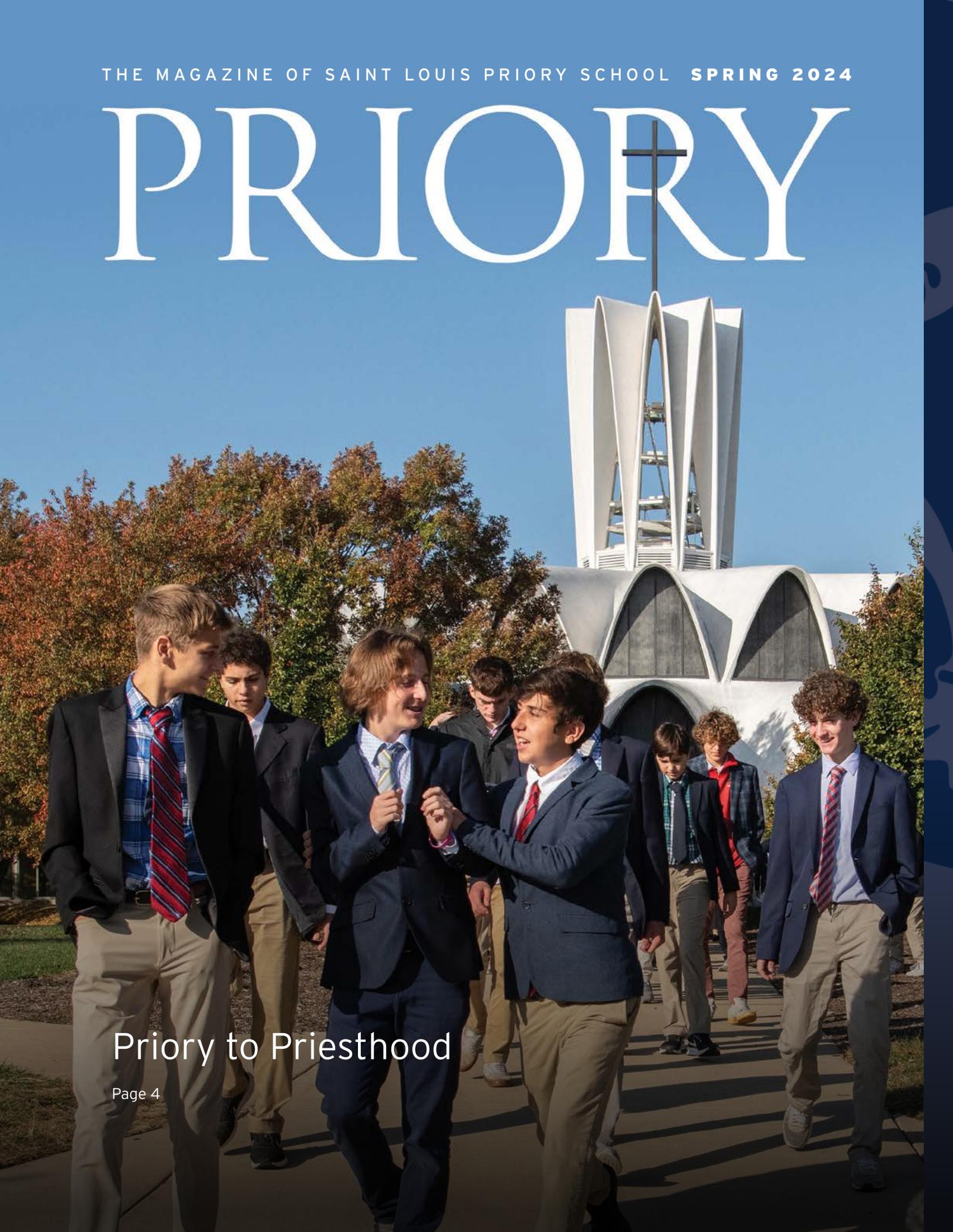


PRIORY



Priory to Priesthood

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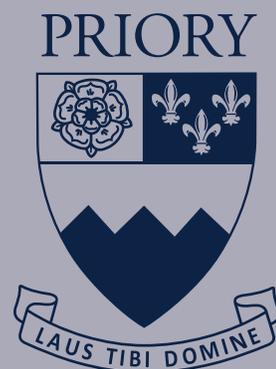
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DAY OF GIVING
APRIL 24, 2024



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FROM THE HEADMASTER

Dear Friends,

In the early morning between Vigils and Lauds, I normally sit alone with the day's scripture. In the silence of my cell, by the glow of a single lamp, I open my bible to the day's readings. With care, I write down the verses that strike me and meditate upon them. Parallel texts and cross-references pull my attention. My heart comes to rest on a single phrase, and I begin to see the challenges before me more as opportunities for grace than as obstacles to desire.

Lectio Divina is just one way in which the monk seeks God, and the monastic life is just one way in which God calls us to be his disciples. In this edition of *Priory Magazine*, you will find stories of other alumni who have chosen to follow Christ as consecrated religious and priests. Their example offers us encouragement as we discern how best to live the Gospel. Priory's mission is the same: to help our students through accompaniment and encouragement to discern their vocation and discover their gifts. That is how we best prepare young men for an exceptional life.

As you read this issue, I hope you will reflect on your own experience of discerning a vocation. How have you been called to love God and neighbor? Please share your story with us and with everyone that you love. As the scriptures say, iron sharpens iron, and two stones struck together can kindle a white-hot flame.

Laus Tibi Domine,



Father Cuthbert Elliott, O.S.B., '02
Headmaster



From Priory to Priesthood

Alumni Find Fulfillment in Their Ministerial Calling

“We do believe we are more than a school,” says Saint Louis Priory School alumnus and Headmaster Father Cuthbert Elliott, O.S.B., '02. “We are a place of discerning each person’s vocational path.”

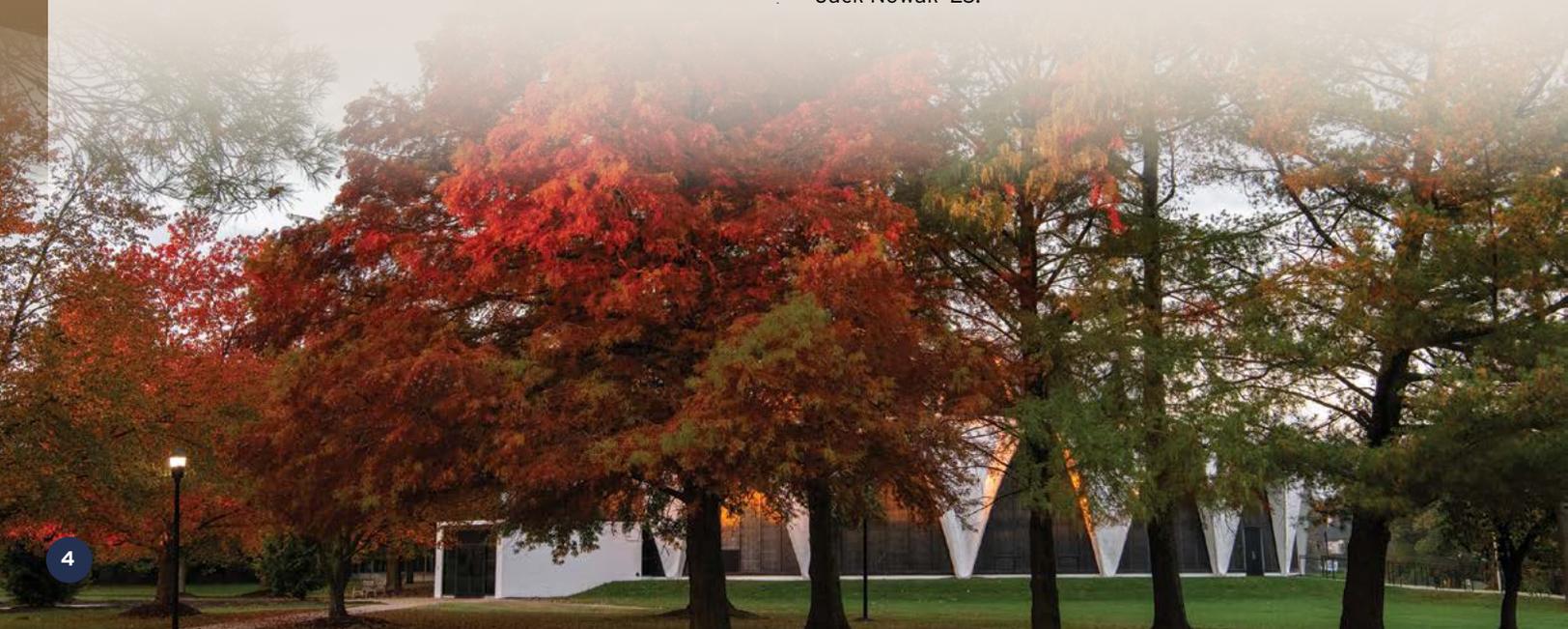
His words align with Priory’s Mission—“to provide a Catholic, Benedictine, college preparatory education of the highest excellence so as to help talented and motivated young men develop their full potential as children of God.” They also amplify the understanding that Priory offers its students “preparation for an exceptional life.”

For many Priory graduates, *an exceptional life* includes marriage and family, and a fulfilling career in business, law, medicine, or some other professional field.

But for a smaller yet still significant number of Priory alums, *an exceptional life* is a life as a Catholic priest.

Over the years, four Priory graduates have persevered as Benedictine monks ordained to the sacred priesthood - with Abbot Gregory Mohrman, O.S.B., '76, Father Cassian Koenemann, O.S.B., '97, and Father Cuthbert Elliott, O.S.B., '02 living within the monastic community at Saint Louis Abbey and Father Edward Mazuski, O.S.B., '05 now at Portsmouth Abbey in Rhode Island. Another Priory alumnus—Father Paul Rourke, S.J., '90—is a member of the Society of Jesus (the Jesuits).

Two Priory alumni are priests of the Archdiocese of St. Louis—Father John Nickolai '95 and Father Peter Fonseca '07—and one more is a seminarian in discernment with the Archdiocese of St. Louis: Jack Nowak '23.





△ Sophomore seminarian Joseph Inserra, an alumnus of Saint Louis University High School, Priory alumnus and freshman seminarian Jack Nowak '23, and sophomore seminarian Joseph Corrigan, an alumnus of Chaminade.

Hearing the Call

Father Rourke serves as Vice President, Mission & Ministry at Fairfield University, a Jesuit university in Connecticut. He says that with three older brothers who went to Priory, his early positive connection with the school and with St. Anselm Parish from a very young age helped foster his desire to become a priest.

"When I went to high school, I think, like a lot of people, I put that out of my mind," he says. "It wasn't the cool thing to think about and talk about."

He attended Georgetown University for his undergraduate studies, "and that's where the Jesuit idea started to percolate," he says.

Father Rourke entered the Society of Jesus in 2000. He was ordained to the priesthood in 2010 and took his final vows in 2021. Jesuits "identify as men who are sent," he says, "to engage in missions that are for the good of the Church and the good of the world. I think that idea of being sent is something that really resonated with me."

Father Nickolai, pastor of St. Paul Catholic Church in Fenton, likewise first acted on his vocational calling during his college years. "Priory gave me that foundation in faith," he says. "It was perhaps something I didn't appreciate when I was younger, but I was glad to have when I matured a little more."

Father Fonseca agrees. He is Director of the Office of Continuing Formation of Priests in the Archdiocese of St. Louis and a PhD student and undergraduate instructor at the Albert Gnaegi Center for Health Care Ethics at Saint Louis University.

"I think [Priory] does prepare men to have that reflective attitude so that - if they are called to the priesthood or whatever they're called to - they can begin to discern," he says. "And then,"

Sacred Scripture

Could you cite a verse from Scripture that is especially meaningful to you?

Father Cuthbert Elliott, O.S.B., '02

1 Corinthians 6:20

"For you have been purchased at a price. Therefore, glorify God in your body."



Cuthbert

Father Paul Rourke, S.J., '90

Father John Nickolai '95

John 1:14

"And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us,"



Rourke

Father Peter Fonseca '07

John 8:32

"[T]he truth will set you free."



Nickolai

Seminarian Jack Nowak '23

Luke 12:49

"I have come to set the earth on fire, and how I wish it were already blazing!"



Fonseca

Abbot Gregory Mohrman, O.S.B., '76

Philippians 3:10-11

"[T]o know [Christ] and the power of his resurrection and [the] sharing of his sufferings by being conformed to his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead."



Nowak



Mohrman

“Priory gave me that foundation in faith. It was perhaps something I didn’t appreciate when I was younger, but I was glad to have when I matured a little more.”

– Father John Nickolai '95

he adds, “the monks’ insistence that Christ be at the center of everything helps focus decisions you’re going to make.”

The Influence of the Monks

“Having the monks on campus has been really great,” affirms Jack Nowak '23, a recent Priory graduate who began as a college freshman at St. Louis’ Kenrick-Glennon Seminary last fall. (Jack’s mother, Jennifer Nowak, worked at Priory from 2018 through 2023, first in the school’s Advancement office and then as Director of Enrollment Management.)

“Because [Priory has] so many priests, we can have these beautiful Masses every Friday that helped draw me and several of my classmates—and I know tons of people at Priory—into deeper prayer,” he says.

Abbot Gregory’s experience as a student was akin to Nowak’s.

“All through my time at Priory, my admiration for the monks and my attraction to the monastic liturgy was always present there,” the abbot says, “and that was the driving force that led up to my discernment.”

Father Cuthbert – who converted to the Catholic faith at an all-school Mass near the end of his junior year after an impactful visit to England with a group of fellow students – recalls with fondness his monk-teachers.

