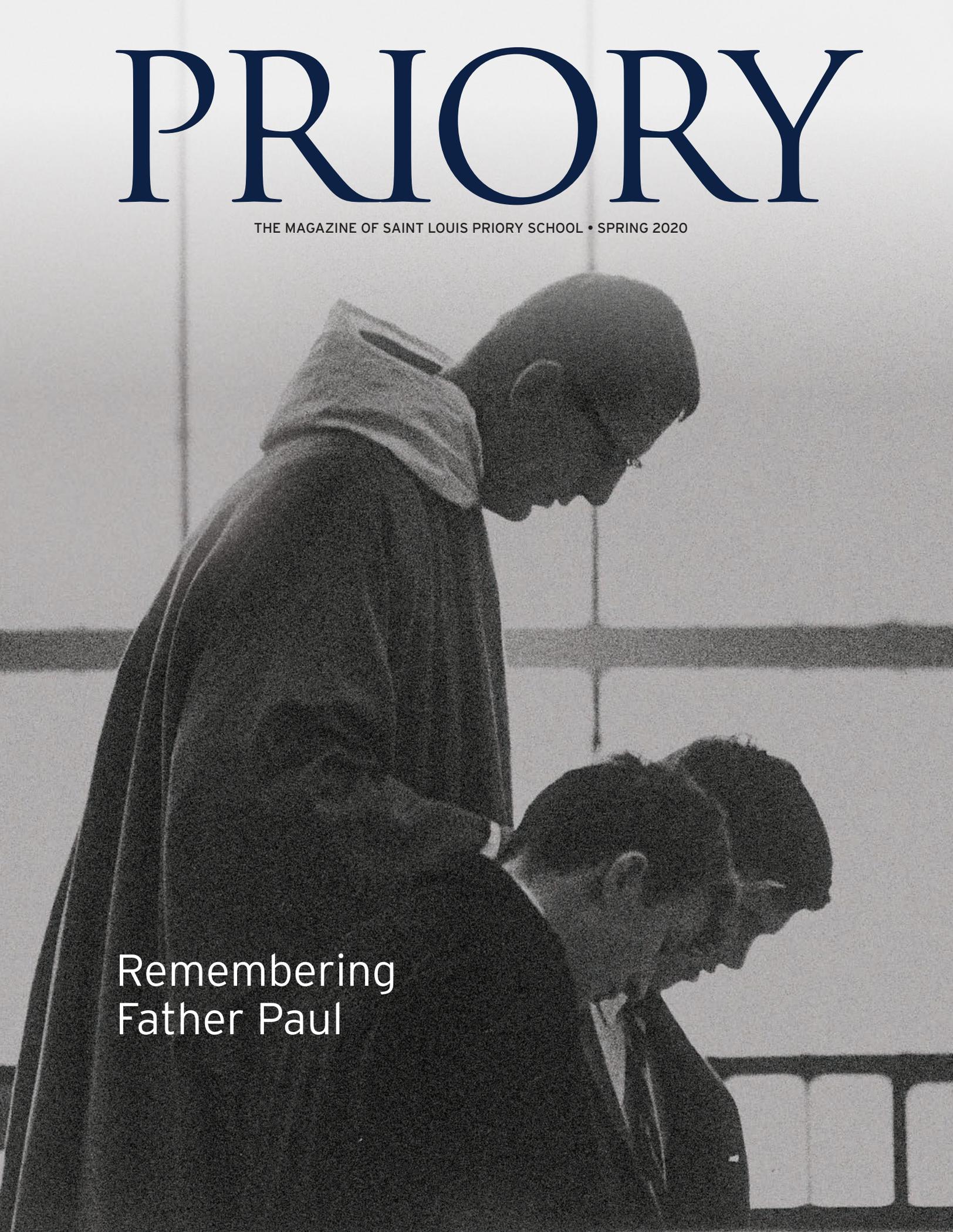


PRIORY

THE MAGAZINE OF SAINT LOUIS PRIORY SCHOOL • SPRING 2020



Remembering
Father Paul



We are so blessed to have unwavering support from so many alumni, parents, alumni parents and friends of the Abbey.

Thank you to those who have reached out with love and concern for the monks, faculty and students.

In true Priory fashion, we have come together as a community during this time of crisis to hold each other up.





Prior Cassian Koenemann, O.S.B., '97 with his theology class enjoying a fall day.

FROM THE HEADMASTER



Dear Friends,

There's an old joke told about monks: "How many monks does it take to change a lightbulb?" The answer is an indignant, "Change?"

The joke is true—up to a point. My brothers and I tend to be resistant to changes in daily life, cautious about trends in society and education, and skeptical of any innovation that appears to be "change for change's sake." It's a trait we share with many of our alumni, who expect the school to maintain familiar customs. Small adjustments to the size and color of the yearbook, modifications to the dress code, and the abolition of demerit cards all require a surprising amount of diplomacy. As for proposals to adjust the sports requirement, they risk all-out war!

The irony, of course, is that change is fundamental to a monk's life, just as it is to the life of every member of the Priory community. Our baptismal promises, which we renew each year at Easter, remind us of our commitment to become more like Christ through the gift of grace and the performance of good works. Monks undertake the vowed life precisely because they want to change, just as our students enter Priory in order to discover their gifts, develop their relationship with God, and discern their vocation in life. We are all together on a similar journey to God, one marked by an awareness of the need to grow in fundamental ways.

As you will see in this edition of the *Priory* magazine, there have been a number of changes here on campus, not least of which the closure of our facilities due to Covid-19. After Spring Break, Dr. Rashford and the Academic Council led our faculty in implementing a new distance learning program for the duration of the Spring Trimester. I hope that you will visit the "Distance Learning Hub" on our school's website to learn more about the program and the outstanding work our teachers and students are doing during this challenging time.

Prior to the arrival of Covid-19, a number of other changes had also occurred that I wouldn't want the virus to obscure. In the monastery, we celebrated the solemn profession of Br. Hugh Goossens and said farewell to our dear friend and mentor, Father Paul Kidner. In the school, our faculty promoted a culture of ongoing formation by establishing committees with different remits for professional growth and program development. At the same time, our students set themselves the goal of growing as servant leaders in every area of student life, and especially in their co-curricular and athletic endeavors.

What makes these changes good—even necessary—is that they support our fundamental mission to promote the love of God and neighbor during even the most difficult circumstances. They are part of a tradition that is living and life-giving because they are rooted in the universal vocation to holiness but take their specific forms from the present needs of our community. I hope that you will take some time to read and celebrate the good things happening here at Priory. Thank you so much for your support as we continue to build a school for the Lord's service.

In Christ,

Father Cuthbert Elliott, O.S.B.
Headmaster

FEATURES



4 His experience as a Priory student helped him develop both his critical thinking skills and his personal passion for serving others.



8 How Priory moved to distance learning in the wake of the unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic.



14 Paying tribute to the beloved Father Paul Kidner, O.S.B.

12 ALUMNI PROFILE

16 FACULTY COMMITTEES

21 SAINT LOUIS ABBEY JOURNAL

25 ON CAMPUS

32 ADVANCEMENT

36 ALUMNI

40 CLASS NOTES



CHRIS KALHORN, M.D.
NEUROSURGERY

FEATURE STORY

Just Because It's Science Doesn't Mean It's Not A Miracle

Dr. Chris Kalhorn '88 Improving Lives Through Deep Brain Stimulation Surgery

If you ask Dr. Chris Kalhorn, a member of Priory's Class of 1988, what he likes most about being a physician, his response demonstrates a level of vocational energy and commitment all patients would hope to hear from their doctor.

"I really think I have the coolest job in the world," he says. "I've always found the central nervous system to be incredibly interesting."

As a board-certified neurosurgeon, an associate professor of neurosurgery, and co-director of the movement disorders program and director of the epilepsy and functional neurosurgery program at MedStar Georgetown University Hospital in Washington, D.C., Kalhorn focuses on the surgical management of epilepsy as well as surgery for movement disorders such as Parkinson's disease.

His experience as a Priory student in the 1980s helped him develop both his critical thinking skills and his personal passion for serving others, Kalhorn says. He cites the influence of Abbot Thomas Frerking, O.S.B., one of his Theology teachers, whom he describes as "probably the most brilliant person I've ever met in my entire life." Abbot Thomas' intellect and deep humility, Kalhorn says, "made such a strong impression on me."

"I really try to apply the Benedictine principle of humility in my practice, with a focus on 'the other,'" he says. "Every patient who comes my way I try to treat with the same level of compassion and care I learned from the monks. It's fair to say their influence on me has really shaped my career."

Chris Kalhorn is the oldest son of Gene and Susan Kalhorn, both of whom were active Priory parents and members of the school's Board of Advisors while Chris '88 and his brothers, Steve '97 and



"Every patient who comes my way I try to treat with the same level of compassion and care I learned from the monks. It's fair to say their influence on me has really shaped my career."

—DR. CHRIS KALHORN '88

Tim '99, were students in the school. In addition, Kalhorn's sister-in-law, Rebecca, chaired Priory's mathematics department and taught in the school for five years. The Kalhorns consider the monks "part of our extended family," Chris says. "They've always been very special to us."

Today, Kalhorn's wife Kay is a middle school science teacher at Saint Anselm's Abbey School in Washington, D.C., which like Saint Louis Abbey and Saint Louis Priory School is a part of the English

continued



Dr. Chris Kalthorn '88 is a board-certified neurosurgeon, an associate professor of neurosurgery, and co-director of the movement disorders program and director of the epilepsy and functional neurosurgery program at MedStar Georgetown University Hospital in Washington, D.C.

Benedictine Congregation. Chris and Kay's son Jack graduated from Saint Anselm's Abbey School, and their son Luke is a sophomore there.

After medical school at Loyola University Chicago, Kalthorn was accepted into an internship and then a residency at Baylor College of Medicine Affiliated Hospitals in Texas. During his neurosurgery residency he was exposed to what then was a relatively new surgical procedure called Deep Brain Stimulation, or DBS. The DBS procedure involves the placement of a medical device called a neurostimulator—a kind of “brain pacemaker”—that sends electrical impulses, through implanted electrodes, to specific targets in the brain for the treatment of movement disorders.

At the conclusion of his residency, Kalthorn had an opportunity to join the medical team at MedStar Georgetown, bringing with him all he had learned about DBS surgery. “At the time, MedStar Georgetown didn't have a program established for movement disorders,” Kalthorn says. “It was a great opportunity to cultivate this program from the ground up.” Kalthorn, who now also serves as a member of the Board of Directors of MedStar Health, is one of just two or three surgeons in the District of Columbia region who regularly perform the DBS procedure. Over the last 18 years, it's a procedure he has performed more than 1,000 times.

Father Augustine Diagnosed with Parkinson's

Since he joined the community in 1995, Father Augustine Wetta, O.S.B., has been one of Saint Louis Abbey's more colorful personalities. In his Priory roles as teacher, chaplain and coach, and through his efforts as a noted author (“Humility Rules: Saint Benedict's 12-Step Guide to Genuine Self Esteem” in 2017 and “The Eighth Arrow” in 2018) and vocation director for Saint Louis Abbey, he has used his sense of humor, quick wit and informal nature to connect personally with all those he meets.

One of Father Augustine's passions is the sport of rugby, which he played for 18 years, into his early-40s. But in 2013, on the morning after a rugby match in which he hit his head on the ground particularly forcefully (“I got dumped on my head,” he says), he sensed a tremor he could not control in his right arm. The occasional shaking did not go away, and a couple of months later he told his doctor about his symptoms. In 2014, Father Augustine was diagnosed with early-onset Parkinson's disease.

A Providential Connection

While receiving treatment from doctors in St. Louis, Father Augustine struggled not only with the tremors in his hand and arm, but also with the side effects of the medications he was prescribed to address his Parkinson's symptoms. In 2015, Gene and Susan Kalthorn suggested he could benefit from a visit to their son, Chris, in Washington, D.C. “His parents were very insistent that I go see him,” Father Augustine recalls.

