

THE MAGAZINE OF SAINT LOUIS PRIORY SCHOOL SPRING 2023

PRIORY

The Priory Network

Page 7



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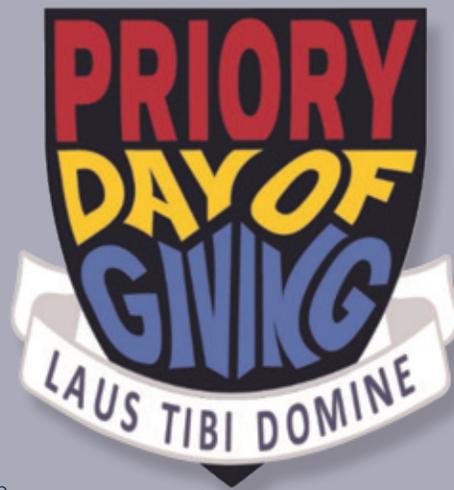
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FEATURES

- 4** | Alumni Profile - Priory Alumni
Enjoy Successful College
Baseball Careers
- 7** | The Priory Network -
Lifelong Community and Connections
- 12** | Faculty Spotlight - Celebrating
Tony Finan - 40 Years at Priory
- 16** | Donor Profile -
Kent Family Foundation
- 19** | **SAINT LOUIS ABBEY JOURNAL**
- 23** | **ON CAMPUS**
- 29** | **ADVANCEMENT**
- 36** | **ALUMNI**
- 39** | **CLASS NOTES**

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Cover photo by Tyler Witkowski '25

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FROM THE HEADMASTER

Dear Friends,

When I was in college, I always looked forward to returning to Priory's campus. I'd walk the site, pray in the Church, and visit the theatre where I performed. For me, there was always a spiritual significance to being back; a sense that God was closer to me at Priory than anywhere else, a sense that he wanted me to be close to him there.

For me, the connection to our school community was always very strong; it was the tether that revealed my monastic vocation. But I was not unique. For many of our alumni, there is a similar connection – a pull, a sense of honor, a feeling of gratitude, and a desire to protect, grow, and share this special place with another generation.

In this edition of *Priory Magazine*, you will find more stories about how Priory's alumni continue to be inspired by their connection to our school. From young college athletes, to an educator who builds communion among Benedictine schools throughout the world, to alumni who are developing a networking, interview, CV-writing, and internship program for our students and young alumni – all of them have been driven by the ideals that define our school.

These values are also embodied in the men and women who have dedicated their lives to forming generations of our students, not the least of which is Tony Finan, who this year celebrates his 40th anniversary at Priory. These values also resonate with the alumni and alumni parents who continue to support our students through capital projects and fundraising. All of these generous and grateful people have encountered the Lord at Priory, and I look forward to sharing their stories with you in the pages ahead.

I hope this edition of *Priory Magazine* helps renew your connection to Priory – as an alumnus, a parent, or a friend. No matter your connection, Priory is your home, and I hope you will visit us soon.

Laus Tibi Domine,



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



Priory Alumni

EXCEL IN COLLEGE BASEBALL AND ACADEMICS

After the long slog through the dreary, gray days of February gives way to the brighter, more spring-like March and April, many sports fans' minds turn to baseball. For two recent Priory alumni, the weeks since Christmas have involved prep for their college seasons.

"We've been able to get outside more this year, which is big for us before we kick off our season playing in the South," says Mark Shallenberger '19, senior outfielder for the University of Evansville. The Purple Aces' season began with a mid-February series against Troy University in Alabama.

Down South, Nick Blessing '20 is gearing up for his junior season as a pitcher at Spring Hill College in Mobile, Alabama. The Badgers also began their season in February, this year with a new coach at the helm. "I've gotten the best of both worlds with coaching here," Blessing says. "Our old coach who retired was a legend – he'd been here for about 30 years. Our new coach is younger, only around 30, and he's one of the best I've ever played for."

Both Mark and Nick played baseball at Priory before continuing their baseball careers in college.

"Playing baseball at Priory was a similar experience to playing here at Evansville," Shallenberger says. "When you play for a team, you are playing for something bigger than yourself, and that's when you do your best."

Priory Athletic Director Phil Brotherton says the school's 100 percent participation in athletics is an important part of fulfilling its mission. "It's totally in alignment with our goals of developing the whole person," he says. "Through competing in sports while at the same time being challenged by a rigorous academic curriculum, our students learn how to manage their free time while balancing all of their obligations."

Mark and Nick both echoed that sentiment, crediting Priory with solid preparation for the higher level of academics, and of baseball, and of keeping their schedules on track.

"I knew things in college would be different when the first guy I pitched against was 6'8". He came to the plate, and I knew I wasn't in high school anymore. But I fully believe Priory prepped me, both academically and athletically, for the experience," Blessing says.

Mark and Nick must plan strategically around their sports schedules, taking heavier course loads in the fall to free up time for practice, games and travel during the baseball season in the spring. "The foundations Priory instilled in me academically have really helped me excel in the classroom in college, even while playing a sport," Blessing says. "I carried in a lot of great study skills, and some AP credit that has really helped me tailor my schedule. The sports requirement at Priory, and the structure of our schedule there, made for very similar days to what I'm doing now. And that structure also instilled the discipline of showing up every day and giving your all in whatever you were doing."

"The foundations Priory instilled in me academically have really helped me excel in the classroom in college, even while playing a sport."

– Nick Blessing '20

Shallenberger was a captain of the Priory team his senior year, and inspired Nick to continue his baseball career in a similar way. "Mark was a good captain for us when I was a junior, and when he signed to play in college, that was the first time I really thought that might be possible for me too," he says.

In addition to playing on their college teams, both Shallenberger and Blessing have played seasons in collegiate summer leagues. Shallenberger played in the Northwoods League for the Wausau Woodchucks in Wausau, Wisconsin. Blessing played a season for a team in Kansas, then another for the Pierre Trappers in Pierre, South Dakota, a team in the Expedition League. They were able to secure roster positions using connections their collegiate coaches had in the leagues and based on their performance on the field in high school and college. During the seasons, they live with host families in the communities where they play and have busy schedules of 60 or more games over the course of only about two months.

"Playing in the summer league was a good introduction to what playing professional ball would be like," Shallenberger says. The Northwoods League, with teams across the Great Lakes and upper Midwest, currently has between 15 and 20 draftees playing in the MLB and the teams' farm systems.

Blessing also expressed a sense that the summer league made him feel like a pro. "In Pierre, we were the only sports team around, and I'd even have kids coming up to me at games wanting my autograph. I'm only a (division 2) college player, but kids wanted my autograph! It was a cool experience."

▽ Recent Priory baseball team pictured left to right: Connor Funk '19, Nick Blessing '20, Ross Van Bree '21, Nick Kurz '19, JP Spellmeyer '19, Chris Friemel '19, Dash King '21, Jake Buganski '19, Mark Shallenberger '19 and Preston Antes '19



△ Nick Blessing '20 pitching at Priory
▽ Nick Blessing '20 pitching at Spring Hill College

Blessing is returning to Pierre to play again this summer, for a newly constituted team that will also play in the Expedition League against teams across the upper Midwest. "I enjoyed living out there, and I was really blessed to have a great host family that took me in. Pierre is a smaller town, but as long as I'm playing baseball, I can be happy anywhere."

Blessing is an accounting major at Spring Hill, with a minor in marketing and management. Academically he's in his junior year, but he retains an extra year of eligibility to play baseball because of the allowances made for the seasons affected by COVID-19.

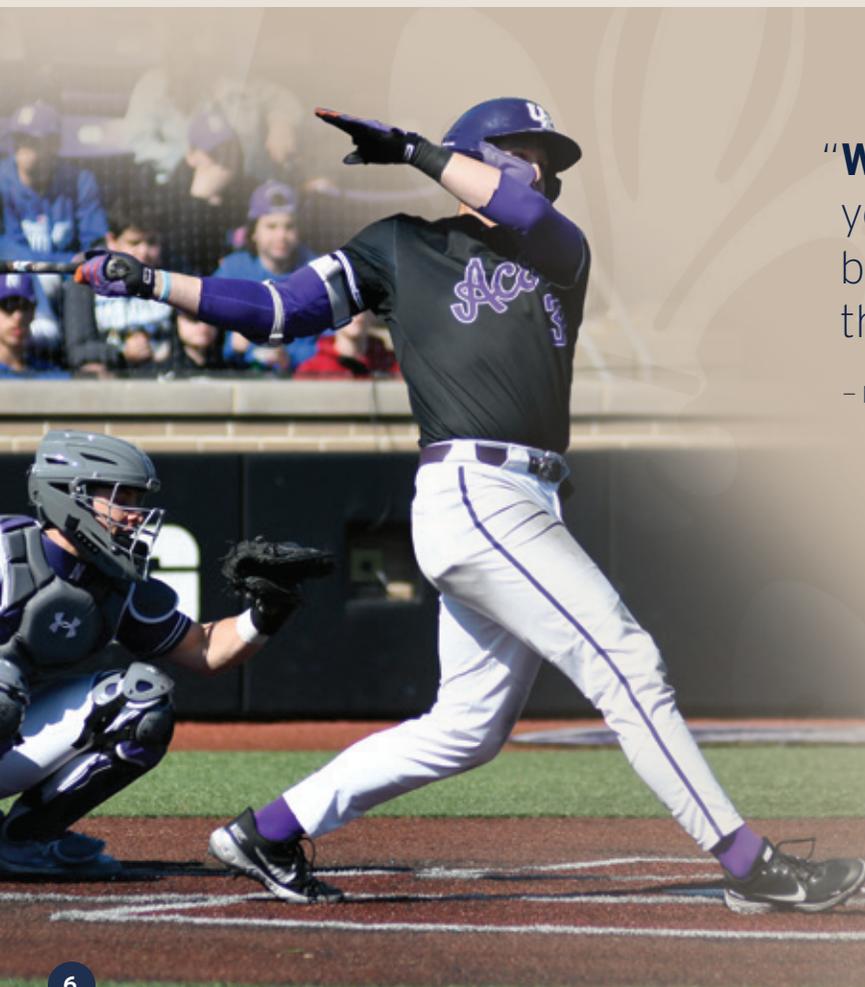


▼ Shallenberger '19 pitching at Priory



Shallenberger is getting ready to graduate from the University of Evansville, and will be playing a summer season in Massachusetts for the Chatham Anglers of the Cape Cod League (which you might be familiar with from the 2001 movie *Summer Catch*). The team's manager is Tom Holliday, father of Cardinals standout Matt Holliday. He's working with a draft advisor and hopes to be drafted this summer and play baseball professionally. He is a psychology major and plans eventually to study sports psychology and coaching at the collegiate level.

