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Priory Odyssey Program



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PRESTIGIOUS

Missouri's
#1 Catholic
school

PERSONALIZED

6:1
student-to-
faculty
ratio

PREPARED

30 average
ACT score

PROVEN

16 state team
championships
since 2004

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Questions, comments, or news tips and ideas for articles can be sent to Editor and Director of Communications and Public Relations Cathy Arroyo, APR, at carroyo@priory.org or 314.434.3690, ext. 216.

On the cover: Tyler Cineus, '26, Max Dennison '25, JP Nadreau '25, Davis Weas '25, Deven Creeth '25, and Ryan White '25 in Peru

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FROM THE HEADMASTER

Dear Friends of Priory,

It has been a momentous start to the year as we welcomed our first 6th grade class (Form A). In fact, 93 students started the school year at Priory, our largest group of new students ever. Last year, we also launched our Odyssey Program, which gives our students opportunities to have significant learning and service experiences outside our usual school year. You will learn more about this great new program as you read this issue of *Priory Magazine*.

I am writing this letter as our new school year begins, in my third month as the new Headmaster at Priory. As I've connected with students, parents, and alumni over the last few months, I have seen a common commitment that our school and monastery continue to thrive and an earnest desire to work together to bring that about.

My hope over the coming year is that you can find one way to deepen your connection to our community. We enjoy hearing from you. You are always welcome to visit us on campus or come to one of our school events. Even if you can't make it to campus, take a few minutes to contact us and let us know how you are doing. As you read this edition of *Priory Magazine* and learn about the great things going on here, if that stirs a memory of your time at Priory, please share it with us. If you have a story of Priory's impact in your life, we would love to hear it.

Thank you for everything you do for our school and thank you for being a part of our community. I look forward to meeting more of you over the coming months and hearing about your part in our continuing story.

Laus Tibi Domine,



Dr. Scott Welz
Headmaster



Students Learn and Grow with **Odyssey Program**

Priory students are broadening their horizons through global experiences - whether discovering La Dolce Vita in Rome, serving others at Bethlehem Farm, or trekking the Andes

La Dolce Vita - Rome Trip

By Patrick Chahoud '27

In March, we took a pilgrimage to the city of Rome, Italy, visiting the religious center of Catholicism. This trip was a great experience, and we created lifelong memories.

We visited many famous sites throughout Rome including the Vatican, Saint Peter's Basilica, the Vatican museums, and finally, the Sistine Chapel. The Vatican is a beautiful place, providing us with great insight into the history and strength of the Catholic Church. We even walked up the thousands of stairs to the top of the Basilica, and with our teenage boy minds, we couldn't help but race to the top.

In addition, we visited the St. Callixtus Catacombs where many of the early Christians were buried. The best part of the catacombs, however, was not the tombs themselves, but when we celebrated Mass in one of the chambers. It was an eye-opening experience that I'm glad we got to experience.

On the fourth day we went to the Pantheon, an architectural masterpiece and a perfect sphere, built by Emperor Hadrian. The Pantheon is also home to the tomb of Raphael, the famous artist who painted many frescoes in the Vatican museums. Finally, we visited one of the most famous sites in Rome, the Colosseum, which was basically pickpocket central in Rome. The Colosseum was super cool to visit, especially seeing where the ancient gladiator fights were, and sadly where many Christians were martyred.

Some of the other important places we visited include Palatine Hill, the Roman Forum, the Spanish Steps, and the Trevi Fountain. We also took a day trip to Orvieto, a small town in the countryside of Rome, which was a very nice experience outside of the bustling city. Finally, along with visiting all these beautiful places, we visited an astonishing 67 churches throughout our week in Rome. That must be some sort of world record.

< Priory students and faculty in front of Castel Sant'Angelo: originally Emperor Hadrian's Mausoleum; later a fortress for the Pope; then an Italian prison



Throughout our trip, we got to know and grow closer to each other as a group. We spent time with people we had never had a conversation with before. The group included 11 sophomores, two freshmen, and one senior. We walked at least 10 miles every day, which paved the way for great experiences along the streets of Rome.

One especially meaningful experience was participating in Mass, followed by dinner, at the Venerable English College where seminarians study to become priests. We all had the opportunity to talk with the seminarians during dinner and learn about why they chose their vocation.

Perhaps the most impactful experience of all was climbing the *scala sancta*, the very stairs that Jesus climbed on His way to trial before Pontius Pilate. The *scala sancta* consists of 28 marble steps, which, according to Christian tradition,

were once part of Pilate's palace in Jerusalem. Helena had them moved to Rome in the 4th century and ever since they have been preserved as a relic. Today they are covered by a wooden casing with windows and openings to see and feel the actual stairs. People are only allowed to go up the stairs on their knees, with certain prayers designated for each step. This experience was a fantastic opportunity to meditate on the sacrifice which Jesus made for all of us, and in a way, we could suffer with Jesus through the discomfort of kneeling on the stairs. We were able to envision the predecessors of our faith and grow closer to God.

✓ San Clemente Church above the Temple of Minerva

✓ St. Paul's Outside the Walls, Papal Basilica

✓ Venerable English College, an English seminary in Rome



Priory students at the Spanish Steps in Rome



Brendan Top '26



Two students from another school with Brendan Top '26, and Dantin Naidu '27



Jude Badoy '26



Jude Badoy '26, Brendan Top '26, and Matthew Hansen '26

Bethlehem Farm Service Trip

Ten Priory juniors and seniors spent a week this summer in the beautiful mountains of central Appalachia at Bethlehem Farm in Summers County, West Virginia. Since its founding in 2004, Bethlehem Farm is an intentional Christian community that strives to live out the Gospels through the four cornerstones of service, simplicity, prayer, and community.

Priory students joined volunteers from St. Joseph's Prep (Philadelphia) and St. Peter's Prep (Jersey City) to build community and fellowship through their prayer and work together.

On the farm, the students and chaperones fed chickens, chopped wood, weeded gardens, picked berries, prepared meals, washed dishes, performed skits, and led prayer. They also hiked, played guitar and piano, sat by a campfire, viewed millions of stars in the rural sky, played pick-up soccer and basketball, and celebrated Mass together.

Volunteers also spent time each day working in nearby communities providing low-income home repair and service to local organizations. The boys repaired a roof, installed windows, built a porch and wheelchair ramp, and helped clean and restore a community center for the homeless.

During the week at Bethlehem Farm, Priory students formed a true community with each other by working, praying, laughing, and loving together. "We lived simply to appreciate the gifts that God has given us," said Director of the Writing Center and Academic Tutoria John Mohrmann. "We prayed together to grow closer to God and to one another. We served with local people, we served each other, and we also opened ourselves to be served by others. By living out the Gospel cornerstones, we were blessed to experience a profound and joyous way of life."

Adventure in the Andes

By Director of College Counseling Nikki Hostnik

The Peru Odyssey trip immersed us in culture, faith, language - and adventure! After landing in Lima, we spent two weeks exploring the country by plane, bus, train, and boat.

Of course, Machu Picchu was a must-see, but our journey took us far beyond. We began in Paracas, enjoying the Pacific coast before the real adventure kicked off with a boat tour to Ballestas



△ Tyler Cineus '26 in Peru

Island, home to Humboldt penguins, sea lions, and striking rock formations. A highlight nearby was Huacachina, a desert that's home to the tallest sand dunes in South America, where we raced across the oasis in dune buggies and tried our hand at sandboarding.

From there, we flew to Cusco, perched nearly 12,000 feet above sea level, where we acclimated before tackling the Inca Trail. While many visitors take the train to Machu Picchu, our group hiked the challenging switchback route, fueled by determination and the encouragement of our guides. After leaving our hotel at 4 a.m., we reached the final stretch nearly 13 hours later, just before sunset. Watching Machu Picchu emerge from the clouds in the Andes was breathtaking - an experience we'll never forget. Some students said it was the hardest thing they've ever done; one even shared that the awe of Machu Picchu reaffirmed his dream to become an engineer.

Next, we boarded a train to Lake Titicaca, the highest navigable lake in the world. On the way, we stopped at La Raya Pass - 14,232 feet above sea level - where we met local villagers, admired their chapel, and bought handmade crafts. On Lake Titicaca, we visited the Uros floating islands, built entirely from reeds and still home to a small community of Uro people who welcomed us with kindness and humility.

We closed our journey in Pachacamac at a Benedictine monastery guesthouse. There, we celebrated the Feast of Corpus Christi, harvested fruit from the monastery farm (limes, avocados, apples, oranges, blackberries, and dragon fruit!), and hiked to the Cross of St. Benedict - a peaceful, meaningful conclusion to our adventure in the Andes.

Tyler Cineus '26 reflected on the trip with great appreciation. He says, "This summer's trip to Peru was much more than just travelling to an unknown land; it was a chance to experience another culture, the history that built it, and grow in brotherhood. From the bustling streets of Lima to the top of Machu Picchu, we were lucky enough to experience wonders few will. But beyond the sights, what made this trip truly unforgettable were the memories we built in the quiet moments: sharing a meal with local families, struggling together up the Inca Trail, and the quiet nights spent in the monastery. We grew closer as both classmates and brothers."

▽ Machu Picchu



△ Dune buggies in Huacachina - the highest sand dunes in South America



Overlooking the Andes Mountains

Figueras '18 Steps Up for McKendree Water Polo

After the passing of his mentor, Priory alum leads team to championship

In August of 2023, Priory Alumnus Alex Figueras '18 was hired as an assistant coach for the McKendree women's water polo team by Head Coach Colleen Lischwe.

"Colleen was one of my coaches growing up in middle and high school, and I'd always really looked up to her," says Figueras. "Eventually, I had the chance to coach alongside her, and we ended up working super well together. She was needing an assistant, and I thought it might be worth trying out, if nothing else, because I thought she would be a great person to work for and learn from. We ended up having a strong working relationship, so I stuck with it."

However, tragedy struck the McKendree women's water polo team on January 19, 2025, when Lischwe was tragically killed in a car accident.

"She was extremely caring toward her family, friends, and athletes for sure," remembers Figueras. "I don't know many coaches that were as invested in the success of her athletes as people, and I think many people that played for her would say the same thing."

Water polo has been a big part of Figueras' life. While at Priory, he ran cross country, played lacrosse and winter soccer, and was a member of the track and field team. He also played club water polo year-round.

His dad, Miguel Figueras, who is now the head coach of the men's water polo team at McKendree, is a renowned water polo coach in the area. He was the head boys' water polo coach at De Smet for 15 years, a head coach at Washington University in St. Louis for four years, and an assistant coach for the USA Water Polo Men's Development National Team.



△ McKendree women's water polo Head Coach Alex Figueras '18

< Alex Figueras '18 Priory school photo

"I remember seeing him playing or coaching some of my older friends and family members, and thinking that I should try out," says Figueras. "I think for the first couple of years, it was mostly just something for me to be involved in during the summers or after school, but by the time I was 11 or 12, it had become something I was more personally invested in."

After Priory, Alex spent a year at Pomona-Pitzer but ended up transferring to WashU to play water polo, where he wound up being team captain.

After graduating from WashU, Figueras got into coaching the St. Louis Area Polo (SLAP) high school girls water polo team, along with being a co-head coach of the 18-under girls' junior Olympic team.

"I finished college, and I wasn't totally ready to go into a full-time career, so I picked up a couple of part-time jobs, one of them being coaching at the club level. I never intended to stick with it long-term, but things fell into place, and here I am now."

About a week after Lischwe's passing, the Bearcats appointed Figueras as the interim head coach for the 2024-25 season.

"I never really aspired to become a head coach for a college program, but my thought process at that point was that I needed to step into the role and do my best," Figueras says. "Then, I would figure out later what I wanted to do beyond that season."

Figueras learned a lot from Lischwe.

"Just how to run the operations side of a college program, as that was totally foreign to me," explains Figueras. "Things like recruiting, team travel, compliance - all of those little things can be daunting - but she showed a lot of confidence in me to learn and grow in that position."

He continues, "I think that's representative of her as a leader too. She always showed a lot of confidence in her people, whether it was her assistant coaches or players. I think that's a hallmark of a good leader, and it's something I'm trying to emulate as well."

"I never really aspired to become a head coach for a college program, but my thought process at that point was that **I needed to step into the role and do my best.**"

– Alex Figueras '18

After being in the assistant coaching job for a little over a year, Figueras was now at the helm. Stepping into a new position after a tragedy is never easy, but the staff and team remained focused on the season ahead.

