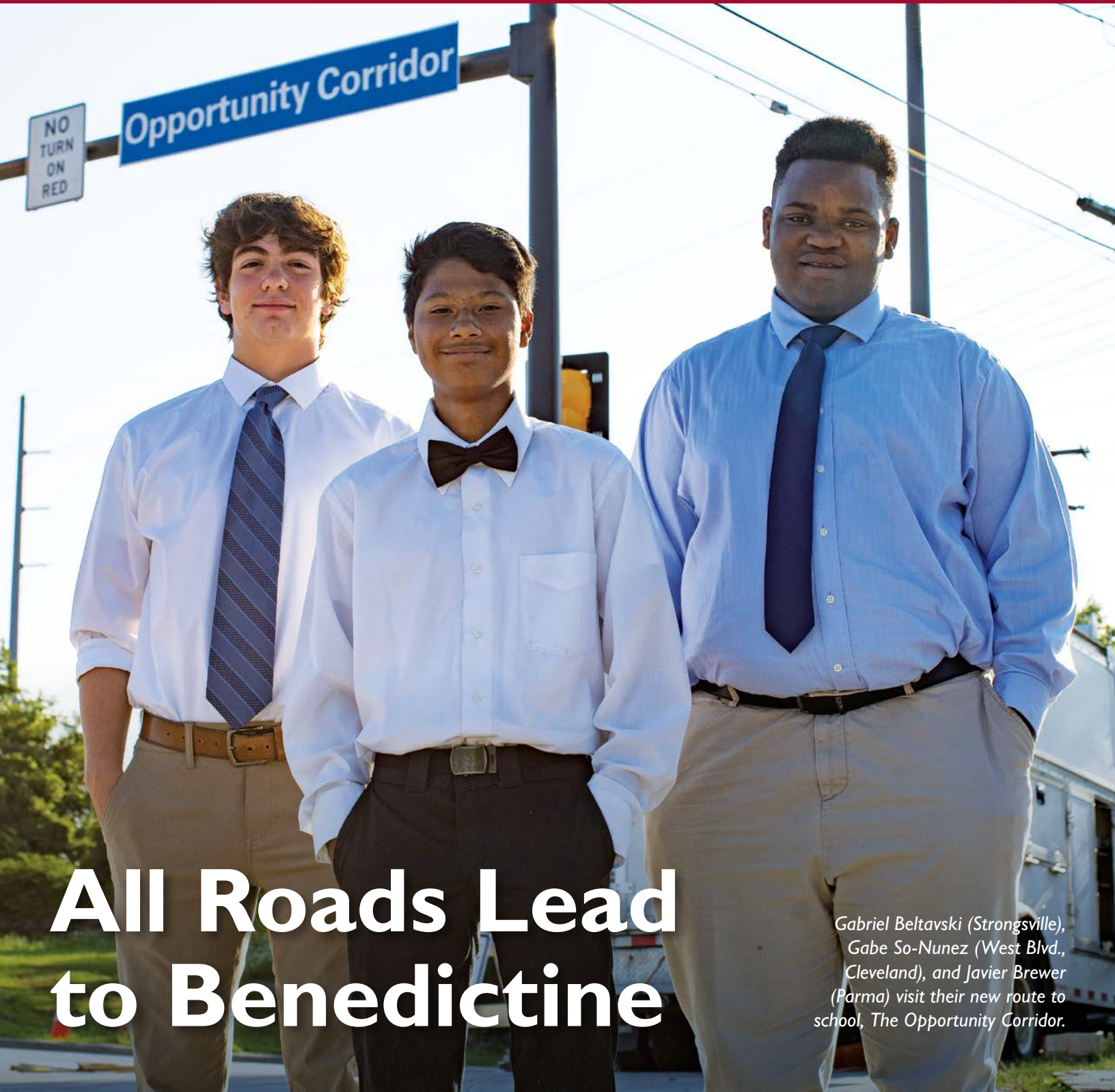


# ORA ET LABORA



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

**Fall 2021**



## All Roads Lead to Benedictine

*Gabriel Beltavski (Strongsville),  
Gabe So-Nunez (West Blvd.,  
Cleveland), and Javier Brewer  
(Parma) visit their new route to  
school, The Opportunity Corridor.*

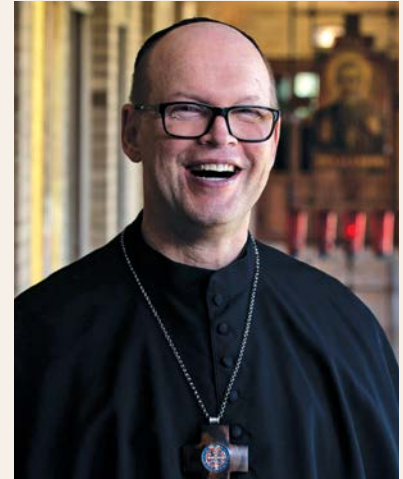
**“This is what The Lord asks of you: only this, to act justly, to love tenderly and to walk humbly with your God.”** Micah 6:8

Early in August before school began, I was walking through the first floor of Benedictine High School. Already the teachers were coming in to set up their classrooms which often times include motivational quotes and pictures for the students as well as their own personal growth. On one of the doors was the above quote from the Book of the Prophet Micah found in the Old Testament of the Bible. I paused for a few minutes and smiled, since I have the same quote on my office desk in the abbey. Over the years I have come to appreciate Micah's insight as the true compass, the true direction in responding to God's call. Once we say yes to God as He calls us, Micah gives us the way to embrace that call, to embrace God's love in Christ and to be the best I am created to be. Life boils down to just 3 guides: 1) acting justly towards others, no matter how difficult that may be, 2) loving others even though they may seem unlovable and

impossible to reach. Yet, all people are lovable since we are created in the image and likeness of God, and 3) walking humbly daily with God.

Many of us have motivational phrases, quotes and even pictures from the Bible, a favorite movie, a favorite book, perhaps from a mentor, a coach, a friend or a colleague. Perhaps it was the message behind the saying that drew us to embrace it or it may have been that message which was/is lived by another whom we admire and want to follow. Whatever the reason, it grabs hold of us and we make it our own.

What is your motivational quote that inspires you first thing in the morning? Does it truly inspire you and give you a boost throughout the day? Your own inspirational quote can comfort you throughout many difficult times. Your daily inspirational quote can help you stay more positive and keep negativity away.



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

In summary, Jesus tells us: “You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and first commandment. The second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. The whole Law and the Prophets depend on these two commandments.” Matthew 22:37-40

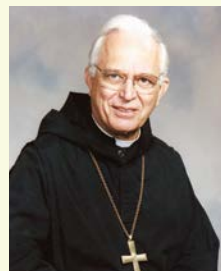
May you humbly walk with God.

Peace,

Abbot Gary Hoover, OSB '74  
Abbot / Chancellor

Saint Andrew Abbey  
**Annual Benefit**  
MASS AND DINNER  
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2021

**HONORING THE LEGACY OF  
ABBOT CLEMENT ZELEZNIK, OSB**



Assumption Parish Church and  
Family Center  
9183 Broadview Road  
Broadview Heights, Ohio

Mass – 4:00 PM  
Social Hour – 5:00 PM  
Dinner and Program – 5:45 PM

For sponsorship information, tickets, or general inquiries, please contact  
Mrs. Ashley Arko at arko@cbhs.edu or 216-421-2080 ext. 280



# Dear Benedictine Community,

If you are familiar with the roadways in the Cleveland area, it is not a stretch to say that our town is a tale of two cities. East Siders are unfazed by the scenic labyrinth where a meandering road could lead to a roundabout, or when a street name change takes place without the hint of warning. Those who reside on the west and south sides are accustomed to the comfort of a symmetrical, efficient, and predictable grid format. The argument between form versus function has raged on for generations. When it comes to recent infrastructure improvements and plans, one thing that is not up for debate is that Cleveland's newest thoroughfare, **Opportunity Corridor**, and the Buckeye Road Refresh will positively impact Benedictine High School and the Buckeye neighborhood in the near and distant future.

