

# PRIORY

THE MAGAZINE OF SAINT LOUIS PRIORY SCHOOL • MARCH 2019



## Learning in Action

Integration of math, science  
and technology prepares students  
for the future



THE  
**PRIORY** *fund*  
for SAINT LOUIS PRIORY SCHOOL



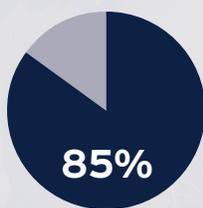
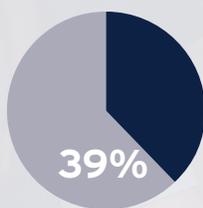
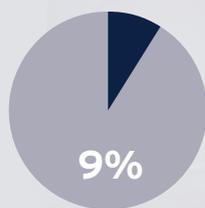
\$850,000  
**Goal**

**Academic Excellence** Class of 2018 offered \$2.6 million in scholarships per year of college

**Accessibility** Thanks to the \$1.9 million in need-based tuition assistance, students come to Priory from 50 zip codes and 100 schools

**Identity** #1 Catholic high school in Missouri as ranked by Niche.com

\$441,000



**Numbers as of February 21, 2019**

- ▶ 9% of Alumni support the Priory Fund
- ▶ 39% of Parents support the Priory Fund
- ▶ 85% of Faculty support the Priory Fund

**There is still time to partner with us!**

Visit [www.priory.org/give](http://www.priory.org/give) to make a gift to the Priory Fund or contact Jennifer Nowak at 314.434.3690 ext. 310.



A tradition for Priory's seventh and eighth graders to mark the end of the fall term, the annual Rusty Bucket football game did not disappoint! While the seventh graders in their red and blue jerseys played a great game, this year the eighth graders came out victorious on the gridiron, 21-7.

## FEATURES

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Father Paul Kidner, O.S.B., is a legend on Priory's campus. Read what he believes makes Priory so unique.



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Science, math and computer science are becoming ever-more integrated at Priory. Learn how and why.



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An alum who is a successful researcher says he wouldn't be where he is without the rigorous and thorough education he had in math and science at Priory.



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On the cover: Priory eighth graders Alex Bahr (left) and Michael Mathis watch their "mousetrap car" roll along the floor of the Junior School Commons.

## FROM THE HEADMASTER



I don't know about you, but sometimes I feel like Saint Louis Priory School is the best-kept secret in St. Louis.

During this first year that I have served as the school's Headmaster, I have been giving a significant amount of thought to this question: Besides word-of-mouth, how can we more effectively share news of some of the great things going on here at Priory, and build on our traditions of academic excellence and faith formation, stability and community?

One important means of telling Priory's story will be through this new school-focused publication, *Priory Magazine*.

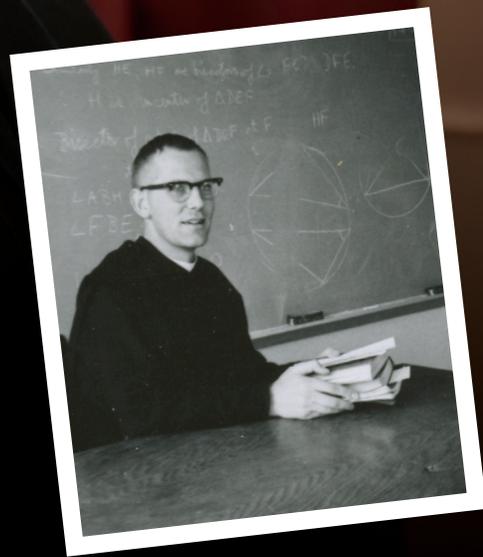
- In this inaugural edition, you will read about Priory's tremendous efforts in mathematics and the sciences. While our traditional focus remains on providing a broad liberal arts education in the Benedictine tradition, there's a reason why the consumer website niche.com identified Priory as not only the #1 Catholic high school in Missouri, but also as #1 on its list of "Best High Schools for STEM in Missouri."
- We profile Dr. David Plas, an alumnus from the Class of 1989 who uses the math and science he learned at Priory each and every day in his work as a noted university professor and cancer research scientist.
- And on page 4, we offer reflections from legendary Priory calculus teacher, coach, college counselor and Headmaster Father Paul Kidner, O.S.B., on his more than 60 years of service at the school.

*Priory Magazine* will be distributed twice a year to school families, prospective families, alumni and friends. As Abbot Gregory notes in his letter on page 17, a reformatted *Saint Louis Abbey Journal* now will appear inside these editions of the magazine. In addition, Priory alumni will receive shorter, alumni-specific editions of *Priory Magazine* in print or via email a few other times throughout the year, replacing the *Priory Press* alumni publication.

I welcome your feedback on *Priory Magazine*. Please reach out to me at [frcuthbert@priory.org](mailto:frcuthbert@priory.org). Thank you for your support of Priory!

With prayers for you and your family,

Father Cuthbert Elliott, O.S.B.  
Headmaster



Father Paul Kidner, O.S.B., welcomes guests at a reception celebrating his 60th anniversary as a priest, and (inset) teaches in the classroom in his early years at Priory.

## FEATURE STORY

# Father Paul Kidner: Master of Mathematics, Sentinel of History

**O**n Jan. 1, 1959, Father Paul Kidner, O.S.B., received a letter from the abbot at Ampleforth Abbey in Yorkshire, England, telling him he was needed at the newly formed Saint Louis Priory School.

The abbot communicated by letter because, at the time, Father Paul was completing his degree in sacred theology in Rome. He had been expecting to return to Ampleforth once he received his degree. The letter not only changed the continent Father Paul would live on but also the education of thousands of American students.

“Some monks didn’t think they could adapt to life in America but I was intrigued,” Father Paul says.

The biggest adjustment was the sheer size of America, he adds. “In England, we could travel from north to south, top to bottom, in a day. The first summer I was in America, I drove from St. Louis to California. It took five days. The size of the country was staggering compared to what we were used to.”

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“Some monks didn’t think they could adapt to life in America but I was intrigued.”

— FATHER PAUL KIDNER

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Nearly 60 years later, Father Paul is a sentinel of Priory. Every student who has ever graduated since the school’s inception in 1956 has known Father Paul, most from his time serving as teacher, coach or Headmaster. With a commanding presence and an innovative teaching approach, he has guided



Members of the Priory community celebrate Father Paul becoming an American citizen in 1993.

students through the Vietnam War, the Space Race, and monumental cultural shifts.

### Bringing the Best of Both Worlds to Education

Teaching came naturally to Father Paul, although he says he was “thrown into teaching” with no experience when he arrived in the summer of 1959. His engineering degree from Oxford University, in addition to his theology degree, served him well as a teacher. He brought a deep understanding of math and science along with a passion for the subjects that inspired generations of students.

“On that first day of teaching, I had no idea if I could be a successful teacher or not,” Father Paul says. “But I didn’t have any discipline problems. If students catch on that a teacher knows what he’s teaching, they respect him.”

Father Paul soon discovered England and America had different educational philosophies. He has tried to bridge these philosophies to best help his students.

*continued*



Father Paul teaches a math class with the help of an overhead projector.

"For the United States to continue to take a leadership role in the world, we need to develop the best talents of the most gifted students and not hold them back," Father Paul says. "That's the core of Priory's uniqueness. We emphasize getting the best out of excellent students."

He says he was fortunate to come to Priory during a time when there was a concerted effort to strengthen math and science teaching across the country. "The Russians had just launched Sputnik in 1957 and there was a national fear that the United States was falling behind in math and science," Father Paul says. "So for three summers, from 1963-65, I attended the National Science Foundation Summer Institute at Stanford University where I had top-notch teachers. It was a tremendous experience that I brought back to the classroom."

### Tackling Every Challenge

In the early years at Priory, Father Paul took on many assignments both at the school and the monastery. He taught various subjects including physics, general science, theology, mathematics and Latin before mainly focusing on math.

In addition, he coached football, basketball and tennis.

"I knew nothing about the sports I was coaching except tennis yet it was fun and a good way to work with the students," Father Paul says. "My approach was to help them perform at the best level they could. And I relied on them."

A T-shirt designed by students is one of Father Paul's favorite gifts.

He recalls one freshman basketball game against St. Thomas Aquinas High School when Priory was down at halftime. "We went to the locker room and one of the boys asked if we should go to the 1-3-1 zone. I asked what that was and the boy explained it on a chalkboard. I said that sounds good to me, so they did it and won the game."

In addition to his teaching and coaching responsibilities, Father Paul organized the consecration of the Abbey Church that had just been completed in 1962.

"In the pioneering days, we were overworked," Father Paul says. "We had daily Mass that first year and a priest would hear confessions from the beginning of Mass until there were no more penitents in line. I'm embarrassed to say I was so busy that it was difficult for me to find time to correct students' homework. So I sometimes took math papers into the confessional to grade between penitents. But I promise I never assigned math problems as an act of penance."

### The Proof of Success

Today, Father Paul humbly carries the reputation of being one of the best math teachers ever at Priory.

He taught math at various levels, from seventh through 12th grade. Early in his teaching career, he introduced



an advanced course, BC Calculus, for college credit. "In calculus, I tried to emphasize thinking, rather than how students will use calculus in their careers. Math gives you a way of thinking about things and trains the mind. When I taught, I emphasized that calculus is the mathematics of continuous change. It was fun to see students get it and see them succeed. Quite a few students went on to major in math or in a field that uses mathematics."

One of those students was Andrew Hillis '06, who uses math extensively in his career and "got it" in Father Paul's classroom. After Priory, Hillis went on to receive a PhD in business economics from Harvard and is a health economist and data scientist.

"Father Paul perfectly mixed high expectations of his students with unwavering support," Hillis says. "He could always draw on his love for math to challenge us just beyond our reach — and at that point, he'd look at us with a grin and say, 'Of course you don't know that yet... but we'll get there.' And in that moment, we couldn't wait to learn more."

Hillis says Father Paul's lessons carried well into his college education and career. "Father Paul once organized a float trip down the Huzzah River for our BC Calculus class. As our senior year drew to a close, a few of us created a T-shirt with Father Paul's face on the front. On the back of the T-shirt was the proof that  $e^{i\pi} = -1$ . At the end of the proof, we wrote, 'Huzzah, Boy!' The shirt was a perfect commemoration of our time together learning math and sharing in Father Paul's enthusiasm for the outdoors. I wore that shirt to every math and economics exam I had in college."

### **A Leader of Leaders**

While Father Paul's passion was for teaching, he was asked to be Headmaster of Priory from 1970-71 while Father Timothy Horner, Priory's first Headmaster, was on sabbatical. Father Paul was asked to be Headmaster again from 1974-1983.

"It was an interesting challenge," he says. "I was always conscious that the Headmaster was also the head teacher and needed to be an example to other

*continued on page 40*



## **A Tribute to Father Paul**

"Father Paul was singularly focused on bringing enthusiasm to adolescent boys while they learned very complex mathematical concepts. He patiently explained multiple times the concepts of advanced mathematics and used real world applications to show their usefulness. The rewards of his patience were the incredible success of his students on all national exams and, for the student, a simple smile. This smile designated that Father Paul appreciated that the student finally understood the concept and was going to use it effectively. More globally, it seemed to express that Father Paul knew the student would go on in life to become successful.

Here is a highly educated and worldly man who came to a foreign country in a rural part of Missouri at the time to prepare young men for college at an educational level that had not been seen before in the Midwest. It was a sense of selflessness and dedication that is rarely seen in the world. Perhaps now more than ever, this selflessness would be a great example for the leaders of the world and for the youth of today of how to make this world a better place.

Father Paul was, and is, a man in the best expression of God."

— Peter Von Doersten, MD  
Priory Class of 1980



## FEATURE STORY

# Integration of Science, Math and Technology Fosters Collaboration and Engagement

**O**n a cloudy Friday in October, coat-and-tie clad seventh graders stood at various locations on Priory's campus, looking at...something. Or, more accurately, some things.

Their focus was on models of frogs, molded from agar (*"a gelatinous colloidal extract of a red algae... used especially in culture media or as a gelling and stabilizing agent in foods"* — Merriam-Webster) and placed on different surfaces. The students took initial temperature readings, then waited a few minutes and took another reading, comparing the two. The agar changes temperature in a similar way to a real frog, giving the students a sense of how the different surfaces retain and transfer heat.