"As a team, we talked about goal setting constantly, and we spent time discussing some of our season goals just a few weeks before everything happened," Figueras says. "Our primary goal was to win our conference; and honestly, nothing about that goal changed. I was confident that we had the talent to do it. So, it was just a matter of being able to put the pieces together."

"I think that there were certainly some nerves on my end, but the players and people that I coached were going through the same things. I think there was some collective understanding that we were all learning and experiencing this for the first time together, which helped calm some of that feeling."

After totaling 14 wins in 2024, the Bearcats were well on their way to surpassing that mark by the end of February, standing at 13-3, including picking up three top-10 wins. After a brief three-game losing streak, the team closed out the regular season at 19-7 overall, going into the Western Water Polo Association (WWPA) Tournament.

"I think that this team will always have a special bond, not just because of our success, **but because of what we went through, and I'm grateful to have been part of it.**"

– Alex Figueras '18

"As a program, we focus a lot on mental toughness, and the circumstances that we were all dealing with really tested that. Seeing that on display in the water helped show us what this group might be capable of achieving. The team had a mindset of 'if we can overcome this massive tragedy as a team, we can easily deal with a little bit of adversity in games.' I think that carried us through tough situations."

At the WWPA Championships, the Bearcats defeated University of California, Merced (13-10) and Fresno Pacific (16-10) to advance to the championship game against Biola University. There, the team never trailed and went on to claim its first-ever WWPA Championship title.

"It was a memorable weekend for sure," reflects Figueras. "We set this goal almost exactly one year before after finishing fourth in the WWPA tournament in 2024. To achieve it was truly something special."

"I was immensely proud of everything the team had been able to achieve and overcome, but we all knew that someone very important to us was missing. Colleen had been the one that put in all the work to build up the program into what it's become. I think collectively we want to continue honoring that legacy."

In a season that began in sorrow, the Bearcats became WWPA Champions, advanced to the National Collegiate Water Polo Championships, and won a program-record 21 games.

Figueras was named WWPA Coach of the Year, led the team to a top-25 ranking, and McKendree swept player, coach, and assistant coach of the year awards.

"Bittersweet. We had by far our most successful year as a team, but it was also overshadowed by something terrible. It's kind of cliché, but I think that success is heavily dependent on the people around you, and the team success and the awards that we won just goes to show how tight knit of a group that we had," Figueras says.

The interim tag was removed a month later, and Figueras is now the full-time head women's water polo coach at McKendree.

"I think that this team will always have a special bond, not just because of our success, but because of what we went through, and I'm grateful to have been part of it."



^ Alex Figueras '18 with the McKendree University women's water polo team at the Western Water Polo Association Championship

WELCOME STUDENTS

93

New students

100

Different feeder schools from all forms

18

Scholarships awarded across five forms

66

ZIP codes represented from all forms

30%

Students from all forms have an alumnus connection (sibling, father, grandfather, or uncle)



Form A students with Headmaster Dr. Scott Welz



Form I students with Headmaster Dr. Scott Welz



Form II new students with Headmaster Dr. Scott Welz



Form III new students with Headmaster Dr. Scott Welz

GRADUATION 2025

Priory's Class of 2025 celebrated graduation on May 18 in the Saint Louis Abbey Church. Students, their families, faculty, and staff enjoyed the beautiful sunny day as 50 students became graduates and part of a robust alumni group.

Speakers included faculty member and **Class Mentor Brian Archibald** and Valedictorian **Samuel Faust**. Faust is a freshman at Missouri University of Science and Technology. **Thomas Rempe**, who is attending the University of Dallas, addressed the crowd as the recipient of the Claude I. Bakewell Jr. '61 Memorial Award.

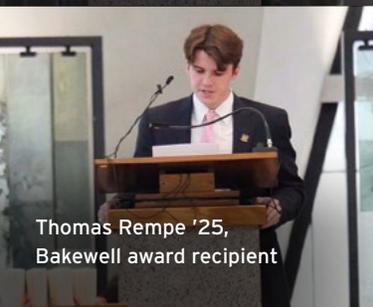
Father Cuthbert Elliott, O.S.B., '02, along with **Abbot Gregory Mohrman, O.S.B., '76**, handed out diplomas to the graduates.



Class Mentor Brian Archibald



Valedictorian Samuel Faust '25



Thomas Rempe '25,
Bakewell award recipient



Matriculation List

The 50 members of the Class of 2025 are attending the following schools as freshmen for their 2025-26 school year:

Auburn University	Rockhurst University
Belmont University	Saint Louis University*
Boston College*	Santa Clara University
Clemson University	St. Olaf College
College of the Holy Cross	Texas A&M University
Creighton University	Texas Christian University*
DePauw University	The University of Utah
Florida State University	University of Arizona
Georgia Institute of Technology	University of Dallas
Kansas State University	University of Denver
Lafayette College	University of Mississippi
Loyola University Chicago	University of Missouri*
Maryville University	University of Notre Dame*
Miami University*	University of Tampa
Missouri University of Science and Technology*	Villanova University*
Purdue University*	Washington University in St. Louis

* Denotes more than one student attending from the Class of 2025

SENIOR FACULTY AWARDS



Tony Finan, Jan Poth, Seth Arnold, Nikki Hostnik, Brian Archibald, David Johnson and his son DJ.

Classroom Instructor

Presented to the faculty member who inspires students with a mastery of the subject matter and the ability to convey it to them.

Honoree: **Dr. Seth Arnold**, math teacher

Coach

Recognizes the outstanding instruction in athletics - instruction to all various levels of talent, helping students reach their potential and above all, making it fun.

Honoree: **David Johnson**, assistant varsity basketball coach, head junior varsity basketball coach, and 7th and 8th grade basketball coach

Class Mentor

Presented to the faculty member students have been able to turn to when the going was rough, and whose opinion they admire and respect.

Honoree: **Brian Archibald**, math teacher

Shield Yearbook Dedication

Presented to the faculty member(s) who most contributed to the success and well-being of the Senior Class.

Honorees: **Tony Finan**, history teacher; **Nikki Hostnik**, director of college counseling; and **Jan Poth**, math teacher



Abbey Oaks Summer Camp

Brings Fresh Energy to Priory

Faculty leaders Josh Dixon and Emily Lawson launch dynamic program designed to spark curiosity and connection

Summer at Priory has always been a special time for students to dive into both academic and athletic activities. Guided by our dedicated faculty and coaches, campers not only grow in skill and knowledge, but also get the chance to explore our beautiful 150-acre campus. At Priory, there is truly something exceptional for everyone.

This year, Priory faculty members Josh Dixon and Emily Lawson, took the opportunity to take our summer offerings to the next level. How could the camps be expanded to provide meaningful experiences for more students? Dixon is the director of lower forms, form master, and theology and classics teacher. Lawson is a math teacher.

Lawson says, "It's actually funny, because we both talked to Assistant Head of School for Intellectual Formation Tim Malecek about our visions for expanding our summer camp to make it more experimental and reach a broader audience."

"Tim was struck by how similar our vision was for the program given that we hadn't talked about it beforehand. He approached us both about working together to co-direct the program, and we agreed that it would be a great idea. We both have different strengths and backgrounds, so it was fun to collaborate on such a unique Priory experience."

She adds, "Working with Josh and the other teaching faculty this summer was great. Josh brings a lot of energy and new ideas, and it was a lot of fun to meet and plan out the program together."

They started talking about their vision for the camp, and they eventually landed on a new name: "Abbey Oaks Summer Day Camp."

The camp was designed for an extraordinary summer experience for 5th through 8th grade students. The activities included STEM, chess, cooking, creative writing, ultimate frisbee, and much more.

"Abbey Oaks was an opportunity for us to reboot, overhaul, and develop the program into something much more dynamic and engaging," says Dixon. "The first change was

"Abbey Oaks was an opportunity for us to reboot, overhaul, and develop the program **into something much more dynamic and engaging.**"

– **Josh Dixon**, Director of Lower Forms, Form Master, Faculty Member, and Co-Director

making it a blend of sports, academics, and creative work, such as mosaic and Pysanky egg painting, as well as simply having fun."

He adds, "Having worked hard all year, sometimes young minds just need a break, time to be with each other, make new friends, and enjoy the freedom of summer."

Lawson arrived at Priory in the summer of 2023 and truly enjoys being a part of the community.

"Every day I feel that I am part of something bigger than myself," says Lawson. "Being part of this community is a privilege that I hope I never take for granted."

"Emily has been a tremendous gift to Priory, bringing excellence to the classroom in math," Dixon says. "As a colleague, she is adaptable, personable, and very easy to get along with."

"It has been a pleasure developing the summer program and spending time with her in and out of the classroom. Priory is enriched by her presence, kindness, intellect, and, of course, enviable sense of humor."

Collectively, Dixon and Lawson built a fun camp that kids enjoyed. They have a goal of wanting to show off the beautiful 150-acre space that many people just aren't aware of.

"We wanted to create a space where incoming students can get to know each other and the campus," says Lawson. Additionally, they wanted prospective students to be able to spend time on campus and realize what a special place it is.

The expansion didn't end with Abbey Oaks. This summer saw the launch of the Scholastica Rising 9th Grade Camp for admitted and current students, along with the Adult Language Course.

The camp was an invaluable opportunity for Form III students to forge connections with their future classmates and teachers before the academic year kicked off.

The Adult Language Course offered intensive language courses during the summer. The course options included Latin, New Testament Greek, and Spanish.



Abbey Oaks campers in the Medieval Arts workroom



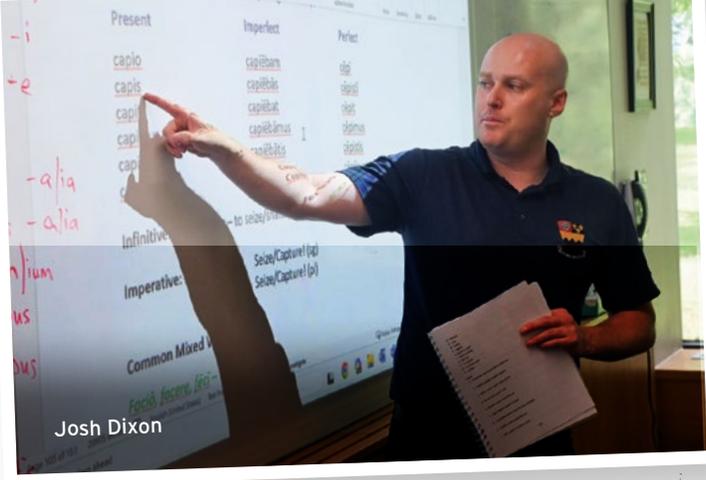
Campers in the science lab



Campers enjoying Priory's 150-acre campus



Abbey Oaks campers enjoying kickball



It was ideal for those seeking a new skill or reviving an old passion, in or preparing for Christian ministry, expanding language skills for work, travel, or simply an opportunity to meet new and like-minded people.

"The Adult Language Course was a novel idea, and one embraced so warmly by the school and the wider community," says Dixon. "It was amazing to see so many happy faces and see a shared passion and love of languages buzz around the corridors for one week in June."

Next summer, the program is expanding and will also include offerings in German, Hebrew, Italian, and American Sign Language.

Since his arrival to Priory in 2022, Dixon has become a form master, organized and led an annual spring break trip to Rome for faculty and students, and leads the Sleep Out on campus in solidarity with the homeless of our city. He assists with Tutoria, coaches winter soccer, cross country, mock trial, and was recently named the director of the lower forms.

"It has been a huge blessing to serve as form master and really get involved in the mentoring and shaping of young lives, as well as supporting teachers and collaborating with parents in the best tradition of *in loco parentis*," says Dixon. "Priory truly is a holistic experience and works best when all invested parties pull in the same direction, wanting what is best of the boys."

He adds, "The Rome trip was a natural development from my time living there, and it is exceptionally fun to spend time outside of formal school activities getting to know colleagues, the boys, and the stunning world of Italy a little bit better. The Sleep Out for the homeless is a fantastic way to put into action our commitment to the poor among us, loving our neighbor as ourselves. This is essential to authentic Christian discipleship, and I hope we can expand this work as we move forward, possibly doing something with the younger students."

"Priory teaches students how to think freely, self-advocate professionally, explore interests passionately, and risk being different," Dixon adds. "Genuine and wholesome individuality is best expressed through a supportive and grounding community; Priory gets this right."

He continues, "Of course, the presence and prayers of the monks, their daily commitment to Jesus, and the inspiration they provide act as the engine room of the whole project. Priory, with its fabulous facilities and impressive campus, really does offer something for everyone."