The **Opportunity Corridor** is a planned boulevard that will run from East 55th Street at Interstate 490 to East 105th Street in University Circle. Outside of the transportation benefits the roadway will bring to the Cleveland area, the effort opens potential for new economic development, revitalization, new jobs, and a new identity for the community. As far as Benedictine High School is concerned, this road will provide a streamlined pathway for prospective students, current students, and alumni and friends who come from the west and south sides. This would be an additional convenience for BHS parents who work at the businesses, hospitals, and institutions in University Circle by making a drop-off at 2900 Martin Luther King Jr. Dr. seamless and efficient.

As this project nears completion in November, an additional transportation planning project entitled Buckeye Road Refresh has recently launched. Some of the goals of this project are to resurface Buckeye Road, make the road more pedestrian and bike-friendly, and increase the appeal for small businesses to take root between Woodhill and South Moreland Boulevard. As we work to be great stewards of our property with our Centennial Campaign projects, it is reassuring that significant investments are being made in our neighborhood.

On the cover of this issue, we quipped that "All Roads Lead to Benedictine."



Mr. Ryan Ryzner '95

With the completion of the **Opportunity Corridor**, hyperbole took one step closer to becoming reality. That, coupled with increased vitality and a smooth ride up Buckeye Road, has us looking forward to the increased traffic of folks coming onto our changing campus.

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

- The **Opportunity Corridor** will form an intersection with Buckeye Road less than two minutes from Benedictine High School.
- This project is expected to be completed by November 1st of this year.
- 1/3 of our students will utilize the **Opportunity Corridor**.



# Abbot Clement Dies at 89

Two years after graduating as the 1950 valedictorian of Benedictine High School, **Leo Zeleznik** generously followed the call of Jesus Christ and made a gift of his many talents back to the Lord and became a novice for Saint Andrew Abbey receiving the religious name “Clement.” That decision would have far-reaching positive impact for the Church, the abbey, and the high school for the next six decades. **Abbot Clement Zeleznik, OSB**, retired fifth abbot of Saint Andrew Abbey in Cleveland, Ohio passed away on Monday morning, May 3, 2021, at 3:09 AM at Regina Health Center in Richfield, Ohio, his residence for the past year. Abbot Clement was 89 years old, a monk for 67 years and had completed 61 years in the priesthood.

He was the son of the late George and Helen (Richnasky) Zeleznik of Cleveland, Ohio. His parents felt blessed that four of their six children were called to the religious life. Abbot Clement was preceded in death by his brothers (also BHS alumni) James '48 (killed in the Korean War in 1953), Donald '52, and Thomas Zele (Bro. Edwin) '47, and his sisters Notre Dame Sister Mary Jonathan and Notre Dame Sister Regina Marie. He grew up in St. Benedict's Parish which was staffed by the Benedictine monks of Saint Andrew Abbey.

While he was a student at BHS, he helped to organize the first cross country team and was a standout in the track program. After two years of undergraduate studies at St. Procopius College in Lisle, Illinois, he entered Saint Andrew Abbey as a novice. He professed his first vows in 1953.

Fr. Clement earned his bachelor's degree in philosophy from St. John's University in Collegeville, Minnesota and continued his studies for the priesthood at the former St. Joseph's Seminary of the Blessed Sacrament Fathers in Cleveland. He was ordained a priest on May 23, 1959 by Auxiliary Bishop Floyd Begin.

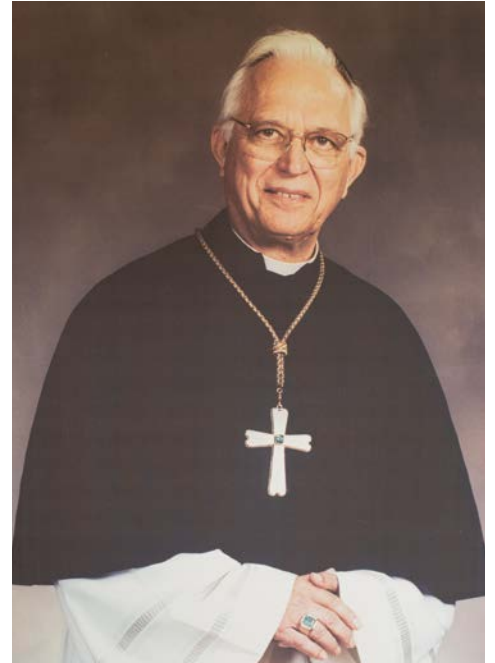
He then joined the faculty of Benedictine High School and taught physics and theology from 1960-1970 and from 1973-1997. He also coached the varsity tennis team, served as school chaplain,

and was one of the founding members of the Benedictine High School Board of Education in 1968. Known as a demanding teacher, he was, nevertheless, very popular and used creative means to show the relationship between faith and scientific knowledge.

A true scholar, Fr. Clement achieved advanced degrees in physics from the University of Notre Dame (1963), in Religious Education from Loyola University of Chicago (1969), and in Spirituality and Religious Formation from Duquesne University's Institute of Man (1973) under noted theologian-psychologists Fr. Adrian Van Kaam, C.S.Sp. and Dr. Susan Muto.

In 1996, Fr. Clement published his own English translation of a book of private, spiritual revelations by a Mexican mystical writer of the 20th century, Concepcion Cabrera de Armida, a mother and widow who founded several religious orders and who was beatified in 2019. Entitled *To My Priests*, the book is an urgent call for priests to seek greater holiness and sanctification in response to the power of evil in the modern world. In 2002, as abbot, he was a featured guest on the worldwide Eternal Word television network and was interviewed by host Fr. Mitch Pacwa, SJ about the book.

Earlier in 1996, Fr. Clement participated in a project of fast-growing interest at Harvard University in Boston,



Massachusetts. He served on an advisory board to give shape to the research of Dr. Herbert Benson of Harvard University Medical School. Dr. Benson had been working with a grant from the Fetzer Institute in Michigan for researching the measurable effects of intercessory prayer on people who had coronary bypass surgery. Later as abbot, Fr. Clement would become involved in healing ministry and conducted many healing Masses in parish churches.

In the monastery, he served as the Director of Formation and novice master from 1976-1997. He was a popular retreat master for religious communities and developed a large network of counselees for spiritual direction that continued even to his entrance to Regina Health Center last year. During the lockdown of the nursing home during the 2020 coronavirus pandemic, he continued to provide spiritual direction through phone conversations.

From 1997-2001, Fr. Clement was assigned as associate pastor of Assumption Parish in Broadview Heights, Ohio, a parish administered by the abbey. During his years at the parish, Fr. Clement was involved with the Rite



of Christian Initiation of Adults, scripture study, religious education, evangelization, retreats, and established a parish partnership program with a struggling parish in Haiti which he visited personally. At Assumption, he also inaugurated continuous Eucharistic adoration, which continues to this day.

He was elected the fifth abbot of Saint Andrew Abbey on June 8, 2001 succeeding Abbot Roger Gries, OSB upon Abbot Roger's nomination as auxiliary bishop of Cleveland. During his seven years as spiritual father of the abbey, Abbot Clement emphasized in his weekly conferences the need for each monk to have and to deepen a living, personal relationship to Jesus so that the repetitive, external religious practices of monastic life do not become sterile and ineffective in leading the monk to greater union with God.

Abbot Clement proposed new structures for administration in the school and devised a successful method for addressing financial obligations. He oversaw a successful \$4 million Capital Campaign (2001-2005) to renovate all the classrooms of the 1940 high school building and increase its endowment. He endorsed a closer and more effective relationship between the abbey and a new Benedictine community in Slovakia which he visited personally in 2004.

Abbot Clement resigned as superior of the abbey in 2008 at the age of 76. In 2011, he accepted an assignment as chaplain-in-residence for Loyola Retreat House in Clinton, Ohio which came under sponsorship by the abbey the previous year. During the next seven years, Abbot Clement gave numerous retreats and Days of Recollection there and offered personal spiritual direction. He returned to the abbey for health reasons in 2018.

Abbot Clement lived a life in anxious anticipation of meeting Jesus through every means available in this life and in joyful hope of the life to come. He was constantly reading new theology books and investigating new programs of evangelization and shared them with



*Abbot Clement being interviewed on national television in 2002 by Fr. Mitch Pacwa, S.J. of EWTN.*



*BHS track star in 1950*



*Physics teacher in 1967*



*Abbot Clement clothes Novice Finbar Ramsak in the Benedictine habit at his first vows in 2006.*



*1950s (L-R) Fr. Clement '50, Sister Jonathan, George (dad), Helen (mom), Sister Regina Marie, and Brother Edwin (Thomas '47). Missing are brothers James '48 and Donald '52.*

the monastic community. Yet, he always made time for anyone who sought his counsel or to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. He guided many souls to Jesus and was recognized in the diocese

as an authentic, yet demanding spiritual director. One of his former novices, Abbot Gary Hoover, OSB celebrated his funeral Mass, while another former novice, Fr. Michael Brunovsky, OSB, preached.