“A key factor for me was interactions with the monks,” he remembers. “Even though they didn’t all form friendships with me as a student, they all gave witness to a purposeful life built around a community and service.”

It was in the Abbey Church and at Saint Louis Priory School “that I first awoke to the mystery of God and to the transcendent dimension of life,” recalls Father Rourke. “Once you have that sense that the world is much greater and deeper and opens to the infinity of God, that really changes your perspective on everything.”

“If you asked us on our first day of seventh grade at Priory what we were going to do, none of us probably would have said some sort of priesthood life,” says Father Fonseca. “There’s something about the way Priory forms young men that enables us to take that leap and hear that call when it comes.”



> Abbot Gregory Mohrman, O.S.B., '76

BECOMING A MONK

A T S A I N T L O U I S A B B E Y

When considering their vocation, “I think in some ways young people find the contemplative side, the monastic side, hard to get a handle on, because it is very mysterious,” says Abbot Gregory Mohrman, O.S.B., ‘76.

One can learn about the steps involved in discerning whether he has a vocation to become a Benedictine monk by visiting the “Becoming a Monk” tab on Saint Louis Abbey’s website (stlouisabbey.org).

“At Saint Louis Abbey we believe each of us relies on grace to discern God’s call,” the website notes. “A personal prayer life and devotion are of course the best tools for deciding on and determining a monastic vocation. One must have an open heart and be willing to listen to the

voice of the Lord in silence of his heart. After prayer and discernment, the natural step for those who feel the Lord may be calling them to the monastic life is to visit a monastery.”

The website continues: “Reading about monks, getting to know a monk, and even visiting a monastery are great ways to learn about the monastic life, but the best way to learn about it is to arrange with the Guest Master for a visit of a few days to live with us in our monastery. As a guest you will join the community and experience our monastic way of prayer, the silence of the early hours, the give and take of community life.”

Priory Headmaster Father Cuthbert Elliott, O.S.B., ‘02 agrees that spending time within the monastery is imperative.



"The experience of the day is built around a monastic timeline where everything stops for God to be praised five times a day," he says. "It's a subtle thing, but when you live in a place ... and have bells pealing regularly throughout the day, the whole sense of your week or your day is shaped around the worship of God."

The Abbey's website describes a candidate's formal steps on his monastic journey. These begin with a postulancy, with a length that varies for each candidate. Next is a 12-month novitiate, after which the novice - having been given his monastic name by the abbot - may take vows as a Benedictine monk for a period of three years. "At the end of three years," the website notes, "the abbot, with the consent of the chapter, may admit the junior monk to solemn profession, that is, final vows."

"The monastic life and priesthood is about love - at the heart of it is love," Abbot Gregory emphasizes. "Those who enter the monastic life or the priesthood - if they do it well - live an amazing rich and fulfilling human life. It is humanly satisfying, which may be initially paradoxical because of the things that monks give up, but it actually is quite humanly satisfying."

Advice for Students

What advice would you give to Priory students who are considering the vocation to which God is calling them?

"Engage wholeheartedly in the life of Priory—not just academics, not just sports, not just extracurriculars, but the entire package.... Don't miss that opportunity to [reflect on] the experiences that Priory offers you ... and to ask yourself, 'How is God using these experiences to help me discern what's next?'"

- Father Peter Fonseca '07

"I think the important thing would be to listen, because God is going to be giving you nudges about what you should be doing with your life. It's very easy to dismiss them, but they tend to be persistent. And once you've heard, you need to set aside some time to seriously think about it, pray about it, and, when you're ready, talk to someone that you trust about it."

- Father Cuthbert Elliott, O.S.B., '02

"Take some concrete steps. You can't figure this out in the abstract. A vocation really is a case of *solvitur ambulando* ['it is solved by walking']. Talk to some trusted person, a vocation director, a religious, or someone else whose judgment and discretion you respect."

- Father John Nickolai '95

"Be not afraid!... [A] person who feels that they may have a vocation or an attraction to a vocation sometimes can have the mistaken impression that everything has to be decided right up front. It's important to take things slowly.... Pay attention to what's going on in your heart.... Give it the space and the attention it deserves because, ultimately, if you don't, you're missing an opportunity to discover what your deepest joy will be."

- Father Paul Rourke, S.J., '90



Advice for Parents

What's the role of Priory parents in terms of helping their sons consider how God is calling them?

"It's really important to open the conversation [with your son], especially if you have some kind of inkling that maybe your son is thinking about it.... Accompany him as he talks to you.... Listen to those indications, and then create a space to talk and pray with [your] son about them."

- Father Cuthbert Elliott, O.S.B., '02

"Priory parents obviously want their children to be successful. But I think we want to make sure that success is defined in God's plan for their life and the student's understanding of that.... Give them the freedom to explore."

- Father Peter Fonseca '07

"God comes first.... Take them to Mass at least every Sunday. Pray together as a family. And make sure they know that your first priority for them, and your biggest desire for them, is that they fall in love with the Lord, and that everything falls [into place] after that."

- Seminarian Jack Nowak '23

"I constantly marvel at what a good job my parents did, what a prudent middle course they plotted. They were never pushy in one direction or another, but they were not indifferent either. They encouraged us to try things, to pursue whatever interested us, to investigate, to look for answers to questions we had."

- Father John Nickolai '95



"What is it that you most want for your child? Is it something that has to do with him, and who he is and what will make him happy and full as a human being? Or is it only something that you want—for whatever reason, but that doesn't have to do with who your son is?... If what you really want is for your son to be fully alive and happy as a human being, and he says that this may be a possibility of what he feels called to, don't you think that any good God also wants the same thing for your son and for all of us—to be fully alive as human beings, to be joyful and happy? If that's the case, then shouldn't you give this desire that is expressed by your son a serious hearing and say that it at least deserves attention and reflection ...? ... [I]f he never really gives this a serious consideration, he may be foreclosing the one chance he has to be fully alive and realized as a human being.... If people like your son are not going to step forward and answer this call, then who is?"

- Father Paul Rourke, S.J., '90

Priory Alum Makes Missouri Golf History

Weaver '20 Sweeps State Amateur Tournaments

The summer of 2023 will go down in history for Peter Weaver '20 after he completed a feat no other golfer was able to accomplish—sweeping the top amateur golf tournaments in Missouri.

During his time at Priory, Weaver was a Metro Conference Player of the Year as a junior, a two-time all-state golfer as a freshman and sophomore, and helped the Ravens win the Class 3 Missouri State High School Championship as a sophomore.

Playing golf at Priory, according to Weaver, ranks right up there with some of the most enjoyable experiences of his life. “I go back in my phone all

the time to look back at all the memories I've had from those days. A few of those teams include friends that I'm still very close with today. I'm extremely grateful for those years and all the memories I get to look back on.”

After graduating from Priory, Weaver attended Villanova University. “I chose Villanova for golf because it had the smaller school vibe I was looking for as well as a reputable engineering program.”

He added, “Similar to Priory, Villanova has a monastery and church on campus run by Augustinian friars, which made me feel right at home when I got here.”

Adjusting to college life as a student-athlete can be challenging for anyone, but not for Weaver, and he attributes that to his time at Priory. “The rigors of being a student-athlete at such a demanding school like Priory prepared me extremely well for the student-athlete life in college. I learned a bunch of skills at Priory that have translated very well to Villanova.”

“Knowing how to budget my time and how to prioritize myself are at the top in terms of skills that I've carried to this day from those years.”

In his three years at Villanova prior to the summer of 2023, Weaver found himself consistently improving. After being named to the All-BIG EAST Second Team as a sophomore, where he set a program record for lowest stroke average at 72.26, a mark that was held since the 2009-2010 season, Weaver moved up to the All-BIG EAST First Team in 2022-2023.

“The rigors of being a student-athlete at such a demanding school like Priory **prepared me extremely well for the student-athlete life in college.**”

– Peter Weaver '20



< Peter Weaver '20 senior photo

This gave me a little extra motivation to play well and not let my last summer slip by. I had high expectations for that summer. I had a good junior college season where I was lucky enough to receive All-BIG EAST First Team honors, so I was ready to continue that momentum into the summer events."

First up was the Missouri Amateur where it was a 10-round, seven-day tournament, and he came away with the win, scoring three birdies on the final five holes for the victory.

"That was a really special week," Weaver says. "It was my biggest win for sure up to that point, which was really big for my confidence for the rest of the summer."

Up next was the STLDGA Griesedieck Championship - a course Weaver has played many times growing up.

This past year alone, he was the league's third ranked player, broke his own program record for single season scoring average at 71.91, set multiple single season bests in birdies (109) and par or better rounds (14).

He had a lot of momentum heading into the summer and was no stranger to the Missouri Amateur, St. Louis District Golf Association's Griesedieck Championship, and the Metropolitan Amateur.

"It was my fourth time playing the Missouri Amateur with my best finish being tied for ninth at The Club at Porto Cima. It was going to be my sixth time playing at the Griesedieck Championship where my best finish was third, while it was going to be my third time playing the Metropolitan Amateur where I also placed third."

"Coming into that summer I was pretty sure it was going to be my last summer of golf before having to look for a job after graduation," says Weaver. "

> Peter Weaver '20 at the 116th Amateur Championship



"There are a few more things I'd like to accomplish before my college career is over. BIG EAST Player-of-the-Year is a huge honor and a big goal of mine for the final semester. Additionally, I have a scoring average goal of under 70 for the year. As a team, a BIG EAST Championship would be the icing on the cake for my time here at Villanova.

– Peter Weaver '20

"On the 18th hole of the final match, I was down one in the match after 17 and knew I needed something special on the last to hopefully send it to extra holes," he says. "I ended up holing out my approach shot from 93 yards to win the hole and eventually won the match on the fourth playoff hole. That shot was the greatest moment of my golfing career."

Now with two victories under his belt - Weaver was unaware about the history he could make at the Metropolitan Amateur until the day before the tournament, which added a little bit of extra pressure to the week.

"I played well all week with just a short stretch during the second round not playing my best," Weaver stated. "I remember being one stroke back with two holes to go with the leader on the hole behind me. The 17th hole at Persimmon Woods is a narrow tee shot with a bunch of trouble off the tee."

He added, "My tee shot ended up in the right first cut leaving me with 157 yards to the pin in the back right of the green. Knowing I'd likely need at least one birdie on the final two holes, I hit one of the best 9 irons of my life to about three feet for a comfortable birdie."

"The 18th was a bit adventurous, but I came away with a par. I had to wait for the group behind me to finish up, and I was able to win by one shot."

With three tournament wins in a summer all wrapped up, holding program records at Villanova, being a two-time All-BIG EAST selection—now what?

"There are a few more things I'd like to accomplish before my college career is over," reflects Weaver. "BIG EAST Player-of-the-Year is a huge honor and a big goal of mine for the final semester. Additionally, I have a scoring average goal of under 70 for the year. As a team, a BIG EAST Championship would be the icing on the cake for my time here at Villanova."

▼ Peter Weaver '20 at the 33rd Metropolitan Amateur Championship



State-of-the-Art Golf Car Donated to Priory

The new golf car was dedicated in honor of Tony Finan to celebrate his more than 40 years of teaching and coaching at Priory. Named the "TF40" - the golf car is used to give tours to prospective families.

Thanks to a generous donor, the Priory Enrollment Management Department secured a new golf car to help with admissions purposes and to give tours around our 150-acre campus.

Recently, faculty and staff and the entire student body celebrated as the new car was revealed during an assembly. The TF40 was blessed by Father Cuthbert Elliott, O.S.B., '02, and Finan's family was on campus for the exciting celebration.



ABOVE: Anne Finan, Alison Finan, Alex Finan '09, Tony Finan, Debbie Finan

TOP: Tony Finan cuts the ribbon and Father Cuthbert Elliott, O.S.B., '02 blesses the new golf car with holy water.

MIDDLE: Tony Finan takes the TF40 for a ride.

World Conference of Benedictine Educators

Work Continues as Leaders Reflect on Benedictine Education

By Director of Equity and Inclusion
Jon-Pierre Mitchom

Last year, Associate Headmaster Mike Nickolai shared his experience of traveling to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, as a North American Delegate tasked with planning logistics and preparing details for the World Conference of Benedictine Educators, formally known as “Benet.” I was fortunate to travel with Mike and Father Cuthbert to Benet 2023 as a participant, *Lectio Divina* group facilitator, and workshop presenter.

I didn’t know what to expect upon arriving to Rio, but I was open to the experience. It became immediately apparent that the hustle and bustle of Rio displayed a vibrancy and rhythm common only to very big cities throughout the world.

As Benet began, the energy of the city seemed contagious, and I could sense the excitement of all the participants. The opening general session provided a truly humbling experience. Seeing more than 110 participants from many

countries all over the world engendered a sense that we were all part of something much bigger than ourselves or our individual educational institutions.

Indeed, we shared a common spiritual heritage and charism. Seeing everyone from different backgrounds, cultures, languages, and nationalities reminded us that we are all called to be a part of a particular work that emanates from—yet somehow transcends—all social contexts.

As stated in the Rule of Saint Benedict, “...while there is still time, while we are in this body and have time to accomplish all these things by the light of life—we must run and do now what will profit us forever. Therefore, we intend to establish a school for the Lord’s service.” (RB. Prologue 43-45)

This is the essential focus of every Benet Conference—to reflect on what it means to be a Benedictine educator in service to Christ in His school.



During the conference, we had ample opportunity to contemplate this reality for ourselves and the various schools we represented. This reflective time, made possible especially during designated times set aside for *Lectio Divina*, allowed us to ponder and encounter Christ through the reading of each day's gospel passage.