Even looking to the future, Shallenberger reiterates the importance of the foundation he built at Priory. "You play your position, and you do your part for the team. That sentiment began at Priory," he says. "It's the most fun when you're getting to practice and play every day with your friends. Those core values stick with you, even when things get more business oriented, or the stakes get higher."



"When you play for a team,
you are playing for something
bigger than yourself, and
that's when you do your best."

– Mark Shallenberger '19

THE PRIORY NETWORK

Fostering a Unique Sense of Community and Connection Among Alumni and Students

Lifelong community and connections are a few of the things that make Priory special. Prospective school families should consider the unique Priory experience as a valued differentiator, says Mike Reedy Jr. '00.

An important component of the school's distinctive experience, the alumnus says, is the growing **Priory Network**, which includes a collection of alumni-driven services and programs designed to foster a sense of belonging and fellowship that continues well beyond a boy's time as a Priory student.

"It's not just a four- to six-year program where you're just here to do homework... a six-year pit stop in the early part of your life," notes Reedy, who will become Priory's Alumni Board chair this summer. "It's really a lifelong program... a lifelong resource," Reedy says of the experience in which current Priory students and alumni of all ages and backgrounds are connected and engaged in the school's mission.

"It helps give them a **real-world perspective.**"

– Mike Reedy Jr. '00

Reedy and a team of engaged alumni - including the school's Priory Black Alumni Group and others - are developing the Priory Network with several elements.



“It’s for the students to educate themselves **about who they are and what they’re interested in.**”

– **Nikki Hostnik**, Director of College Counseling

For Current Students

Rising juniors and seniors may choose to participate in one-day career-shadow opportunities and summer internships with local Priory alumni.

The internship program is available at no cost to students who apply for the experience, submit a written essay, and take part in a short interview with the alumnus they anticipate will be their mentor and host.

Director of College Counseling Nikki Hostnik says the effort will be of tremendous value to students, especially as they consider their forthcoming college decisions.

“It’s for the students to educate themselves about who they are and what they’re interested in,” Hostnik says. “That’s one of the scariest things for students to start thinking about [in terms of] college. There is pressure on students right now to say what they want to do. Knowing your ‘why’ is going to make you a better [college] applicant and help you make better choices. This is a way to help them understand their ‘why.’”

“They’re exploring,” she emphasizes. “They might want to do a medical shadow and then, after that, they might say, ‘Never mind, I don’t want to do pre-med.’ And that’s great! That’s one of the reasons to do this.”

The Alumni Board’s Reedy agrees. “It helps give them a real-world perspective.”

Hostnik describes the new shadowing and summer internship program as a “gift” that alumni give to Priory students.

> Mike Reedy Jr. '00

“I’m excited for the students to have a chance to show on the college application side that they are willing to look into these careers that they say they want to major in,” she says. “They’re more than their ACT and GPA. Giving students the opportunity to set themselves apart is just a positive all around.”

For Alumni

Internships and Job Opportunities for College-Aged Alumni. Just as for current Priory students, the Alumni Board also is facilitating internships – and even job opportunities – for college-aged Priory alumni. Recent grads can connect with fellow alumni in a variety of industries, including law, medicine, finance, engineering, technology, and more.

Priory Interview Workshop. Returning in 2024 will be the “Priory Interview Workshop” for recent Priory alumni. In recent years, this event has been held on a Saturday afternoon each January – when college students are on their Christmas break – and has included a resume-writing session, panel discussions on a variety of career paths, and mock job interviews, all of which are facilitated by more seasoned Priory alumni.

Alumni Portal. To keep alumni connected and engaged, Priory recently launched a robust online alumni portal administered by the school’s Director of Technology, alumnus Gabriel Santa Cruz '92.

The names of all of Priory’s more than 3,100 graduates are included in the alumni portal, and Santa Cruz notes that each alumnus who logs into the portal can curate the information that’s available to other alumni about himself – including his contact information, the college or university he has attended, his city and state of residence, his professional field, and his current employer.

The alumni portal is accessible at www.MyPriory.org, or via the front page of www.Priory.org.



Demonstrating Benedictine Hospitality

Priory Headmaster, Father Cuthbert Elliott, O.S.B., '02, wants current students to understand that a one-day job shadow or summer internship is a perfect next step for young men on their formative path.

"Now is the time for you to start discovering what this Priory education - all this hard work you've been doing - is really for," he says. "It's not been for the grades that you sweated and died for. It's been for the opportunity to be a positive force in the world."

"The alumni are so grateful for what they have received from the school and their experiences of the school that they want to give back," says Assistant Head of School for Mission Advancement Lise Riet-Lague. "These men are busy, they have responsibilities, but they are still setting aside time to make [the Priory Network] a priority. That should speak volumes to these young guys."

Father Cuthbert says we owe these alumni a huge debt of gratitude. "There is no group that has been more consistently supportive and faithful to the school - apart from the monastic community - than our alumni, and I would say especially our Alumni Board."

"Their role as an organizing group - and the other alumni who are going to participate - will be very instrumental in helping not just our current students grow and flourish, but also in helping us explain to prospective families why Priory is an investment worth making."

Father Cuthbert says that, in a sense, the Alumni Board is encouraging Priory alums to practice the Benedictine hallmark of hospitality - "to act like monks in their own communities and workplaces through their generosity" - inviting them to show honor to these students by creating a space for them to come and feel part of their world, and to have a mentorship relationship with them.

The Alumni Board's Reedy affirms, "We've had a very similar shared experience we can all relate to no matter what age you are." He sees the collection of alumni-led efforts as a way to set Priory apart as an institution. "It's a program that benefits you throughout your entire life. I'm not sure how many other schools have an opportunity like this out there."

Mike Reedy Jr. '00 can be reached at mike.reedyjr@craneagency.com.

Over the summer of 2022, Priory senior Nick Tornberg participated in a summer internship at Metal Exchange Corporation with alumni Ondray Wells Jr. '85 and Ron Warner '98.

Tornberg says his internship experience focused on technology, exposing him to enterprise software development and the computer programming language known as C#.

"Two of the most valuable things I gained," Tornberg says, "were the chance to delve deeper into my interest in programming and the guidance on my future educational and career goals."

"Choosing a college major can be daunting as it could have a significant impact on one's future professional path," he says. "By offering rising seniors the opportunity to gain practical experience in fields that align with their interests, it can ease the pressure of making such a decision. For this reason, I think that Priory's expansion of shadowing/internship opportunities is a great initiative."



Global **Benedictine Education** Collaboration Continues

By Assistant Head of School for Human and Spiritual Formation Mike Nickolai '03

In October, I traveled to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, as part of my work with the International Commission on Benedictine Education (ICBE).

ICBE's mission is to promote Benedictine education within the vast network of Benedictine schools across the globe. Part of the work of the Commission is to plan an international conference every three years that is dedicated to sharing knowledge and understanding between teachers in Benedictine schools.

Past ICBE conferences have occurred in Sydney (2019), Rome (2016), and Manila (2013). In 2019, ICBE announced that the 2022 conference would be held in Rio de Janeiro; however, the pandemic forced ICBE to postpone the next conference until October 2023.

I serve on the Commission as a co-delegate for North America, and so I traveled to Rio to meet with the other delegates and help plan the conference. The ICBE delegates represent regions all over the world: North America (2), Continental Europe (2), Australia (1), Africa (2), Southeast Asia (1), and Latin America (1).

▼ Mike Nickolai '03 in Brazil to help plan the ICBE Conference



The delegates were hosted by the monks of the Mosteiro de São Bento, a Benedictine monastery that was founded in 1590. The monastery sits at the top of a hill in downtown Rio, and it offers beautiful views of the city and its port. The monastery's campus includes an all-boys K-12 Benedictine school, so I was surrounded by many familiar sights and sounds while I stayed there.

The delegates spent most of our time together in meetings planning the 2023 conference where we hope to host 150 to 200 Benedictine educators from all over the world. Meetings were held in both English and Portuguese, and so translators were necessary to assist in communication throughout the days.

Although our days were filled with meetings to plan out the conference logistics, we also took time to pray together with the monks each day, joining them for Mass and daily prayers in their beautiful church.

We also had opportunities to explore the beautiful city to plan site visits for the conference. Highlights of those excursions included Copacabana and Ipanema beaches, Maracanã Stadium, and dinner at a traditional Brazilian steakhouse with a view of the famous Sugarloaf Mountain.

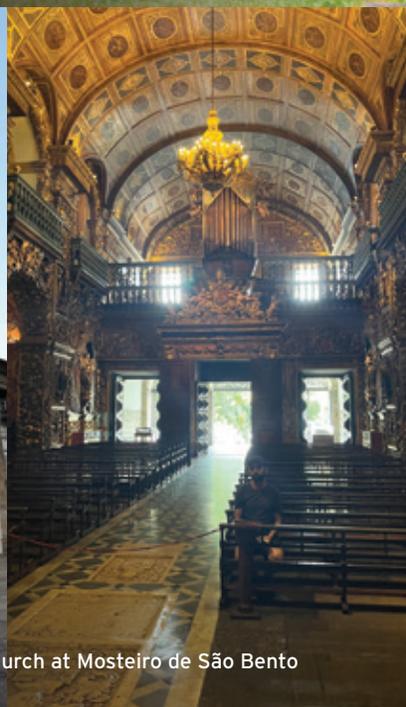
In a few short days, I was able to experience the beauty of Rio de Janeiro, but what stuck out to me most about the trip was the Benedictine spirit that permeated my time there. There was such good zeal among the delegates, and our Brazilian hosts received us warmly into their monastery with genuine Benedictine hospitality. As I continue to plan for the conference, I look forward to returning to Rio, and I hope to take a few more colleagues from Priory to share in this powerful experience.



The ICBE delegates at Mosteiro de São Bento in Rio de Janeiro



Dom Geraldo Gonzalez y Lima, O.S.B., serves as translator in a meeting between the ICBE delegates and the Rio de Janeiro host team.



Interior and exterior views of the church at Mosteiro de São Bento



Sister Rosario Obiniana, O.S.B., ICBE delegate for Southeast Asia, enjoys a view of the beach in Rio.



ICBE delegates discuss conference logistics in the chapel at Mosteiro São Bento.



