

## The Abbey Welcomes

**Two Novices** 

**THEMOMENT** 

**Newark Abbey welcomed** novices Simon Clayton '08 and Asial Rodriguez into the religious community earlier this year. The occasion is significant because it marks the first time since the 1970s that two candidates entered the novitiate at roughly the same time.

Simon, who took the name Br. Simon Peter when he was received into the novitiate, is a graduate of St. Vincent College. He was voted "Most Likely to Become a Monk" by his St. Benedict's classmates. Asial, who took the name Br. Asial Maria, was born in Cuba, attended high school in Union City, N.J., and spent six years in religious formation in Spain before entering the novitiate.

The novices are devoting a year to intensive training in monastic life. If they feel they are called to be Benedictine monks when the novitiate concludes, and the community agrees, they will make simple vows. These days, the men are focused on the present. "Right now, our primary responsibility is to learn how to become monks," said Br. Simon.



#### The BUZZ: News from The Hive

Catch up with some of the people and programs that are making headlines at St. Benedict's.

#### Cover Story: After 60 Minutes

The national broadcast brought an avalanche of support to St. Benedict's.

#### After Class... with Ben Carpenter and Farad Lowther '10

Introducing the BIGS Career Development Center and its unique career training curriculum.

#### 10. Athletics

Gray Bee hoopsters fall in nationals and boxers hit the ring for inaugural season.

#### 11. The Arts

Opera ignites the creative muse at St. Benedict's through a Met-sponsored program.

#### 12. Advancement

Alumni who step up to the plate inspire new Leadership Gifts Officers.

#### 14. Brothers Forever: Class Notes and Events

#### 18. We Remember

Fr. Boniface Treanor, O.S.B. '47 and Fr. Mark Payne, O.S.B. '69

# St.Benedict's Magazine • Summer 2016 • Issue 5

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#### How to Reach Us

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On the cover: 60 Minutes correspondent Scott Pelley and Devionne Johnson '18

Follow us on







#### **GREETINGS**



#### A Year of Highs and Lows

It has been a year of highs and lows at St. Benedict's Prep. In the midst of celebrating commencement and the tremendous recognition brought to The Hive with the 60 Minutes report "The Resurrection of St. Benedict's," we lost two who truly lived

our motto, "Whatever helps my brother helps me."

Several days before commencement, Fr. Boniface Treanor, O.S.B. '47 passed away. A month later, Fr. Mark Payne, O.S.B. '69 was also called home. It was an especially poignant time to lose two men who played such a pivotal role here at St. Benedict's. The broadcast inspired total strangers to embrace our mission, a real testament to the life's work of these Loyal Sons.

When St. Benedict's closed its doors for a year in 1972, Fr. Bon refused to give up. He and three other monks, Frs. Casimir Finley, O.S.B., Benedict Tyler, O.S.B. '44 and Theodore Howarth, O.S.B. '41 - referred to as the Four Pillars of St. Benedict's Prep - worked relentlessly to reopen the School a year later. As Dean of Discipline for many years, Fr. Bon was a steady rudder guiding our kids through the rough waters of inner-city adolescence that could have threatened to derail their dreams.

Generations of Gray Bees called Fr. Mark "Big Bee" because of his role in originating the Backpacking Project. He had a brilliant mind, and could explain physics to anyone. Yet, his genius extended far beyond the classroom to create some of the most beloved — and life changing - St. Benedict's traditions. In addition to the Backpacking Project, Fr. Mark was the man behind milestones such as the Freshman Overnight and the Group Leader System, all three of which were profiled in the 60 Minutes report.

Without them, we continue to forge on, renewing the commitment Fr. Bon and Fr. Mark made to our school and our students. I'm sure they're looking down and exhorting us with the words our students shout every morning: "You go and conquer!"

Edwi D. Derly al. Fr. Edwin D. Leahy, O.S.B. '63

Headmaster



#### FROM STUDENTS TO ALUMNI: COMMENCEMENT 2016



#### THE POWER OF SUCCESS

There's no question the partnership between St. Benedict's and the Student Partner Alliance (S/PA) breeds success.

This year, 14 Gray Bees earned scholarships and individual mentoring from the non-profit, which assists economically disadvantaged, but determined urban students to attend private high schools in their New Jersey communities. The organization's goal: to provide the support urban students need to excel at a good high school and achieve test scores that qualify for college scholarships.

At St. Benedict's, this year's class of potential recipients was so impressive that the S/PA went to greater lengths to arrange support, according to Margaret Momber, executive director of the S/PA. She anticipates that next year the number of St. Benedict's scholarship recipients will be even higher.

"The quality of St. Benedict's students this year was so outstanding that I went out to find new sponsors, so we could assist them," Ms. Momber said. "High school is when students can be derailed. Places like St. Benedict's keep them on the right track."

Founded in 1993, S/PA last year assisted 175 students at eight private high schools, including St. Benedict's, which has partnered with the S/PA since 1997. Approximately 98 percent of S/PA graduates go on to attend college, matching the college attendance rate for St. Benedict's graduates.

Through the years, Paul Thornton '63, the school's Director of Planned Giving/Associate Headmaster, has



Paul Larocher '19, left, with his S/PA mentor

seen many Gray Bees thrive and succeed with S/PA support. "In addition to the financial support, it's really good for these students to be involved with significant adults," he explained. "The mentoring relationship may open their eyes to a whole range of possibilities they wouldn't have considered otherwise."

One of those success stories is Christopher Beltran '07. With the support of S/PA, Mr. Beltran has earned a BA from Montclair State University, a MA from Rutgers University and his career as a recruiter for Aerotek is thriving. Now, he's paying it forward, recently joining the S/PA Board of Trustees and already recruiting five new mentors to the program. "S/PA showed me that opportunity and support are essential to every child's growth and success," Mr. Beltran commented.

"He is a shining example of how well this cycle can work," Mr. Thornton added. "A number of these mentoring relationships have proven to be very worthwhile for our kids."

#### **Gray Bees in Iceland**

The Barat Foundation awarded Willie Cole Scholarships to Gabriel Cuadrado '17 and MacGregor Jeune '17, allowing the two rising seniors to participate in the Foundation's summer program in Iceland.

A native son of Newark, Mr. Cole is a celebrated sculptor and visual artist. The Barat Foundation established the scholarship to honor his artistic contributions and provide outstanding Newark students the opportunity to study abroad.

Gabriel and MacGregor spent the month of July in Iceland. The rising seniors, along with two scholarship recipients from Science Park High School in Newark, created a documentary film that explores the ecology and geo-thermal energy of Hvergeradi, Iceland. The students also had the opportunity to explore Iceland's nature and became fully immersed in the island's innovative culture and community.

Gabriel and MacGregor are the fourth group of St. Benedict's students awarded Willie Cole Scholarships in the program's 11-year history. Last summer, Faseeh Bhatti '17. Bruce Davis '16 and Emmanuel Knighton '16 earned scholarships to spend a month in Southern France.

#### **WALKING IN FAITH**

Rich Gallerani is convinced that God has guided his footsteps along some pretty miraculous paths. The most recent was a trip with 52 other travelers on an emotional pilgrimage to Italy.