Father Augustine met with Kalthorn and his colleague, Dr. Fernando Pagan. They decided to continue with medications for a time, but Father Augustine was unable to tolerate the side effects of the medicines. Because typing had become extremely difficult, he began to explore using transcription software on his computer. And last summer, his recreational passion of surfing had become impossible because he did not have enough dexterity in his right arm to paddle correctly. Based on the increasing severity of Father Augustine's symptoms, and because of his challenges tolerating his medications, Pagan recommended DBS surgery.

(Father Augustine never lost his sense of humor. He asked Pagan if, post-surgery, he would be able to play the piano. When Pagan answered affirmatively, Father Augustine replied, “Funny, I couldn't play before....”)

“His tremor is very difficult to treat medically,” Kalthorn affirms. “We weren't doing a good job of knocking it out

Father Augustine Wetta, O.S.B., holds up his right hand during his Deep Brain Stimulation procedure.

with medication alone. He was looking for a better quality of life, and we felt DBS would offer him that opportunity."

Deep Brain Stimulation Surgery

Kalhorn and his surgical team performed the DBS procedure on Father Augustine in September 2019. Father Augustine recalls the moment when Kalhorn entered the surgical suite. "He comes in in his scrubs and gets on his knees and asks me for a blessing. That blew me away...."

"I think sometimes surgeons can treat the body like a machine that needs to be fixed, and treat you like a machine," Father Augustine says. "But boy, he didn't. And his energy radiated throughout the whole team... I'm just really impressed with the holiness...and the humility [of Kalhorn]."

"We really focus at Georgetown on care for the entire person—[we] treat the whole person," Kalhorn says. "[Father Augustine's] surgery felt like coming full circle for me as an alum. This was something I could do to give back to those monks who had given me and my family so much over the years."

The procedure lasted more than five hours, with Father Augustine awake and alert for portions of it. While he was in no pain, he says at one point he could feel the team drilling into his skull. Later, the team asked him to hold out his shaking right hand. As Kalhorn adjusted the implanted electrical stimulation equipment, the tremor in Father Augustine's hand ceased. The surgical team knew the procedure would be a success.

"For me as a surgeon, it's instant gratification," Kalhorn says. Even though he has done the procedure a thousand times, "I never get tired of seeing it."

When the surgery was completed, the surgical team surprised Father Augustine once again. "After the surgery, [Kalhorn] gathered his team around...and he has them sing a hymn," Father Augustine recalls. "It was pretty amazing."

The hymn was "Amazing Grace."

"We actually have a tradition here at Georgetown that we sing that song with our patient at the end of every surgery," Kalhorn notes. He attributes the ritual to another member of his surgical team, anesthesiologist Dr. Dung Quoc Tran, who happens to be Buddhist.



A Scientific Miracle, and Gratitude

Following the surgery and the singing of the hymn, Father Augustine remembers one thing in particular that Kalhorn told him about his procedure: "Just because it's science doesn't mean it's not a miracle." On reflection, Father Augustine agrees: "I do believe it's miraculous and providential. It's also science and coincidence, all at the same time.... There are all kinds of things that go into the making of a miracle."

While he still deals with an occasional tremor in his right hand, today Father Augustine's symptoms continue to be far less severe than they were before the surgery, and the quantity of his required maintenance medications has been reduced significantly as well. He continues to travel to Kalhorn's office for a consultation every two or three months, and his long-term prognosis is good.

As Father Augustine considers Priory's impact on the lives of its alumni, as well as the tremendous blessings he has received thanks to Kalhorn's unique surgical skill, care and compassion, his eyes tear with emotion. "If we had anything to do with helping raise a guy like that...." he says, unable to complete the sentence. "I mean, that's exactly what we want to do here."

For Kalhorn, it's about profound gratitude: "Those monks were critical for my formation into the person I am today," he says. "The values I learned while in that school, I learned those at a critical time, when I was a young man.... Whatever I was able to 'give back' to Father Augustine in terms of the surgery will always pale in comparison to what the monks were able to do for me."

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Going the Distance

Priory Moves Forward Through COVID-19 Pandemic With Distance Learning

“With all due respect, sir, I believe this is going to be our finest hour.”

The iconic line in the movie *Apollo 13* from the actor portraying NASA Flight Director Gene Kranz comes to mind when one hears Priory Headmaster Father Cuthbert Elliott, O.S.B., '02, describe the school's response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

While not minimizing the significant coronavirus-related challenges and disruption for students, parents, faculty and staff over the last several weeks, Father Cuthbert encourages the Priory community to view the experience as an “opportunity for us to reflect upon what's core to our identity, and how to protect it and grow it in new ways.”

“Challenges create resiliency and also promote creativity,” he notes. “We need to make sure we can all stick together as a community.”

Synchronous Distance Learning

The primary way Priory is staying connected as a community in the midst of COVID-19 is through distance learning, using existing digital tools like Google Classroom and MyPriory as well as a streaming video platform called Zoom for synchronous instruction that enables teachers, counselors and other staff to interact with students live, in real time.

Priory's efforts in response to the COVID-19 crisis began at the end of February. At that time, Associate Headmaster Dr. Jared Rashford learned that schools in the state of Washington were moving to online learning, as that state was the first in the country to have to deal with coronavirus. On March 3, Rashford convened a meeting of the school's Academic Council for a preliminary conversation about “what is distance learning going to look like at Priory if we have to go there.”

Shortly thereafter, the school sent an online survey to Priory parents asking two questions: Where will your family be traveling for Spring Break? And, does your student have access to technology at home?

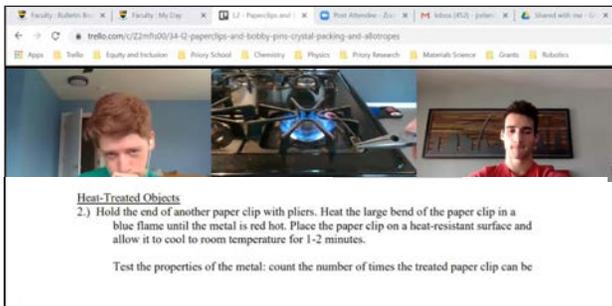
Priory dismissed for its Spring Break on Thursday, March 12. On Sunday, March 15, the City of St. Louis and St. Louis County recommended schools be closed to help the region combat the spread of COVID-19. Father Cuthbert notified families of the school's immediate closure and the suspension of athletic and co-curricular activities, advising them that further information would be forthcoming.

A flurry of online meetings took place in the ensuing days. Saint Louis Abbey's Leadership Council, Priory's Academic Council, individual academic departments, Priory's Chaplaincy team and others all met virtually to plan next steps.

“The focus in the first 48, 72 hours was, ‘Let's get the school moving into the digital realm,’” Father Cuthbert recalls. Several important issues were raised: “How can we continue to offer spiritual support, as well as socio-emotional support, in these pretty crazy times?... How do you deliver content in a way that's still digestible? Because people at home are going to have a lot of stress and anxiety in different degrees as this disease spreads.... How do you assess students in a way that is objective and fair and controlled? That's another challenge.”

“We know that academics are part of the core of what we're about here at Priory,” Rashford affirms. “But the sense of community, the connection with the monks, the overall formation of the students, is equally if not even more important than some of the academic learning.”

Using Zoom, students in Mr. Orlando's Introduction to Materials Science class used home gas stoves to heat treat steel paperclips in order to test the workability and toughness (how many times can the paperclip be bent in the same location without breaking) post-treatment.



Preparing for Launch

The online parent survey indicated a need for about 40 laptop computers to be loaned to students during the school's closure. The laptops quickly were prepared by Priory's IT team of Gabriel Santa Cruz '92 and Derek Ward, whose efforts "really enabled us to ensure that the quality of the experience we are providing is characteristic of a Priory education," Rashford notes.

Santa Cruz and Rashford, stationed at the circular driveway outside the High School, distributed the computers on Sunday, March 22, to families and a few faculty members who requested them—just a day before a stay-at-home order for the City of St. Louis and St. Louis County went into effect.

Spring Break was extended by three days so teachers could adjust lesson plans for the new distance-learning reality. Rashford, describing Priory's faculty as "a great team of professional educators," praised "their flexibility in working together... at a time when, for many of them, for all of us, there's uncertainty.... I think the most challenging thing is the uncertainty."

Monastery Also Adapts

"I'm acutely aware of the great efforts that the Abbot and the Prior have made to really take this situation as an opportunity to work together in a way that we don't often have the opportunity to do. We're usually pulled in a thousand different directions for our work.

"We are now responsible for cleaning everything and cooking all of our food—there's nobody in the monastery except for us. [T]his is something that monks are traditionally supposed to do, but we normally don't have the opportunity. So, this experience of taking care of each other in these fundamental ways, as you would in a regular family, has been a growing experience for us.

"We also have a number of elderly monks [who] we all have to be especially mindful of, in our hygiene and in our distancing, but also in our spiritual and emotional support.

"We're all... aware of how we fit in to helping the whole community and one another get through this crisis.... All these opportunities for fraternal charity are coming through."

—Father Cuthbert Elliott, O.S.B., '02

One of the most significant adjustments for teachers and students was the introduction of a modified class schedule for distance learning. The new daily schedule offers just four 90-minute classes, with each separated by a free half-hour of time. "We wanted to make sure that our students were not in front of a computer for seven-and-a-half hours [every day]," Rashford says, noting that no teachers are using all 90 minutes of a given class period for synchronous lecture.

"Teachers are learning new tools that they may incorporate into their classrooms after this is all over," notes Mike Nickolai '03, Priory's High School Director, who also teaches in the Junior School. "Students are

"Teachers are learning new tools that they may incorporate into their classrooms after this is all over. Students are demonstrating a level of independence that they would not be expected to demonstrate until college. It's an incredible thing."

—MIKE NICKOLAI '03, PRIORY'S HIGH SCHOOL DIRECTOR

Messages to Priory Students

"If there is one thing that gives me strength in this time, it is my experience of the Priory community. Throughout my time as a student and an alumnus of the school, the monks, faculty, and my classmates supported me through a lot of challenging times—tragedies both personal and national. This faith community has provided me stability in unstable times, and it has provided me direction in times when I have felt lost. Benedictine institutions have endured a lot in the past 1,500 years, and I truly believe that this time of crisis will reveal the strength and purpose of this faith community."

—Mike Nickolai '03
Director of the High School

"Even in the midst of challenging situations, God can use you for His glory."

—Jon-Pierre Mitchom
Director of Equity and Inclusion

"Stay calm. Work hard."

—Judy Mohan
Director of the Junior School

"Be safe! Get outside as much as you can and reach out to one another. Check in on people who may be especially lonely."

—Becky Materniak
School Counselor

"We are here for you, we care about you, and we're praying for you. We realize that being apart from friends, your teachers, coaches and Advisors is very difficult right now, and nothing can ever fully replace the shared sense of community that requires being physically present together. But we are committed to do what we can, with the limitations and constraints currently in place for all of our collective well-being, to stay connected and support your continued formation over the next several weeks."

—Dr. Jared Rashford
Associate Headmaster

demonstrating a level of independence that they would not be expected to demonstrate until college. It's an incredible thing."

"Everyone has encountered some bumps in the road—understandably," says Priory teacher and Junior School Director Judy Mohan. "But, overall, showing our true spirit we have shown great resilience, and we are grateful to our parents for their encouragement and patience.... I really miss my students."

Priory Parents Playing A Part

Father Cuthbert expresses gratitude to Priory parents for their support and partnership as the school's changes quickly unfolded. "Take care of yourselves," he encourages parents, "and also do what you can to carve out some time to think about your sons and to be present to them.... [T]he more that you can continue to be a strong support for them, and a sounding board for their anxieties, the better."

Priory School Counselor Becky Materniak agrees: "Adolescents can be especially impacted by loneliness," she says. "This time in their lives is when they are seeking more social approval, independence, and working to establish their own 'tribe,' so-to-speak, outside the family unit. Feeling socially isolated can cause symptoms of anxiety, sadness, low energy and depression."