The monks of São Bento host the ICBE delegates for dessert in the refectory.

TONY FINAN

40 Years of Teaching and Coaching at Priory



Tony Finan with Abbot Gregory Mohrman, O.S.B., '76 in China

Over the course of his time at Priory, Finan taught many subjects under the social studies umbrella (world and American history, economics, government, electives on foreign policy, and the history of the American West), has coached in every season (football, basketball, track, and lacrosse), has served in the school administration, and mentored generations of students.

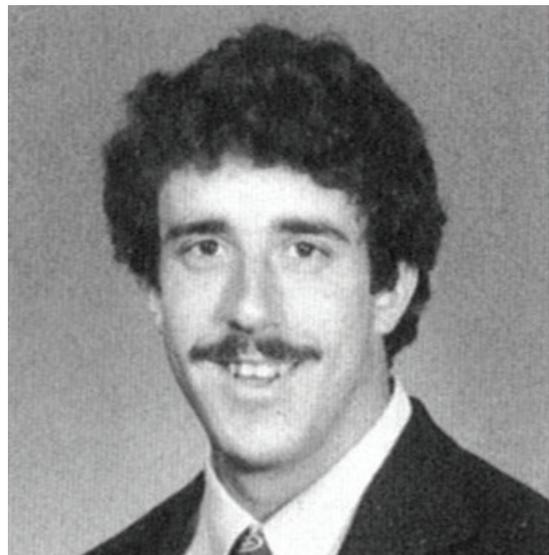
"One of the Benedictine vows and hallmarks is stability, and having lay faculty who remain on our campus for as long as many of our faculty do is a major part of that," says Headmaster Father Cuthbert Elliott, O.S.B., '02. "Our alumni always know the monks will be here when they come back to campus, but they also know there will be faculty members – like Tony – who will also be here when they visit. That's a powerful part of building the community we aspire to be."

In addition to teaching and coaching, Finan became chairman of the history department shortly after he joined the faculty and served as the long-time dean of students. He has been a member of the football coaching staff for his entire tenure at Priory, helping coach teams to numerous conference championships, district playoff appearances, and a state final four.

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the average amount of time an American had spent at his or her job in 2022 was 4.1 years. Priory's longest tenured lay faculty member, Tony Finan, has that average beat by a factor of 10 – the 2022-23 school year is his 40th on campus.

Finan grew up in south St. Louis city, one of three sons of a high school teacher/coach and a homemaker-turned-college counselor. He attended St. Louis University High School and matriculated at Harvard University, where he studied history and played football. After attending graduate school at Notre Dame, where he earned his master's degree in history while working in their athletic department, he returned to St. Louis and was offered a job at Priory. The rest, you might say, is history.

> Tony Finan 1983 yearbook photo



> Tony Finan 2023 yearbook photo

For much of the time, he's served as the varsity team's defensive line coach and defensive coordinator. "Working with students and athletes, seeing their development in high school, then seeing them go on to play college (and in one case, professional) sports or achieve great things professionally – that's just been really rewarding," he says.

Finan was one of the founding coaches of the lacrosse program, something he lists as one of his proudest achievements in the school.

"Marty Combs and I agreed to take it on despite not having a background in the sport, and it still ended up being pretty successful," he says. "We made it to the state semifinal a couple years after the program started, which set Priory up for a state championship a year later. It was a really quick development."

Another accomplishment he describes fondly is helping longtime associate headmaster Joe Gleich establish a partnership with schools in China and Taiwan that ran for a long time before the COVID-19 pandemic.

"When it started, it was kind of a big trend in the U.S. to establish these kinds of programs, based on the idea that the increased economic freedom in China in the 90s would democratize their political system, which unfortunately never panned out," he says. "It was always interesting to bring their students and teachers here to interact with our community, especially since it was visitors from both the mainland and Taiwan. It gave us great opportunities to see the comparisons between the cultures and life experiences." Even though the program has faded over the past few years, Finan



says the connections people made through the program still exist.

One of the things that's led to Finan's long career at Priory is his enjoyment working at the high school level. "There's something about the high school age group that I really like, both in academics and athletics. I enjoy seeing things click for young people, and you can see real development happening at that stage of their lives," he says. "Especially at Priory, where you're working with intelligent kids who want to learn. You can teach at a high level here, and push them pretty hard, and they're capable of taking that on successfully."

Finan and his wife Debbie have been married 35 years and have two daughters and one son, Alex, who graduated from Priory in 2009. In his free time, he enjoys weight training, cooking ("I've been told I make a mean fettuccine with clams"), yardwork, and travel.

He and Debbie have recently gotten into pickleball as its popularity has increased, and he also golfs regularly in the summer with former Priory coaches like Joe Genoni, Rick Suarez, and Mark Marting. "I've had a lot of interesting and talented colleagues over the years. That's one of the best things about working here. Lots of unique characters and incredible people," he says.

Reflecting on his time at Priory, Finan mentioned three particular ways the school fulfills its mission in an exceptional way. "The kids are well prepared for their college studies. The smallness of the place, and the intensity of the program, engender really tight, strong friendships. I see it with my son and his friends, and with a lot of other alums," he says. "And there's a strong moral training here. You're exposed to a value system, and you get a clear sense of right and wrong. There's a clear moral compass from the get-go."

"I've seen just about everything you can see in education. It's been an interesting, rewarding run."

< Coach Finan



Wrapping Up

Celebrating Priory's Sharing the Promise, Shaping the Future Campaign



When the Sharing the Promise, Shaping the Future capital campaign closed on December 31, construction crews were still working hard to complete the renovation, expansion, and updated spaces that enhance how Priory students learn.

The campaign's success has allowed us to fulfill the promise of enriching our science curriculum at the highest level, while also providing additional space to enhance students' overall experience. The renovation of the former Junior School building into an Art and Science Center allows students to benefit from innovative science, research, and design spaces. They will also enjoy renovated common spaces, which will allow them to interact with their brothers, teachers, and monks.

This project has been made possible thanks to the extraordinary support from donors, including the Board of Advisors, alumni, parents, faculty, staff, and foundations.

Priory alumnus Matt Kent '08 has fond memories of his time at Priory. He and his family made a large gift to the campaign through their family foundation. "If you look around at area high schools, you quickly find out that Priory has a lot to offer. One of the biggest things missing was quality facilities. We wanted to make a difference in that area. By updating the facilities, the STEM initiative at Priory is going to be wonderful."

The generous support from donors is allowing Priory to continue our unique educational program well into the future.

"Priory is a premier academic institution in St. Louis," says donor and Priory alumni dad Jerry Kent. "The culture and the commitment of the monks makes Priory a very special place. There's a strong history of graduates that are fine young men who give back to the community."

Drone photos provided by Tyler Witkowski '25





Drone footage of construction



Overhead view of construction



Form I and Form II wing



Form I and Form II commons



Outdoor sundial classroom



Priory's 150-acre campus

Family Foundation Benefits Priory

Providing Educational Opportunities is a Big Focus for Kent Family

The Kent family has a long tradition of giving back to organizations that carry a special meaning for them. Their giving to Priory dates to 2002, when their son Matt began as a Form I student.

Over the years, the Kents have donated to the Priory Fund, supported Xanadu, Jubilee dinners, the annual golf tournament and more. Their tremendous gift to the Sharing the Promise, Shaping the Future capital campaign supports the outdoor amphitheater and students' common spaces, and will be named The Kent Family Student Commons and Plaza.

The spirit of giving is a family affair for the Kents. Each family member has his or her own desire to give back in meaningful ways.

Matt Kent, who graduated from Priory in 2008, said the capital campaign gift came out of his love for Priory. "I had a great experience at Priory. Most of my best friends are from high school. Priory prepared me well for college. The rigorous classes and the thesis program proved to be very beneficial."

Matt attended and graduated from the University of Notre Dame. He met his wife Ana there, and they share a 4-year-old son, David, and a 1-year-old daughter, Julia, and have another baby on the way.

Some of his classes as a freshman at Notre Dame, according to Matt, were basically review. "Father Cassian taught me economics for a trimester. When I got to Notre Dame and took microeconomics, I realized 90 percent of the class had been covered in one trimester at Priory. It was amazing."

On choosing Priory, Matt remembers needing a change when it was time to look for a new school. "I knew I wanted a Catholic school because that's a very important part of my life. I liked that Priory is a small all-boys school with great values and great connections. Attending Notre Dame was always a goal of mine, and I knew that Priory would provide the opportunity to get into a great university."

Matt currently serves as senior vice president of planning and corporate development for both TierPoint and Cequel III. He previously worked at Ernst & Young, and while there earned his CPA license.

Reflecting on his professional career, Matt says he benefited from the rigorous education at Priory. He says his family wants other motivated and talented students to have the opportunity to get a Priory education and benefit from what the school has to offer.

"When they came to us about being a part of the Sharing the Promise campaign, it started out differently than where it ended up," Matt says. "We've watched the evolution. By updating the facilities, the STEM initiative at Priory is going to be wonderful. I also really like the idea of the 7th and 8th graders being under one roof with the high schoolers to foster greater community among the forms."

"I liked that Priory is a small all-boys school **with great values and great connections.**"

– Matt Kent '08



< Matt Kent '08 senior picture

Jerry Kent, Matt's father, considers Priory a special place. "It's an organization that puts out fine young men with great character. However, when you looked at Priory's facilities, they weren't great. The 150-acre campus is impressive, but the facilities - particularly STEM - were falling behind Priory's peers. The capital campaign renovations are helping Priory get back in line with its competitors. We are excited to be a part of upgrading the campus and putting Priory in competitive positioning."

Jerry currently serves as chairman and chief executive officer of both Cequel III, a technology management company he co-founded; and TierPoint, an information technology and data services provider.

He is a pioneer in the telecommunications and technology industries. Jerry began his career as a CPA with Arthur Andersen in 1979, and in 1983 left to head up acquisitions and finance for an upstart cable company. The company was sold in 1991 and Jerry served for an additional year. He then left and co-founded Charter Communications, Inc. in 1993. He led the company to what became the third-largest initial public offering in U.S. history. He later managed Suddenlink Communications, which was the seventh-largest U.S. cable company before it was sold in 2015.

Family Foundation

The Kent Family Foundation supports a wide variety of organizations and includes many educational institutions

> Jerry and Judy Kent

including the University of Notre Dame, Washington University in St. Louis, Saint Louis University, and College of the Holy Cross. The foundation also supports organizations like the Saint Louis Zoo, The Magic House, and Easterseals Midwest.

