



St. Benedict's

PREPARATORY SCHOOL



OUR GROWING FAMILY

New K-13 model shapes the future of Catholic education

Gray Bees Graduate

Four years ago, members of the Class of 2017 were practically strangers. At the 143rd commencement exercises held on June 4, the graduating seniors were lifelong brothers. "Today, you become a Benedict's man. You become an example for future Gray Bees to follow," said Senior Group Leader Dalyn Woody '17 in the farewell address. "No matter where we go, we will always have the support of Benedict's to back us up. We are all common men with an uncommon desire to succeed."

St. Benedict's Prep awarded 106 diplomas at the joyous, emotion-filled graduation ceremony in Conlin Auditorium. Ninety-five percent of graduates will attend college in the fall; one Gray Bee was accepted to the United States Naval Academy and three will enter seminary. Read the story on this year's college placement process on page 2 for more details on the Class of 2017.



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GREETINGS



Pioneers Again

To me, it seems like yesterday: a few monks banding together in 1973 to reopen St. Benedict's Prep. At the time, we were urban pioneers, setting out to change the direction of kids' lives. I have to be honest: we weren't sure it would work. But we took

our best shot, and the results have been extraordinary.

Well, we're there again. For the first time, St. Benedict's is treading into elementary education after assuming responsibility for St. Mary School two years ago. Based on our success with men in high school, we're pioneering a new Catholic educational model that will shape the lives of boys and girls starting in kindergarten. We'll be tapping into tried and true St. Benedict's traditions like Convocation and the Group Leader System to begin cultivating leadership as early as age 5. You'll read more about this exciting new opportunity in our cover story, and meet some of the experienced educators who will head up this venture in After Class.

As usual at The Hive, change happens quickly. The chords of "Pomp and Circumstance" had barely faded, the Class of 2017 was headed to college and, before we could catch our collective breath, we began Summer Phase. As you read this magazine, young men – and for the first time, young women – in our Elementary, Middle and Prep divisions are learning what it takes to lead at St. Benedict's.

Your generosity is blazing a new future for Catholic education and these kids. I'm thankful for your support, and the faith you put in St. Benedict's.

Peace,

Fr. Edwin D. Leahy, O.S.B. '63
Headmaster



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On the cover: Students from the Elementary, Middle and Prep divisions gather on the front steps of St. Benedict's Prep.

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5 THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT LIAM REILLY '18

An aspiring engineer, Liam Reilly '18 is ready to take the helm as new Senior Group Leader.

- 1.** Reaction to leadership: "I was very surprised when they offered me Senior Group Leader, because I applied for Section Leader. They gave me time to think about it. After talking to my parents, I thought, 'If the administration trusts me, I should trust myself.'"
- 2.** On high school choice: "My brother (Sean Reilly '11) is a St. Benedict's graduate. So my father told me, 'That's where you're going.' But I don't want to sound like I was upset. I'm really happy to be here."
- 3.** Biggest challenge: "Definitely time management. This year, I'll have to juggle academics with fencing, along with my new leadership role. I'm just going to take it one step at a time."
- 4.** College plans: "I'll be applying to the United States Naval Academy, and just finished the Summer Seminar, a selective leadership program, there. There was a lot of team-building, and I got to know more about the Academy."
- 5.** Career Goal: "Some type of engineering. I really like the problem-solving aspect of the field."

SUCCESSFUL COLLEGE PLACEMENT IS A TEAM EFFORT

Like the vast majority of graduating classes that preceded them, 95 percent of Gray Bees in the Class of 2017 are headed to college. This perennial accomplishment "is a real team effort," according to Didier Jean-Baptiste '86, Dean of Seniors and College Placement. This year's placement process was further boosted with the help of Susanne Mueller, a volunteer who counseled St. Benedict's seniors while completing a Master's degree in Education at Montclair State University. "Susanne was here every day during the academic year and made an unbelievable contribution," Mr. Jean-Baptiste noted.

With another educator dedicated to college guidance, site visits by colleges and universities grew to 100, compared with 75 the previous year. Students also benefitted from care and attention provided by a host of individuals, whether it was working one-on-one with Ms. Mueller, conducting mock interviews with Paul Thornton '63, Director of Planned Giving, or having college essays reviewed by volunteers from the Church of the Presentation in Upper Saddle River, N.J.

"We're happy that just about every student is going to a college that makes sense for them," Mr. Jean-Baptiste added. This fall, St. Benedict's graduates will be represented at Ivy League schools Harvard and Princeton, Catholic and

Jesuit institutions that include Boston College, St. John's University, Saint Anselm College and Seton Hall University, as well as public and private schools in New Jersey such as Rutgers-Newark, Kean University, Montclair State University, Drew University, Fairleigh Dickinson University, Stevens Institute of Technology and others.



College placement for the Class of 2018 is well underway. During Summer Phase, seniors will tour campuses, begin drafting college essays and start the Common Application. Ms. Mueller is back, too. Now a full-time faculty member, she will teach history and continue to work with students in College Placement.



BLESSED OCCASION
Monks, faculty, administrators, family members and friends came together on June 22 to celebrate the ordination of Fr. Maximilian Buonocore, O.S.B. by Joseph Cardinal Tobin, C.Ss.R., the Archbishop of Newark. Fr. Maximilian is the first monk from the Newark Abbey to be ordained as a priest in nearly 30 years, another sign of renewal and strength for the monastic community. He celebrated his first Mass at St. Mary's Church on June 25.



From Newark to Holland



St. Benedict's Prep students got a bird's eye view of life in Holland when 15 Gray Bees and four teacher chaperones spent a week there in March to live with Dutch students and their families. The goal: to foster cultural awareness and appreciation.

For many Gray Bees, the immersive experience abroad was their first time leaving the United States. While in Holland, they attended Dutch schools and learned about life in the Netherlands, including the history, geography and infrastructure of the country. They were particularly interested in the work and planning behind the country's famous windmills, as well as the extensive flood defense system to combat the effects of climate change.

The young men from St. Benedict's also gained an appreciation for the differences in American and Dutch teenage life. For instance, Dutch teens don't use technology like cell phones to check in as often with their parents, and they ride bicycles everywhere, including to school. One Gray Bee even learned to ride a bike while he was there. "They were really able to

experience differences in culture because they stayed with families and were immersed in Dutch life," said Glenn Cassidy '90, Head of the Prep Division.

St. Benedict's and the Dutch school, Jac P. Thijssse College in Castricum, partnered on the coeducational exchange program after administrators in the Netherlands saw a *60 Minutes* broadcast last year featuring The Hive. Last fall, Headmaster Fr. Edwin Leahy, O.S.B. '63 traveled to Holland to tour the school and make final arrangements for the cultural exchange. In September, St. Benedict's students and their families will host a contingent of Dutch guests, providing them with a glimpse into life in Newark and the New York metropolitan area.