Materniak says students can benefit from taking on active roles in their own family. "Older kids benefit from having their relationship with their parents evolve in maturity, that they are treated differently than the younger ones." And no matter their age, she says all



Spanish 2 (Form III) students did a Spanish cooking project.

students should find ways to access their peers from home, with appropriate social distancing. "Feeling a sense of camaraderie in all this really boosts spirits."

Jon-Pierre Mitchom, a member of Priory's counseling team who serves as the school's Director of Equity and Inclusion, suggests that because teachers are communicating their distance learning assignments in a variety of ways, parents may want to create a "central hub of sorts at home."

"This could be a large white board, bulletin board or chalk board where the first task of the day is to go through the various [distance learning] platforms to write down everything that needs to be completed for that day," he says. "For parents who work, students can take pictures of their to-do lists and send [these] to their parents, and of course check off items as they are completed."

"Be honest with yourself and with your friends and family about what you're thinking and feeling during this crisis. Don't hesitate to reach out to anyone in this community just to talk about it.... I think that's really important right now. And then, of course, I want to encourage everyone to pray. I think prayer is something that's too easily pushed to the side. But when you feel like you've lost control, sometimes the only way to survive in that situation is to surrender yourself and acknowledge that you really have no control anyway, and put yourself in the presence of God. And let God be your companion in this trial."

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

Mitchom and Materniak affirm that developing a "school routine" at home is important. "If possible, create a separate workspace in the house that is not used for other functions," Materniak advises. "Having a separate work space will help the mind shift from relaxation into 'work mode' and then back."

Continuing to Live Our Mission

"[T]he situation we all find ourselves in is very unexpected," Rashford says, "but we know that we're in it together. I'm grateful for the willingness that everyone has demonstrated to help make the best out of a challenging situation, during a time of increased anxiety and uncertainty."

Father Cuthbert says the COVID-19 pandemic offers the Priory community "an opportunity to reflect on not just the importance of God in our lives, but on the importance of one another. It's also an opportunity to grow in gratitude, to actually give thanks for the good that we take for granted...."

"There's a great potential for [Priory's] mission to come through for all of us in this situation," he says. "Because at the end of the day, that's all we really need in order to be a community. We need that mission to be front-and-center, animating all of our lives and our encounters with each other."

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Priory Community Responds to Coronavirus With Resiliency and Creativity

Here is a partial list of the creative solutions—all launched within the last few weeks—to help maintain Priory's sense of community during the COVID-19 pandemic:

- Priory's Communications team launched a "Coronavirus Resources—Distance Learning Hub" on priory.org, with news updates, an email message archive, a list of event changes and cancellations, links to Academics, Athletics, Chaplaincy and Counseling resources and materials, and other timely information.
- The monks of Saint Louis Abbey now offer a livestream of Masses from the monastery chapel at priory.org/youtube.
- Headmaster Father Cuthbert Elliott, O.S.B., '02 introduced a Saint Louis Priory School podcast, available at priory.org/podcast and via popular podcasting platforms. The podcast is in place of the normal Wednesday student assembly in the Abbey Church. Priory's Chaplaincy team also introduced its own Instagram page.
- Priory's counselors are available to speak with students via the Zoom platform during open office hours on Thursdays, and student Advisories meet virtually via Zoom each week.
- Director of Equity and Inclusion Jon-Pierre Mitchom and School Counselor Becky Materniak introduced "Talk It Out TNT (Tuesdays 'n Thursdays)," with a student wellness video or podcast each Tuesday and topics for parent wellness each Thursday—all linked from the Counseling/Wellness tab on the Distance Learning Hub on priory.org.
- Priory's College Counseling department launched its own resource page on the Distance Learning Hub to share information with parents and students regarding AP exams and updates about ACT and SAT test dates.
- A digital version of Priory's student newspaper, *The Record*, now can be found on the Priory website.
- Coach Phil Brotherton is sharing weekly at-home workouts on the Distance Learning Hub to help students stay physically fit by doing daily exercises at home that require no special equipment.
- Students now can participate in weekly Lectio Divina through the Zoom streaming video platform.
- Father Cuthbert and Abbot Gregory sent video messages to Priory's alumni community, sharing an update on campus developments, requesting their prayers and offering prayers for alumni and their families.
- Doing its best to continue a long Priory tradition, the Fathers' Club held a "virtual" Father and Son Brunch on April 5. The online portion of the event began with Palm Sunday Mass celebrated by Abbot Gregory Mohrman, O.S.B., '76, livestreamed from the monastery chapel, followed by speakers addressing the community online, similar to the structure of the annual in-person event. After the event, the Fathers' Club shared photos of fathers and sons eating brunch in their homes.

ALUMNI PROFILE

The Shaping of a Leader



Born in Chicago, Geoff Hoffmann '99 moved to St. Louis and enrolled at Saint Louis Priory School about halfway through his freshman year. For many teens, the transition would have been difficult. But Hoffmann quickly joined the school's baseball team and made friends immediately.

"Priory created such a welcoming atmosphere from the beginning so I never felt like the new kid," he says. "Everyone went out of their way to make me feel part of the community right away."

A gifted athlete, Hoffmann went on to become captain of his baseball, football, and basketball teams at Priory.

Today, he uses leadership skills that were nurtured at Priory as the CEO of DHR International, one of the world's largest executive search firms, headquartered in Chicago.

"Priory was a safe place that helped shape the leadership skills I use today," Hoffmann says. "I didn't do everything right at Priory but the school created an environment that allowed us to make mistakes and to learn from them."

He cites an example of an impactful leadership learning experience when he was captain and quarterback of the football team. He says he took an authoritative approach with a teammate that didn't go well. "I remember clearly the co-captain taking me aside and reminding me that my teammates won't respond well to an authoritative style and that I could be much more effective leading by actions. It really resonated with me and was a huge life lesson that influenced how I manage today. Our company has thrived on a servant-leader based management style where people earn leadership opportunities through performance and respect."

Developing the Next Generation of Well-rounded Leaders

Hoffmann and his wife, Megan, are building a team of their own in Chicago with four boys, ages 10, 9, 7 and 4. Being a father has heightened Hoffmann's appreciation for his experience at Priory.

"Priory nurtured a well-rounded approach to life where we were encouraged to try our best to be a pillar in faith, family and community," he says. "They are all important facets for developing young men who are successful leaders in the community. You can't sacrifice one for the other. That message can often be lost today with so much emphasis on specialization."

Hoffmann says the core principles he learned at Priory have served as the foundation for how he lives his life.



While he is immersed in his business and his boys' busy hockey team schedules, Hoffmann still carves out time to give back to his community. He and his wife have chaired various galas in the Chicago area and support several organizations, including the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF), a cause near to their hearts. Their oldest son was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes when he was 7.

Hoffmann says the example of service was set at Priory through his community service projects and by his parents. Soon after the family moved to St. Louis, Hoffmann's mother, Jerri, co-chaired Xanadu, the school's annual fundraiser, and remained involved while her sons Geoff and Greg were Priory students.

The warmth Hoffmann's family felt from Priory from the beginning made a lasting impression. Today, he incorporates the welcoming spirit of Priory into his business.

"Just as I was warmly welcomed at Priory, we make sure we've built an environment of openness, inclusiveness, and community for new team members at DHR," he says. "We work hard to make people feel valued and to break down barriers so they feel part of the team."

Capitalizing on the Value of Teamwork

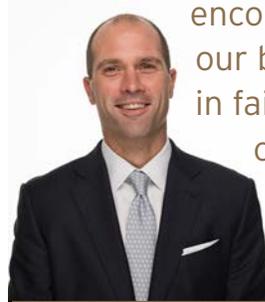
After high school, Hoffmann pursued finance, entrepreneurship and economics at Miami University of Ohio. He later earned an MBA in finance and accounting at the University of Chicago.

He recognizes how well Priory's challenging academics prepared him for college. "The rigor and expectations at Priory made college a piece of cake."

After college, Hoffmann spent two years in private equity at a company in Chicago before joining his father, David Hoffmann, at DHR. Since he has been with the company, he jokes that he has had every job title except CFO. Hoffmann became CEO of DHR in 2012.

"The experiences in various jobs were critical for my development as an executive to relate to the team and clients and understand the pressures they're experiencing," he says. "It's an interesting

"Priory nurtured a well-rounded approach to life where we were encouraged to try our best to be a pillar in faith, family and community."



—GEOFF HOFFMANN '99

business with a lot of complexities and strategies to help companies attract and retain the best executives in the world in order to drive their strategies."

Today, DHR has offices in 50 cities and 19 countries. Hoffmann led the company's international expansion beginning in 2005 and credits teamwork for the company's success.

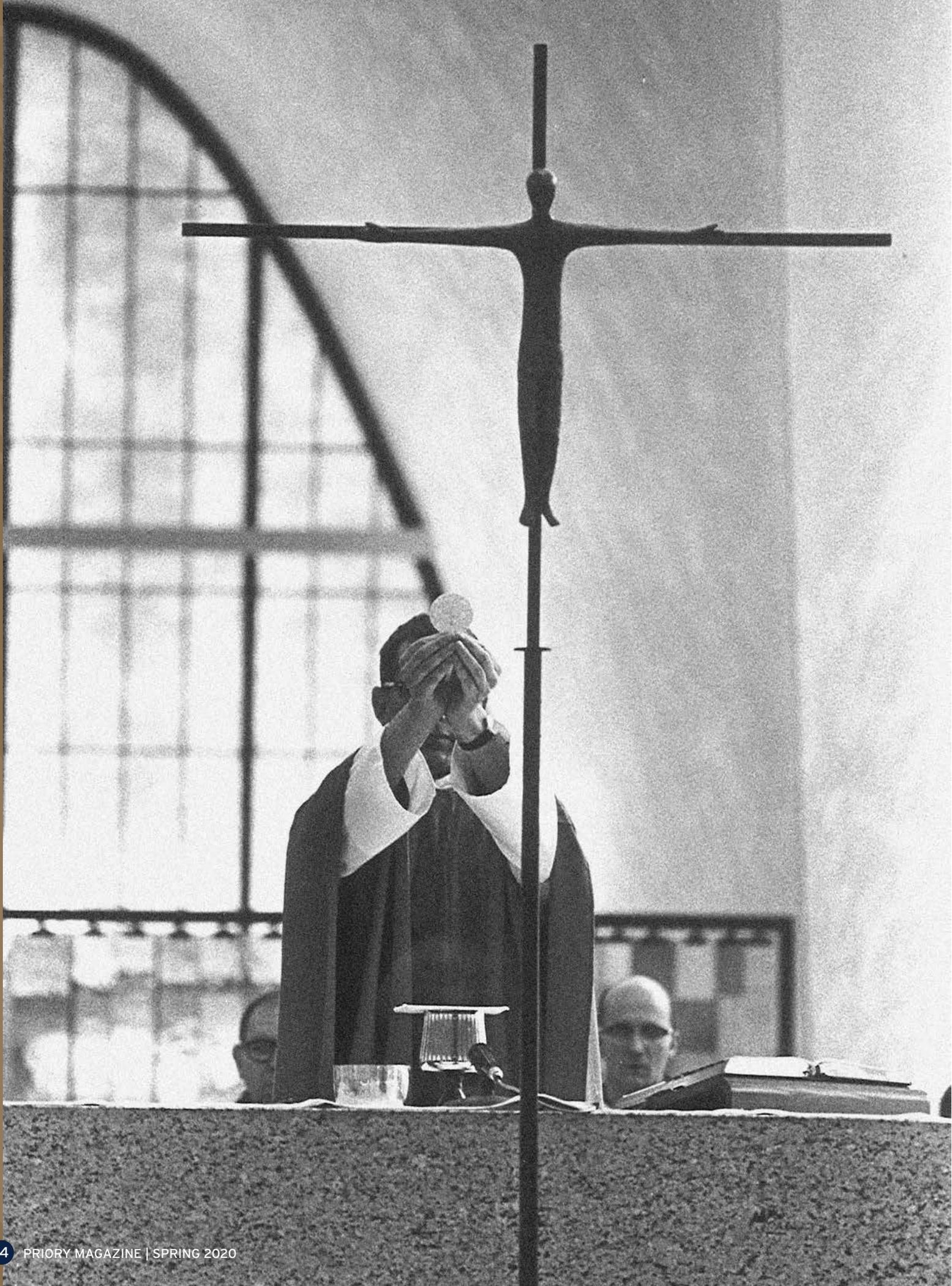
He says he learned the importance of teamwork through his Priory athletic experience, which also taught him valuable leadership lessons he applies every day.