"Working with Josh and the other teaching faculty this summer was great. Josh brings a lot of energy and new ideas, and it was a lot of fun to meet and plan out the program together."

– **Emily Lawson**, Faculty Member and Co-Director

COOPERATING IN A GREAT MISSION

New Board of Governors extends unique connection between Priory families and monastic community

Seventy-one years ago, in December 1954, two Benedictine monks from Ampleforth Abbey in England traveled to St. Louis for a 13-day visit.

Their abbot sent them to meet with a local group of Catholic leaders, headed by Fred Switzer, Jr. Earlier that year, the group traveled to England to meet with the abbot's council at Ampleforth and asked them to consider establishing a rigorous English Benedictine school for St. Louis boys.

The new school, Switzer emphasized, would have the full support and cooperation of its local families.



△ Father Timothy Horner, O.S.B., and Fred Switzer Jr.

Following the two English monks' fruitful visit to Missouri, Switzer wrote a letter to Ampleforth's Abbot Herbert Byrne, O.S.B. In partnership with monks of the English Benedictine Congregation, he noted, the St. Louis contingent looked forward to "cooperating in a great mission."

Originally led by three monks of Ampleforth Abbey, Saint Louis Priory School would open its doors to its first students in September 1956.

"A Partnership Between Laypeople and the Monks"

"From the very beginning," says Abbot Gregory Mohrman, O.S.B., '76, Priory "was a partnership between laypeople and the monks."

What began as an informal system of school governance, he says, evolved in the 1980s into a Board of Trustees composed solely of the members of the monastic chapter - all the solemnly professed monks in the monastery. These monks received support and guidance from a separate, lay-composed Board of Advisors.

The Advisors "set up the normal committee structure and calendar of meetings that a board would have, with the monks in attendance," Abbot Gregory recalls. "And then the monks would hold adjunct meetings simply of themselves as the trustees to consider whatever the Advisors had recommended."

During the 1990s, monastic leadership determined that a smaller subset of monks - the monastic council - would begin serving as the school's trustees. Following that decision, the only monks regularly attending the lay Advisors' meetings were monastic council members.



< Abbot Gregory and Roger Cammon

While the monk-trustee change helped streamline the school's governance, the abbot says, an unintended consequence was that some of the monks increasingly "felt disconnected from the school," which has been especially difficult for monks who are older, including those who have retired from teaching.

Abbot Gregory described the situation as "a growing concern."

"Unanimous and Emphatic"

During his most recent visit to St. Louis, Abbot President Christopher Jamison, O.S.B., of the English Benedictine Congregation asked Saint Louis Abbey to review its school governance structure.

In particular, he wanted local monastic leadership to explore whether Priory should be separately incorporated from the monastery. Such a governance change has become increasingly common for other monasteries operating schools.

In response, the monastic community and the Board of Advisors in the 2023-24 school year participated in a facilitated process during which they, as Abbot Gregory describes it, "explored the whole question of the relationship of the monastery to the school."

The process, he says, led to a revelation. "The lay Advisors were unanimous and emphatic that what they sought was greater engagement of the monks, not lesser."

While the school's governance model would indeed change, it would do so in a way that better aligns with Priory's unique original vision.

New Board of Governors

According to Abbot Gregory, the participants in the facilitated process committed to engaging the broader monastic community more fully in the life

of the school to the degree that the monks are able, especially those who do not happen to teach in a classroom.

The abbot will establish a new governance structure to increase monastic involvement and reemphasize the historic partnership between Priory families and the monks.

The lay-led Board of Advisors and the monk-led Board of Trustees became one board composed of lay and monastic leaders: a Saint Louis Priory School Board of Governors. The Conventual Chapter of monks at Saint Louis Abbey approved this restructuring.

Meeting for the first time a month later to draft its bylaws, the new Board "includes all of the monks in the chapter - the solemnly professed monks - plus the laypeople," Abbot Gregory says, "all of whom have equal voice and equal vote, so that it becomes a single, coherent governing board."

The constitutions of the English Benedictine Congregation mandate a small subset of reserved decision-making powers to the abbot, his monastic council, or the monastic chapter. These include decisions about matters such as going into debt, constructing a building, or appointing a school headmaster. However, the abbot emphasizes the new Board of Governors "certainly will be engaged" before any such decisions are finalized.

Blending Perspectives

Roger Cammon is a Priory alumni dad whose son Andrew graduated in 2014. He began serving on Priory's Board of Advisors in 2016 and was named its chair in 2023.

He sees the evolution to the new Board of Governors as "nothing but positive. We want to continue to have a strong monastery and a strong school. It's all about blending those perspectives."

"It's also a way to help chart the school's progress," says Abbot Gregory. "The monastic community has made a decision to reinvest ourselves for the future, for the good of Saint Louis Priory School."

"It's about continuity," the abbot emphasizes. "The engagement of the laity in the monastic community's life and work has always been very special. This reaffirms the original vision of the collaboration between laity and monks."

“Join Me in **My Excitement!**”

Dr. Scott Welz appointed headmaster as Father Cuthbert Elliott, O.S.B. '02 takes on new monastic role

Back in 2018 - just two months before he would be named Priory's headmaster by his predecessor in the role, Father Cuthbert Elliott, O.S.B., '02 was one of a few faculty members who participated in a video interview for a school fundraising effort.

Father Cuthbert, himself a Priory alumnus (Class of 2002), noted in his interview that Priory must “continue to grow and deepen our program so that we can reach out to our students as they change and their culture changes, so that we can continue to give them the best of the past with a view to the future.”

Under his steady leadership over the next seven years - through a world-changing pandemic, a large capital campaign whose campus renewal projects would help significantly improve the school, and seemingly everything in between - Father Cuthbert would encourage the Priory community, as the Rule of St. Benedict emphasizes, to value both stability and beneficial change.

Now Priory is changing once again.

In a June 2025 letter to families, Abbot Gregory Mohrman, O.S.B., '76 indicated that Father Cuthbert discerned on a recent sabbatical an interest in serving the monastic community more directly.

Because of significant health issues that then-prior Father Dominic Lenk, O.S.B. was facing, “Father Cuthbert's proposal to assist more formally within the monastery was providential and welcome,” the abbot wrote. (Abbot Gregory later would appoint Father Cuthbert to serve as the monastery's prior.)



Though the change required Father Cuthbert to leave his headmaster role, he - along with Abbot Gregory and several other monks - continue to have a significant school presence as classroom teachers and in other roles.

“After much personal reflection and consultation,” Abbot Gregory indicated in his note to families, he had sought and obtained the approval of the governing Monastic Chapter to appoint Dr. Scott Welz as interim headmaster effective June 1, 2025.

No stranger to the Priory community, Welz is an alumni dad (son Peter '21) who has been serving as Assistant Head of School for Finance and Facilities as well as the Abbey's Chief Financial Officer since 2023.

In Welz's first letter to families, he noted he was “excited about the opportunity to continue our work together building and strengthening our Priory community.”

“With the launch of Priory's first-ever 6th-grade class,” he wrote, “and the search for our permanent Headmaster, I pray you join me in my excitement!” Welz accepted the permanent position later in the summer.

Back in 2018, Father Cuthbert emphasized what remains a Priory truth today:

“The boys know that [the monks] will always be here for the rest of our lives,” he said. “To me, it was a treasure. When I was away at university, I knew that I could always come back, and, if I ever needed anything, I could reach out to the monks for help.”

“It's just a wonderful family,” Father Cuthbert continued, “which has been a part of the school from the very beginning.”

SHOW YOUR PRIORY PRIDE



Visit the Priory website or scan our QR code to visit our online store.



Duo Dog Red Joins Priory!

The Priory community has a new addition - facility dog Red. The 2-year-old black Labrador Retriever came to Priory from Duo Dogs, and is a certified touch therapy dog trained to support students' emotional needs on campus.



Priory Welcomes Chilean Exchange Students

For the third continuous year, the Priory community welcomed students from Chile who joined the Form IV class as exchange students for the fall trimester.



Host Gabriel Lee Ruiz '28 with exchange student Pablo Alberto Zuniga Ortiz '28 and exchange student Pedro Samuel Tupper Ossa '29 with his hosts Grant Dino '27 and Grayson Dino '27

New Faculty and Staff

Jax Byington is a recent graduate of Kenrick-Glennon Seminary who has spent the past year teaching in Spain. In addition to teaching theology and Spanish, he is assisting with a classics course, the Tutoria program, and junior school sports. Byington was raised in the St. Louis area and earned a bachelor's degree in philosophy and letters as well as undertaking a year of theological studies. While in seminary, he spent time as a LifeTeen Missionary in Georgia, a pilgrim on the Camino de Santiago, and a volunteer for the Missionaries of Charity located in North St. Louis. He is a certified English and foreign language teacher, and he spent an academic year teaching various grade levels in Spain at an Opus Dei school.

Eblin Galan-Lotfe joined Priory as a part-time faculty member to teach one section of Spanish. She also teaches Spanish at Saint Alban Roe. She is a certified Spanish and foreign language teacher, with a degree in business administration and over a decade of experience teaching Spanish and promoting intercultural understanding. Originally from Guadalajara, Mexico, she has a deep passion for language education. She especially enjoys contributing to the growth of adolescents, supporting their development with empathy, creativity, and commitment.

Chris Jennings has moved to a full-time teaching and coaching role. He's been coaching sports since 2012 and has been at Priory since 2018. Jennings will continue to support many of our athletic programs and is our 6th grade physical education teacher. Born and raised in St. Louis, he is the middle of five children with two brothers and two sisters. Jennings was a four-sport athlete and played viola in high school. He attended Missouri Baptist University on a wrestling scholarship, where he was a two-time NAIA national qualifier and earned a bachelor's degree in K-12 physical education. In his spare time, he likes watching Survivor, geocaching, golfing, getting ice cream, eating good food, and spending time with family and friends.

Matt Nelson joins us from Fontbonne University, where he served as a humanities teacher and director of writing support. Nelson has an extensive academic background in English, American Studies, and anthropology including a master's degree in English from Carnegie Mellon and a master's degree in American Studies from California State Fullerton. He is teaching several social studies classes.



Jax Byington



Eblin Galan-Lotfe



Chris Jennings



Matt Nelson



Chaley Poth

Chaley Poth is a full-time addition to our math department. She joins us from MICDS. Poth is excited to begin her ninth year of teaching math. She has a bachelor's degree in both secondary education and mathematics from Saint Louis University and a master's degree in mathematics from Webster University. Outside the classroom, she enjoys new restaurants with friends, basketball, traveling, and cheering on St. Louis sports teams - especially Saint Louis University.



Stephanie Spadaro

Stephanie Spadaro joined Priory as a French teacher. She graduated summa cum laude from Northwestern University with a bachelor's degree in comparative literature. During her junior year abroad, she studied at the Université de Paris III-la Sorbonne Nouvelle and later taught as a lectrice at the Université de Paris X-Nanterre. At the University of Wisconsin-Madison, she taught beginning and intermediate French classes. She was a Dana-Allen research fellow at the Institute for Research in the Humanities, and she has presented a variety of conference papers on Enlightenment French and 20th-Century Francophone Caribbean literature. In her spare time, Spadaro teaches PSR at Christ Prince of Peace Parish, and she is learning to be an Ignatian prayer companion at Bridges.



Riley Swanson

Riley Swanson joins Priory in a dual role as both an assistant director of enrollment management and as a coach. His primary athletic responsibility is head varsity football coach. Swanson is an accomplished nine-year college football coach having spent the previous eight years coaching in various roles at the FCS, NCAA Division II and NCAA Division III levels. He graduated from Wake Forest University in 2006 with a bachelor's degree in religion and was a member of the 2006 ACC Championship team. Swanson then signed an NFL contract in 2007 with the Buffalo Bills and played in the Arena Football League for five years. He was a member of the Arizona Rattlers in 2013 when they won Arena Bowl XXVI. Swanson is married to Kaylee, and they have three sons, Milo, Jett, and Bright.



Jerel Taylor

Jerel Taylor is a full-time mathematics teacher. He most recently taught physics, statistics, and economics at Duchesne High School. He received his bachelor's degree in mathematics from Wabash College and his master's degree in mathematics from Northwest Missouri State University. After starting his professional life in sports analytics, Taylor switched careers and is now entering his eighth year in education. His experience includes 10 years of coaching basketball and golf and leading teams to two state championships. He enjoys playing golf, traveling, and attending sporting events. He is married to Natalie, and they reside in Brentwood.

Robotics Team

COMPETES IN WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

A group of 20 students from the Priory ViPrs Robotics team - split between Priory and Visitation Academy - represented the team at the FRC World Championships in Houston, competing among 600 of the best teams in the world.

