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ON THE COVER:
The BHS student body forms the cross “B” emblem on Bossu Field in an award-winning photo by Micah Sanford ’16.
Do you have a personal or family Coat of Arms?

If not, have you ever wondered about what yours might look like and what it would say about you?

One evening I was channel surfing on the TV and came across a series sponsored by Ancestry.com, which traces famous actors’ and actresses’ genealogies back in history. This particular episode discovered that the actress, who was their client, had a family member with royal blood dating back to the 17th century England. They also found that one of her ancestors was involved in a famous uprising and thrown in jail for many years. She and the show’s producer visited the jail cell where her ancestor was held prisoner. The actress was thrilled to know that she was related to royalty and felt honored that her ancestor stood up for the rights of the common man.

I have been thinking about my ancestry for some time. Then, on Sunday, August 7th, 2016, I was participating in the FEST which is held at the Cleveland Diocese Center for Pastoral Leadership in Wickliffe, Ohio. The FEST is a family celebration with all types of outdoor games and activities, along with various Christian bands performing live on stage. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and the opportunity to go to confession are provided to all throughout the day. The FEST concludes with an outdoor Mass at the end of the evening with fireworks afterwards. Fr. Bob Stec, coordinator of the FEST, and a host of volunteers work very long hours before, during and after the FEST to make sure everyone has an enjoyable day, hopefully coming away from it with a deeper growth in their relationship with God.

During the FEST I spoke with Eva, a volunteer, who mentioned that she had attended my Abbatial Blessing by Bishop Lennon at St. Ambrose Church on Sunday, October 5th, 2014 and how beautiful and important that Mass was to her as a lay person. During our conversation, I shared with her the story of my Coat of Arms. She found the description very interesting and suggested that I share it in the Ora et Labora so others may learn more about it.

So, here’s a little introduction. My mom’s family came from the Trenčín and Spiš regions of Slovakia, while my dad’s grandparents were English, Irish and German. When I was elected the Seventh Abbot of St. Andrew Abbey on August 6, 2014, I asked our Fr. Michael Brunovsky if he would design my Coat of Arms. After some research, not only was he able to include both families’ background in the design along with my devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary but he also identified my patron saint, Blessed Guerric of Igny of France, a Cistercian abbot. Taking Eva’s suggestion, I have included with my Coat of Arms a full description of its meaning.

I hope this article has peaked your interest in finding your own family roots.

Peace,

Rt. Rev. Gary A. Hoover, OSB ’74
Abbot of Saint Andrew Abbey
**Blazon** (Traditional Heraldic Description): Quarterly. Dexter in chief Gules a lamb Argent with triumphal banner quartered Azure and Argent; sinister in chief quarterly Or and Azure with fleur-de-lis over all countercharged. Dexter in base quarterly Or and Azure, a cross centered within a heart countercharged; sinister in base Gules two lions rampant Argent crowned Or supporting a patriarchal cross Argent protruding from a mound of three hillocks Vert. A cross throughout Argent.

**Significance:** The Arms of Abbot Gary are quartered, that is, the first and fourth blocks and the second and third blocks have an identical base. The first and fourth have a base in red, identical with the arms of the English line of the Hoover family. The other quarters are further quartered gold and blue. This is the base design of the German line of the Hoover family (Hüber). Both are included in the paternal line of Abbot Gary. The top left quarter of the shield (right to the onlooker) is the exact arms of the German Hoovers with a fleur-de-lis countercharged—that is, in the opposite color scheme of the base. The right quarter of the bottom (base) utilizes the base design of the German Hoovers with the insignia of a heart and a cross also countercharged, symbolizing Abbot Gary’s devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Mary is further symbolized by the fleur-de-lis in the formerly mentioned quarter.

The symbols over the red quarters of the shield refer to the Slovak background of Abbot Gary’s maternal line, the Miho and Hlebek families, who hail from the Trenčín and Spiš regions of Slovakia. Trenčín is the capital of the Trenčín region, whose heraldic symbol is the Lamb of God with triumphal banner. Levoča is the capital of the Spiš region, whose heraldic symbol is the patriarchal cross supported by two crowned lions and protruding from a mound of three hillocks in green.

Over all and centering the shield is a large cross in silver (white), representing Abbot Gary’s patron: Blessed Guerric of Igny, Cistercian abbot of Igny in the diocese of Rheims in France from 1138-1157. He ranks as one of the great spiritual writers of the late medieval period. Both Guerric and its Nordic equivalent, Gary, mean “warrior.” The fleur-de-lis in the arms also recalls the Cistercian Order and is also present in the arms of the diocese of Rheims.

**Motto:** Magnificat anima mea Dominum (My soul magnifies the Lord): Luke 1:46: Mary's song of praise after being greeted by her cousin Elizabeth and proclaimed by her as the “Mother of my Lord.” This canticle is prayed every evening in the Liturgical Hour of Vespers.

The achievement is completed by placing the abbot’s crozier, or pastoral staff, behind the shield and the achievement is surmounted by the abbatial *galero* (Roman ecclesiastical hat) in black with six tassels on either side, disposed in three rows.

The Arms of Abbot Gary Hoover, OSB were devised by Rev. Michael Brunovsky, OSB of Saint Andrew Abbey in Cleveland in September, 2014. Computer generation was undertaken by Mr. Keith McMillin, Benedictine High School, September, 2014. The arms and above description: Copyright, Benedictine Order of Cleveland, 2014.

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**Abbey Sundeck**

This summer a crew of generous volunteers from St. Charles Parish in Parma responded to Fr. Anselm’s request for a refurbishing of the abbey sundeck, a fenced-in porch on the fourth floor of the monastery between the two main residential wings of the abbey. It has been a secret getaway for monks who like to get tanned early before the end of the school year and was one of former BHS principal Fr. Dominic’s favorite escapes during his lunch hour. Fr. Anselm has assisted on weekends at St. Charles since his ordination 49 years ago in 1967. The hardworking crew who rebuilt and refinished the wooden floor are shown with Fr. Anselm in the photo.

*(l-r): Tom Weinreich, Zach Weinreich, Paul Klonowski, Mike Stanko, Scott Klonowski, Paul Martin, and Vito Palella.*
One afternoon recently I was out of the building and missed an unannounced visit from an alumnus of the Class of 1959. Several members of our admissions office met with him and provided him with an update on the Home of Champions. He wanted reassurance that our theology classes were still teaching the Truth as revealed by Jesus Christ and His Church and he also wanted to know the current tuition.

After being told that the actual cost to educate one student at BHS is $16,000 a year and that the tuition is $10,500 with nearly 78% of the students receiving an average financial aid award of $3,500, he sat down and wrote a check for $11,000. He presented it for student financial aid and scholarships because when he entered Benedictine as a freshman in 1955 he was the recipient of a scholarship that enabled him to enroll. He felt it was time that he paid back the favor.

Wow! If only all our alumni who received a scholarship or financial aid that enabled them to attend Benedictine would be moved to make the same generous gesture, a monk like myself could spend more time in the classroom passing on Faith and knowledge and less time raising money! That generous Man of Benedictine didn't realize that his gift is helping to continue a 133 year tradition of Catholic education on the corner of Buckeye Road and M.L. King Drive (formerly East Boulevard).

Although Benedictine High School is currently celebrating its 90th school year, it only moved to its present location in 1929 after being located first for two years at St. Andrews Parish at East 52nd Street and Superior Avenue. However, in 1929 the monks purchased our property on Buckeye Road from the Sisters of Notre Dame who operated an orphanage and school for girls called St. Mary’s Institute on our site since 1884.