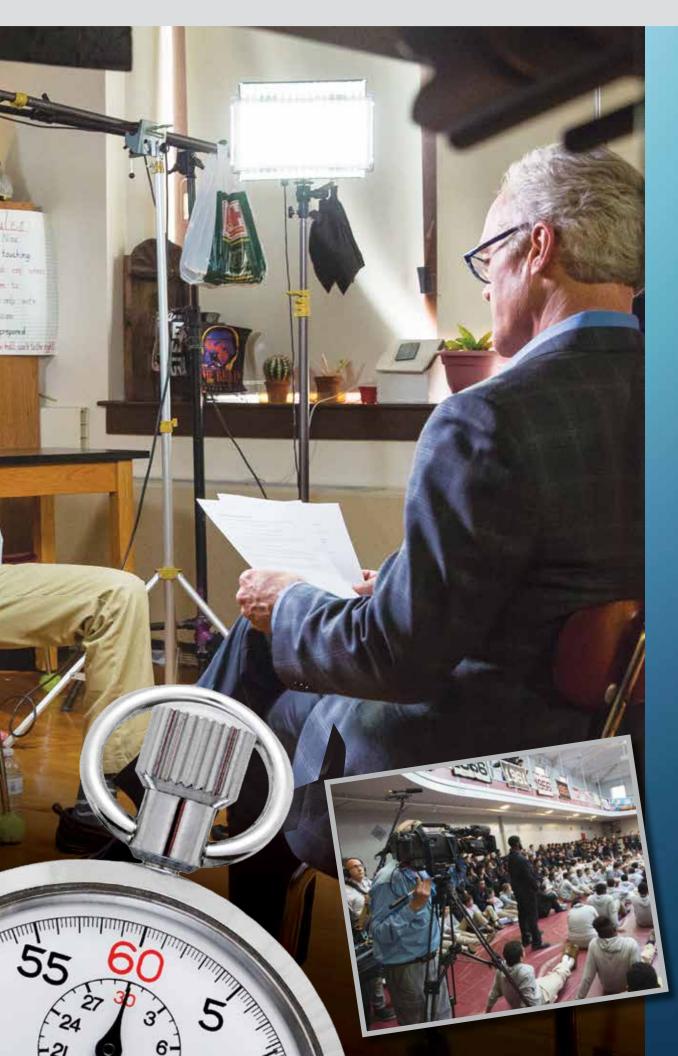
Diagnosed with liver cancer two years ago, the St. Benedict's history teacher joined the pilgrimage at the suggestion of his friend, Fr. Frank Hampton Davis. For Mr. Gallerani, the trip's highlight was the celebration of Mass at the private altar of St. Padre Pio, who has been credited with many miraculous healings. When it came time to bless each pilgrim, Fr. Hampton placed St. Padre Pio's cross and a glove that had covered the stigmata on one of the saint's hands over Mr. Gallerani's liver.

A master woodcarver, Mr. Gallerani had carved a nine-inch statue of the Blessed Mother in anticipation of the Mass. In awe, he placed his small statue on St. Padre Pio's altar, a moment he describes as "very powerful." Of the statue, he added, "She was very much like a pilgrim with us."

Learn more about Mr. Gallerani's story online at sbp.org/news.







### **Spotlight on St. Benedict's**



#### 10+ million

viewers watched "The Resurrection of St. Benedict's" when it first aired on the CBS program

#### 60 Minutes on March 20.



Program was the 6th

# Highest Rated

show of the week.



#### 1st gift

was made 10 minutes after the broadcast ended: a \$30 donation from a donor from Cleveland, Tenn.

#### By the Numbers



Individuals, companies and organizations were inspired by the broadcast to become St. Benedict's Prep donors.

1,200+ Gifts totaling more than

<u>\$433,</u>000

were made by the close of the School's fiscal year on June 30.

\$50,000 from a donor in Rye, N.Y.



Gift from the Greatest Distance: \$150 from Gameti, Northwest Territories, Canada.





Happy Birthday Gifts!
A 10-year-old and 80-yearold celebrated milestone
birthdays by making gifts to
St. Benedict's Prep.

#### THE AVALANCHE

What happens when more than 10 million people are introduced to St. Benedict's Prep via 60 Minutes? They are inspired to act.

Since the broadcast, which re-aired in June, gifts from viewers have poured in, with more than 1,200 new donors contributing \$433,000. Just 10 minutes after the broadcast ended, the School received its first contribution, a \$30 gift from Cleveland, Tenn. Since then a wide range of gifts have arrived, from heartfelt smaller contributions to the largest, \$50,000, from a donor in Rye, N.Y.

One of the many poignant moments in the aftermath came when 10-year-old Griffyn Taylor of Florida held a fundraiser for the School on her birthday that raised \$2,100. Griffyn and her father, Orren, traveled to Newark in June to personally present her gift.

The national outpouring of admiration and support has sparked a new pride in alumni, too. "People were glued to their TVs," said Michael Flounoy '93, President of the Alumni Association. "The feedback I've gotten from alumni has been great. We've always wanted this school to be on the national stage."

The week the segment aired in March, 60 Minutes was the nation's sixth highest rated television show. It resonated with national media including *The Washington Times*, *Forbes* and the *Huffington Post*. The Hive had become an overnight sensation.

"To say that we were surprised would mean we had some sort of expectation," explained Fr. Edwin Leahy, O.S.B. '63, Headmaster. "I had no idea what to expect. It's been like an avalanche."

#### **URBAN APOSTLES**

Like Fr. Ed, Devionne Johnson '18 wasn't prepared for the impact. He and his classmates — Bruce Davis '16, Khalil Flemming '16 and Andrew Brice '17 — shared their stories about life inside and outside St. Benedict's with anchor Scott Pelley.

After the show aired, the phone began to ring. Proud family members. Friends from his distant past. Devionne texted Fr. Ed, "We're famous." The Headmaster's response grounded him immediately: "Remember, be a big person. Not a big shot."

Fr. Ed has likened Devionne and his friends to the apostle Peter, who doubted his ability to spread Christ's message because he was just an ordinary man. Like Peter, St. Benedict's students are spreading a message of hope in their communities. That responsibility crystallized for Devionne when he met an ex-con on the street who told him, "You're my inspiration."

"Me? I'm only 16," a stunned Devionne replied. The man answered, "In this neighborhood, a lot of you have dreams and you're not afraid to chase them. You make people like me have a chance in life."

The Hive has also become an apostle, of sorts, among urban schools facing similar uphill battles. After the broadcast, Fr. Ed heard from educators in Oklahoma, Baltimore, New York City, Florida, Kansas, San Diego and, closer to home, Newark, all wanting to emulate the St. Benedict's model.

"We haven't said no to anybody yet," explained Fr. Ed. "How come? Because very few people said no to us when we were trying to do this in 1972."

To assist other schools, in June St. Benedict's sponsored a summit of educators, businesspeople, funders and activists to plant the seeds for a Resource Center that will share best practices.

#### "NOBODY IS OFF THE HOOK"

While 60 *Minutes* provided a welcome infusion of funds to the School, Fr. Ed warned that St. Benedict's can never become complacent about fundraising. A giving gap caused by smaller classes in the 70s and 80s has resulted in a reduced pool of potential alumni donors, and with 125 new freshmen arriving every summer, the need never ends.

"Nobody is off the hook," Fr. Ed said. "The danger now is to think that everything is over, and it's not. We've got to get our endowment up. That is the goal."

Mr. Flounoy agreed. "The benefits of 60 Minutes will come and go. People want to help the School now, but all of the hard work we do for St. Benedict's has to continue."

Thanks to 60 Minutes, Fr. Ed has an effective ally in that effort: Devionne has volunteered to help raise funds for St. Benedict's, where he got the chance to chase his dreams. "It's thrilling because I'm generating money for a cause that I know works."