Noreen Connolly H '11

PRESTIGIOUS JOURNALISM AWARD FOR NOREEN CONNOLLY H '11

Journalism awards are nothing new to Noreen Connolly H '11. The adviser of *The Benedict News* and her students have garnered their fair share of regional and national accolades through the years. But her selection this year for a prestigious Columbia Scholastic Press Association (CSPA) Gold Key Award — the CSPA's highest recognition — struck a chord.

Ms. Connolly said she was "stunned" when she opened the email notifying her of the honor and inviting her to a reception on March 17. While the recognition may have surprised Ms. Connolly, St. Benedict's Prep alumni say it's well deserved. In writing about her for the award, Kehinde Togun '02 wrote, "I am a better human being because of her. I joined *The Benedict News* as a student with curiosity. I left three years later as a young man who knew how to ask the right questions and how to convey information such that others sought answers of their own."

Under Ms. Connolly's tutelage, *The Benedict News* blossomed into an award-winning student newspaper. While she is ready to turn over the reins to a new adviser, Ms. Connolly will continue her presence at St. Benedict's, overseeing this magazine and coordinating gardening projects during Spring and Summer phases.

FROM CABINET TO CONVOCATION

Jeh Johnson, U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security for four years during the Obama administration, spoke at Convocation in April. A mediocre high school student, Mr. Johnson had an academic awakening after his freshman year at Morehouse College. Finally taking his coursework seriously, he gained acceptance to Columbia University School of Law, and eventually, earned a position in President Barack Obama's cabinet. Mr. Johnson encouraged Gray Bees, especially those in the bottom half of their classes, to work hard toward success.



ON THE TRAIL

Rain didn't dampen the enthusiasm of freshmen who spent five days hiking 55 miles of the Appalachian Trail during the 44th annual Backpacking Project. A rite of passage, The Trail builds enduring bonds of brotherhood.



COVERSTORY

Growing our



With an expanded K-13 model in place, St. Benedict's will serve nearly 750 students beginning this fall.

MISSION

The first days of Summer Phase at St. Benedict's Prep were filled with traditions that generations of Gray Bees cherish. The sounds of Boola, Boola!, the School anthem, reverberated throughout Dalton Gymnasium as the freshman class began the five-day Overnight. Group Leaders ran Convocation and introduced new students to the brotherhood that defines life inside The Hive.

Amid all these familiar rituals, some new traditions were born. The newly formed Middle Division — two single-sex programs comprised of seventh and eighth grade males and females — gathered for their own Convocation. Shouting the words, “Whatever hurts my brother hurts me/Whatever hurts my sister hurts me,” they began to write the next chapter of St. Benedict’s storied history.

ONE SCHOOL. THREE DIVISIONS.

It all began with the announcement last March that St. Benedict’s would introduce a new academic program and a comprehensive K-13 curriculum that would serve an estimated 750 students. The groundwork for the educational model was laid in 2015 when St. Benedict’s assumed responsibility for St. Mary School, the oldest existing Catholic elementary school in New Jersey, from the Archdiocese of Newark. Headmaster Fr. Edwin Leahy, O.S.B. ’63, tapped three seasoned educators to lead three divisions of the School for the 2017-18 year: Sr. Ann Marie Gass, S.S.J. (Head of Elementary Division, Coed, Grades K-6), James Duffy H ’16 (Head of Middle Division, Single Sex Male and Female, Grades 7-8) and Glenn Cassidy ’90 (Head of Prep Division, All-Male, Grades 9 through post-graduate).

“Benedict’s is still Benedict’s,” noted Mr. Cassidy, who, in his 23 years of service to The Hive, held previous posts as Dean of the Lower Division and Backpacking Project Director. “Eighty-five to 90 percent of what we do doesn’t change. The changes we will see going forward are greater coordination with the lower grades and opportunities for guys to have more interactions with younger students.”

As the academic year gets underway and the Elementary Division resumes classes in September, opportunities for collaboration could include tutoring and mentorships and even the potential to stage Drama Guild productions that involve students from

different divisions. “There are exciting possibilities that strengthen what we do at the Prep level,” Mr. Cassidy added.

LEADERSHIP WILL START EARLY

Lay teachers, administrators, Sisters of St. Joseph and the Benedictine Monks of Newark Abbey have been working on ways to instill age appropriate leadership in the Middle and Elementary divisions. While classes and activities for seventh and eighth graders will remain single sex, the two groups meet daily for a separate Convocation. “Having their own Convo where Middle Division students take attendance, make an announcement or practice public speaking allows them to take ownership for it,” Mr. Duffy explained. “Accountability is a big part of it.”



Evolving Motto

In the Prep Division, the motto “Whatever hurts my brother hurts me,” remains. Middle Division students who come together for their own Convocation adopted the motto, “Whatever hurts my brother hurts me. Whatever hurts my sister hurts me.”



Beginning in the Elementary Division, students will have leadership opportunities at St. Benedict’s Prep.



Hallmarks of St. Benedict's such as Convocation will be integrated into the new Middle Division.

Middle Division students will also be organized into Groups named for the individuals who played a significant role in history of St. Mary School, which was founded in 1842. A mission of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Chestnut Hill, Pa., since 1968, the religious community of sisters is integral to the success of the new entity.

“I’m excited about how we can create leadership for young women and give them a voice.”

– Fr. Edwin D. Leahy, O.S.B. '63

Sr. Maureen Walsh, S.S.J. is entering her 25th year of teaching at St. Mary School, now the Elementary Division of St. Benedict's Prep. The 2016–17 year was winding down when the eighth-grade teacher sat down to discuss the new educational model. “There’s a lot to be worked out,” Sr. Maureen said, noting that a K–13 school has the potential to make an even greater imprint on the community. “Benedict’s has an impact in Newark,” she continued. “A lot of graduates have gone on to do things that reflect beautifully on Benedict’s. Kids from St. Mary have done the same thing. They’ve been a credit to the City of Newark.”

The news that St. Benedict's is growing its mission comes at a time when the number of Catholic schools around the nation is shrinking.

“I’m excited about how we can create leadership for young women and give them a voice,” said Fr. Ed. Since the Prep Division will remain all male, the School will offer a path for female students in the Middle Division. According to Sr. Maureen, the vast majority of St. Mary graduates go on to Catholic secondary schools, and a significant percentage of young women attend Saint Vincent Academy in Newark or Benedictine Academy in Elizabeth. “We have a good relationship with both schools,” she noted. All-female Catholic college preparatory schools have recruited from St. Mary because, “Our young women are interested in their work, determined to succeed and they participate.” Mr. Duffy believes these relationships will be further strengthened by greater two-way collaboration. (*See this issue's After Class story on page 9*).

The post-graduate program, or Grade 13, is not new to the School. In any given year, a handful of St. Benedict's students may need additional time after senior year in order to meet the rigorous standards for graduation. A small number of graduates of other high schools also choose to spend a post-graduate year at The Hive to better prepare for college. “We’re certainly open to growing the post-graduate program,” Mr. Cassidy said, noting that each student is evaluated on a case-by-case basis. “From our standpoint, it’s within our mission to help students further themselves if that is what they want to do.”