The project is an extension of professional development work undertaken over the summer by Brandon McLaughlin, a member of Priory's science faculty since 2014. His work with Cori Zawacki, PhD, and her lab at the University of Pittsburgh helped develop mobile educational projects — called "Pitt Kits" — that they could share with teachers outside of the Pittsburgh area. One of the kits was the frog lab.

"When I think back on my training as a researcher and a scientist, the times when I grew the most in my education were in the lab, making mistakes, and falling back on content knowledge and collaboration with my colleagues to bring me through," says Justin Orlando '99, chairman of Priory's science department and member of the Priory faculty since 2012. "More and more, we're looking to bring those experiences to our students. Over the past few years at Priory, teachers have very deliberately been moving toward more activity-based pedagogy."



Priory Junior School students examine "frogs" they molded from a material called agar.

He continues: "Why lecture about energy or kinematics when you can give the students simple tools and have them build a mousetrap racer? Or better yet, let them bring their own materials in and start making connections between the content and objects in their immediate world? As teachers, our job is to couple our students' curiosity and blossoming intelligence with our experience in the field. If the choice is lecture or research, I'd much rather give the kids a chance to think on their feet and experience science the way the professionals do."

### Rooted in Science

From the beginning, science has been foundational to a Priory education — the Science Wing was the first educational building completed on the campus. As the faculty has grown, its members have come from more diverse academic backgrounds and interest areas, and their current awareness of the

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At the end of the fall term, Junior School students worked in teams to build race cars that had mousetraps as their only source of power.

latest discoveries and advancements has led to a broader offering of courses and greater interdisciplinary collaboration.

"It's important to be able to look at the problems these kids might be solving one day from different angles," Orlando says. "If a dam is leaking, for example, you have to look at what the dam is made of, and what the geography around it is, and what the economic effect of a dam failure might be for the community around it. That takes a multi-faceted approach, and even if you have different people with different specialties working on those facets, those individuals have to have a general idea of what everyone is looking at.

"We're trying to give our students a sense of that in their education here, and over the past few years Priory has given us more tools to work together. We have dedicated time to meet and discuss what someone is doing in the classroom at a given time, and how we might be able to supplement that in other classes. Our faculty members have a very open, collaborative spirit and that's something that benefits our students in a big way."

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"Why lecture about energy or kinematics when you can give the students simple tools and have them build a mousetrap racer?"

— JUSTIN ORLANDO '99,  
SCIENCE DEPARTMENT CHAIR

Over the past several years, Priory's science department has introduced a series of interdisciplinary modules in the junior year that focuses on engineering, advanced computer programming and materials science. These classes rely heavily on work with faculty in other disciplines.

"Having knowledge of the fundamental concepts inherent in the various scientific and mathematical disciplines of a college-preparatory education will always be important," says Jared Rashford, PhD, Priory's Associate Headmaster and a member of the science faculty. "However, we are also focused on creating opportunities within our curriculum that intentionally allow for work across and between science, math, and computer science."

### **Harmonizing Math, Music and More**

One day each year in the junior math classes of Andrew Davis, PhD, the classroom is full of musical instruments—guitars, xylophones, violins, etc. But scientific instruments are there, too, because the students are taking measurements of the sound waves made by each piece in order to learn about the relationship between sine functions, mathematical curves and pitch, amplitude and frequency.

"All of these experiences afford our students the opportunity to both synthesize and apply their knowledge of math, science, and/or programming," Rashford says. "As such, teachers work together to consider and implement alternative forms of assessment that evaluate both the process involved and the product obtained through each of these hands-on experiences."

Another annual math project happens in Jan Poth's algebra classes. Students are tasked with using the different mathematical functions they've learned throughout the year to draw or trace a picture in a computer program called Desmos. The online graphing tool allows the students to explore how changing the parameters in the equation transforms the shape of the graph. The project fosters learning outside the lecture and helps students develop and carry out a plan for the design.

"This is a wonderful hands-on and visual activity to help solidify the students' understanding of the year's topics," Poth says. "The students have a chance to combine their keen mathematical skill with their creative side."

### Coding for the Future

One of the newest clubs at Priory has become one of the more popular ones, partially because it offers a resume-worthy, transferable skill, and partially because it offers its members the chance to win the big Publishers Clearing House-sized checks usually only seen on TV.

"Our focus is on web application development," says Ian Crossey '20, Coding Club president. "A few of us didn't want to forget the computer science we'd learned in seventh and eighth grade, like web design, when we got into the grades where classes weren't offered in it. So we started a club that's open to the whole school — where Junior Schoolers can come learn about topics before they're covered in class, and where High Schoolers can learn about things in a more in-depth way.

"Anyone with expertise in particular areas or specific skill sets can come help teach other students about it. Through sharing that knowledge, everyone in the club gets better."

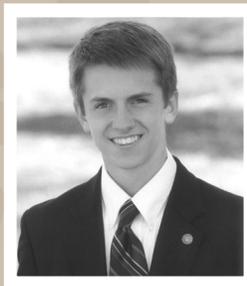
The students' interest in continuing their programming education is a natural extension of the Junior School computer science curriculum, says Ryan Niemann '03, computer science department chair. "A big role our Junior School classes play is getting the kids excited about computer science and familiarizing them with the ways they can use technology to solve real-world

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Priory Computer Science faculty (left to right) Andrew Erker '11, Gabe Santa Cruz '92 and department chair Ryan Niemann '03.

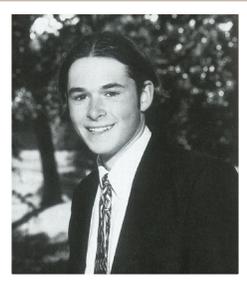
## Every member of the Computer Science department is a Priory alum:



Andrew Erker '11 teaches Junior School computer science classes and moderates the school's Tutoria program, the Junior School Music Club and the Priory Outdoor Club.



Gabe Santa Cruz '92 is the school's director of technology, co-teaches the sophomore Technology and Business class, and moderates the Business and Entrepreneurship Club.



Department Chair Ryan Niemann '03 teaches the AP Computer Science course and the junior and senior computer science courses. He also co-teaches the sophomore Technology and Business class and advises several student organizations, including The Guild and Model U.N.

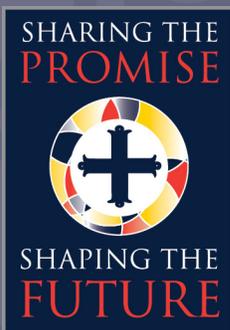
Students are excited to use technology to solve real-world problems.



problems. We show them how to use the tools, and how to identify the problems, and then they get to connect the dots. They come in to the High School with a ton of enthusiasm because they have a sense of what those opportunities are.”

Through the computer science curriculum as sophomores, students learn the skills needed to build a business for taking problem-solving technologies to market. Junior year, students focus on engineering, materials and programming modules. Then as seniors, students engage in professional-level programming. This integrated building process that begins in Junior School gives students in-depth preparation for college and beyond, Niemann explains.

“There’s a need for the overlap between math, science and computer science — a big opportunity,” Niemann says. “When you apply computer science to math, you see huge advantages in visualization and utilization, and in science it’s the same with simulations and modeling. As we look to the future, the expectations and roadmap for that collaboration are becoming more clear.”



## Sharing the Promise ... Shaping the Future

Priory is committed to deliver an outstanding education for current and future students. We strive to meet the changing demands necessary to prepare each young man who calls Priory home. With this in mind, the Priory community has developed a project to help enrich our science curriculum at the highest level, while also providing additional space to enhance our students’ overall experience.

To achieve this goal, our plans build upon our current foundation by renovating and expanding the High School to develop an innovative science, research, and design space, as well as common spaces for students, teachers and monks to interact.



For more information on how you can be a part of this project, please contact Janice Bailey at 314.434.0783 or [jbailey@priory.org](mailto:jbailey@priory.org).

Since its founding almost three years ago, the Coding Club has competed in seven contests, bringing home more than \$1,800 in cash and prizes. Its most recent competition, Global Hack 7, gave entrants challenges involving immigration, and helping immigrants and refugees assimilate into American culture. Three Priory teams competed against coders from all skill levels, from professionals to students like themselves. And, for the first time, a team of Junior School students was part of the contest as well.

"It was amazing to see the seventh and eighth graders competing," Crossey says. "It was incredible to get to see these guys that we helped teach and develop their skills compete at a high level."

### Providing a Trifecta for Success

Over the course of several weeks at the end of the fall term, some eighth grade students were more often found in the science lab than at the foosball tables in the Junior School Commons, with a different kind of competition luring them away. As a capstone of their fall science class, which focuses on basic physics and mathematics concepts, the students build a race car with a mousetrap as the only power source. They have the opportunity to design, build and test their car, then repair and improve it before they race them against other students' cars and gather data on their performance.

"Priory has a strong record of providing students with an outstanding education in math, science, and, more recently, computer science," Associate Headmaster Rashford says. "Our faculty members continue to build on that foundation and are developing units and projects that aim to engage and involve students actively in their learning." **P**

## Exceptional Results

### Entrepreneurial Priory Student Wins Elevator Pitch Competition



In December, Saint Louis University held its annual Real Elevator Pitch Competition, one of three annual entrepreneurship contests the university hosts for high school students. Priory junior Ian Crossey won first place in the 2018 event for his idea for Nova Bus, a carpooling app that allows students to request and give rides for school events.

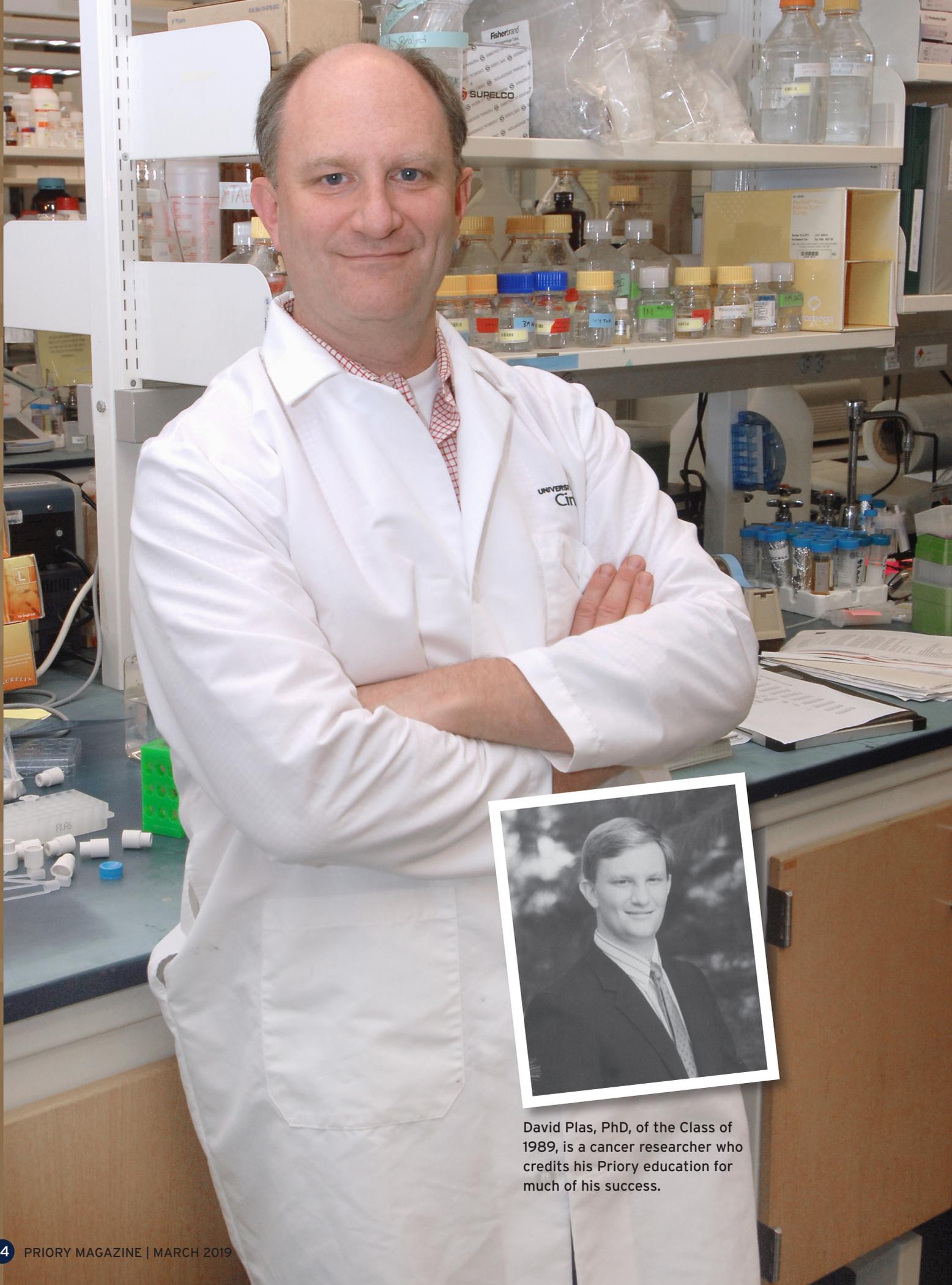
In the Real Elevator Pitch Competition, students pitch business ideas to panels of judges during 10 actual rides in an elevator. The judges reward competitors that they like by giving them their six business cards. Crossey collected 21 total business cards and took first place overall, earning a \$1,000 prize.