At alumni and fundraising events, Devionne sees the future.

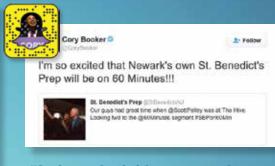
"I've been in Newark for 16 years and the places I've seen are amazing," he said, noting that the successful St. Benedict's alumni he's met are a great source of inspiration to today's Gray Bees. "If alumni can be so successful being raised in Newark, then why can't we?" is the question Devionne now poses to classmates. "Whatever your definition of success is, what's stopping us from being successful?"

#### **Our Story Goes VIRAL**

When the 60 Minutes story went viral on the Internet, millions of people were introduced to St. Benedict's Prep and became inspired by its success. For alumni and friends who have personally experienced The Hive, the broadcast validated what they know, love and value about the School. These highlights represent immense pride and appreciation for St. Benedict's and its mission:







"As I watched this segment last night on 60 Minutes, I wept just to see the beauty of what you all have created."

LESLIE ROBIN KASSAL

"This school is an exemplar that could renovate public and private education in America, whether in urban, suburban or rural areas. Newark is ground zero for future school systems that could be number one!"

JON CURLEY

needs a St. Benedict's in every inner city. **Just imagine how** great our country

"Our country

would be!"

JULIE J M





"Great things happen when our students lead. Love this beautiful example from my home state of NJ!"

> LAURENE POWELL, EDUCATION ADVOCATE, STEVE JOBS' WIDOW

Patricia Heaton @PatriciaHeaton · 20h Yay Griffyn!

St. Benedict's Prep @StBenedictsNJ A Little Big Helper! Ten-year-old Griffyn Taylor traveled

with her father, Orren, from Florida and presented FR... fb.me./5ful1G7VB



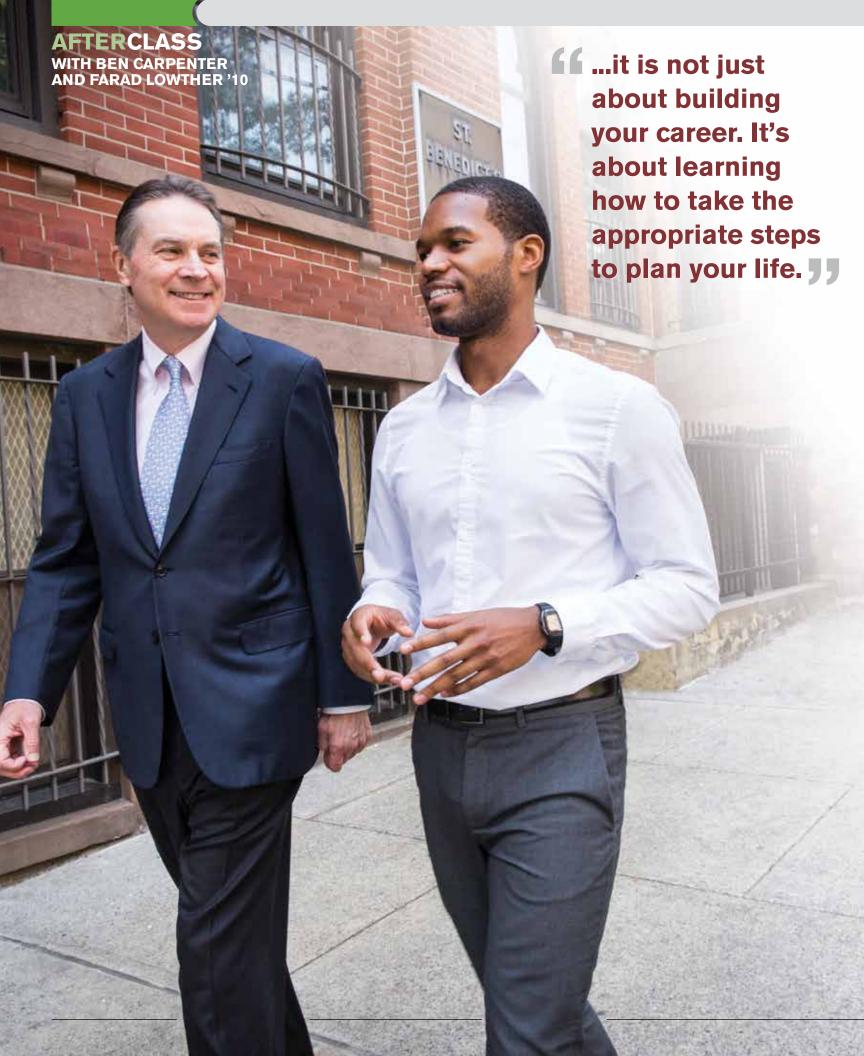
"Proud to have been there before the fall, and to watch, admire and contribute in what way I could after Benedict's was re-born. Will return for my 50th anniversary this year."

**ANDREW TURRISI '66** 





The Resurrection of St. Benedict's Their school motto is "Whatever hurts my brother hurts me" and their graduation rate is 98 percent. Scott Pelley reports on a unique school in N.,



Earlier this year St. Benedict's Prep launched The BIGS Career Development Center, providing a unique career training curriculum for students in grades 7-12. The Center is based on a career readiness program developed by Ben Carpenter, noted author of The BIGS: The Secrets Nobody Tells Students and Young Professionals About How to Choose a Career, Find a Great Job, Do a Great Job, Be a Leader, Start a Business, Manage Your Money, Stay Out of Trouble, and Live a Happy Life. We caught up with Mr. Carpenter, who is working closely with St. Benedict's, and Farad Lowther '10, Director of The BIGS Career **Development Center, to discuss the program's impact.** 

#### How did the partnership between St. Benedict's and The BIGS come about?

Mr. Carpenter: A friend asked me to come to St. Benedict's and talk to the seniors, and Fr. Ed sat in on those talks. After that, Fr. Ed asked if I could design a career training program for his students. He realized that teaching the traditional subjects was great, but it still left a hole in the real world education the kids would need, both to maximize their experience in college and their lives thereafter.

#### How did The BIGS program roll out at St. Benedict's?

Mr. Lowther: We started the series of workshops with everyone in grades 7 through 12. The first topic was public speaking.

Mr. Carpenter: We had the students read the newspaper. Most of them had never really read the newspaper, which is true for most high school students. When they were forced to sit down and read it, they found that the newspaper is pretty entertaining. The students chose an article to do some additional research on, and the next day they came in and publicly spoke to their groups about it. It worked very well. Later, we progressed toward topics like Choosing a Career, Doing a Great Job and, just for seniors, Next Steps.

#### When high school students are mostly thinking about getting into college, how do you focus their attention on career training and engage them in the process?

Mr. Lowther: It's a very tough thing to do. But you'll be shocked to know that a lot of our guys are really interested and intrigued by the way we run the program. Partly, that's because it's not just about building your career. It's about learning how to take the appropriate steps to plan your life. The key to it is not just about planning the right job. It's about choosing the right college and learning to take the steps to plan that job.

Mr. Carpenter: We've built this as a pyramid. In grades 7 through 10, the program is focused on public speaking and current events because that's the foundation for so much of business. Junior year we're focused on choosing a career because that can impact where a student goes to college. Senior year is all about finding internships in college, as well as how to do a great job with leadership.

#### What kinds of outcomes did you see when you piloted the program this year?

Mr. Lowther: It caught the attention of everyone. Most guys were really into what we were doing because it became much more interactive as time went on. It allowed them to engage and get more of a sense of life experiences.