Our academic dean Fr. Michael Brunovsky, OSB and I, along with two Sisters of Notre Dame, Sister Mary Elizabeth Wood, SND and Sister Mary Frances Wood, SND, were privileged to take a step back in history when we visited with Emma Kozsey, 102, mother of BHS alumnus Robert Kozsey ’77 on September 2, 2016.

Emma was able to recount her participation in a procession in 1919 for the first Mass for the newly-established St. Margaret of Hungary Parish on East 116th Street that was celebrated in the chapel of St. Mary’s Institute because St. Margaret’s Church had not been built yet. After interviewing Emma, I reflected on God’s goodness in sustaining the noble work of providing care and education for generations of young people continuously for 133 years on the property of Benedictine High School. With your annual gift this fall, you can participate in that miracle and help us form the minds and souls of the young men entrusted to our care.
Dear Extended Benedictine Family,

The new school year has started off well. Our students are busy in the classroom, in the laboratories, in the music rooms and on the athletic fields. After adjusting to the new rule of NO PHONES in school, the faculty, staff, and students have found that more teaching, more positive activities, and more learning can actually be accomplished in the classroom.

THE NEW MAKERSPACE

The new Makerspace is slowly being equipped. We have just received our first 3D printer which the students as well as the teachers are enjoying. It has been printing nonstop since its arrival. The new desktop computers are in transit and we will be installing a new server that will be used only by the engineering program. We still have other machines on order, such as the engraver, more 3D printers and tables and carts to make production and access to all the materials easier. We have a grant in progress that hopefully will make the purchase of all needed materials possible.
THE ENGINEERING PROGRAM

The Engineering Program has also expanded its curriculum. In conjunction with Cuyahoga Community College’s Youth Technology Academy we have added Robotics I & II, Raspberry Pi, Drones, AutoCAD and AP PC Principles, modeled from the Carnegie Mellon’s Alice Programming Class. These courses fall under the College Credit Plus (CCP) Program which means that our students can receive college credit while in high school. They will graduate with both a high school and a college transcript.

Our first pilot class as part of the Youth Technology Academy concluded at Cedar Point’s Physics, Science and Math Week. Cedar Point was the scene of the YTA robotics competition. Mr. Robert Ryan took five Benedictine students to compete at the end of our first partnership class. The robots needed to complete a maze in the fastest time possible without running into the walls. It was a great day for technology and the park was pretty neat too. Students participating were Brian Brichacek, Liam Haney, Liam Kilbane, Gavin Majikas and Andrew Schiffer. Current sophomores Liam Haney earned first place and Andrew Schiffer earned second place.

In addition, our Admissions department has been incredibly busy over the past few months. Recently they visited over 70 elementary schools in the area educating the 7th and 8th graders on all of the wonderful things happening at the Home of Champions. Our admissions team is always ready and willing to reach out to our Catholic and public school families to offer them an opportunity to visit our school, shadow for a day and enjoy the Benedictine experience.

Our fall sports are concluding and the winter sports will soon begin their seasons. As usual they are all working hard to retain the traditions of the Home of Champions. Our senior student-athletes are highlighted in a showcase in our athletic building. Please stop in and take a look at the display. Support our Bengals.

In conclusion, I have to thank my faculty and staff for their continued help and support. Mr. Bokovitz, who was selected as our “Employee of the Month,” has done an incredible job as our Dean of Men. We are all very grateful.

May God Bless and GO BENGALS!!
In 2001, Benedictine High School was incorporated separately from the abbey which now has a legal relationship of sponsorship toward BHS. The abbey retains certain reserve powers like determining the mission of the school and acts through the abbot's Senior Council. The Senior Council, acting as the Membership of the high school corporation, appoints the BHS Board of Trustees which has the authority and responsibility for finances, the physical plant, strategic planning, and developing resources and support for the high school.

Trustees serve a three-year term that is renewable once. Six Board meetings are held each school year as well as individual committee meetings. The Code of Regulations calls for at least 12 and not more than 25 members of the Board of Trustees including the president of BHS and the abbot or his designee. At least three monks of the abbey are to be voting members.

The 2016-17 Benedictine High School Board of Trustees held its first meeting of the school year on Thursday, August 18, 2016 after joining the monastic community for vespers and supper. The current Board of Trustees has 18 voting members with five being new members. Serving in his second and final year as chairman of the Board is alumnus Andy Smith ’78 assisted by Matt Joyce ’92 as co-chair.

Members of the BHS Board of Trustees pose after their August 18, 2016 meeting. (Seated l-r): Fr. Michael Brunovsky, OSB, Fr. Gerard Gonda, OSB ’71, Abbot Gary Hoover, OSB ’74, Andy Smith ’78 (Chair), Diane Cartellone, Donna Skurzak, Fr. Jonathan Zingales. (Standing l-r): James Hyland, Tim Armelli ’74, Jamie Georgeson ’78, Dr. Rubin Cockrell ’98, Andrew Strada ’64, Dr. Justin Jakab ’01, Robert Zulandt, Fr. Edwin Leahy, OSB. Missing: Donald Wagner, Matthew Joyce ’90 (Vice Chair), Dr. Gregory Ward ’78, Jeneen Springer Marziani.

RETURNING MEMBERS OF THE 2016-17 BENEDICTINE HIGH SCHOOL BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

Andrew Smith ’78 (Chairman)
President of Houlihan Capital, Chicago, IL

Matthew Joyce ’90 (Vice Chairman)
American Regional Director of the Lubrizol Corporation

Donald Wagner (Secretary)
LPL Financial

James Hyland (Treasurer)
Director of Financial Affairs, Hyland Software

Abbot Gary Hoover, OSB ’74
Chancellor of Benedictine High School

Fr. Gerard Gonda, OSB ’71
President of Benedictine High School

Fr. Michael Brunovsky, OSB
Assistant Principal and Academic Dean of Benedictine High School

Fr. Edwin Leahy, OSB
Headmaster of St. Benedict’s Prep School / Newark, NJ

Jamie Georgeson ’78
Former Vice-President for Application Improvement / COMPUWARE

Dr. Gregory Ward, M.D. ’78
Louisiana Institute of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation

Timothy Armelli ’74
Faculty of Chardon High School

Andrew Strada ’64
Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Lakewood Catholic Academy

Dr. Justin Jakab ’01
Pharmacy Manager of Walgreens

Robert Zulandt
(Non-voting) Legal Counsel

Diane Cartellone is the Deputy Chief of Business Development of the Cleveland Port Authority. Ms. Cartellone holds a bachelor's degree in Business Administration and in Marketing from Cleveland State University. She is a graduate of the inaugural class of the Maxine Goodman Levin College of Urban Affairs. A resident of Little Italy, she has been an enthusiastic supporter of BHS for many years serving as the Bengals’ cheerleading coach from 1974-76. Her brother Patrick is a 1985 alumnus of Benedictine.

Dr. Rubin Cockrell, Ed.D. of the Class of 1998 becomes the fifth current Trustee who travels from out-of-state for Board meetings. After graduating from BHS, Rubin earned his bachelor's degree in Business from Fisk University in Nashville, Tennessee and his master's degree and doctorate in Educational Administration from Tennessee State University. He serves as CEO of Positive Images and Associates, a global firm that specializes in educational leadership, empowerment, and management consulting for clients in over forty-five countries around the world. He resides in Nashville.