One day, during *Lectio Divina* we experienced insight regarding our work as Benedictine educators. That day's gospel recounted Jesus' first recorded miracle at the wedding in Cana where he turned water into wine. We gleaned from this passage a few lessons.

The first, that God's work—seen often by others as uncommon and countercultural—has a way of grabbing people's attention. Secondly, though countercultural and out of the norm, people experience the outcome of God's work as very good, quite enjoyable, and often better than the norm. And lastly, God can do amazing work in our midst if we follow His instructions, keeping in mind His instruction may seem unconventional in nature.

As I thought about these lessons, I began to understand in a deeper way why we can say at Saint Louis Priory School we aim to offer an educational experience characterized by preparation for an exceptional life. Uncommon, countercultural, out-of-the-norm practices make what we offer truly outstanding.

This has a way of grabbing people's attention, those who can appreciate the outcomes of what happens here. Many experience it simply as "good wine," though some recognize the source.

An uncommon display of love, honor, and hospitality; a countercultural commitment to work life balance, mental wellness, and spiritual discipline; an out-of-the-norm focus on academic detail, depth, and rigor as a function of developing God-given gifts and talents—this is the "good wine" we offer. Though we cultivate and discover it through unconventional means, we aim to enjoy it eminently, nonetheless. Thank you for partnering with us in the great work!
Laus Tibi Domine.

< Priory's Director of Equity and Inclusion Jon-Pierre Mitchom (in red) stands alongside several delegates from around the world who attended Benet 2023 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.



JAN POTH

Educator Inspires Students to Reach Full Potential

The character Jimmy Dugan from the movie *A League of Their Own* said, "Of course it's hard. It's supposed to be hard. If it were easy, everyone would do it. Hard is what makes it great."

Any teacher will tell you that they enjoy teaching, but sometimes it can be difficult, overwhelming, and draining.

Jan Poth loves being a teacher at Priory. She considers herself fortunate to be a teacher.

"Each day gives me the chance to positively influence and shape the lives of my students, witness their best efforts, and celebrate their success," says Poth. "Along the way, my students and I have an abundance of laughter and a deep respect for each other."

"Although I jokingly tell my students that they're giving me gray hair, I share with my friends that teaching is a source of joy that keeps me young. I consider myself fortunate because I genuinely love being a teacher."

Poth is described by many students and faculty as fair, understanding, laid back, an asset, proactive, and direct.



"She is the most joy-filled teacher at Priory," says Vaughn Griesbauer, social studies teacher and Form Master. "Joy is the reason she writes the most college recommendation letters each year. Joy is the reason the seniors have voted her the best teacher the last few years. Her smiling, laughing personality fills her classes."

"Mrs. Poth is a great teacher with a sense of humor that makes learning more enjoyable for all of us," says Form VI student Ian Ahlering. "She gains the respect of her students on day one by constantly being willing to offer help and guidance where it's needed. It is apparent how much she really cares for us and wants the best."

Poth is also known for quotes that she displays on her desktop for faculty to see when they walk past her desk, and she sometimes uses them in the classroom to provide humor while teaching a lesson.

The story behind why the quotes started is an unimaginable one, but it's turned into inspiration for Poth.

"I try to maintain an optimistic point of view, but my husband and I had a son who died of a congenital heart defect, and this was a very sad time in my life," Poth reflected.

"I began journaling and found motivational quotes helped me move beyond my grief. When I began teaching with a computer, I was able to use the screen saver feature to display the library of quotes I've come across over the years."

"Now the quotes are playing on my computer when the students enter the room and any other down time during class. When I'm in the faculty

< Jan Poth

work room, my colleagues are also subjected to them as they have to pass my desk to get to the kitchen."

Poth knew at a young age about her love of math and the desire to get into teaching. "My early childhood memories include playing school with my friends, and I always enjoyed the challenge of solving puzzles."

"I realized in grade school that I had an aptitude for math, and I found myself helping friends understand the concepts. When it came time to choose a career, teaching seemed like a natural fit for me. The added perk of having June, July, and August off is certainly a nice benefit."

After earning her bachelor's degree in mathematics from Saint Louis University and her master's degree in education from Webster University, Poth taught for 10 years in the Rockwood School District, and was a long-term sub when her children were growing up.

In 2010, Poth was volunteering at the Saint Patrick Center's GED program and got a call from Saint Louis Priory School.

"They needed a long-term substitute for a teacher who was leaving unexpectedly, and they weren't kidding when they said long term," Poth joked. "Having both of my sons, Tom '07 and Stephen '15, graduate from Priory, I have a vested interest in ensuring that the school maintains its reputation of providing a rigorous education and encouraging these young men to reach their full potential."

"Each day gives me the chance to positively influence and shape the lives of my students, witness their best efforts, and celebrate their success."

– Jan Poth

Poth does have high expectations for her students in reaching said full potential, but also brings in humor and critical thinking to them.

"In the classroom, Jan perfectly balances high expectations, humor, and encouragement," Assistant Head of School for Intellectual Formation, Tim Malecek, says. "She challenges her students to understand difficult problems while building their confidence through her famous quotes. Jan's methodical teaching approach enables students to break down complex problems into more manageable parts."





He added, "By now, I'm quite sure that Jan has created enough individual worksheets to write her own textbook."

"I tend to be a traditionalist in my teaching style and philosophy," says Poth. "I think it's important for students to understand number theory because it helps them improve their critical thinking skills. Students can also move on to more complex ideas when they combine logical analysis with this grasp of the properties and relationships of numbers."

"In the classroom, I'm very persnickety about using correct terminology so that students learn to read, write, and speak this mathematical language. Shortcuts are introduced only when there is a solid understanding of the theory of the process. To make the class more engaging, I try to incorporate humor and establish a rapport with my students. I have very high expectations and I'm confident that my students can reach them."

Poth has confidence in her students' ability to succeed and will do anything to help them reach their potential.

"I remember as a sophomore, I was sick the day before a test, and she went out of her way to join a Zoom call late that night in order to help me get caught up," says Ahlering. "Mrs. Poth is a special teacher and a true asset to our school."

Poth is also normally the first teacher on campus almost every day, and she can be found on the campus benches outside the faculty workroom working with students that seek her help early in the morning before school.

"I've had Mrs. Poth as a teacher for two years in a row," says Form VI student Charlie Wagner. "Her teaching style and classroom demeanor are two things that I've really enjoyed about her. You can go up to her any time of the day and she'll sit down with you and help with whatever you're struggling with."

The students have noticed and appreciated her selflessness and kindness as they've named her Classroom Instructor of the Year twice, which is voted on by the seniors.

"Winning the award twice has been incredibly meaningful to me since it represents a heartfelt appreciation from the students themselves," says Poth. "It shows that the students have benefited from my commitment, time, and efforts to give them the best learning experience possible."

Poth enjoys teaching and seeing her students succeed. In her mind, she couldn't do what she's been able to accomplish without the support of everyone at Priory.

"I've had the opportunity to work alongside many dedicated colleagues who share a commitment to providing an outstanding education for these young men," Poth added. "Over the years, I've gained valuable insights from teachers within my department as well as from those in other departments."

"I appreciate the dining room staff, custodians, technology department, and administrative staff for their efforts that continue to make my job more manageable."

Since many of the quotes Poth has used inspire her, she hopes that her favorite quote may inspire someone else:

"Be decisive. Right or wrong, make a decision. The road of life is paved with flat squirrels who couldn't make a decision."

Priory Alum and Afghan Translator Form Unbreakable Bond

PRIORY STUDENTS LEARN FROM ASSEMBLY

Two men from two very different worlds—in the middle of a war—form a bond like no other.

Their hopes, dreams, and jobs intertwined while they tried to make the world a safer and better place.

One of those men, Hugh Tychsen, a 1999 Priory graduate and a Marine Corps veteran, joined his Afghan translator, Haseeb Ahmadi, in November for a special assembly in Priory's Kevin Kline Theater.

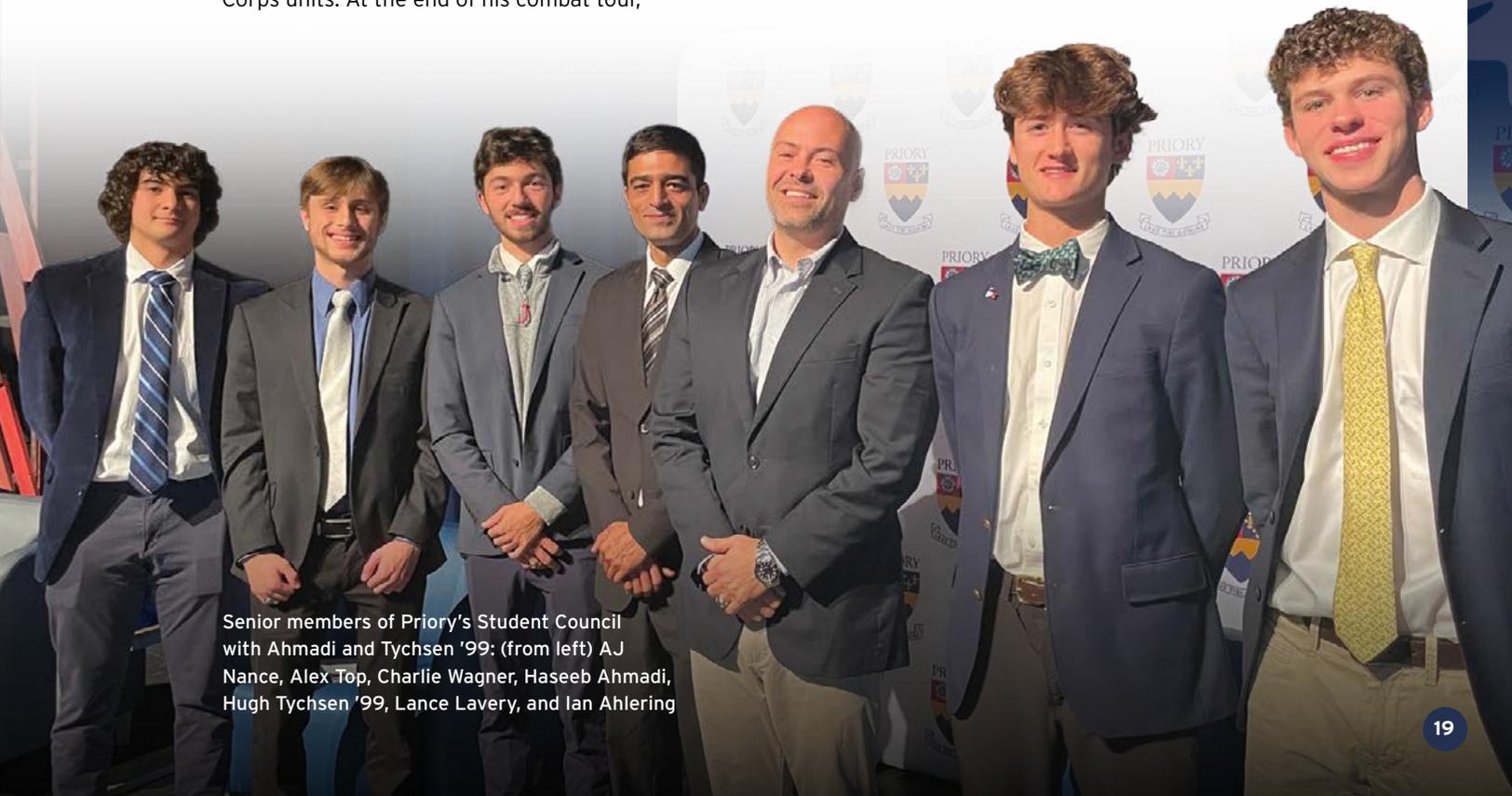
The pair talked about the special bond they developed when Tychsen was on deployment in Afghanistan. Ahmadi spent 10 years working as a translator with United States military forces including Army Airborne and Marine Corps units. At the end of his combat tour,

Tychsen sponsored Ahmadi to get a U.S. visa. In 2017, Ahmadi, his wife, and children were approved and moved to St. Louis.

Today Ahmadi is an entrepreneur and owns his own construction company. He chose to work with the Americans in Afghanistan because he believed in our values, including freedom.

"America is heaven for people like me," Ahmadi says. "The opportunity to work here, the freedom, and the peace—it is amazing. We really love it here and we really appreciate it. We thank America for giving us a second chance to live."

Ahmadi says if Tychsen had not sponsored him and helped him get to America, he would be dead. "This is my second chance to live."

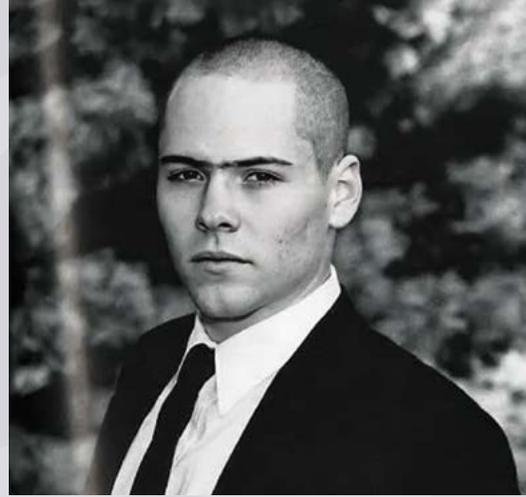


Senior members of Priory's Student Council with Ahmadi and Tychsen '99: (from left) AJ Nance, Alex Top, Charlie Wagner, Haseeb Ahmadi, Hugh Tychsen '99, Lance Lavery, and Ian Ahlering

The Road Less Traveled

Coming from a military family, Tychsen knew he wanted to do something different after graduating from Priory and before going to college.