# New Superiors and Abbey Highlights



Prior Peter Ancell,  
OSB



Fr. Michael Brunovsky,  
OSB

On May 11, **Abbot Gary, OSB '74** announced that he had appointed new assistant superiors for the abbey. **Brother Peter Ancell, OSB** is the new prior replacing the late **Fr. Timothy Buyansky, OSB '60**, and **Fr. Michael Brunovsky, OSB** is the new subprior replacing Brother Peter. Both appointments are for a period of three years ending in 2024. Prior Peter

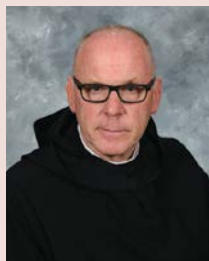
becomes the first monk in the history of the abbey to hold the position of second superior who is not an ordained priest.

The position of prior according to the 6th century *Rule of Saint Benedict* is the abbot's chief assistant. The abbot chooses a prior "with the advice of God-fearing brothers." **Prior Peter, OSB** professed his first vows as a member of Saint Andrew Abbey in 1978. He has held a variety of jobs including BHS transportation driver, manager of the BHS cafeteria, manager of the abbey kitchen, subprior, BHS study hall supervisor, and delegate for health affairs.

The subprior is the third superior in the monastery. **Fr. Michael, OSB** will be responsible for assigning the priest monks to liturgical duties inside the abbey and for pastoral assistance to parishes in the diocese. He will continue to serve as the director of monks in their initial formation as postulants, novices, and juniors, a position he has held since 1997. He also continues his duties as music director of the abbey and as a social studies teacher at

Benedictine High School. He professed his vows as a monk in 1985 and has also served as academic dean and principal of BHS.

On May 19, **Fr. Michael** was the featured speaker at the monthly meeting of the Cleveland Chapter of Legatus, an international organization for Catholic business leaders and their spouses. The topic of his talk was "Benedictine Spirituality" and followed Mass celebrated by **Bishop Roger Gries, OSB '54** who is the chaplain for the Cleveland Legatus chapter, and dinner at the Cleveland Yachting Club in Rocky River.



Fr. Bede Kotlinski, OSB

On March 24, 2021, Cleveland Bishop Edward Malesic appointed **Fr. Bede Kotlinski, OSB** as the temporary administrator of Immaculate Conception Parish in Cleveland with the permission of Abbot Gary, OSB '74. He replaced the pastor, Fr. Frank Godic, who went on medical leave. Fr. Bede has been living at the parish which is located on Superior Avenue in downtown Cleveland while commuting to BHS to teach. He will continue to teach at BHS. Fr. Bede has celebrated the Latin Mass according to the 1962 Missal at Immaculate Conception since 1987 as well as currently at St. Stephen's (West 54th), and St. Sebastian's Church in Akron.

BHS theology teacher **Fr. Finbar Ramsak, OSB** was interviewed on AM-1260 The Rock Catholic radio station on Sunday, June 13, as part of the station's series "God Calling" in which young priests and religious share their vocation story. A graduate of St. Ignatius High School and Mercyhurst College, he first encountered the Benedictines while making a private retreat at the abbey after college.



Fr. Finbar Ramsak, OSB

sight on the sidelines during the soccer matches at Bossu Field and during practices that take place after school. **Fr. Finbar, OSB** was also one of several confreres who were busy this summer taking continuing education courses either live or virtually on computer. **Fr. Finbar, OSB** and BHS physics teacher Dr. Martin Lindway traveled to the University of Notre Dame for the Foundations Seminar about the integration of theology and science of the McGrath Institute for Church Life from July 11-16. **Fr. Michael, OSB** and **Fr. Thomas Sanders, OSB** participated in the same seminar online at the abbey. Fr. Michael, OSB also took classes online from John Carroll University on *Tests and Measurements – Psychological and Developmental Testing Methods and Updates* and *The Integration of Language Arts and*



Fr. Thomas Sanders, OSB

**Abbot Gary, OSB '74** also renewed **Fr. Finbar, OSB's** assignment as assistant soccer coach at BHS, a position he has held since 2017. He is a familiar

*Social Studies Standards.* **Fr. Thomas, OSB** also took an online class on Modeling Instruction in Chemistry as well as starting private lessons in classical guitar.

**Fr. Conrad, OSB** also took two courses online through John Carroll University this summer on the Foundations of Education and tests and measurements.



# The Sfiligoj Benedictine Connection

by Fr. Gerard Gonda, OSB '71

Twenty-six years ago when BHS alumnus Tony Sfiligoj '78 and his wife, Jeannie, stood before the altar in Saint Andrew Abbey Church and Fr. Anselm Zupka, OSB for their wedding, they didn't realize that their "I do" would encompass a lot more than their nuptial vows. They both returned to Benedictine in 2018 when their son Marko was a BHS sophomore to take over management of both the high school lunch program and the abbey kitchen.

Tony has been associated with BHS since his oldest brother, Mark, enrolled as a freshman in 1967. Mark graduated in 1971 and was followed by another Sfiligoj brother, Marty, who graduated in 1975. Fr. Anselm was Tony's German teacher and guidance counselor and their relationship continued after Tony's graduation. Not only did Fr. Anselm celebrate Tony and Jeannie's wedding Mass in 1995, but he also baptized their two children, Maria and Marko, who graduated this past May from BHS.

Before returning to the Home of Champions, Tony was the Director of Food Service and Clinical Nutrition for the MetroHealth System and Jeannie was running her own catering business. They point out that between the two of them, they have 70 years of experience in food service. As members of Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish (the former St. Gregory's) in South Euclid, they have interacted with many Benedictine families and provided food for many special events and celebrations in the neighborhood.

Basically, Tony handles lunch and supper for the 16 monks currently residing in the abbey and Jeannie prepares lunches for the 315 students in the school. Other assistants, including their daughter Maria, help to prepare and serve the students their lunches.

COVID had greater impact on the way the high school lunch periods functioned last year than meals at the abbey. All meals and condiments for the students needed to be pre-packaged so they could just be handed out with minimal contact. It made keeping the food hot more of a challenge. Tables and seating were re-arranged for social distancing in both the high school and the abbey. Fortunately, life, for now, seems to have returned to normal.

What do the students and monks like to eat? Tony explained, "The boys like home style meals, Italian dishes, and, of course, the basics like burgers, chicken sandwiches, and pizza. We make everything from scratch, cooking everything in-house." The monks can be more of a challenge since their tastes vary and a number have special dietary needs. Tony notes that his periodic Thanksgiving-like turkey dinner with all the side dishes produces the least amount of leftovers at the abbey.



*Tony and Jeannie Sfiligoj after Fr. Anselm witnessed their marriage vows in the Abbey Church in 1995.*



*As properly dressed abbey chefs welcoming new Cleveland Bishop Edward Malesic, who is half Slovenian, in November 2020.*

The Cuisine Couple brings an interesting cultural mix to their menu planning with Tony being Slovenian in background and Jeannie being Italian. Even St. Benedict in his 5th century *Rule for Monasteries* recommends two cooked dishes for a meal "because of individual weaknesses." However, the holy Patriarch also warns that, "Nothing is so inconsistent with the life of a Christian as overindulgence."

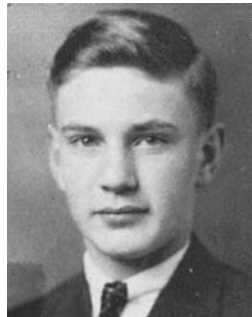


*Marko Sfiligoj '21*

# First BHS Alumnus Centenarian

by Fr. Gerard Gonda, OSB '71

On Sunday, May 16, 2021, alumnus **Albert Grossman** of the Class of 1939 became the first alumnus in the 94-year history of Benedictine High School to reach his **100th birthday**. Formerly living in Euclid for many years, Al has resided at St. Mary of the Woods, an assisted living facility in Avon, Ohio for the past year.