Jeneen Springer Marziani is the Senior Vice-President and Ohio Market President and Consumer Marketing Servicing Communication Executive for the Bank of America where she has worked for over 20 years. Jeneen is a graduate of Miami University in Oxford, Ohio and sits on the Miami University Cleveland Development Board. She served on the Ronald McDonald House Board for a decade. She has two children and resides in Cleveland.

Donna Skurzak serves as the Director of Diversity and Inclusion for the Cleveland Clinic. She is the former Executive Director of the Visiting Nurse Association of Cleveland Hospice. She received her bachelor's degree in Psychology and Business from Case Western Reserve University, a master's degree in Human Services from John Carroll University and another master's degree in Psychology and Diversity Management from Cleveland State University. She is a resident of Bratenahl.

Fr. Jonathan Zingales, J.C.L., Ed.D. is a priest of the Diocese of Cleveland after having been a member of Saint Andrew's Abbey from 1974 to 1994. He is well-known to Benedictine alumni from the late 1970s and 80s when he served as Vice Principal for Academic Affairs at BHS. From 1985-87, Fr. Jonathan served as secretary to the Abbot Primate of the Benedictine Order in Rome, Italy. He earned his master's degree in Educational Administration from the University of Virginia and later his doctorate from the University of Akron. He has taught at Ursuline College and currently serves as pastor of Visitation of Mary and St. John the Baptist Parishes in Akron.

Mr. Philip Bokovitz is the new Dean of Men replacing Mr. John Ellis who now heads the Admissions Office. A native of Gallipolis, Ohio, Mr. Bokovitz attended John Carroll University where he was a four-year starter in football for the Blue Streaks. As a graduate student, he was an assistant football coach first at JCU and then at St. Vincent Benedictine College in Latrobe, Pennsylvania. Mr. Bokovitz also coaches defense for the Bengals.

Alumnus Mr. Mike Stircula '05 has been added to the staff of the Admissions Office. He is a graduate of the University of Akron and an assistant BHS basketball coach.

Ms. Kristin Tarase has joined the BHS science department teaching biology and chemistry. She attended Andrews School for Girls and earned a bachelor of science in biology from Kent State University. Most recently she taught at Euclid High School. She is currently working on a doctorate in Curriculum Instruction and Assessment.

Mrs. Joy Whitbred is also a new addition to the science department. This year she is teaching Advanced Placement, Honors, and regular biology. A native of Syracuse, New York, she attended the State University of New York at Buffalo where she majored in Biochemistry and Medicinal Chemistry. Later she earned her master’s degree in Biochemistry from the University of Illinois. She then worked in chemical research for nearly two decades before teaching at Cuyahoga Community College and John Marshall High School.

UPDATE ON CURRENT STAFF
Fr. Michael Brunovsky, OSB has resumed his former position as Academic Dean and Assistant Principal. Veteran faculty member Fr. Anselm Zupka, OSB '58 is teaching all levels of German this year while Mrs. Stephanie Mauro is on maternity leave.
Welcome Freshmen

On September 8, 1927, 28 nervous freshmen of the Class of ’31 began the history of Benedictine High School as they arrived for the first day of classes at the original campus at St. Andrew’s Parish on Superior Avenue. This past August, freshmen of the Class of 2020 arrived to add a new chapter to Benedictine history with the start of the school’s 90th academic year.

Freshman theology teacher Fr. Finbar, OSB pauses at Mary’s grotto with some of his students (l-r): Tahj Kendrick, Matt Haffart, Andrew Barba, Christopher Maner, Allen Jones, Andrew Boothe, and Dominic Forniti.
Among the new Bengals are Christopher Moner from St. Rita’s School in Solon, Allen Jones from Gesu School in University Heights, Evan Prendergast from Our Lady of the Lake School in Euclid, Tahj Kendrick from Archbishop Lyke School in Cleveland, Andrew Boothe and Matthew Hoffart from All Saints School in Wickliffe, and Dominic Forniti of Sacred Heart of Jesus Academy (St. Gregory’s Church) in South Euclid. Andrew Barba attended Gilmour Academy.

Some of these new freshmen already have ties to the Benedictine family. Chris Moner’s oldest brother Ron Moner ’16 graduated from BHS in May and another brother, Nick Moner, is currently a junior. However, the Moner family reaches farther back into Benedictine history since their mom Barb Moner is related to the late Emil Hornack of the Class of 1936. Dominic Forniti’s father is Mike Forniti ’84, his uncles are Anthony Forniti ’89 and Chad Johns ’94, and his brother Joe Forniti ’16 graduated from BHS in May. Evan Prendergast is writing the next chapter of his family’s Benedictine story since his dad Bob Prendergast ’84 and brothers Robert ’13 and Brendan ’16 are BHS alumni. Tahj Kendrick’s father, Jonathan James ’97 and uncle, Ronald James ’85 also attended the Home of Champions. Andrew Boothe’s brother David Boothe ’12 just graduated from the University of Notre Dame in South Bend.

They shared some thoughts on their first month as Men of Benedictine…

Dominic Forniti says, “General Science is my favorite class because Coach Koby (Kobylnski) is a really good and funny teacher.” Evan Prendergast agrees and he points out, “I have enjoyed going to science so far because we learn a lot and it’s easy to understand.” Allen Jones likes Honors Biology and Tahj Kendrick likes Latin so much that he also joined Fr. Bede’s Latin Club. Andrew Barba says, “My favorite class is Spanish because I really enjoy how Mr. Backowski teaches and enjoy the students in my class.”

All the freshmen interviewed were able to name two or more new friends they have made after only their first month at Benedictine. All of them have already joined teams and clubs. Evan Prendergast plays soccer; Dominic Forniti is in the Engineering Club; Andrew Boothe is a member of the Chess Club and the Latin Club; Allen Jones is in the Sunshine Club and wants to go out for basketball and baseball; Chris Moner joined the Chess Club and Speech and Debate; Tahj Kendrick likes the Art Club, the Chess Club, and Junior State of America (JSA); and Andrew Barba has joined the Entrepreneurship Club, the Sports Media Club, and the Chess Club.

Coming in person to spend a day at BHS as a shadow was strongly recommended by all seven freshmen to any eighth grader who may be considering the Home of Champions. Dominic Forniti says, “I think he should check out Benedictine because he wouldn’t know how good this school is and how good the teachers are here.” Chris Moner agrees, “The day I shadowed was a lot of fun and I got a lot of the ‘feel’ for this school and I liked it.” Tahj Kendrick thinks eighth graders should experience the Priory System at BHS and Andrew Boothe believes it is important that those in grade school see what an all-boys atmosphere is like and its advantages.

Andrew Barba points out many advantages at Benedictine, “The people here are really nice, the academics are great, and the sports are among the best in Cleveland.” “The first day I shadowed here the students and teachers already made me feel like I was part of the family,” explains Evan Prendergast. But Allen Jones has a simple message for future Bengals, “It’s the greatest school!”

Evan Prendergast is the third son of Bob Prendergast ’84 to attend BHS.
Reunion Weekend 2016

Over 150 alums attended the Friday night Stag Night on June 17th. Fourteen classes were represented by the returning alums with the largest group from the celebrating 50th Anniversary Class of 1966. All enjoyed a cookout, reminisced about great BHS memories, and toured the school and campus.

The largest crowd of recent reunions attended the Sunday, June 19th, Alumni Mass and Breakfast. President Fr. Gerard Gonda, OSB celebrated Mass, followed by a breakfast in the Abbey Dining Hall. Many of the visiting alums came with their families and proudly gave tours of the campus and visited the newer facilities such as Bossu Field, the new football locker room, new music tech computer lab, and the new band and music room.