"The New Testament says that any amount of giving back is important," Jerry says. "It's important to give emotional and financial support to organizations that mean something to you. It is gratifying to be able to provide better opportunities."

Jerry says he and his wife Judy both grew up in the middle class. They feel fortunate to be able to provide support to good causes. "We feel we owe it to the community to give back to local institutions. We believe highly in education. Providing educational opportunities is a big focus for our foundation. We think about how we can better lives. Education is one of the best ways to provide opportunities."

The Kents have had a profound impact on many lives with their donations of time and talent. According to Jerry, it is a duty and privilege to give back.

"Judy put herself through college. Washington University provided me with a partial scholarship, and I took out student loans. As a result, that's probably why much of our giving is tied to providing educational opportunities," says Jerry.



“The tradition of a Catholic, Benedictine education at Priory continues to be possible **because of generous donors like the Kent family.**”

– Father Cassian Koenemann, O.S.B., '97

Roman Dinners

The Kent family has enjoyed getting to know Father Cassian Koenemann, O.S.B., '97 over the years. It all began during Matt's final trimester at Priory.

“I really enjoyed teaching Matt and getting to know him,” says Father Cassian. “Years later, Matt got his parents to buy my festive Roman dinner at Xanadu, then buy it the next year, and it continued. Matt's mom, Judy, invited her mom to the dinner, and, one by one, the Kents chose me to be a part of their lives. The relationships have been as transformative for me as for anyone else. The relationships have grown and deepened over the years, and I truly believe I've not just been chosen, but I've been found.”

The dinner with Father Cassian has become a tradition for the Kent family.

“Father Cassian comes in and his sister Betsy helps. Several Priory students also come,” says Jerry. “It's an all-day affair. It's a total immersion into cooking. We love interacting with Father Cassian. He's a great, grounded man and fun to be around. The Roman dinner is a feast - we look forward to it every year.”

Father Cassian isn't the only monk at Priory who means a lot to the Kent family.

“I had a lot of monks as teachers,” says Matt. “Father Laurence (Kriegshauser, O.S.B.) in particular stands out. I had him for 7th grade English, and at the time I was very introverted. I didn't speak in class or really participate. It was a transition for me. The way he understood my nervousness was so kind and he taught to it. He let me do my own thing and masterfully brought me in. He was an incredible English teacher. I developed my writing skills at Priory, and it was a strength for me in college. He helped propel that. He had such an impact on me that I chose Laurence as my Confirmation name.”

The financial support of donors like the Kent family is invaluable to Priory and the Abbey community.

Father Cassian says, “Their substantial and meaningful gift to the capital campaign will allow students the opportunity to get an exceptional education at Priory in our newly updated state-of-the-art facilities. The tradition of a Catholic, Benedictine education at Priory continues to be possible because of generous donors like the Kent family.”

< The Kent family at daughter Rachel's wedding. From left to right: Jerry Kent, Judy Kent, Rachel Shlien, Daniel Shlien, Ana Kent, David Kent, Julia Kent, and Matt Kent.



SAINT LOUIS ABBEY JOURNAL



MY DEAR FRIENDS,

Greetings to all of you from the monastery!

The monks continue much as always, with their daily round of prayer, work, and community life. You are all very much always in our hearts and in our prayers. We may be getting older, but we are still enjoying the grace that comes from living as Saint Benedict taught us. My own health continues to rebound after my surgery last August, and I have resumed a full round of duties.

As I write this, the winter doldrums may be here in force, but there is the hope of spring on the horizon, and we are preparing for the holy season of Lent, as it prepares us for that great celebration of the Paschal Mystery of Easter.

I make Saint Paul's words my own, as he sums up what all of us monks wish for all of you:

We ask that through perfect wisdom and spiritual understanding you should reach the fullest knowledge of his will, and so be able to lead a life worthy of the Lord, a life acceptable to him in all its aspects, bearing fruit in every kind of good work and growing in knowledge of God, fortified, in accordance with his glorious strength, with all the power to persevere and endure, giving thanks with joy to the Father who has made you able to share the lot of God's holy people and with them inherit the light. (Colossians 1: 9-12)

May God richly bless you all!

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 Families,

The last several months have flown by. We pray they have been fruitful for you. In the season of Advent, the parish held our annual Christmas breakfast with Santa. This event is hosted by our Saint Vincent de Paul Society in appreciation for our generous parishioners who give throughout the year. The Saint Vincent de Paul Society supports neighbors in need throughout the Saint Louis area and beyond assisting with utilities, housing, clothing, toys, food, and spiritual support. Our Saint Vincent de Paul Conference also made special Christmas visits to families in need as they do every year. This additional support allows those families to have Christmas for their families.

In addition to Saint Vincent de Paul, our Acts of Kindness Ministry collected and distributed various items for families in the Ville Neighborhood in north St. Louis. This partnership between Saint Anselm Parish and various houses of faith in the Ville Neighborhood has been a great collaboration for the past several years.

Over the past two years, we have been implementing a new program of catechesis for the children in the parish. The program is called Catechesis of the Good Shepherd or CGS. It was developed by two laywomen from Italy in the 1950s – one of them a scripture scholar and one an expert in the Montessori method of education. They organized a simple yet attractive way of sharing the richness of our Catholic faith to children who can take in the truth, beauty, and goodness of God's love. The program has three levels going through 8th grade. The teaching is done in what is called an "Atrium," which is a contemplative and quiet place where children

learn through interaction with physical objects relating to the faith. CGS puts an emphasis on quiet contemplation in learning and "the enjoyment of God." You're welcome to visit our Atrium in the Parish Center. Please spread the word of this program to family and friends who may be interested!

At Thanksgiving, Youth Ministry hosted their annual Staysgiving dinner. This event takes place the Wednesday before Thanksgiving. Young people from 8th grade and former youth groupers now in college return to be with the community. Each of the young people bring their favorite Thanksgiving side or sweet to share. This year nearly 70 kids attended.

Our youth group also traveled to our nation's Capital for the 50th annual National March for Life. A group of 16 teens, along with trusted chaperones, traveled to Washington, D.C. for this historic year for the pro-life movement. While there was no organized programming this year, there was a great spirit and participation in various activities leading to the march to the Supreme Court.

In January, Youth Ministry, along with parishioners, participated in the SEEK23 Conference downtown at America's Center. SEEK is sponsored by FOCUS, Fellowship of Catholic University Students. This conference takes place in a different host city each year where thousands of mostly young people gather to be strengthened in their Catholic faith. The conference is the only one of its size (more than 17,000 attendees), which looks in depth at the Gospel and helps people to answer Christ's call in every moment. The conference offers prayer, fellowship, inspiration, and entertainment.

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.

Father Aidan McDermott, O.S.B.



< Youth group members of Saint Anselm Parish and St. Clement Parish participate in the Christmas Classic.



Current and former youth group members enjoy Staysgiving.



Father Aidan with Director of Youth Ministry Courtney Rockamann and Tommy Mooney '20 at the SEEK23 Conference



SEEK23 Conference



SEEK23 Conference

IN MEMORIAM

JULY 1, 2022 - JANUARY 31, 2023

Charles Baker, father of Chris Baker '76 and Fritz Baker '78

Josephine Barrale, mother of Joseph Barrale '73 and Vincent Barrale '76

Betty Lou Beckner, wife of former faculty member Dave Beckner, mother of Jeff Beckner '79 and Michael Beckner '89

Roberta Bocko, grandmother of Nicholas Blessing '20

Joseph Brinley Sr., father of Joseph Brinley Jr. '74

Dr. Raymond Buganski, grandfather of Tyler Buganski '12, Jake Buganski '19, and Lucas Buganski '23

Halpin Burke, grandfather of Burke Holmes '08 and Thomas Holmes '16

Velma Burke, step-grandmother of Father Cuthbert '02

Lily Cayabyab, mother of Peter Cayabyab '84 and Paul Cayabyab '99

Rena Conaway, mother of Sean Conaway '78 and Peter Conaway '87

Rose Ann Cusumano, grandmother of Daniel Cusumano '08 and Andrew Cusumano '10

Armida Cruz, grandmother of Max Cruz '08

Patricia D'Agostino, grandmother of Ryan Lavery '23 and Lance Lavery '24

Ann Dames, parishioner

Jim Dodds, former faculty member

Joseph Dubuque II, father of Devoy Dubuque '04, brother of Raymond Dubuque '65, and John Dubuque '68

Colonel John Elliott (Ret.), grandfather of Father Cuthbert '02

Larry Erwin, father of faculty member Doug Erwin and grandfather of Kyle Erwin '27

Mary Ferrick, mother of Jim Ferrick '87, Tim Ferrick '95, grandmother of Jimmy Ferrick '17, and Charlie Ferrick '20

James Fullinwider, former faculty member

Eugene Garrett, grandfather of John Beussink '19

Tom Goedde, father of Thomas Goedde '01 and Paul Goedde '03

Gerard Grewe, grandfather of McCarthy Grewe '11, J.J. Grewe '15, and Gerard Grewe '23

Ann Griesedieck, mother of Eddie Griesedieck '15

Bill Guhman Jr., father of Tim Guhman '99

Philip Hodges, uncle of Father Cassian '97

Elizabeth Holmes, grandmother of Jimmy Holmes '06 and faculty member David Holmes '16

Gage Huesgen '24

Berkley Jones, former faculty member

Katherine Kinsella, Confrater, wife of Confrater Edward Kinsella (deceased), mother of Chris Kinsella '74, Colin Kinsella '79, grandmother of Christopher Kinsella '00, and William Kinsella '02

Dr. Russell Kraeger, father of Robert Kraeger '88 (deceased) and grandfather of Thomas Kraeger '25

Rose Marie Labriola, aunt of Father Francis

Tracey Leiweke '63

Richard Michalski, grandfather of Jeffrey Michalski '15

Teresita Montemayor, grandmother of Yuri Batan '23 and Yrwin Batan '24

Steve Oslica, grandfather of former faculty member Steve Oslica '05

Phillip Otto, parishioner

Dr. Romeo Perez, parishioner

William and Ruth Ann Phipps, grandparents of Joseph Bower '25

Donald Puckett, grandfather of Blake Anselm '15

Timothy Pusateri, father of Phil Pusateri '93

Susan Reese, mother of Stephen Reese '77, Spencer Reese '78, and Scott Reese '85, grandmother of Sam Reese '23,

Dan Richardson '60, Confrater, husband of Confrater Jean Richardson, father of Andrew Richardson '89

Jerry Ritter, parishioner

Ryan Savka, faculty member

Richard Spaid '83

Mary Antoinette Steuby, mother of John Steuby '84, grandmother of Henry Steuby '15, George Steuby '17, Jacob Frazier '28, and Caden Frazier '28

Kathryn Sullivan, mother of Bob Sullivan '08 and Dan Sullivan '08

Catherine Weber, grandmother of Bobby Yanics '25



ON CAMPUS - NEWS BRIEFS

National Merit Scholars

Six members of the Class of 2023 earned recognition in the National Merit Scholarship Program. National Merit Scholars performed in the top percentiles on last year's PSAT. Approximately 16,000 high school seniors nationwide are named as semifinalists, which qualifies them to compete for 7,250 National Merit Scholarships worth nearly \$28 million for the next steps in their education. Pictured left to right:

Yuri Batan, Riley Carlin, Evan Hugge, Michael Mathis (National Indigenous Award Recognition), **Peter Onder, Jalen Riad.**

Environmental Science Field Study

Senior environmental science students embarked on a yearlong field study in conjunction with Litzinger Road Ecology Center. In September, LREC Director Dr. Bob Coulter visited Priory to discuss the upcoming events. In December, Ally Stevens, an architectural and civil engineer project manager, discussed sustainability, environmental impacts of construction, and college and career opportunities (she is a graduate of Missouri University of Science and Technology).