Albert Grossman '39

His milestone birthday, limited to outsiders because of COVID restrictions, was marked with a party for residents and staff at St. Mary's. One surprise guest

# 100<sup>+</sup> <sup>benedictine</sup> YEARS

was Mayor Bryan Jensen of Avon. Al received calls from his sons, Benedictine High School alumni: **Robert '61 (Wyoming)**, **Tom '64 (Westlake)**, and **Brother Nathaniel, OSB (William) '69 (St. Bede's Abbey in Peru, Illinois)**.

Al's long life started with tragedy while he was still in the womb. Five months before his birth, his father was killed when he got off of a streetcar and was hit by a car. Al had three brothers and a sister. He attended St. Adalbert's Elementary School on East 83rd Street but was destined for John Adams High School because his mother could not afford Catholic high school tuition. However, **Fr. Wendelin Kravec, OSB**, the principal of BHS at that time, offered Al a work-study program to pay for his tuition. *Al's class was the last class to attend all four years in the old high school building. The current school building opened in 1940.* Al was on the Bennet staff for all four years, the Drama Club for three years, and played baseball for three years. He also served as the Class President.

After leaving Benedictine, Al started attending Fenn College (now CSU) but interrupted his education to enter the military during World War II. In his 2½ years in the Air Force, he was a B-17 pilot in the European Theatre. Noting that



L-R, Chris Lorber '04, Abbot Gary '74, Al Grossman '39 and Ryan Ryzner '95

his flight crew never had the same plane because of all the hits they took from enemy fire, Al revealed that "It was the Blessed Virgin Mary who got me through the war." He would grasp the Miraculous Medal he wore during combat and continues to wear it to this day.

After the war, he continued his education and received his accounting certificate from Fenn College. He also married Leona Cleary and settled in Euclid, Ohio. In 1949 he began working in the Cleveland Museum of Art in the business office. Eventually he served as Operations Administrator of the museum for 37 years.

He is grateful for the education and spiritual formation he received at Benedictine. Six of his classmates upon graduation began studies for the Benedictine Order. Included among those who were eventually ordained were the late **Frs. Raphael Zbin, OSB** and **Robert Wilkes, OSB**. Later in life, Al established a fund to provide tuition assistance to needy students at BHS and was an early member of the Heritage Society made up of those who include Benedictine in their estate planning. Al's life parallels the history of the Benedictine Monks in Cleveland who will mark their centenary in 2022.



## BASEBALL ALUMNI WITH THEIR SONS



L-R, Ron Schultz '92, Ronnie Schultz '21, Bill Misconish '88, Cory Misconish '21, Gene Williams '87, Dawson Williams '23, Alex Slemc '91, A.J. Slemc '23, Bob Martello '98 and Bobby Martello '22.

## 4X100 TEAM FINISHES 2ND AT STATE TRACK MEET



From L-R, Angelo Lott '21, Brandon Boyd '22, Chris Gales '21, Marvin Conkle '22. The 4x200 team finished 3rd with Boyd, Conkle, Gales, and Quincy Johnson '22. Terrell Grier '22 was present as an alternate.

## CHAMPIONS CAMP



Campers enjoyed a week of athletic activity and off-the-field programming. Their week concluded with a special lunch donated by Vic Searcy '08, owner of Sauce The City.

## JEROME BAKER FOOTBALL CAMP

Jerome Baker '15, Benedictine state football champion and NFL star with the Miami Dolphins, returned to Bossu Field on July 9 for his annual football camp. Over 150 campers were present for the special instruction!





# The Howley Foundation Pledges \$2 Million to Benedictine High School for Tuition Assistance, Student Transition Support and Capital Improvements

Benedictine High School has received a \$2 million gift from the Howley Foundation for continued support of tuition assistance for low-income students, as well as an investment to remodel the school's science wing and student transition support.

The Foundation supports high-quality private schools in Cleveland, Philadelphia and other select locations that emphasize support for strong character formation in students. It was founded more than 20 years ago by Nick Howley, the Founder and Executive Chairman of TransDigm, an international New York Stock Exchange aerospace company, and his wife, Lorie.

The Foundation sponsors 40 students at Benedictine High School (10 per class) with tuition assistance and mentoring. Additionally, the Foundation has made a generous commitment to the school's Centennial Campaign: A Present and Future Community of Faith for the remodeling and transformation of the science wing, which will officially be named The Howley Science Wing. Included in this generous gift, the Foundation has also made a commitment to wraparound services and financial support for selected students as they transition from high school to the collegiate environment.

Ryan Ryzner, Benedictine High School President/Principal, states, "We are inspired by Nick and Lorie's philanthropic spirit.

Their generosity not only provides the young men of Benedictine with opportunities to experience a dynamic Catholic education, but the transformation of the science wing is an important part of our overall campaign to give students the chance to learn in a first-class facility for years to come."

The Foundation's investment in the Centennial

*Nick and Lorie Howley*



*View from Howley Science Wing Hallway*

Campaign, specifically to The Howley Science Wing, adds additional excitement to the campus' capital improvement projects, which include a courtyard named after Joe Rufus, longtime Benedictine High School administrator and coach; a 5,000-square-foot atrium connecting the school's main academic building with the science wing; a remodeled cafeteria; and capital improvements to St. Andrew Abbey.

Nick Howley states, "We are proud to support Benedictine High School's Centennial Campaign. Their work is well aligned with our mission. The Howley Foundation supports schools that offer strong educational opportunities for economically disadvantaged inner city students. We strongly believe that issues of equality and upward social and economic mobility are most positively impacted by access to high-quality educational opportunities that also offer strong character formation. Benedictine has a long history of providing such opportunity."

Chris Lorber '04, VP of Advancement, states, "The Benedictine community is so grateful for The Howley Foundation's commitment to our mission, as well as the significant impact their gifts provide to our students and campus. Their generosity to the transformation of the science wing provides so much excitement to our growth and development efforts."

Initial projects of the Benedictine Order of Cleveland's Centennial Campaign commenced in the spring of 2021.

For more information about the Centennial Campaign, please contact Chris Lorber '04, VP of Advancement, at 216-421-2080 ext. 246 or [lorber@cbhs.edu](mailto:lorber@cbhs.edu).



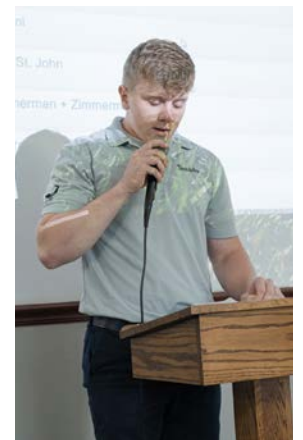
# The 5th Annual Marino Scholarship Golf Outing

The 5th Annual Joe Marino Memorial Alumni and Friends Scholarship Golf Outing took place on June 3rd at the Red Tail Golf Club in Avon. This event has grown every year because of the support of the Benedictine Community, the Marino Family, and their friends. The 160 golfers played 18 efficient holes on a day that turned out to be perfect weather for golf!

The Joe Marino Scholarship celebrates the inspiring life and never-quit spirit of Joe Marino '78, former BHS football captain and Advancement Director who died in 2015. This scholarship is awarded by Benedictine High School to incoming and currently enrolled Benedictine students who meet the criteria established by Alison Marino, Joe's wife, and outlined in The Joseph A. Marino '78 – High Top Memorial Scholarship Fund application. The scholarship award is applied toward the recipient(s) tuition for the upcoming academic year. The scholarship fund was created to help talented and deserving Men of Benedictine by providing financial support for their Benedictine education and to do so for those who best meet the defined criteria.

Benedictine graduate and Marino Scholar Ronnie Schultz '21 spoke to the participants about his gratefulness to the Marino Family and how Joe's spirit continues to live on at the Home of Champions. Marino Scholars Derrel Bedingfield '22, AJ Slemc '23, Danny Winterich '24, Lucas Kaltenbach '25 and rising sophomore Ben Trombetto '24 met many of the participants who gather each summer to celebrate Joe Marino's legacy and continue to fund the scholarship for future Men of Benedictine.

Our Benedictine Community continues to provide essential scholarship assistance to the current Men of Benedictine. Thank you to the Marino Family for continuing to make this beautiful event possible!



## 2021 Hall of Distinction Inductees Announced

Benedictine High School will induct four alumni into its Hall of Distinction, November 13, at the Western Reserve Historical Society.