The Alumni Golf Outing at Shaker Country Club followed on Monday, June 20th hosted by Jim Mylen ’89 and Bill Wilkinson ’82. Golfers enjoyed lunch, an open practice range, a Scramble style tournament along with a reception afterwards. The outing is held mid to late June each summer and is open to all alumni and friends of Benedictine.

1 Class of 1956 – Larry Fousek, George Marik, Fred Yarris, Ray Hudiaik, Tom Rini and Al Figler
2 Class of 1976 – John Gnatowski and Tom Adamo
3 Class of 1986 – Patrick Shea, Pat Cullen and Tony St. John
4 Class of 2006 – John Gibson, Devon Williams, Jahmal Brown, Ed Zalar, Jeff Heinrich, Alex Leonard and Jim Stoltz
5 Bill Joyce, Ray Schmidlin, Bill Wilkinson, and Chris Previte, all from the Class of 1982.
6 Nicole and Jim Mylen ’82 enjoying a day on the links.
Pat Emrich became the lead organizer for the 50th Anniversary Reunion Class of 1966 and in doing so touched the lives of many of his classmates. Forty-five attended the Friday Stag Night on campus. The class then gathered on Saturday, June 19th, at Maggiano’s Little Italy Restaurant at Beachwood Place for their 50th Anniversary celebration, and many returned to BHS on Sunday for the Alumni Mass and breakfast with their families. Along the way, one of Pat’s helpers, Michael Mariani, wanted to celebrate his whole class and began to research them. What he learned drove him to celebrate and pay tribute to some of his deceased classmates during their reunion weekend. A 1966 classroom was set aside during Stag Night, and a PowerPoint which Michael made was available for viewing throughout the night. The classmates gathered for a tribute to their lost comrades.

All were thankful for the memories and heartfelt remembrances of their classmates. The evening instantly brought back the bond that will always live on as a “Man of Benedictine.”

Here are a few excerpts from Michael Mariani’s tribute:

“I asked about a few of our classmates and, sadly, I was informed that many are no longer with us. My purpose became very clear as I earnestly felt a calling to honor our deceased classmates with the dignity of recollection and joy of their time with us in the classrooms, the halls, at the games, at sock hops, ring day in junior year, and our graduation ceremony.”

“Our Class of 1966 had 198 graduates. We are now 25 men less. As I researched their names and reviewed their photos in all four yearbooks, the remorse of their departure brought tears to my eyes. These Men of Benedictine may not be with us physically but at this 50 year reunion, today, their spirit lives as we celebrate each of them. No matter where we began, no matter where we are today and no matter where we all may end up, we all have one thing in common. We are Men of Benedictine.”

“…a half of a century has passed, more than ever, I am confident that we sincerely appreciate the sacrifices our parents made to give us this opportunity. We all may now more fully appreciate the bonds we formed without being cognizant of how deeply it was forged in this city of steel and how much the Benedictine monks sacrificed in assuring the potentials of our destinies.”

“...It is my hope for all of us that we will be reunited with our Lord Jesus, that we will be reunited with all our past family members, friends and our classmates. May we all be blessed with an abundance of joy, peace, happiness and prosperity; always and in all ways. I love each and every one of you. God Bless you all.”
As the final minutes ticked away in last Sunday's Game 7 of the NBA Finals, a Cleveland Cavaliers victory must've looked certain to just about everyone watching.

The score stood at 92-89 with 10.6 seconds remaining. I sat as a longtime Cleveland sports fan with fists clenched and explained to my son how the Golden State Warriors could — no, would — still win.

“Steph Curry will hit a three, and the Cavs have to inbound the ball. They have no timeouts left,” I said. “They’ll turn it over, and the Warriors will hit a last-second shot.”

I simply couldn't let myself believe what by then was going to happen: For the first time in 52 years, one of MY teams was going to win the championship.

But it happened.

And I was completely confused about how to react.

My son hugged me. My wife and daughters joined us and hugged me.

(They, of course, were watching the game in the other room because we early in the series figured out that when all five of us watched together the Cavs lost. We changed our lineup, and it worked. I believe that had more impact on the series than Draymond Green's suspension for Game 5.)

I wandered in disbelief for the next day or so, spending lots of time on the phone with my siblings and old Cleveland friends running back over the game and series.

But deep down, I was still struggling with exactly how I felt.

Then my son and I had a big decision to make: Should we make the pilgrimage to Cleveland for the championship parade and celebration?

He was a big part of this. At 15 he was a devoted Cavs fans when LeBron James' televised “The Decision” humiliated all Cleveland fans. I tried to help him understand that anyone has a right to choose where they work. He reacted by throwing out all of his LeBron souvenirs. I was proud of him.

I even recounted our disappointment in what James had done in a conversation I had with then-NBA commissioner David Stern during one of his visits to Atlanta. He reasonably and politely urged me to get over it, and enjoy pro basketball again.

That was easy to do once James returned with a promise to bring a championship to Cleveland.

My friends, and son, now 21, urged me to go to the parade. I hesitated too long to go by plane, and they believed I was hung up on the logistics of such a long trip in such a short time. Or the cost. Or where to stay. All of which were important.

But I was hung up on how it would be, and whether I could shake this lingering and unsettling feeling of disbelief or confusion, or whatever it was, and truly enjoy this moment by returning to a place I hadn't lived for more than 30 years.

I normally hate huge crowds and long lines, but the scene in downtown Cleveland energized me and everyone there. As I told someone: You had to be there.

People were full of joy, not competing but helping each other find a better spot to view the parade, holding up kids to get a better view. One friend brought water and snacks, and shared it all around, even with people she didn't know.
The mismanagement of the parade, which seemed to begin at least two hours behind schedule, brought out the best in people.

After all, said one, Cleveland doesn’t have a lot of experience at championship parades; we’ll get better.

I heard older fans urge younger ones to enjoy the moment because this might never happen again.

And that’s when I understood why I’d been unsure how to enjoy all this.

Sports occupy such an important part of our culture, and at times overwhelm it. Of course they distract us from our troubles and serve as over-used metaphors for nearly every aspect of the human condition. Sports give us stories to tell so we can better understand ourselves.

But mostly, at their best, sports unite us. They give us common ground and show how we’re more alike than different.

We imagine, mistakenly, that our joyous sports moments are the most important ones — such as when our team beats a hated rival. (Think, Ohio State-Michigan or Georgia-Georgia Tech.)

In fact, it’s our disappointment that binds us. After all, only one team wins the championship each year. The rest of us have a story of what could’ve been, or a tale of the horrendous loss, or rant about a bad call by the official.

And we cast a derisive glance at the winners, knowing deep down that they can’t possibly deserve that championship as much as we do.

It becomes a badge of honor to stick with your team, through the tough seasons and the years — or as in Cleveland’s case, decades — of disappointment. One of the things that gives me credibility among sports fans: the famous Cleveland Browns-Denver Broncos game that produced “The Drive.” I was there.

Sports disappointment provides a metaphor for life: We value friends and family who stick with us during tough times, and we all want to be known as someone who will do the same.

We love winning, but we know it’s losing that shows who really cares.

This championship and that trip to Cleveland forced me to let go of quite a badge of honor, and one I realize I took great pride in. My team hadn’t won for almost my whole life, but I stuck around. I liked telling that story, and it said something about me.