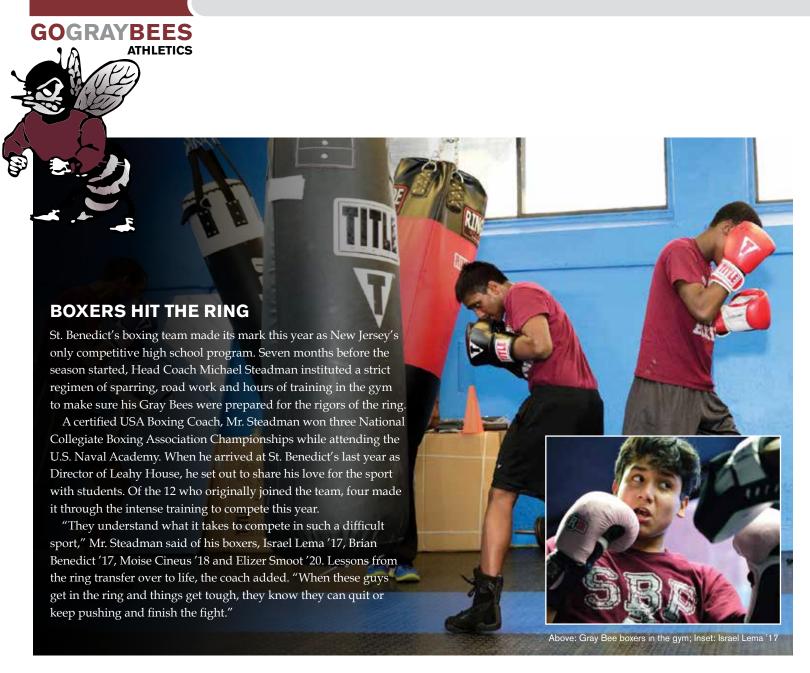
Mr. Carpenter: With the right coaching, some students who aren't necessarily great in traditional academics, can be top notch professionals and realize their hopes and dreams in the real world, as well as anybody. Scholastic success is only one really small part of life. Students came to realize that they might not be the best academically, but they could do this. And frankly, that's what Fr. Ed and the School care about more than people getting straight As. They want them to become productive and happy professionals and adults. I think we're getting right to the heart of that matter pretty effectively.

#### Did you learn things along the way from the students that made you rethink how you do things?

Mr. Lowther: Yes, how enthusiastic they were when the teaching was interactive. We got the most positive feedback on the mock interviews. We had them read the chapter in *The BIGS* about interviewing. Then Ben, along with St. Benedict's alumni, came in to speak about the topic of interviewing. Finally, students paired up with a list of questions to ask each other as if they were in an interview for an internship or job. They really sunk their teeth into that. It made all of the things we had talked about much more tangible to them.

#### Overall, it sounds like you're pleased with the way St. Benedict's has embraced The BIGS.

Mr. Carpenter: I'm very excited. In admissions, they are now giving the book to every adult that comes in with a child to look at the School. I think it's a real public service. But I also think it reflects well on St. Benedict's with their target audience: parents who trust the School with their children's education. It shows parents the real world education their children are going to be getting. I think that's truly groundbreaking. In the future, the impact of *The BIGS* on St. Benedict's admissions will be very significant. ®



#### GRAY BEE HOOPSTERS FALL SHORT IN NATIONALS QUARTER-FINAL ROUND

Second time wasn't the charm for the St. Benedict's basketball team, which lost a 60-59 heartbreaker to La Lumiere School in this year's Dick's Sporting Goods High School Nationals in New York City. But Coach Mark Taylor isn't complaining.



Gray Bee hoopsters and their coaches at Nationals

In a see-saw battle, the Gray Bees were in it for the entire game, as La Lumiere hit a shot with 14 seconds to go to put the Indiana school up by one.

"It's tough. We played our hearts out," said Mr. Taylor. "We had our chance at the end and just couldn't get the shot to go down. I'm so proud of the way these guys fought all year and today was no different."

The Gray Bees' 35-2 record included a 66-63 win over La Lumiere earlier in the season. This year, St. Benedict's matched the school record for most wins in a season. The previous record was in 2012, the year the team lost a 67-65 heartbreaker in the national championship game.

"We definitely came in to win, and that's what makes this loss much harder," said Mr. Taylor. "But it was still a great season and these kids need to keep their heads held high for what we accomplished this year. Nobody expected us to be this good, and to make it into the national tournament is a testament to our kids."

#### **THEARTS**



Michael McDonnell '53 flanked by Stephen Valvano '16 (left) and Byron Simmons '17 (right).

#### **PENN RELAYS: AGE IS NO HURDLE FOR MICHAEL** McDONNELL'53

An unexpected hero emerged for The Hive at this year's Penn Relays, when Michael McDonnell '53 placed an impressive fourth in the masters mixed 100-meter dash in the over 80 age group. In its broadcast of the prestigious meet, NBC televised the master's race, which saw 100-year-old Ida Keeling set a world record for centenarians.

A retired FBI agent, Mr. McDonnell was inspired to begin running at age 48 after being assigned to the 1984 Los Angeles Summer Olympics. With no running experience he began to train, eventually building up to marathons including the Marine Corps Marathon in 1992 and the Boston Marathon in 1993.

Now 80, he trains several times a week with the Shore Athletic Club, these days mostly competing in sprints. Through the years Mr. McDonnell has met up with St. Benedict's runners at races, including Edward Cheserek '13 while competing at Randall's Island several years ago.

At this year's Penn Relays, he noticed two St. Benedict's runners jog by as he warmed up for his race. He flagged down Stephen Valvano '16 and Byron Simmons '17. Mr. McDonnell later wrote to Headmaster Fr. Edwin D. Leahy, O.S.B. '63, "They were both such gentlemen. They humbly responded to my questions about their races and fast times. They were genuinely interested in hearing about my race. Their kindness, humility and decency made me proud to be a Gray Bee." 📵



Students wearing masks resembling birds, inspired by the character Papageno in Mozart's The Magic Flute.

#### MASTERING THE LANGUAGE OF OPERA

"I was completely blown away." That's the enthusiastic praise a representative from The Metropolitan Opera had for St. Benedict's interdisciplinary event, "A Night at the Opera."

Inspired by their participation in The Met's In Schools Program, Gray Bees spent the year creating artwork and performing theatrical pieces, band and choral music from some of the operas they had seen. "A Night at the Opera" showcased their artistic accomplishments.

"I wasn't fully prepared for the scope of the event," said Dan Marshall, The Met's Program Operations Manager in the Education Department. "It was so impressive that students were able to speak about the operas and the stories behind them with such fluency."

The Met's program provides opportunities for students around the country to experience opera, both at the Metropolitan Opera itself and at movie theaters in their area. St. Benedict's students attended a performance of Verdi's Otello, as well as dress rehearsals of Strauss's Die Fledermaus and Mozart's The Marriage of Figaro at The Met. They also saw live streaming of Otello, Puccini's Turandot and Mozart's The Magic Flute at Kerasotes Showplace 14 in Secaucus. And members of the Drama Guild also toured backstage when The Met produced The Marriage of Figaro in February.