This marks the first time the ViPrs won a regional competition, earning a chance to attend the championship based solely on outstanding performance.

From the beginning, the team took advantage of major opportunities. Dominic DiPasco '25 was the design lead and co-drive captain. He shared some reflections on the 2025 season.

"Throughout the past decade, more teams have made the switch from a standard tank drive to a swerve drive. A tank drive for an FRC robot consists of three wheels on either side of the robot, with one motor controlling each side," says DiPasco. "This allows for the robot to drive forward and backward, and it turns by driving one side, like a tank."

A swerve drive consists of four modules that go on each of the four corners of the robot. Each module has two motors, both of which control a single wheel. This wheel can swivel a full 360 degrees, and the swerve drive is much faster. "Even more significantly, it allows a robot to drive in any direction without turning, which allows for lightning-fast maneuvering," DiPasco adds.

This year's competition required a lot of precise movement, and the investment of buying and equipping the robot with a swerve drive and elevator system paid off.

"This year's robot has been by far the most reliable," reflected DiPasco. "Through the entire competition, we only had to replace one swerve module and make a couple small adjustments."

At regionals, the team was scoring confidently on practice day. Drivers Charlie Schanbusch '25 and Isaac Martin '29 trained tirelessly, refining their rhythm and timing. During qualification matches, they stayed in the top third of 50 teams. By the end, the ViPrs ranked just shy of becoming an alliance captain.

When alliance selection arrived, the team was picked in the final round. "That moment was unforgettable," said DiPasco. "We joined the two strongest teams at the competition, and together, we swept through the playoffs. Victory was ours."

This year, FRC introduced a new system: not all regional winners were guaranteed a spot at Worlds. But luckily, Priory was chosen for the five-day competition.

The ViPrs began preparing for the championship from the moment they left regionals. They spent countless hours fine-tuning, practicing driving sequences, and strategizing for the unique challenges they could face. "The preparation was intense, but it reflected the commitment to represent the school with excellence," added Robotics Program Faculty Lead Derek Ward.

The hours in Houston were long, with intense competition and preparation, but being among the 600 best robotics teams from around the globe was nothing short of amazing. Despite getting knocked out of the tournament earlier than hoped, the ViPrs gained invaluable experience - interacting with top-tier teams, learning new techniques, and building relationships that extended far beyond the competition. Most importantly, the championship experience bonded the team like never before, and they are eager to apply the lessons learned to build toward an even stronger performance next year.



Priory Mock Trial Team

PLACES 3RD IN STATE COMPETITION

By Thomas Rempe '25



After narrowly missing the regional qualifiers last year, Priory's Mock Trial team was eager to improve its footing. Chris Dysart (father of Adam '28 and Andrew '28) joined the coaching staff alongside Tom Niemann '84, faculty member Josh Dixon, and Father Benedict Allin, O.S.B.

Mr. Dixon took the lead on offseason recruiting, which resulted in Priory fielding three teams: two JV and one varsity. Breakout stars from the JV team include attorney Christian Bolin '26 and witness Jonathon Sadasivam '27.

The varsity team featured just one returning varsity attorney: Cam Wong '26 - joined by attorneys Chuck Taylor '26 and JJ Medler '27. Witnesses included Austin Kovac '27, Gavin Gittemeier '26, and me.

We swept the score board and won all three ballots against the Maplewood Richmond Heights JV team in the season opener. However, despite the substantial victory, we were ranked low in the standings for the St. Louis area. Things took a turn when SLUH forfeited to us in the next trial, putting our point differential at risk. After reviewing the rules, we learned that since we won every ballot, we were guaranteed a spot in regionals.

We ended up finishing 13th, just enough to qualify for the playoffs. For the first time since 2022, Priory Mock Trial was heading to the Regional

✓ Mock Trial participants Will Hoag '27, JJ Medler '27, Austin Kovac '27, Chuck Taylor '26, Gavin Gittemeier '26, Cameron Wong '26, and Thomas Rempe '25

St. Louis Tournament. Only the top 10 from that tournament would advance to state.

In the first trial, we were assigned defense against De Smet, whom we beat with flying colors. Next, we had to prosecute against Parkway South. They are a long-standing powerhouse in Mock Trial and were ranked fourth in our region. We fought long and hard against them and prevailed. We climbed to third in the rankings in the St. Louis area. We were heading to State.

I had a taste of State my freshman year, but for the rest of the team, it was a first. The initial rounds of competition were for seeding.

We started off facing West County Advocates (Westminster), and it was an absolute dogfight. Their witnesses and attorneys were superb actors, but we were better on the legal side. We ended up beating them 2 ballots to 1. The next morning, we faced a homeschool team out of central Missouri and we swept them 3-0.

Tensions were high as we waited for the announcement of the teams moving forward. To our delight, we placed seventh overall, moving us to the next round of play. We would be facing the second-seed Kirkwood team.

Kirkwood, a mock trial powerhouse, usually goes to the state finals. We kept our heads high, battled it out, and came up with the massive upset against Kirkwood. The following morning, we had our toughest matchup yet: Maplewood Richmond Heights. We gave it our all, but in the end, they were just slightly better than us and went on to win the state title. Still, our team finished third overall - tied for the best finish in Priory history.



CELEBRATION & REFLECTION

25-YEAR ANNIVERSARY PROFESSION OF SIMPLE VOWS

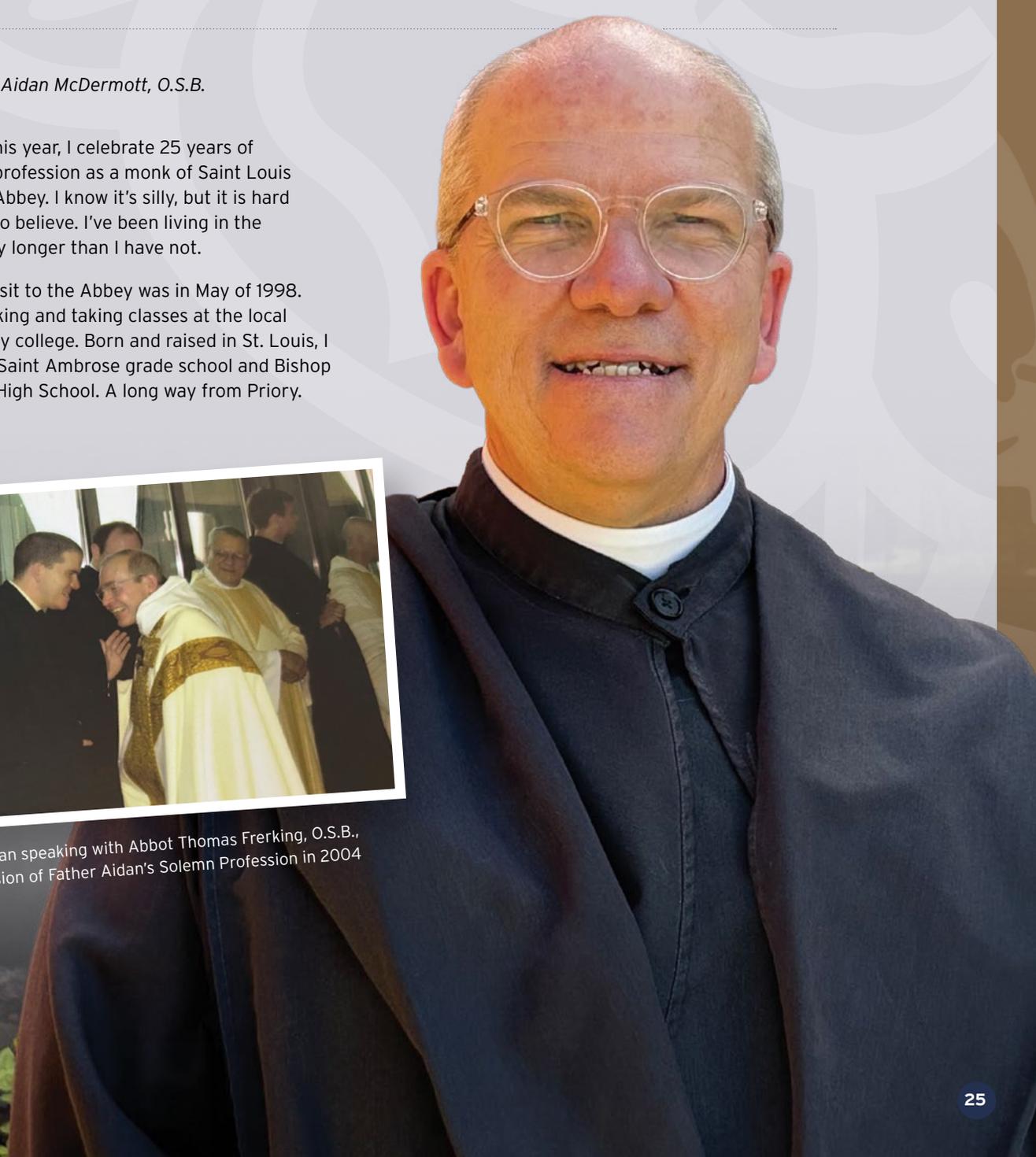
By Father Aidan McDermott, O.S.B.

This year, I celebrate 25 years of profession as a monk of Saint Louis Abbey. I know it's silly, but it is hard to believe. I've been living in the monastery longer than I have not.

My first visit to the Abbey was in May of 1998. I was working and taking classes at the local community college. Born and raised in St. Louis, I attended Saint Ambrose grade school and Bishop DuBourg High School. A long way from Priory.



^ Father Aidan speaking with Abbot Thomas Frerking, O.S.B., on the occasion of Father Aidan's Solemn Profession in 2004



“I give thanks to God for His nudging me more and more to follow Him in my vocation. **He continues to bless me with a wonderful community both inside and outside the monastery.**”

– Father Aidan McDermott, O.S.B.



^ Father Aidan's family celebrating Christmas including his niece Lexi, sisters Kristine and Jennifer, and dad James

I first began to feel God calling me to the religious life after high school. My family was active in our parish when I was growing up. We went to Mass on Sunday and prayed before meals. I did enjoy serving Mass and friendship with our parish priests and religious sisters. However, my dear late mother was a saint.

After my initial visit in May 1998, I continued to visit the Abbey over the next several months as the Lord tugged my heart more and more. I moved into the monastery in January of 1999. In August of that year, I began the novitiate under the care of Abbot Luke Rigby, O.S.B, one of our founders. A blessing. On August 26, 2000, I professed Simple Vows and in September 2004, Solemn Vows.

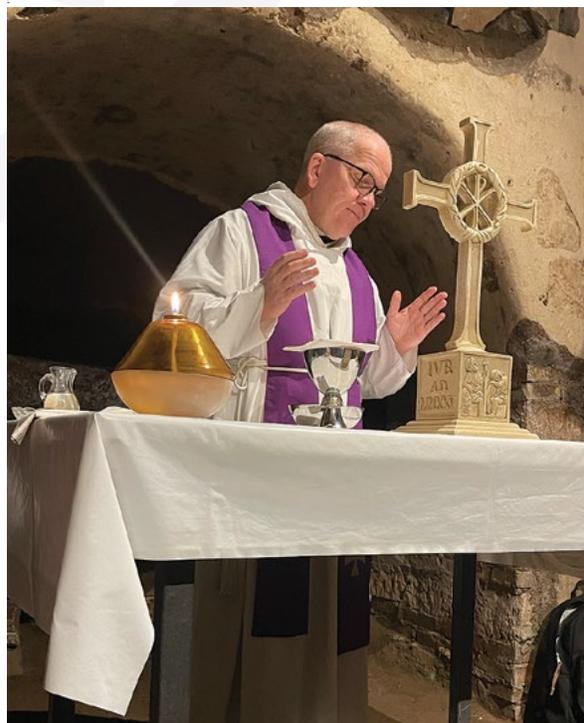
In my early years of monastic life, I finished up my undergraduate degree at Webster University while working in the school in various capacities including coaching soccer, tennis, and cross country in the junior school. Mind you, I had no idea how to play tennis! I also worked with Brother Symeon in the Medieval Arts Program.

After much encouragement from Abbot Thomas Frerking, O.S.B., for which I'm most grateful, I began studies for the priesthood in the 2008 academic year. Seminary studies began in Rome. After one year, I returned stateside and completed my studies in 2015 and was ordained on September 12, 2015, along with Father Cuthbert Elliott, O.S.B., '02. Incidentally, I knew Father Cuthbert as a student in the school!