At East 9th Street and Euclid Avenue along the parade route, I exchanged stories with others, almost all of whom had one of heartbreak over a Cleveland team — and who came to the parade as a testament to their loyalty. But they also were part of those disappointments. Standing on a downtown corner with a million others, I realized what I’d gained because my team finally won. That day, filled with hugs and high-fives, just adds to a fan’s story.

Kevin Riley is the Editor of The Atlanta Journal-Constitution. Contact him at kriley@ajc.com.

Kevin Riley, right, editor of The Atlanta Journal-Constitution, and his son, Colin, at the parade in downtown Cleveland on June 22, 2016 to celebrate the Cleveland Cavaliers winning the 2016 NBA championship. The title was the first major professional sports championship for the city since the Cleveland Browns won the NFL title in December 1964.
The Fifth Annual Class of ’71 Golf Outing took place on Saturday, August 6, 2016 at Manakiki Golf Course in Willoughby Hills.

Classmates and others interested should mark their calendars for Saturday, August 5, 2017 at Manakiki. Not only has our former principal, Bishop Roger, promised to attend again, but our Dean of Men, Fred Heyer, has been invited.

Contact Jack Siemen at 216-704-9937.

We thank everyone who participated and contributed to making this a successful event!

Joe Marino Golf Outing

The inaugural Joseph A. Marino High Top Scholarship Golf Outing was a success, raising endowed scholarship funds for talented and deserving Men of Benedictine. The event and endowed scholarship fund is in memory of Joseph A. Marino ’78, to celebrate his legacy and “never-quit” spirit.

The event took place on Thursday, June 2nd at Red Tail Golf Club in Avon, Ohio with over 140 golfers in attendance. Guests participated in silent auction bidding, a 50/50 raffle and a dinner reception to announce the recipients of The Joseph A. Marino High Top Memorial Scholarship Fund.

We thank everyone who participated and contributed to making this a successful event!
Bishop Roger
RNC closing prayer

Auxiliary Bishop Emeritus Roger Gries, OSB was asked to give the closing prayer on the final night of the Republican National Convention on July 21, 2016.

With firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence, let us pray:

Almighty God, we beg your continued blessings on this assembly and on all of those who proudly call America home. We ask your benediction upon those yet to be born, and on those who are about to see you at the end of this life. Bless all of us whose ancestors arrived on these shores generations ago, as well as those who have come recently, and those who will arrive in the future.

We lift up to your loving care those afflicted by the recent terrorist attacks and the tragic killings of citizens and police. We ask for the grace to stand in solidarity with all those who suffer. May we strive to include your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, in the production and prosperity of a people so richly blessed.

Oh loving and merciful God, we ask your guidance for those who govern us: the president and vice-president, the Congress, the Supreme Court, and on all those who seek to serve the common good by seeking public office, especially Donald J. Trump and Governor Mike Pence. Make them all worthy to serve you by serving our country. Help them remember that the only just government is the government that serves its citizens rather than itself.

Almighty God, we thank you as well for the gift of liberty. Renew in all of our people a respect for religious freedom in full, that first most cherished freedom. Make us ever-grateful for all those who, for more than two centuries, have given their lives in freedom’s defense; we commend their noble souls to your eternal care, as even now we beg your mighty hand upon our beloved safety forces and all our men and women in uniform.

May we know the truth of your creation, respecting the life of every human being from conception to natural death. Give us the strength and the courage to bring the Pro-life Platform of this 2016 Republican National Convention to fulfillment. May we grow in our love for you, Our God, and love our neighbor as ourselves.

We pray that we will bring America back to life, bring America back to work, and bring America together, one nation under God.

We beseech your blessing on all who depart from here this evening, and on all those, in every land, who seek to conduct their lives in freedom.

Most of all, Almighty God, we thank you for the great gift of our beloved country.

Dear God, bless America. You who live and reign, forever and ever,

Amen
On Sunday September 25, 2016, Saint Andrew Abbey hosted the Annual Abbey Benefit. This year’s Oktoberfest themed event took place at the American-Croatian Lodge in Eastlake. Generations of abbey supporters including families, children and grandchildren attended the event.

The benefit began with Abbot Gary celebrating Mass. It was followed by a delicious feast of stuffed cabbage, wiener schnitzel and strudel cheesecake. Younger guests participated in kid friendly activities with a balloon artist and face painter. The adults, including the monks, enjoyed dancing the afternoon away to the polka music of Frank Moravcik made possible by the kindness of Mr. Bernie Wiederwohl and the First Catholic Slovak Union.

New to the event this year was a live auction. Fr. Gerard acted as auctioneer and although hesitant to play this role, he was quite a natural. The auction included priceless Abbey experiences such as: Mass and dinner at your home celebrated by Abbot Gary, Vespers and Dinner at the Abbey, Christmas Celebration with the monks at the Abbey and Bowling, Beer and Brats with the Brothers of Saint Andrew Abbey.

The First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association filled the party with an array of beautiful gift baskets as part of the Slovak Silent Auction. Over 25 lucky winners took home money trees, lottery trees and baskets overflowing with wine and spirits.

The Annual Abbey Benefit concluded with Fr. Timothy reciting the closing prayer and then Fr. Michael leading the monks singing “The Ultima,” a prayer to the Blessed Virgin Mary.

The Abbey Benefit each Fall presents an opportunity for friends of the Benedictine monks of St. Andrew Abbey to provide needed financial support for their monastic life and ministry. Proceeds from the Abbey Benefit go directly to help meet various expenses that impact the lives of the monks, especially educational and healthcare needs.

A very special thanks goes out to the Abbey Benefit Committee that worked very hard and donated many hours of time to make this event both fun and successful: Abbot Gary Hoover, OSB, Brother Gabriel Balazovic, OSB, Irene Drotleff, Marie Golias, Milan Kobulsky, Bob Kopco, Joyce Lechman, Barbara Sekerak, James Sekerak and Barbara Sutila.
The Monks of Saint Andrew Abbey
Serving God and the Church throughout Northeastern Ohio in 2016

Bishop Roger Gries, OSB
Auxiliary Bishop Emeritus
Confirmation ministry

Abbot Gary Hoover, OSB
Abbot of St. Andrew Abbey
Weekend ministry: St. Ambrose and St. Colette
Parishes (Brunswick), Confirmation ministry

Benedictine High School
Fr. Gerard Gonda, OSB
President, teacher
Weekend ministry: Holy Trinity, Avon

Fr. Michael Brunovsky, OSB
Academic Dean
Weekend ministry: St. Adalbert, Berea

Fr. Timothy Buyansky, OSB
Prior, Librarian
Weekend ministry: St. John of the Cross

Fr. Anselm Zupka, OSB
German teacher
Weekend ministry: St. Charles, Parma

Fr. Paschal Petcavage, OSB
French, Spanish, Italian teacher
Weekend ministry: St. Stanislaus and St. Casimir, Cleveland

Fr. Bede Kotlinski, OSB
Classics teacher
Oblate Director
Weekend ministry: (Tridentine liturgy)
Immaculate Conception, Cleveland
St. Stephen, Cleveland
St. Sebastian, Akron

Fr. Finbar Ramsak, OSB
Vocation Director, theology teacher
Weekend ministry: Assumption Parish, Broadview Heights