"I joined the Marines to be a rebel. I wanted to do something aggressive," says Tychsen. "I didn't want to go sit in more classrooms. I wanted to do something hardcore. Joining the Marine Corps allowed me to do active-duty training in California for two semesters. Training in the mountains—it was awesome. Then I got to come back and go to college too."



△ Hugh Tychsen '99 senior picture

Tychsen was trained as an infantry rifleman and in radio operations. While attending The University of Missouri, he was assigned to a reserve unit. In 2003, he was called up for deployment to Iraq. He served as a squad leader in the battles of Fallujah and Ramadi. Following this combat tour, he volunteered for a second, where he served on a personal security team as a machine gunner.

In 2005, Hugh returned home, transferred to Washington University in St. Louis, graduated, took a job in Enterprise's management training program, and was promoted into a leadership position. In 2009, Hugh served a third combat tour in Iraq as a platoon sergeant. Following that, he came back to St. Louis and entered the Washington University MBA Program and graduated in 2011.

In 2013, he volunteered to deploy to Afghanistan as an embedded advisor to the Afghan Army in Helmand River Valley, a Taliban hotbed.

There, Hugh met Ahmadi, a translator. They had intense moments of bonding.

▽ Faculty member Tony Finan introduces Hugh Tychsen '99 and Haseeb Ahmadi.

"It's very interesting, because very rarely in life do you meet somebody out of the blue, but you feel like you've known them your whole life. **We had that immediately.**"

— Hugh Tychsen '99



"It's very interesting, because very rarely in life do you meet somebody out of the blue, but you feel like you've known them your whole life," says Tychsen. "We had that immediately. I have a theory about this—that our souls knew each other before we came here. When he walked up, it was like, 'Dude, it's been a long time. Where have you been?' But we had never met before. We clicked immediately, and the level of trust was really high right out of the gate. We were together all the time, and we really cared about each other. We still do."

The Road To America

Ahmadi was born in Kabul, Afghanistan as the youngest of 13 children. His father was a famous Afghan hatmaker, who gained notoriety making custom hats for Afghan royalty. During the reign of the brutal Taliban regime, Haseeb's family fled to Pakistan.

After 9/11, Ahmadi moved back to Kabul and began to learn English. In 2007, he volunteered to begin working with the U.S. military, and from 2007-2017, he worked with Army Airborne and Marine Corps units in many different provinces of Afghanistan, barely escaping death multiple times.

"In 2014, when Hugh and the Americans left Afghanistan, I remember the day and the hour. He said goodbye, and I was crying," Ahmadi says. "But he gave me two papers with recommendation letters for the special immigration visa to the United States."

Ahmadi became jobless and unable to make any money. "There were no military bases anymore. I had to spend all my time at home, and it was very scary. When I was able to come here and be free, I left everything behind."

Tychsen reflects on the war and says he didn't see a clear resolution. He added, "I'm still not sure in Iraq and Afghanistan what the right resolution is. I know the good we did there lasts - meaning the schools we rebuilt, the health care we brought. Everybody now has an iPhone, which, here it's a problem. But it's actually a good thing there because it allows them to be connected to the whole world. They can learn from their homes. They can see what's going on in the world. I think it will have a lasting impact."

"America is heaven for people like me. The opportunity to work here, the freedom, and the peace - it is amazing. We thank America for giving us a second chance to live."

– Haseeb Ahmadi

Both Tychsen and Ahmadi dedicate time to help other Afghans. In 2020, Tychsen and Ahmadi sponsored Afghans who they knew had worked for the U.S. Marine Corps in Afghanistan. So far, 186 people have been relocated to the United States.

Tychsen says his time at Priory taught him a lot of things, with the most important being the realization that God is real.

"Something I didn't appreciate at the time," he says, "When you're young, you're very focused on yourself. That's a part of the whole human process. I didn't recognize that God is real. That Christ came to Earth. I didn't know that. I didn't figure that out until my combat experiences."

He continued, "That connection with the spiritual side of things is the most important thing in my life now. Back when I was a student at Priory, the most important thing in my life was my ego. It took 20 years for some of the teachings to come back. And to start serving me to become a better version of myself."

Today, Hugh works in product strategy at Equifax, and attends the Church of the Immacolata in Richmond Heights with his wife and daughter.

ENDOWMENT GIVING

Establishing an endowment fund at Saint Louis Abbey or Saint Louis Priory School provides the institution with a long-term financial resource. Endowments are ongoing funds, which may be established for a specific purpose designated by the donor. An endowed fund is the “gift that keeps on giving” because it generates annual income for the Abbey and/or the school. Endowment funds are invested and each year a portion of the income is used for the specific program designated by the donor, while the rest of the return is re-invested to preserve and grow the original gift.

How Endowments at Priory Work

Endowments are invested in a long-term investment pool. The Finance Committee—composed of members of the Board of Advisors, monks, and school alumni, along with professional investment consultants—oversees the investment of funds and monitors its performance. Funds are invested for both income and growth.

Spendable income to support a specific area is distributed annually in accordance with the policies established by the Finance Committee and the Board of Advisors. Currently, that amount is five percent of a three-year average market value of the fund as of July 31. Earnings more than the spending policy are reinvested in the individual endowment fund to increase the fund’s impact for the future.



Establishing An Endowed Fund

Donors can name the fund after their family, a loved one, a monk, or themselves. These special gifts will be recognized in a future location inside the school.

Forward Thinking

Those who establish an endowment fund are forward thinking individuals who realize that a financial donation made today will continue to address the needs of the Abbey and School hundreds of years from now. Endowments are the most reliable assets available to an institution; no other form of giving addresses long-term needs as effectively.

SAINT LOUIS PRIORY SCHOOL ENDOWED CHAIRS

The Fair Family Chair of Medieval Arts

Faculty Chair

Mary Claire MacDonald
Medieval Arts Teacher

The Fair Family Chair of Classics

Faculty Chair

Dennis Toscano
Modern and Classical Languages
Department Chair, Latin Teacher

Father Paul Kidner, O.S.B., Chair of Mathematics

Faculty Chair

Stacey Neal
Mathematics and Technology
Department Chair, Mathematics Teacher

The Billhartz Family Science Chair

Faculty Chair

Nick Kheriaty
Science Department Chair,
Form Master, Science Teacher

Austin Rennick, O.S.B., Chair of English AND The Father Gregory Mohrman, O.S.B., Chair of Literature

Faculty Chair

Tyler Orf
Department Chair of Humanities,
Social Studies Teacher, Lacrosse Coach

The Father Gregory Mohrman, O.S.B., Chair of Music

Faculty Chair

Stephanie Allee
Vocal Music Teacher

Will Stoneman '21 Endowed Fund for the Performing Arts

Faculty Chair

Dr. Doug Erwin
Visual and Performing Arts Department Chair
and Theatre Director and Teacher

SAINT LOUIS ABBEY JOURNAL



MY DEAR FRIENDS,

As I write this, we are approaching the great and holy season of Lent. Many people tease me for looking forward to Lent so much, but I find it a wonderful time of the year in so many ways. Spring is in the air, and one senses the renewal of nature in the land and the weather. The days lengthen and one feels renewed energy. And, above all, the meaning of the holy season turns one's mind to focus on the spiritual life and one's growth in holiness.

In the Monastery, all of us monks continue to live our daily round of prayer and work, grateful for the blessings we receive every day from the Lord. The coming of Lent changes the atmosphere somewhat, as we become just a little more serious, and a little more intentional, about our spiritual life and practice. It is an opportunity the Church presents to us all to return to the basics of our Christian life: prayer, self-denial, and good deeds.

This edition of *Priory Magazine* gives us a look into the whole area of vocation, as we present to you stories of our alumni who are either ordained or currently in formation for Ordination to the Sacred Priesthood, as well as a look at our own efforts for Vocations. I know from my own experience that the vocation to the monastic life and the priesthood is an extraordinary blessing, for which I thank God every day!

As spring unfolds, and Lent leads into the great celebration of the Paschal Triduum and Easter, know that you all remain very much in our thoughts and prayers. We are ever grateful for your generous support to our Mission. May God bless you abundantly!

Yours in the Lord,

Abbot Gregory Mohrman, O.S.B.

Abbot Gregory Mohrman, O.S.B., '76

SAINT ANSELM PARISH NEWS

Dear Abbey and Priory Friends,

I hope this edition of *Priory Magazine* finds you well and blessed! While we've hosted our regular parish events over the past months, the initial plans for the renovation of the Parish Center building have been a major source of activity around the life of the parish over the past months.

Parish news and updates begin with our Saint Vincent de Paul Christmas breakfast, which occurred on the first Sunday of Advent. This is one of our major events of the year, which is billed as a gesture of gratitude for the generosity of our parishioners to our Saint Vincent de Paul Conference. The mission of our Saint Vincent de Paul Conference relies on the goodness of our parish family. The event is held after Sunday Masses and includes a delicious breakfast, raffles, music, and a visit from Santa. And while the event is a way to thank our families and parishioners, it becomes a fundraiser for the service of our faithful and dedicated Vincentians as well.

Also, during the Christmas season, we hosted *O Holy Night: Stations of the Nativity*. This event is hosted by our youth group. It is an evening of prayer, scripture, song, and reflection on the events surrounding the birth of the Lord, which each year includes a real baby to "play" baby Jesus! This year's "baby Jesus" was Oliver Mulvihill, son of Ellyn and **Brecht Mulvihill '08**.

In January, members from our youth group and college students attended the SEEK24 Conference in downtown St. Louis. SEEK is a week-long conference, which includes several nationally known Catholic speakers, daily Mass, Confession, Adoration, and a variety of other activities.

Over 20,000 mostly young people attend the conference each year. This annual event is hosted by *FOCUS*, (Fellowship of Catholic University Students). The mission of *FOCUS* is to

▽ Saint Vincent de Paul Christmas breakfast with **Jack Hodge, JoAnn Hodge, Linda Steiner, Mark Steiner**

form young people to be missionaries, many who are recent college graduates, to reach out to students on college campuses, to share life with them, and to invite them into friendship with Jesus through various ministries.

This year we introduced a ministry focused on young adults in our parish and surrounding community. This is a new initiative for our parish; however, we were able to host our first event in early February with a Holy Hour, followed by dinner, games, and fellowship. We hope to host monthly events moving forward.

Over the last several years, we've been experiencing recurring issues with the plumbing systems as well as water issues in the Parish Center. The building is reaching 50 years in age and has not undergone any significant upgrades since its construction. After discussions with the Parish and Finance councils, we've decided to investigate the possibility of doing a major renovation of the Parish Center.

We've assembled a committee and retained the services of Priory alumnus **Kevin Kerwin '78** and HKW Architects to assist us in this process. The vision of the renovation is to do general upgrades to the infrastructure of the building and to improve overall accessibility for all members of our parish community. In addition to these improvements, there are plans to establish a permanent and beautiful Chapel as well as a fellowship hall in the lower level. Please keep this project and our parish in your prayers.

Thank you for your continued generous support of the Abbey, Priory, and Parish!

May God continue to bless you and your families,



Father Aidan McDermott, O.S.B.

▽ Saint Vincent de Paul Christmas breakfast with **Flora Licavoli, Deacon Charlie Durban, Annamarie Porter, and Sister Anis** of the Sisters of Saint Peter Claver

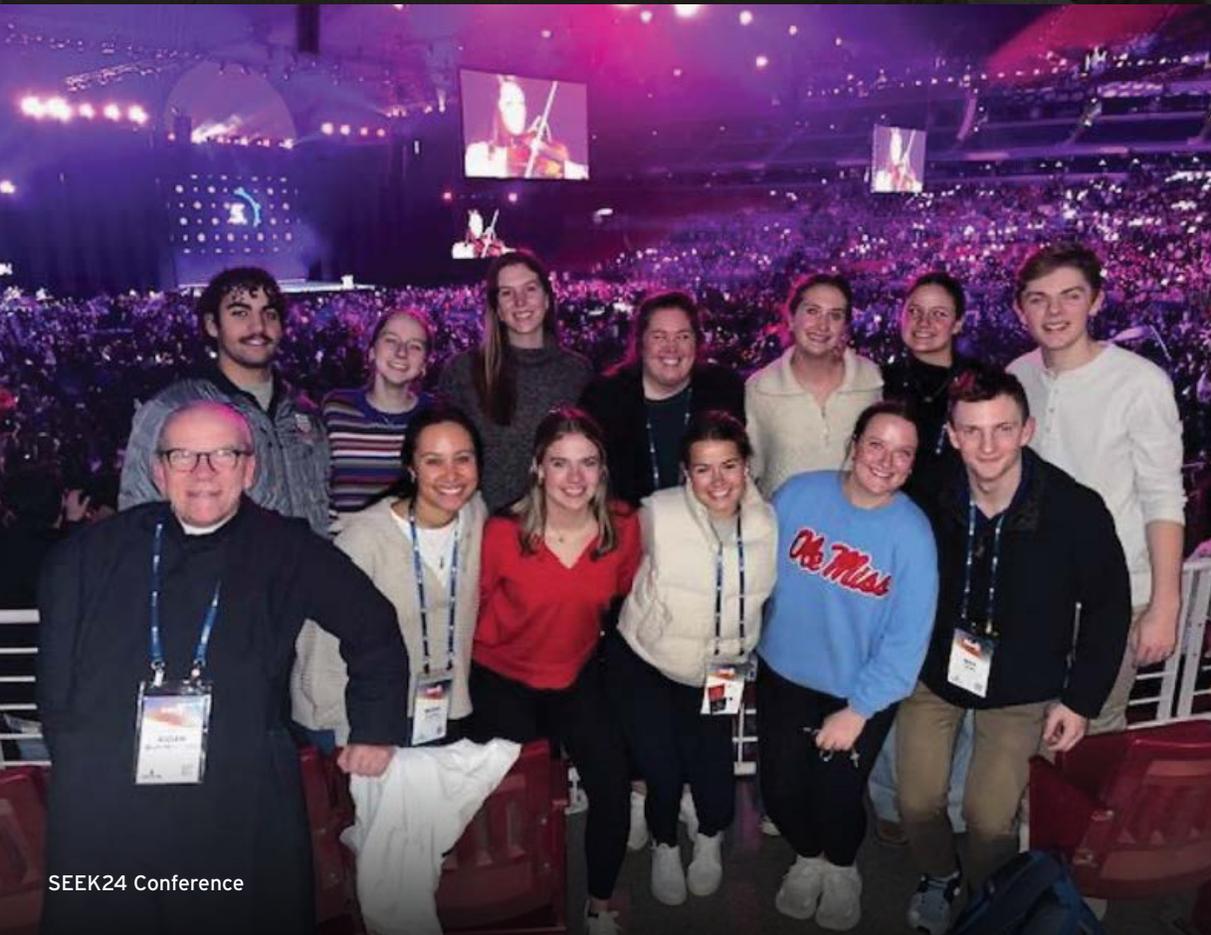




O Holy Night: Stations of the Nativity



Young adult event



SEEK24 Conference



IN MEMORIAM

JULY 1 - DECEMBER 31, 2023

Dr. Jorge Alegre, father of
Jorge Alegre '90

Roy Avery, father of Peter Avery '03,
Michael Avery '05, James Avery '07,
and Timothy Avery '14