After ordination, I taught theology and stained glass, and helped with ultimate frisbee, another sport I knew little about. In November 2018, Abbot Gregory appointed me pastor of Saint Anselm Parish. I'm most appreciative of his confidence and trust.

Despite its hardships, which any vocation has when lived well, I give thanks to God for His nudging me more and more to follow Him in my vocation. He continues to bless me with a wonderful community both inside and outside the monastery.

∨ Father Aidan saying Mass in Italy



SAINT LOUIS ABBEY JOURNAL

MY DEAR FRIENDS,

As I write this, the school year has just begun (welcome to our new 6th grade!), the heat wave of summer has broken, and everyone breathes a sigh of relief! The opening of school is always an exciting time, as students and faculty come back together, sharing their summer experiences and beginning that new journey of discovery in teaching and learning.

In the monastery, we welcome the break in the weather and the new school year as a sign of renewal and growth. The monks remain fairly healthy, as we continue the daily round of prayer, pastoral work, and community life. This fall we are especially heartened by a significant increase in interest from men seeking to discern a vocation to our monastery. Please keep them in your prayers, as they explore with us a possible monastic vocation.

The monks will commemorate the 70th anniversary of the founding of our monastery – that evening in October 1955 when the three founders (Fathers Columba, Timothy, and Luke) arrived at Union Station and made their way out to the countryside, to be met by an enthusiastic group of supporters. We hope and pray that our next 70 years will be as blessed as the first 70 have been!

As always, be assured of the ongoing prayers of the monks for you and all your intentions. An essential part of a monk's vocation is to pray in intercession for the world, and you are all at the heart of the prayer.

As ever yours in the Lord,

Abbot Gregory Mohrman, O.S.B.

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



SAINT ANSELM PARISH NEWS

Dear Abbey and Priory Friends,

We've had a busy summer at Saint Anselm, and it's exciting to be on campus buzzing with school in full swing.

Even though the summer events seem a distant memory, our spring and summer was filled with exciting events and activities in the parish.

As is usual for summer, the focus was around our youth ministry folks. However, we also enjoyed activities in other areas of parish life including *Totus Tuus* (Totally Yours), our children's summer camp, Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, and continued developments in our parish center renovation project.

In June, our teens traveled to Benedictine College for **The Lifeteen Leadership Conference**. This trip included a group of our high school leaders. The program focuses on forming young people in leadership roles of faith in their parish and school communities.

Also, a group traveled to the **Steubenville Conference** at Missouri State University. This event is a high-energy youth conference where thousands of teens gather to encounter Jesus Christ through dynamic speakers, the Sacraments, small group discussions, and fellowship with other teens. In addition to these annual trips, a group ventured to **Camp Hidden Lake** located in the wilds of northern Georgia.

We also hosted for the fourth year **Totus Tuus summer camp** for children of all ages. This program is operated in conjunction with the Office of Youth Ministry in the Archdiocese and is held at several parishes each summer. The week-long program is loaded with activities from formation on prayer and the Rosary and plenty of fun and exciting games.

We began renovating the Parish House in August. Hopefully, by the time you read this article, the Parish House will be complete. We also continue to move forward in our **Parish Center** renovation project, discussing final reflection of design development and, of course, our capital campaign. Please keep all these things in your good prayers.

Thank you again for your generous prayers and support of the Abbey Family!

May God Continue to Bless You and Your Families,

Father Aidan McDermott, O.S.B.

Father Aidan McDermott, O.S.B.





Camp Hidden Lake with Courtney Rockamann and Annabelle Liebrock



Camp Hidden Lake



Camp Hidden Lake



Totus Tuus Program

IN MEMORIAM

JANUARY 1 - JUNE 30, 2025

Ron Aylward, grandfather of Sean Dolan '19 and Will Dolan '21

Donald Binz Sr., grandfather of David Binz '01 and great grandfather of Charles Binz '31

David Blanton III '60, brother of Christopher Blanton '65

Larry Bollinger, grandfather of Auggie Hill '28

Margie Bruner, mother-in-law of Associate Headmaster Michael Nickolai '03

Dr. Alejandro Datuin, grandfather of Alex Finan '09 and father-in-law of faculty member Tony Finan

Dr. Horacio del Rosario, father of Dr. John del Rosario '79, Tony del Rosario '85, grandfather of J.J. del Rosario '13, and Patrick Milburn '17

Bruce Dixon, father of faculty member Josh Dixon

Mary Dunham, mother of James Gaspar '07

Ted Ehrmann, Oblate

Roy Faron, grandfather of Brent Faron '04 and Dr. Nicholas Faron '08

Jim Ferrick Jr., father of Jim Ferrick III '87, grandfather of Tim Ferrick '95 and Charlie Ferrick '20

Michael Fox '60

Nancy Hamilton, Confrater, wife of Confrater Ed Hamilton (Deceased)

Dr. Paul Hein Jr., Confrater, husband of Confrater Loretta Hein and father of Father Francis

Josefa Higa, mother of Dan Higa '98

Matt Hyland '81

Mary Kroupa, grandmother of Matthew Travers '16

Jasminka Majetic, mother of Food Service Consultants employee Dzevada Majetic

Joan McCormack, mother of faculty member Bobby McCormack

Dr. Patricia Monteleone, mother of Dr. J. Patrick Monteleone '82

Jerry O'Neil Sr., father of Jerry O'Neil Jr. '74, William O'Neil '76, grandfather of Patrick O'Neil '03, Kevin O'Neil '05, and Dan O'Neil '08

Patrick Barker '61

Gerald Rhomberg, parishioner

Patrick Ring Jr., father of Patrick O. Ring '67

Lillian Roberts, parishioner

Marilyn Schake, wife of former faculty member Hank Schake

Mike Shadowsky, father of Cameron Nelson '26

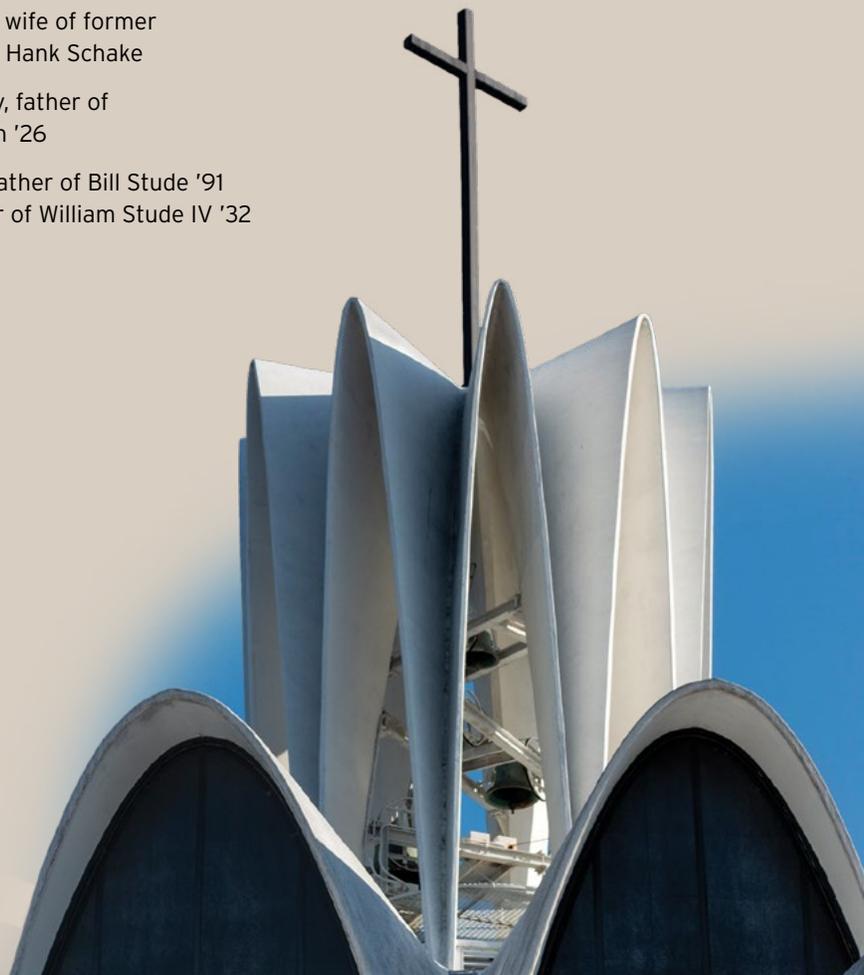
William Stude, father of Bill Stude '91 and grandfather of William Stude IV '32

Joseph Warnick, father of J.J. Warnick '96

Mary Wenzel, grandmother of Jay Wenzel '17 and Ben Wenzel '22

Jane Bell Wilcox, grandmother of Ryan Huber '06, Tyler Huber '07, and Chad Huber '10

Father Stephen Wright, O.S.B., brother of Father Ralph



Raven Roundup

Students had the opportunity to learn more about clubs and activities at Priory at the annual Raven Roundup event. Participating clubs set up displays in the gym lobby, and participants enjoyed a shaved ice treat.

Priory Presents Winter Musical

Priory students performed onstage and served in backstage support to present the play *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown* in the Kevin Kline Theatre. Audience members enjoyed the musical based on the characters from the comic strip *Peanuts* by Charles M. Schulz.

Black History Month Speaker

In observance of Black History Month, students had the opportunity to hear from Priory alumnus **Willy Morgan '90** about his career and how experiences at Priory prepared him for what he's doing today.

Peter '25 Receives Archbishop John L. May Service Award

The Archbishop John L. May Award is presented each year to a graduating senior from each of the Catholic high schools in the Archdiocese of St. Louis who embodies the Gospel message to love and serve others. This year's recipient was **David Peter '25**.

✓ David Peter '25 with Associate Headmaster Mike Nickolai '03 and Father Aidan McDermott, O.S.B



Students learn about Priory's Chess Club at the Raven Roundup.



Winter musical - *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*



Willy Morgan '90 pictured with Priory students



Manny Lozano '27, Luke Lavery '28, Isaac Martin '29, Anthony Parra '29, Will McCracken '27, and Cameron Nelson '26

Priory Hosts AMC Math Contest

Priory hosted the annual AMC Math Contest at all levels. This challenging nationwide math contest is presented by the Mathematical Association of America.

AMC 8 (Forms I and II)

1st place: **Isaac Martin '29**

2nd place tie: **Anthony Parra '29** and **Augustus Mangelsdorf '30**

Honor Roll: **Isaac Martin '29**

AMC 10 (Forms III-VI)

1st place: **Will McCracken '27**

2nd place: **Luke Lavery '28**

3rd place: **Manny Lozano '27**

AMC 12 (Forms III-VI)

1st place: **Isaac Martin '29**

2nd place: **Cameron Nelson '26**



Ryan Trammel '27 and Matthew Goss '27

Trammel and Goss Selected for Missouri Scholars Academy

The Missouri Scholars Academy is a highly selective three-week academic enrichment experience for 330 of Missouri's top high school rising juniors.

Hosted on the campus of the University of Missouri-Columbia, MSA exists to enrich and expand gifted education for Missouri students. Priory students **Ryan Trammel '27** and **Matthew Goss '27** were selected this year.

Women's History Month Welcomes Priory Moms

Students gathered in the Kevin Kline Theatre to hear from Priory moms **Laura Villa** (Paul '20 and Mark '23) and **Rachana Creeth** (Deven '25) for Women's History Month. The engaging conversation included how they got to where they are today and what their careers paths looked like. They also shared impactful life stories and reflections that resonated with students and staff. Villa is senior vice president, general counsel, and chief compliance officer at Eagle Infrastructure Services, LLC. Creeth joined Barry-Wehmiller in 2017 as group vice president of finance and later served as chief financial officer and chief operating officer. She became president of BW Packaging in February 2024.



Jon-Pierre Mitchom, Tyler Cineus '26, Mark Villa '23, Laura Villa, Deven Creeth '25, and Rachana Creeth

Bocce Special Olympics

Priory juniors and seniors joined students from Visitation Academy to participate in a service project at the Italia-American Bocce Club on The Hill. In this annual tradition, they played games in the Bocce Special Olympics with athletes from various schools who receive services from the Special School District of St. Louis County.

Martin '29 Presents at Princeton's Spring Into Science Event

Isaac Martin '29 was invited and participated in Princeton's annual Spring Into Science event. Martin and a few other students presented a tabletop activity and demonstration under the supervision of Professor Michael Littman from Princeton. The event offers students the opportunity to explore activities and listen to and engage with scientists across various fields of science.