Form I and Form II Retreat

Our 7th and 8th grade students spent several days on retreat at Camp Ondessonk.

Freshmen Retreat

Freshmen enjoyed their class retreat at Babler State Park, taking some time away from the classroom to deepen their friendships, develop leadership skills, and devote time to prayer and reflection.

▼ Freshmen at Babler State Park



National Merit Scholars



Environmental science field study



Form I and Form II retreat





Simon Van Engen '28

Van Engen Named Nussbaum Music Scholarship Recipient

This year's recipient of the Nussbaum Music Scholarship is Form I student **Simon Van Engen**. For his audition piece, Simon played "Etude in A Major" by William Gillock on the piano. The Nussbaum Music Scholarship, established in 1973 by the generosity of St. Louis musician Mrs. Frederick Nussbaum, is awarded annually to one student in Form I.

Growth Outdoors Club

This fall, the Growth Outdoors Club spent the day at Cuivre River State Park and the monks' retreat house at Apple Hill for a day of fish, fire, and fried food.



Growth Outdoors Club

Swigelson Receives Emerson Excellence in Teaching Award

French teacher **Kayce Swigelson** received the Emerson Excellence in Teaching Award. The program, sponsored by Emerson, annually recognizes educators in the St. Louis metropolitan area - from kindergarten teachers to college professors - who are examples of excellence in their field. Students describe Ms. Swigelson as someone who makes others feel seen and who wants to help every student succeed. Her innovative teaching methods send students throughout the buildings and campus on scavenger hunts and give them creative projects for evaluation that are different from their usual quizzes and tests. Her "SwigVisory" is the only advisory on campus with a Nordic theme that's populated with "SwigVikings."

Choral Clinic

High School vocal music students took part in a Choral Clinic with local conductor Kevin McBeth, the director of music and worship at Manchester United Methodist Church. Since 2011, he has directed the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra's IN UNISON Chorus. At an all-school Mass, McBeth conducted the students' performance of "Rejoice! Emmanuel," accompanied by junior **Yrwin Batan '24** on piano.



French teacher Kayce Swigelson

Choral clinic



Collaborative Learning

Priory 8th graders are participating in a collaborative learning project called Crossing Delmar with St. Louis Catholic middle school Loyola Academy of St. Louis. The program brings together students from school communities that would not normally intersect. The program involves poetry writing, team-building activities, and other opportunities for creative expression and fellowship.

Form IV College Seminar

Form IV students used their college seminar time recently in a mock admissions workshop, evaluating applications in small group committees to admit, waitlist, or deny. Admissions representatives from Xavier, Ole Miss, and the University of Illinois were on hand to help guide the sophomores through the application review and decision process. The students experienced what makes a great application, reviewing each mock applicant's transcript, profile, essays, demonstrated interest, letters of recommendation, and more.

Carlin Named Outstanding Student Leader

The St. Louis County Department of Human Services recently named senior **Riley Carlin** an Outstanding Student Leader. In addition to being a member of the varsity soccer and lacrosse teams, he is a member of Youth Leadership St. Louis, the Astronomy Club, Engineering Club, Youth and Government, Spirit Club, Music Club, Neuroscience Club, Private Investing Club, and Coding Club.

Recent Priory Graduates Visit Campus

During winter break, recent alumni came back to campus to speak to Sophomore Seminar. They discussed the college process at Priory, what their application timeline was like, when they started visiting campuses, when they took the ACT, how and if they chose an intended major, and how they handled juggling applications with AP classes, sports, and more. After sharing their stories, they opened it up to a question-and-answer session.

∨ Priory graduates visit campus.



Crossing Delmar program



Form IV College Seminar



Riley Carlin '23



Seniors develop sustainable city models.



Father Ralph Wright, O.S.B., attended Monk Night and met the new Raven mascot.



Director of Equity and Inclusion Jon-Pierre Mitchom pictured with Jadin Redmond '23

Seniors Develop Sustainable City Models

During winter term, senior environmental science students developed sustainable city models. In January, student groups presented and explained their cities and reflected on what they learned in the class.

Monk Night

Priory's varsity basketball game vs. Lutheran North was the second annual "Monk Night," when the team wore black jerseys and the crowd wore black spirit wear in recognition of our Benedictine monks, who were honored guests at the game. Another group of special attendees were our early-decision students for the class of 2029 who joined the varsity team for a shoot-around before the game. The crowd was hyped up by our new Raven mascot who made his debut at the event.

Redmond Honored with Justice Award

Congratulations to senior **Jadin Redmond**, Priory's 2023 recipient of the Archdiocese of St. Louis' Dr. Martin Luther King Model of Justice Award. Redmond and the other local high schoolers who received the award were recognized at a Mass for the Preservation of Peace and Justice at the Cathedral Basilica.

Nowak Chosen for Youth Orchestra

Freshman **Luke Nowak** was selected to be a part of the St. Louis Symphony Youth Orchestra. The group of about 100 young musicians from the bi-state region competes in a blind audition and are chosen by a panel of SLSO musicians. Luke plays percussion and has one remaining concert this year on May 14.

< Luke Nowak '26



ON CAMPUS - FALL SPORTS 2022

Cross Country

When the 2022 cross country season ended, it was not the ending students had hoped for, according to **Evan Hugge '23**. After three months of injuries and frustration, the runners picked themselves up and began preparation for the track season. The season included individual and team successes. In October, the team participated in the Metro League Cross Country Championships at Spanish Lake Park, where they placed third as a team, with three All-Conference finishers including Hugge and juniors **Nick DeHaven** and **Greg Britt**.

The Class 3, District 3 Championships were held in Fulton and the team finished strong. Britt placed 10th in the district and advanced to the state championship in Columbia. At the state meet he ran his heart out to finish in 17:28 despite the bitter cold, setting a new personal best and cementing his place as one of the fastest runners in school history as only a junior.

Football

According to **Jake Parent**, head football coach, "By most accounts, the varsity football season was a successful one. The final record was 7 wins and 4 losses."

The Ravens defeated conference foes John Burroughs, Westminster, and Lutheran South, and shut out three opponents (including the school's first-ever Class 6 opponent in Hazelwood West), won a playoff game for the fifth straight year, and had its fifth consecutive winning season.

Senior **Gerard Grewe** led the team in touchdowns, rushing, and passing, and will finish on Priory's all-time leaderboard in all those categories. Senior **Mark Parent** led the team in tackles. Senior **Jalen Riad** and sophomore **Jack Parent** tied for second in TDs, and both tied for the lead for interceptions; Jack also led the team in receptions and receiving yards. All those players received all-conference honors along with senior **Jacob Willard** (offensive line), junior **Drew Flaherty** (offensive line), senior **Ethan Vernaci** (defensive line), junior **Nolan Glaus** (defensive line), and senior **Michael Mathis** (defensive back).

"But it is the events and experiences behind those numbers and accomplishments that matter the most," says Coach Parent. "The hard work and dedication of the team, parents, and coaches were evident as the team united and rebounded from injuries and the untimely and unfortunate passing of Coach Ryan Savka during the season. The Priory football team this season was a great example of how to overcome adversity and do it the right way: representing Priory, their families, and themselves in the highest manner."





Soccer

The varsity soccer team had its final game against CBC in districts - a very strong opponent, one that Priory soccer has never beaten in its history. "This year, the team played some of the best soccer Priory has ever played against CBC, as we improved from a 6-1 defeat during the regular season to a 3-2 district quarterfinal loss in double overtime," says **Sean Kaveney '26**.

"The effort we gave CBC was the buildup of an entire season of hard work and dedication, and though we had many setbacks, we overcame them and even won the Metro League," says Kaveney. "The leadership of the seniors and captains was one of the main factors for our success. Another was our incredible fan section. In the freezing, icy rain at the league-determining game against Principia, a few students took off their shirts to celebrate a goal we scored. It was actually insane, and if you were there, you would understand that it wasn't rational. But the dedication they had just by showing up was incredible, and the stuff they said inspired us to play better."

"We all came to appreciate how **Coach (John) Mohrmann**, **Coach (Jimmy) Holmes ('06)**, and **Coach (Ryan) Wehking ('08)** really learned each player's strengths and how to use these strengths for the better of the team," Kaveney added. "Coach Mohrmann moved the player's positions around to address the opposition's strategy against Whitfield and Burroughs, and the team really started to gel and play at a high level. To go from our rough start to taking CBC into double overtime is an awesome accomplishment. You have to give the coaching and the seniors the credit they deserve. All in all, it was an incredible season."

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 2023 who were recognized (pictured left to right):

- **Preston Achter:** Tennis, United States Military Academy at West Point
- **Peter Conard:** Rowing, Tufts University
- **Ryan Lavery:** Soccer, Benedictine College
- **Cal L'Hommedieu:** Soccer, Washington University
- **Owen Spore:** Soccer, United States Military Academy at West Point
- **Hutton Trout:** Baseball, Rockhurst University



ADVANCEMENT

The Alumni Mothers' Club, under the leadership of **Mary Catherine Leeker** (Anthony '19), works to keep alumni mothers connected to Priory and the monastery.