SHAPING THE FUTURE OF CATHOLIC EDUCATION

The news that St. Benedict's is growing its mission comes at a time when the number of Catholic schools around the nation is shrinking. In North Jersey, three Catholic high schools announced closures in 2017. One raised enough funds to remain open; the other two shut their doors in June. Parochial elementary schools have been particularly hard hit and, after decades of downsizing, only four Catholic grammar schools (including St. Mary School) remain in Newark.

Religious leaders, think tanks, philanthropists and others who care about Catholic education agree that



St. Benedict's

PREPARATORY SCHOOL

At-A-Glance

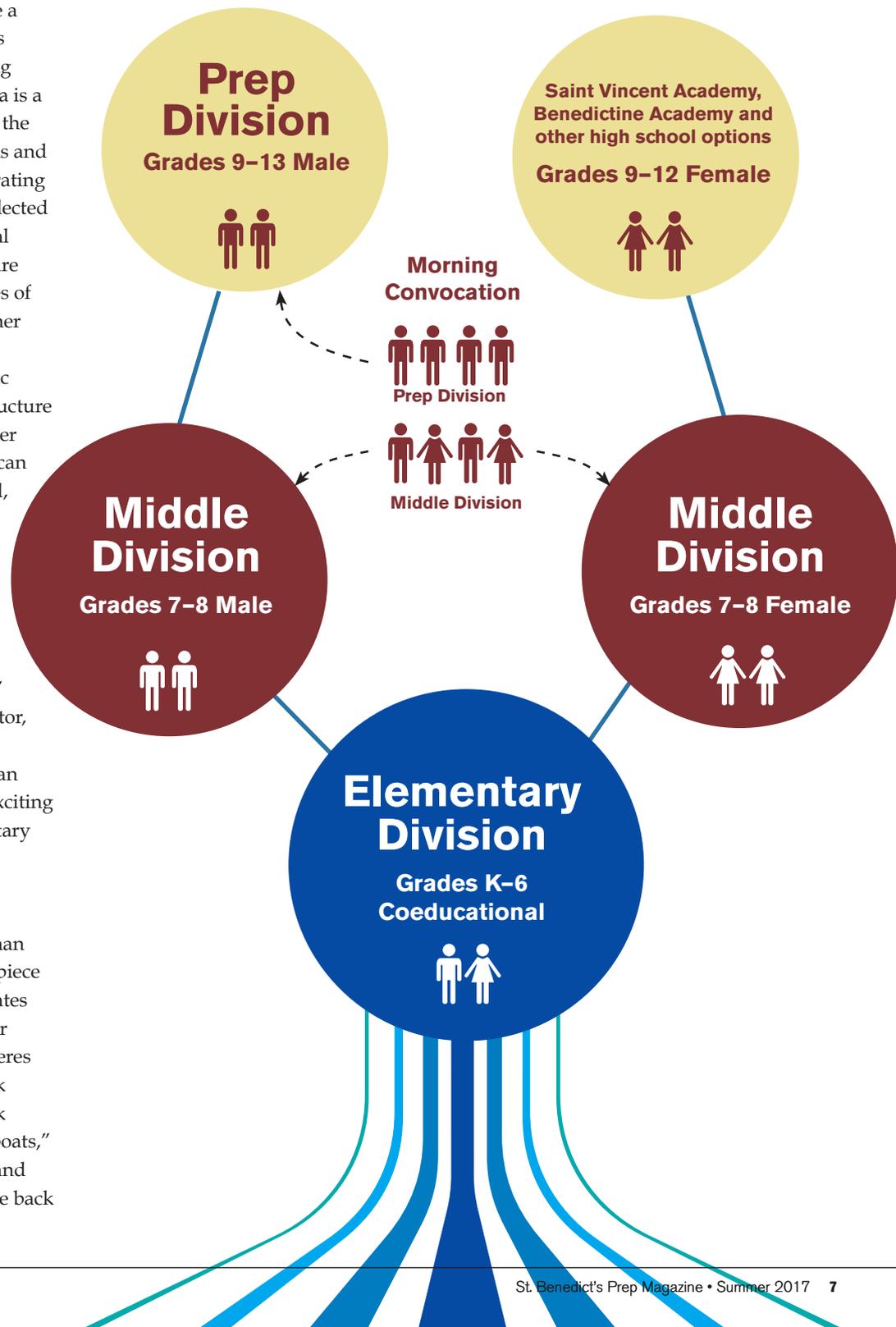
sustaining it depends upon an innovative financial model. Here, St. Benedict's K-13 structure may provide the example for others to follow. "The typical parochial elementary school struggles with numbers because, number one, it's hard to raise money," explained Fr. Ed. "They also don't have a mechanism to market themselves. Admissions is generally whoever knocks on the door." Bringing three divisions under one St. Benedict's umbrella is a win-win. The Elementary Division can leverage the existing infrastructure of the School's admissions and advancement offices. In turn, St. Benedict's operating budget is strengthened because assessments collected from the Archdiocese under the former parochial model remain with the School. The K-13 structure also makes St. Benedict's eligible for new sources of philanthropic support from foundations and other grant makers.

"Mega-funders are looking to make systematic change in education," Fr. Ed said. "This new structure gives us the opportunity to be able to talk to other people in the country about fundraising. If you can look at a 5-year-old all the way to an 18-year-old, you really have an opportunity to say, 'Here is a model that works, and what does it mean for other urban centers?'"

"Bringing St. Benedict's 'whatever hurts my brother hurts me' approach to younger children has the potential to build leadership skills and moral responsibility at an earlier age," said Irene Cooper-Basch, Ph.D., Executive Director, Victoria Foundation, one of the oldest private foundations in the U.S. and generous funder of an array of initiatives at St. Benedict's. "It will be exciting to see how the model translates into the elementary and middle school years."

FESTINA LENTE

During the resurrection of St. Benedict's more than 40 years ago, a Benedictine Monk gave Fr. Ed a piece of advice: *Festina Lente*, which from Latin translates to "Hasten Slowly." In thinking and planning for St. Benedict's new era, the Headmaster still adheres to those words. "That's how we're going to walk through this next year and see how we can work together with the idea that a rising tide lifts all boats," he said. "I'm interested in taking a run at stuff, and am very confident we can make this work. Come back in a year and see how we're doing." **B**



AFTERCLASS

WITH SR. ANN MARIE GASS, S.S.J. AND
JAMES DUFFY H '16



“Everybody will be thinking of the School across the spectrum of ages...”

Two experienced educators are leading the School's new coeducational K-6 Elementary Division and single-sex programs for seventh- and eighth-graders in the Middle Division. Before the new school year began, Sr. Ann Marie Gass, S.S.J. and James Duffy H '16 shared their thoughts on the new collaboration and its power to transform even more young lives.

You're the new heads of the Elementary and Middle divisions. How does that feel?