### Student's Math Skills Bring Home a Winner

Hats off to Priory senior Joseph Gioia, who participated in the American Mathematical Society's "Who Wants to Be a Mathematician" competition at the Saint Louis Science Center in November. In Round 1A, Gioia went against three other students and won \$500 and a graphing calculator. In Round 2, he went against the winner of Round 1B on one question; the other contestant buzzed in first and was incorrect, and then Gioia gave the correct answer, winning



another \$500. In Round 3, Gioia had one especially challenging question. He answered it correctly, and won \$2,000 — bringing his total winnings to \$3,000 (and a graphing calculator)! Congratulations to Joseph for his math prowess!



David Plas, PhD, of the Class of 1989, is a cancer researcher who credits his Priory education for much of his success.

## FEATURE STORY

# Educational Foundation at Priory Leads to Lifesaving Research Career

**N**early every teenager, of every generation, has asked in exasperation, “When am I ever going to use this in real life?” as he or she struggled through a difficult math equation or science project. Yet David Plas, PhD, who graduated from Saint Louis Priory School in 1989, puts his science and math skills to use every day in his work as a noted cancer researcher who is making lifesaving breakthroughs in cancer treatments.

Plas is an associate professor in the department of cancer biology and the Anna and Harold W. Huffman Endowed Chair in Glioblastoma Experimental Therapeutics at the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine.

Part of his responsibilities includes leading a research team in conducting experiments to try to design new combinations of chemotherapy to treat glioblastoma, an aggressive brain cancer, as well as leukemia and breast cancer.

“The treatment for glioblastoma has changed little in 30 years despite the best experiments and best research efforts,” Plas says. “Through this research, we’re solving problems with tremendous potential for impact on new treatments for patients. This is some of the most exciting work I’ve done.”

He continues: “What’s fun about working in academics and biomedical research is that it includes the opportunity to hang around really smart people. Being on local, national and international teams working toward solving important problems is exciting and I enjoy the challenge of it.”

Through his research, he works closely with a graduate student who is a computational biologist, a field that combines math and bioinformatics. Plas says he frequently relies on his experience with Father Paul Kidner, O.S.B., at Priory to communicate with this mathematician graduate student.

“I have to reach back to my classes in statistics and calculus with Father Paul and draw on that education to understand and interact with my colleague,” Plas says.

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“I wouldn’t be where I am now without the rigorous and thorough education I had in math and science at Priory.”

— DR. DAVID PLAS ’89

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Father Paul’s example also has influenced Plas as an instructor. “The number one thing I remember from Father Paul was not the content itself but his approach to instruction,” Plas says. “He combined good humor with high expectations. He had a mastery of his subject matter and he made it fun and interesting to learn. When Father Paul taught AP Calculus, there was a lot of material to cover and he left no stone unturned. He never used canned material. He would get out the dry erase marker and show us how to do the problem step by step right in front of us so we could see and understand the thought process. That is why we learned it on such a deep level.”

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Plas also recalls another teacher who influenced his career path in biomedicine and cancer research. “Like Father Paul, our AP Chemistry teacher, Mr. Joe Gleich, was also a clear master of the subject matter. We went deep into the subject and Mr. Gleich gave us context and confidence so we could build on it.”

When Plas started high school, he wanted to become a physician. He attended the University of Notre Dame, where he was drawn toward biomedical research and technology instead. After he graduated with a degree in biological sciences, he received his PhD from Washington University School of Medicine in immunology. He did his post-doctorate work in cancer biology at the University of Chicago and the University of Pennsylvania.

Since 2004, Plas has been at the University of Cincinnati, where he has held numerous leadership roles and has grown the cancer research program. He and his wife, Elizabeth, who is a dentist, have five children, ranging from a second grader to a sophomore in college at the University of Notre Dame.

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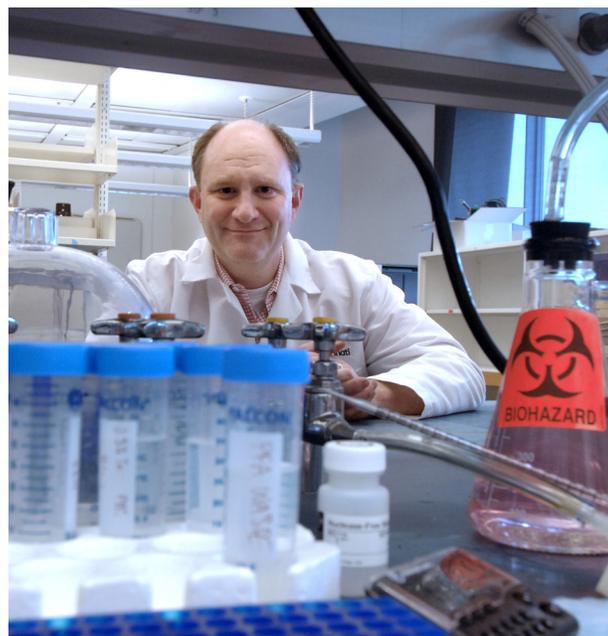
“I’m so proud to see Priory flourishing. It’s a great place, run by great teachers and monks. I owe them a lot of thanks. So many teachers helped form me.”

— DR. DAVID PLAS ‘89

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With his accomplishments, Plas is grateful for the strong educational foundation he received at Priory. “I wouldn’t be where I am now without the rigorous and thorough education I had in math and science at Priory, as well as the writing skills I learned that are so critically important,” he says. “I had excellent preparation for college and grad school because of my education in science, especially chemistry and AP Chemistry, biology and physics.”

As a scientist, he particularly appreciates Priory’s strength in science. “Not all schools offer the same lab time in high school — lots of schools don’t do



Dr. David Plas '89 at work at the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine.

nearly enough,” Plas says. “I’m thankful I had a special advantage coming out of Priory with this background.”

He says Priory shaped him in many ways. “The whole culture of Priory still drives my concept of what a real intellectual environment should be like. I’m so proud to see Priory flourishing. It’s a great place, run by great teachers and monks. I owe them a lot of thanks. So many teachers helped form me.”

Beyond science and math, he credits Mrs. Beryl Lemon, who taught French and led what at that time was called the Student Services organization, for helping him break out of his shell.

“As president of Student Services, I had to make announcements in front of school assemblies and I was poor at it. Mrs. Lemon coached me and gave me opportunities to practice. Now I do a lot of oral presentations in my work.”

In addition to being president of the Student Services organization, Plas was on the track team and the football team. “That access to athletics was a big contributor to developing self-confidence,” he says. “You learn how to work as a team where everyone contributes.”

He learned other life lessons from Priory, too. “Father Finbarr Dowling, the former Headmaster, was always concerned for those less fortunate,” Plas says. “I carry that viewpoint with me and bring it to my work, which is why I’m interested in removing barriers to help any student who is interested in science and technology. I think more students would go into science and technology if they are provided an early enough opportunity.” **P**



## Dear Members of the Abbey Family,

*The Saint Louis Abbey Journal*— its original name was *The Saint Louis Priory Journal*— was published for the first time in May 1956, almost 63 years ago. The date is significant, because it still would be a few months before Saint Louis Priory School would open its doors in the fall of 1956 to its very first class of students.

Labeled “Vol. I, No. 1,” the *Journal’s* first paragraph reads as follows:

*This unpretentious little journal is designed to keep the friends of the Priory informed of what is going on. We shall publish it as need arises, that is at irregular intervals. In time we hope that it will acquire a more solid aspect, but most of the best things begin small. This certainly does, partly from financial reasons. We are conserving all our financial energy for the building program which lies ahead.*

I suspect the text above was written by Father (later Abbot) Luke, who was known for many things, including his frugality. As I approach my first anniversary as abbot of the monastic community of Saint Louis Abbey, I have a profound appreciation for Abbot Luke’s good stewardship. Likewise, I share his interest in keeping the many friends of the Abbey informed about all the good that is happening here.

Over the succeeding decades, *The Saint Louis Abbey Journal* evolved into a yearly publication that served as a kind of “annual report” for the ministries of the monastic community. Due to the constraints of its format, what our annual publication did not always do so effectively was touch people’s hearts through the stories we shared — particularly the hearts of our current school families, prospective families, alumni and friends. I know you will agree that we have such great stories to tell of Priory offering its students outstanding preparation for an exceptional life.

Now, to address this concern, *The Saint Louis Abbey Journal* is evolving once again:

- For Saint Louis Priory School families, prospective families, alumni and friends, the *Abbey Journal* will be included within the twice-yearly *Priory Magazine*, a new publication that combines rich storytelling, photos and news about and for the school community with particular content that is of interest to Priory’s more than 2,600 alumni and alumni parents.
- Separately, the *Abbey Journal* content also will be shared with Saint Anselm parishioners, who will benefit from increased awareness of the ongoing efforts of the monastic community of Saint Louis Abbey.

On behalf of myself and all of the monks of Saint Louis Abbey, thank you for your prayers and support. Please know of our prayers for you as well.

Yours sincerely in the Lord,

*Abbot Gregory Mohrman, O.S.B.*

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

## Archbishop Carlson Celebrates Abbatial Blessing Mass

On Sept. 9, 2018, St. Louis Archbishop Robert Carlson celebrated an Abbatial Blessing Mass in the Abbey Church, at which Abbot Gregory Mohrman, O.S.B., '76 formally received his abbatial ring and crozier, the shepherd's staff. A reception followed in the High School Commons.



## Brother Athanasius Ordained Deacon



With family and friends in attendance, Brother Athanasius Soto, O.S.B., was ordained to the diaconate by the Most Reverend Mark Rivituso, Auxiliary Bishop of St. Louis, in the Abbey Church on Aug. 25, 2018.

## Two Former Priory Headmasters Honored for Jubilees



In September 2018, the Abbey Family celebrated the 60th anniversary of the ordination to the priesthood of Father Paul Kidner, O.S.B., with a Mass and reception.



In November 2018, Father Finbarr Dowling, O.S.B., was honored at a Saint Anselm Parish Mass for the 50th anniversary of his priesthood ordination. A reception followed in the Parish Centre.

## Simple Vows for Portsmouth's Brother Benedict

Brother Benedict Maria, O.S.B., professes his simple vows at Portsmouth Abbey in December 2018. Portsmouth Abbey Prior-Administrator Father Michael Brunner, O.S.B., looks on. Brother Benedict is completing his novitiate studies at Saint Louis Abbey before an expected return to Portsmouth Abbey in June 2019.



## Father Michael Begins Service as Portsmouth Abbey Prior-Administrator

After 22 years at Saint Louis Abbey — including seven as pastor of Saint Anselm Parish and eight as Priory Headmaster — Father Michael Brunner, O.S.B., journeyed to Portsmouth Abbey in Portsmouth, Rhode Island, in December 2018, in his new role as Portsmouth's Prior-Administrator, or interim superior.

The appointment was announced by Abbot Gregory Mohrman, O.S.B., in September. Abbot Gregory had been appointed to serve as Portsmouth's Prior-Administrator in 2017, and he did so while continuing as Priory's Headmaster, and even after his own abbatial election at Saint Louis Abbey last summer. Father Michael's appointment was made by Abbot Christopher Jamison, O.S.B., the Abbot President of the English Benedictine Congregation, with Abbot Gregory's blessing.