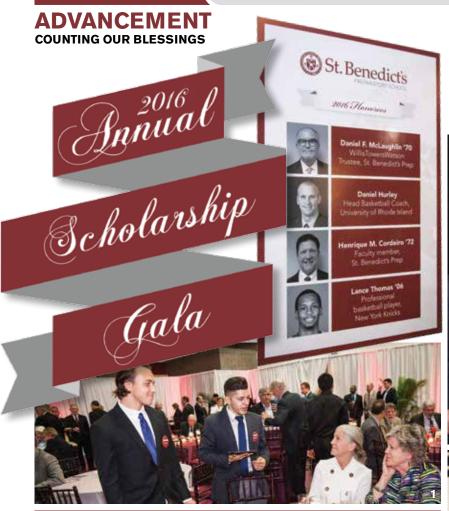
St. Benedict's teachers also attended workshops at The Met last October. Throughout the year, St. Benedict's Art Department Chair Pamela Wye-Hunsinger and Music Department Chair Jeremy Fletcher, Ph.D. provided the creative spark to ensure that opera was incorporated across the curriculum.

When Dr. Fletcher's choral students sang "Papageno's Song" from Mozart's The Magic *Flute,* the singers wore masks that resemble birds, inspired by the popular character, Papageno, the bird-catcher who supplies ample comic relief, and is often accompanied by lovely female bird characters in The Met production. The masks were created by Ms. Wye-Hunsinger's art students.

Angela Marroy Boerger, Education Manager for The Met, described St. Benedict's incorporation of opera across the curriculum as "electrifying."

"We were just elated to see the work they were doing," she said. "We were over the moon about it."

Next year St. Benedict's will again participate in the In Schools Program, and The Met couldn't be happier. "I went back to St. Benedict's a week later with one of our photographers," Mr. Marshall noted after the event. "This is a great example of what can happen through our program." 🚯







#### MEN WHO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

An enthusiastic crowd turned out in Dalton Gymnasium on May 12 for the annual Gala, which recognized four men who embody the St. Benedict's mission: Dan McLaughlin '70, a longtime member of the School's Board of Trustees, Hank Cordeiro '72, a St. Benedict's Spanish teacher and former basketball coach, New York Knick Lance Thomas '06 and former Gray Bee basketball Coach Dan Hurley, now Head Coach at the University of Rhode Island. The Gala is a vital source of funding for scholarships and financial aid for current St. Benedict's students.

#### HEEDING THE CALL



When Salvatore Lobbato '35 read about a dip in the pool of St. Benedict's alumni contributors, he was the first alumnus to step up and provide leadership.

The story in our spring magazine, "Bridging the Gap," and the St. Benedict's segment on 60 Minutes, prompted Mr. Lobbato to reconsider his monthly contributions to the School.

"Now, I am able to give more support," he told his family.

At 99, Mr. Lobbato is one of the oldest living Gray Bees. The son of Italian immigrants, Mr. Lobbato and his brother, Joe '33, walked to The Hive from their family home on Mt. Prospect Avenue. Like today's students, he worked in the school to help pay for his scholarship.

After graduation, Mr. Lobbato worked in his father's shoe store on Bloomfield Avenue before marrying his high school sweetheart and opening shoe stores of his own in Oregon and California. Through the years, his affection "The monks and teachers were a prime example at school and our family was the example at home."

Annette Nelson

for St. Benedict's has remained rooted in the School's Christian values - dedication, respect, integrity and a strong work ethic.

His daughter, Annette Nelson, says that even after all these years, the School's influence still endures in her family. "The monks and teachers were a prime example at school and our family was the example at home."















**1.** Students speaking with guests. **2.** Honorees **Dan** McLaughlin '70, Hank Cordeiro '72, Dan Hurley and Lance Thomas '06 with Fr. Edwin Leahy, O.S.B.

'63, Headmaster. 3. Jared Boone '13 (center) with Chidima Ihuoma and Dean of Admissions Mario Gallo.







#### THE INSPIRATION IS MUTUAL



As St. Benedict's new Leadership Gifts Officers, Ed Bendokas and Judith Mayo inspire donors to The Hive. But when they meet successful alumni, the inspiration is often mutual.

"What's happening for these young men is phenomenal," explained Ms. Mayo. "They understand the responsibility of being a St. Benedict's graduate and they live up to that responsibility."

Mr. Bendokas agreed. "The donors I encounter know why it's important to give. They got help to attend this school. The values and grit they learned at St. Benedict's propelled them through the course of their lives, and they're happy to give."

St. Benedict's has propelled the course of Mr. Bendokas's own life, as well. While not a graduate, he grew up around the School. His father, John Bendokas '65, and grandfather, Ed Bendokas '36, are both graduates, and Headmaster Fr. Edwin D. Leahy, O.S.B. '63 and Athletic Director Tom Leahy '77 are his maternal uncles. It was natural for Mr. Bendokas to pursue his career at the School that has meant so much to his family.

Ms. Mayo drove by the Abbey almost daily when she lived in Newark many years ago. Now, she is proud to represent the School.

"It's fantastic going out and meeting alumni who are doing

great things," said Ms. Mayo, who joined the Advancement staff last fall. "It's very rewarding when they step up to the plate."



#### **BROTHERSFOREVER**

#### **CLASS NOTES AND EVENTS**



#### 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.

#### 1939

Ed Bien was again recognized as the most senior among our large group of alumni from 1939 to 1965 at the annual Senior Alumni Luncheon at the Breakers in Spring Lake on June 10.

#### 1958

James P. Murphy is still working as otolaryngology consultant full time at Tamale Teaching Hospital in northern Ghana.

#### 1961

**Mike Reilly** retired in December 2015 after 48 years with PHI Inc., ending a 52-year, 27,000-hour, accident-free flying career. He spent the last six years at PHI as a Senior Captain. He flew both in Vietnam and Indonesia and in 20 of the 50 states. PHI Inc. (formerly Petroleum Helicopters) supports oil field drilling and exploration both domestically and worldwide and is active in EMS operations throughout the United States.

#### 1962

Frank Romaglia (above right, kneeling on left) led the first ever group of Wounded Warriors last November on a multi-day backpack into the Grand Canyon. He guides for the Grand Canyon Field Institute, the educational

branch of the Grand Canyon Association.



#### 1963

Michael J. Caruso was featured in a "Profile in Philanthropy" on donoradvised funds in the Lehigh Valley Community Foundation newsletter.

#### 1964

Prolific sculptor **Mike Bertelli** sent photos of his latest work.



#### 1967

Joseph Mezzo and his wife, Elaine, celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary in July. They have two sons, Joseph III, a New Jersey State Trooper with his third child on the way, and Eric, a graduate of Monmouth University.

#### 1968

Pete Kardash wrote: "My wife, Joann, and I spent nearly 20 years in Overland Park, Kan., raising daughters Kim and Sara. Kim is a Financial Marketing Director in Kansas City; Sara is an RN in Fort

Worth, Texas. Sadly, Joann passed in December 2003, and we were so blessed to have shared her love for the time we did. In 2012, I was remarried, to Karen Justus, a physical therapist with a great skill value in helping us with the golden years. With 30+ years as a Customer Service executive with J. Crew, Walt Disney and Amazon.com, I retired last June. My days so far include honey do's, disc golf and quality time with granddaughter, Claire, whose diagnosis of cystic fibrosis inspired me to volunteer with the CF Foundation to find a cure!"

#### 1969

**Guy B. Greco** was elected to the Oregon State Bar Board of Governors in 2015. The Board of Governors oversees the operation of the Oregon State Bar and its membership. He will serve a four-year term.

#### **Events**



Alumni gathering in Vero Beach

#### FLORIDA RECEPTIONS

Don Laurie '60 hosted a reception at his home in Vero Beach. Gene O'Hara '55 hosted at Bonita Bay Club in Bonita Springs; Paul Hannan '56 hosted at the Rusty Pelican in Tampa and Harry Durkin '49 hosted in Pompano Beach.