"By being part of sports teams at Priory where we built such camaraderie, I learned that the dynamic of the team propels an organization. Understanding the composition of a team and how to foster an environment where everyone feels valued and empowered is essential for any business to thrive."

Stretching for Success

His advice for his own sons—and the students at Priory today—is "to stretch to understand who you are as an individual and a leader in an environment where it's OK to make mistakes." He also recommends taking advantage of opportunities to be uncomfortable.

"People at Priory all want to see each other succeed," Hoffmann adds. "Priory encouraged all of us to develop our full potential and shaped a well-rounded approach to life, which is near and dear to my wife and me and how we're raising our children."



IN MEMORY OF

Father Paul

Homily by Abbot Gregory Mohrman, O.S.B., '76
From Father Paul's Funeral Mass



When I was a senior in high school here at Priory, I took Father Paul's Calculus class, and when we were particularly rambunctious on a given day, he would call us puerile. We found that puerile means immature or slightly silly. But if you look at its roots, it simply means boyish or a boy. We were being boys like boys should be. But the real boy was Father Paul. He was puerile to the core, but in the best sense of that word. Father Paul throughout his life, at least throughout the life I knew that was pretty much of it, had a kind of childlike simplicity. That was manifested most of all by the way Father Paul took delight in things. Father Paul delighted in cookies and sudoku. He delighted in teaching students about math. He delighted in catching salmon in Alaska. He delighted in taking float trips on the Huzzah River. And second to the most of all, he delighted in teaching students, in being with them, in caring for them in his own unique way. But most of all, he did delight in the Lord. And the thing about Father Paul's faith is that being puerile that he was, his faith in God was very simple and in the best sense of that word. It was uncomplicated. I think to Father Paul the Lord was as obvious a reality as an equation because he did remark from time to time how he found God in the beauty and complexity and simplicity of mathematics. So Father Paul had this very simple kind of faith that led him through his life. A life that was filled with great opportunities and challenges as well as great responsibility. Yet through it all he had an equanimity of spirit that really displayed this simple and humble faith and trust in God. That first reading spoke of it when the writer of the Book of Lamentations tells us it is good to wait on the Lord. Father Paul had to wait quite a time. And it was a burden for him. But he was always through that burden, at the deepest level of his being—serene. Trusting that God would take him when God was ready, Father Paul very much wanted to die here at home with his brethren. He came back from the hospital at 5 o'clock on Friday evening and he had gone to the Lord by 5:30 the next morning.

Once he was home, he didn't waste any time. Though I have a sneaking suspicion that another reason was why he didn't want us to spend money on a second shift of caregiving. What was his faith that Father Paul had? It's rooted in his patron St. Paul. Father Paul knew St. Paul's writings well. And he was very intent to live out the core of what St. Paul teaches us. Salvation is a pure gift. It is a grace given to a person by God that no one can work for, achieve or add anything to. One can simply receive it. Father Paul did that. And his whole life was simply the living out of the implications of that gift that he had received. His living out of the gift made him methodical, dependable and utterly certain that he could not achieve his own salvation. But he could hope without a shadow of a doubt that God would. And that was Father Paul's greatest gift to his students, to the many friends he had and his brethren. So today as we come together to offer this funeral Mass on behalf of his soul let us emulate his simplicity of faith, rock solid but very simple, trusting that the Lord who promises salvation to all has promised it to Father Paul. And God always keeps his word.



“As with everyone, I was much saddened to hear of the passing of Father Paul. Great, great man. He taught me calculus back in the day, held me to higher standards than I might have held for myself, and was a tremendous teacher.” —MATT HOGAN '78



Faculty Committees Consider Ways to Make Priory Even Better

By Dr. Jared Rashford, Associate Headmaster

Results from a number of recent constituent surveys affirm Saint Louis Priory School's mission of providing a college preparatory education of the highest excellence. Parents, alumni, and current students recognize the value of a comprehensive, liberal arts program of study informed by the teachings of the Catholic Church and the charisma of the Benedictine order. Everything that we aspire to do at Priory on behalf of our students is realized only through the dedication and ongoing work of our faculty and staff. The teachers, coaches, advisors, and support staff that engage with our young men daily are integral to the lived experience of our students at Priory.

In an effort to engage faculty and staff in critical discussions and decision-making related to overall school operations, we implemented a Faculty Committee program for the 2019-2020 academic year. The function of the committees was, in part, to address and respond to a number of recommendations from last year's accreditation report as well as to align the work of faculty and staff with the school's annual priorities. To that end, we selected the following four topic areas for this year's committee work:

Student Formation and Leadership, The Junior School Experience, Equity and Inclusion, and Technology Integration.

All faculty and staff participated in an 'unconference' session of their choice during one of the August professional days before the start of classes. Administrators followed up with brief conversations with individuals interested in continuing to work with a respective committee throughout the year. The resulting membership in the four committees consisted of teaching faculty from all five academic departments and a number of faculty and staff from various administrative offices including admissions, athletics, college counseling, and technology. The groups meet monthly, gather and discuss information pertaining to their area of focus, report out to the larger faculty and staff community, and make recommendations to the school's leadership team regarding developments or enhancements to our program. In this issue of *Priory Magazine*, we're excited to share with the broader community the important work that our inaugural Faculty Committees have undertaken over the last few months.

Technology Committee

By Ann Schaefer, Department of Visual and Performing Arts

Members from all academic departments comprise the faculty technology committee, which has met throughout the year to review ISACS recommendations, determine the data needed to provide informed responses, solicit that data, and report our findings to the faculty and administration. ISACS recommendations cover issues related to hardware, software, facilities, technology use in the classroom, and long-term planning. In addition to ISACS recommendations, the committee aims to understand how our community uses technology now, and how technology might further support our mission in the future.

Faculty participated in a survey on their use of Learning Management Systems, i.e. Google Classroom; how and with what frequency they use technology in the classroom; and how this varies with the grade and subject they are teaching. Faculty were also invited to offer feedback on what supports and impedes their use of technology. Following on ISACS and faculty interest in an additional lab, the committee discovered multiple factors—other than lab availability—contribute to a teacher's use of computers in class. Investigation of options for supporting faculty choice regarding the use of technology in their teaching continues.

Looking ahead, a five-year technology plan and a network traffic analysis are in the works. Upon completion, they will be sent to the administration for their input, and then shared with the faculty. Other discussion topics in the coming months include how to integrate classroom technology use with ongoing professional development, and the pros and cons of 1-to-1 learning environments.

Junior School Committee

By Judy Mohan, Junior School Director

At the beginning of the summer, we cleaned house in the Junior School. We took a hard look at how we were using our space and thought about how we might adapt or revamp so as to reflect and cultivate the interests of 7th and 8th grade boys. The results? A basketball court behind the school, a display of calligraphy projects, a library in the former loft area, an outdoor classroom, and a display in the Commons that features our Benedictine values. Beyond the experiential enhancements, the growth of clubs and activities has been exciting this year. These clubs are specific to this age group, ranging from silly Minute-to-Win-It challenges on Halloween and our Rock/Paper/Scissors duels to our newly developed Honor Court and Outdoors Club. These activities serve to build community and to strengthen our already robust programming for the Junior School students, especially our attention to their formation through our Tutoria and Advisory programs. Moving forward, we hope to create additional formative clubs that will prepare our students for leadership positions in the High School. For instance, currently Mr. Bander, as moderator of STUCO, assists the boys in developing public speaking and organizational skills. We hope to expand that programming so that it might include a Junior School Pro-Life Club, Scholar Bowl, and Diversity Club. We, in the Junior School, are on the move as we elevate the Junior School Experience.



The Faculty Equity and Inclusion Committee hosted a lunch-and-learn event with UMSL Professor Dr. Terry Jones. The topic was, "Racial Disparity in St. Louis: Why It Persists and Why It Matters."

Equity and Inclusion Committee

By Jon-Pierre Mitchom, MAC, L.P.C., Director of Equity and Inclusion

In addition to the Parent Equity and Inclusion Committee (PEIC), we also have a revamped, re-energized Faculty Equity and Inclusion Committee whose mission is similar to the PEIC charter except from an internal-facing school perspective. Though separate entities, there are opportunities for overlap and collaboration between the faculty committee and the PEIC. A project of note for the Faculty Equity and Inclusion Committee centers around designing meaningful learning experiences for faculty and staff related to equity and inclusion issues. To this end, we've been fortunate to invite to our campus three prominent university professors speaking on a range of topics from the importance of Catholic education amidst the shifting landscape of public and private school education to the racial disparities that exist and persist in our region. These type of experiences have been enriching to our entire community and will continue as both committees engage in ongoing planning of future experiences with varied formats and topics.

Student Formation and Leadership Committee

By Mike Nickolai '03, High School Director

The faculty committee on student formation and leadership has met throughout the year to take a close look at how Priory forms students and fosters young leaders.

An immediate area of focus for this committee was reimagining the Student Honor Court. In previous years, the Student Honor Court was an elected body that only convened in a judicial role for a disciplinary hearing. This year the faculty committee created an application process for the Student Honor Court and then did a committee review of each application before determining the membership of the Student Honor Court. Once the membership was determined, the faculty committee met with the Student Honor Court on several occasions for formative meetings. The purpose of these meetings was to not only train the students for hearings, but to also have broader conversations about the Honor Code and how to promote it more actively on campus.

The committee also helped coordinate some new leadership development programming. In October, we hosted a leadership retreat for a group of student leaders that included the Student Council, sports captains, club leaders, and more. It was a powerful day in which students came together to discuss leadership and envision an ideal Priory



The Servant Leadership Institute sponsored by the Mothers' Club had its first speaker event in the High School. Ron Huelsmann, father of Jeremy '94 and Joel '94, gave a talk, "A Life of Servant Leadership."

campus and community. The committee has also worked to launch the Servant Leadership Institute, which is being funded by the Mothers' Club. The goal of this institute is to develop servant leaders through a program of monthly guest speakers and service opportunities. This institute will allow for our students to gain wisdom, serve others, and develop practical leadership skills.

The ongoing work of this faculty committee will be to come to a better understanding of what formation means at Priory. We are working to create a comprehensive profile of a Priory student and Priory graduate. What type of young men do we hope to graduate after six years of formation in this community? The answer to that question will help guide us as we work to develop formation initiatives in the coming years.

Learning About Leadership

Students Reflect on How Their Experiences Tie Real-world Practices to Benedictine Values

The preceding article about this year's faculty committees addressed the focus area of formation and leadership. Part of that committee's charge is developing new programming for leadership development, but also to examine practices we already have in place that we can build off of in the future. Three of our students—two seniors, one junior—have written here about their leadership opportunities in the school.

“They made me feel so at home”

Tutoria helps bridge the gap between the Junior School and High School experiences

By Joe Hunt '20

Even though Tuesday mornings can be late starts for everyone in the High School, they are a great time for establishing a sense of community and brotherhood on campus because of Tutoria. Tutoria is a dedicated time for High School students to lead Junior School students in the practice of lectio divina, along with games and conversations about the younger students' experiences at Priory. It's the perfect balance between sports and prayer incorporated into Priory's Junior School curriculum, and is something I believe makes Priory stand out among high schools in the area. When we take part in Tutoria, we are aiming to strengthen not only the relationship between us and the Junior Schoolers, but between us and God as well.