Dr. John Carter, father of Jim Carter '76
and John Carter '86, and grandfather
of Carter Gage '12 and Ian Gage '15

JoAnn Croce, grandmother
of Jim Carey '17

Cindy Fishel, mother of Artie Fishel '05

Frances Wo Sun Fook, grandmother
of Matthew Fook '21

Judith Furesz, mother of Todd Furesz '83

Colin Havard, Oblate

Marilyn Henske, mother of
William Henske '89 and
Joseph Henske '95

John Inkman, father of
Matthew Inkman '05

Richard Leung, grandfather of
Gabriel Leung '23

Doris Kuenzle, mother of faculty
member Jan Poth, and grandmother of
Tom Poth '07 and Stephen Poth '15

Kathleen Maley, mother of Thomas Maley
'85, Daniel Maley '93, and grandmother
of Patrick Carr '19

Mary Jo Maschmeyer, mother of
Mike Maschmeyer '95 and
John Maschmeyer '99

Louis Monahan, son of Joe Monahan '06

Thomas Mulvihill Sr., father of
Campbell Mulvihill '77 and
Deacon Tom Mulvihill Jr. '80,
and grandfather of Brecht Mulvihill '08
and Patrick Mulvihill '10

Gail O'Brien, parishioner

David Ortvals Sr., father of
David Ortvals Jr. '91

Barbara O'Halloran, mother of
John O'Halloran '75 (deceased),
Daniel O'Halloran '78,
and David O'Halloran '80 (deceased),
and grandmother of James O'Halloran '16

Janet Plas, mother of Dr. David Plas '89
and Dan Plas '90

Mike Rebello, former cross-country
and track coach

Jane Sexton, parishioner

Edward Spillane Jr., father of
Edward Spillane III '81

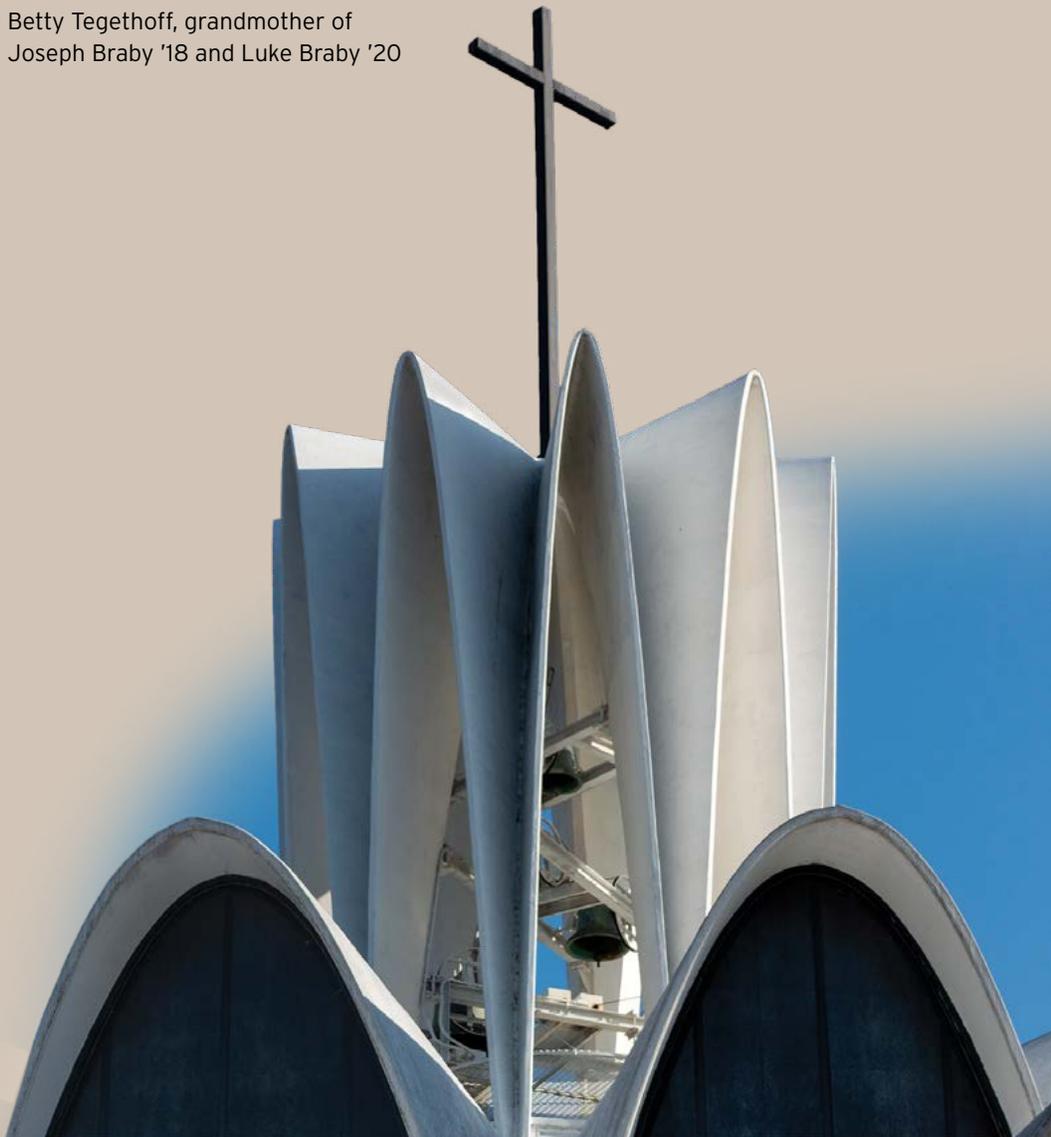
Betty Tegethoff, grandmother of
Joseph Braby '18 and Luke Braby '20

Elizabeth Telthorst, grandmother of
Paul Telthorst '03, Mark Telthorst '09,
and Scott Telthorst '11

Joseph Vatterott '68

Clinton Wallace, brother of
staff member Whitney Wallace

Gary Wilson Jr., son of maintenance
staff member Gary Wilson Sr.



REFLECTIONS

A Reflection on 60-Year Anniversary of First Profession

By Father Laurence Kriegshauser, O.S.B.

I learned about monasteries while studying medieval history at Saint Louis University High School, and I wondered if such places still existed. The next year, three monks came from England to establish the Saint Louis Priory and School.

I made a mental note of that but went on to study English at the University of Notre Dame. In my final year, I knew it was time to try my vocation as a monk. When I met founding Prior Columba Cary-Elwes in March 1961, I immediately felt drawn to the monastery and entered as a postulant in fall of that year.

After teaching Latin and English for a year, I was sent for my novitiate to our founding monastery of Ampleforth in England. Ampleforth was a large bustling monastery where I was formed in a wise monastic tradition and influenced by many holy men. After three years, I was sent to Fribourg, Switzerland, for theological studies, received a License in Sacred Theology, and was ordained priest in 1969.

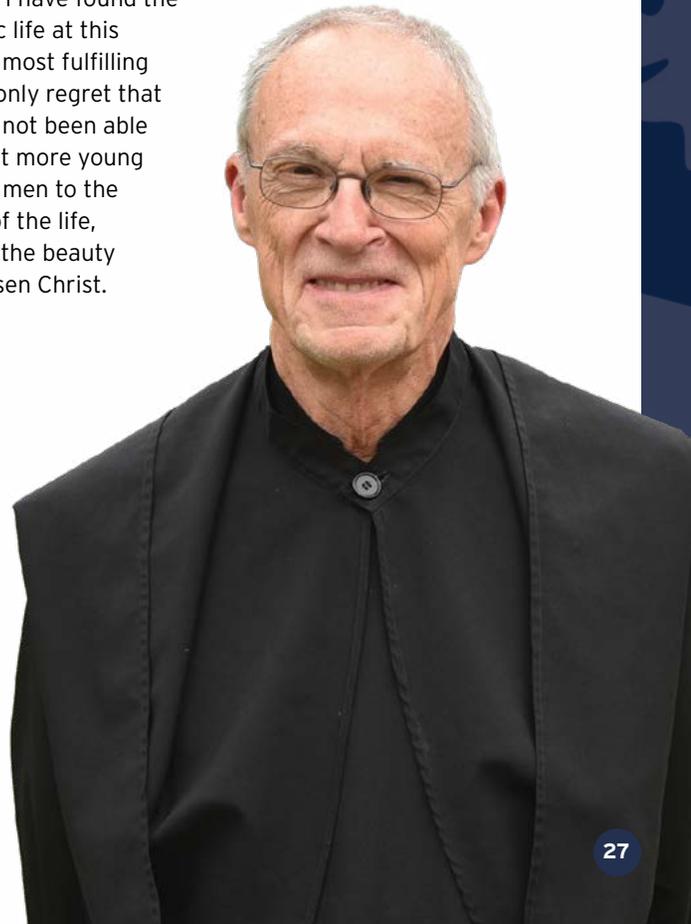
I returned to teach in the Priory School and found that the country had changed mightily. Teaching religion, theology, and French to a new and turbulent generation was a challenge, but I was given the grace of love for the boys and love for the subjects. What better contribution could I make to the world than to help young men form the values and love for truth that would make them happy and responsible adults?

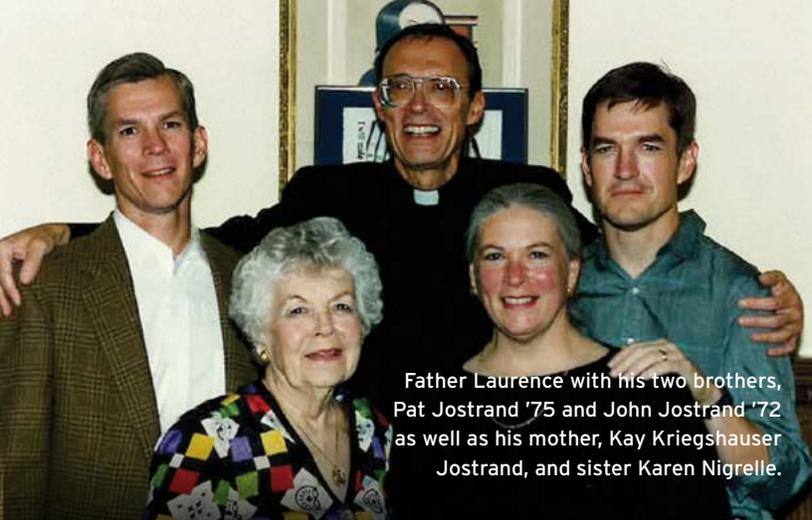
Ultimately it was my ongoing and developing love for the person of Christ that fueled my life. The Incarnation of the divine in the body of Christ has always fascinated me and continues to do so. The life of Saint Benedict's Rule is one of regular community prayer, personal

contemplation, silence, *Lectio Divina* (prayerful reading of Scripture), and community support, in which one slowly moves from a self-centered to a God-centered life.

As my years in the monastery progressed, the Catholic Church recovered the ancient understanding of the Christian project as the divinization of the human person. In my spare time I studied Scripture constantly with the result that after retiring from teaching at age 65 to write a book on Christian praying of the psalms, I was invited to teach Old Testament at Kenrick-Glennon Seminary, which I did from 2010 to 2018, a time of great joy and fulfillment.

Along with my passion for the lordship of Christ, I also had to struggle with bouts of depression. Psychological barriers prevented me from fully receiving the love that was offered me. Wise psychiatric help and above all the unflagging support of Prior-then-Abbot Luke Rigby finally helped me let go of these barriers. I have found the monastic life at this Abbey a most fulfilling life and only regret that we have not been able to attract more young Catholic men to the beauty of the life, which is the beauty of the risen Christ.