#### **SENIOR ALUMNI LUNCHEON**

1. Members of the Class of 1956 enjoyed the Senior Alumni Luncheon and each others' company. 2. Dan O'Connell '49. 3. Senior Director of Advancement John Huss '81 and St. Benedict's students sat with members of the Class of 1955.

Brian Sandusky proudly wears his St. Benedict's track singlet with his sonin-law, running partner and friend, Kolby Kolibas. Brian participated in a run at Camp Pendleton Marine Base. OooRah!



#### 1971

The Class of 1971 gathered at Mike Farrell's home on June 10 for their 45th reunion.

#### 1972

Peter Klebaur is enjoying retirement from the Westfield Fire Department (2012). He helps out with the Gray Bee Gardening Project in the spring and fall and keeps bees, so he has his own "Hive." Boolah, Boolah!

#### 1974

Nijel Binns sent this report from the Los Angeles Sentinel: "World renowned artist and Los Angeles based portrait sculptor Nijel Binns, President and CEO of Nijart International LLC, led a delegation of seven people to Yaounde, Cameroon, to meet with Cameroon Prime Minister Philemon Yang and other state officials to consider an offer of 80 hectares of land to Nijart International for the construction and development of a 95-metertall sculpture/observation tower known as the Mother of Humanity Monument and surrounding themed park, Motherland." Nijel's 16-foottall bronze sculpture, the Mother of Humanity, now sits in the center of the Watts Labor Community Action Center in Watts, Calif. He came up with the idea for the sculpture after the Los Angeles riots in 1992.

#### 1986

Gray Bees had fun at the graduation party of Kevin Booker's oldest daughter in Tyrone, Ga. (Metro Atlanta). From left: Mike Giles, Sanford Davis, Tyrone Scott Howard '85. David Ricketts and Kevin Booker.



#### 1990

Peter Elias wrote: "So, it is always a great pleasure and honor to accompany Lindsay Berra to Yankee Stadium, especially on Old Timer's Day. Through the Berras, I have had the great pleasure of getting to know Willie and Gretchen Randolph. This year, we deduced that their daughter, Taniesha

Randolph-Elam, is a neighbor of my cousin Kathy Reimann in Easton, Penn. Today, as we spoke about how small the world is, I got to meet Taniesha and her husband, Ed. I didn't catch his last name at the time we met. But when Ed told me he was from Newark, Lasked him where he went to high school; when he replied, 'St. Benedict's,' I asked him his last name... and then I recognized the face of my fellow VK brother, Edward Elam '92 (below left). So the world went from being small to minuscule really quickly. So great to see Eddie after 26 years!"



#### 1995

Drama Guild director Pat Flynn H '95 attended the International Commission on Benedictine Education's conference of the Benedictine Educators Network in Rome in April. Before the conference, she visited in Florence with Vinnie Scalera '71 and his wife, Paula. They live in Milan, where Vinnie teaches and plays at LaScala.



On her return trip she stopped in London and visited with Cameron Jones '06, who was about to open in his first London show, and Fr. Christopher Jamison, O.S.B., one of the founders of the Benedictine Educators Network.



#### **ALUMNI CRUISE**

The first ever Alumni Reunion Cruise was held on June 17.

1. Steve Wright '83, Jesse Alexander '81, Kim Huff '81, Wade Woodson'81 and Tim Dalton'81. 2. Tia King, Alex McClendon '83, Jim Daly '83, Holly and George Miller '83. 3. Jeff Wright, Lisa Michelato and Cheray and Steve Wright '83.







#### **10-YEAR REUNION**

The Class of 2006 celebrated its 10-year reunion on June 18 at 27 Mix in Newark.





**20-YEAR REUNION** The Class of 1996 20-year reunion was celebrated on June 11 in Jersey City.

#### **BROTHERSFOREVER**

#### **CLASS NOTES AND EVENTS**

#### 1997

Essence magazine recently featured "The 50 Best Wedding Kisses We've Ever Seen," and the first couple to appear was Kameela and Fred Godbolt '97. The article said they "bonded over long nights of captivating conversation." Fred and Kameela married in 2009.



#### 1998

Kvle Dargan, Associate Professor of Literature and Director of the MFA Program in Creative Writing at American University, wrote to tell us that his collection of poetry, Honest Engine, is one of six nominees for the 2016 Hurston/Wright Legacy Award in poetry. The book was also named an honorable mention for the Eric Hoffer Award in poetry and shortlisted for the Grand Prize. Also, the organization Motionpoems will be adapting a poem from his book, The Robots Are Coming, into a short animated film that will premier in Minneapolis in October. He wrote, "[This is] just a little update for those of you who have supported me over the years and with this book in particular. It is immensely appreciated in this challenging and uncertain world that is art."

#### 2004

J.R. Smith shared this photo on Instagram after the Cleveland Cavaliers won the NBA Championship.



#### 2009

Justin Morant will spend the next several months working for MasterCard in Lagos, Nigeria.

#### 2011

Fritz Bondoa lives in Albany, N.Y., where he is a Research Analyst in the Office of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo. He received a Master of Public Affairs degree from Brown University in May 2016 and a BA from the University of Virginia in May 2015.



#### **MARRIAGES**

Harry Durkin '49 was married on March 5 to Marlene Durkin.

#### Robert Santiago '99

married Ace on July 25, 2015 in Stamford, Conn., at the Basilica of St. John the Evangelist. The reception was held in The Lounsbury House in Ridgefield, Conn. Ace is an elementary educator in Greenwich and will graduate with her Master's in Education in May. Jonathan Thomas '99 was best man.

Lexi and Chris Casey '02 were married on February 27 at the W Hotel in Hoboken,

N.J. Brother Matt Casey '06 was best man.

Tiffany and Jimmy Barreau '03 were married on February 28 at New Hope Baptist Church in East Orange, N.J.

#### Gabriel Leonard '04

married Alla Gygorian on June 11.

Bobby Laraway '06 married Mandy Zucarelli on June 24 at the Breakers in Spring Lake, N.J. The groomsmen wore gray tuxedos with garnet ties. Left to right:

John Huss '81, Joe Huss '90. Mike Huss '85. Vinnie Laraway '08, Chris Serron '07, Dereck Williams

'06, bride Mandy Zucarelli, groom **Bobby Laraway** '06, Joseph Downar '07, Stephen Downar '09. **Emmanuel McDonald '06** and Jack Dalton '07.



#### INMEMORIAM

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

#### **ALUMNI**

Ernest E. Schabel '37 Rev. Msgr. Carl D. Hinrichsen '39 Walter J. Belke '41 Joseph J. Powers, Jr. '42 Thomas J. Stuart '42 Frederick W. Wiedmann '42 Albert C. Smith '45 Francis M. Donlon, Jr. '47 Fr. Boniface J. Treanor, O.S.B. '47 William F. Rock '48 John A. Brennan '51 John J. Smith '51 Richard T. O'Connor '52 Rev. Msgr. Paul J. Longua '53 William H. McBarron '59 Thomas A. Wayne '59 Fr. Mark Payne, O.S.B. '69 Lionel J. Smithson, Jr. '78 Jose M. Cunha '94 Rasheed A. Wiggins '95 Dorothy E. Brooks H '05

#### COMMUNITY

Lucy Rogan Carlesimo Wife of Peter '36 † Blanche Frazier-Talley Grandmother of Ya-Sin Shabazz '06 Annie Haynesworth-Cox Mother of Kevin '81 Thomas Cox Father of Kevin '81 Michelle Johnson Mother of Tamari Gray '17 Muriel Lovell Mother of Maurice Sean '88 Victoria McKov Mother of Lamont '98 Maureen Coyne-Middleton Wife of Tom '59 C. Robert Pennella Father of Michael '67 Gail Tauriello Wife of Maurice '56 Anna P. Terry Mother of Troy '87 Victor Adegboye Togun Father of Kehinde Togun '02 LaMorn L. Welcher Mother of Arif '96

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.