"I am confident that Father Michael will serve God, Portsmouth Abbey and Saint Louis Abbey well in this role," Abbot Gregory noted in his announcement letter



Father Michael Brunner, O.S.B.

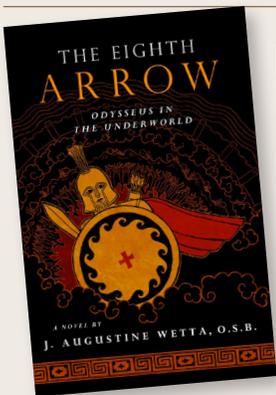
to both abbey communities. "Father Michael has been serving both on the Council of Portsmouth Abbey and on the Board of Regents of Portsmouth Abbey School, and he is very familiar with the Portsmouth Abbey community."

In his letter, Abbot Gregory noted that some years ago the monks of Portsmouth Abbey, who have been decreasing in number and increasing in age, asked for

the monks of Saint Louis Abbey to help reinvigorate their monastery by sending a small group of monks to live there. In response, Saint Louis Abbey agreed to send monks to Portsmouth for various periods of time to support them in their monastic life. Today, two monks of Saint Louis Abbey — Father Francis Hein, O.S.B., and Father Edward Mazuski, O.S.B., '05 — reside at Portsmouth along with Father Michael.

Both abbeys see the relationship between them as a means to formalize and deepen collaboration not only between the abbeys, but also between their respective schools — Saint Louis Priory School and Portsmouth Abbey School. Last summer, the two schools partnered on a joint trip to Oxford in England, and more such collaboration is anticipated.

The monastery at Portsmouth Abbey was founded in 1918, and the coeducational Portsmouth Abbey School — a boarding and day school — was established in 1926.



## New Book from Father Augustine

Released in September 2018 and 14 years in the making, the most recent book from Father Augustine Wetta, O.S.B. — *The Eighth Arrow* — is described by publisher Ignatius Press as an "action-packed epic [that] follows Odysseus and Diomedes as they journey through all the circles of Dante's Hell, where they encounter various characters from Greek mythology, ancient history, and Renaissance literature."

*The Eighth Arrow* is available in Priory's Campus Store or via online retailers.



# IN MEMORIAM

## Aug. 1-Dec. 31, 2018

Elizabeth Bourland, grandmother of Jack Taul '19

Frezell Collins Sr., brother of Derrick Collins of the Abbey's maintenance staff

Liam Coonan, grandfather of Michael Ware '08 and Liam Ware '11

Angie Crutsinger, grandmother of Dan Sullivan '08 and Bob Sullivan '08

Marion DiMarco, grandmother of Joseph DiMarco '12 and Thomas DiMarco '16

James Dimitroff, grandfather of James Dimitroff '18 and Jake Dimitroff '20

Helen Elliott, grandmother of Father Cuthbert Elliott, O.S.B., '02

Marianne Finnegan, grandmother of Kyle Finnegan '12 and Bradley Finnegan '13

James Fox, grandfather of Jimmy Fox '20

Maureen Gaertner, mother of Gary Gaertner '83 and grandmother of Gary Gaertner '21

Thomas Gerber, grandfather of Chase Gerber '22

Tim Gillespie, brother of Joe Gillespie '74, Mark Gillespie '76, and Matthew Gillespie '78 (deceased)

Agnes Godar, grandmother of William Godar '08

Jerry Gunther Jr., father of John Gunther '86, Peter Gunther '90, and grandfather of Gerard Gunther '24

Norman Havlik, uncle of Father Dominic Lenk, O.S.B.

Martin Hennessey, grandfather of Ricky Hennessey '09 and Hunter Salmon '11

John Holmes Jr., brother of Assistant Soccer Coach Jimmy Holmes '06 and David Holmes '16

Alezandra Kamakas, grandmother of Dan Kamakas '04 and Drew Kamakas '09

Donald Kueser, parishioner

Dr. John Daniels Lamping, grandfather of Jack Carr '24

Dr. Don and Karol Livingston, parents of John Livingston '85

Peter Lumaghi '63

Kevin McGinnis, parishioner

Peggy Moellenberg, parishioner

Raymond Mohrman, grandfather of Ray Mohrman '94 and Stephen Mohrman '01

Lou Monnig Sr., father of Lou Monnig '77

Dorothy Moore, mother of Birch Carpenter '76 (deceased)

Marie Morrison, mother of George Morrison '61 (deceased)

Patricia O'Leary, parishioner

Irene Puettmann, grandmother of Michael Puettmann '10

Edward Rasp '00, brother of Sean Haldaman '20

Grace Reichle, grandmother of Robert Reichle '98, Michael Reichle '02, and mother-in-law of former faculty member Gayle Reichle

Anne Ryan, mother of John Ryan '71 and grandmother of Frank Ryan '01

Julie Schroeder, parishioner

Ann Steck, mother of Andrew Steck '06

Andrew Steinhubl, grandfather of Drew Steinhubl '22

Charlotte Suarez, mother of former faculty member Rick Suarez

Roy Szatkowski, grandfather of Matt Szatkowski '07, Tim Szatkowski '08, and John Szatkowski '12, and father-in-law of former Director of Finance Dawn Szatkowski

Paul Tierney, parishioner

Claire Travis, mother of Bill Travis '64, Glen Travis '72, and David Travis '76, and grandmother of Philippe Travis '92

Walker Tobin, son of Steve Tobin '69

Melba Willman, mother of Phil Willman '71, Stephen Willman '75, and Mark Willman '77, and grandmother of Alec Willman '11, and Daniel Willman '18

## Saint Anselm Welcomes New Pastor

Saint Anselm Parish welcomed Father Aidan McDermott, O.S.B., as its pastor in late November 2018.

"It's a very joyful and faith-filled place," he says of the parish.

Father Aidan grew up on the Hill in south St. Louis, was a member of St. Ambrose Parish and attended Bishop DuBourg High School. His family's involvement in the Church laid a solid foundation for his future vocation.

His older sister, who eventually became a Franciscan sister, planted the seeds about religious life for Father Aidan when he was in grade school. By college, he felt God calling him to a communal religious life. Soon, he entered the community at Saint Louis Abbey.

Father Aidan works to make reverent, joyful Masses a priority for the parish. As pastor, he hopes to be a good shepherd for the parishioners, reaching out to those



who have fallen away and encouraging those who are involved now.

"I hope to help the parish get closer to Jesus in the best way I can," he says.

## Acts of Kindness Ministry Experiences Inspire Gratitude

Linda Borchardt, pastoral minister, oversees the Acts of Kindness ministry as part of a growing effort to create a culture of encounters at Saint Anselm Parish.

"We seek to bring about awareness of many of the social issues impacting our surrounding communities," Borchardt says. "Our plan is to educate, inform and help impact social change and awareness."

### Making a Difference Through Compassion

The Acts of Kindness ministry works with many groups throughout the St. Louis area and has helped several rural Missouri parishes.

Through the Acts of Kindness 2018 Christmas project, the group collected over \$8,000 in Walmart gift cards for the rural parishes; filled four pickup trucks with clothing, toys, and personal care products for the churches of the Ville neighborhood; and more.

Penny Durban is one of the members of the Acts of Kindness group who visited rural parishes and presented them with

gift cards to help their parishioners. "The poverty in some rural parishes is enormous and often there aren't enough resources to help," Durban says. "It was heartwarming to be able to help people who were in dire straits."

**"When you learn people are suffering, struggling or are victims of injustice, we can at least be part of helping. Being involved in this group fosters that."**

— PENNY DURBAN

Durban is passionate about social justice and the Criminal Justice Ministry. In 2018, the Acts of Kindness group provided dinners for about 20 parolees who had been incarcerated for at least 15 years. The group also distributed food to the

homeless on the streets of St. Louis. "Having compassion is what it means to be human," Durban says. "When you learn people are suffering, struggling or are victims of injustice, we can at least be part of helping. Being involved in this group fosters that."

The Acts of Kindness also hosts a series of social justice presentations over the course of the year.

### A Call to Join

The group hopes to grow its volunteer numbers at Saint Anselm. Durban encourages people to attend one of the group's meeting to learn more. "Acts of Kindness opens doors. We often don't know what others' lives are like but by reaching out, you can brighten someone's day."

The Acts of Kindness ministry inspires gratitude in Durban. "When we see the gifts and graces we've been given, we live feeling grateful. As a result, we want to give back. It goes in full circle."

## News Briefs

### Open House Success

The Admissions team sends a huge “Thank you!” to all of the parents, students, faculty, staff, and monks who pitched in to make the 2018 Priory Open House happen. We welcomed many new families to campus to learn more about the school’s Benedictine heritage; Catholic identity; academic, athletic, and arts offerings; and student resources. The Priory community’s efforts are so important in spreading the word about the Open House.

If you know anyone who might be interested in applying to Priory, please send a note to Director of Admissions Alice Dickherber at [adickherber@priory.org](mailto:adickherber@priory.org).



### Promised Progress Through Xanadu’s Campus Beautification Fund-A-Need

Thank you to all who supported Xanadu’s 2018 Fund-A-Need campaign, which raised \$187,000 for campus beautification. If you have been on campus, you’ve seen a host of new trees and landscaping that now offer an attractive and virtually unobstructed view of the iconic Abbey Church from Mason Road. The Junior School road also is widened, which now offers a designated “queuing lane” for parents, and the access road is widened for vehicles leaving the gym.

Some structures have been taken down that have outlived their usefulness, including the Singer House and the houses along the gym road. New signage at the Abbey’s main entrances is still to come.

All of these projects are making Priory a more attractive and welcoming place to visit. The monastic community and the school’s administration, faculty, staff and students are grateful for your unwavering generosity.

### College Counseling Trivia for the Win

On Dec. 19, sophomores spent their seminar period competing in College Counseling Trivia, mixing the opportunity to show off their knowledge of mascots and fun facts with the chance to learn about the application process and the support offered by the College Counseling Office.



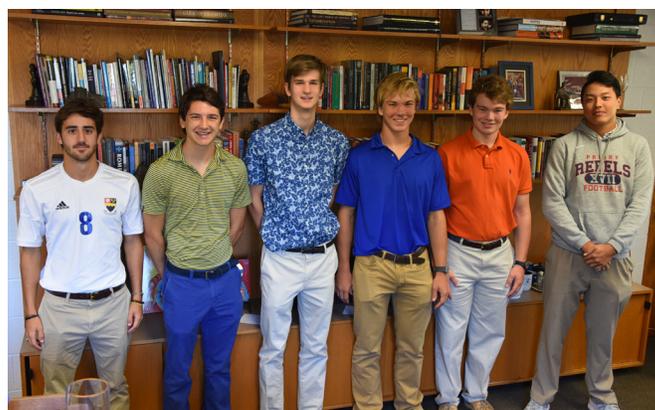
## Priory Students Receive National Academic Recognition

Eight students from Priory are among the approximately 16,000 high school seniors nationwide who have been named semifinalists in the 64th National Merit Scholarship Program.

These academically gifted Priory seniors, (top photo, left to right) **Adam Urish, Duncan Phillips, Will Todt, Patrick Smith, Seung Kwon Hwang, Mark Shallenberger, Cullen Trout and Clayton Salvatori** — have an opportunity to continue in the competition for 7,500 National Merit Scholarships to be offered this spring that are worth more than \$31 million.



In addition, Priory congratulates two College Board National Hispanic Recognition Program Scholars, (bottom photo, left to right) **David Villarreal and Patrick Lavallee**, and our four National Merit Commended Students, **Matthew Capps, Louis Rolwes, Sean Dolan and Bret Wang**.



More than 1.6 million high school juniors from about 22,000 high schools entered the 2019 National Merit Scholarship Program by taking the 2017 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT®), which served as an initial screen of program entrants. The nationwide pool of semifinalists, representing less than 1 percent of U.S. high school seniors, includes the highest-scoring entrants in each state. The number of semifinalists in a state is proportional to the state's percentage of the national total of graduating seniors.

National Merit Scholarship winners of 2019 will be announced between April and July 2019.