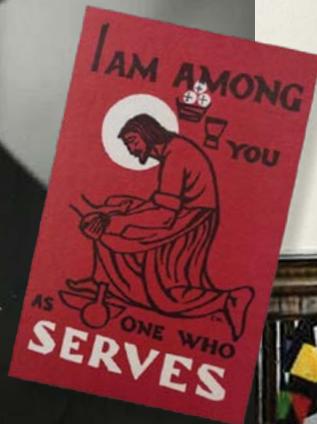
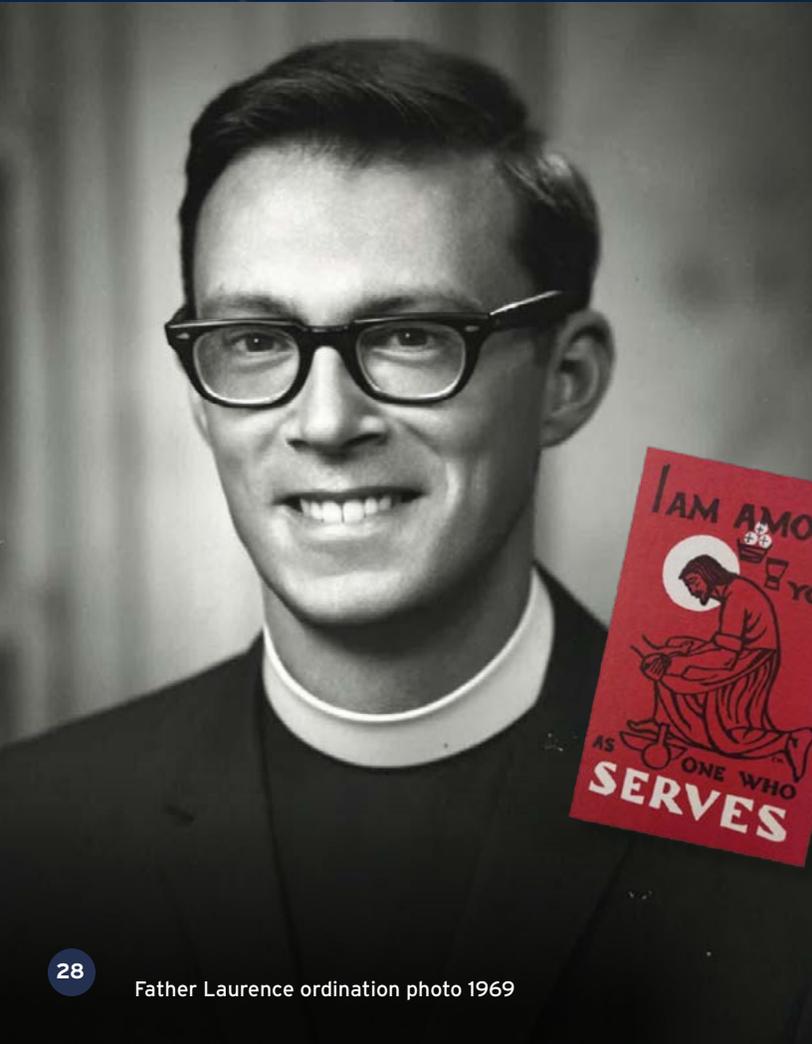
Father Laurence with his two brothers, Pat Jostrand '75 and John Jostrand '72 as well as his mother, Kay Kriegshauser Jostrand, and sister Karen Nigrelle.



Father Laurence with Brother Timothy Wright (Father Ralph Wright's brother) in 1964.

“Ultimately it was my ongoing and **developing love for the person of Christ** that fueled my life.”

– Father Laurence Kriegshauser, O.S.B.



Father Laurence with his mother and Abbot Luke Rigby, O.S.B., in 1994. Abbot Luke was one of the three original founding Benedictine monks at Priory.

A Reflection on 25-Year Anniversary of Ordained Priesthood

By Prior Dominic Lenk, O.S.B.

In reflecting on 25 years of priestly ordination, I thought about how many Masses that I have either celebrated or concelebrated over these years. Allowing for those times when—for whatever reason—I have been unable to celebrate Mass, it seems that I have offered approximately 8,760 Masses since my ordination on July 4, 1998.

In addition, I have been given the opportunity to perform numerous baptisms, witness several weddings, offer many funerals, provide the anointing of the sick, and hear countless confessions. It is humbling to think that I have been called to be God's representative in all aspects of people's lives. And it has only been through God's grace that I have been able to do any of this.

But my reflections have also touched upon the many people who I have encountered over the years and the different positions in which I have served. Whether it be a boy and his family thinking about enrolling in Priory or the Holy Father himself, I am humbled. Whether it be my work as a teacher, archivist, liturgical emcee, formation director, or even as Prior, I am humbled. I am humbled in that it was not me, it was God who brought me to this point.

To quote Saint John Henry Newman, "God has created me to do Him some definite service; He has committed some work to me which He has not committed to another ... I shall do His work; I shall be an angel of peace, a preacher of truth in my own place, while not intending it, if I do but keep His commandments and serve Him in my calling."

As part of my reflections, there were some words from my childhood that I would recall time and time again. These words were from the "Prayers at the Foot of the Altar," which were part of the Entrance Rite of the Mass prior to the liturgical reforms of 1970. Taken from Psalm 42, the words, "I will go to the altar of God, to God who gives joy to my youth," were the verse and response used prior to the reciting of the Confiteor. Not only did these words recall for me the choice that I had made of seeking ordination, but they reminded me as well of where I was heading and why.

"It is humbling to think that I have been called to be God's representative in all aspects of people's lives."

– Prior Dominic Lenk, O.S.B.





Prior Dominic celebrating Mass for his 25th ordination anniversary



Prior Dominic at his ordination reception



Prior Dominic visiting with Priory alumnus Matthew Inkman '05



Grandparents' Day

Grandparents were invited to join their Form I and Form II grandsons at Priory. They enjoyed coffee and pastries, touring our updated campus, and attending two classes.

Form I Students Explore Campus

Priory's resident expert on the campus watershed, Director of Facilities **Martin Fitzgerald**, and Science Teacher **Dr. Stacy Arnett** took Form I students on a hike where they found Smith's Creek, which connects Priory's campus to the Missouri watershed.

College Admissions Representatives Visit Priory

Students met with college admissions representatives as part of the Jesuit Excellence Tour.

Universities included College of the Holy Cross, Creighton University, Fairfield University, Fordham University, Loyola University Chicago, Loyola University New Orleans, Marquette University, Rockhurst University, Saint Louis University, Santa Clara University, and Xavier University.

Presidential Service Awards

Six students were recognized with Presidential Service Awards for the community service they did last year.

Jude Badoy '26 logged 100 hours and received the Presidential Service Award Gold Medal.

Lance Lavery '24 logged 122 hours and received the Presidential Service Award Bronze Medal.

Quinn O'Keefe '24 logged 110 hours and received the Presidential Service Award Bronze Medal.

Graham Edmonson '24 logged 213 hours and received the Presidential Service Award Silver Medal.

Carter Leyva '24 logged 144 hours and received the Presidential Service Award Bronze Medal.

Andrew Frei '24 logged 158 hours and received the Presidential Service Award Bronze Medal.

▼ Badoy '26, Lavery '24, O'Keefe '24, Edmonson '24, Leyva '24, and Frei '24



Grandparents' Day



Science Teacher **Dr. Stacy Arnett** explores campus with Form I students.



College admissions event





National Merit Scholarship recognized students with **Father Cuthbert Elliott, O.S.B., '02**



Semifinalists: Pictured with Assistant Head of School for Intellectual Formation **Tim Malecek** and Headmaster **Father Cuthbert Elliott, O.S.B., '02** are **Yrwin Batan, Ian Lin, Matthew Mueller, and Patrick Hamill**



Commended: **Ethan Foss, Owen Farley, Ethan Lewis, Connor Guthrie, and Alexander Nania**



Recognition Award: **Gabriel Kraus, Quinten Bauman, Yrwin Batan, and Ethan Foss**

National Merit Scholarship Recognitions

Congratulations to the Class of 2024 seniors who earned recognition from the National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC) based on their academic records combined with their junior year PSAT results. National Merit scholars make up 23 percent of the senior class.

The National Merit Scholarship Program is an annual academic competition among high school students for recognition and college scholarships that began in 1955. The program is conducted by NMSC, a not-for-profit organization. United States high school students enter the program by taking the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test, which serves as an initial screen of over 1.3 million entrants each year, and by meeting published program entry and participation requirements.

Innovative Technology Education Grant

Priory's grant, "Using Podcasting and Scientific Measurement to Expand Classroom Learning throughout Campus" engages students in using the 150-acre campus as a classroom.

Students (or innovators) work with faculty and community experts to develop and collect data.

The program's tools include microphones, sound equipment, and production consoles. Students in one of Priory's theology classes drafted, directed, and produced a podcast "episode" comparing major themes in two books.

▽ Innovative Technology Education Grant



Form I Retreat at Camp Ondessonk

Form I students were challenged to learn about themselves and their peers, while also learning about teamwork. The theme of the retreat was The Rule, which included talks, small group sharing, monastic prayer, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, an opportunity for confession, and the holy sacrifice of the Mass.

Horn Named Nussbaum Music Scholarship Winner

Form I student **Liam Horn '29** was named this year's recipient of the Nussbaum Music Scholarship. Through this fund, Priory offers a scholarship in the range of \$800 to \$1,000 annually to one student in Form I, which is renewable each year. Recipients are asked to show evidence of their continued musical growth by performing with one of Priory's music classes or ensembles throughout their Priory tenure or by offering their musical gifts at events hosted by the Advancement Department. For his audition, Liam sang the song "10,000 Reasons" and played guitar. He's been playing guitar and taking lessons for two and half years. He sometimes plays at Mass in his church.

Form II Retreat

Form II students enjoyed a retreat at the Babler Outdoor Education Center in Babler State Park.

The theme of the retreat was Onward and Upward and included talks, small group sharing, monastic prayer, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, an opportunity for Confession, and the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.

∨ Form II retreat



Form I retreat



Liam Horn '29



Hip-hop assembly

Students Discuss Hip-Hop Musical Genre

Students had an enlivened conversation with **Professor Zachary Manditch-Prottas** from Washington University in St. Louis around the more technical, playful, and artistic aspects of hip-hop as well as the more serious cultural considerations of the musical genre.

Foss Raises Funds for Diabetes Research

Form VI student **Ethan Foss '24** raised more than \$9,000 for type 1 diabetes research as he rode 100 miles in the JDRF Ride to Cure Diabetes in Amelia Island, Florida. It's his fourth century bike ride, and since his diagnosis with type 1 diabetes at age four, he's raised over \$150,000 for research.

Scholar Bowl Team Wins 1st Place

Priory's Scholar Bowl team finished in first place in the Varsity Private School League competition. They went a perfect 15 for 15 in the rounds, including defeating Saint Louis University High School for the league win. **Yrwin Batan '24** placed first in the field of 15 top respondents, averaging 66 points per half round.

Priory Guild Featured at History Museum

The Priory Medieval Arts Guild of St. Columkille was featured at the History Museum in December. Students in the Guild presented **Brother Symeon Gillette, O.S.B.**'s scrapbook of the Guild from the 1980's until present, student work, and Guild documents. They also gave a brief presentation about the Guild.



Ethan Foss '24 and his mom Elizabeth Foss

▼ Priory Guild at History Museum



Sam Faust '25, Charlie Schanbusch '25, Ryan White '25, Yrwin Batan (Captain) '24, Thomas Rempe '25, Nick Brier '25, and Carter Leyva '24



Palka Places 1st in Serra Club Essay Contest

Sam Palka '26 earned first place among sophomore boys in the Archdiocese of St. Louis in the 2023 Serra Club of St. Louis Sophomore Essay Contest. The essay was based on the prompt, "How will I reveal the Heart of Jesus in our blessed and broken world?"

Peter Receives Douai Prize

David Peter '25 received the Douai Prize. The award recipient consistently demonstrates eleven Benedictine values. The prize is given by the Douai Society in memory of the Douai Abbey School, which closed in the 1990s.

Students Recognized in State Theatre Festival

Four students competed at the State Theatre Festival in Kansas City. **Ledger Brooks '27** and **Kyle Erwin '27** scored a Bronze (good rating) in Duet Musical, while **Walker Bealke '27** and **Dantin Naidu '27** also scored a Bronze in Duet Acting. They were able to score in the top 50 percent, which is outstanding.

Crossing Delmar Program Kicks Off

Form I students spent time at Saint Louis University kicking off the collaborative learning project, Crossing Delmar, with St. Louis Catholic middle school Loyola Academy. The program brings together students from school communities that would not normally interact. Activities include poetry writing, team-building activities, and other opportunities for creative expression and fellowship.

∨ Crossing Delmar collaborative program



Father Cuthbert Elliott, O.S.B., '02, Stephen Zaegel, Sam Palka '26, Serra Club President Jim Miller, Serra Club Essay Content Coordinator Linda Patterson, and Abbot Gregory Mohrman, O.S.B., '76



David Peter '25 with Associate Headmaster Mike Nickolai '03



Dantin Naidu '27, Walker Bealke '27, Kyle Erwin '27, and Ledger Brooks '27

FALL SPORTS 2023

Cross Country

The Priory varsity cross country team had an impressive 2023 season where they earned second-place finishes at the Metro League Conference Championship and at Districts.

The Ravens had four runners finish inside the top 15 at the conference meet, led by **Gregory Britt '24**, who finished in 4th place with a time of 16:47.17.

Nicholas DeHaven '24 (17:28.69) and **Patrick Hamill '24** (17:40.98) followed in 10th and 11th, respectively.

Justin Nangle '25 ran his way to a 15th-place finish, timing out at 18:11.06.

At Districts, the Ravens totaled 92 points with **Britt** pacing the way with a fourth-place finish at 17:07.25. **DeHaven** ended in 11th at 17:35.48, while **Hamill** crossed the line at 18:02.63.