I knew that I wanted to get involved in Tutoria as a High Schooler just a few weeks into 7th grade. I came from a very small

elementary school, and only knew a couple of kids coming into my first year. However, after my first trimester came to a close, the leaders of my Tutoria group made me feel so at home. It made me excited to see and hang out with them every Tuesday.



This year I have been working with Ben Glarner '20, Brennan Spellman '20, and Dominic Kraus '20 as Tutoria leaders. Our goals have been to focus on the spiritual aspect of tutoria, by organizing special service days for tutors to take part in, and a Tutoria retreat sometime in the Spring.

There are so many great opportunities to develop leadership skills at Priory. Besides Tutoria, I also participate in the Guild of St. Columkille, and play varsity soccer. With the countless leadership opportunities at Priory, every student can choose their own path towards success.

“We aim to help our peers achieve their full potential”

Revamped Honor Court looks to lead by example

By David Mohrmann '21

At Priory, a Catholic school, each student should strive to live in the way Jesus modeled, and this includes living with both honor and integrity in all areas of life. A student's honesty about himself and in relationships with others are the very values that form the foundation of Priory. Perhaps the most important statement in the school's Honor Code is that the "community depends on each person's honesty if it is to develop a sense of trust and openness." This means that to live in a true brotherhood in Christ, each student must make an effort to be true to himself and to his peers. Priory should be a place where each member of the community feels loved and trusted. This begins with the way everyone treats each other with honor and respect. The Honor Court is one of the mechanisms in the school that encourages this system, and for this reason it is important.



As a group, we aim to help our peers achieve their full potential as a student at Priory. The members of the Honor Court do not merely seek to punish those who have violated the Honor Code, but instead seek to lead as examples of honor and integrity in all areas of life—in the hallways, in classrooms, on sports teams, and in all other areas of life. By trying to live with honor and integrity, the members of the Honor Court hope to inspire others to act positively and create a model for others to follow that will lead to an environment of openness, truth, and goodness.

We have met various times throughout the year to discuss sample cases which are similar to those which would concern the Honor Court to determine how we would best proceed with such examples. In these meetings

we have also discussed different ways of leadership and service which can help to better our community and ways we can act which model honor and integrity in all aspects of Priory life. One memorable experience the Honor Court has taken part in is the "Change Starts with Me" leadership workshop put on by the Megan Meier Foundation. This workshop addressed destructive social issues such as bullying, and helped to spread awareness and to educate and empower youth leaders to fight against these issues within their own communities. For this program, we traveled to Maryville University and dedicated the first half of the day to small group discussions and activities with students from other schools in which we explored topics including

bullying, peer-advocacy, inclusion, and empathy, among others. The afternoon session focused on the group from our school and brainstormed initiatives to develop a more positive, inclusive environment in our school. In addition, we have participated in various leadership programs such as the Student Leadership Retreat, which took place at Priory and has helped us to embrace roles as servant leaders and to present new ways that can help with leadership. On this day, various student leaders on campus met to discuss how we can be servant leaders in ways that help better the community.

There is no one individual member of the Honor Court, or in the school, that single-handedly makes the school better, but it is a joint effort that leads to this great community. As others look around at the Priory community, we hope they will observe this in action and see the truly wonderful community that is Priory and results from this type of brotherhood.

“It takes more to lead when times get tough”

Sports captains help lead teams to success on and off the field

By Dalton Bingman '20

Most of my favorite memories of being part of a sports team at Priory are successes I shared with my teammates.

I speak for the rest of the seniors on the football team when I say the single most exciting and most rewarding achievement that



season was beating MICDS. Since my time at Priory, we had never come close to beating them so it made it that much better to get the win. Beating one big conference opponent was great, but beating John Burroughs twice, once in the regular season and a second in the playoffs, made it an unforgettable season. However, many of my fondest memories I shared with my teammates were the little things: the bus rides back home after Friday night away games, the pre-game rituals in our locker room, the Saturday morning breakfasts, or even the Friday night team dinners. It was these things that brought us closer as a team and made the time we shared on the field special and memorable.

The title of captain is not just a title to use for establishing superiority over the rest of the team, but one that reflects the motto of servant leadership. It is our job as captains to lead by example for the others and to be there when they need

Continued on page 20

Sports captains help lead teams to success on and off the field

Continued from page 19

help. I applied this in many ways during my time on the football field. With a younger group of interior linebackers, I took it upon myself to provide as much guidance for those who would soon fill my position when I left. Whether it was going over blitz assignments, how to do pass-drops, or improving tackling technique, I always tried to give my best insight and make sure I exemplified all the things I taught. When scuffles and little fights broke out during practices or the games, I took the neutral position and found a way to get everybody back on track and remind them to fight the other team and not amongst each other. Sometimes, I would help players who needed some motivation during games by either providing positive criticism or some encouraging words, while always keeping in mind the approach each person responded to best.

One of the biggest ways in which being a captain has helped me is the ability to not just focus on my performance on the field, but more so on everybody else's. As a captain, it was my job to be selfless in situations and find ways in which my teammates could improve themselves. It's very easy to be within oneself and not worry about the success of others, but in a team situation, this mindset is not helpful. It also taught me how to accept others for their differences and find a way to work together as a team towards a common goal.

It's easy to be a leader when there is no adversary, but it takes more to lead when times get tough. When we were losing or tired from the 100-degree heat, I knew that it was up to me as a captain to give them some form of motivation. Whether it was making

a big sack to turn the ball over or offering some encouraging and positive words, it was these experiences that showed me what it was truly like to be a leader. Anytime we did conditioning, I had to find a way to put aside my own exhaustion and encourage my teammates to keep pushing or finish the last rep with them after my own. A lot of the ideas of leadership that I aspired to uphold came from Coach Parent and how he viewed the position of a captain. While most people might see the position as someone who tells others what to do and bosses around the underclassmen, Coach demonstrated how it was rather a servant leadership, similar to Jesus. Instead of taking advantage of the position to have an upper hand on your teammates, it should be seen as someone who looks to help others before themselves.

AROUND ADMISSIONS

"Thank you will never be enough! We arrived home today to an amazing gift at the door! Thank you so much for all you guys do to continue to make a difference! We can't wait to join you in the Fall! Merry Christmas and many blessings to you and yours this holiday season and always!"

– Dale, Jennifer, Addie, Alex and Josie Bader



Early-decision students were invited to the basketball Senior Night. They got to shoot around with the varsity team and enjoy pizza and drinks, followed by sitting in a special sections in the gym to enjoy the game.



Dear Members of the Abbey Family,

Dear Friends,

We certainly live in “interesting times” (to quote the old Chinese proverb)! Times like these test the mettle of any community, and offer us all the opportunity to come together as a community of faith, a civic community, a nation, and as all humanity. How each of us meets these challenges is unique to each individual, but that we can support one another in facing those challenges is one of the great strengths of our faith. As you all face these challenging days ahead, be assured of the prayers and support of all the monastic community.

We have a lot of wonderful stories to tell, as you will find in this publication, and we have enjoyed many blessings this year. For them we thank God, and celebrate the accomplishments of our students, teachers, alumni and families. As we are now separated physically, it is all the more important to unite ourselves “virtually” to strengthen the bonds which make up the Saint Louis Abbey and Saint Louis Priory School “family.”

In these days ahead, be assured of the prayers and spiritual support of the monks. Know of the ongoing selfless dedication of our faculty, staff and administrators. And take heart in the care and concern of so many in our Saint Louis Abbey and Saint Louis Priory School “family” for one another. By God’s grace and favor, we will all get through this, and come out of it stronger and more blessed than ever.

Laus Tibi Domine!

Abbot Gregory Mohrman, O.S.B.

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

Brother Hugh Goossens, O.S.B., Makes Solemn Profession

Brother Hugh Goossens, O.S.B. professed his Solemn Vows on Jan. 24 in the Abbey Church. The ceremony was a culmination of many years of spiritual searching and discernment to find his place in monastic life at Saint Louis Abbey.

"From an early stage I thought that God was calling me to something," he says.

Brother Hugh's spiritual journey began as a child, when his family worshiped in an evangelical Christian church in Washington, Illinois. After graduating from Washington Community High School, Brother Hugh attended Illinois Central College and Eureka College, where he graduated with a B.A. in English. He also converted to Lutheranism in college, applied and was accepted into a Lutheran seminary.

Upon graduating, Brother Hugh decided to teach English in Incheon, South Korea, and worked a variety of jobs in Chicago and Peoria, Illinois. During this time, he questioned Lutheran teachings and began reading the *Introduction to Christianity* by then-Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, who became Pope Benedict XVI. He also listened to audio recordings by Alvin Plantinga, a philosopher and professor at the University of Notre Dame. Both were influential in his conversion to Catholicism and a calling to religious life.

"What drew me to the Catholic faith was looking to the Church Fathers, for I could identify the character of the early church from them," he says.

After converting to Catholicism, Brother Hugh volunteered with the youth group at a Catholic parish in Peoria. While attending Mass and volunteering, he



shared that he still felt the call to religious life. The monastic life appealed to him, especially the Benedictine monks.

"The spirituality of Benedictine monasticism is thoroughly biblical and patristic, which also drew to me to becoming Catholic," he says. "In addition, Benedictine piety is somewhat austere. The focus is on encountering God through the liturgy, the Word, and the common life of the monastery. As to why I chose this particular monastery, the opportunities of learning and teaching have great appeal."

Since entering the monastery in June 2013 and taking his Simple Vows in 2014, Brother Hugh has studied philosophy at Kenrick-Glennon Seminary and Biblical Greek at Covenant Theological Seminary. In 2014, he went to a novice conference in England and had the opportunity to visit Ampleforth Abbey.

While having tea at that time with Abbot Patrick Barry, the retired Abbot of Ampleforth who spent many years in St. Louis, Brother Hugh asked him, "How do I know if this is the right thing for me?"

Abbot Patrick replied, "It is very simple. You have to pray."

Through prayer, Brother Hugh realized that it is very easy to be trapped in your own thinking and trying to figure it all out. Abbot Patrick's advice illustrated the importance of prayer and was a pivotal moment for Brother Hugh as a young novice.

"Prayer is really the crucial thing for anyone considering a vocation. You have to pray about it, and you may have to pray about it for a long time, and there may not be an easy or immediate answer."

In addition to his studies in philosophy and Greek, Brother Hugh completed his M.S. in Library and Information Science from the University of Illinois in December of last year. On the occasion of his Solemn Vows, Brother Hugh felt a sense of joy and excitement on his special day when many family and friends celebrated with him. After taking his Solemn Vows, he said, "I also felt a huge sense of relief. I can just live the monastic life, which seems pretty good to me."

IN MEMORIAM

July 1-December 31, 2019

Dorothy Arras, grandmother of John Huetsch '99 and Mark Huetsch '02

Eva Arrey, mother of Brandon Arrey '03

Grace Becker, great-grandmother of Ryan White '25

Dr. Wallace Berkowitz, parishioner

William Bidwill, Sr., father of William Bidwill, Jr. '81

Allen Blake, grandfather of Carson Blake '22

Lyda Ann Cerame, grandmother of staff member Kate Clements

Holland Chalfant, Jr., grandfather of Buddy Chalfant '17 and Sam Chalfant '21

Joan Cleary, mother of Thomas Cleary '85

Dr. Marvin Cook, father of Andy Cook '87 and Peter Cook '88

Susan Cook, great-grandmother of Ethan Foss '24

James Daniel, grandfather of Thomas Daniel '22

Dorcas DesCombes, grandmother of Patrick Bernard '07 and Charlie Bernard '09

Charles Donovan, Jr., father of Charles Donovan '76 and grandfather of Michael Donovan '16

Jean Fitzgerald, mother of Ryan Fitzgerald '94 and Kevin Fitzgerald '97

Irene Francisco, mother of Dominic Francisco '84, Joseph Francisco '85, Richard Francisco '86, Gregory Francisco '89, and Steven Francisco '93



Hilda Gennaoui, grandmother of Anthony Gennaoui '99

Mary Ann Goedecker, parishioner

Chris Guyol, wife of Confrater and Abbey Society Board Member Frank (deceased), mother of Frank Guyol '69, James Guyol '72, grandmother of Patrick Erker '03, Teddy Erker '06, Alex Erker '09, and faculty member Andrew Erker '11, Confrater and Abbey Society Board Member

Joan Halenkamp, mother of George Halenkamp III '71, grandmother of George Halenkamp IV '01, Christopher Halenkamp '04, Timothy Halenkamp '06, and Andrew Halenkamp '10

Paul Higgins, great-grandfather of Thomas Daniel '22

Norma Houghland, mother of Peter Houghland '68

Virginia Jungclaus, great-grandmother of Domenick Palmer '19 and Danny Palmer '22

Vincent Kajunski, grandfather of James Hamill '22 and Patrick Hamill '24

Herman "Joseph" Kaller, great-grandfather of Jack Kaller '24

Father Paul Kidner, O.S.B.