Inductees were drawn from the fields of law, public service and higher education.

The following will be inducted: Honorable **Gerard Breland '81**, Superior Court

Judge of the State of New Jersey; **Dr. Martino Harmon '83**, Vice President for Student Affairs, University of Michigan; **Honorable Thomas Perciak '66**, Mayor of the City of Strongsville; **Honorable Michael Shaughnessy '89**, Judge of Cuyahoga County.

The Benedictine Hall of Distinction recognizes alumni who have achieved

excellence in their field, earned the highest regard from their peers and advanced society in the tradition of St. Benedict.

Tickets to the ceremonies are \$60 and must be purchased no later than October 27. For more information, contact Ashley Arko at [Arko@cbhs.edu](mailto:Arko@cbhs.edu) or (216) 421-2080, ext. 280.

# Class of 2021 Takes a Bow as 69th Mr. Benedictine is Welcomed

After last year's first-ever virtual Awards Assembly and parking lot Commencement Ceremony, Benedictine brought the unusual 2020-21 school year to a close with a traditional live Awards Assembly in the Trueman Fieldhouse on Monday, May 24 and graduation ceremonies at St. Gregory's Church of Sacred Heart Parish in South Euclid the next evening, Tuesday, May 25.

Honored at both events were class valedictorian **Patrick Hurst** with the highest cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 4.595 and class salutatorian **Ivan Shuran** with the second highest cumulative GPA of 4.486. Both delivered speeches at the graduation ceremony on Tuesday evening. Hurst will attend the University of Dayton and Shuran accepted an offer from Williams College in Massachusetts where he will also play football.

Speaking at both the Awards Assembly and at the graduation ceremony was the 69th Mr. Benedictine senior **Terrance Hollon**. Begun in 1953 by the school newspaper, *The Bennet*, this award goes to the most well-rounded member of the senior class who meets a number of criteria and receives the highest number of votes in the final run-off of five finalists. The remaining finalists were seniors **Luke Beltavski**, **Patrick Hurst**, **Ronnie Schultz**, and **Ivan Shuran**.

Terrance Hollon attended middle school in Garfield Heights. In addition to achieving a cumulative GPA of 4.236, he was a three-year varsity starter for the Bengal football team and was chosen for all-state, all-conference, and all-district honors. He will continue his

Other notable achievements recognized at the Awards Assembly were the following:

## HIGHEST CUMULATIVE GRADE POINT AVERAGE:

**Freshman Class of 2024 with a GPA of 4.596**

Charlie Roberto

**Sophomore Class of 2023 with a GPA of 4.547**

Gabe Beltavski

**Junior Class of 2022 with a GPA of 4.680**

William Kehres

## FR. DONALD AWARD (JOURNALISM)

Erik Rainey

## FR. JAMES AWARD (SENIOR SCHOLARS)

John DiNovo and Michael Kenny

## JACK T. HEARNS, SR. AWARD (MUSIC)

Joseph Ardo and Erik Rainey

## FR. TIMOTHY AWARD (DRAMA)

John DiNovo

## FR. RAPHAEL AWARD (HONORS BIOLOGY)

Joseph Watts

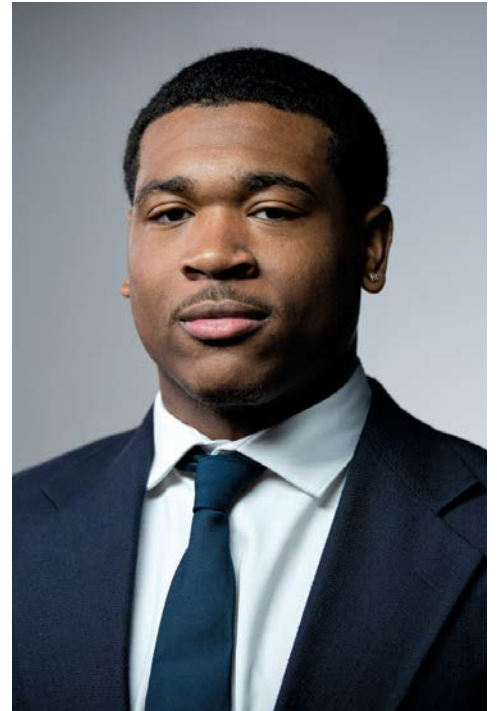
## FR. ROBERT AWARD (BUSINESS)

Ivan Shuran

## BHS SERVICE AWARD

David Linares

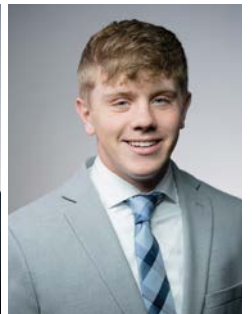
academic and athletic career at Howard University in Washington, D.C. Because of a summer commitment at Howard, Terrance was featured in a video at the annual Mr. Benedictine Welcome Dinner that was held at the abbey on June 17 and attended by over 20 former Mr. Benedictine award recipients.



Terrance Hollon



Luke Beltavski



Ronnie Schultz



Patrick Hurst



Ivan Shuran





Abbot Gary assists Mr. Ryzner in the presentation of diplomas



Mr. Dale Jakab '68 recognizes some of the seniors for their academic success.



Mr. Ryzner '95 congratulates Will Kehres on achieving the highest GPA in the junior class.



Annual Mr. Benedictine Dinner



Senior Joseph Fallon accepts his award from Mr. Ryzner.





# The Miraculous Boiler Explosion

by Fr. Gerard Gonda, OSB '71

Although not directly about the monks and the abbey, the miraculous boiler explosion of 1940 does underscore the religious foundation of Benedictine High School that was the monks' primary reason for opening the school in 1927. Therefore, it is an important event worthy of a centennial reflection as the 100th anniversary of the monks' 1922 arrival in Cleveland approaches.

In his Christmas message in the December 20, 1940 issue of the BHS school newspaper *The Bennet*, **Abbot Stanislaus Gmuca, OSB** wrote, "Out of the ruins of our recent terrific catastrophe, there is reborn through Divine intervention a new life given to us monks and students alike...to use for furthering the honor and glory of the Christ Child and through Him our own salvation."

The "recent terrific catastrophe" that Abbot Stanislaus was talking about was the explosion of the boiler in the newly-opened Benedictine High School main classroom building at

1:40 PM on Friday, November 1, 1940. The new school building was opened only two months earlier and the blast, which began in the boiler room in the basement, shot up three floors completely destroying the new cafeteria which was temporarily serving as a study hall for 125 students. ***Yet, not one student or faculty member was injured because by Catholic custom school was not in session in honor of the Holy Day honoring All Saints. "It seems to be a miracle that this happened when the students were home on a free day," wrote Abbot Stanislaus in The Bennet.***



Photo taken by Fr. Cyril Novotny, OSB '31 after the explosion.



# of 1940

The November 8, 1941 issue of *The Catholic Universe Bulletin* put the BHS explosion story on its front page and then ran a half page of dramatic photos of the damage in its second section with the headline “How Explosion Ripped High School.” In the story, **Bro. Martin Seckar, OSB**, who was in charge of the heating plant, recounted how he had left the boiler room around 11:45 AM after setting the boiler controls for the night and noted that the pressure gauges registered only 19 pounds of steam. He went to midday prayers and lunch at the abbey and stopped to talk to someone on his way back to the school when suddenly they heard the blast.

He explained in the *Universe Bulletin* story that “the windows in the west wall of the study hall sailed out into the yard accompanied by huge chunks of the wall. Pieces of heavy concrete flooring blew up through the roof and clouds of steam arose from the boiler room and live coals scattered around the vicinity.” Providentially, it was raining, so there was no fire – another aspect of the miracle.

The explosion seemed to have a mind of its own, or God’s hand, directing it. The *Universe Bulletin* story said it “spirited up three flights of stairs, negotiating two turns without damaging big windows at each landing, and then neatly slit the door to the third floor chapel. The companion chapel door was not damaged nor was anything in the chapel including a large, stained glass window. This was a third miraculous aspect of the blast.

Newspaper accounts of the explosion set the cost of damage at \$75,000, which, today, would be around \$1,400,000. An additional \$25,000 was needed to construct a new boiler house in the parking lot apart from the school building for safety reasons. An appeal editorial in the national newspaper of the First Catholic Slovak Union (FCSU) at the time (see photo) stated that the rest of the school year would have to be canceled unless the new heating plant was built at once – which it was through the generosity of the friends of the Benedictine monks who had just contributed to the construction of the beautiful new school building.