Sr. Ann: Terrifying and exciting. I've taught first grade at St. Mary for 15 years, and my passion is in the classroom and teaching. When Fr. Edwin approached me at the end of February, I had already been praying and thinking about next year. Certainly, this wasn't on my mind, but when he asked me, the dots connected. And I thought, "Maybe this makes sense, what's been stirring in me."

Mr. Duffy: The piece that's new for me will be the Middle Division program devoted solely to young women. We know what we can provide for young men in terms of activities and sports. What leadership opportunities can we create for young women? We want to give them responsibilities where they can have leadership roles and grow.

What are the key benefits in the new K-13 model?

Sr. Ann: Rather than just staying in our little comfort zones — primary grades, middle school, high school — we'll see the student growth spiral continue through high school. When you're considering the developmental appropriateness of education, it's not a "one size fits all." It's seeing how we can best serve each age group, and to continue to build on it.

Mr. Duffy: Everybody will be thinking of the School across the spectrum of ages, from kindergarten through high school graduation, and the impact we can make on the surrounding area.

How will that progression continue for female students into high school?

Mr. Duffy: We already have relationships with two girls' high schools. We've had some conversations with Benedictine Academy in Elizabeth, a fellow Benedictine school, about things they do that can be translated here. The other part of the conversation has been establishing an avenue for the young women here to graduate and easily transition to Benedictine. We've also spoken to Saint Vincent Academy, an all-girls high school right up the street sponsored by the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth.

How have families responded?

Sr. Ann: For the most part, parents are positive, especially when we talk about the ways we will extend and create programs. At St. Mary, we've got a very good academic program, and we're looking to expand that. Our parents have seen the facilities that have been so well used by the seventh through 12th grade young men all these years, and now we're talking about how we can provide that for the younger ages, and also for the young ladies. We're growing programs to have a more holistic view.

Beyond students and families, how do you think the K-13 educational model impacts the greater Newark community?

Sr. Ann: Combining the Benedictine mission and the mission of the Sisters of St. Joseph in a collaborative way continues to speak to some of the needs that must be met in the greater community. It really combines the best of both. I can't imagine anybody in Newark not really knowing the St. Benedict's name and the reputation that goes along with that. Maybe less known is that St. Mary School is the oldest Catholic elementary school in the State of New Jersey. So while the name isn't known as well, the history and the sense that it was started by immigrants for immigrant children continues to bring in new folks who are on the margins.

Mr. Duffy: It sounds clichéd, but I think St. Benedict's has become a beacon of hope, especially in terms of what's happening with Catholic schools today. In Newark, there are four Catholic elementary schools. Most are struggling to maintain enrollment. Within that climate, and with several high schools in the area closing, we've just rolled out the announcement that St. Benedict's is going K-13.

Why do you think St. Benedict's is able to grow its mission, while so many Catholic schools struggle?

Sr. Ann: Consistency and stability are certainly factors. Parents are really looking for that safe place where their child is known. Having strong academics, as well as focusing on emotional and spiritual development consistently.

Mr. Duffy: One of the big things is the name of St. Benedict's, its reputation, tradition and all of the support that comes with it. Having Benedict's name out there, along with the funding from alumni and the philanthropic community brings more awareness to this K-13 model. And the support is coming in, thank God. We hope it keeps coming because that allows us to do the mission to help those around us.

How do you feel about the future of Catholic education?

Sr. Ann: I think there is such a great need for Catholic education. There are so many parents who really want this for their children, but financially are struggling. If the children are receiving a strong foundation, they feel someone's got their back.

Mr. Duffy: Catholic education for me goes well beyond the classroom. You have to meet the needs of the students in front of you, the situations they're coming from, which means now you're meeting, to a certain extent, needs of their parents or family members. So, I'm excited about it here. St. Benedict's has the capacity to do what many parish elementary schools can't, simply because they don't have the resources. It's a different ball game. 

Experience is the Best Teacher



St. Benedict's received some TLC courtesy of students enrolled in **"FINE HOME TUNING"** with Spanish teacher David Rodriguez '96. In addition to learning practical skills, the class found the variety of projects "really made the guys think and problem-solve," said Mr. Rodriguez.



"GROW A GARDEN, CHANGE YOUR LIFE" provided a living lab for students to plant and nurture produce in sustainable ways and gain a firsthand appreciation of healthy eating and the local food movement. A small group continues the urban farming project over the summer months.



For students involved in **"SPRUCING UP IRONBOUND STADIUM,"** "the story wasn't the cleanup," according to Ironbound USA Founder Gary Bloore. The challenge of the long-neglected facility instilled lessons of discipline, persistence and getting the job done. "St. Benedict's Prep is fantastic," said Mr. Bloore. "It was a hard, but really good month."



Drive for The Hive Day on May 31 was a success, thanks in large part to four students immersed in the School's advancement initiatives for **"MAKING THE HIVE THRIVE."** Interacting with alumni and donors, young men gained confidence, firsthand experience in finance and marketing, as well as a deep appreciation for the role the Advancement Office plays in sustaining the St. Benedict's mission.

Learning was 100 percent hands-on during Spring Phase, the four weeks in May when students spent their academic days immersed in one course, ranging from the Backpacking Project to intensives in the arts, science, finance, life skills, community service and more. It is the capstone to the academic year, with students documenting and presenting their studies to the entire student body. We followed six courses offered for the 44th annual Spring Phase.



St. Benedict's men learned their way around the kitchen and much more in **"REAL MEN COOK DINNER,"** led by Dean of Faculty Michelle Tuorto. "Cooking literally covers 'soup to nuts,'" explained Mrs. Tuorto, noting the course involved menu planning, shopping, preparation and studies in related issues such as food-borne illnesses or research on processed foods and ingredients. Students were also in charge of meal preparation on the Backpacking Project for two nights, and produced a cookbook that included articles on relevant food topics.

"ART NATURE AND CLIMATE CHANGE" ▶

The day trip to Olana, a historic Hudson River Valley site and home of American landscape painter Frederic Church, was one of many excursions students experienced in the interdisciplinary course that connected art, nature and climate change. At Olana, students compared 19th century landscapes with the present day, and explored the impact of American Romanticism on the environmental movements.

Students went beyond gaining an aesthetic appreciation for the Hudson River School and other artists studied, according to art teacher Pamela Wye-Hunsinger. "They were looking at the meaning of art as social commentary," she explained. "Students had to think about how nature intersects in their lives." **B**

Learn more about Spring Phase courses online at sbp.org/news





MEET THE CREW COACHES

Hannah Stafford, left, signed on as crew Assistant Coach this year, joining Head Coach Craig White II '04, far right. They are pictured with Eric Rivera '13, second from left, and Gabe Drouet '10.



CREW TEAM IS ALL IN THE FAMILY

It's 5 a.m., and the boathouse in Kearny along the Passaic River is dark. Cars pull up and student-athletes and parents hop out, ready to begin a long day. Together, they'll load shells — racing boats manned by rowers — onto trailers and begin the drive to a regatta several hours away. At St. Benedict's Prep, crew is a family affair.