† Rest in peace



#### **Courting Talent**



After a 32-year career in the court system, Jim Waldron '71 has a sharp eye for legal talent. Mr. Waldron mentors current St. Benedict's students and alumni through internships with the U.S. Bankruptcy Court in Newark, where he serves as Clerk of the Court.

"One of the things St. Benedict's grads take pride in is that we have an incredible network, so we try to help each other," explained Mr. Waldron, who has mentored approximately 20 Gray Bees, as well as students from other schools. "Any way we can help somebody move forward and carry the St. Benedict's experience out after graduation is very gratifying."

The St. Vincent College graduate specializes in automation and technology within the legal system, including serving a 14-year term on the Supreme Court Advisory Committee on Bankruptcy Rules.

Mr. Waldron's career took a circuitous route to the courts after college. When interviews with the National Security Agency didn't pan out, he traveled to Washington, D.C., where his future wife was attending college. He landed a part-time, temporary job in the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts. Midway through a graduate degree in judicial administration, he decided to attend law school.

Now married with their first child, the Waldrons moved back to New Jersey, where Mr. Waldron started his job as Clerk of the Bankruptcy Court within two weeks of starting evening classes at Rutgers Law School.

Through the years, he has remained active with St. Benedict's, assisting the School with alumni fundraising efforts and mentoring Gray Bees who intern with the court. The School's recent appearance on 60 Minutes has strengthened the pride he feels in The Hive and its students.

"One of the things St. Benedict's grads take pride in is that we have an incredible network, so we try to help each other."

"The 60 Minutes film galvanized alumni all over again," said Mr. Waldron, who is also a filmmaker with the U.S. District Court Historical Society. "I've heard so many comments from my classmates about how moved and how proud they are of this school and what it's doing. I know I am."

He is particularly impressed with the St. Benedict's interns, who perform diverse job duties, interact with legal professionals and attend trials in bankruptcy and other courts.

"What we're looking to do is give our interns an exposure to the areas of the law," Mr. Waldron explained. "The internship itself is not an internship in bankruptcy. It's an internship in working in the administrative court system."

Of last year's three St. Benedict's interns, Saahir Webb '10 is starting a new job with the U.S. Bankruptcy Court in Atlanta, while Darran St. Ange '11 attends Rutgers University Law School and Ian Guyan '11 works as a paralegal with a law firm in New York.

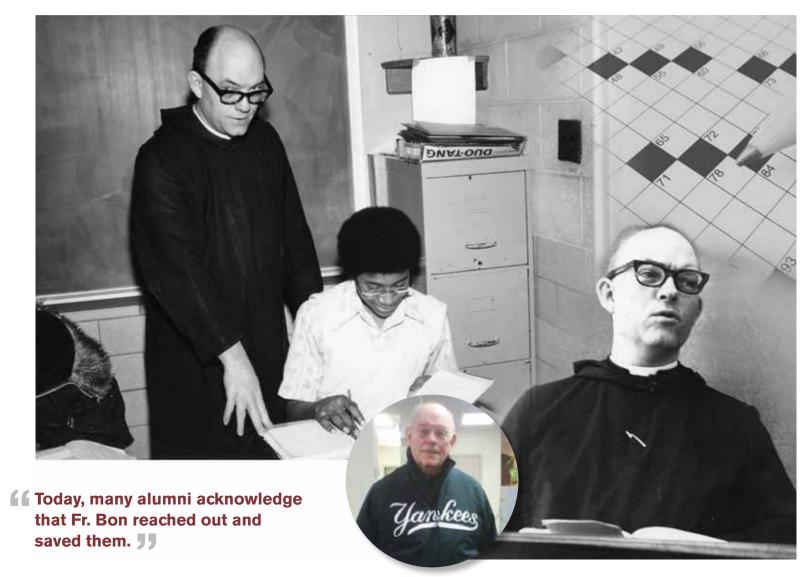
It's gratifying for Mr. Waldron to see fellow alumni use the internships he has facilitated to move on to solid careers. "They are all great young men," he said. "These kids are all incredibly respectful, incredibly dedicated and incredibly enthusiastic. This is just the first leg of the road for them." 🚯

# Two Loyal Sons Go Home

St. Benedict's recently
lost two beloved monks,
Fr. Boniface Treanor, O.S.B. '47 on
June 3 and Fr. Mark Payne, O.S.B. '69 on
July 10. Their loving guidance will continue
to reverberate in the lives of students, alumni
and younger Benedictines for generations to come.

"Here were two men of great personal integrity who were absolutely devoted to their call to be monks seeking God," said Fr. Melvin Valvano, O.S.B. '56, Abbot of Newark Abbey and President of St. Benedict's Prep. "Both were extremely strong-willed, intelligent persons who were absolutely dedicated to our way of life. First and foremost, they were monk-priests. It was that simple and that clear."

Fr. Boniface and Fr. Mark each played an integral role in shaping today's St. Benedict's. Fittingly, the School awarded its highest honor—the Medal of St. Benedict's—to each of them in 2012. An avid Yankees fan, Fr. Boniface echoed the retirement speech of legendary Bronx Bomber Lou Gehrig when accepting the award: "I consider myself the luckiest man on the face of the earth."



#### THE FAIRNESS AND JUSTICE WARRIOR

When discussing the influence Fr. Boniface had on St. Benedict's students, Paul Thornton '63 doesn't mince words. "He was an advocate for many students who would have been shown the door here otherwise. Today, many alumni acknowledge that Fr. Bon reached out and saved them."

As the School's Dean of Discipline for many years, Fr. Boniface demonstrated the perfect mix of compassion and firmness that rescued many students from the adolescent bravado that could derail a promising future. "He was justice tempered with mercy," recalled Mr. Thornton, Director of Planned Giving/Associate Headmaster. "He struck a remarkable balance between making sure students were focused on the rules with compassion. He was probably the most admired and beloved person to ever hold the title Dean of Discipline."

Just as Fr. Boniface never gave up on a student, he also refused to yield when St. Benedict's closed in 1972. Together with Frs. Casimir Finley, O.S.B., Benedict Tyler, O.S.B. '44 and Theodore Howarth, O.S.B. '41, Fr. Boniface met the racial tensions that divided the local community head on, leading to the School's re-birth a year later. For their unwavering devotion, Fr. Boniface and his confreres will forever be known as "The Four Pillars of St. Benedict's."