Poetry Contest

The Wednesday Club of St. Louis has been sponsoring a high school poetry contest for more than 90 years. In a ceremony at the Wednesday Club, five of the 10 young poets honored were Priory students.

- Gavin Holekamp '27:** "Air of Nostalgia" – Second Place
- Luis Rivero '27:** "My Little Brother" – Fourth Place
- Jake McAtee '27:** "Weathers" – Honorable Mention
- Jack Kingston '27:** "Ode to an Orange" – Honorable Mention
- Matthew Kaushik '27:** "A Confused Program" – Honorable Mention

Faust '25 Named Missouri Top 100 Scholar

Recent Priory graduate **Sam Faust '25** was recognized as a Missouri Top 100 Scholar. This statewide initiative, organized by the Missouri Association of Secondary School Principals, recognizes and celebrates the accomplishments of the top 100 outstanding students across the state in the Class of 2025.

> Sam Faust '25



Juniors and seniors attend Special Olympics



Isaac Martin '29



Matthew Kaushik '27, Jack Kingston '27, Jake McAtee '27, Gavin Holekamp '27, and Luis Rivero '27, pictured with faculty member David Holmes '16



Junior Ring students

Junior Ring Mass and Celebration

Members of the Class of 2026 received their class rings at the Junior Ring Mass and Celebration in April.

Sleep Out to Benefit Homeless

Thirty Priory high school students, alongside Mr. Dixon, Father Aidan, and Charles Watkins of Covenant House St. Louis slept out on the field at Todd Stadium. The evening began with pizza and a presentation about the reality and challenges of youth homelessness, defined as aged 16-24, in the St. Louis area. The goal was to simulate for one night the homeless experience and raise money for Covenant House.



Students learning about homelessness

A Taste of Saint Louis Priory: Cuisine and Culture Expo

Priory students enjoyed great food at the first "A Taste of Saint Louis Priory: Cuisine and Culture Expo." Priory faculty and families were invited to share cuisine unique to their ancestry of origin as well as important cultural heritage points.

National Latin Exam Award Winners

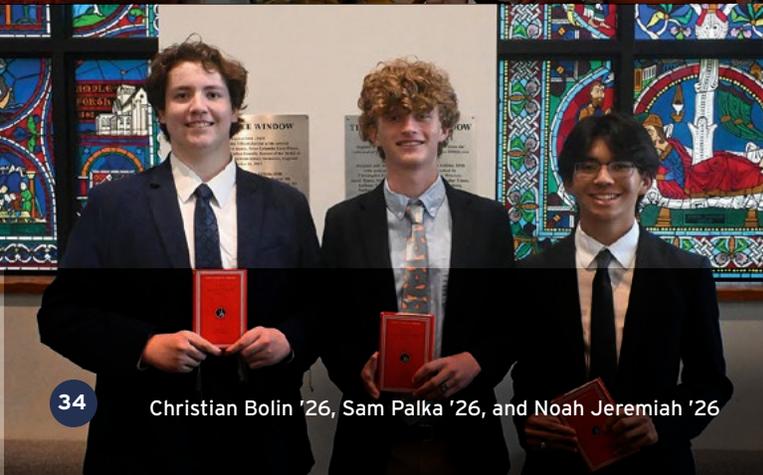
Christian Bolin '26, Sam Palka '26, and Noah Jeremiah '26 earned their fourth consecutive gold medals on the National Latin Exam, progressing through different levels.



Cuisine and Culture Expo in the Dining Hall

Frederik Erri '29, Isaac Martin '29, Everett Runnels '29, Anthony Parra '29, and Pablo Behrman '29 achieved a perfect score on the 2025 Introductory Level of the National Latin Exam.

▽ Frederick Erri '29, Isaac Martin '29, Everett Runnels '29, Anthony Parra '29, and Pablo Behrman '29



Christian Bolin '26, Sam Palka '26, and Noah Jeremiah '26



WINTER SPORTS 2025

Basketball

The Priory varsity basketball team entered the Class 3 District 5 Tournament as the No. 6 seed; however, the Ravens fell against No. 3-seeded Whitfield to conclude its season with an overall record of 9-17.

Offensively, **Henry Hibey '26** led the Ravens. Hibey was named to the Class 3 District 5 team after averaging a career-high 19.6 points per game. He shot 37.6 percent from the field and connected on a team-high 90 3-pointers.

Hibey had a breakout game against the Blue Knights on January 17, where he scored a career-high 50 points in the 64-57 win.

Robby Temprano '26 also had a strong season putting up a career-best 10 points per game. **Luke Bussmann '28** had an impactful first season on the varsity roster averaging 6.5 points and 4.5 rebounds per game. He led the Ravens, dishing out 3.69 assists per game. **Jack Parent '25** averaged a career-high 10.3 rebounds per game.

The Ravens look for more success in 2026-27 as they'll return Hibey and Temprano, while Bussmann, **Frankie Harris '28**, and **RJ Tucker '28** look to build off the success they had in their first season on the varsity roster.

Hockey

The Priory varsity hockey team went 11-5-4 during the regular season and were the No. 6 seed in the **Wickenheiser Cup playoffs**. After defeating Lindbergh in a best-of-three series, the Ravens saw its season end against Clayton in the next round. The Ravens finished the year at 13-6-5.

The Ravens were hovering around the .500-mark midway through the season, standing at 5-5-3 overall. Prior to Christmas, the team found its groove, going 7-0-1 over its final eight games to conclude the regular season.

Freddy Gaertner '26 led the Ravens with 31 goals and 15 assists for 46 points. **JP Nadreau '25** and **Cameron Robinson** both finished with five goals each. **Barrett Beimdiek '26** was fourth in scoring with four goals and four assists.

In net, **Nate Sutto '26** led the way with 2.13 goals against average and a .916 save percentage. **Cadean Eilerts** appeared in eight games, owning 2.26 goals against average and a .926 save percentage.



RJ Tucker '28



Nate Sutto '26



Max Dennison '25



Gabe Dunaway '25

Wrestling

The Priory varsity wrestling team had another strong 2024-25 season where the team sent two wrestlers to the Missouri State High School Activities Association (MSHSAA) State Championships.

The Ravens got the season underway at John Burroughs, where **Cameron Nelson '26** led the Ravens garnering a first-place finish. **Charlie Top '28** also had an impressive showing, totaling three victories in his five matches.

After knocking off Clayton at its Tri-Meet, the Ravens went 2-0-1 at the Hancock Quad Meet after defeating Bishop DuBourg (42-24) and Hancock (42-36). Priory battled Westminster to a 42-42 tie.

The Ravens found success in the new year, knocking off host Chaminade 30-24 and John Burroughs in dominating fashion, 42-6.

The momentum carried over into the MICDS quad meet where the Ravens dropped a tough 15-12 contest against Clayton but responded with another 48-5 win over John Burroughs and a 42-10 victory over MICDS.

On Senior Night, the Ravens picked up a 42-28 victory over CBC. Nelson, **Frank Scheiter '28**, **Gabe Dunaway '25**, **G.E. Farmakis**, **Tommy Forget '25**, **Freddy Essen**, and **Euan-Gabriel Trokey '28** all picked up wins over the Cadets.

At the **MSHSAA Class 1 District 1 Tournament**, Dunaway opened with a quarterfinal technical fall win at 144 pounds, advancing to the semifinals. He dropped his semifinal match but stayed alive in the consolation side of the bracket with a major decision win, advancing to the third-place match. He was defeated by fall to finish in fourth place and earn a bid to state.

After dropping his first match of the tournament, Farmakis won back-to-back matches by fall and major decision at 150 pounds, putting him in the third-place match. However, he fell by major decision but still joined Dunaway at state with his fourth-place finish.

Individually on the year, Nelson led the team with an impressive 34-7 record at 120 pounds. Gittemeier went 26-15 at 215 pounds, while Top went 24-19.

SPRING SPORTS 2025

Priory Baseball Team Wins Districts

As the future Major League Baseball Hall of Famer and St. Louis Cardinal great Albert Pujols said, "It's not how you start the season, it's how you finish." That can be a true testament to the Priory varsity baseball 2025 season.

The Ravens went into the **Class 3 District 5 Tournament** with an overall record of 3-15. However, the team had played some of the top teams in the area including John Burroughs, Duchesne, Westminster, De Smet, MICDS, and Chaminade.

"We played a really tough regular season schedule against several larger schools, and I think our team benefited tremendously from the challenge," said **Charlie Edwards '28**. "Despite what the record implied, we were very competitive. As the season progressed, we continued to get better, and our confidence built as we looked forward to the district tournament."

In the Class 3 District 5 Tournament, the Ravens cruised past Bowling Green, 9-4, advancing to the championship, which ended up being held at Priory.

In the championship, the Ravens squared off against Whitfield, an opponent they already defeated twice earlier in the season. Outstanding pitching performances from **Charlie Edwards '28** and **Myles Anstey '28**, along with timely hitting, secured Priory's 8-4 win and its first title since 2021.

"I was just happy for the players," said **Head Coach Matt Hahn**. "We had been through a lot of close losses throughout the year and played a lot of good teams close. Their getting a taste of winning and success that they deserved just made me happy to see."

At sectionals, the Ravens faced Macon and trailed 8-4 going into the top of the 7th inning. Priory rallied, scoring six runs in the top of the 7th, taking a 10-8 lead. Edwards closed out the bottom half of the 7th to secure the win.

"All season, Coach Hahn talked about the importance of mental toughness in baseball and that was never more true than in this game," said Edwards.

In the quarterfinals, the Ravens traveled to Fatima, and despite its best efforts the team fell 7-0, ending its postseason run.

"I think the 2025 season was a journey and a learning experience," said Hahn. "A lot of the team had been put in situations they hadn't been before, myself included. For how young of a team we had, to be put in such big spots in postseason play was a true test for us. I think it just makes us more comfortable playing in big games moving forward."



Charlie Edwards '28



Timmy Charles '25



Andrew Harrison '27 and Robby Temprano '26 sliding





Nate Sutto '26



Andre Johnson '28

"It was an outstanding season, resulting in a district championship," said Edwards. "We embraced our strengths as a defensive team, and we started to win by doing the little things right. We took extra bases, executed offensive and defensive plays, and played better fundamental baseball."

He concluded, "We only lose three seniors, and we have a very strong group of rising seniors to lead the team next season. The younger players will continue to develop and improve. I expect us to come back even better than last year with the tools, experience, and leadership to compete for the state championship."

Priory Lacrosse Competes in State Semifinal

The 2025 Priory Ravens Lacrosse team finished the year with a 13-5 record and a state semifinal berth by strong senior leadership at every position. It was highlighted by several program-first achievements and historic individual performances. The regular season featured milestone victories, including the team's first-ever win over SLUH, a thrilling overtime comeback over CBC, and a dramatic comeback win against previously unbeaten Parkway West.

In the postseason, the Ravens knocked off a stout Lindbergh squad in a gritty quarterfinal match. Days later, the Ravens mounted a stunning rally in the state semifinal before narrowly falling to CBC by one goal, closing the year as one of the most competitive squads in school history.

The team was led by senior captains **Mick Murphy '25** (attack), **Colin Pim '25** (goalie), and **Wes Harvey '25** (defense) – all of whom, along with senior midfielder **Jack Parent '25**, earned all-state honors. **Pim was named All-American** for the second straight year, cementing his place among the program's greats.

Murphy, despite missing five games to injury, scored 36 goals and 24 assists, breaking the Priory all-time scoring record with 198 career points. Pim likewise set a new program standard, finishing his career with 701 saves over three seasons, the most in school history.

Together, this senior class set a new standard of excellence for Priory lacrosse and pushed the school into the upper echelons of the sport in Missouri, forging a legacy of leadership, resilience, and achievement.

Golf

The Priory varsity golf team closed out the 2025 season going 5-4 overall. The team advanced to the **Class 3 District 2 Tournament** where they collected a fourth-place finish.

Chance Petri '25 and **Eddie Rothery '25** both earned All-District honors after finishing in 10th and 13th place, respectively. **Luke Glarner '25** shot an 82 for 16th place, while **Freddy Gaertner '26** was the fourth Raven to finish inside the top 20, ending in 18th place with an 83.

Glarner, Petri, and Rothery went on to compete at the **Class 3 State Tournament**. It marked the second time Glarner and Petri went to state, while Rothery made his fourth appearance.

"The seniors on the team really led the way this season," says **Jake Parent**, head golf coach. "I was very excited to see three of them finish their careers by qualifying for state out of a very tough district tournament. I was also impressed by the younger players and look forward to seeing what they will bring to the team next season."