## Students Help Others Through Fr. Bob's Outreach

For two days in December, two groups of juniors and seniors joined members of the Priory faculty to volunteer with Fr. Bob's Outreach at St. Augustine Parish in north St. Louis. The Outreach puts together more than 3,000 "Christmas Baskets," boxes of food for the holiday season, to distribute to families in need. Earlier in December, seventh grader **Connor Guthrie**, freshman **Tommy Frei** and sophomore **Max Look** also volunteered for the Outreach with a group from St. Joseph's in Cottleville. Their photos were included in the Dec. 10 edition of the *St. Louis Review* with the story, "Sharing Blessings."

## News Briefs



### Recognizing an Outstanding Educator

Father Linus Dolce, O.S.B., a member of Priory's science faculty, recently received notification of his selection as a University of Chicago Outstanding Educator Award winner. The Outstanding Educator Award program, which has been sponsored by the University of Chicago for more than 30 years, allows incoming freshmen to nominate one of the high school teachers who influenced or challenged them, or helped them along

the path toward intellectual growth. Father Linus was nominated by **Will Noddings '18**, who wrote in his nomination letter to Father Linus, "Your patience and determined care for your students have never faltered, and your incredibly meticulous curriculum design has helped me both learn and retain material much better than in most classes." Congratulations to Father Linus for this great honor!



### Rebel Rendezvous

Special thanks to the 10 Priory alums who participated in 2018's Rebel Rendezvous, an annual tradition in which recent graduates come back to campus during their holiday break to speak with Priory's junior and senior classes about what life in college is like. Great perspectives!



### A Christmas Soccer Tradition for Good

In what has become a Christmas tradition, Priory hosted the annual Christmas Classic game Dec. 21. In this spirited game, several Priory seniors take on the St. Louis Roadies, a street soccer club sponsored by Peter & Paul Community Services that was formed 11 years ago for men and women in St. Louis who are homeless, formerly homeless or newly arrived to America as political refugees or immigrants. Following the game, Priory presented the Roadies with gifts totaling more than \$900—money collected by Priory students during the school's most recent dress-down day.

### Using MOST for Priory Tuition

Recent changes to federal law have expanded MOST, Missouri's 529 Savings Plan. Beginning with the 2018 tax year, Missouri taxpayers can use MOST 529 assets to pay for private school K-12 tuition up to \$10,000 per year per student without state tax consequences.

"The tax law change regarding 529 savings plans offers new options for Priory families," says Laurie Krieger, CPA, Priory's Director of Finance. "We recognize the sacrifice that our families make to provide their sons with a Priory education. We encourage families to consult with their tax advisor and consider the benefits of this great new opportunity that could result in significant tax savings."

For more information on Missouri MOST, visit [www.missouriMOST.org](http://www.missouriMOST.org).



### Students Support World Food Day

On Nov. 2, nine Priory students and school staff member Carrie Lane attended rally night for World Food Day (WFD) at John Burroughs School. Students had a dress-down day to benefit WFD earlier in the fall. Seniors **Stephen Rashford** and **Joseph Gioia** served as team leaders, and the group packaged 31 boxes with a total of 6,696 meals. The event overall packaged more than 470,000 meals for distribution both locally and in Tanzania.



### Halloween Costume Contest a Howling Success

Students and faculty revealed show-stopping creativity at the Student Council Halloween Costume Contest. The winner was senior **Drew Stein** who dressed as Priory's Director of Athletics, Tom Fiala.



### Priory Families Stuff the Bus

Thank you to everyone who participated in the 2018 Stuff the Bus diaper drive at Homecoming. This important community event benefits Thrive, a local organization that helps mothers choose life. The value of the donated diapers and wipes was \$1,556.11, well over the amount collected in 2017 and nearly 2.5 times as much as the amount collected in 2016!

### Baseball Recruits

Two Priory senior baseball players signed letters of intent in November to play in college next year: **Cullen Trout** signed at Marian University and **Mark Shallenberger** will play at the University of Evansville. Congratulations!





## Meet Jon-Pierre Mitchom, Priory's Director of Equity and Inclusion

When you talk to Jon-Pierre Mitchom, Priory's Director of Equity and Inclusion, two themes continue to pop up: faith and family.

Mitchom grew up in Belleville, East St. Louis, and south St. Louis city. When he was in second grade, his mother took a job with the Voluntary Interdistrict Choice Corporation, and he enrolled in that program and began attending school at Spoede Elementary in Ladue. "It was a culture shift, to say the least," he says. "It was the first time race was readily apparent to me."

The transition to the new school was tough — he had to wake up earlier, adapt to a new social environment and curriculum, and travel more back and forth to school. The changes started to affect his academics. He was tested and scored above his grade level, but his grades weren't reflecting that. He turned to prayer.

"It was my first experience with faith and guidance and support in that way," Mitchom says. "It's when I really began to feel a closeness to God."

Once he made it to fourth grade, he hit his stride academically and athletically, and began to excel in basketball. At Ladue High School, he was a four-year varsity player under coach Bobby McCormack, and by his senior year he was a top-five player in both the metro area and in the state. He earned a scholarship to the University of Illinois-Chicago, where he studied psychology and worked in the campus ministry and Fellowship of Christian Athletes. After college, he played one season of professional basketball for Zenica Đelik in Bosnia.

Returning stateside, he joined Hopewell Mental Health as a community support worker. He counseled 20-30 clients who were dealing with chronic mental illness and often with addiction. "I saw a side of our community you don't often see," he says. "I wanted to help prevent others from falling into those situations, which opened up my path into education." That path led him to a few years of teaching at a private, Christian elementary school, and then into the Rockwood School District where he coordinated a mentoring program for middle school students.

Mitchom's role in the Rockwood schools evolved into educational equity and diversity programming and supporting homeless students and other families in transition. While at Rockwood, he obtained a master's degree in school counseling and therapy from Missouri Baptist University.

His most recent job before coming to Priory was as a school counselor in the Parkway School District, where he also served on the social justice leadership team. "We closely examined the district's disciplinary practices, to make them more counseling-focused," he says. "Looking back, it was closely aligned with Priory's Benedictine philosophy, discussion-based and with a focus on care of the whole person."

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**"When your focus is on listening, everyone is valued and everyone's voice has both the space to be heard and the power to influence the life of the school and of the community."**

— JON-PIERRE MITCHOM

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Mitchom's work extended into community involvement as well, especially in the wake of the unrest in Ferguson a few years ago. He was a facilitator of community discussions and was involved in the task force that worked on issues of equity and justice in the aftermath of those events. He teaches anger management classes for the St. Louis family court system, and worked with Dr. Norman White at Saint Louis University on a program called "Shut It Down," focused on the school-to-prison pipeline.

"We worked with the Saint Louis Public Schools in the wake of their stopping suspensions as a disciplinary practice," he says. "The focus was on the restorative practices paradigm,

recognizing the human dignity in our students, and ensuring there is a teaching element to discipline in addition to accountability."

With that experience in tow, Mitchom started work at Priory on Nov. 26, and has been spending time since then "getting comfortable, and getting to know the family." As the first person in the role of Director of Equity and Inclusion, he will be responsible for developing and implementing programming for our faculty, students, and parents in the areas of racial, cultural and educational equity and inclusion.

"When it comes to equity and inclusion, it helps to think of our community as a family," he says. "Everyone in a family has different personality types and experiences, different strengths and weaknesses, and these differences in our family cause the members of our community to experience Priory in different ways.

"We have to self-study and make sure we are working together to meet everyone's needs. We all have blind spots, and we find them by creating an environment of free exchange of experiences and feelings. We want everyone to have the opportunity to achieve

the same outcomes no matter who you are or where you are from. Being at Priory should be a joyful experience throughout because everyone's needs are met."

Mitchom sees Priory's Benedictine, Catholic mission as a great advantage. "Faith is an important starting point for these conversations, and that allows us as a community to do things other places can't," he says. "No family is perfect, and there are always opportunities for conflict, but also for improvement — to transform our relationships to be deeper and more authentic. We can do that more effectively when we look at things through the lens of the love of Christ."

He also sees a correlation between listening as a hallmark of Benedictine education, and the way he defines inclusion. "When your focus is on listening, everyone is valued and everyone's voice has both the space to be heard and the power to influence the life of the school and of the community," Mitchom says.

"I'm very thankful to be here," he says. "Being in education is a calling, and I count it as an honor to be a co-laborer with our faculty and staff and with Christ." **P**

## News Briefs



### 50th Xanadu a Golden Success

While the grand total will be shared in April at the Spring Mothers' Club Luncheon, Xanadu 2019 — A Golden Masquerade Ball 50th Anniversary — was a tremendous success.

Special thanks to the chairs, section chairs, sponsors and donors who made this evening spectacular.

This year's Fund-A-Need portion of the festivities — to provide tuition assistance, in honor of founding Priory Headmaster Father Timothy Horner, O.S.B. — raised more than \$270,000. These funds will be added to donations previously given in memory of Father Timothy after he died last year.

We will have final numbers from Xanadu 2019 in the next issue of *Priory Magazine*.



Past Xanadu chairs Susan Kalhorn and Jennifer Robertson enjoy the 50th Anniversary event.



50th Anniversary Chair Barb Palmer with her husband, Mike, and sons, Domenick '19 and Danny '22.

## Athletics



### Cross Country

Cross country is a sport that requires a tremendous amount of dedication, discipline and determination. There is absolutely no substitute for hard work in this sport, and it is up to the older runners to model the work ethic necessary to be successful.

The 2018 Priory team was led by seniors **Jacob Conard** and **Joseph Pollnow**, who provided outstanding examples for the younger runners. Sophomores **Brody Whalen** and **Hayden Dierker** both demonstrated a strong work ethic, and served notice early in the season that they would be dominant runners.

Another group of sophomores showing steady improvement each week included **Joseph Dixon**, **Michael Rashford** and **Declan Ehret**. The work put in by the Rebels paid off in the prestigious Hancock Invitational run at Jefferson Barracks in late September, when both the varsity and JV squads earned second place plaques. A week later, the varsity traveled to Orchard Farm and placed first in that invitational. On Oct. 20, Priory hosted the Metro League Meet, and the varsity runners earned second place, just five points behind the first place finisher. Individually, Whalen, Conard and Dierker

each earned first team All-League honors as they finished second, third and sixth, respectively. Pollnow showed great grit as he battled through nagging injuries to gain second team All-League honors with an 11th-place finish. The Priory JV squad once again captured first place in the league meet.

A week later, the varsity squad traveled to Spanish Lake Park to compete in the District Meet. This was an extremely competitive meet with a host of quality runners. Conard, Whalen and Dierker rose to the occasion, as they all qualified to move on to the State Meet in Jefferson City. Conard's District Meet time was the fastest of his career. Pollnow, a state qualifier his junior year, was slowed by the injuries that he battled much of the season. While he did not qualify for the State Meet, he did earn the respect of every member of the team.

With an exceptionally strong group of runners returning, the 2019 season should prove to be a very good one for Priory cross country.



### Football

The Priory football players were determined to make the 2018 season a successful one. Led by senior captains

**Anthony Leeker**, **J.P. Spellmeyer** and **Jack Beussink**, they worked diligently throughout the summer and fall to reach that goal. The Rebels started the season with victories over St. Charles, Principia and Sumner, with much of the offensive firepower being provided by sophomores **Myles Kee** and **Harrison Wilmsen**. After losses at MICDS and Westminster, the Rebels returned home and recorded victories over John Burroughs, Lutheran South and Louisiana. The 28-21 victory over Lutheran South was a particularly rewarding game that included a fourth down defensive stop on the 2-yard line, followed immediately by a 98-yard offensive drive culminating with a Priory touchdown. Junior **Dalton Bingman** was a workhorse at his fullback position, gaining crucial first downs in the fourth quarter, while seniors **Brandon Miles**, **Andrew Mahassek** and **Jacob Mercer**, along with junior **Luke Parent**, came through with key defensive plays to preserve the victory.

The final game of the regular season, a 35-14 loss at St. Dominic, set the stage for an immediate rematch in the first round of District play. On Oct. 27, St. Dominic traveled to Priory looking to repeat the result from the previous week; however, the Rebels had other plans. Priory's offense was clicking right from the start, as Wilmsen threw three touchdown passes in the first nine minutes of the game. The Rebels held a 30-14 lead at halftime, and went on to wrap up a 37-20 victory, with Wilmsen throwing for 253 yards and four touchdowns. The season ended in week two of District play as the Rebels lost at Fort Zumwalt East. With an overall record of 7-4 in his first year as head coach at Priory, Coach Jake Parent is excited about the prospects for the 2019 season.