Newcomers to The Hive's crew team are novices in a sport historically associated with elite prep schools. Even in wealthier communities, exposure to rowing is often hampered by one critical factor: access to a local river. As a result, youth rowing programs are few and far between, and often, teenage rowers and their families get their first experience with the sport as freshmen.

At St. Benedict's, tight budgets mean a smaller coaching staff, transferring some of the responsibility for the program onto rowers and their families. While some teams have managers to handle their equipment, Gray Bee rowers have generated a buzz for their initiative in loading and unloading their shells, organizing equipment and helping to cook their own meals. "First of all, seeing kids who look like our kids is not common at regattas," said Gray Bee Head Crew Coach

Craig White II '04. "We made clear to our kids early on that they have to be responsible for themselves and for their equipment. We expect their best at all times, and they always respond."

Rowers at The Hive quickly discover that they're expected to juggle team commitments with leadership responsibilities, like making National Honor Society or guiding freshmen on The Trail. "This team is full of kids who have the desire to get better at the sport and to be a success. I always tell them, 'If you're not in it to win it, there's no point being in it.'"

"This team is full of kids who have the desire to get better at the sport and to be a success."

— Head Crew Coach Craig White II '04

Like their sons, The Hive's crew team parents often find themselves in unfamiliar waters during their first season or two. Rowers practice year-round, and parents must juggle their own work schedules with making sure their sons get to practice. They also plan fundraisers to support the team's efforts.

During the season, it takes a small army of parents to coordinate behind-the-scenes support for each regatta. Planning starts early in the week, when families begin to shop for food and drinks for hungry student-athletes during the daylong event. On race day, parents help with logistics like getting rowers fed and to the starting line on time. That's critical for St. Benedict's, which has just two crew coaches for 45 athletes, compared with five coaches for comparable teams. Mr. White noted that about 13 crew parents turn out to help at each race. "That's unheard of. Our family participation is much larger than other teams'. Parents do all of the legwork so I can coach. They're incredibly committed to the team."

First-year Assistant Coach Hannah Stafford said the work ethic of the parents rubs off on The Hive's student-athletes. A rower in high school and college, Ms. Stafford approached St. Benedict's about coaching crew last year and is now a Spanish teacher at The Hive. She's impressed with the family effort she's witnessed. "Our guys work hard, which comes from the fact that the parents work hard. St. Benedict's goes above and beyond in terms of parent involvement." **B**



Gray Bees Clinch Dallas Cup with Cedar Stars Academy

St. Benedict's soccer players have continued their dominance on the pitch, winning the 2017 Dallas Cup in postseason play with Cedar Stars Academy-U18 Newark. Seventeen Gray Bees teamed up on the 19-man squad to become the first New Jersey club to bring home the prestigious title.

CSA-U18 Newark outscored Baltimore Celtic, 5-1, at Toyota Stadium, home of Major League Soccer's FC Dallas. Celio Pompeu '19 drilled in a pair of goals, with fellow Gray Bees Allen Gavilanes '17, Azriel Johnson '19 and Ronald Mafunzwaini '19 also scoring.

St. Benedict's partners with CSA to bring premier development soccer for players of all ages to the Newark area.



Freshman Reaches Finals

Sebasteon Allen '20 made it to the finals of the freshman division of the New Balance Nationals on June 17 and wound up seventh in the nation among ninth graders in Greensboro, N.C. Sebasteon established the longest leap by a freshman from New Jersey this season with a mark of 42-7.

"Sebasteon has shown tremendous growth and maturity over the past few months," said Gray Bee Track Coach Dave Alfano. "After finishing as the top freshman in the state of New Jersey, he is on track to have an illustrious career here at St. Benedict's. I look forward to him being a consistent name on the national stage in the triple jump."



Budding pianists spent four weeks learning to play the piano in Keyboard Orchestra, a new Spring Phase course offered this year.

PIANO MEN

Gray Bees hit a high note this spring with a new Keyboard Orchestra class offered as part of Spring Phase. The 20 students — many of whom were first timers at piano — studied how to read music and honed their keyboarding skills before presenting a mini-concert to the School in June.

Team taught by Jeremy Fletcher, D.M.A., Music teacher, and Dennis Lansang, M.D., Science Department Chair, the class aimed to deepen the students' knowledge of varied musical genres. It grew naturally from The Hive's broader effort to produce well-rounded, culturally literate graduates. In addition to required courses in art and music, students have the opportunity to explore their muse in performances with the Jazz Band, Drama Guild, Chorus and Drum Line, a percussion group appearing at Gray Bee soccer games and pep rallies. "We had been talking about ways to get more kids to play piano," Dr. Fletcher said of the keyboarding course. Since many St. Benedict's Prep students have never had the opportunity to study a musical instrument, "We wanted to give them the time and the experience to have fun with it."

Technology was a key to the success of the course and its budding pianists. Students paired up to study music and practice their skills on computers equipped with

headphones and keyboards that mimic the sounds of an orchestra. A grand piano was also accessible in the music room to encourage students to practice.

To cultivate an interest in different styles of music, Dr. Fletcher and Dr. Lansang arranged field trips to several free lunchtime concerts. Gray Bees traveled to Trinity Church in Lower Manhattan to hear Baroque music, a genre Dr. Fletcher says is "outside the realm of most kids' experience." They also listened to jazz at a free concert by the Harlem Jazzmen at the New York Public Library for the Performing Arts at Lincoln Center. While there, the students became aware of the area's other iconic cultural offerings, including the Metropolitan Opera, New York Ballet, New York Philharmonic and the Juilliard School of Music. "For them to see all of that was a new experience," Dr. Fletcher said.

He hopes the course sparks a lifelong love of music in students. Several have purchased keyboards for their home computers, and teachers have also provided a few kids with equipment the School no longer uses. "Just because they're not going to be professional musicians doesn't mean they shouldn't pursue music. Our goal is for them to become educated consumers, to develop opinions about what's worthy of spending their money on. That takes knowledge of the subject." **B**

2017
Annual

Scholarship

Gala



WELL-DESERVED HONOR

This year's Annual Scholarship Gala on May 11 was one for the record books. In a packed house in Dalton Gymnasium, The Hive celebrated the accomplishments of three outstanding Gray Bees: James Delany '66, Big Ten Commissioner; Douglas Sterner, Ph.D., H '01, beloved veteran History teacher; and Jason Scarpone '85, leading international humanitarian and development specialist. The trio was honored with the Medal of St. Benedict's, the School's highest honor. The Gala is St. Benedict's largest annual fundraiser, generating important support for student financial aid and scholarships.