Bro. Nicholas Spisak, OSB
Cafeteria staff
Grounds Maintenance

Assumption Parish
Fr. Justin Drywal, OSB
Pastor

Fr. Kenneth Katricak, OSB
In residence Nursing Studies, John Carroll University

LOYOLA RETREAT HOUSE, CLINTON, OH
Abbot Clement Zeleznik, OSB
Chaplain

SAINT ANDREW ABBEY
Bro. Gabriel Balazovic, OSB
SubPrior

Fr. Dismas Boeff, OSB
Counselor, parochial ministry

Bro. Philip Petrow, OSB
Guest Master

Bro. Peter Ancell, OSB
Health Delegate
Community Outreach Liaison

Bro. Richard Richmond, OSB
Library, Laundry

Bro. Mario Parisi, OSB
Groundskeeper, Oblates

Fr. Thomas Sanders, OSB
Graduate Studies, John Carroll University
Weekend ministry: St. Teresa (Sheffield) and St. Anthony (Lorain)

ST. VINCENT SEMINARY, LATROBE, PA
Bro. Louis Carey, OSB
Priesthood studies

Bro. Conrad Wald, OSB
Priesthood studies

REGINA HEALTH CENTER, RICHFIELD
Fr. Placid Pientek, OSB
Prayer ministry

Abbot Christopher Schwartz, OSB

Fr. Dominic Mondzelewski, OSB
Fr. Joachim Pastirik, OSB

Fr. Dismas, OSB ’66 with his two sisters. Left, Mary Lelko, Right, Barbara Demaline
Abbot Gregory Polan elected as head of Benedictine monks

In September, Abbot Gregory Polan, OSB of Conception Abbey in Missouri was elected Abbot Primate of the Benedictine Order in Rome where he will now serve, resigning as abbot of Conception Abbey. “It certainly is a wonderful honor for Abbot Gregory, and by extension, for Conception Abbey,” said Fr. Daniel Petsche, OSB, prior administrator at the abbey.

As Abbot Primate, Abbot Gregory will serve as the unifying head for approximately 7,000 Benedictine monks worldwide and as the abbot of the Sant’ Anselmo Monastery in Rome where the international Benedictine college for graduate studies in theology is located. The initial term is eight years, followed by the potential for two additional four-year terms.

“The abbot acts as a father to our community. As Benedictines, each monastery is autonomous. We have one superior who is not only the administrator of all the business, but he is also the superior from the spiritual point of view,” Fr. Daniel said. “The Rule of Saint Benedict gives a lot of attention to the role of the abbot.” The selection of a new abbot for Conception Abbey must now be completed within three months.

Abbot Gregory has served as abbot of Conception Abbey for almost 20 years. He also served as the president-rector of Conception Seminary College, located at the abbey, for 10 years. He is a scholar in scripture and theology and has been prominent in the field of biblical translation.

“He’s a confident leader,” Fr. Daniel said. “He has a very brilliant mind. He has a very great memory. He has a very gentle approach. He’s very pastoral...He’s a very talented person, but he’s also a very humble person.”

Abbot Gregory is the fourth American to be elected as Abbot Primate of the Benedictine Order and second from Conception Abbey, following the election of Abbot Marcel Rooney, OSB in 1996.

Adapted from an article printed with permission by Jena Sauber of the St. Joseph News-Press.

Three Abbot Primates of the Benedictine Order have visited Saint Andrew Abbey and Benedictine High School. In the photo below, Abbot Primate Bernard Kaelin, OSB of Switzerland blesses the new abbey buildings in 1952. Abbot Primate Victor Dammertz, OSB of Germany came to Cleveland to bless the new abbey church and wing in 1986. Abbot Primate Marcel Rooney, OSB of Missouri celebrated a Mass of Thanksgiving at Assumption Parish in Broadview Heights in 1998 to mark the 75th anniversary of the arrival of the Benedictines in Cleveland. The office of Abbot Primate was created in 1886.

In 1952, Abbot Primate Bernard Kaelin, OSB from Rome walks in procession to dedicate the new St. Andrew’s Abbey. Accompanying him are (l-r): Fr. Armand Gress, OSB; Bro. Joseph Venonsky, OSB; Fr. Jerome (later Abbot) Koval, OSB; and Fr. William Matyas, OSB.
The Autumn 2016 Abbey Oblate Meeting

BY FR. BEDE KOTLINSKI, OSB, OBLATE DIRECTOR

The Oblate year was off to another lively start with a sizable third of the total body of Oblates. The Oblates gathered on the third Sunday of September inaugurating the first of the 2016-2017 meetings. We always gather in the Abbey parlor from 2:30 to 4pm. A few new members joined in fellowship with coffee and pastries.

The group offered evening prayer with the special intentions of sick and deceased Oblates. We asked the Oblates to keep them in their prayers and Masses. Then we began our exploration of the “Rule of Benedict,” a classic that harkens back to the saintly patriarch of Nursia in 480 AD. From the foundational heights of Monte Cassino, St. Benedict codified a practical, yet thoroughly prayerful, way of life in a stable community. Thus, twelve monasteries each housing twelve vowed monks began a movement that has endured for more than 1500 years to current times. Such was and is the legacy of the “School of the Lord’s Service.” The RB 80, St. John’s Liturgical Press, LTP, is our text this year. Fr. Bede will follow the text in its four part structure: Origins, Pre-Benedictine Monasticism, The Rule in Context, and in History to Modern Relevance; The Latin Original and English Translation of the RB Text Itself (including references and notes); Monastic Topics: basic roles, liturgical code, disciplines, profession, use of Sacred Scripture and the Rule of the Master. Br. Mario mentioned the user-friendly nature of this treatment of the Rule, inviting participants who wish to do so to explore monastic history via www.newadvent.org.

At this meeting a lecture followed on the origins of monastic life. There was a presentation on pre-Christian Monastic origins and how it differed from Christian Monasticism. After the first ages of intense martyrdom, men and women ascetics strove to live heroic virtuous Christian lives amid the backdrop of Constantine the Great’s Edict of Religious Toleration, in 313 AD, which had weakened the practice of the faith. These ascetics were determined, as spiritual heroes, to carry on the power and vitality of the New Testament commitment to (liturgia), (koinonia), (diakonia), (kerygma) in the spirit of the martyrs. An historical survey followed from Paul the Hermit, Anthony the Great, Pachomius, Origen, Basil, etc., down to the period of St. Benedict.

For information on joining the Oblate program of St. Andrew Abbey, contact Fr. Bede at bede@cbhs.edu or at 216-721-5300, ext. 310.
Chuck Noll ’49 Biography Released

On Sunday, October 30, 2016, BHS president Fr. Gerard Gonda, OSB with Holy Trinity, Avon parishioner Matt Nussbaum, and alumnus Joe Sweeney ’98 drove to the Heinz History Center in Pittsburgh for a special presentation on the life of BHS alumnus and Super Bowl Coach Chuck Noll in conjunction with the release of his official biography entitled Chuck Noll: His Life’s Work (The University of Pittsburgh Press).

The author is Michael MacCambridge who is one of the nation’s foremost authorities on pro and college football. MacCambridge made several visits to Cleveland and to Benedictine High School over the past three years as he was researching the life of Chuck Noll. While in Cleveland he was able to interview some of Chuck Noll’s BHS classmates and even one of his teachers, Fr. Placid Pientek, OSB, who resides, at age 98, at Regina Health Center in Richfield.

Chapter 2 of the book focuses on Chuck Noll’s days at Benedictine in the 1940s when he played football under legendary Coach Joe Rufus.