Fr. Andrew Pier,  
OSB principal of  
BHS 1937-41

**Fr. Andrew Pier, OSB**, who was only 30 years old at the time, was in his fourth year as principal. He quickly assured the parents and 313 students that school would be in session on Monday because the radiators were not damaged and a steam boiler would be temporarily placed outside of the school building in a makeshift shelter. In the December 20 issue of *The Bennet* a story with the headline “No Gas masks for Us’ Cry Students” compared the need for gas masks in Britain which was under attack in World

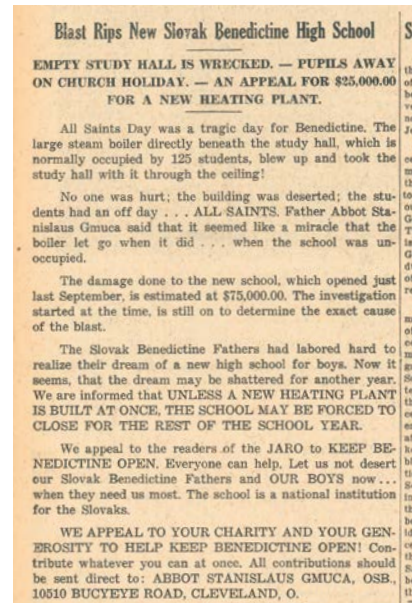


From back of school - Cleveland Press photo from outside

War II to the brave Benedictine students who were able to endure the unpleasant smells coming from the temporary heating system.

The formal dedication of the new Benedictine High School was delayed until the following fall and took place before a crowd of over 5,000 on November 16, 1941. Investigators from the State Board of Industrial Relations led the official inquiry. The acting chief of the state boiler inspection division concluded in a report issued in Columbus that “Evidently, the controls had failed to operate and allowed the temperature of the water to rise very high.”

The explosion at Benedictine resulted in calls for new state laws that would require boilers be placed outside of school buildings. This became the actual practice for a number of years. Ironically, BHS moved its boilers back into the basement of the school in the 1980s when new safety devices were added to boilers. And soon the upper half of the old boiler house will be demolished as part of the construction of the new Rufus Courtyard.



Editorial appeal in the *Jednota*, national Slovak-American newspaper, a week after the explosion.





Class of 1979

Class of 1966

# REUNION WEEKEND

## 50 YEAR REUNIONS - 1970 & 1971

1940 & 1941 / 1945 & 1946 / 1950 & 1951 / 1955 & 1956 / 1960 & 1961 / 1965 & 1966 / 1975 & 1976 / 1980 & 1981  
1985 & 1986 / 1990 & 1991 / 1995 & 1996 / 2000 & 2001 / 2005 & 2006 / 2010 & 2011 / 2015 & 2016



Class of 1970



Class of 1971



Class of 1955



Class of 1956



Class of 1960



Class of 1961



Class of 1965



More from the Class of 1966





Class of 2006



Class of 1975



Class of 1976



Class of 1981



Mid-'80s Graduates



Class of 1986



Class of 1990



Class of 1995



Class of 1996



Class of 2001



Class of 2005



Class of 2015



Class of 2016

# Special Staff Additions

Earlier in the summer, BHS president and principal Mr. Ryan Ryzner '95 announced three key appointments to the professional staff for the 2021-22 academic year. They already began their work in preparation for the new school year.



**Dominic Fanelli** will become the new assistant principal. Although he is not an alumnus of Benedictine, he has a special BHS connection since he is the son of the late Coach Augie Bossu's daughter Theresa. He began his career in Catholic education in Baton Rouge, Louisiana through the University of Notre Dame's Alliance for Catholic Teaching Fellows program. From there he was granted a Fulbright Scholarship in which he taught English in Germany. He also coached basketball for the Nuremberg Basketball Club. He then

returned to the U.S. and taught math in Central Harlem, New York at Democracy Prep where he also served as head basketball coach. He then served as Academic Dean at Sacred Heart Highbridge School in the South Bronx before spending the last four years as principal at St. Mark the Evangelist School in Central Harlem. He completed his undergraduate work and his graduate studies in South Bend at Notre Dame.



**Brian Strauchon** is the new head of the Counseling Department. After beginning his professional career in sales in Chicago, Brian returned home to Cleveland to his alma mater, St. Ignatius High School, and served in various capacities there. Over the span of nine years, on the academic side, he was a summer school teacher, counseling intern, college counselor, and guidance counselor. He also served as an assistant varsity football coach. He began his football coaching career at the CYO level at Communion of Saints (St.

Ann's) School in Cleveland Heights. He completed his undergraduate work at the University of Dayton and received his graduate degree from John Carroll University.



**Desmond "Des" Ridenour '12** returns to the Home of Champions full-time as the Admissions Special Programs Coordinator. In this role, Des will serve as an admissions counselor, mentor, and counselor for low income, minority, and underserved students by establishing relationships with students and families before they arrive at Benedictine and by continuing to coach them beyond their graduation. Des will also oversee the allocation of outside scholarships and be responsible for reporting to our benefactors. After graduating

from BHS, Des played Division I college basketball for Duquesne University and Kent State University where he completed his undergraduate work. Most recently he completed a teaching assignment at Cleveland's East Prep Academy. Des returned to Benedictine part-time in 2020 as an assistant basketball coach.

## Cherrie Seslow retires



The school dining hall took on a festive spirit at noon on Wednesday, June 30, as staff members gathered to wish business office

secretary **Mrs. Cherrie Seslow** a happy retirement with a special luncheon. Cherrie had just completed her 26th year at Benedictine, having been hired by Mr. Dave Smith at the beginning of the 1995-96 school year. Present for the party was Abbot Gary Hoover, OSB '74, President and Principal Ryan Ryzner '95, Vice-President for Advancement Chris Lorber '04, Business Manager Terri Wysocki, and Cherrie's husband, Gerry.



**Christine Ule** took over Cherrie's role in May of 2021. Christine trained with Cherrie until Cherrie's retirement. Christine has

many ties to Benedictine. She is the mom of Jonathan, Class of 2023, and Sarah, a bus route driver and wife of Tom '77, our Driver Supervisor.



## Class of 1955



The 1955 Benedictine Football team backfield got together over Reunion Weekend. Pictured are **Fred Yaris, Ray Hudiak, Mel Smolik, and Tom Rini.**

## Class of 1998



**Joe Sweeney** married Roma Mascinkas during a nuptial Mass at St. Andrew Abbey Church on July 10, 2021. Present for the ceremony were Fr. Michael, Fr. Gerard, and Bro. Gregory.



On May 19, Fr. Michael was the featured speaker on "Benedictine Spirituality" to the Cleveland chapter of Legatus, an international organization for Catholic business leaders. Men of Benedictine present were: (L-R): BHS president and principal Ryan Ryzner '95, BHS Board Chair Bill Wilkinson '82, Legatus member Greg Rufus '74, Bishop Roger, OSB '54, Legatus member Joe Sweeney '98, Fr. Michael, BHS physics teacher Dr. Martin Lindway, and past BHS Board Chair Matt Joyce '90.

## Class of 2006



**Rudy Evans** was named the Director of Basketball Operations at Marshall University.

## Class of 2007

**Cory Pecoraro** married his wife, Jen, in 2018. He was recently promoted to Senior Manager at PriceWaterhouse Cooper. They had their first baby, Isla, in January of 2021.

**Kevin McKinley** is celebrating 10 years of working for Verizon. He is an active member of the Columbus Italian Club. He recently visited fellow classmates Greg Guzzo and Chris Carey in San Diego, California.

## Class of 2008



**Stephan Dober** married Kelsey Kuzmic on July 25, 2020 in a COVID restricted Christian ceremony in Columbus that included his brother Fr. Martin Dober '10 of St. John Vianney Parish in Mentor. This past summer they celebrated their first anniversary with a reception in the capital on July 24th. Present were six of the seven Dober brothers who are BHS alumni, the largest number of sons of one family to graduate from BHS (l-r): Matthew '14, Michael '12, Brigid (sister), Kelsey (bride), Stephan '08, Marty '10, John '19, and Joseph '17 (Missing is Phillip '04).