Postseason honors went to a number of Priory players, including Bingman, who was named first team All-League linebacker, and Kee, who was chosen as first team All-League receiver.



## Soccer

After winning the Class 2 State Championship in 2017, the varsity soccer team was excited about the challenge of moving up to Class 3 for the 2018 season. The Rebels started the season on a high note, winning the Metro League Tournament with victories over Lutheran South, Westminster and MICDS. The month of September brought victories against Oakville and Webster Groves, and a schedule that included a number of highly ranked Class 4 teams. The Rebels fell just short in very competitive games against CBC and DeSmet, the two teams that would later meet in the Class 4 State Championship game. On Oct. 2, Priory traveled to Burrroughs and posted an impressive 4-0 victory over the eventual Class 2 State Champion. That game set the tone for the remainder of the regular season, as the Rebels finished the season with seven straight shutout victories, including wins over Chaminade and St. Mary's. The Rebels also claimed the Metro League regular season championship by recording shutout victories in each of the six league contests.

Despite an outstanding regular season, Priory entered District play as the #2 seed behind Rockwood Summit, a team that earlier had climbed to the top position in the St. Louis rankings of large schools. After defeating Westminster in the first District game, it was time to take on Summit for the District Championship. The game, which was twice rescheduled because of weather conditions, proved

to be worth the wait when it finally was played on Nov. 3. The highly competitive game, played by two talented and well-coached teams, was tied 1-1 at the end of regulation play. Just a few minutes into the first overtime period, senior **Will Mohrmann** took a corner kick from the left side, and perfectly placed the ball just past the far post where junior **Ben Glarner** headed it into the net for the game winner. As District Champions, the Rebels moved on to the Sectional round to face Webster Groves. This was a high-intensity game from start to finish, with both teams creating good scoring chances, but with neither team able to find the back of the goal. The game remained scoreless through regulation time and two overtime periods. Unfortunately, Webster Groves came out on top when the game ultimately was decided by penalty kicks. It should be noted that senior goalie **Sean McAtee** played outstanding games against both Summit and Webster Groves. The Rebels finished the season with an overall record of 17-7.

Many of the Priory players received individual honors for their outstanding play throughout the season. Senior Will Mohrmann, junior **Michael Spencer** and sophomore **Donny Ross** each received All-State recognition for the second consecutive year. Spencer also was chosen as the Metro League Player of the Year. Coach John Mohrmann was named the Class 3 Coach of the Year for the private schools.

## PRIORY ATHLETIC HONORS, FALL 2018

### Cross Country

Jacob H. Conard — First Team All-League, All-District, State Qualifier

Brody P. Whalen — First Team All-League, All-District, State Qualifier

Hayden T. Dierker — First Team All-League, All-District, State Qualifier

C. Joseph Pollnow — Second Team All-League

### Football

Dalton J. Bingman — First Team All-League Linebacker

Myles Kee — First Team All-League Receiver

Anthony D. Leeker — Second Team All-League Defensive Back and Kicker

Duncan W. Phillips — Honorable Mention Offensive Lineman

Joseph P. Brady — Honorable Mention All-League Offensive Lineman

Luke C. Parent — Honorable Mention All-League Linebacker

Harrison S. Wilmsen — Honorable Mention All-League Quarterback

### Soccer

William T. Mohrmann — First Team All-League, First Team All-State

Michael D. Spencer — Metro League Player of the Year, Second Team All-State

Donald M. Ross — Second Team All-League, Honorable Mention All-State

Jack A. Hopson — First Team All-League

Benjamin B. Glarner — First Team All-League

Drew J. Ahlering — Second Team All-League

Jackson E. Taul — Second Team All-League

William A. Kelly — Second Team All-League

David A. Villarreal — Honorable Mention All-League

Sean F. McAtee — Honorable Mention All-League

Charles D. Ferrick — Honorable Mention All-League

Coach John Mohrmann — Missouri Class 3 Coach of the Year (Private)

**Winter and spring sports recaps will be offered in the September edition of Priory Magazine.**



Under the leadership of Theresa Johnson, president of the **Mothers' Club**, the group hosted several events this fall.

### Junior School Mass and Luncheon

In November, the Junior School moms spent a day with their sons enjoying Mass and lunch. Kathleen Dixon and Carine Azrak coordinated the luncheon in the school Dining Hall.



Lauren and David Drummond enjoy the Junior School Mass and lunch.



### Fall Mothers' Club Luncheon

Priory moms heard the wise words of new Headmaster Father Cuthbert Elliott, O.S.B., '02, who spoke about new beginnings and shared how important play and joy are to Priory students. The stress of a college preparatory school can be overwhelming and he encouraged moms to embrace all aspects of their sons during their six years at Priory.



### Annual Christmas Boutique

The Annual Christmas Boutique was a holiday spectacular attended by more than 350 people. The 34 vendors provided a wide variety of treats and treasures to start the holiday shopping season. During lunch, the Priory Music Club entertained. Current moms, alumni moms and Abbey friends enjoyed a wonderful day of food and friendship. Co-chairs Lynn Finnie and Colleen Stein provided outstanding leadership and organization to make it an unforgettable day.

### Calling all moms!

Several volunteer opportunities at Priory are available. The Library and the Campus Store are always looking for "a few good moms." Thank you to all who volunteer! Please contact Hilda Willman at [hwillman@priory.org](mailto:hwillman@priory.org) to volunteer for the Campus Store or Teresa Vineyard at [teresa.a.vineyard@gmail.com](mailto:teresa.a.vineyard@gmail.com) to volunteer in the Library.



The **Alumni Mothers' Club (AMC)**, led by Fifi Lugo as president, has been very active this year.

In late October, the club held the Annual AMC Mass and Fall Dinner featuring Father Augustine Wetta, O.S.B. He shared his favorite "failed saints" with more than 50 alumni moms. The club then hosted a floral-arranging demonstration to start the holiday season. To cap off 2018, Kristina Hanley and Denise Cole coordinated the annual St. Nick's party to support the St. Louis Coalition for Life.

The AMC provides a Prayer Line for members of the Abbey community and the



Alumni moms gathered to learn floral arranging.

special intentions of the Alumni Mothers' Club. Prayer is the most powerful gift we can give to anyone. If you would like to join the Alumni Mothers' Club Prayer Line, you are always welcome and you can pray from the comfort of your home.

Please contact Leslie Foran at [foran@primary.net](mailto:foran@primary.net) with any special prayer petitions or if you would like to join the alumni mothers in prayer.

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.



Building community is the hallmark of Priory's parent organizations. In that spirit, the **Fathers' Club** and Mothers' Club hosted a Holiday Happy Hour at The Ritz-Carlton, St. Louis, on Dec. 7.



Headmaster Father Cuthbert Elliott, O.S.B., '02, enjoyed the evening with Mothers' Club president Theresa Johnson, and Fathers' Club president Mike Todd.



Ruben and Lisa Mella enjoy the Holiday Happy Hour with Laura and Matt Villa.

To learn more about how to establish an endowment fund, please contact Janice Bailey, Director of Institutional Advancement, at 314.434.0783 or [jbailey@priory.org](mailto:jbailey@priory.org).

## Create a Lasting Legacy

An important part of the mission of Saint Louis Abbey and Saint Louis Priory School is the building of endowments — permanent sources of funds benefiting the monks and students. An endowed fund is a perfect way to leave a lasting legacy of support for a cause or organization you care about. You'll also have the peace of mind of knowing that your charitable assets will be carefully managed and deployed in fulfillment of whatever purpose you establish — today and forever.

What difference will your gift make at Priory? Each endowed fund tells a different story of caring and commitment. Here is just one of many stories.

### **The Joel W. Huelsmann '94 Memorial Endowment Scholarship Fund**

Ron and Nancy Huelsmann adopted Joel and his twin brother, Jeremey, from South Korea in 1976. Both boys attended Saint Louis Priory School and graduated in 1994. Joel was a scholar-athlete, president of his junior class, football team captain and Student Council secretary. After graduation, he attended Vanderbilt University on a full scholarship and joined the Reserve Officers' Training Corps.

After graduating from Vanderbilt in 1998, Joel was commissioned a lieutenant and sent to Iraq in 2003, where he was an infantry captain in Ramadi, west of

Baghdad. He later served two years in Africa. In 2008, he was assigned to the Pentagon. By 2010, Joel was diagnosed with cancer and moved home until his death in 2012.

Joel's parents were proud of his leadership and his strength. They valued and appreciated the formation he received during his six years at Priory. They also valued the support they received from the school so both boys could attend the number one Catholic school for boys in Missouri.

In memory of Joel and the educational opportunities he received at Priory, Nancy and Ron established the *Joel W. Huelsmann '94 Memorial Endowment Scholarship Fund*. This fund, along with many others, assists Priory in providing more than \$1.9 million in tuition assistance for worthy young men who attend the school.

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

Joel's endowed scholarship fund at Priory continues to grow when friends and family remember Joel on his birthday, the anniversary of his death, and during the holidays. The Huelsmanns have created a legacy of helping others that will last far beyond their lifetimes.



Joel Huelsmann '94 with his commanding officer after returning from Africa in 2007.

## Interview Workshop

The Priory Alumni Board and the Priory Fathers' Club partnered to create the first Interview Workshop and Networking event for young alumni. This inaugural event took place on Nov. 24 in the High School. The day started with a panel discussion led by Mike Reedy '00. Panel participants included Dr. John Constantino '80, John Lenihan, Eric Stange and Cartan Sumner '83. The young alumni in attendance asked many questions regarding their future careers. The attendees then were paired with an alumnus and/or a current parent for one-on-one mock interviews. The day also included networking



and resume reviews by business professionals as well as a session on interviewing tips and tricks.

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



## Upcoming Events

### April

**Men's Lenten Morning of Recollection:** Join Father Laurence Krieghauser, O.S.B., on Saturday, April 6, at 8:15 a.m. for this uplifting morning. The day's program will consist of prayer with the monks, Mass, a featured presentation, time for personal reflection, and the opportunity for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Please register at [www.priory.org/lent](http://www.priory.org/lent).

**Alumni Pull for Priory:** Join us Friday, April 26, for the Alumni Sporting Clay Event at Strathalbyn Farms Club, hosted by Rob Goltermann '97. Arrival at 1 p.m. All proceeds benefit the Alumni Endowed Scholarship Fund, and sponsorship opportunities are available. Please contact Ann Bender at [abender@priory.org](mailto:abender@priory.org) or at 314.434.3690 ext. 326 for more information.

### June

**Priory Golf Scramble:** Start working on your foursome now for the Priory Golf Scramble at the Missouri Bluffs Golf Course Friday, June 14. Shotgun start at noon. Invitations are forthcoming. Sponsorship opportunities are available. Contact Ann Bender at [abender@priory.org](mailto:abender@priory.org) for more information. Thank you to Ryan McDonald '99 for chairing this annual event.

**Class of 1969 50th Reunion:** Join your fellow classmates for dinner and cheer on the Priory Rebels football team at Todd Stadium. A campus tour will be available followed by drinks in the Switzer House and dinner in the Priory Dining Hall where you will be joined by our beloved monks and former faculty. Invitations will be forthcoming.

### October



**Priory Homecoming:** Friday and Saturday, Oct. 25-26.

Reunion classes ending in 'x4 and 'x9 are invited to the Homecoming Cocktail Reception in the High School Friday, Oct. 25, at 6 p.m. Join your classmates, monks and teachers for a fun evening of camaraderie in the hallowed halls of Priory.

ALL Alumni are welcome to attend the Homecoming Tailgate BBQ Oct. 26 at 11:30 a.m., where you will see your friends/teammates from ALL of the classes. Thank you to the Alumni Board for providing the pre-game BBQ. Stick around to cheer on the Priory Rebels football team at 1 p.m. at Todd Stadium.

Please update your email and address through the Alumni Directory at [www.priory.org/alumnidirectory](http://www.priory.org/alumnidirectory) or contact Ann Bender at [abender@priory.org](mailto:abender@priory.org).