William Koman, Sr., father of William Koman, Jr. '77

Robert Kraeger '88, father of Thomas Kraeger '25

Haroldene Lenk, aunt of Father Dominic Lenk, O.S.B.

Rita Lischwe, mother of former faculty member Joe Lischwe

Ronald Luebke, parishioner

Continued on page 24

IN MEMORIAM

Continued from page 23

Jack Maschmeyer, father of Michael Maschmeyer '95 and John '99

Edwin McGuire, father of Daniel McGuire '71

Vernon Mennemeier, uncle of Father Dominic Lenk, O.S.B.

Rosemary Merriman, mother of Michael Merriman '79

Helen Meyer, mother of Rick Meyer '65 and Whity Meyer '68

Norman Meyer, grandfather of Ethan Brady '20

Patricia Newman, great-grandmother of Joseph Jansen '25

Dr. Louis Nolan, parishioner

Alice Nouhan, mother of Joseph Nouhan '80 and Jeffrey Nouhan '83

James Nouss, father of Jay Nouss '72, John Nouss '77, Edgar Nouss '78, grandfather of James Nouss '03, and Abbey Society Board Member

Darryl Ann Schilli, mother of Bob Schilli '80 and David Schilli '81

Evelyn Scott, mother of Gregory Scott '82

Virginia Schenk, Parishioner

Elizabeth Sehnert, grandmother of Kenneth Foushee '97 (deceased), Robert Foushee '01, and Liam Sehnert '16

Sarla Soorya, mother of Nitin Soorya '91, Sandeep Soorya '93, grandmother of Sohaan Swaminathan '15, and Sohil Swaminathan '16

Rosalie Spenner, mother of Craig Spenner '91

Eric Stange, father of Eric Stange '14, Andrew Stange '17, and Peter Stange '20

Jerrel Swingle, father of Christopher Swingle '91

Martha Tackett, grandmother of Zachary Kraus '11, Benjamin Kraus '15, Anthony Kraus '17, Dominic Kraus '20, and Gabriel Kraus '24

Walter Thome, grandfather of Drew Thome '09 and Harry Thome '20

Dr. Jim Wagner, grandfather of Andrew Johnson '19 and Thomas Johnson '21

Gianna Rose Ward, infant daughter of faculty member Derek Ward

Jim Wortham, father of Jay Wortham '10 and former faculty member

Lillian Ziwoit, mother of Frederick Ziwoit '80

News Briefs

Leadership Retreat

On Sunday, Oct. 13, more than 20 high school students gathered for a full-day leadership retreat. Created and facilitated by members of Priory's Chaplaincy team, the day included prayer and activities centered on the concept of servant leadership. The young men who participated were actively engaged in exploring ways to both develop and exemplify the principles of student leadership in their work with their respective clubs, teams, and organizations.



Breaking Bread Event

On Oct. 30, the Priory Parent Equity and Inclusion Committee hosted its inaugural Breaking Bread program. Parents, students, alumni, and members of Priory's administration were in attendance to meet with members of the community and engage

in fruitful conversation regarding campus and community life. Please be sure to check the school calendar and consider attending one or more of these events hosted throughout the year.



Choirs Sing For A Cause

On February 24, at the St. Anselm Parish Centre, choirs from our Priory music students and the students from Cor Jesu Academy performed a benefit concert for Our Lady's Inn and raised \$1,236 for this organization.



Ugly Sweater Contest

The Junior School participated in the new Junior School Ugly Sweater Contest for their Christmas festivities before the break.



Father Bob's Outreach

In December, two groups of juniors and seniors with members of the Priory volunteered with Father Bob's Outreach at St. Augustine Parish in North St. Louis. Many Priory students engaged in charitable efforts and volunteer opportunities during the month of December, including several seniors who organized and participated in the Priory Christmas Classic, our annual soccer game against the St. Louis Roadies homeless soccer team. The school-wide food drive was a great success and many high school advisories also organized their own toy and clothing drives for different causes and organizations.



Open House Success

The Admissions Team wishes to thank all of the parents, students, faculty, staff, and monks who helped make Open House a huge success this year. Over 100 families visited the campus to learn more about Priory's Benedictine heritage; Catholic identity; academic, athletic, and arts offerings. The Admissions Office appreciated that so many of you spread the word about Open House, encouraging families to come and experience Priory. Your efforts are so important to the admissions work!



National Merit Recognition

Five students from Saint Louis Priory School became National Merit Finalists in the National Merit Scholarship Competition. Those students are **Thomas de Wolff, Matthew Sinclair, Harrison Thome, Cole Trautman, and Alexander Wasinger.**



Golf and Lacrosse Recruits

Peter Weaver, (left, with his parents Earle and Becky Weaver) signed for Villanova University in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania to play Division I Golf. **Ethan Hare**, (right, with his parents Brady and Yvonne Hare) signed symbolically for Illinois Wesleyan University in Bloomington, Illinois, to play Division III Lacrosse.

News Briefs

Special Olympics Bocce Ball Event

Again this year, Priory students participated in a Special Olympics bocce ball event.



Conversation & Community

On January 9, Priory parents and administrators gathered for our first-annual Conversation and Community event. Father Cuthbert shared information pertaining to general school operations and participated in a conversation with Preston Antes '19. Antes interviewed Father Cuthbert on topics regarding the mission of Catholic education at our school, alluding to the Benedictine hallmarks of hospitality and community. This gathering gave the school an opportunity to share with parents the daily operations of the school and the aspirational vision we have for the complete Priory experience for our students. We look forward to hosting this important event in future years and encourage all of our parents to consider joining us!



Rebel Rock

The most rockin' event of the year, Rebel Rock, took place on Saturday, Feb. 22 at 7 p.m. in the Kevin Kline Theatre. Priory's longstanding Battle of the Bands featured 11 student bands from the area as well as Priory's own faculty band, "The Proctors."

"The whole theme of Rebel Rock is so amazing and cool to me. Not a lot of schools have something like this where students can perform in front of students in a band. Running the event, I had no idea that I would create amazing friendships along the way, and that I wouldn't trade this experience for anything."

—Greyson Antes, '22



Halloween's Best Faculty Costume

In true Halloween spirit, Henry Weas, '22 captured faculty member and alum, Steve Oslica, '05 with his creative costume—such a great and fun tradition each year!



Scholar Bowl Wins Private Schools League Tournament

On Dec. 3, Priory's varsity and JV Scholar Bowl teams competed in the Private Schools League tournament at DeSmet. Both teams placed first in their divisions, with junior **Drew Scheiner** taking 2nd individually at the varsity level and sophomore **Cole Polley** and freshman **Evan Hugge** taking 3rd and 4th place individually at the JV level. Congratulations!

Winter Musical: 1776

"1776" took the stage in February. Performances were Thursday-Sunday, February 13-16 at the Kevin Klein Theatre. Our Junior School students had a special performance of "1776"; this is the second year we've given our 7th and 8th graders this opportunity, which crosses academic disciplines and ties what they've learned in social studies and English to the visual and performing arts.



"Playing John Adams and trying to channel his energy and vision on the stage was really neat. In the end, it was very interesting to observe how the whole cast interpreted their own versions of these historical men and threw in their own unique styles. I can't wait to be back on the stage next year."

—Michael Rashford, '21



MLK Model of Justice

Priory senior **Brennan Spellman** received the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Model of Justice Award. The award ceremony took place at the Cathedral Basilica. Brennan was one of 27 teens in the St. Louis area to be granted this honor.

Equity and Inclusion Committee Hosted a Lunch-and-Learn Event

The faculty Equity and Inclusion Committee hosted a lunch-and-learn event with UMSL Professor Dr. Terry Jones. The topic was, "Racial Disparity in St. Louis: Why It Persists and Why It Matters." Dr. Jones is a professor emeritus of political science and public policy, and directs the school's public affairs internship program. He is the author of several books and numerous articles on urban issues and metropolitan governance in St. Louis, and is an active member of many local civic groups.



Sophomore Cole Polley Advances to National History Bee



Cole Polley

Sophomore **Cole Polley** recently competed in the National History Bee regionals, placing 4th overall in the JV division, 1st in the

varsity U.S. Geography/International Geography Bee qualifier and 1st in the JV U.S. History Bee qualifier. These results earned him invitations to participate in the National History Bee in Washington, D.C., in April and the International History Olympiad in the Caribbean in July. Due to the coronavirus, these events have been canceled. We are so proud of Cole's amazing performance.

Athletics

Cross Country

The 2019 Cross Country season saw a young team grow and perform well while setting the stage for the future. Two runners were all league, including league champion **Brody Whalen** who also qualified for state. "We have a good group and a number of talented runners," head coach Phil Councilor '95 said. "I'm excited for the 2020 season."



Football

Varsity Football had its most successful season in recent memory, finishing with a 9-3 record and a spot in the district championship game. It was the team's first nine-win season since 1999. "The seniors showed great leadership all year," head coach Jake Parent said. "We stepped up in some big games, highlighted by the win over MICDS." Senior **Dalton Bingman** and junior **Myles Kee** received 2nd team all-state recognition, and Dalton and senior **Luke Parent** were named Scholar-Athlete Award winners by the local chapter of the National Football Foundation.



Athletics

Soccer

After a 4-4 record in the first three weeks of the season, the Varsity Soccer team went on to win seventeen games in row before losing 3-4 to Guadalupe Centers Charter in the State Final game. Along the way, the soccer Rebels, led by senior captains **Charlie Ferrick**, **Ben Glarner**, **Joe Hunt**, and **Michael Spencer**, defended their Metro League title and collected big wins against some area large-school powerhouses (3-0 vs. DeSmet and 3-2 vs. Chaminade) and two wins over top-ranked small school John Burroughs. Many players were awarded post-season honors, most notably **Michael Spencer**, who was named Metro League Player of the Year, Class 2 State Defensive Player of the Year, and *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* All-Metro First Team.



Basketball

Varsity Basketball had a wonderful season, finishing with an 18-8 record, a 2nd place finish in the Metro League and a trip to the District championship game. Winning the Lutheran Saint Charles Tournament and Affton Tournament and the consolation championship at the Francis Howell North Tournament were also highlights of the season. Senior **Charlie Ferrick** was named 1st team all league and scored the 1,000th point in his great career. Junior **Harrison Wilmsen** was named second team all league and was dominant in many of this year's games. Junior **Myles Kee** was named honorable mention all league, and senior **Michael Spencer**, sophomore **Jahaad Fort** and senior **Harry Thome** were also huge contributors to the team's success.