Fall Mass and Dinner

Priory Alumni Mothers' Club members enjoyed an evening of fellowship beginning with Mass in the Abbey Church and followed by dinner at the Switzer House. The featured speaker was current and alumni mom, **Kim Weas** (Henry '22, Davis '25).

Parent Christmas Cocktail Party

In cooperation with the Mothers' Club and Fathers' Club, the Alumni Mothers' Club members joined together for delicious food and drinks in December at the Frontenac Hilton.

SAVE THE DATE

Margarita Party

The Alumni Mothers' Club Annual Margarita Party will be held from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. on Friday, June 2 at Rosalitas. 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



Parent Christmas cocktail party



Senior Parent Party

To kick off their sons' senior year, parents from Form VI gathered for the annual Senior Parent Party on the evening of August 20. **Carla Grewe** (Gerard '23) and **Lisa Riad** (Jalen '23) chaired this joyful event, which took place at the Switzer House and included a buffet dinner with live music.

Blazer Sale

Laura Rothery (Eddie '25) and **Carrie Parent** (Luke '20, Mark '23, and Jack '25) chaired another successful Blazer Sale on August 21. Parents were able to purchase gently used blazers that had been passed down from other Priory boys. This year's Blazer Sale took place at the Switzer House on a Sunday afternoon during the Form I Father-Son Washers Tournament.

Labor Day Monks' Dinner

The Mothers' Club Board and event chairs provided a delicious meal to the monks of Saint Louis Abbey on the afternoon of Labor Day, September 5. The dinner was organized and chaired by **Shelly Lane** (Ryan '23), who is the executive vice-president of this year's Mothers' Club.

Fall Mothers' Club Mass and Brunch

Priory moms gathered in St. Anselm's Parish Centre for the Fall Mothers' Club Brunch on October 28. **Mae Roxas** (Matthew '22 and Michael '25) and **Julie Foshage** (Cole '25) chaired this beautiful event, which took place following the all-school Mass.

Junior School Mass and Lunch

On November 19, mothers and sons from Forms I and II spent the afternoon enjoying Mass and lunch together. This traditional event, which was chaired by **Colleen Pim** (Miles '22 and Colin '25), began with Mass in the Abbey Church celebrated by our Form I and II Chaplains, **Father Dominic Lenk, O.S.B.**, and **Father Aidan McDermott, O.S.B.**

Annual Christmas Boutique and Luncheon

This year's Annual Christmas Boutique took place on December 1 and was a holiday extravaganza! This festive event, which was led and organized by **Mary Bower** (Joseph '25) and **Laura Polcyn** (Drake '25), included treats and merchandise from over 30 vendors, a bake sale, and a plant sale to kick start the holiday shopping season. The boutique was well-attended by current and alumni Priory mothers, grandparents, and friends.

Parent Christmas Cocktail Party

Always a memorable way to usher in the holidays, the Mothers' and Fathers' Clubs, in conjunction with the Alumni Mothers' Club, hosted this year's annual Christmas Cocktail Party. Both current and alumni parents attended this fun event, which took place at the Frontenac Hilton on the evening of December 2. Priory parents mixed and mingled while enjoying cocktails and a festive display of appetizers and sweets.

Xanadu 2023 - Roarin' Ravens

The Priory community dressed to the nines in 1920s garb for this year's Xanadu: Roarin' Ravens. The event was graciously chaired by **Lori Willard** (Jacob '23 and Ryan '26). The evening included a speakeasy with blackjack and bourbon, a champagne fountain, and a Gatsby-inspired photo booth. Our community generously rallied together to raise their paddles for new scoreboards for both our indoor and outdoor stadiums for Fund-a-Need. A massive thank you to all who volunteered, attended, or donated to Xanadu.



> Xanadu 2023 chairwoman Lori Willard with her husband Mark and sons Ryan '26 and Jacob '23.





Director of Equity and Inclusion Jon-Pierre Mitchom (JP '28) delivered an inspiring message about raising our Priory sons at the Fall Mothers' Club Luncheon.



Celebrating the Christmas season are Katie Bucklen (Ian '24 and Simon '26) and Sofia Akinyele (Euan-Gabriel '28 and Alastair '26).



Parent Christmas Cocktail Party. Back row left to right: Mary Bower (Joseph '25), Laura Polcyn (Drake '25), and Michelle Petri (Chance '25). Front row left to right: Julie Wagner (Charlie '24, John '20, and Cole '14), Susie Haskell (Dawson '23), and Mariann Witkowski (Tyler '25).



Musical entertainment at the Christmas Boutique with the choral group led by Vocal Music Teacher Stephanie Allee. Pictured left to right with Mrs. Allee are seniors Jacob Willard, Gareth Schuster, Ethan Vernaci, Cole Joyce, Isaac Lee, Dawson Haskell, Michael Mathis, Luke Buganski, and Jadin Redmond, accompanied by juniors Luke Goss and Yrwin Batan at the keyboard.

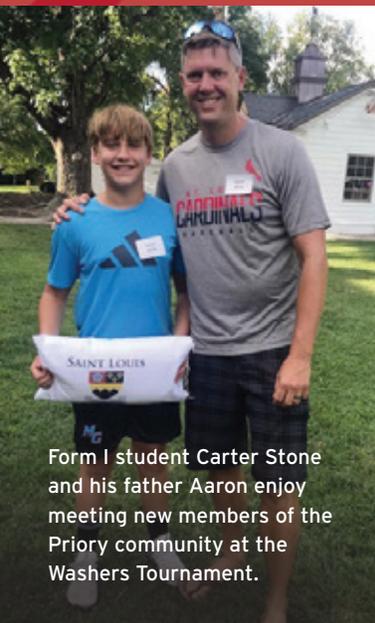
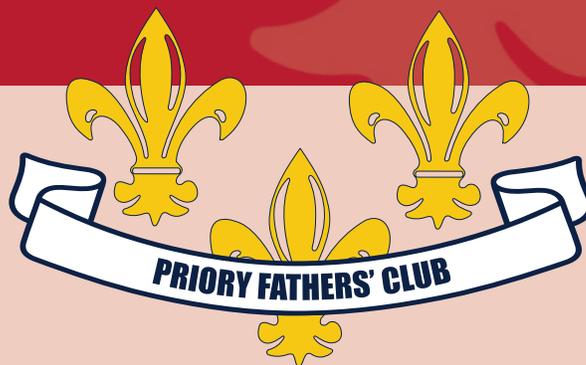


Pictured in front of this year's Senior Tie Quilt at the Christmas Boutique are (left to right): Laura Varley (John '25), Courtney Harrison (William '25 and Andrew '27), Susie Haskell (Dawson '23), and Shelly Lane (Ryan '23).



Priory moms went all out and dressed to the nines in 1920s attire for Xanadu 2023.

ADVANCEMENT



Form I student Carter Stone and his father Aaron enjoy meeting new members of the Priory community at the Washers Tournament.



Abram Van Engen with his son, Form I student Simon, at the Washers Tournament

Washers Tournament

The Class of 2028 was welcomed to campus in August for the annual Fathers' Club Washers Tournament on the Switzer House Lawn.

Welcome Dinner

Priory Fathers' Club held a welcome dinner for all fathers and father figures in September in the Switzer House Dining Hall.

Parent Christmas Cocktail Party

In cooperation with the Mothers' Club and Alumni Mothers' Club, the Fathers' Club hosted a holiday cocktail party in December at the Frontenac Hilton.

Junior School Rec Nights

Fathers' Club hosted two successful Junior School Rec Nights for Form I & II students and their dads. In October, all gathered at the Priory Athletic Center for snacks and games. In January, the crew met at the Missouri Athletic Center for pickleball, then made their way to the varsity hockey game to cheer on the Ravens.



Steve and Carrie Trammell and Heather and Jim Higgins enjoy celebrating the holidays with other Priory parents.

SAVE THE DATE

Father & Son Banquet

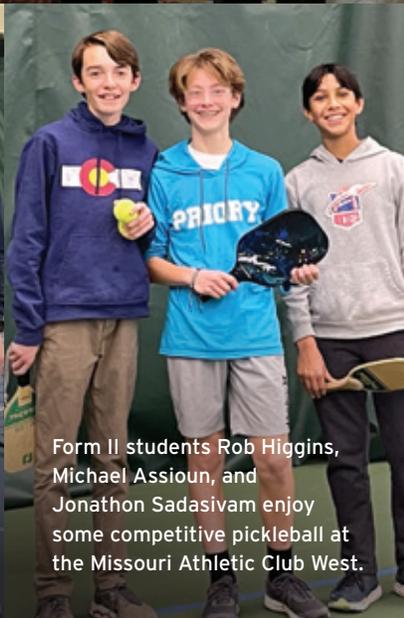
The Fathers' Club Annual Father & Son Banquet will be held from 5 to 10 p.m. on Sunday, April 23 at the Missouri Athletic Club.

Senior Father & Son "Finish Line" BBQ

The Father & Son "Finish Line" BBQ for senior students and their fathers will be held from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, May 16 on the Switzer House Lawn.



Form II students at the Junior School Rec Night. Pictured left to right: Joseph Frei, Jack Milford, and Matthew Goss.



Form II students Rob Higgins, Michael Assioun, and Jonathon Sadasivam enjoy some competitive pickleball at the Missouri Athletic Club West.

AFFILIATES OF THE ABBEY

Would you like to deepen your spiritual connection with the monastic community and learn more about The Rule of Saint Benedict? A group of monastic and lay people have come up with a plan to help achieve this. A leadership group has been formed to provide a formal way for Affiliates to align their prayer life with the monks of Saint Louis Abbey, and to pray for and encourage the growth of vocations to Saint Louis Abbey. We would welcome your participation.

Who can become an Affiliate member? Priory parents, parents of Priory alumni, members of Saint Anselm Parish, and any other friends of Saint Louis Abbey. The Abbot will appoint an Abbey Affiliates Executive Board and work closely with Affiliate members.

We would welcome your involvement! Please email Gene Kalhorn, Confrater, at genekalhorn@gmail.com.

Prayer for Vocations

Sancte Benedicte, monachorum pater.
ora pro nobis Patrem Caelestem.
ut qui a Sancto Spiritu vocantur ut
monachi fiant serviantque
in Sancti Ludovici Abbatis,
eius vocem audiant eiusque vocatui
respondeant.
Per Christum, Dominum nostrum.
Amen.