## Denver Reception

Abbot Gregory Mohrman '76 and Janice Bailey, Director of Institutional Advancement, traveled to Denver for the Abbot's Reception Nov. 8. Alumni traveled from as far away as Boulder and Pine to spend the evening hearing about the exciting things happening at their alma mater. The group encompassed many decades of Priory alumni, and they instantly created a bond based on similar experiences during their time at Priory. They enjoyed their time together so much that they are already making plans to see each other regularly and go skiing together!



Bill Dooley '67, John Nouss '77 and Tom Gale '73.



Keith Davis '00 with Abbot Gregory.



Michael Herman '14, Paddy Dutton '08, Peter Beugg '94, Tom Whalen '99, John Nouss '77, Keith Davis '00, Abbot Gregory '76, Alan Beugg '92, Dominic Coppola '14, Tom Gale '73 and Bill Dooley '67.

## New York City Gathering

Avi Amin '87 and Peter Trunfio '83 hosted our annual Alumni Gathering in New York City in December. Thank you to all of the alumni from the New York City area for joining us at this Abbot's Reception. Abbot Gregory Mohrman '76, Father Dominic Lenk and Father Michael Brunner traveled to the big city for this special evening of fun and fellowship.



Brad Lenke '12 and Father Michael.



Front row: Manish Parikh '93, Avi Amin '87, Father Dominic, Abbot Gregory '76, Father Michael and Bill Fox '10. 2nd row: Chris Mika '99, Joe Weiler '64, Sean Sigillito '11, Patrick O'Neil '03, Peter Trunfio '83, Eric Goff '83 and Will Sarni '09.



Avi Amin '87 and John Purcell '87.



The Class of 2013 celebrated its five-year reunion Dec. 28 at the Switzer House.

## Class of 2013 Reunion

Members of the Class of 2013 were back on campus to celebrate the fifth anniversary of their graduation from Priory. Class members were joined by Father Linus Dolce, O.S.B., who was Headmaster at the time of their graduation, and other faculty for the celebration in the Switzer House on Dec. 28. Thank you to Peter Cogan and Andrew Fogarty for organizing the event.



Tommy Weissert and Father Linus.



Thomas Raybuck, Jeff Hopson, Sam Taylor, Connor Flavin, Jack Rourke and Sam Newman.

## Lunch with Father Paul

Members of the Class of 1961 enjoy lunch with Father Paul Kidner in the Monastery Boardroom. Pictured, first row: Birch Mullins, Father Paul and Barton Corley. Second row: George Convy, Jim Murphy, Alan Burgdorf, Jim Barnes and Larry Condie.





## Alumni Hockey Game

During the Christmas season, a number of alumni put on their Priory sweaters for the annual alumni hockey game. Several current Priory hockey players joined in the scrimmage. Thanks to all who participated!



## The Shaw Park Championship Softball Team

Sons of Ray Lankford team members included Dan Flynn '06, Charlie Flynn '04, Andrew Iqbal '03, Brandon Bates '04, Ryan McPhail '04, Andy Garlich (attended in seventh and eighth grade), Ted Horan '04 and Charlie Schlafly '06.

## Alumni Holiday Social

Priory alumni were invited to join the monks at The Shack over Thanksgiving weekend. The new location proved to be invaluable due to a record crowd of more than 175. 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.



Seve Esperrago '12, Thomas Raybuck '13, Joey Ciapciak '13, Kyle Martin '12, Andrew Rhodes '12, Sam Newman '13 and John Rhodes '14.



Attendees from the Class of 2008: 1st row J.D. Sabio, Brendan Putnam and Bradley Taylor. 2nd row: Travis Powley, Charlie Sonnenberg, Jim Bresnahan, Rick Forshaw, Ted Lane, Ryan Linkul and Dan O'Neil.



Father Aidan McDermott and Ted Lane '08.



## Class Notes

### 1973

**David Naunheim '73** married Jean Yemm in a small ceremony at the Abbey Church Dec. 28, 2018, officiated by Abbot Gregory Mohrman.

**Dr. David Tucker '73** recently retired from practicing medicine.

### 1987

**Joe Winkelmann '87** has moved to Ann Arbor, Michigan, and works as senior physical scientist with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

### 1988

**Dr. Sacha Simon '88** lives in Warwick, England, and practices as a family doctor at Whitestone Surgery.

**Dr. Jawahar Sundaram '88** practices family medicine in Los Angeles.

**Damon Thompson '88** graduated from University of North Carolina in 1992 and is now employed by college rival Duke University as a software developer.

**David Soo Hyung Lee '88** lives in British Columbia and works as an urban design planner for the City of Coquitlam.

**Will Schmitt '88** lives in St. Louis and is a senior regional business manager with Glaukos Corporation.

### 1990

**Sean Kelley '90** is the radio play-by-play voice of the New Orleans Pelicans. When not courtside, Sean serves as a firefighter.

### 1993

**Chris Kerckhoff '93** is the CEO and president of Plancorp Inc in St. Louis. Chris and his wife, Jessica, live in St. Louis.

**Corey Luke '93** lives in Seattle, and is a supply chain finance analyst with The Boeing Company.

**Tim O'Connell '93** lives in St. Louis with his wife, Elizabeth McNulty, and their two children. He is an attorney with Bryan Cave.

### 1996

Abbot Gregory Mohrman baptized the baby of Jaime and **Jonathan Williams '96** Dec. 16 in the Abbey Church.

### 1998

**Mike Sebben '98** lives in Springfield, Missouri, and is an architect with Torgerson Design Partners in Ozark, Missouri.

**Pablo Seuc-Rocher '98** lives in Portland, Oregon, and works as a senior product manager with eGain.

**John Short '98** lives in St. Louis and is a financial advisor with Northwestern Mutual Financial Network.

**Yohance Simon '98** lives in Minneapolis, and works and travels the world with Delta Airlines.

**Tim Kaufmann '98** is the president and owner of AKG Development, a company that specializes in commercial development. Tim and his wife, Andrea, live in St. Louis.

### 1999

**Bill Fienup '99** has been named to Chicago's 40 Under 40 List. Bill is the co-founder and director of innovation services at mHub, a Silicon Valley-like incubator for the manufacturing industry that brings together startups, corporations and universities to prototype physical products, not software.



## Alumni Generosity

Brian Byrne has consistently donated to Priory every year since his graduation in 1989. Brian often donates to the Michael D. Potter Scholarship Fund in memory of his classmate, Michael, who passed away before their graduation.

*"My years at Priory were a time of great personal, academic, and spiritual growth due to the monastic community, quality faculty, and wonderful classmates. Hopefully, my alumni contributions help in a small way to enable others to receive the same meaningful benefit of a Priory education."*



## Class Notes

### 2001

Kelly and **Steve McNair '01** had a baby boy, Robert, born in August 2018.

### 2002

**Brian Redmond '02** recently relocated from Houston to San Francisco. He is an intelligence manager with Chevron Corporation.

### 2003

**George Capps '03** lives in St. Louis and is a vice president with Indalo Therapeutics.

**Patrick O'Neil '03** and his wife, Meghan, had a baby girl, Bridget, in July 2018. They live in New York City where Patrick is a vice president with Bank of America Merrill Lynch.



### 2004

Sarah and **Ted Horan '04** had their first baby in November 2018 and named him David Thomas. Ted is hopeful that Thomas will be in the Priory Class of 2037.



### 2005

**Dr. Kevin Stock '05** practices dentistry and sleep medicine in Earth City, Missouri.

### 2006

Abbot Gregory Mohrman recently baptized Georgia Foster Kitsch, the daughter of Emily and **Kyle Kitsch '06**. Kyle and his family live in Atlanta. Kyle is a manager of cybersecurity and privacy at PricewaterhouseCoopers.

**Andrew Hillis '06** obtained his PhD in Economics from Harvard and is co-founder of Herald Health, a health care IT company.

### Alumni Success



Tucker Hively '14 earned a bachelor of science in biological science with a minor in business in December 2018. He also played soccer for Webster University and was named to the fall St. Louis Intercollegiate All-Academic Team.

*"Priory prepared me for the consistency of college. Priory taught me that in order to achieve your goals, you're going to have to work as hard as you possibly can in the classroom and on the field every single day. For me, that's exactly what college was, so consistency was nothing new. I attribute the majority of my success to mastering the art of both working hard and being consistent. Also, college soccer training was nothing compared to Coach Mohrman's practices, so that preparation definitely paid off as well!"*



## 2007

**Bobby Ciapciak '07** is a vice president and financial analyst with Neuberger Berman in New York City.

## 2008

**Dr. Dan Cusumano '08** attended the University of Tulsa through 2012, earning a bachelor of science in Biological Sciences. He then entered the University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Dentistry and graduated in 2016 with a Doctorate of Dental Surgery. He continued his dental education by attending the Advanced Education of General Dentistry program at UMKC in 2017. Dan's practice is Chesterfield Park Dental.

**Philip Fonseca '08** and his wife, Laura, live in Webster Groves, Missouri. Philip works as a field supervision director with Edward Jones.

## 2009

**Teddy Altepter '09** married Kristin Peterson on Nov. 17, 2018, at the Shrine of St. Joseph with Abbot Gregory Mohrman officiating. They live in St. Louis.



## Alumni Generosity

**Ondray Wells Jr. '85** is giving back to Priory in recognition of the success his education enabled.

*"Priory was instrumental in my development as a young man. I would not be the person that I am today nor would I have achieved the level of success that I have without the foundation that I developed as a student at Priory. I donate on a monthly basis as a way of giving back and to help provide other young men the same opportunity."*

## 2011

**Sean Sigillito '11** is living in New York City where he serves as an associate with White & Case LLP. Sean passed the New York bar exam after studying at Priory during the summer of 2018.

**Jack Wegmann '11** lives in New York City and is a health care merger and acquisition analyst with Huron Transaction Advisory.

## 2012

**Austin Federer '12** married Taryn Novak on Oct. 13, 2018. They live in Dallas where he is a property tax consultant at Morrison and Head LP.



From left to right: Andrew Rhodes '12; Mark Mannino '12; the groom, Austin Federer '12; and Seve Esparrago '12.

**Brad Lenke '12** is living in New York City and is a financial analyst with Bank of America Merrill Lynch.

## 2013

**Mitch Van Bree '13** is now living in Los Angeles and is an artist experience director at RAW Artists and is writing and producing his own and others' music.

**Joaquin Alarcon '13** graduated from Missouri University of Science and Technology with a degree in chemical engineering and is a management consultant with Accenture in Chicago.

**Quentin Amice '13** graduated from Indiana University with a degree in finance and accounting and is employed by Anheuser-Busch in St. Louis.

**Brad Finnegan '13** graduated from Saint Louis University with a mechanical engineering degree and is now employed with Murphy Company in St. Louis.

**Connor Flavin '13** currently lives in Chicago and is a risk analyst with Ernst and Young.



## Class Notes

### 2013 (continued)

**Wyatt Gale '13** returned to St. Louis after graduating from Rhodes College in Memphis. He works as a software engineer with Express Scripts in St. Louis.

**Ed Houser '13** graduated from the University of Dallas with a degree in English and currently works as a legal assistant in Dallas.

**Nick Kohler '13** is currently enrolled at Case Western Reserve School of Medicine in Cleveland.

**Nehal Patel '13** graduated from Southern Methodist University in May 2017 and is currently enrolled in Duke University School of Law.

**Thomas Raybuck '13** graduated from University of Missouri in 2017 and is a U.S. Army Specialist stationed at Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

**Sam Taylor '13** graduated from Southern Methodist University and currently lives in Dallas where he works as a staff consultant with Ernst and Young.

**Ryan Token '13** graduated from the University of Tulsa in 2017 and works as an automation developer with ConocoPhillips in Tulsa, Oklahoma. He recently became engaged to Emma Diller.

**Graham Trout '13** earned his bachelor of fine arts in musical theater from Belmont University. He now lives in Stamford, Connecticut, and works as an account executive with Vineyard Vines.

**Tommy Weissert '13** graduated with a degree in mechanical engineering from the University of Tulsa and is employed by Dell EMC in Inside Sales. Tommy lives in Dallas.

## Father Paul Kidner

*continued from page 7*

teachers. When I was Headmaster, it was a time of consolidation of the excellence we had established while also making sure we were continuing to attract excellent students and strong faculty."