Present at the book signing event in Pittsburgh on October 30 to honor the memory of Chuck Noll, who died in 2014, were former Steelers’ owner Dan Rooney, and former players Joe Greene, Rocky Bleier, and Tunch Ilkin. Each shared personal memories but were united in their assessment of their former coach’s perspective on life that was bigger than football, his knowledge of the game and of human nature, his personal modesty and eagerness to avoid the limelight, and his devotion to faith, family, and friends.

Andy Kaczynski ’08 hired by CNN

Benedictine alumnus Andy Kaczynski ’08 was the focus of a prominent feature story in the October 15, 2016 issue of the New York Times. The occasion of the story was the announcement that the 26-year-old reporter had decided to leave BuzzFeed, an American private Internet media company based in New York City, to accept an offer to work for the Cable News Network (CNN) of Turner Broadcasting Company.

A former writer for the BHS student newspaper, The Bennet, Andy has quickly made a name for himself in digital journalism since he moved to New York City and enrolled as a junior at St. John’s University in Jamaica, New York. He spent his first two years of college at Ohio University and also served as an intern with the Republican National Committee and for several congressional candidates.

While in college, Andy developed skills in researching old video clips of politicians and national figures that often showed them taking positions contrary to their current views. Soon news agencies began citing his video research and he was offered a job with BuzzFeed in 2011. BuzzFeed had only been started in 2006 and Andy soon became one of its leading research reporters.

In 2012, he uncovered old video clips of the presidential candidates contradicting themselves. During the 2016 presidential campaign, he revealed embarrassing past videos of Donald Trump, Hillary Clinton, Ben Carson, Bernie Sanders, and others. He has attracted the attention of several of the major news outlets and television personalities such as Stephen Colbert whose late night show on October 7, 2016 included a segment featuring a satire on Kaczynski’s work. Already in 2012, Andy was the subject of an hour-long one-on-one national television interview with Brian Lamb on C-SPAN.
Joe Kocab ’50 has always enjoyed new opportunities and challenges. When he was a student at Benedictine High School in the late 1940s, he was involved as class president, a member of the cheerleading squad, and the school newspaper. Now, after 48 years of hosting the weekly “Czech Voice of Cleveland” radio show most recently on WHKW AM 1220, Joe is turning over the microphone to a fellow BHS alumnus John Sabol ’63, who has been active in publishing guides on Cleveland ethnic groups and neighborhoods in recent years.

After graduating from BHS, Joe Kocab received his A.B. degree in zoology and his master’s degree in educational administration from Ohio University. Under National Science Foundation (NSF) grants he took courses over the years at Penn State, the University of Washington, Rutgers, Ohio State, and Case Western Reserve University.

Joe served as a teacher and department head at John Adams High School in Cleveland from 1955-65 and again in 1967 as assistant principal. He was also assistant principal at Rawlings Junior High and South High School from 1969 until 1985.

Aside from his educational work, Joe has used his many talents over the years to promote and preserve the Czech culture in Cleveland. He has been the heart and soul of the Czech community for many decades especially through his management of Karlin Hall, which was a popular social gathering place on Fleet Avenue that closed in 2010, as president of the Czech Catholic Union Fraternal Insurance organization, and as an active member of many other Czech social clubs.

Joe Kocab and John Sabol greatly appreciate the lessons they learned at the Home of Champions that have helped them use the spoken and written word so effectively in the promotion of their ethnic culture and the memory of the unique neighborhoods that are so much a part of the history of Cleveland.
Nobby Lewandowski ’55
Named Distinguished Athletic Alumnus by Kent State

On September 17, 2016, BHS alumnus Nobby Lewandowski ’55 received the Distinguished Athletic Alumnus Award from Kent State University. First presented in 2002, The Varsity “K” Distinguished Athletic Alumnus Award was initiated to recognize outstanding career accomplishments of former Kent State University student-athletes in their chosen field. Representing Benedictine High School at the awards ceremony on the Kent State campus were BHS president Fr. Gerard Gonda, OSB and BHS athletic director Mr. Chris Lorber.

Following his graduation from Benedictine High School where he played football and baseball and was named Mr. Benedictine in 1955, Nobby received the first-ever baseball scholarship from KSU and became a three-year letterman for the Golden Flashes earning All-Mid-American Conference honors and serving as team captain in 1959. Following his collegiate career he spent three years in professional baseball as a pitcher with the Pittsburgh Pirates organization. He was inducted into the Benedictine Hall of Honor in 1993, the Greater Cleveland Sports Hall of Fame in 1999, the Greater Akron Baseball Hall of Fame in 2003, and the Benedictine Athletic Hall of Fame in 2011.

Nobby earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration from Kent State in 1959 and his master’s degree from Case Western Reserve in 1964. He received his CPA certification also in 1964. In 1970 he founded and was the managing partner and CEO of the Lewandowski, Zalick, and Company accounting firm for more than 20 years before his retirement in 1992. He was named One of Ohio’s Most Influential CPAs in 2008 and has had numerous articles published in the “Ohio CPA Journal.”

Since “retiring” as an accountant, Nobby has forged full steam ahead upon his second career as an author and keynote speaker. He conducts workshops and seminars addressing the issues of managing and leading people and has co-authored two books – Real World Leadership Strategies That Work, and Speaking Out. In 2015 he received the prestigious Annie Glenn National Leadership Award that was created to recognize individuals who exemplify excellence in leadership, specifically to those who are committed to innovative change through sustained clinical or research excellence in communication, language, and literacy.

He also served on the Kent State Board of Trustees and the Benedictine High School Board of Trustees. In 2006, he donated funds for the construction of “Nobby’s Ballpark” at Case Western Reserve University where he attended graduate school, with the provision that the BHS varsity baseball team could use it for a hundred years.

Left to Right: BHS Athletic Director, Chris Lorber ’03, BHS President, Fr. Gerard, OSB ’71 and Dick Griffin congratulate Nobby Lewandowski ’55 at Kent State University.
Deacon Richard Zoldak and his wife received a Master of Arts in Pastoral Theology from St. Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology. St. Meinrad is a monastic community of Benedictine monks located in St. Meinrad, IN. The Masters project was a joint project entitled Benedictine Spirituality as Lived in Marriage where the Rites of Solemn Profession of Vows (Richard’s part) along with the monastic vows of obedience, stability, and conversion with humility as the thread joining them together (Cherie’s part) were related to the Rite of Matrimony and marriage vows. They were retreat masters in March of this year at St. Meinrad, putting on the retreat for 16 married couples and look to do it elsewhere in the near future.

Jerry Champa is starting his 34th year with the California Department of Transportation and is about to celebrate his 15th wedding anniversary with wife Marilyn who is a native of Sacramento. He enjoys frequent visits to Cleveland, and loves to follow the Bengals, the Fighting Irish (Class of ’83), the Indians, and NBA Champion Cavaliers!!! He is looking forward to the 2018 Reunion.

Alex Slemc was one of 15 honored recipients of the 2016 Distinguished Marketing and Sales Awards sponsored by the Sales and Marketing Executives of Cleveland at their annual honors banquet at Cleveland Public Auditorium on February 25, 2016. Alex is the Director of Marketing and Communication of FOX Sports Ohio and SportsTime Ohio. He oversees all aspects of the two television networks’ marketing including their relationships with the Cleveland Indians, Cincinnati Reds, Cleveland Cavaliers, Columbus Blue Jackets, The Ohio State University, and his alma mater, the University of Dayton, among others. He assumed the position in 2008. A surprise guest in attendance at the awards ceremony was BHS president Fr. Gerard Gonda, OSB. Alex served as admissions and marketing director for BHS for several years.