Hockey

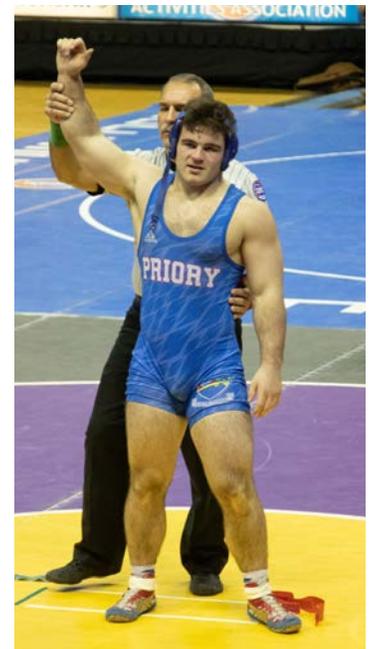
The Priory Hockey team finished 17-3-1 in regular season play, earning their third consecutive trip to the Challenge Cup playoffs, the highest tier in the state. Although seeded #10 out of 12 teams, the Rebels dominated pool play, going 2-0-1. That included tying SLUH, last year's state champions, and beating Francis Howell and Kirkwood. The Rebels would eventually lose in the quarterfinals to Vianney, who later won the state title. Ultimately, Priory finished 7th in the state, which is the highest place ever achieved in the history of the program. "After three consecutive Challenge Cup seasons, Priory is being recognized as a serious hockey competitor," head coach Jason Getz said.



Coach Getz was also named this year's Midstates Coach of the Year, and was recognized at the league championships at the Enterprise Center in early March.

Wrestling

Senior **Dalton Bingman** capped off an undefeated season with his second state championship in the 220 lb. weight class, the second ever for a Priory wrestler. "It's really fun to go out and win state, but what means the most to me is being able to do that while representing my school," Dalton told the Post-Dispatch. "When you have a personal achievement, it's felt by everybody." Junior **Adam Rolwes** also competed in the state tournament in the 170 lb. weight class.





Xanadu Chair Christine Look with her son Max and husband Chris.

51st Xanadu—Boot Stompin' Good Time

The "Rhinestone Rodeo," chaired by Christine Look, was a spur-jingling success for all who attended. The Fund-a-Need benefitting the Father Timothy Horner Endowed Scholarship Fund raised more than \$160,000. We look forward to announcing the grand total sometime in the near future.

As always, the Preview Party the evening before Xanadu was a wonderful way to peruse the amazing Xanadu items put together by the "Rhinestone Rodeo" committee, enjoy specialty beer XanaBrew 2020 created by Priory dad Pete Kraemer and the Brewmasters at Anheuser-Busch and toe-tap to the tunes of Bluegrass band Bugtussel.



Form V parents saddled up for the rodeo.



Priory's annual Trivia Night provides support for Xanadu and this year raised \$7,000. This year's chairs, Lisa Coleman and Jill Stoneman, put together a fun-filled evening as guests fully embraced the "Heroes & Villains" theme.



The **Alumni Mothers' Club**, under the leadership of President Lisa Brnjac, works to keep alumni mothers connected to Priory and the monastery.



Alumni Mothers' Club Fall Dinner and Mass

In October, alumni mothers gathered for the Fall Dinner and Mass chaired by Suzanne Cicheler. Father Cuthbert Elliott, O.S.B., '02 provided guests with an inspirational presentation on "A Mom for All Seasons."

Chic Boutique Gift Gathering

There's an old adage, "once a part of Xanadu, always a part of Xanadu," and that certainly was the case as alumni and current moms gathered at the home of Julie Dubray in September to bring donations for the Chic Boutique section of Xanadu.



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.



Charitable IRA Rollover— A Savvy Giving Strategy

If you are over 70½ years old and you make a gift from your IRA directly to Saint Louis Priory School, you can:

- Provide immediate support to your area of interest at Priory;
- Avoid taxes on a withdrawal of up to \$100,000—whether you itemize or not; and
- Meet (part of) your required minimum distribution from your IRA.

For more information, please contact Janice Bailey, Director of Institutional Advancement at jbailey@priory.org or 314.434.0783.



The **Mothers' Club**, under the leadership of President Beth Blessing, hosted several events this fall.

Junior School Mother/Son Mass and Lunch

In November, the Junior School mothers spent a day with their sons enjoying Mass and lunch. Carine Azrak and Kathleen Dixon organized a memorable event for the guests.



Fall Mothers' Club Luncheon

Priory moms gathered for Mass celebrated by Headmaster Father Cuthbert Elliott, O.S.B., '02, at the Abbey Church and then enjoyed a lovely lunch in the Parish Centre organized by event chair Marifran King. Guest speaker Colleen Carroll Campbell spoke on "The Heart of Perfection."

Annual Christmas Boutique

The Mothers' Club welcomed current and alumni mothers and their guests to the Christmas Boutique. Over 35 vendors provided more than 350 guests with a wide array of holiday shopping options. Julie Wagner and Colleen Wasinger chaired this perennial favorite, and Hospitality Chair Marifran King organized the delicious buffet luncheon. Amy Kemna organized the delectable goodies for the Boutique's Bake Sale and Diane Wenzel chaired the Plant Sale. The Priory Music Club sang festive Christmas songs during lunch.



Fathers' Club President Matt Wagner and the Executive Board provided guidance for the Fathers' Club this year as they continued to increase participation and involvement.



Form I Father and Son Washers Tournament

In August, the Fathers' Club welcomed the incoming Form I fathers and sons for the annual Washers Tournament, chaired by David Bealke '92, Peter Gunther '90 and Andy Yannakakis '90. It provided a wonderful way for fathers and sons to get to know each other and experience Priory hospitality.



Fall Happy Hour

Over 100 dads attended the Fall Happy Hour at Annie Gunn's organized by event chair Tom Mooney and hosted by alumni dad Thom Sehnert. The food was delicious and the conversations lively as the dads mixed and mingled with one another.



Welcome Dinner

All current fathers were invited to the annual Welcome Dinner held in the Boys' Dining Hall. President Matt Wagner '90 enthusiastically encouraged the dads to get involved and attend the events that the Fathers' Club hosts throughout the year. Varsity head coaches Jake Parent (Football), Phil Councilor (Cross Country) and John Mohrmann (Soccer) gave brief highlights of the fall sports season.



Mothers' & Fathers' Club Christmas Party

The Fathers' Club teamed up with the Mothers' Club to host the fourth annual Parent Christmas Party at The Ritz-Carlton.



Father Cuthbert '02 thanks some members of the Interview Workshop committee: Mohammad Agha '03, Mike Reedy '00, Nick Ahlering '04 and Shaker Sadasivam. (not pictured: Phil Callahan and Patrick Thornton '02)

Interview Workshop

The Priory Alumni Board and the Priory Fathers' Club joined together for the second Interview Workshop & Networking event for young alumni. The day started with a panel discussion led by Mike Reedy '00. The panel participants included Dave Binz '01, Michael DiMarco and Lisa Flavin. The young alumni in attendance asked many questions regarding their future careers. The attendees were then paired with an alumnus and/or a current parent for one-on-one mock interviews. There was a second panel discussion on networking with Dr. Mohammad Agha '03, Phil Callahan and John Rhodes '14 followed by a networking session. All in attendance enjoyed and greatly benefitted from networking with one another and look forward to next year's session.

Thank you to Mike Reedy '00 and the entire committee for all of their insight, hard work and dedication for this event.

Think of Priory Last...

When it is time to start thinking about leaving your mark on the world, we can help you create a charitable legacy at Saint Louis Priory School that will leave a lasting impact on future generations. To learn more, contact Janice Bailey at jbailey@priory.org or 314.434.0783.

Save the Date



Homecoming 2020

October 16 and 17

- Honoring Reunion years 1960, 1965, 1975, 1980, 1985, 1990, 1995, 2000 & 2005.
- Class of 1970 will celebrate their 50th Reunion during the weekend of October 9 & 10.
- Classes of 2010 and 2015 will celebrate their Reunion in December. More information forthcoming.



Golf Scramble

Friday, June 12

- Hosted by the Priory Alumni Board
- Missouri Bluffs Golf Course
- Sponsorship opportunities available
- For more information www.priory.org/golfscramble
- Or contact Ann Bender at abender@priory.org or 314.434.3690 ext. 326

Alumni Around Town

Phoenix

Abbot Gregory Mohrman '76 and Father Cuthbert Elliott '02 traveled to Paradise Valley for Priory's first reception in the Phoenix area. They spent a lovely evening at the home of Lori and Michael Massey '82 where we were joined by alumni, alumni parents and friends of the school. A huge thank you to Lori and Michael for your generous example of true Benedictine hospitality!



Abbot Gregory '76, Bill Bidwill '81 and Father Cuthbert '02.



Terry Gould, Abbot Gregory '76, Mary Ellen Gould and Father Cuthbert '02.



Father Cuthbert '02, Lori & Michael Massey '82 and Abbot Gregory '76.



Front row: Terry and Mary Ellen Gould, Kevin Flores '19, Michael '82 and Lori Massey, Ann and Ned Massey. Back row: Father Cuthbert '02, Abbot Gregory '76, Bill Bidwill '81, Kathy and Tom Walsh '79.

Alumni Around Town

Seattle

Thank you to Eleanor and Charlie Pollnow '80 for hosting Priory at the Seattle Tennis Club in September, 2019. Abbot Gregory Mohrman '76 enjoyed visiting with our alumni and friends living in the area. Stories of Mr. Barry's Physics classes and Father Paul's Calculus classes were shared as the sun set over Lake Washington. It is always so meaningful to hear how much our Priory teachers and monks have influenced and formed our alumni! Thank you to all who were able to join us!



Front row: Joe Mohrman '65 and Abbot Gregory '76. Back row: Jon Zinsmeyer '92, Joe Francisco '85, Charlie Pollnow '80, Peter Edwards '92 and Mike Barry '78.

Class of 2014 Reunion

The members of the Class of 2014 were back on campus to celebrate the 5th anniversary of their graduation from Priory. Members of the class were joined by Father Linus Dolce, O.S.B., Headmaster at the time of their graduation, and Father Augustine Wetta, O.S.B. for the celebration in the Switzer House on Friday, December 27th. Thank you to Luke McGartland and Chris Chivetta for organizing the event.



The Class of 2014 celebrated their reunion at the Switzer House.

Holiday Social

Priory alumni were invited to join the monks for our annual Holiday Social on Saturday evening of Thanksgiving weekend. Many out of town alumni were able to reunite with their classmates and monks and reminisce about their time at Priory. Thank you to Dan Flynn '06 and the Alumni Board for planning this popular event!



Emmett McAuliffe '76, Jack McEnergy '91, Father Gerard Garrigan, O.S.B., Chris Halenkamp '04 and Andrew Beckmann '03.



Mark Bahn '67, Ryan Bahn '00 and Chuck Hardy '77 visit with Father Ralph Wright, O.S.B.



New York City

Abbot Gregory Mohrman '76 traveled to New York City in October 2019 to visit with many of our alumni living in the area. Thank you to Avi Amin '87, John Purcell '87 and Peter Trunfio '83 for hosting our annual alumni gathering in the city. Thank you to Tony Hilliard '81 for securing the Yale/Dartmouth Club for our event. A wonderful evening was enjoyed by all!

John Purcell '87, Avi Amin '87 and Dan Leary '87.



Front row: Mike Simpson '02, John Monterubio '02, Joe Weiler '64, Abbot Gregory '76, Brad Lenke '12, Colin Kopsky '12, and Bill Fox '10. Back row: Sean Sigillito '11, Eric Goff '83, Edgar Nouss '78, Dan Leary '87, Henry Cordova '11, Avi Amin '87, Preston Henske '82, Peter Trunfio '83, Charlie Friedman '09, Jack Wegmann '11, Carter Gage '12, Jack Ciapciak '11 and Sean Pinney '86.



Class of 1969–50th Reunion

The Class of 1969 held their 50th Reunion in October, 2019. The celebration started with a campus tour led by Father Dominc Lenk, O.S.B., followed by Vespers in the Abbey Church and then dinner in the Switzer House Dining Room. Abbot Gregory, Father Paul and Marty McCabe joined the class for dinner. After dinner, Father Paul spoke about his remembrances of their time at Priory. Many members of the class then spoke about the significance of the monks and teachers in their life and how much their time at Priory meant to them. The Class continued their celebrations off campus on Saturday and Sunday. A special thank you to David Crane, Dan Human, Bill James and Rick Muckerman for all of their efforts to gather their classmates from near and far!