Tennis

The Priory varsity tennis team had a positive 2025 season going 6-4 overall. The Ravens opened the season 3-1 overall picking up wins over Chaminade, De Smet, and Lutheran South.

After a couple of tough losses, the Ravens went on a three-game winning streak defeating the likes of Lutheran North, Principia, and Westminster.

In the **Class 2 District 3 Tournament**, the Ravens ran into Westminster again but fell 5-1 to conclude its season.



John Varley '25 advanced to state and earned a third-place finish. The Ravens graduate five seniors from the 2025 squad, including three of its top six. However, they will be a young and hungry team heading into 2026.

Track and Field

The Priory track and field team competed well throughout the outdoor season, taking bigger strides towards another successful 2026 year.

The Ravens opened the 2025 year with a fifth-place finish at Bishop DuBourg. **Justin Nangle '25** earned a first-place finish in the 3200-meter with a time of 11:24.46.

The relay teams also had a successful opening to the year with the 4x400 relay team consisting of **Frankie Harris '28**, **Matthew Singer '25**, **George Schwartz '27**, and **Dylan Sutter '28** setting a personal-record time of 3:55.46 for second place.

The 4x800 relay team of Nangle, Schwartz, **Luke Bussmann '28**, and Sutter also set a PR time of 9:30.41. **Ben Pacheco '27** stood out in the 800-meter dash with a season-record time of 2:20.15 for second place.

In the field events, the Ravens had Harris and **Matthew Goss '27** finish in third and fourth place in the high jump, respectively.

At the 49th Annual All Catholic Invitational, the Ravens finished in 11th place, led by the 4x800 team with a personal-record time of 9:07.38 for third place. The 4x400 relay team ended in fifth place timing out with a PR of 4:12.46.

After the De Smet Junior Varsity Meet, the Ravens had one final meet before districts at the Marion Freeman Friday Night Lights. **Michael Roxas '25** set a season record in the 100-meter with a time of 12.09.

The 4x400-meter relay team, consisting of Bussmann, Schwartz, Pacheco, and Nangle, set a PR time of 3:58.96, while the 4x800-meter relay team of Nangle, Bussmann, Singer, and Roxas finished in fourth place with a PR time of 8:52.42. Nangle also competed in the 3200-meter ending in third place with a PR time of 10:38.79.

At the Class 3 District 3 meet, the Ravens totaled multiple PRs to finish in 12th place.

< JP Nadreau '25

Ultimate Frisbee

The 2025 Priory Ultimate team was led by three captains, **Sam Kingston '25**, **Thomas Rempe '25**, and **Cole Foshage '25**, all of whom have been dedicated members of the Ultimate team since their freshman year. Guided by the team's theme for the year, "Elevate," the captains integrated a few first-year players into the squad and helped build a strong culture of competition and camaraderie.



Priory finished the regular season with a record of 5-3. The highlight victory was a 11-9 nailbiter over De Smet, playing without Rempe who was injured. Two of the losses were by a single point to CBC (10-9) and Vianney (11-10). Priory earned the No. 5 seed entering the state tournament.

The team avenged its prior loss to Vianney with an 11-5 win to open the state tournament and endured a frigid deluge to finish 3-1 on the day. The following day, the team matched up against SLUH in the quarterfinals for what would become the most competitive and exciting game of the season.

After falling behind early, Priory clawed itself back into the game through terrific defense by Foshage and **Grant Dino '27**. Explosive offense by Rempe and Kingston forced sudden death, but the Ravens fell short, losing 9-8.

Despite the early state exit, the team was proud of their performance to close the season.

Tim Malecek, head coach, praises the team and says, "Although it wasn't the final result we wanted, I am so grateful to this team and its leadership for pushing the program forward in the right direction. I saw such grit and determination in that final game against SLUH that I can unquestionably say that we ended the season playing our best. I am grateful to the captains and all of the seniors for being great stewards of Priory Ultimate."

Back-to-Back All-American

Colin Pim '25 was named to the USA Lacrosse All-American team. The accolades continued for Pim, who earned First Team All-State and Metro League Defensive Player of the Year honors. Off the field, he earned St. Louis Post-Dispatch Scholar-Athlete honors.



College Signings

Congrats to Priory student-athletes who are continuing their sports careers in college:

- John Varley '25** - tennis at Saint Louis University
- Davis Weas '25** - football at DePauw University
- Connor Stone '25** - baseball at Rockhurst University
- Andrew Broder '25** - Esports at Maryville University.



GETTING A HEAD START ON COLLEGE AT PRIORY!

Priory is excited to announce an expansion of our Advanced College Credit (ACC) program through Saint Louis University's 1818 Program. This opportunity allows students to earn college credit while still in high school, giving them a powerful advantage as they prepare for their future.

Last year, we successfully piloted the program with courses in French, Latin, and Greek, and the response was overwhelming.

Building on that momentum, we are excited to expand the program with more teachers and courses. Priory's 1818 Program has grown to 15 courses taught by 11 teachers, which allows students to challenge themselves academically.

With Priory's ACC program, students gain:

- A head start on their college education
- The flexibility to explore academic interests
- The confidence that comes with taking college-level coursework

ALUMNI MOTHERS' CLUB



The Alumni Mothers Club (AMC), led by **Janet Whalen** (Brody Whalen '21 and Brock Whalen, who attended Priory for 7th and 8th grade), continues the mission of fostering meaningful connections among alumni mothers, Priory, and the monastery. Janet is now serving her second year as president of the AMC. We are very appreciative of her commitment and leadership.

The AMC continues to thrive and grow. This summer, the AMC welcomed the Class of 2025 mothers at the annual Margarita Party, held at Rosalita's Cantina.

We are grateful for the AMC's support of the community. They assist the monks by providing meals, an ice cream truck for Homecoming, help in covering Xanadu costs, and more. They're looking forward to an exciting year filled with fantastic events!

SAVE THE DATES

AMC Fall Mass & Dinner

Wednesday, November 12

Thanksgiving Food Drop Off for Monks

Wednesday, November 26

Holiday Cocktail Party

Friday, December 12



Alumni moms Nikki Nadreau, Kristin Waltz, Lori Williard, Kim Weas, and Valerie Brier

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



▽ Alumni moms Gigi Streiff, Jan Jordan, Marianne Weber, and Michelle Moen





56th Xanadu Was a 'Show Me' Good Time

During the Mothers' Club Spring Luncheon, Xanadu in the Lou co-chair **Laura Polcyn** (Drake '25) presented the school with a check totaling \$561,782 raised at Xanadu 2025. She thanked donors and the Priory community on behalf of herself and co-chair **Eleni Zemlyak** (John '25).



Senior Mom Prom

In March, seniors and their moms gathered at Bellerive Country Club for an evening of dancing and celebration. The dance floor was filled throughout the night. Moms pulled off another surprise flash mob dance. The enjoyable evening included a delicious dinner and festive decorations.

Spring Luncheon

In May, the Mothers' Club held a Spring Luncheon at Old Warson Country Club, opening with a performance by the vocal music students led by teacher **Stephanie Allee**.

Mothers' Club President **Jennifer O'Keefe** (Michael '19, Patrick '21, Wynn '25, and Danny '29) thanked her Executive Board and committee chairs for a splendid year. A huge thank you to Vice President **Laura Polcyn** (Drake, '25), President-Elect **Laura Swallow** (David, '26), Recording Secretary **Kristin Waltz** (Charlie '28 and Jake '25), Volunteer Coordinator **Amy Glarner** (Henry '30, Luke '25, and Ben '20), and Treasurer **Laurie Leritz** (Jack '25 and Henry '23).

The new board for the upcoming year was also announced: President **Laura Swallow** (David '26), Vice President **Raegan Palka** (Samuel, '26), President-Elect **Stacey Bealke** (Adam '24 and Walker '27), Recording Secretary **Kristin Waltz** (Charlie '28 and Jake '25), Volunteer Coordinator **Suzanne Miller-Farrell** (Rory '29), and Treasurer **Susie Brown** (Henry '29).

Senior Mothers' Celebration

The Senior Mothers' Celebration took place in May. Senior moms were joined by **Father Aidan McDermott, O.S.B.**, and faculty member **Josh Dixon** in the Switzer Dining Hall. The Class of 2025 moms celebrated with a champagne toast and words of wisdom and encouragement as they prepared to usher their sons into the next chapter of their lives.

Senior Mother and Son Mass and Brunch

Seniors and their mothers shared a beautiful spring day beginning with Mass in the Abbey Church, followed by brunch at Bellerive Country Club. For the second consecutive year, **Dr. Seth Arnold** was chosen as the Classroom Instructor for the Senior Faculty Awards. Dr. Arnold shared some inspirational insights with the mothers and their sons. **Thomas Kraeger '25** gave an emotional and loving tribute to his mother, **Molly Kraeger**.

SAVE THE DATES

Christmas Boutique

Wednesday, December 3

Parent Holiday Cocktail Party

Friday, December 12

✓ Abbot Gregory Mohrman, O.S.B., '76 with the Class of 2025 at Senior Mom Prom





Father Cuthbert Elliott, O.S.B., '02 and Laura Polcyn at the Spring Luncheon



Senior Mothers' Celebration



2025-26 Mothers' Club Executive Board: Kristin Waltz, Jennifer O'Keefe, Laura Swallow, Suzanne Miller-Farrell, and Stacey Bealke

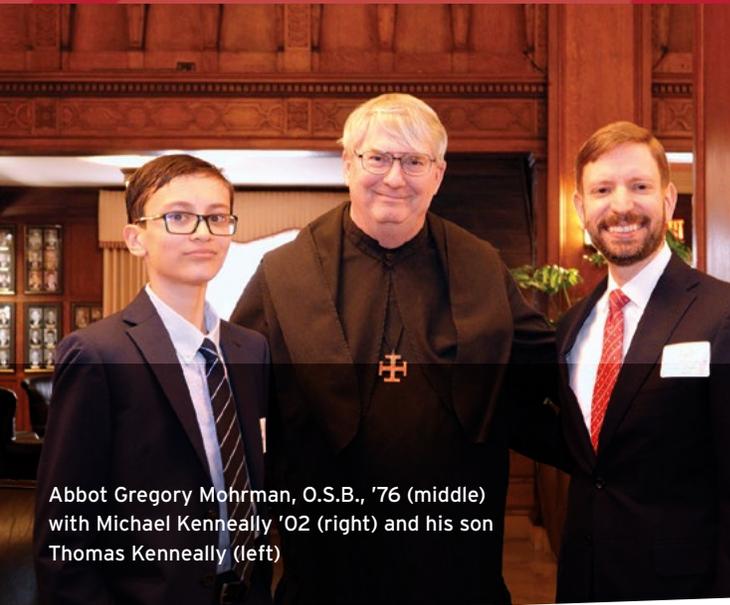
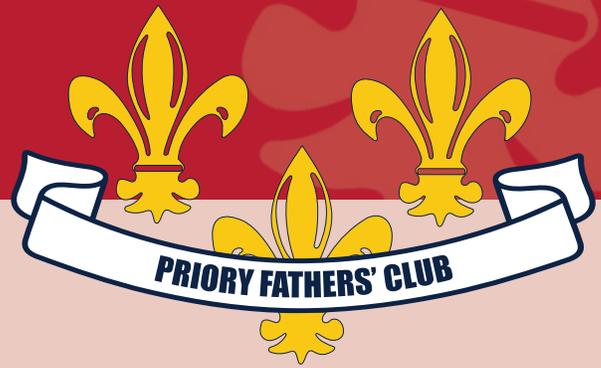


Mothers' Club Spring Luncheon



Molly Kraeger and Thomas Kraeger '25

FATHERS' CLUB



Abbot Gregory Mohrman, O.S.B., '76 (middle) with Michael Kenneally '02 (right) and his son Thomas Kenneally (left)



Fathers and graduating sons enjoyed a BBQ dinner on the Switzer House lawn.



Bags Tournament first-place winners Eric Orf and Anthony Orf '29 with second-place winners Andrew Allen '29 and Chris Allen

The Fathers' Club, under the leadership of **Ken Bower '89**, and the Executive Board, continued to increase participation and involvement in both Fathers' Club events and other activities at Priory.

Spring Happy Hour

The Fathers' Club hosted its Spring Happy Hour at Annie Gunn's Failte Room in March. Priory dads came out to chat and receive updates from **Athletic Director Phil Brotherton** and the Priory coaching staff. They discussed the state of athletics at Priory and goals for the upcoming seasons. The Sehnert family also spoke about their connection to Priory and Abbot Gregory.