Saint Benedict, father of monks,
Intercede for us
Before our Father in heaven
That those whom the Spirit is calling
To serve as monks in Saint Louis Abbey
May hear His voice and answer His call.
We ask this through Christ our Lord



SAINT LOUIS
ABBAY

FATHER RALPH, O.S.B.

Ralph Wright was born in Nottinghamshire, England, about 200 yards from Sherwood Forest on October 13, 1938. He was christened David Grant Melville Wright.

David went to high school at Ampleforth College where he won a minor scholarship in Classics to Pembroke College, Oxford. Deciding to spend two years doing his National Service before going to Oxford, he joined the Sherwood Foresters, was commissioned, and spent a year in British Malaya as a platoon commander, partly in the jungle, partly at the base camps. In 1969, he joined the Benedictine Community at Ampleforth Abbey in Yorkshire taking the name Ralph (pronounced Rafe) after the Derbyshire martyr, Ralph Sherwin.

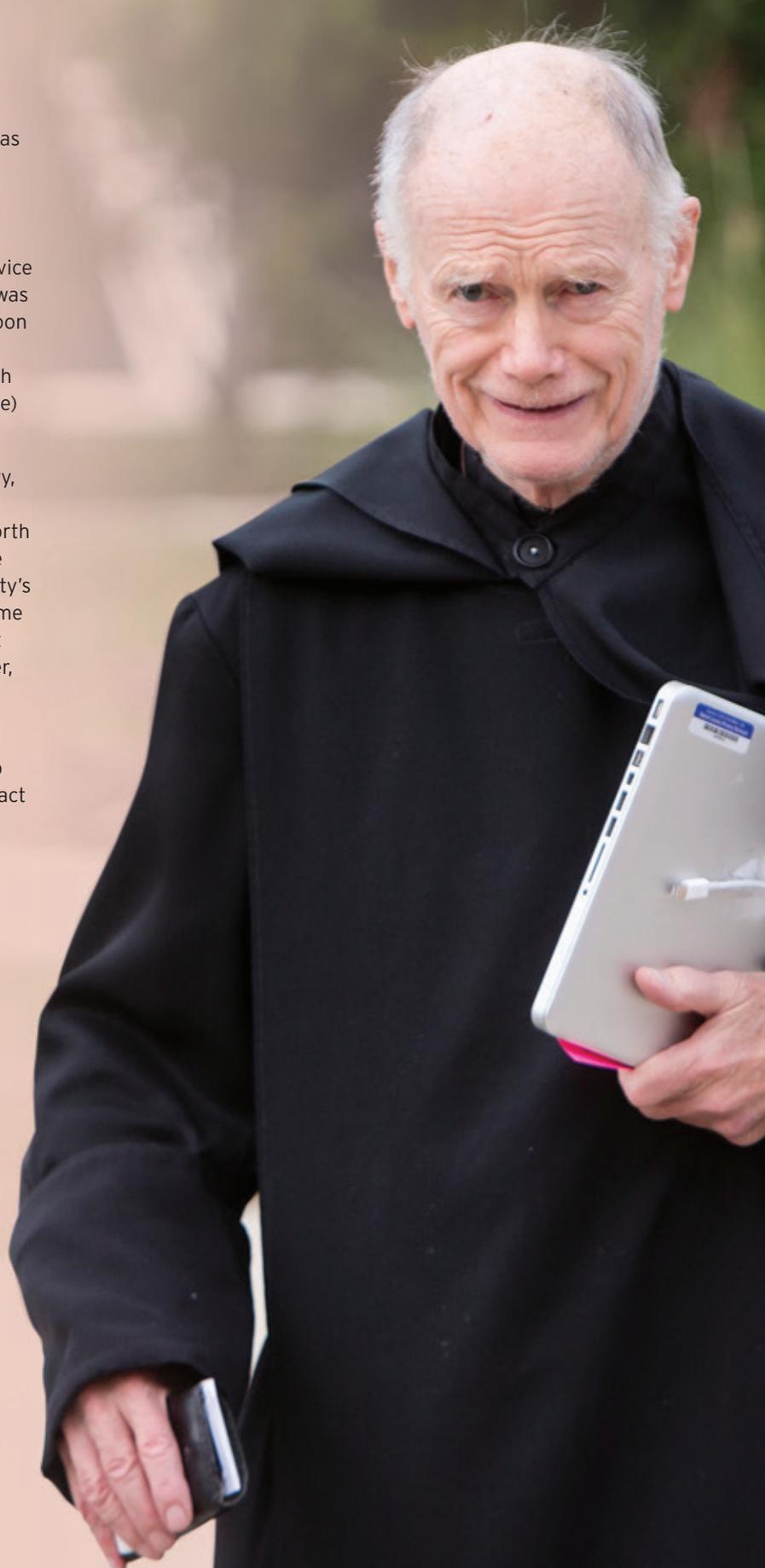
Having completed his BA in Greats (Classics, Ancient History, and Philosophy) at Oxford and his STL in Theology at Fribourg (Switzerland), he was ordained a priest at Ampleforth Abbey on July 5, 1970. A month later, he left England at the Abbot's invitation, to join Saint Louis Priory – the community's foundation in the United States. When the monastery became independent in July 1973, he opted to become a permanent member of the newly independent house. Shortly thereafter, he became an American citizen.

Father Ralph is fondly remembered by so many alumni to whom he taught Latin, Greek, English, and Religion. He also coached running and tennis and coordinated efforts to attract vocations. Additionally, over the years, he was an Advisor, Form Master, and taught Theology and Creative Writing.

Over the years, Father Ralph has published several books of poetry. He has also written and translated many hymns.

Father Ralph continues to write poetry to this day, and we are happy to share one of his poems.

> Father Ralph Wright, O.S.B.





SING IN TRIUMPH OF OUR SAVIOR

By Father Ralph Wright, O.S.B.

Sing in triumph of our Savior
Raise your voices sing with pride,
Of the Gentle One who loves us
And for us was crucified,
Stretched upon the cross in torment,
Healing hatred as He died.

Grieved by Satan's swift deception,
Our creating saving Lord,
Pledged that death should not be final
As the fruit of human fraud,
But that life one day would triumph,
On another tree restored.

Harmony with perfect rhythm
Permeates the balanced plan,
For the Prince of falsehood tumbles—
Meeting truth he cannot stand—
And the weapon that once wounded
Heals within the surgeon's hand.

As the chosen hour of judgement
Struck with lightning's instant flash,
From beyond all time the Godhead,
At the Father's timeless wish,
Came into the womb of Mary
And put on our mortal flesh.

Stirring now He lies restricted
In the cattle manger's hold.
Now His mother binds His body
In the bands against the cold.
So the hands of her Creator
With her linen she enfolds.

Sing of gall, of nails, of spittle,
Sing of sponge and spear and rod,
How the blows of soldiers opened
Wounds within the heart of God,
And the world of pain found healing,
Bathed within the Savior's blood.

See the noble cross resplendent
Standing tall and without peer.

Where, O Tree, have you a rival
In the leaf or fruit you bear?
Sweet the burden, sweet the ransom,
That through iron your branches bear.

Bend your boughs, O Tree, be gentle,
Bring relief to God's own limbs,
Bow in homage to bring comfort
To the gentle King of kings.

Ease the throne where your Creator
Harshly treated, calmly reigns.
For of all the woods and forests
You were chosen out to hold
That fair prize that would win harbor
For a drifting, storm-tossed world,
You whose wood has now been purpled,
By the Lamb's own blood unfurled.

May our praises and our wonder
echo through the heart of light
to the Father who creates us
And the Son whose gentle might
in the Spirit won us freedom
from the grasp of endless night.

ALUMNI

HOMECOMING AND REUNIONS

It was a busy weekend on campus October 14 and 15. Those classes celebrating milestone reunions were welcomed to Mass and a reception on Friday, October 14. They were joined by the monks and faculty. Tours were provided for the newly opened Arts and Science Center, made possible by donations to the Sharing the Promise, Shaping the Future capital campaign. The Alumni Board provided a BBQ lunch for more than 300 alumni, students, and families.

Class of 1962 - 60th reunion. Pictured left to right: Joe von Kaenel, Roger Wells, Linn Bealke, Bob Landy, and John Clarke

The Class of 1976 gathered for a reunion organized by **Dr. Charles Garvin '76** and **Stephen V. Houston '76** to honor **Abbot Gregory Mohrman, O.S.B., '76.**

Pictured left to right: Tom McCarthy III, Alex Furla, Charlie Garvin, Greg Emmenegger, Steve Houston, Mike Molloy, Father Benedict Allin, O.S.B., Ian Sullivan, Father Conor Sullivan (sons of Christopher J. Sullivan, deceased), Mitch Pollvogt, Father Laurence Kriegshauser, O.S.B., Eric Suba, Jim Schier, Abbot Gregory Mohrman, O.S.B., Jim Carter, Emmett McAuliffe Jr., and Mark Gillespie

Class of 1982 reunion, Homecoming weekend:

Front row: John Wilkes, Pete Alhering, and Michael S. O'Leary
Second row: Eric Brauner, Dave Machens, George Neidringhaus IV, Michael T. McDowell '81, Mike Massey, Steve Bagwell, Tim Hartzell, Kevin Fagan, Michael O'Reilly, and Bob Ojascastro
Third Row: Martin Kerckhoff

Class of 1992 reunion. Pictured left to right: Brian Ramey, Pete Edwards, Dean Pollnow, Harlee Sorkin, Gary Almiron, Dave Bealke, John Virtel, Gabe Santa Cruz, Colin Kinney, Steve Unger, and Mike Margiotta

ALUMNI AROUND TOWN

Abbot's Reception in New York City

Each year in early December, members of the Priory community travel to New York City for the annual Abbot's Reception. Held in the Saybrook Room of the Yale Club, and generously sponsored by John Purcell III '87, this event is always well attended and a lot of fun.

SAVE THE DATES

Priory Golf Scramble

Monday, June 19 at Glen Echo Country Club

Pull for Priory Clay Shoot

Friday, September 15 at Strathalbyn Farms Club

Alumni Soccer Game

Friday, September 15 at Priory's Alex Kline Field

Homecoming

Friday, October 6 and Saturday, October 7 versus Alton. We will celebrate the 50th reunion of the first State Championship.

∨ Priory students sing the National Anthem.