1st row: Marty McCabe, Father Paul, Bill James '69, David Crane '69, David Keating '69, Chuck Pecher '69 and Doug Mooney '69. 2nd row: Tom Cuba '69, Joe Hadzima '69, John Kennedy '69, Chris Lippert '69, Steve Tobin '69, Frank Guyol '69, Jerry Offner '69, Bill Skinner '69, Scott McBride '69, Dan Human '69, Pat Ferrillo '69, Dan van Benthuyzen '69, Kevin Jones '69, Rick Muckerman '69 and Joe Schlafly '69.



Class Notes

1960

David Blanton '60 hosted a lunch in October to celebrate a St. Louis visit by Peter Igoe '60. Attending were Bob Dunn '60, Mike Fox '60, George Hellmuth '60, Ted Kienstra '60 and Fran Oates '60.

1971

Philip L. Willman '71 became president of DRI-The Voice of the Defense Bar at the group's annual meeting October, 2019 in New Orleans. Phil is pictured here with his brother Stephen '75, and sons, Alec '11 and Daniel '18.



1972

Michael J. Keating '72 received the St. Louis Business Journal's 2019 Corporate Counsel Award-Litigation Leader.

1973

Mark Barteau '73 is the Vice President for Research and the Halliburton Professor in Engineering at Texas A&M University where he teaches Chemical Engineering.

1978

Mike Barry '78 and his wife, Amanda relocated to Kirkland, Washington, where he works as a patent judge.

1979

Dr. Bob Sciortino '79 works as an orthopedic surgeon at St. Luke's Hospital in St. Louis.

Jimmy Williams Jr. '79 has joined the McDonald's Board as the General Relations Chair. Jimmy and his family live in St. Louis.

Dudley Willis '79 is the Assistant Director of Project Management at Duke University and lives in Raleigh, North Carolina.

1989

Chris Sidwell '89 lives in Atlanta and works as an attorney at Alston & Bird LLP.

Ken Rohman '89 has been named Chief Marketing Officer of Wind Creek Hospitality, overseeing global marketing operations for the companies' ten casinos and resorts throughout North America and the Caribbean. He and his family are relocating to the gulf coast of Alabama near the corporate headquarters in Escambia County.

1990

Jamie Heidbreder '90 is a Managing Director with Coker Capital Advisors. Jamie lives in New York City with his wife and two children and enjoys coaching his children's basketball and baseball teams in his spare time.

Alumni Generosity

J. David Keating '69 has consistently donated to Priory since 1975 when he graduated with his masters in Environmental Engineering from Rice University.

"I value my Priory education and Priory experience because it shaped my life. I am grateful that my Mom and Dad made sacrifices to send me and my brothers to Priory. I received partial scholarship to attend Priory and someone, somehow helped make Priory available to me. I feel that other young men need to have that same opportunity. I give back in thanksgiving for what I was given. I haven't had an abundance of riches but 'to whom much is given, much is to be expected.'"

David is pictured here at his 50th Reunion with Father Paul.





Alumni Generosity

Dan McArdle '01 lives in Berlin, Germany, and, while far from Priory, Priory is never far from Dan's mind. He set up recurring monthly donations to the Priory Fund to help ensure the next generation of students has the same opportunities for learning, fulfillment, and personal development that he did.

"An education is the one thing that nobody can ever steal from you. Priory has enriched me in ways far beyond anything I could have imagined as a student. Many lessons and classes have proved to be invaluable, and while the world has changed greatly, some things are timeless. I hope to do my own small part to give this gift to someone else."

Esan Simon '90 and his family moved from Maryland to New London, Connecticut. He is the Medical Director at the Coast Guard Academy. Esan is pictured here in front of the Coast Guard Cutter (CGC) Eagle, a 295 foot vessel and the only active-duty sailing vessel in America's military.



1994

Steve Rachford '94 works in National Business Development with Cematrix.

1996

TAVco Holdings I, majority-owned by **Vijay Shroff '96**, has acquired the wine, spirits, craft beer and gourmet food retailer The Wine & Cheese Place, which has four St. Louis-area locations.

1999

T.J. Redmond '99 was named to the *St. Louis Business Journal's* 40 Under Forty Class of 2020!

Julie and Ryan McDonald '99 welcomed their first son, Peter Ryan McDonald, Jr., on November 26, 2019. Peter is well loved by his parents and his three older sisters (pictured here.)



Andrew Hartnett '99 has been appointed Deputy Administrator of Securities for the Iowa Insurance Division and now lives in Des Moines, Iowa, with his wife and two children.

2000

Sarah and Mike Reedy '00 had a baby girl, Teagan in September 2019. Teagan is pictured here.



2002

Michael Kenneally '02 was elected Partner at Morgan Lewis in Washington, D.C., in June 2019.

A.J. Benga '02 is the Executive Chef for the Bailey's group of restaurants, which includes Knockout BBQ, Bridge Tap House and Wine Bar, Rooster, Small Batch, Baileys' Range, Baileys' Chocolate Bar and Pop.

2003

Dr. Mohammad Agha '03 works at BJC as a Quality and Outcomes Physician. He, his wife Aisha and their son, Imran, live in Chesterfield.

Joe Rieser '03 married Ashley Reinecke at Graham Chapel at Washington University on October 5, 2019. Father Michael Brunner, O.S.B., officiated the wedding. The best man was **Tim Burgdorf '03**, assisted by **Nayan Behal '03**, **John Brady '03**, **Patrick O'Neil '03** and **Mark Strout '03**. (All pictured here with their wives and mothers.)





Kris Simpson '03 works as the City Administrator for Crestwood and lives in St. Louis with his wife and two sons.

2004

Alex Forshaw '04 recently relocated to San Francisco where he works as an Analyst at Millennium Management.

Denis Griffin '04 is an associate in the San Diego office of Latham & Watkins and a member of the Corporate Department, representing both public and private companies in a range of transactional matters.

2006

Andrew Steck '06 is in his second year as an assistant professor at the University of Toronto Mississauga and he and his wife welcomed their second son Leo in July, 2019.

2008

Tim Sztatkowski '08 wed Allison Solberg in September, 2019. They live in Chicago. Tim is pictured here with Priory classmates, Jim Bresnahan '08 and Dan Gower '08.



2009

Kevin Wacker '09 wed Christine Newby at St. Mark the Evangelist Catholic Church in Plano, Texas, on October 5, 2019. Father Francis Hein, O.S.B., officiated. They reside in Spring, Texas.



Mark Havel '09 moved back to St. Louis and works as the Director of Business Development at Drive Social Media.

Tyler Willibrand '09 earned his M.B.A. from Stanford in Spring, 2019 and is now employed by Samsara, Inc. Tyler lives in San Francisco.

2010

Nick Hedlesky '10 and his wife Amy welcomed their first child Thomas, born in August 2019. They live in Manhattan, Kansas.

Matt Rhodes '10 relocated to Washington, D.C., in September 2019 where he works at Goldman Sachs as a Legislative & Regulatory Associate.

Kriztia and Jeff Swaney '10 welcomed their second son, Isaac Matthew Swaney, on September 16, 2019 (pictured here). He joins his big brother Benedict Ray Swaney, born May 26, 2018.



2011

Nate Forshaw '11 and his wife Bridget welcomed a baby boy in December 2019.

2012

Nicholas Sarai '12 is currently working as a PhD student in Biochemistry and Molecular Biophysics at the California Institute of Technology (Caltech).

Austin Federer '12 and his wife Taryn welcomed a baby girl in July. Cora Madeline is pictured here with mom and dad.



Carter Gage '12 earned his J.D. from Saint Louis University in May 2019, passed the New York Bar Exam and is living in Manhattan. He is an associate in the Corporate and Transactional practice of Posinelli.



2013

Andrew Jones '13 married Kathryn Horan on October 5, 2019.



2014

Andrew Cammon '14 lives in Boston where he works for Deloitte Consulting.

Hugh Cole '14 lives in Columbus, Ohio, where he works for Vertiv as a Financial Analyst.

Paul Davies '14 is currently residing in Chicago. Paul is employed by Grainger where he works as a Statistical Analyst.

Sam Fortmann '14 lives in St. Charles with his wife, Dana. Sam works as a Process Engineer for Woodbridge Foam.

Brendan Gaffney '14 lives in Richmond, Virginia, where he works for Deloitte as an auditor.

Tristan Hellmuth '14 graduated from Missouri S & T with his degree in Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering. He lives in St. Louis where he works at Boeing as a Structural Engineer.

Jarret Lowell '14 lives in St. Louis where he works at J.P. Morgan as a Business Analyst.

Danny Martin '14 lives in St. Louis and is employed by Boeing where he works as a Thermal Engineer.

John Miller '14 visited Priory in November, 2019 to present on the Art & Technology of Game Design. John's talk was attended by students from Priory, the Clyde C. Miller Career Academy and the East St. Louis GEAR UP program.



Andrew O'Sullivan '14 lives in Brooklyn and works for PTI Inspection Systems as a Mechanical Engineer.

Eric Stange '14 works as a Management Consultant with Accenture in St. Louis.

Adam Thomas '14 lives in St. Louis and works as an Electrical Engineer for Burns & McDonnell.

2015

Jack Grewe '15 graduated from University of Kansas and works in commercial real estate development in St. Louis.

Sean Buss '15 has relocated to Arlington, Virginia, and is working as an Intake Specialist at Ashcraft and Gerel Law Firm in Washington, D.C.

2016

Chris Holland '16, a senior at Northwestern, was part of a team to develop MedKit Solutions during the Improve NU Challenge. The MedKit machine opened in the fall in a campus dormitory and it sells over-the-counter medication and hygiene products.

Andrew Mauzy '16 is studying Political Science and English at Santa Clara University. He also works as an Office Administrator at Edward Jones.

2017

Tejas Sekhar '17 was selected as one of 23 college sophomores (one of two from Northwestern) to attend DaVita's 4th annual Redwoods Sophomore Leadership Summit last summer.

2018



Rick James '18 spent time last summer in training, flying jets as part of the NROTC summer training program at the Naval Air Station, US Naval Base, Norfolk, Virginia. Rick is studying

Business Economics at Miami University's Farmer School of Business.

Submit Your Class Notes

We love you to hear your good news!

- Class Notes is one of the first sections completed for each issue of *Priory Magazine*. If you have submitted a note and do not see it here, please look for it in the next issue.
- Please share your joyful news of marriage, births, awards, degrees conferred, relocation, or new jobs.
- We make every effort to use all photos that we receive however, we may not be able to always include them due to space limitations.

How to Submit a Class Note

- Online at www.priory.org/alumni/submit-a-class-note
- Email to Alumni@priory.org
- Mail to Priory, 500 South Mason Road, St. Louis MO 63141



Seppo Anthony Hoijarvi '21,
Independent Study Graffiti Art

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

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Father Timothy Horner Scholarship Fund

Many of you gave generously to the Father Timothy Horner Scholarship fund during the 2018-2019 academic year. As we can all attest, Father Timothy's forethought and determination were crucial in the establishment of a school of the highest caliber. Father Timothy's fund will ensure that outstanding young men, regardless of financial circumstances, will continue to benefit from his vision and hard work for years to come.

Saint Louis Priory School continues its excellence in both education and service. The 384 students who call Priory home are outstanding young men who represent our traditions with pride. We are fortunate to have the ability to provide scholarships for 40 percent of these students. For the 2019-2020 school year endowed fund allocations, along with other support, are providing \$2 million in tuition assistance. Our awards range from \$3,000 to full tuition at \$24,990, and our average award is \$13,500.

Thank you for your continued generosity to our students and to Saint Louis Priory School.

Father Timothy Horner Scholarship Fund

Beginning Balance:	\$110,716
Earnings -3.29%:	(\$3,643)
Donations to the fund:	\$306,187
Allocation:	(\$5,338)
Ending Balance:	\$407,922

Fiscal Year: August 1, 2018-July 31, 2019