1. Guests mingling in the Dalton Gymnasium; 2. Headmaster **Fr. Edwin Leahy O.S.B. '63** with honorees **Douglas Sterner, Ph.D. H '01**, **Jason Scarpone '85**, **Jim Delany '66** and Master of Ceremonies **Bill Raftery**; 3. Standing: **Jonathan Nelson '83** and **Stephen Wright '83**, Sitting: **Phil Whyte '83**, **Fred Davis '83**, **Mike Flounoy '93**, **Charlie Villano '60** and **Vernon June '84**; 4. **Tyrone Heggins '02** and **Tyquan McAllister '02**; 5. **Fr. Edwin Leahy O.S.B. '63**; 6. **Jon Litner**, **Fr. Edwin Leahy O.S.B. '63**, **Jim Delany '66**, **Chris Bevilacqua** and **Newman Delany**; 7. **James Scarpone '58**, **Camilo Scarpone**, **Jason Scarpone '85** and **Diego Scarpone**; 8. **Peter Wilderotter '72**, **Lou La Salle**, **Robert J. Munch '69** and **F. Ross Clark III '69** (seated); 9. **Jim Fagan '61** and **Peter Ryan '61**; 10. **Dalyn Woody '17**; 11. **Chardwin Jean'12**, **Kimberly Navarro** and **Louis Lainé '12**; 12. **Douglas Sterner Ph.D., H '01**



RECURRING GIFT HONORS THE BIG BEE



Michael Hobbs '01 was a Boy Scout when he met Fr. Mark Payne, O.S.B. '69.

"He influenced me to come to St. Benedict's Prep," recalled Mr. Hobbs, who became an Eagle Scout, Senior

Group Leader and assisted Fr. Mark on the Backpacking Project for many years after completing The Trail freshman year.

The Big Bee influenced Mr. Hobbs in other ways, too. The alumnus traces the ham radio class with Fr. Mark to the successful career he enjoys today as a marketing consultant for record labels and owner of a digital media company. After graduating from The Hive, Mr. Hobbs became good friends with Fr. Mark.

Recently, Mr. Hobbs established a recurring gift to St. Benedict's to honor the late monk's memory. "We don't think about the impact someone at Benedict's has had on our life until we have to think about it," he said. "I really hope other alumni join in giving. It's

"We don't think about the impact someone at Benedict's has had on our life until we have to think about it"

— Michael Hobbs '01

important that other young men have the same opportunities that we did."

To make a recurring gift like Mr. Hobbs did, visit www.sbp.org/recurl.



Reaching Out to Young Alums

Farad Lowther '10, Director of the BIGS Career Development Center, was named Advancement Officer earlier this year. It's a natural progression for the St. Benedict's Prep alumnus who has connected successful graduates with current students for BIGS seminars on entrepreneurship, job searches and career networking. "The two very much tie together," said Mr. Lowther. "Once alumni come back, meet with students and see the operation of the School, they get very excited about supporting it"

While he continues to direct the BIGS for seniors, Mr. Lowther is on a mission to reunite more young alumni with The Hive. "We have a lot of younger guys who are not engaged," he explained. "My goal is to get them as involved as possible, not just financially, but meeting with and helping out with guys who are just like them."

More social gatherings, like the Class of 2000s Alumni Gathering that drew more than 100 Gray Bees to Mr. Adams Steakhouse last December, and professional networking events are in the works.

Learn more about upcoming young alumni events on the School's Facebook page or contact the Office of Advancement at (973) 792-5776.



RACE TO GREATNESS



inviting Gray Bees to tour the Newark warehouse of his firm, Preferred Freezer Services in Chatham.

John J. Galiher knows that every kid deserves a chance for a better life. That's what prompted him to become involved at St. Benedict's Prep after watching a *60 Minutes* profile on the School last year. Now, Mr. Galiher provides generous financial support and promotes STEM careers by

The CEO also sponsors Ed Carpenter Racing, and recently arranged for the team's Indy car to visit The Hive, where drivers J.R. Hildebrand and Ed Carpenter talked to students about how science and technology apply to racing. "The kids loved it," said Ed Bendokas, Leadership Gifts Officer. "John is in the unique position to help kids interested in STEM through his business."

Of his commitment to St. Benedict's and its students, Mr. Galiher explained, "*60 Minutes* opened my eyes to your cause. So, I went to see it and liked what I saw. We have so much, and you guys grab kids who have so little materially, but give them a shot at greatness."



SHARE YOUR GOOD NEWS!

St. Benedict's welcomes any and all news about your career, education, family life and reconnecting with other alumni. Submit news via email to graybee@sbp.org.

1936

Frederick C. Kull, M.D., celebrated his 98th birthday party in Durham, N.C. His sons, **Fred Kull, Jr., M.D., '67**, **Richard Kull, M.D., '69** and his son-in-law, **Stephen Smith '59**, were part of the celebration, along with many other family members. Fred has fond memories of growing up in Newark and his years at St. Benedict's.



1942

Hon. John J. Gibbons, standard-bearer of Gibbons P.C. and a giant in the New Jersey legal community for five decades, was honored in June at a reception to mark the launch of a new fund, The Judge John J. Gibbons Fund for Justice at Equal Justice USA (EJUSA). The fund will help EJUSA carry on his commitment to the rule of law and his belief that every person deserves respect and dignity.

"Judge Gibbons was a prominent leader in the historic effort that made New Jersey the first state to repeal the death penalty in more than 40 years," said Shari Silberstein, Executive

Director of EJUSA. "The Gibbons Fund at EJUSA will enable our organization to continue what we started in New Jersey, ending the death penalty across the country."



1947

Frederick C. Braun, Jr., M.D., is retiring for the fourth and final time after practicing medicine (pediatrics, and pediatric hematology and oncology).

Francis X. Kloss traveled to Ireland and had a fabulous time. He says, "Ireland loves

the Yanks — must be the common rebellious spirit!"

1948

John T. (Chuck) Dolan, a longtime Partner at the law firm Gibbons P.C. (formerly Crummy, Del Deo, Dolan, Griffinger and Vecchione), who died on May 24, had established a family scholarship at the College of the Holy Cross focused on assisting St. Benedict's graduates there. Three recent Gray Bee alumni, including **Jared Boone '13**, who recently graduated from Holy Cross, have benefited from the Dolan Scholarship.

Joyce A. and **Frank L. Reciniello** celebrated their 61st wedding anniversary in April.

1953

Charlie Brady is working on a book about his time as a newly-ordained priest working in African-American Catholic

parishes in East Orange and Montclair at the time of intense civil rights activities in the mid-60s.

1954

Henry I. Smith, Professor Emeritus of Electrical Engineering at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, has been awarded the 2017 IEEE Robert N. Noyce Medal in recognition of his contributions to the microelectronics industry. Recipients are selected based on leadership in the field, research contributions, originality and inventive value. He founded the NanoStructures Laboratory and held the Joseph F. and Nancy P. Keithley Chair in Electrical Engineering from 1990 to 2005.



Events



GRAY BEES GO GOLD

The Class of 1967 held their 50th reunion at graduation on June 4.

Front row: **Bob Carlton, Paul Flanagan, Mike Pennella, Rev. Don Hummel, Joe Verniero and Jack Flannery**. Back row: **Bob P. Mooney, Mike Waldron, Dennis Keenan, Jack Desch, Tom Denning, Ed Hanlon, Tom Murphy, Ed Joyce, Anthony Sciarillo and Jim Farrell**.