## Class of 2008



**Matt Karpoff** is the Senior Program Development Manager at PDI Software based in Dallas, Texas. He is residing in the Moon Township in the greater Pittsburgh area.



**Vic Searcy** and **Chris Alvis** are both making a significant impact at Sauce The City Restaurant in Cleveland. They recently provided the food for the Benedictine Football Camp.

## Class of 2009



**Brett Mulligan** and his wife, Elyse, are living in Rocky River. They were married August 1, 2020 in a COVID restricted event.

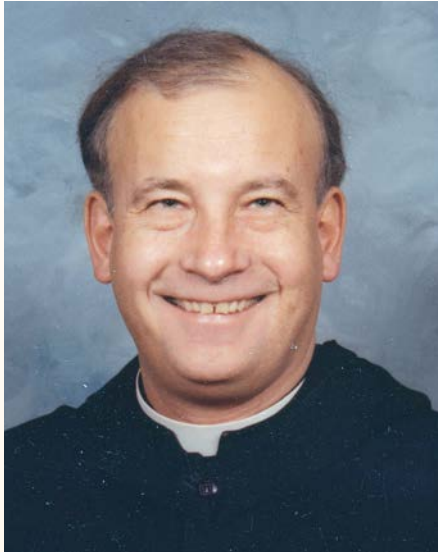
## Class of 2013



**Justin Wilhite** graduated from the University of Dayton in May 2021 with a Master's degree in Higher Education and Student Affairs. He received the Molly

Shaller Grappling Award which is awarded to the top two graduates in the program. He also began working as the Residential Community Director at CWRU in July.

# Fr. Dominic Mondzelewski, OSB, 79, longest serving principal dies in June



Benedictine's version of Cal Ripken, **Fr. Dominic Mondzelewski, OSB '60**, who served 25 continuous years as assistant principal and principal, the longest term in BHS history, peacefully surrendered his soul to the Lord at Marymount Hospital at 9:39 AM on Sunday, June 13, 2021. He had been taken there earlier in the week for surgery from Regina Health

Center where he had been in residence since 2007. Fr. Dominic recently celebrated his 79th birthday, was in his 58th year of monastic vows, and had completed 52 years in the priesthood.

Michael Mondzelewski was born in Cleveland in 1942 as the oldest of three children of John and Sonya (Dziedzicki) Mondzelewski. He is survived by his brother, Dr. James Mondzelewski, MD '64, of Pittsburgh and his sister, Kathy Lepore, of Cincinnati. A cousin is Bishop David Walkowiak of Grand Rapids, Michigan. He graduated from Saints Peter and Paul Elementary School and continued his studies at Benedictine High School where he was an honors student and a star first and third baseman for the Bengal varsity baseball team.

After graduating from Benedictine in 1960, Michael enrolled at the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, Indiana where he planned to major in chemistry. However, after his freshman year, he felt the inner call of a vocation to Benedictine monastic life and began preparations to enter our abbey. He received the religious name of Dominic and professed his first vows in 1963.

He completed his college studies at Borromeo Seminary College in Cleveland in 1965, receiving a bachelor's degree in history. He began his theological studies at the former Blessed Sacrament Seminary in Cleveland and then transferred to St. Mary's Seminary for his final two years. He was ordained to the priesthood with two Benedictine priest classmates on June 7, 1969 at Saint Benedict's Church by Auxiliary Bishop William Cosgrove. The homily at his first Mass was preached by his uncle Msgr. Edmund Mondzelewski who at the time was serving as pastor of Saints Peter and Paul Parish.

After ordination Fr. Dominic was assigned to the faculty of Benedictine High School where he taught social studies and soon moved into administration. The high school had suffered from the onslaught of social, economic, cultural, and demographic forces



*Fr. Dominic, as assistant principal, autographs cast of freshman Chris Siemen '79 in 1975 as his brother Jack Jr. '71 and Ken '74 look on with their father Jack Sr. '48.*

that challenged Catholic urban education in that tumultuous era. The enrollment of 914 boys in 1966 plummeted to 402 boys a decade later. From 1970 to 1977 he served as the assistant principal to principal (and later Abbot and Bishop) Roger Gries, OSB. Though only in their 30s, they formed a team that worked well together to maintain positive attitudes about the future of the school while trying out new solutions to recurring problems.

Fr. Dominic succeeded Fr. Roger as principal in 1977 and would remain in that top administrative position for a record 17 years, the longest tenure of any of the 18 principals in the 94-year history of our high school. There were many challenges that threatened the future of the school during the nearly two decades that Fr. Dominic was at the helm, yet he was able to stabilize and even increase the enrollment especially by expanding and subsidizing the school's transportation department and giving a new emphasis to a college prep curriculum. Of the 10 east side Cleveland Catholic high schools that a boy could attend in 1967, Benedictine High School is the only one that did not move, merge, go co-ed or close. Fr. Dominic's leadership is a major reason for that accomplishment.

At a time of growing racial tensions in society, Fr. Dominic, a gifted athlete himself, recognized the value of scholastic sports in uniting students of diverse backgrounds. He himself coached the varsity



*Fr. Dominic receives a new Indians jacket from St. Lawrence parishioners for his 30th ordination anniversary in 1999.*





Fr. Dominic as head coach of BHS varsity tennis team in 1971.

tennis team, the junior varsity baseball team, and the varsity cross country team at various intervals. During his forty years on the faculty, Fr. Dominic attended most of the varsity contests both home and away and was a familiar figure in the seats surrounded by Bengal families and fans. As principal, he witnessed the varsity football team win back-to-back state championships in 1980 and 1981, the first Greater Cleveland high school to do so.

After stepping down as principal in 1994, Fr. Dominic assumed a full teaching load in the social studies department and continued to serve on committees. When he became principal in 1977, he began a new weekend pastoral assignment assisting with Masses at nearby St. Lawrence Slovenian Catholic Church off Union Avenue. In 1997, he agreed to serve as administrator of the parish while maintaining his duties in the school. The parishioners were very grateful for his willingness to help extend the life of the parish for a final thirteen years until it was closed by the diocese in 2010.

In 2006, Fr. Dominic suffered a knee injury that required surgery. Subsequently, he contracted both a serious staph and strep infection that required long-term rehabilitation. His health improved enough to resume teaching for the fall semester in 2007. However, he soon returned to Regina Health Center in Richfield, Ohio where he remained for the next 14 years with ongoing therapy.

Throughout his life, Fr. Dominic was drawn to develop friendships with many common people despite the important administrative positions he held. For over 30 years he used to take alumnus Dennis Salvatore '72, who is blind, to professional baseball and football games so that Dennis could experience the sounds and excitement of the events in person. A number of former students who played on teams coached by Fr. Dominic attended his wake and funeral.

He developed many close friendships with both the staff and fellow residents of Regina Health Center, inquiring about their families and ministering to them sacramentally and emotionally. His kindness and promptness in sending thank you notes were evidence of his ability to be grateful for the smallest of blessings. He accepted from Christ the cross of limits on his mobility in the final stage of his life after having enjoyed robust health and fitness as an athlete for many years. He was the subject of a column in the *Cleveland Plain Dealer* in January of 2009 by his former student and close friend, award-winning sports author and columnist Terry Pluto of the Class of 1973, who quoted his former teacher as saying, "There are still a lot of blessings in life. I just have to keep the right attitude and find them."

## RECENTLY DECEASED

The following members of our Benedictine Community have gone on to Eternal Rest between April 2, 2021 and July 22, 2021. May they all Rest in Peace.