During this time, Father Paul also introduced an Outdoor Club for students that balanced out the school's strong academics. "I was always keen on outdoor appreciation and the beauty of nature so felt this was important," he says.

### "The More Things Change..."

From the beginning, Father Paul has been impressed with the students who have come to Priory.

"We've been blessed with the ability to consistently attract very able students," Father Paul says. "In the early years, it's amazing that parents sent their bright students to an unknown, untested school. It was an act of faith on their part. But early on, we established a reputation for excellence. Parents and students have high expectations at Priory and we've met those expectations well."

While some things have changed, including the size of the school, some things remain the same. Father Paul quietly chuckles as he considers this, acknowledging that the nature of students is similar no matter what the year or the country. "Someone once asked Father Timothy what the difference was between teaching American boys and English boys. His answer was 'Original sin has the same effect all around the world.'"

### Changing the Future

At 87, Father Paul has been going through his own changes the past few years.



Father Paul celebrates Mass in the Abbey Church, assisted by Father Cassian Koenemann '97.

"I've always been active yet I've had some health issues since 2000," he says. "I've had prostate cancer, then atrial fibrillation and open heart surgery, and now I have colon cancer, which has been more difficult to deal with. As you get older, your parts just start wearing out."

Father Paul continues to be active at Priory, although his focus has changed. He cherishes Priory's tradition of keeping in touch with former students, and still remembers the names of nearly every student he has ever taught.

His wish for students, current and former, is that they see learning as a lifelong process. "We all need to be adaptable because change is constant," Father Paul says. "Students should not be surprised if in 20 years they are working in a field that has not yet been conceived of. We need to expect rapidity of change."

Wise words from someone who has lived a lifetime of change and set so many on a path to success. **P**

# Making the Priory Experience More Affordable for Families

## Did you know?

**Every applicant** to seventh grade is considered for academic scholarships.

**Choosing Priory** is an investment in your son's future.

**529 plans can now be used** for secondary education.

**Payments can be spread** over 10 months using Priory's payment management system.

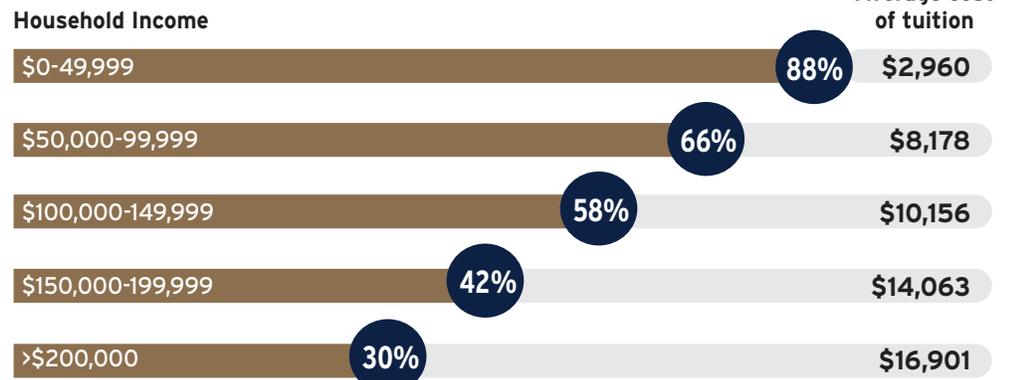
**Priory works with families** during times of change or transition. If your circumstances change, we will support you.

## Steps for prospective or current Priory families to seek reduced tuition:

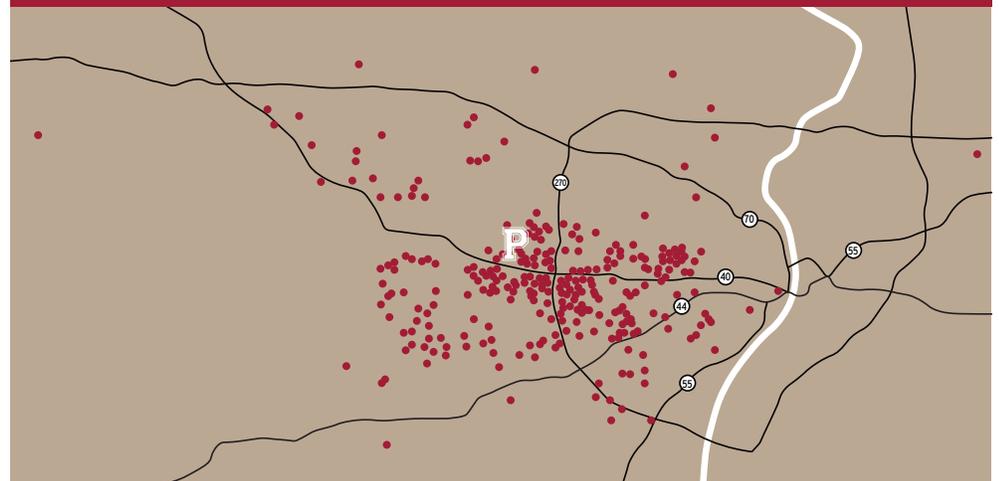
- 1 Complete an application for reduced tuition using the FACTS Grant & Aid Application. FACTS is a third-party financial aid management program with which Priory works.
- 2 FACTS will calculate a suggested family contribution to tuition based on the information provided.
- 3 Priory will review the information and determine the appropriate tuition cost based on each family's ability to pay.
- 4 Current Priory families will receive tuition information via email. Families of applicants to Priory who are admitted will receive tuition information with acceptance packet.

More than **\$1.9 million in tuition assistance** was offered to families in 2018-19. Awards are not based on income alone, but also take into consideration family size and other core expenditures. Tuition for 2019-20 is \$24,990. Fees for lunch are \$1,125 and books range from \$400-600.

### AVERAGE PERCENT OF TUITION AWARDED

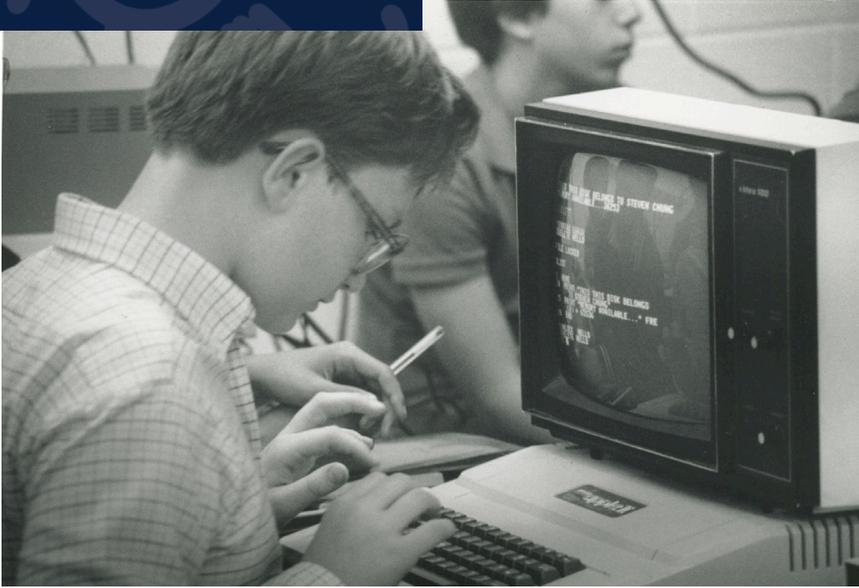


Priory students come from 100 different elementary schools and 50 different zip codes.



We are here to support you. Reach out to us right away. Contact Laurie Krieger, Director of Finance, at 314.434.3690 ext. 316 or lkrieger@priory.org.

# LOOKING BACK



In 1984, Priory's Junior School students were introduced to computers by working on an Apple II. The school's Computer Science program has grown and evolved over the years as technology has continued to advance.

## MONASTIC COUNCIL

Abbot Gregory Mohrman, O.S.B., '76  
Prior Cassian Koenemann, O.S.B., '97  
Father Dominic Lenk, O.S.B.  
Father Aidan McDermott, O.S.B.  
Father Linus Dolce, O.S.B.  
Father Cuthbert Elliott, O.S.B., '02

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Father Cuthbert Elliott, O.S.B., '02  
Jim Ferrick '87  
Dan Flynn '06  
Dr. Charles Garvin '76  
Andrew Hartnett '99  
Jim Havel '09  
Ted Horan '04  
Chris Kerckhoff '68  
Ted Lane '08  
Emmett McAuliffe '76  
Ryan McDonald '99  
Abbot Gregory Mohrman, O.S.B., '76  
Mike Reedy '00  
John Rice '72  
Patrick Thornton '02  
Corge Umlauf '89  
Phil Willman '71  
Iggly Yuan '74

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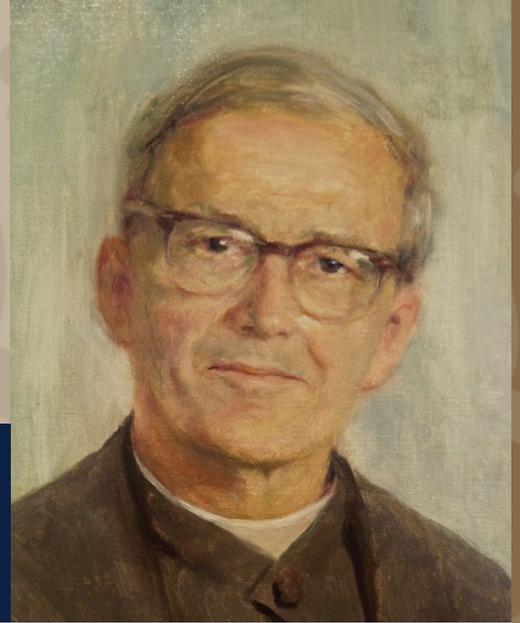
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and Public Relations  
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Michael Nickolai '03  
Director of the High School  
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# THE ABBOT LUKE RIGBY



## S O C I E T Y

Along with the two other founding monks (Fathers Columba and Timothy), Abbot Luke Rigby was dedicated to building a college preparatory school of the highest excellence as well as a Benedictine community that would provide spiritual guidance for St. Louis families. He was the first elected Superior and Abbot and continued to lead the monastery until 1995. Abbot Luke died in 2012 at the age of 88. Because of his dedication to the monastery, the entire Abbey Family and the school, it seems fitting to name the group of donors who have that same dedication and forethought in his honor.

The Abbot Luke Rigby Society recognizes all those who have included the Abbey or the School in their estate plans through various kinds of deferred giving arrangements. These arrangements include different types of trusts, insurance gifts, annuities and bequests.

To become a member of the Abbot Luke Rigby Society, simply inform the Advancement office that you have named The Abbey of Saint Mary and Saint Louis or Saint Louis Priory School as a beneficiary in your financial or estate plans. For more information on how you can join the Abbot Luke Rigby Society, please contact Janice Bailey in the Advancement office at 314.434.0783 or [jbailey@priory.org](mailto:jbailey@priory.org).

### **I want to learn more about the Abbot Luke Rigby Society.**

Please send me more information and how I/we can become a member(s).

I/we have included the Abbey/School in my/our estate plans.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail to:** Janice Bailey, Director • Saint Louis Priory School • 500 South Mason Road • St. Louis, Missouri 63141



# SAINT LOUIS PRIORY SCHOOL

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## Priory On the Road



### ABBOT'S RECEPTION IN SAN FRANCISCO

April 1, 2019

6-8 p.m.  
Ropes & Gray LLP (Law Offices of Jim Davis '98)  
Three Embarcadero Center - Third Floor  
San Francisco, CA 94111  
Register at [www.priory.org/SanFran](http://www.priory.org/SanFran)



### ABBOT'S RECEPTION IN DALLAS

April 11, 2019

6-8 p.m.  
Up On Knox  
3230 Knox Street  
Dallas, TX 75205  
Hosted by Andy Geisse '75  
Register at [www.priory.org/Dallas](http://www.priory.org/Dallas)

 [www.priory.org](http://www.priory.org)    

**PARENTS:** If this issue of *Priory Magazine* is addressed to your son who has established a permanent address, please notify the alumni office of his new address. Please call 314.434.3690 ext. 326 or email [alumni@priory.org](mailto:alumni@priory.org). Thank you.