Father and Son Banquet

The annual Father and Son Banquet was held downtown at the prestigious Missouri Athletic Club. **Abbot Gregory Mohrman '76** celebrated Mass in the Art Gallery before attendees headed upstairs to the Missouri Room to hear a keynote address from Priory alumnus **Michael Kenneally '02**. Kenneally brought his son to experience the father-son camaraderie and meet Priory students and alumni.

Will Sedlak '30 and **David Peter '25** offered reflections on their Priory experience—Sedlak looking back on his time as a Form I student, and Peter sharing his overall perspective as a Form VI student.

Senior Father and Son Finish Line BBQ

In the last senior pre-graduation event, fathers and sons came together to celebrate crossing the proverbial Priory finish line with a delicious BBQ dinner. In one last hurrah before commencement, the seniors played a variety of yard games and enjoyed some Ted Drewes custard with the monks before retiring for the night.

Bags Tournament

In August, the Fathers' Club hosted a lively bags tournament to welcome new students and their dads or father figures.

SAVE THE DATES

Fall Happy Hour

Thursday, November 13

Parent Holiday Cocktail Party

Friday, December 12



XANADU
under the sea

PRIORY'S PLATINUM JUBILEE
SATURDAY • FEB 7 • 2026

MISSOURI ATHLETIC CLUB DOWNTOWN

405 Washington Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63102
Complimentary garage parking available

5:30 PM
Doors Open &
Silent Auction

7 PM
Dinner Served

7:30 PM
Live Auction
Begins

Afterparty with entertainment to follow program
Cocktail attire with an enchanted ocean flair



ALUMNI EVENTS



Headmaster's Flight Winners from the Class of 2004,
Matt Merjavy, Jimmy Nowicke, Nick Ahlering, and Ryan McPhail



Foursome from the Class of 1966: Oscar Horan,
Tom Schlafly, George Vogt and George Vournas



Priory Alumni Board Executive Team: Vice President Kevin
McAtee '97, President Kevin Hoffman '93, and Secretary TJ
Redmond '99 (not pictured: Past President Mike Reedy Jr. '00)



Priory Alumni Board

Alumni Golf Scramble 2025

The Alumni Golf Scramble took place on June 16 at Glen Echo Country Club. Thank you to everyone who came out in support of the **Alumni Endowed Scholarship Fund**. Your participation and generosity made the event a tremendous success. We deeply appreciate your commitment to helping future generations of students at Saint Louis Priory School.



Congratulations to our winners!

Father/Son Flight Winners

Bob Glarner '88, Luke Glarner '25, Brian Rothery '93, and Eddie Rothery '25

AB Flight Winners

Mark Witkowski, Tyler Witkowski '25, Ryan Witkowski '29, and Jack Renner

Closest to the Pin

Jack Renner

Longest Drive

Luke Glarner '25

Please mark your calendar to join us on Friday June 19, 2026. The tournament will be held at a new golf course. Stay tuned for further details.

Alumni Board

Led by a dedicated group of alumni volunteers, the Alumni Board organizes activities that advance the interests of Priory and its alumni. The board members promote a closer relationship and better understanding between the monks, the school, and its graduates. Thank you, alumni, for all you do!

SAVE THE DATES

Reunion Mass and Reception

Friday, October 24

Homecoming Football Game and BBQ

Saturday, October 25

Xanadu Cocktail Party and Auction Preview

Friday, November 14

Class of 2020 5-Year Reunion

Saturday, November 29

Alumni Pickleball Tournament

Sunday, December 7

PRIORY DAY OF GIVING

\$217,000

We extend a sincere thank you to everyone who contributed to the outstanding success of the 2025 Priory Day of Giving. Your generosity plays a crucial role in strengthening the Priory Fund. 511 donors participated helping our total reach **\$217,000!**

Priory Day of Giving Class Representatives

Thank you to our alumni class representatives who encourage their classmates to participate in Day of Giving. You are vital to the success of the day! Class representatives help the Advancement team by sending emails, making phone calls, and communicating with their class as needed.

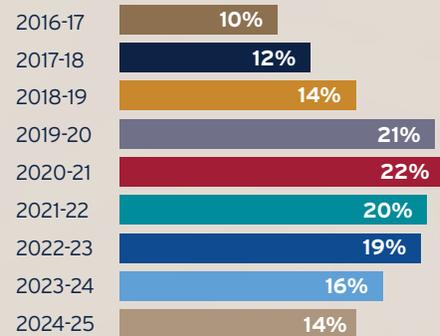
We're looking for Class Representatives for the following years: 1972, 1976, 1977, 1978, 1979, 1980, 1981, 1992, 2002, 2005, 2007, 2010, 2011, 2013, 2016, 2018, 2021, 2025. Email Bridget Mallon at bmallon@priory.org if you're able to help.

2025 Day of Giving Class Percentages

1960	19%	1977	5%	1994	42%	2011	9%
1961	83%	1978	11%	1995	23%	2012	5%
1962	0%	1979	9%	1996	6%	2013	3%
1963	24%	1980	3%	1997	8%	2014	3%
1964	71%	1981	8%	1998	20%	2015	10%
1965	6%	1982	5%	1999	10%	2016	1%
1966	52%	1983	2%	2000	16%	2017	0%
1967	55%	1984	12%	2001	4%	2018	2%
1968	40%	1985	22%	2002	15%	2019	5%
1969	16%	1986	28%	2003	17%	2020	2%
1970	50%	1987	30%	2004	40%	2021	4%
1971	15%	1988	7%	2005	0%	2022	0%
1972	15%	1989	27%	2006	17%	2023	0%
1973	16%	1990	39%	2007	0%	2024	0%
1974	18%	1991	13%	2008	10%		
1975	18%	1992	2%	2009	32%		
1976	13%	1993	10%	2010	3%		

*Classes in **RED** are the TOP FIVE classes by participation. Congratulations to the **Class of 1961** for the win!

Alumni Giving Statistics for the Last Eight Fiscal Years



Summary of Alumni Giving

14% Participation

418 Donors

SAVE THE DATE

2026 Priory Day of Giving
Wednesday, April 29, 2026

PRIORY BLACK ALUMNI GROUP



Ondray Wells '85, Blake Harris '06,
Eddie Harris '74, and Willy Morgan Jr. '90

Mission

To foster a culture of fellowship and kinship of Black men across current students and alumni that improves the Black experience for future students during their time at Saint Louis Priory School and supports the advancement of Black alumni in their study and career of choice when they graduate from the school.

Priory Black Alumni Group - Organizing Committee

For more information, or to learn how to get involved, please reach out to:

Ken Barry, '94, kenneth_barry@outlook.com, 404.948.7074
Jon-Pierre Mitchom, JMitchom@priory.org, 314.434.3690, x312
Ondray Wells, Jr. '85, ondray_wells@mac.com, 314.537.2125

The **Priory Black Alumni Group**, together with the **Black Male Group** (BMG) student organization, hosted the inaugural "New Black Student Meet and Greet" on Friday, September 12 in the Priory high school commons. The gathering brought together new and current Black students, their families, and alumni for an evening of fellowship and encouragement.

This year carried special significance, as Priory introduced its new 6th grade (Form A), resulting in 10 new Black students joining the school in Form A, Form I, and Form II. The evening was designed to help students and families feel at home while highlighting the strength of the alumni network committed to their success.

Parents conversed with alumni who offered perspective on academic rigor, extracurricular life, and the Benedictine values that shape the school experience. For many, it was their first opportunity to experience not only the physical campus but also the broader network of support available through alumni and older students.

The evening featured brief remarks from **Director of Equity and Inclusion Jon-Pierre Mitchom**. Other members of the organizing committee spoke to the mission of the Priory Black Alumni Group. **Priory Headmaster Dr. Scott Welz** also gave remarks. Both Mitchom and Welz stressed the importance of mentorship and visibility, noting how alumni presence can reassure both students and parents that they are part of a larger story at Priory. Members of the **Black Male Group** also introduced themselves, and provided a powerful message: each student belongs, is supported, and can look to those who came before them for guidance.

As the evening ended, it was clear the event had achieved more than introductions. It established a foundation for lasting relationships between students, parents, and alumni while affirming the commitment of the **Priory Black Alumni Group** to nurture, guide, and champion the next generation of Black students.

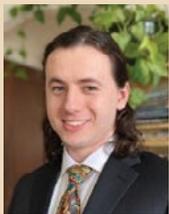


Headmaster Dr. Scott Welz addresses the crowd



Rodrick Tucker Sr., Rodrick Tucker Jr. '28,
Kellie Tucker, and Kendall Tucker

CLASS NOTES



Andrew Abad '16 started a new position as a business intelligence developer on the transplant quality team at UVA Health.



Ian Banks '16 started a new role as the director of science policy at the Foundation for American Innovation in Washington, D.C.

He also got married on April 26, 2025 to Jessie Lynn Banks (nee Wall) in Vonore, TN.



Priory alumni and their families played in a golf tournament together at Old Baldy Club in Saratoga, WY, in July 2025. **Linn Bealke '62, David Wells '65, Steve Hall '67, Matt Wagner '90, Brian Ramey '92, David Bealke '92, Mike Margiotta '92, Colin Bealke '31, Jake Bealke '98,** and **Andrew Bealke '28** enjoyed the friendly competition.



Brayton Briggs '14 started a new position as account executive, AVP at Gallagher.



Cedric Bruges '22, a Washington University student, received the Barry Goldwater Scholarship, a prestigious award that honors students who conduct research in the natural sciences, mathematics, and engineering.



Goretti Fine Art and the Museum of the Mountain Man announced the unveiling of a new painting by artists **George Capps '03** and **Polly Capps Paule** that commemorates the first recorded Catholic Mass celebrated within the boundaries of present-day Wyoming.



Joe Ciapciak '13 started a new position as account general manager at NuHarbor Security.

Parker Dow '15 was promoted to senior project manager, channel partners at May Mobility.



Ethan Foss '24 received the Faculty Choice Award for Excellence in Spanish from the Department of Spanish and Hispanic Studies at TCU.



Tyler Moore '20 started a new position as project engineer on the mission critical team at Suffolk Construction.



Michael O'Keefe '19 started a new position as associate attorney at Polsinelli.



Patrick O'Keefe '21 was promoted to agency associate at Marsh McLennan Agency.



After 20 years practicing law in-house at Roche Diagnostics, **Justin Sage '90** moved into private practice, and is now of counsel at Krieg DeVault, LLP in Indianapolis, providing general legal counseling on intellectual property matters.



Congratulations to **Matt Wagner '90** and Parkside Financial Bank & Trust for crossing \$3 billion in trust assets.



Bret Wang '19 started a new position as senior consultant, quantitative solutions at Forvis Mazars US.

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Father Linus Dolce, O.S.B.
Father Athanasius Soto, O.S.B.

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Prior Cuthbert Elliott, O.S.B., '02
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Saint Louis Priory School Leadership Council

Dr. Scott Welz
Headmaster and CFO
swelz@priory.org

Mike Nickolai '03
Associate Headmaster
mnickolai@priory.org

Tim Malecek
*Assistant Head of School
for Intellectual Formation*
tmalecek@priory.org

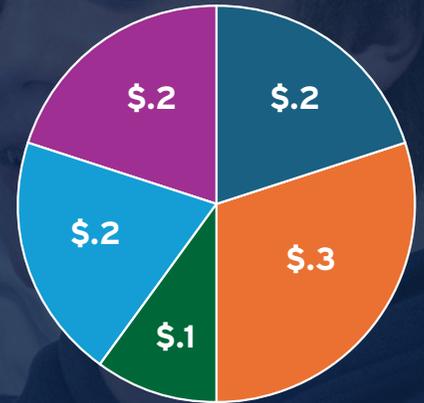


TOTAL RAISED IN 2024-25

\$1,004,773

2024-25 Priory Fund Expenditures
(\$ in millions)

Academic Program	\$.2
Tuition Assistance	\$.3
Campus Upkeep and Improvements	\$.1
Athletics Programs	\$.2
Student Life	\$.2
Total Operating Expenses	\$ 0.9



1,492
Total Gifts



835
Total Donors



100%
Alumni Board
Participation



100%
Board of Advisors
Participation

Your gift to the Priory Fund greatly impacts our students. Throughout the year, your donations support all aspects of the school's daily life and offer tuition assistance to exceptional students.

2025-26 PRIORY FUND GOAL

\$1,100,000



Help us reach our goal to continue offering the academic programming, athletics, tuition assistance, and more, which make Priory the exceptional school that it is.



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SAVE THE DATE

Wednesday, December 3
Stay tuned for more details!