10-YEAR REUNION

The Class of 2007 got together for its 10th reunion at Mr. Adams Steakhouse in Newark.

From left: **Aaron Williamson, Jeremy Kane, Nathaniel Edmonson, Javier Marrero, Dennard Smith, Mylles Assuncao, Charles Clark, Chris Serron, Francisco Jaime, Clarence Smith, Kendell Bryant, Bryant Almanzar, Paul Landy, Husani Hayes, Jonathan Cullar, Brice Rembert, Alex Cedeno, Mike Gormally, Fitzimon Ogbo and Joseph Downar**. Not pictured: **Irvin Henry and Jonathan Yerovi**.

30-YEAR REUNION

Members of the Class of 1987 celebrated their 30th anniversary of graduation from The Hive on June 9 in the school cafeteria, followed by a June 10 pool party at the home of Brian Kennedy.

First row (sitting): **Myron Petty and Shawn Isom**. Second row: **Craig Kappmeier, Gary Owens, Troy Terry, Alfred Robinson, Chris Christou-Parker, Thomas Hollins and Kevon Chisolm**. Third row: **James Hawkins, Mark Lighten, Larry Jones, Brian Kennedy, James Jackson, Tim Peter, James Donnelly and Jacques Senise**.



1963

Fr. Edwin Leahy, O.S.B., Headmaster, and **Paul Thornton**, Associate Headmaster/Director of Planned Giving, were featured in the documentary and exhibit of "100 People of Newark," which opened on January 31 in the atrium of the newly-renovated Hahne & Co. Building. The project was funded by the PSEG Foundation as part of the celebration of Newark's 350th anniversary in 2016. Also featured were former Senior Group Leader **Bruce Davis III '16** and **Hakeyh Watkins '16**.

1964

Mike Bertelli has now created 12 sculptures based on characters in literature. His most recent work was inspired by James McBride's novel, *The Good Lord Bird*, about the abolitionist John Brown. Mike creates the

pieces in clay, makes rubber or plaster molds, then casts them with a hard gypsum product and, finally, paints them. He has done a few presentations and entered specific pieces in gallery shows.



The ninth grandchild of **Adrian Foley**, Armando Adrian Lantu, arrived in September 2016.

1967

Rev. Donald K. Hummel received the National Duty to God Award from the Boy Scouts of America at the national meeting in Orlando, Fla.



1968

Jim Hundley, who lives with his wife, Virginia, in Neptune Township, N.J., practices education, municipal and real estate law with his firm, Hundley and Bradley, LLC in Ocean Grove. A paleontologist when he's not at work, Jim found a 360 million-year-old tooth of a *Hyneria*, a lobe-finned fish believed to be a predecessor to early amphibians. The Holy Grail of the fossil site, it was jutting out of a rock 30 feet up on the side of a sheer cliff. When he reached the ground, Jim remarked that he was older than the tooth. Virginia and Jim have two sons, James and Todd, who live in Monmouth County. Their daughter, Kali, lives in Manhattan. Jim and Virginia became grandparents on Super Bowl Sunday with the birth of their granddaughter, Chloe, to Todd and his wife, Lauren.

Chet Penza reports that he has lived with his wife, Irene, in Long Valley, N.J., since 1977. Chet and Irene have two children and a grandson. After St. Benedict's, Chet went on to Seton Hall University for a B.S. in English/Education, then a M.A. in Education from Montclair State University. Chet's career path took him through nine years as an English teacher at Livingston High School, as well as 25 years in IT consulting and account management. Chet addressed his spiritual side in 2010 by earning a Master of Divinity from Drew Theological School and becoming the Oncology Chaplain at St. Luke's Hospital in Bethlehem, Pa., in 2011. For the past five years, Chet has been Pastor of Westminster Presbyterian Church in Phillipsburg, N.J. In his off-time, Chet and **Mike Semler** have reportedly been seen at a Hackettstown, N.J., fitness club and on the local golf courses.

Bill O'Neill reports that he and his wife, Kathy, are living in Naples, Fla. After St. Benedict's, Bill graduated from Boston College and earned a master's in English at the University of Virginia before deciding on a new career path, moving across campus to UVA Law. Bill practiced law and lived in Connecticut for 12 years, earning a master's in taxation from NYU Law. He transferred to Naples in 1989. After being a Partner in two Naples firms, he retired three years ago. Bill discovered fitness in his later years, completing a Tough Mudder a few years ago and a number of MS 150 bike rides. These days, when not in the gym, Bill works on a novel, writes theater reviews for a local newspaper and serves on the board of the David Lawrence Center, the local mental health and substance abuse facility. Kathy has just joined Bill in retirement after

SENIOR ALUMNI LUNCHEON

Now in its 30th year, the Senior Alumni Luncheon drew 170 Gray Bees to The Breakers on the Ocean in Spring Lake, N.J.



From left: **Kobe Hurtado '18**, **Michael Amankwaah '18**, **Carlos Acosta '18**, **Bill Mealia '56**, **Steve Zaremba '56**, **Devionne Johnson '18**, **Sebastian Granizo '18** and **Savion Harris '18**.

Class of '67 50th Reunion

FRIDAY
OCTOBER 20, 2017
5:00-6:30 P.M.
St. Benedict's Prep
Then off to the races
at the Meadowlands

SATURDAY
OCTOBER 21, 2017
8:00-11:00 P.M.
The Madison Hotel
Morristown, NJ

Save the Date!

Gray Bee Golf Outing

Monday, September 18
Spring Lake Golf Club
Spring Lake, NJ

Rain Date Thursday, September 28

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For more information, please contact
Mary Hauck at mhauck@sbp.org or (973) 792-5776.

a career as a teacher and media specialist. Married 44 years, they have three children. Bill enjoyed the visit, last year, of classmate **Steve Dormer**, who recently retired from his banking career and is traveling the country in his RV. Bill is kept abreast of doings at The Hive by Fr. Edwin and others when they are in the area for annual alumni gatherings.

1971

John DiDomenico, who passed away on April 29, had been featured in an April 12 article in *The Monitor*, about his seventh and final performance as the Apostle Andrew in a Living Last Supper at his parish, Church of the Nativity, just a couple of weeks before he died.

John waged a 2 1/2-year battle with pancreatic cancer, surprising everyone, including his doctors, and inspiring many afflicted by the disease. He was featured in an issue of *Monmouth Health and Life Magazine* because of his remarkable journey. His friend and fellow parishioner, Patrick Sullivan, said John "saved up every bit of energy in his body to perform as Andrew the Bringer, delivering his two-minute soliloquy each night. He was amazing and left everything on the altar during his three performances."



Michael Farrell, Chauncey Durkin and **Al Esposito** joined **Teddy Durkin '96** and **Arif Welcher '96** at a Gray Bee golf outing in Galway Bay, Ireland.



1972

Peter Klebaur and **Tom Mooney** greeted Grand Marshal **Fr. Edwin D. Leahy, O.S.B. '63**, Headmaster, at the Newark St. Patrick's Day Parade in March.