From there, the Ravens advanced to the Class 3 State Championship where they earned a sixth-place finish. **Britt** led with a 22nd-place finish at 16:29.4, earning him the fastest 5K time in school history.

DeHaven ran the fourth-fastest 5K time in school history, and each runner hit a new personal-best time.

Football

The Priory varsity football team finished its 2023 campaign 3-7 overall, picking up wins over Lutheran South, Alton Marquette, and Principia.

"Although the number of wins was less than the recent past, the players on the football team took on the challenges with

great effort and determination," says head coach **Jake Parent**. "With players unable to participate in games for a variety of reasons - it opened opportunities for many players to work at new positions and give some younger players a chance to play in meaningful situations and games."

He continued, "The team became closer and worked harder each week. This culminated in the productive and energetic practices that were common in the second half of the season."

Quarterback **Jack Parent '25** led through the air with 780 yards and six touchdowns. He also led the rushing attack with 785 yards and nine touchdowns. **Owen Eisenbeis '25** finished with a team-high 39 catches for 400 yards and four touchdowns. Defensively, **Jack Jung '24** posted a team-high 74 tackles.

The Ravens did pick up plenty of accolades on and off the field. Collecting All-District honors were **Drew Flaherty '24** (First Team), **Nolan Glaus '24** (Second Team), **Miles Herr '25** (Second Team), and **Parent** (Second Team). **Flaherty** and **Glaus** also earned All-Metro First Team honors with **Glaus** also being selected to the Second Team on the offensive and defensive line.

Parent, Glaus, Flaherty, and Herr were named to the All-Conference First Team, while **Jack Carr '24, Jung, and Quinten Ford '24** earned Second Team. **Grant McGowan '24** received Honorable Mention.

Academic All-State winners included **Sam Jung '26, Parker Meek '26, Deven Creeth '25, Eisenbeis, Herr, Colin Pim '25, Jack Carr, Luke Hahnel '24, McGowan, and Patrick Meehan '24.**





FALL SPORTS 2023



Soccer

Despite graduating 10 seniors last year, the Priory varsity soccer team had an overachieving 2023 fall campaign going 16-6 overall and winning the Metro League Conference for the second year in a row with a perfect 6-0 record. The Ravens advanced to Districts where they fell to CBC concluding the season.

In one of the most competitive soccer conferences, the Ravens earned big wins over rival John Burroughs, MICDS, and two wins over the eventual Class 2 State Champion, Westminster.

As the season progressed, the Ravens improved steadily, winning eight of their last 10 games, and, most importantly, grew into a close-knit team of brothers. The athletes especially enjoyed their trip to Farmington, which included a tasty team lunch of BBQ and ice cream, and a team day of service at Assisi House.

Sean Kaveney '26 led the Ravens with 10 goals, including a team-high six game-winning goals for 24 points.

Lance Lavery '24 was second on the team with eight goals but added 11 assists for a team-high 27 points.

Ethan Lewis '24 tied **Lavery** with 11 assists to go along with his five goals for 21 points. **Ian Lin '24** was fourth on the team in points with 18, finishing with seven goals and four assists. **Brendan Top '26** was third on the team with seven goals to end with 16 points.

Will Hoffman '26 went 14-2 in net, making 97 saves.

Patrick Hamill '24, **Lavery**, **Lewis**, and **Matthew Mueller '24** earned First Team All-Conference honors. **Ian Ahlering '24** and **Quinn O'Keefe '24** were named to the Second Team, while **Kaveney** was selected to the Honorable Mention team.

The team also handed out individual awards with **O'Keefe** winning Most Improved Player of the Year. **Lewis** won Player of the Year, while **Hamill** was selected winner of the Slick Award and **Lavery** took home the Oberle Award.

Athletic Signing Day

Students, faculty and staff, and families celebrated Priory's scholar-athletes who plan to continue their sports careers in college. Congratulations to the six members of the Class of 2024 who were recognized in February (pictured left to right):

Quinten Bauman '24: Baseball, Truman State University

Drew Flaherty '24: Football, University of Dayton

Nolan Glaus '24: Football, Truman State University

Greg Britt '24: Cross Country and Track & Field, Truman State University

Christian Sunderlage '24: Baseball, Cornell College

Christian Gonzalez '24: Basketball, Hannibal-LaGrange University



ADVANCEMENT

The Alumni Mothers' Club, under the leadership of **Elaine Figueroa** (Philip '19), works to keep alumni mothers connected to Priory and the monastery.

Fall Mass and Dinner

Members of the Priory Alumni Mothers' Club relished an evening of camaraderie, commencing with a Mass held in the Abbey Church, followed by a delightful dinner in the dining hall. The distinguished speaker for the evening was **Jake Parent**, who wears multiple hats as a current parent, teacher, coach, and alumni parent (Luke '20, Mark '23, and Jack '25).

Parent Christmas Cocktail Party

In collaboration with the Mothers' Club and Fathers' Club, members of the Alumni Mothers' Club came together for a delightful gathering featuring food and beverages at the Missouri Athletic Club West.

SAVE THE DATE

Margarita Party

The Alumni Mothers' Club Annual Margarita Party will be held from 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, June 6 at Rosalita's Cantina in Des Peres at 12796 Manchester Road. All alumni mothers are encouraged to attend.



All alumni mothers are invited to join the AMC. The purpose of the AMC is to promote the goals of the Abbey and the school, strengthen the ties with the monastic community, build a deeper spiritual link with the Benedictine tradition as lived by the monks, and create a strong bond among alumni mothers. To join or learn more about the AMC, visit:

www.priory.org/parents/alumni-mothers-club



Fall Mass and dinner



Alumni moms Colleen Wasinger (David '20 and Andrew '22), Mothers' Club President and alumni mom Julie Wagner (Cole '14, John '20, and Charlie '24), and Lynn Finnie (Sean '21 and Evan '23) at the Christmas cocktail party

ADVANCEMENT

The Mothers' Club, under the leadership of **Julie Wagner** (Cole '14, John '20, and Charlie '24), hosted exciting and successful events in late fall and early winter.

Blazer Sale

Just before the start of the school year, Priory mothers came together for one of the first Mothers' Club well-attended events of the fall. The annual blazer sale was held on August 20. **Laura Rothery** (Eddie '25) and **Carrie Parent** (Luke '20, Mark '23, and Jack '25) once again chaired the successful effort. Priory parents had the opportunity to purchase gently used blazers that had generously been handed down from other Priory students. The blazer sale ran concurrently with the Fathers' Club Father-Son Washers Tournament.

Labor Day Monks' Dinner

The Mothers' Club Board organized a group of generous volunteers to provide the Saint Louis Abbey monastic community with a plentiful dinner on September 4.

Form I and Form II Mass and Lunch

On September 30, Priory mothers and sons from Form I and Form II came together to attend Mass and enjoy brunch in Switzer Dining Hall. **Collen Pim** (Miles '22, Colin '25, and Briggs '29) chaired the event, overseeing a lovely afternoon for all in attendance.

Mothers' Club Fall Mass and Brunch

Mae Roxas (Matthew '22 and Michael '25) and **Julie Foshage** (Cole '25) chaired the annual Mothers' Club Fall Mass and Brunch in October. After an all-school Mass in the Abbey, Priory moms transitioned to the lower level of St. Anselm Parish Center for a delicious brunch and an inspirational keynote address from **Dr. Robert Furey**.

Annual Christmas Boutique and Luncheon

This year's Christmas Boutique took place on November 29, and was a festive and fun way to begin the Christmas season. More than 30 vendors participated, and more than 200 current and alumni Priory parents, grandparents, guests, faculty and staff, and volunteers enjoyed shopping, lunch, and a special performance from the Priory choral group. **Laura Polcyn** (Drake '25), **Mary Bower** (Joseph '25), and **Erica Rose** (Jackson '28) chaired this year's event.



Xanadu 2024 - Ravens Royale

All bets were placed on a fabulous night at Xanadu 2024! This year's Las Vegas casino theme brought the Ravens Royale to boisterous life for the Priory community. **Ashely Carr** (Jack '24) and **Erin O'Keefe** (Quinn '24) co-chaired the



evening that featured entertaining casino tables, raffles, glitzy attractions, and a rousing after party with live music. Over 100 student and adult volunteers assisted in executing service and flair during the night's auction and program. Priory families and supporters gathered to raise paddles in the Fund-A-Need to secure funds for a much-needed update to the weight room facilities. We would like to extend many thanks to all the Xanadu section chairs, volunteers, and donors for their time, dedication, and support, which was essential to the event's tremendous success.

SAVE THE DATES

Spring Luncheon

The Mothers' Club Spring Luncheon will be held on April 17 at Bellerive Country Club.

Senior Mother & Son Mass & Brunch

The Senior Mother & Son Mass & Brunch will be held on May 14, with Mass at Saint Louis Abbey and brunch at Bellerive Country Club.



Christmas Boutique



Vocal Music Teacher Stephanie Allee leads Priory's choral group providing entertainment at the Christmas Boutique.



Monte and Roya Dover (Alex '29)



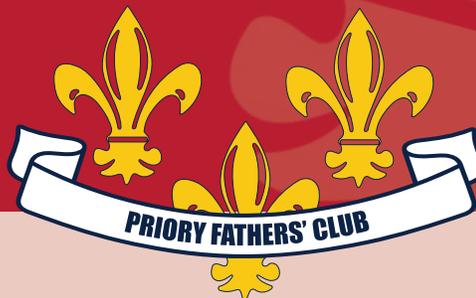
Ashely Carr (Jack '24) and Heidi Quirk (Neil, III '24)



Xanadu co-chairs Erin O'Keefe (Quinn '24) and Ashley Carr (Jack '24) with their husbands Mike O'Keefe and Matt Carr '96



Stacey Bealke (Adam '24 and Walker '27) and Dr. Katherine Temprano (Jimmy '22 and Robby '26)



Athletic Director
Phil Brotherton

Fathers' Club President **Matt Carr '96** and the Executive Board provided guidance this year as they continued to increase participation and involvement in many events.

Washers Tournament

The Fathers' Club held the annual Washers Tournament in August to welcome new students. It was a bright and sunny day on the Switzer House Lawn.

Father & Son BBQ and Bus Trip

The Fathers' Club organized an outing to cheer on Priory's varsity football team in one of their first games at Lutheran South. The group enjoyed a special BBQ meal and games on the Switzer House Lawn before boarding a charter bus to follow the team to Lutheran South.

Welcome Dinner

The Fathers' Club welcomed guests in September where President **Matt Carr '96** gave an update on the year's agenda and goals, with a heavy focus on continuing to build the Priory Parent Network and providing support to the other parent clubs and Xanadu committee.

Fall Happy Hour

The Fathers' Club hosted a fall happy hour at Rosalita's West in November. Priory dads came out to chat and receive updates from Athletic Director **Phil Brotherton** and the Priory coaching staff on the state of athletics and goals for the upcoming seasons.

Form I and Form II Rec Nights

Fathers' Club hosted two successful rec nights for Form I and Form II students and their dads. The Fall rec night was held in October in the Priory gyms. In January, the crew met at the Webster Ice Rink for pickleball, snacks, and fun before watching the Priory hockey team take on MICDS.



Happy Hour at Rosalita's



SAVE THE DATES

Father & Son Banquet

The Fathers' Club annual Father & Son Banquet will be held on April 14 at the Missouri Athletic Club Downtown.

Senior Father & Son "Finish Line" BBQ

The Father & Son "Finish Line" BBQ for senior students and their fathers will be held on May 15 on the Switzer House Lawn.

B E I N G A P A R T O F T H E

AFFILIATES OF ST. LOUIS ABBEY

Affiliates of the Saint Louis Abbey include Priory alumni, parents of alumni, and friends who are committed to helping the Abbey continue to succeed through common prayer. There are currently more than 80 Affiliate members. The members would love to have you join them.

Affiliate members receive a copy of Saint Benedict's Prayer Book (personally inscribed) and a copy of *The Rule of St. Benedict*. The prayer book follows a similar format to the Divine Office prayed daily by the Abbey monks. It includes two weeks of prayers that enable an Affiliate to improve their prayer life by following the daily routine. At the bottom of each page is a quote. In addition, there is a great collection of standard prayers to help you when facing many of life's challenges.

What's the most important thing you can do as a Saint Louis Abbey Affiliate? **PRAY** - for Saint Louis Abbey and for Vocations to the Abbey.

One of the key attributes of Benedictine life is prayer in common. We encourage Affiliates to develop a daily prayer routine using the prayer book as a guide. As you pray daily, you will be joining vicariously into the prayers of the Abbey monks as well as your fellow Affiliates.

Our common prayers can be powerful!

As a Saint Louis Abbey Affiliate, you'll receive our monthly newsletter, articles from various monks, access to the Affiliates website, access to recorded monk homilies, various prayer aids such as Lenten Verse of the Day, Twelve Days of Humility (Christmas), and more.

In the future, we hope to help facilitate opportunities in St. Louis and in some remote locations for Abbey Affiliates to meet for *Lectio Divina* and other activities and gatherings.

Become a Saint Louis Abbey Affiliate. Send an email to Brother Gene at brgene@priory.org and you'll be on your way.



ALUMNI

HOMECOMING

The annual Priory Homecoming weekend occurred on October 6 and 7. Alumni gathered on Friday night to celebrate their reunion years at the school, enjoying a festive atmosphere with food and drinks. We celebrated graduated classes ending in 3 and 8. Mark your 2024 calendars for October 18 and 19 when we will celebrate classes ending in 4 and 9.

Saturday brought Homecoming festivities, highlighted by a victorious performance from the football team, a BBQ hosted by the Alumni Board, and a special celebration honoring the state championship-winning team from 50 years ago. The campus buzzed with alumni spanning various generations, all relishing the delightful football weather.