BBQ hosted by Alumni Board



Class of 1962



Class of 1976



Class of 1982



Class of 1992



Abbot's Reception in NYC

ALUMNI

Chicago Reception

Thanks to the initiative and generosity of **Michael J. Massey '82**, we were able to visit Chicago as part of our tour of alumni receptions this year. Massey organized a private docent-led tour at The Art Institute of Chicago, and then all gathered at Theo's at the Exchange for dinner and drinks.

In attendance: Father Benedict Allin, O.S.B., Remi Auxenfans '89, Dawn and Jeff Barteau '77, Jeffrey Bebee Jr. '14, Brayton Briggs '14, Paul Davies '14, Father Cuthbert Elliott '02, O.S.B., Lori and Mike Massey '82, Dalton Pollvogt '09 and wife Alexandria Johnson, Drew Sexton '09, and Sandeep Soorya '93

Dallas Reception

Dallas alumni gathered at Sevy's Grill. Even though the alumni gathering was organized at the last minute to coincide with our other business in Dallas, we had a marvelous time and look forward to seeing everyone again next year! Thank you to all who attended.

Pull For Priory

Priory's Alumni Board hosted Pull for Priory, a sporting clays competition once again in September. Proceeds raised from the event benefit the Alumni Endowed Scholarship Fund, which provides tuition assistance for Priory students. The tournament and cocktail reception were held at Strathalbyn Farms in Weldon Springs.

Update on Priory Black Alumni Group

Please join us! We have welcomed many new members and would like to host a colloquium this summer to get together in person, discuss our initiatives and plan of action to support Young Men of Promise, and view Priory's new campus renovations. We welcome your participation. If you are interested in joining this group, please contact co-executives Ken Barry '94 at kenneth_barry@outlook.com or Tony Hilliard '81 at anthonyhilliard@me.com.



Priory alumni tour The Art Institute of Chicago



Dallas Reception

Seated left to right: Director of College Counseling Nikki Hostnik, Charlie Bealke '60, Father Cuthbert Elliott, O.S.B., '02, and Assistant Head of School for Mission Advancement Lise Riet-Lague. Standing: Chris Miskovsky '83 and Elliott Dow '15



Jeff Besselman, DJ Diemer '84, Harvey Fisher, and Jerry Besselman at Pull for Priory

CLASS NOTES

Mark Bahn '67 is still practicing law after 47 years and has enjoyed 45 years of marriage with his wife Paula. Their son Ryan Bahn '00 is an environmental engineer and lives in Denver; daughter Katie is an actuary with Edward Jones and lives a half mile away with their two granddaughters; and son Andrew received a degree in architecture and works as a construction supervisor.

Kenneth Barry '94 came to visit and play basketball with a group of sixth graders from City Academy who were shadowing their Priory hosts. Barry is one of the founding members of the Priory Black Alumni organization and shared his experiences with these young men.



Kyle Flores '16 married Sage Johnson in September. His brother, Kevin Flores '19 and Priory classmate Ian Banks '16 were in the wedding.



John Harris '80 has started a new position as the first Leadership Development Coach for ALLO Communications.



Harris will be developing the leadership coaching program for ALLO's 1,300 employees. The fiber optic company stretches across three states – Nebraska, Colorado, and Arizona. Harris and his wife, Charlene, have been married 36 years and recently welcomed their fourth grandchild.

Nicholas Hellmuth, Ph.D., '62, along with Peter de Smet, recently won the Ig Nobel Prize for art history for their study "A Multidisciplinary Approach to Ritual Enema Scenes on Ancient Maya Pottery." The Ig Nobel Prize is a satiric prize awarded annually since 1991 to celebrate 10 unusual achievements in scientific research. The aim is to honor achievements that first make people laugh, and then make them think. The name of the award is a pun on the Nobel Prize, which it parodies, and on the word ignoble ("not noble"). Hellmuth credits his Priory thesis on Maya archaeology of Palenque ruins of Mexico in helping him get accepted to Harvard.



Bill Henske '89 is a middle school science teacher at Maplewood-Richmond Heights Middle School and was selected as a PolarTREC teacher for the 2020 Antarctic season. PolarTREC is funded by the National Science Foundation to connect educators with polar researchers. The pandemic delayed the trip until December 2022. He is currently in Antarctica.

Thompson Coburn honored longtime partner, Priory alumnus **Stephen Higgins '67**, with the naming of a conference room after his distinguished legal career. Higgins is deceased, but his family was honored to be at the dedication. Shown below are Higgins's wife Carol and their family.



Dr. Corey W. Iqbal '97, medical director of Pediatric and Fetal Surgery for HCA Pediatric Surgical Specialists at Overland Park Regional Medical Center, was named one of Ingram's Top Doctors for the Kansas City region. Only 15 doctors in the Kansas City area are selected annually by their peers to be one of Ingram's Top Doctors.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR TOP DOCTORS

Dr. Jason Eppler Chief of Emergency Medicine and Chief of Staff Research Medical Center	Dr. Corey Iqbal Pediatric and Fetal Health Surgeon Lee's Summit Medical Center Overland Park Regional Medical Center	Dr. Lina O'Brien Colorectal Surgeon Monarch Medical Center

CLASS NOTES

Father Cuthbert Elliott, O.S.B., '02 had the opportunity to visit **Anthony Jones '19** and **Joe Krewet '19** in Dallas while on a trip to visit Priory alumni and Our Lady of Dallas, a Cistercian Abbey and school. Jones and Krewet are seniors at the University of Dallas.



Alex Kline '76 unveils the official recognition board naming the field in his honor at Priory's annual alumni soccer game, a lovely tribute from his wife Ann Winblad.



Stephen Krebs '16 started his own construction company, Stephen Krebs Construction, after years of experience working with designers on kitchen and bathroom remodels as well as commercial work, room additions, and small-scale projects. He also builds custom home gyms for backyards.

Father Dominic Lenk, O.S.B., officiated another Link family wedding in October at the Shrine of St. Joseph. Pictured left to right, **Dr. Drew Link '10**, **Dr. Allan Link '73**, Courtney (Link) Cullom, Father Dominic, Thomas Cullom, **Matt Link '07**, and **Jay Link '04**.



Lucas A. McGartland '14 resides in Encinitas, California, and is pursuing his passion for arts and technology by launching his startup business, Sequence Arts and Technology, Inc., which was founded in 2021 to empower storytellers, creators, and filmmakers all over the world. Today they are focused on building a new way to collaborate on video and looking forward to premiering it soon.

Mark Nagel '92 lives just south of San Francisco with his wife Lauren and daughter Grace. The Nagels both work in technology, chauffeur Grace, and enjoy sports, travel, and being outdoors.



Steve Nangle '67 recently attended the Homecoming reunion weekend with classmates **Mark Bahn '67**, **Bill Dooley '67**, and **Steve Hall '67**. He is still practicing law at the Law Offices of Stephen J. Nangle. He and his wife Pam recently celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary with a trip to Italy. They are blessed with five children, seven grandchildren, and a great grandchild.

Drew Steinhubl '22 returned to campus to visit the monks, faculty, and staff this fall. He is a student at Miami University in Ohio. He is pictured below with Jake Parent, faculty member and head football coach.



Kalyan Tatineny '99 and fiancée Deepa Vasireddy celebrated their nuptials on April 7. One of the masters of ceremony was **Sreekanth Naidu '85**, and two of the groomsmen were alumnus **Dr. Jim Rehm '99** and **Dantin Naidu '27**, who is currently a Form II student at Priory.



Perry Wilkins '05 represents individual and corporate clients in complex commercial disputes and white-collar defense matters at Dowd Bennett, LLP. Prior to that, he was an associate at a leading Washington, D.C., law firm where he represented both plaintiffs and defendants in civil actions, individuals in Department of Justice investigations, and companies under investigation and indictment. He earned his J.D., cum laude, from Harvard Law School, and is active in the St. Louis Community.

In January, Priory alumni participated in a 50+ age group for the U.S. Pond Hockey Championships in Minneapolis. Game play is 4-on-4 with a maximum of eight persons per team, and the tournament is on interconnecting rinks on Lake Nokomis.

Want to join next year? Contact Alex Kline at alex@sfgymshoe.com or Jimmy Carter at jrcarter211@att.net.

Pictured are **Jim Andrews '86** standing, upper left, and **Jim Carter '76** and **Alex Kline '76** kneeling, lower right.



Honoring Priory Military Service Members and Veterans

Ryan M. Burke '02 is a Major in the United States Marine Corps, working as a Judge Advocate General in Legislative Affairs at The Joint Staff for the Washington, D.C., and Baltimore area. He works in National Security, Strategic Planning and Military Advisement, and recently completed his master's degree in Military History at Norwich University. Burke has been married for the past 14 years to Dr. Kathleen Burke and they enjoy raising their twin girls.

Lt. Thatcher Hallock '99 was appointed the Flight Commander of the Emergent Care Center at Joint Base Andrews in Washington, D.C. Hallock is pictured below during a recent deployment in a flight over Kuwait where he was a member of the critical care air transport team.



LTJG George Hamilton '16 is currently deployed on the U.S.S. Seawolf (SSN21), a nuclear, fast-attack submarine with the U.S. Navy. He is a graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy (2020) with a degree in Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering. He is stationed at Naval Base Kitsap, Bremerton, Washington. He graduated from Navy Dive School so that he can also dive outside the deployed submarine as the mission requires.

Max Herr '22 is a member of the ROTC Program at Holy Cross College. In October, he won Midshipman of the Month.



LTJG Charlie Lohmann, '14 attended the Naval Academy. He was the pilot in a ceremonial flyover in the pregame ceremony of the National Football Conference playoff game between Dallas and San Francisco. **Paul Jacobs '03** was at the game in San Francisco. Jacobs was ROTC at the University of Notre Dame, and then became a captain in the Air Force. There was also a brief ceremony later in the game that honored Lohmann and other military personnel.



Wyatt Simmons '22, currently a member of the Army ROTC at Saint Louis University, came back to visit Priory last fall. He is pictured with Vocal Music Teacher **Stephanie Allee** and Director of Writing Center **John Mohrmann**.



If you'd like to submit a **CLASS NOTE** or share your **MILITARY SERVICE**, visit www.priory.org/alumni/submit-a-class-note or email Alumni@priory.org.

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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.

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Saint Louis Priory School Leadership Council

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SAVE THE DATE

MONDAY, JUNE 19, 2023

Glen Echo Country Club
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Hosted by the Alumni Board

Sponsorship opportunities are available. For more information, visit www.priory.org/alumni/golf or contact Lise Riet-Lague at 314.434.3690, ext. 323.



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