In the homily at Fr. Boniface's funeral, Abbot Melvin referred to the monk as a "fairness and justice warrior" who wasn't afraid to speak

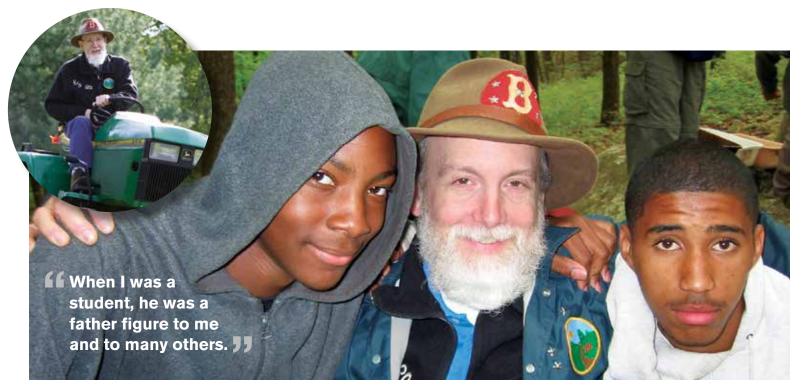
out against injustices such as racism in the aftermath of the Newark riots. "One of these injustices was why African-American students were ignored 50 years ago. We lived here and welcomed all who came. Fr. Boniface understood that. If certain matters should be just, he made sure they were worked out."

Fr. Boniface showed the same dedication for his beloved sports teams, the New York Yankees and the Giants. Bernard Greene '73, the School's Dean of Discipline for many years, recalls Fr. Boniface staying to the last during Giants games, even during the coldest weather. "He didn't care if it was 0 degrees," Mr. Greene chuckled. "He stayed until the last man."

About Fr. Boniface's work ethic, the late monk's colleague added, "He was very dedicated to the School, a very good man. He was the last of the Four Pillars. This is a big loss."

Through more than 50 years at The Hive, Fr. Boniface wore many hats, including as an educator and more recently, as Treasurer of St. Benedict's and Newark Abbey. Fr. Boniface often stayed late to work in his office, including the night before he passed away. Mr. Thornton remembers the avid crossword enthusiast as an exacting Treasurer who kept a watchful eye on expenditures. "He was the watchdog over all of our spending, and he was clearly conscientious about it," Mr. Thornton said. "He had the greatest determination to do what needed to be done to make our school successful for the kids."

#### WEREMEMBER



#### THE BIG BEE

Fr. Mark was dubbed "The Big Bee" for good reason: he founded, and for many years shepherded the programs that shaped generations of Gray Bees — the Freshman Overnight, the Backpacking Project and the Group Leader System.

Soon after arriving at St. Benedict's, Fr. Mark set out to design the Group Leader System. Based on the Boy Scout patrol method, the system builds leadership by dividing students into groups that run the School, fostering real responsibility for themselves, their fellow students and St. Benedict's. In the 60 Minutes broadcast last spring, correspondent Scott Pelley called the Group System "a large part of what makes St. Benedict's rare and successful."

Fr. Mark looked to his Boy Scout training again when he started the Backpacking Project, dubbed "The Trail" by the many students and alumni who have completed the challenge of the five-day, 55-mile hike along the Appalachian Trail. For years, Fr. Mark hiked alongside the freshmen, encouraging and challenging them to conquer the adversity the trail presents. Later he rode in a vehicle, meeting the students at various points to offer support.

"Fr. Mark had such a central and important role in who we are as a school," said Glenn Cassidy '90, Dean of Freshmen, who now directs the Freshman Overnight and Backpacking Project. "His impact has been immeasurable."

A brilliant physics teacher, Fr. Mark had a life-changing impact on individual students, as well. Mr. Cassidy and Marc Onion '89, pointed to Fr. Mark's incredible love of nature with introducing thousands of students to the beauty of the great outdoors. The close friends recalled Fr. Mark taking them, and other students, on a trip to Oregon to hike at Mount Hood and Mount Rainier. "He took city kids to see nature," Mr. Onion recalled. "He showed us that there is no exclusionary line saying that we belonged in the city."

The monk they considered a second father also played a large role in their college and career decisions. Mr. Cassidy credits Fr. Mark with pointing him toward the University of Notre Dame and encouraging him to become an EMT. A spur-of-the-moment trip to Boston with Fr. Mark sealed Mr. Onion's decision to attend Boston College and later, to teach at St. Benedict's and assist with the Backpacking Project. Now a teacher at the Peddie School in Hightstown, Mr. Onion has fond memories of meeting his mentor weekly for dinner and sangria at their favorite Ironbound eatery, Casa Vasca, while he taught at The Hive.

When he heard his old friend had taken a turn for the worse in early July, Mr. Onion rushed to Fr. Mark's bedside. Lost in advanced dementia, Fr. Mark didn't respond at first - until Mr. Onion started to reflect on The Trail and their nights at Casa Vasca. The ailing monk began to clear his throat and raised his arm, as if to recognize his former student's presence.

Today, many alumni value the incredible impact Fr. Mark has had on their lives. "When I was a student, he was a father figure to me and to many others," Mr. Cassidy said. "Fr. Mark was an incredible, incredible person."

#### THE LEGACY LIVES ON

While St. Benedict's and Newark Abbey have suffered two tremendous losses, Abbot Melvin sees great promise for the future. The legacy of these incredible monks lives on in three young Benedictines who had the opportunity to meet Fr. Boniface and Fr. Mark, and to help care for Fr. Mark until he entered hospice last spring.

"They had the opportunity, mysteriously and strangely, to interact with Fr. Boniface and Fr. Mark over the last year," Abbot Melvin said. "Even in their dying, they stamped these three young guys with their own very transparent kind of emblem: first, be a good, devout monk, then be everything else."



There aren't many sure things in life, but we can promise you that a gift in your will or estate plan will have impact on our school for years to come – in a word, forever.

Such planned gifts, when realized, become a vital source of funds for the growing endowment that enables us to offer our students what they need and deserve.

We invite you to join the many alumni and friends who have made such a choice. You can become a member of our planned giving society by letting us know of your future gift intention. It's that easy.

We call our planned giving society *Omnes*Pariter. It comes from the Rule of St. Benedict,
and it means that by working "all together" we
will achieve salvation. "All together" we can
make possible the lasting future of our school.

If you have already decided to make a future gift by will or estate provision for us, please let us know that so we can recognize you as an *Omnes Pariter* member.

If you would like more information about how to make such a planned gift, please contact Director of Planned Giving Paul E. Thornton '63 at (973) 792-5775, (201) 240-5900, pthornton@sbp.org or visit www.sbp.org/plannedgiving.





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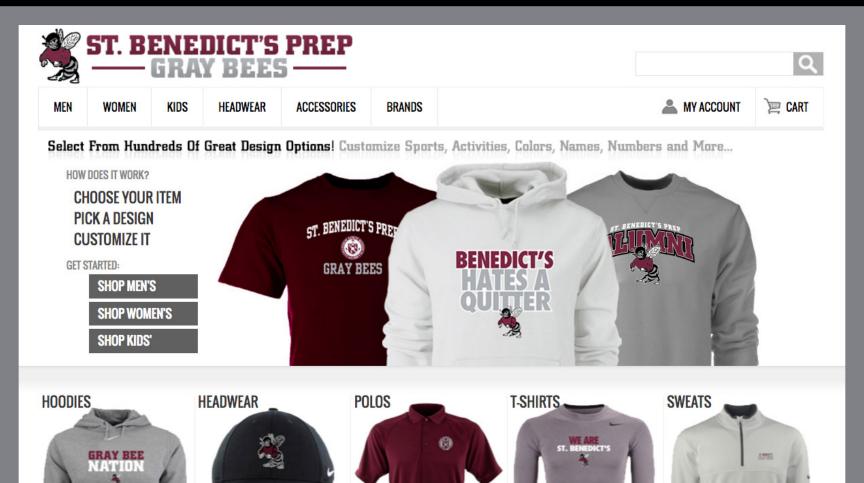
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