Priory unveiled the new digital videoboard at the football field for the first time at Homecoming, and the crowd was in awe.

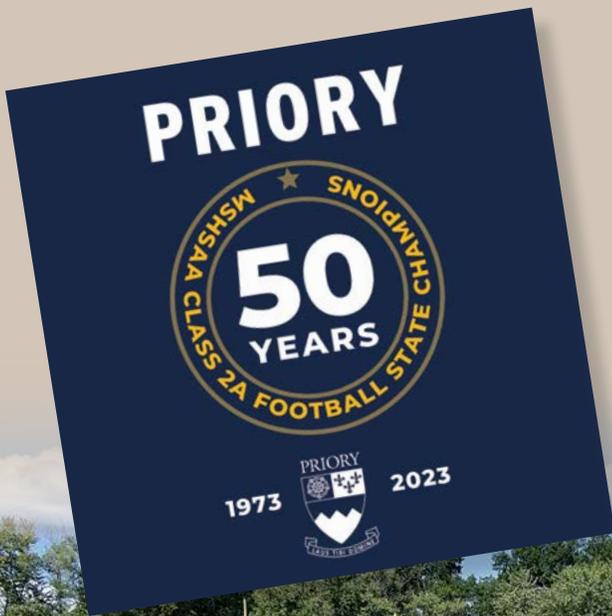
The true highlight of the weekend came during halftime, as Priory paid tribute to the legendary state championship-winning team from 50 years ago. With more than half of the 1973 championship team in attendance, along with esteemed figures such as the athletic director at the time, **Marty McCabe**, and assistant coaches **Bart Margiotta '65** and **Joe Genoni**, the atmosphere was charged with emotion and nostalgia.

A video montage immortalized the team's triumph on the field, igniting both laughter and tears from players and their families. With reverence and pride, the crowd remembered Priory's historic victory over West Platte at Arrowhead Stadium on December 1, 1973. The Priory team, who played as the Rebels at the time, clinched the Class 2 state championship with an impressive 9-1 record for the season.

During halftime, each player was recognized, ensuring their contributions would never be forgotten. As a token of appreciation, the players received retro-styled jerseys adorned with the Priory logo, a special 1973 championship emblem, and the iconic number "73" serving as a tangible reminder of their enduring legacy.

As the weekend ended, the echoes of laughter and camaraderie lingered in the air, a testament to the enduring spirit of Priory's Homecoming celebrations. It was a weekend filled with moments of joy, reflection, and connection, leaving an indelible mark on all who had the privilege of attending. Indeed, it was a spectacular weekend—one that will be fondly remembered for years to come.

▼ **Abbot Gregory Mohrman, O.S.B., '76** presents the 1973 team with a special retro jersey.





Priory's varsity football team gets ready to take the field.



Brother Joe Russo, Father Ralph Wright, O.S.B, and Father Gerard Garrigan, O.S.B., enjoy the Homecoming BBQ.



Bart Margiotta '65, Abbot Gregory '76, George Ahlering '76 and Julie Ahlering visit during Homecoming festivities.



Students and alumni cheer on the Ravens.



1973 quarterback, **George Ahlering '76**, admires a special jersey from the school with the rest of his teammates.



New digital videoboard at Priory's Busch Field

ALUMNI



Class of 1970



Class of 1998



NYC reception

REUNIONS

Class of 1970

Alumni from the class of 1970 gathered for lunch at Lester's in December. Pictured from left to right: **Tom Plunkert, David Horan, Jon Igoe, Jim Pandjiris, Keith Naunheim, Jim Daake, and Alan Schmidt.**

Class of 1998

The Class of 1998 reunion took place during Priory's Homecoming weekend in October. Front row from left to right: **Donald Yap, Brian Hurley, Tim Convy, John Short, Ron Warner, Chris Cronin, and Dan McKenzie.** Back row from left to right: **Mike Sebben, David Crepps, Jake Bealke, Tim Kaufmann, Chris Kuhn, Peter Blumeyer, Jim Davis, Bill Doering, John Steinberg, and Pat Cuba.**

ALUMNI EVENTS

Abbot's Reception in New York City

The Abbot's NYC reception was held at the New York City Yale Club. Alumni from diverse generations gathered to reconnect and mingle with fellow Priory graduates. The evening resonated with laughter and camaraderie as alumni shared memories and forged new connections.

SAVE THE DATES

Priory Golf Scramble

Monday, June 17 at Glen Echo Country Club

Alumni Soccer Game

Friday, September 13 at Priory

Homecoming Weekend

Friday, October 18 and Saturday, October 19

CLASS NOTES

Teddy Altepeter '09 and his wife, Kristin, welcomed a baby girl on January 25. Her name is Adeline.



Cesar Azrak '16 started a new position as judicial law clerk in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Missouri.

Brayton Briggs '14 started a new position as an account manager at Lockton.

Ian Crossey '20, a senior at the Naval Academy, is headed to flight school in the fall for the Navy. He has a fellowship with Catholic University and leads a company of midshipmen.

Alex Finan '09 got married to Paige Miller on June 6, 2023. Finan had 10 classmates of '09 as groomsmen: **Charlie Friedman, Colin Gambaro, Jim Havel, Mark Havel, Bobby Heitz, Drew Kabbes, Dalton Pollvogt, Stephen Wagner, and Tyler Willibrand.**



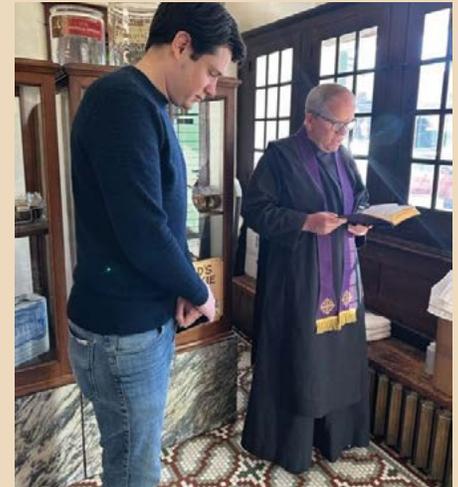
Paul Fonseca '16 started a new position as senior analyst at Mastercard.

Jeremy Hanichak '02 accepted a role at Campbell's Soup Company to join their national account sales team and calls on buyers at Schnucks Markets.

Max Herr '22 is an ROTC student at Holy Cross College and came back to speak with some current students about potentially joining the ROTC. Pictured left to right: **Asher Sharp '24, Aidan O'Rourke '26, Kieran Hunks '28, and Max Herr '22.**



Brothers **Ryan Huber '06, Tyler Huber '07, and Chad Huber '10** are the proud new owners of Dad's Cookie Company. Father Aidan McDermott, O.S.B., blessed the business with **Chad Huber '10.**



Two Priory graduates, **Stephen Kalhorn '97** and **Robert Weil '79**, who are neurosurgeons, now work together at the Medical University of South Carolina.



Dariya Khojasteh '17 was named to the Forbes 30 under 30 for his start-up, Layer3.



Myles Kee '21 was named the 2023 Offensive Most Valuable Player on the Illinois Wesleyan football team. Kee also received the team's Best Skill Award. He was selected to the All-CCIW First Team for the first time after posting a career-high 55 catches for 716 receiving yards, while totaling five touchdowns. He recorded three 100-yard receiving games, including a season-high 158-yard performance against top-ranked North Central. He finished fifth in the conference with 71.1 receiving yards per game while coming in fourth in receptions.



Isaac Lee '23 and **Evan Finnie '23** stopped by Priory on their fall break.



Wyatt Lewis '22 received the Elite 90 Award, which is presented to the student-athlete with the highest grade point average participating at the NCAA Final Four Championship.



Chris Purcell '96 has assumed the position of commanding officer aboard a U.S. Navy warship.

Jack Ramey '22, a sophomore pre-med student at Mizzou, spent two weeks in Peru on a Global Medical Training (GMT) trip over his winter break. GMT is an international organization offering free medical and dental services to medically deprived communities in Central American countries.

Nicholas Sardella '18 was promoted to senior analyst at Boston Consulting Group.

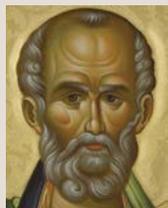
Patrick Schumacker '98 and his partner Justin Halpern signed an exclusive deal with Warner Bros. Television Group. The Emmy-nominated writers-producers will continue their work through their company Delicious Non-Sequitur Productions.

Tejas Sekhar '17 is a first-year medical student in the Health Equity and Social Justice Leadership Program at Rush Medical College in Chicago, Ill.

YOU'RE INVITED

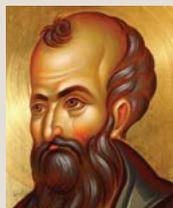
SAINT LOUIS ABBEY ICON WORKSHOP

Led by Iconographer Alex Echeandia Loro, O.S.B.



Workshop #1 St. Peter Icon

8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
June 17 - 21, 2024
in the Medieval
Arts Guild at Priory



Workshop #2 St. Paul Icon

8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
June 24 - 28, 2024
in the Medieval Arts
Guild at Priory



Father Alex apprenticed in Guatapé, Colombia, studied under Aidan Hart at the Prince of Wales' School of Traditional Art, and completed his training at the Ukrainian Catholic University in Lviv Oblast,

Ukraine. He and Priory Headmaster **Father Cuthbert Elliott, O.S.B., '02**, became friends during their monastic studies in Oxford, England.

All proceeds benefit the monastic community of Maria de La Santisima Trinidad in Lurin Peru.

Workshops include materials, refreshments, and lunch. Each student will take home their completed icon! Space is limited. 12 students per workshop.

\$750 per workshop

\$700 per workshop for Early Bird registration on or before May 21, 2024

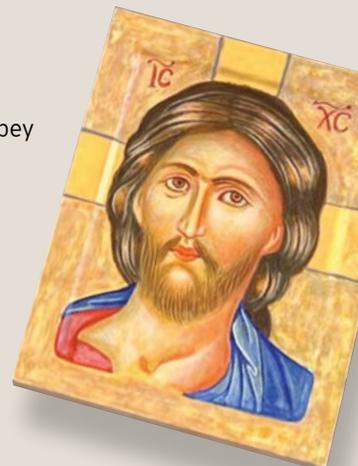
\$650 per workshop for students (must be 18 or older with a valid student ID)

All registrations except Early Bird are due no later than May 28, 2024.

Make checks payable to: Saint Louis Abbey (Memo: Icon Class) or Venmo to @STLPriory (Memo: Icon Class)

Questions? Contact:

Ann Weinerth
Saint Louis Priory School
314.434.3690, ext. 139
aweinerth@priory.org



▼ Last summer's iconographer attendees and Father Alex with their completed icons. Each attendee created and took home their own handcrafted icon of Christ Pantocrator (above). Participants were encouraged to pray throughout the process.



LEADERSHIP

Monastic Council

Abbot Gregory Mohrman, O.S.B., '76
Prior Dominic Lenk, O.S.B.
Father Augustine Wetta, O.S.B.
Father Aidan McDermott, O.S.B.
Father Cuthbert Elliott, O.S.B., '02
Father Athanasius Soto, O.S.B.

Board of Advisors

Roger E. Cammon, *Chair*
Jerrold A. Dow
Daniel J. Leary III '87
Father Paul McCormick, O. Cist.
Francis J. Merenda Jr. '96
Alicia T. Noddings
Daniel M. O'Keefe Sr. '87
Michael T. Reedy Jr. '00
William C. Stude III '91
Philip L. Willman '71
Lisa Flavin, Emerita
James Switzer '64, Emeritus

Alumni Board

Michael T. Reedy Jr. '00, *President*
Kevin Hoffman '93, *Vice President*
Kevin McAtee '97, *Secretary*
Nick Ahlering '04
Teddy Altepeter '09
Jake Bealke '98
Dave Binz '01
Alex Borchert '02
Tom Byrne '85
Tom Cummings '89, *Past President*
Father Cuthbert Elliott, O.S.B., '02
Jim Ferrick '87
Dan Flynn '06
Charlie Garvin '76
Anthony Gennaoui '99
Jim Havel '09
Ted Horan '04
Andrew Iqbal '03
Chris Kerckhoff Sr. '68
Ted Lane '08
Ryan McDonald '99, *Past President*
Abbot Gregory Mohrman, O.S.B., '76
Gerard Mudd '75
Jack O'Brien '12
T.J. Redmond '99
Eric Stange '14
Cartan Sumner Jr. '83
Patrick Thornton '02
Matt Wagner '90, *Past President*
Ryan Wehking '08
Ondray Wells '85
Jimmy Williams '79
Phil Willman '71

Saint Louis Priory School Leadership Council

Father Cuthbert Elliott, O.S.B., '02
Headmaster
frcuthbert@priory.org

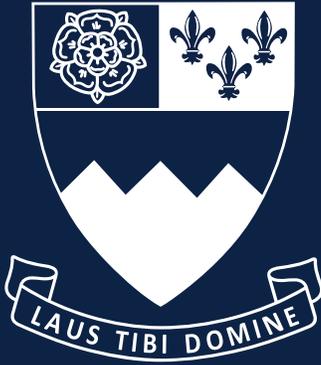
Mike Nickolai '03
Associate Headmaster
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Saint Louis Priory School is excited to offer a new 6th grade program for the 2025-2026 academic year. The program will supplement the school's longstanding and highly regarded formative academic program for boys in grades 7-12.

Guided by strong academic expectations and Catholic, Benedictine values, the 6th grade program lays the foundation for an exceptional life – one centered around faith, virtue, and knowledge.

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