Class	Name	Deceased Date
1946	Dr. Frank P. Vargo	5/16/2021
1948	Frank Wade	5/4/2021
1949	Robert A. Michl	4/26/2021
1949	Lawrence H. Hohman	7/22/2021
1950	Abbot Clement Zeleznik, OSB	5/3/2021
1954	Raymond B. Suing	6/27/2021
1955	John E. Yelenosky	4/30/2021
1956	Joseph J. Matejka	4/11/2021
1956	Cyril M. Hruby	4/30/2021
1956	Robert R. Tupta	5/17/2021
1957	David J. Blasko	5/5/2021
1957	Steve L. Domjan	6/7/2021
1958	Seste Spera	6/18/2021
1959	Fred A. Svonovec	7/16/2021
1960	Fr. Dominic Mondzelewski, OSB	6/13/2021
1960	Andrew D. Fornaro	7/5/2021
1963	Thomas J. Assad	5/24/2021
1963	Steven F. Kensicki	6/28/2021
1964	Robert R. Prohaska	4/30/2021
1964	Ladislaus Gollesz	7/4/2021
1965	David Novak	7/12/2021
1966	Raymond J. Inman	5/1/2021
1966	Glenn F. Novak	5/24/2021
1966	Joseph J. Marcoguiseppe	6/18/2021
1972	Timothy McCoy	7/22/2021
1974	Frank G. Malec	4/2/2021
1989	Marzell B. Pink	7/14/2021
2006	Jeremy Payton	5/1/2021
2011	Brian J. Barnes	5/1/2021
	Robert Zulandt	6/4/2021
	Hailey Tookey	7/3/2021
	Mario DiGeronimo	7/9/2021
	Florence Belin	7/16/2021
	Jaroslav (Jerry) Balazovic (Slovakia)	8/13/2021

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)

# In Memoriam

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



**Joseph Matejka, 82**, Class of 1956, died on April 11, 2021. Joe was a very loyal and dedicated Man of Benedictine who actively participated in the BHS Alumni Association and served on its board for many years. He was an accountant and leaves five children and 10 grandchildren. Fr. Gerard, OSB represented BHS at Joe's funeral Mass at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church.



**Brian Barnes, 27**, Class of 2011, died unexpectedly on May 1, 2021. Brian was the son of BHS alumnus Bruce Barnes '72 and the nephew of BHS Hall of Fame member Gary Barnes '69, who passed away in December. At Benedictine, Brian ran cross country for four years and served as the manager, stat and video coordinator for the basketball team. He got

his Master's degree from Kent State while he worked as the Video Coordinator and Assistant to the Coaching Staff. He became the Director of Basketball Operations where he continued to work until the time of his death.



**Frank (Wojtkiewicz) Wade, 90**, of the Class of 1948, died on May 4, 2021. He leaves his beloved wife, Anne, of 64 years, seven children, and 10 grandchildren. Frank had a strong mind for business. He enjoyed the challenge of running a company and did so successfully as President of Quality Bolt and Screw. He also served on the Board of Directors

of Independence Bancorp and Enterprise Bank. Generous with his time, he was a past Board Chairman for the Jennings Center for Older Adults. A man of strong faith, his funeral Mass was at St. Leo the Great Church.



**Dr. Frank Vargo, M.D., 92**, Class of 1946, died on May 16, 2021. Born of Hungarian immigrant parents, he attended The Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio, to study medicine, graduating in 1955. He established his medical practice on the west side of Warren, Ohio where he provided care as a physician for 66 years until 2015. Dr. Vargo helped initiate

the Coronary Care Unit at St. Joseph's Hospital in Warren. A devout Catholic and father of eight, he is survived by his wife, Anne.



**Glenn Novak, 73**, Class of 1966 died on May 24, 2021. Glenn was inducted into the BHS Athletic Hall of Fame in 2004. He was the starting halfback on the team that averaged 38 points per game, which ranks second in Bengal history. From his linebacker/defensive back position, Frank played on a defense that

allowed only 97 points the entire season. In baseball, he was among the top batters in the Cleveland area with a .373 average. His funeral Mass was celebrated at the Church of St. Clarence.



**Robert Zulandt, Jr., 73**, died on June 4, 2021. Bob and his wife of 50 years, former BHS principal Sue Zulandt, were the parents of 9 including 6 BHS alumni: Robert '91, Michael '97, Joseph '00, Tom '02, Daniel '04, and David '09. Bob was a long-standing pillar of Chardon's legal community, and served as Geauga County Chardon Municipal Court

Judge for eight years. He served as a Board Member and legal counsel to Cleveland Benedictine High School and St. Andrew's Benedictine Abbey of Cleveland. Fr. Michael, OSB celebrated his funeral Mass at St. Mary's Church in Chardon along with Abbot Gary, OSB.



**Ladislaus (Laddie) Gollesz, 75**, Class of 1964, who was born in Austria to Hungarian parents, passed away appropriately on the 4th of July, 2021. He retired from the U.S. Navy with rank of Commander after 30 years of active and reserve service. As a U.S. Marine, he earned numerous distinctions as a platoon leader in Vietnam. Wounded in combat, he was

awarded a Purple Heart, Combat Action Ribbon, Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Bronze Star, and Navy Commendation Medal with "V" for Valor. His funeral Mass was at St. Emeric's Church.



**Andy Fornaro, Sr., 79**, of the Class of 1960, died on July 5, 2021. He was inducted into the BHS Hall of Distinction in 2012 in recognition of his 32 years as Service Director of Mayfield Heights, Ohio under four mayors. In 1970, he became a special patrolman for the city, a position he would hold for 33 years. He is survived by his wife of 55 years, Bonnie, and

three sons. A fourth son is deceased.



**Marzell Pink, 49**, of the Class of 1989, died unexpectedly in Myrtle Beach on July 14, 2021. He worked for the Cleveland public schools for almost 30 years, most recently as dean of engagement and powerlifting coach for Davis Aerospace and Maritime High School. He previously served as the head wrestling coach at East Tech and later as the school's head football

coach from 2005-08. At the time of his death, Pink was also an assistant wrestling and strength coach at Beachwood High School and had recently joined the BHS football staff as a defensive line coach. He is survived by his wife, Nigeria; son, Dionte; and daughter, Nigeria.





Chris Lorber '04

## Dear Alumni and Friends,

I hope that you are well and enjoying summer!

As we make our way into our 95th school year and 99th year since the monks' arrival to Cleveland, we are reminded of all the alumni, friends, benefactors, families, and like-minded philanthropists who provide opportunities for these tradition-rich institutions to carry on their missions. Your support and commitment to Benedictine High School and St. Andrew Abbey enables our students to develop in mind, body, and spirit, and our monks to spread God's word within our Community, as well as the Greater Cleveland area.

We often communicate the Hallmark of Community, and how it's our people that make Benedictine such a special place. Although we weren't able to get together in person as much as we would have liked over the year, we're optimistic about the future, and grateful to have had that community involvement already present for both the Joe Marino Scholarship Golf Outing and Reunion Weekend. The golf outing at the beginning of June sold out, and we were ecstatic to have over 225 alumni back for their respective class milestones. There were smiling faces, howling laughs, hugs, and high fives. Some guests hadn't seen classmates since the day they graduated. But, like many who experienced the Benedictine education, they were able to pick up their friendship right away with a beat not being skipped... Even if in some cases that meant over 50 years ago.

After having the opportunity to celebrate Community within the high school, we next look forward to gathering guests together to support the mission of the monks at the Abbey Benefit. The Abbey Benefit is the monks' lone fundraising event of the year held at The Church of the Assumption on **Saturday, October 2**. With Mass at 4 PM and dinner and a program immediately following, we encourage your participation for this unique evening. We will be memorializing Abbot Clement Zeleznik, OSB and the seven-plus decades he committed to the Benedictine Order of Cleveland. We will be memorializing Abbot Clement Zeleznik, OSB and the seven-plus decades he committed to the Benedictine Order of Cleveland. To attend the Abbey Benefit, please contact Mrs. Ashley Arko at 216-421-2080 ext. 280 or [arko@cbhs.edu](mailto:arko@cbhs.edu).

If you're unable to join us for an upcoming event, please know other forms of engagement are most greatly appreciated such as:

- Visiting with students over lunch to hear of their experiences.
- Joining our monks for vespers.
- Guest lecturing for a class and providing your real world experiences to the young men.
- Donating to the Annual Fund to benefit either:
  - Benedictine High School
  - St. Andrew Abbey
- Contacting us to learn about will, estate, or insurance planning for the school and abbey.

We look forward to seeing you soon, and thank each of you for the role you play within our Community... And, the assistance you provide to carry on our traditions.

Yours in St. Benedict,

Mr. Chris Lorber '04  
Vice President of Advancement

# ORA ET LABORA

**St. Andrew Abbey/Benedictine High School**

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

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**Ora et Labora: A publication of  
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Saint Andrew Abbey**

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*Vice President of Advancement*

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*Advancement Associate*

Mrs. Debra First  
*Advancement Associate*

**SAVE THE DATE**

**CHAMPIONS DAY**

**Benedictine High School Day of Giving!**

**11-11-2021**

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