Jeffrey Snitzer recently graduated from Ursuline College with an MBA. Currently he is a Business Analyst at the Cleveland Clinic.

1971 continued

1978

1991

2001

Greg Rufus ’74
Chosen As Crain’s “CFO of the Year”

For the second year in a row, a Benedictine High School alumnus has been chosen as the “CFO of the Year” by the prestigious Cleveland journal, Crain’s Cleveland Business. Greg Rufus ’74, recently retired CFO and Executive Vice-President of TransDigm Group, Inc., and former chairman of the Benedictine High School Board of Trustees, was honored by his peers at the Intercontinental Hotel on Wednesday, October 26, 2016. Prior Timothy Buyansky, OSB ’60 joined Fr. Gerard Gonda, OSB ’71 and BHS Board Chair Andy Smith ’78, BHS Board Finance chairman Jim Hyland, and former BHS Board member Jim Lasher ’81 representing BHS at the awards dinner. Last year, alumnus Robert Matejka ’60 received the same award posthumously.

Greg was recognized in personal testimony by TransDigm chairman and CEO W. Nicholas Howley for his pivotal role in the company’s phenomenal growth in the past 15 years making it one of the 100 fastest growing businesses in the world. Rufus helped kick up sales from $151 million to the multibillion-dollar enterprise it is today.

A sharp operational focus led in part by Rufus has created a sophisticated financial organization staffed by highly competitive people. Nick Howley explained, “Our ongoing culture is a significant part of Greg’s legacy. His ethics are outstanding and permeate the culture. I could not have asked for a better partner in this business.”

Greg, son of legendary BHS coach and athletic director Joe Rufus, also was instrumental in getting the Howley Scholarship Program into Benedictine High School. Each year, students with financial need and good grades are able to received tuition grants from this fund.

Greg and his wife, Kathy, live in Avon Lake and attend Holy Trinity Parish where BHS president Fr. Gerard Gonda, OSB ’71 assists on weekends. Greg and Kathy have four grown sons, William, Andrew, Brian and Jack.
Cameron Wright ’10 and Slovak Basketball

In a remarkable convergence of two aspects of Benedictine High School history, former Bengal and University of Pittsburgh basketball standout Cameron Wright ’10 is currently playing for a professional basketball team in Slovakia, the eastern European country from which the immigrants who founded BHS in the 1920s came. The team, known as MBK Handlova, is located in the Trenčín region in the middle of Slovakia. Cameron graduated from Pitt in 2015 after playing for five seasons with the Panthers, including two NCAA tournaments. The 24-year-old guard played professionally last year in the Czech Republic before being signed by MBK Handlova in September 2016. Cameron not only left college with athletic success, but also in the classroom. He has degrees in marketing and human resources management. Three years ago, he was selected as the winner of the Skip Prosser Award, which goes to the Atlantic Coast Conference’s (ACC) top scholar-athlete in men’s basketball. As a senior year in college, he was one of three Pitt athletes to receive a $5,000 ACC post-graduate scholarship. Cameron hopes someday to work in commercial advertising.

2002

Thelemon Powell Jr. completed his first year as a detective after serving eight years in the 4th District of Cleveland. He is currently assigned to the Cleveland Police Department Gang Impact Unit.

2009

Tyler Winterich is in his third year as a manager for the University of Michigan Football program. Yes, he has been getting more television time each year. This year he assists Jay Harbaugh with tight ends and special teams. Here is Tyler looking over things with the boss, Coach Jim Harbaugh.

Matt Wagner ’12

Matt Wagner, Class of 2012, had an eventful senior year at Catholic University of America in Washington, DC. First, he was able to see Pope Francis in person when the pope came to Washington to canonize St. Junipero Serra at the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception next to CUA on September 23. On the sports side, Matt (swimming) and BHS and CUA classmate Jacob Macklin (track) were both nominated for “Athlete of the Year,” two of only 12 CUA athletes to receive that honor. Matt was a champion in the 50 freestyle in swimming, breaking the CUA school record. In July back in Cleveland he worked as a volunteer at the Republican National Convention and met some notable guests such as Dr. Ben Carson and Bishop Roger Gries, OSB who delivered the final invocation at the closing session. Matt continued his political pursuits when he was hired to work on the Indiana governor’s campaign for Eric Holcomb.
Brennan Hall currently is pursuing his Master of Divinity at Saint John’s Seminary–School of Theology with a projected graduation in May 2018. He married Laura (Fox) Hall, a graduate of the College of Saint Benedict, on July 9, 2016 at Saint John’s Abbey Church in Collegeville, MN.

Jacob Gedetsis was a contributing reporter and writer at the RNC this past summer. Jacob reported for rare.us. He was credentialed and reported throughout the entire convention for activities both inside and outside the convention. He enjoyed the experience and being home in the CLE. Jacob is a Digital Editor for the Daily Orange at Syracuse University.

Ryan Shenk has aviation in his blood, earning his private pilot’s license earlier this year and spent the summer working at the Cleveland Jet Center. Ryan is continuing his college studies at Kent State University.

Matthew Zyle, a third-year student at Case Western Reserve University, where he studies English with specific interests in film and journalism, was chosen to cover the Republican National Convention with written columns for the Bradenton (Florida) Herald newspaper. Matt was one of seven CWRU journalism students who had a unique opportunity to cover the convention as fully credentialed journalists for various newspapers across the country. Matt and his classmates interviewed delegates and met fellow journalists including legendary Watergate reporter Carl Bernstein.
UPCOMING DATES & ACTIVITIES

VILIYA, SLOVAK CHRISTMAS EVE SUPPER
Sunday, December 4, 2016
12:00 noon Mass at Saint Andrew Abbey Church
Dinner following at Benedictine High School Cafeteria
Tickets $20, advance sales only.
Call Rose at 216-721-5300 x100 before November 25th.

SAINT ANDREW ABBEY CHRISTMAS EVE MASS
Saturday, December 24, 2016
9:00pm
Please RSVP to Rose at 216-721-5300 x100

FR. ANSELM’S ANNIVERSARY GERMANY TOUR
HEIDELBERG | ROTHENBERG | SALZBURG | MUNICH | LUCERNE | FRANKFURT

Join Father Anselm, OSB as he celebrates his 50th year of teaching at BHS, 50th year of priesthood and 15th tour to Germany.

APRIL 12-21, 2017 (EASTER WEEK)
The tour is called “Castle of Germany” and the cost is $3,923 for students (up to 21 years of age) and $4,303 for adults. The tour includes round-trip airfare from CLE, 8 nights in 4-star hotels (overnights in Heidelberg, Rothenberg, Salzburg, Munich, Lucerne and Frankfurt), a full-time CHA tour director, breakfast & dinner daily, on-tour transportation, guided sightseeing & walking tours, a Rhine River cruise and the famous Neuschwanstein Castle.

To get information or to enroll online go to www.cha-tours.com. The group access code is 0526S41217. Questions, contact Fr. Anselm at anselm@cbhs.edu or 330-605-4842.

HELP THE MEN OF BENEDICTINE THROUGH THE 15TH ANNUAL BLUE & WHITE CRYSTAL GALA

The Advancement Department is seeking event volunteers and silent and live auction item donations. Gala gift items can be purchased through the event registry at Crate & Barrel under “Benedictine.” Corporate level sponsorship and advertising opportunities are available.

Please contact Event Coordinator, Debra First at first@cbhs.edu or 216-421-2080 x 156.