1994

Chris Huss was named Superintendent in Millstone Township K-8 school district.

2001

Chidi Asoluka finished his seventh year at Germantown Academy in Fort Washington, Pa., where he was an English teacher, House Head, Assistant Director of Diversity Programming and Founder/Director of The New Community Project. NewComm is an interdisciplinary social entrepreneurship program that builds meaningful partnerships between Germantown Academy and local social justice-oriented community organizations. In August, he will begin his

tenure at Horace Mann School, where he will teach English. He will be living in Washington Heights.

Mark Servidio proposed to Anne de Guzman in March.



2006

Ahmad A. Kerr, M.D., graduated from Howard University College of Medicine and was inducted into Alpha Omega Alpha Medical Honor Society and the Gold Humanism Honor Society. He's headed to New York City to begin residency training in obstetrics and gynecology at Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai.



Emmanuel McDonald, D.O., graduated from West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine with the class of 2017. He will begin his residency in Miami, Fla.



We have received word that these members of the St. Benedict's community or members of their families have died.

ALUMNI

Vincent E. Squazzo '41
Frank X. Dwyer '43
Carl J. Riestler '43
John H. Doolin '45
Robert E. Johnson, Jr. '45
Arthur E. Newman '45
John J. Collins '47
John T. Dolan '48
James J. Cusack '49
Cornelius P. Quinn '51
Rev. Karl J. Roesch, O.S.B. '51
Francis E. Smith '52
James F. Sullivan III '53
Joseph M. Lessman '54
John P. Teevan, Jr. '58
Joseph F. Leonhardt, Jr. '60
Joseph D. Harvey '62

Robert H. Harris, Ph.D., '64
Robert L. Ghegan '64
John A. DiDomenico '71
Antonio C. DaSilva '72
Darren McCrimmon '86

COMMUNITY

Santa Biello
Mother of Carl '70 and grandmother of Andrew '02
Lidia Costa
Grandmother of David Caetano '02
James J. Doran
Father of Kevin '70
Martha Lee
Mother of Joe '93 and Mark '92
Robert Stephens
Father of Marcus '88

A sympathy card has been sent to each bereaved family in the name of the St. Benedict's family — alumni, students, faculty, staff and monks — promising our prayers and a special remembrance at the monks' daily conventual Mass.

2007

Kenneth Skinner was awarded his Ph.D. in chemical biology from Harvard University in May. Ken has been visiting with another Harvard man, **Paul Thornton '63**, Associate Headmaster/Director of Planned Giving, at alumni events over the past few years. Ken was biology and chemistry Resident Tutor in Dunster House, Paul's house when he was a student. The two met up again at graduation this year.



BIRTHS

Jannette Diaz and **Gilbert Torres '97** are expecting their second child in August.

Jen and **Mike Hall '04** welcomed their second child, Scarlett Marie Hall, in April. Scarlett is the niece of **Br. Thomas Hall, O.S.B. '06** and **Kevin Hall '08**.

Alla and **Gabe Leonard '04** are expecting a boy in August.

Bobby Laraway '06 and his wife, Mandy, welcomed Olivia Rose Laraway in March.



Drama Guild Alum Makes West End Debut



Cameron Bernard Jones '06 performs in the West End production of "Motown: The Musical." 1. Second left, and 2. far right.



The eureka moment for Cameron Bernard Jones '06 came in a simple "no." That one word, from a trusted teacher at St. Benedict's Prep, helped to launch Mr. Jones' successful career in theater. This year, the persistent performer

made his West End debut in "Motown: The Musical," playing legendary bass Melvin Franklin of the Temptations.

As a high school student, Mr. Jones was an extraordinarily talented singer, performing with the Drama Guild, vocal ensemble and choir. But when his English teacher, Marc Onion '89, asked students to write about the major they hoped to pursue in college, Mr. Jones wrote about biochemistry. "Mr. Onion looked at the paper and handed it back to me with a simple 'no.' I loved the arts so much, but never realized or believed I could make a career out of it. We had a discussion about what my real passion was. It was then that I made the decision to pursue the arts."

He attended the Bienen School of Music at Northwestern University, receiving classical voice training, as well as experience in musical theater and dance. After working for several years in the United States, Mr. Jones moved to London and hired an agent. His career began to take off slowly. He auditioned for six shows over two months before landing his spot in the "Motown" cast, where he also plays band members of the Commodores and the Miracles. Of the late Mr. Franklin, Mr. Jones says, "He was

very much the glue, not only of the Temptations, but also of the Motown family in general."

Enduring auditions and not receiving callbacks is tough, Mr. Jones admits. When he gets discouraged, he draws on the resilience he learned at St. Benedict's, as well as the support of his husband, family and friends. That network includes a strong cohort of Gray Bees. In fact, one of his mentors, Didier Jean-Baptiste '86, Dean of Seniors and College Placement, recently traveled to London to see his former student perform.

A firm believer in the concept of paying it forward, Mr. Jones makes it a point to visit The Hive whenever he's in the Newark area to encourage students interested in the performing arts. "Students need to know that the values they learn at St. Benedict's stay with you in life. Many of the lessons I learned there help in my life now." **B**



Cameron Bernard Jones '06 in 2005 at St. Benedict's

Photo credits: Headshot: Simon Mayhew. Production photos: Tristram Kenton

"Students need to know that the values they learn at St. Benedict's stay with you in life. Many of the lessons I learned there help in my life now."

THEN AND NOW



1970

St. Mary School has a long tradition of collaborative learning. That tradition continues as the school officially becomes a part of St. Benedict's Prep's K-13 educational model. The initiative also includes plans for leadership and other St. Benedict's hallmarks, beginning in elementary school.



2017

omnes pariter



Plan now. Give forever.

Attorneys Peter Connell, Esq., '64 and his wife, Laura Connell, Esq., understand that success is sweeter when it is shared with others. That's why they have made giving a priority throughout their lives. Now, the longtime St. Benedict's Prep benefactors have taken the next step in ensuring that their support for The Hive continues for many years to come.

When Peter turned 70½, he and Laura decided that his required IRA distribution could make a difference to future generations of Gray Bees through an endowed scholarship. With Laura's approval, Peter also decided to name St. Benedict's a future beneficiary for a percentage of his IRA. "It's easier than changing my will," said Peter, who values the ease and tax advantages these automatic gifts bring to the couple's charitable giving.

Planned gifts like the Connells' are vital to growing our endowment and continuing to offer our students the life-changing power of a St. Benedict's education. For the couple, it makes perfect sense, morally and financially. "St. Benedict's forms young men of faith," notes Laura, while Peter adds, "We're delighted that young men will receive a top-flight education with our help."

For more information on planned gifts, go to www.sbp.plannedgiving.org. To discuss establishing a planned gift that meets your goals, please contact Paul Thornton '63, Associate Headmaster and Director of Planned Giving, at (973) 792-5775 or pthornton@sbp.org.



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