



St. Benedict's

PREPARATORY SCHOOL

Discovering
THE RULE
The film and its impact

THEMOMENT

Students gather every morning for Convocation, a St. Benedict's tradition that fosters community, brotherhood and shared responsibility. Group Leaders take attendance and make announcements and, at the conclusion, the School is united with prayers, songs and a reflection.



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The Magazine for Alumni, Parents and Friends of St. Benedict's Prep

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GREETINGS



From the Headmaster

Welcome to the first issue of *St. Benedict's Prep Magazine*, which you will receive three times a year in place of the *St. Benedict's Newsletter* and the *Headmaster's Report*.

This new publication gives us a forum to share news about our

students, faculty and friends in a format that reflects the vibrant energy of St. Benedict's. We hope you see it as an opportunity to reconnect with us. Inside, you will meet Senior Group Leader Tyler Hayes '15, as well as Nii Darko, M.D. '96 — a recent graduate who has committed to endow a new scholarship — among many other students, alumni and supporters.

Our feature story explores the history and impact of the recent documentary *The Rule*, which was filmed at Newark Abbey and has already launched worldwide discussion about the potential of urban education. On day one of production, the filmmakers asked for permission to film inside St. Mary's Church. We took that as a very good sign. The director clearly understood that faith is the heart of St. Benedict's. Our faith sits at the core of everything we do here; it gives us direction, sustains us and renews us.

We are grateful that our faith is echoed in the hearts of alumni and friends like you. Without your tireless support, we would not be here. So it is appropriate that the cover image of our inaugural issue shows hands reaching upward together. Although it's a photo of students, it represents the entire St. Benedict's community as we strive together for the same goal: helping young men fulfill their true potential.

Peace,

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



St. Benedict's
PREPARATORY SCHOOL

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How to Reach Us

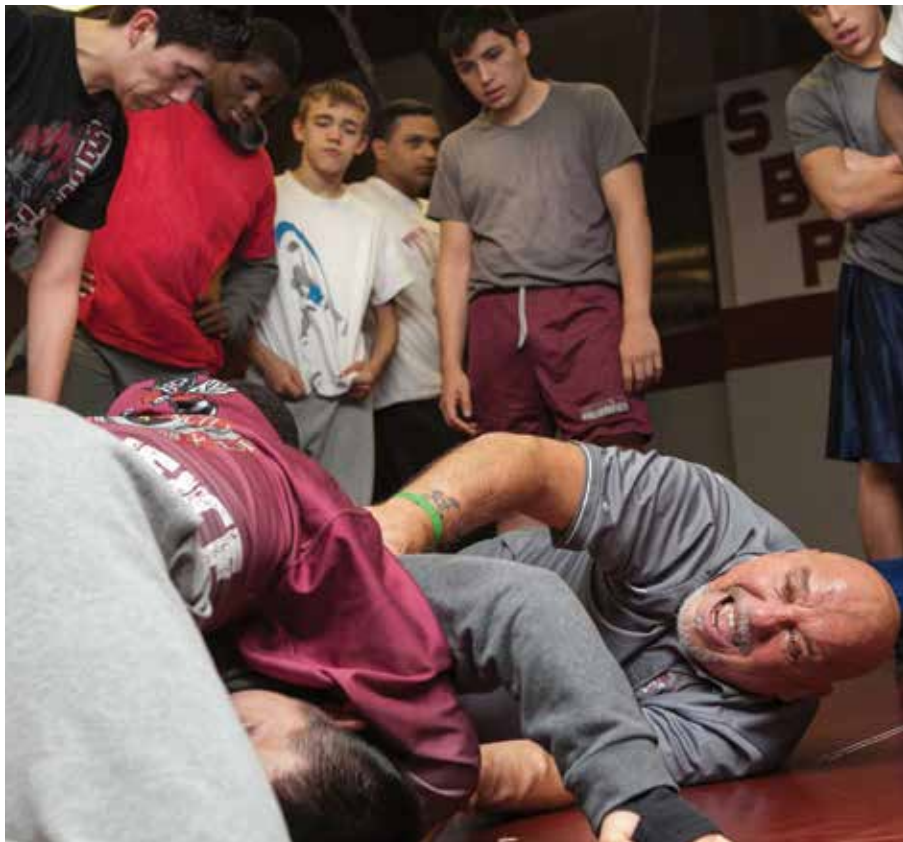
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On the cover: All hands pull together at St. Benedict's — and at a recent water polo meet.

Follow us on

Investors Bank Supports the Backpacking Project

Omari Frazier '91, a Senior Market Manager at Investors Bank, visited the Abbey on Feb. 3 to personally deliver a \$5,000 check to Headmaster Fr. Edwin Leahy, O.S.B. '63, in support of the Backpacking Project. The bank's generous gift helps St. Benedict's continue the beloved and challenging tradition: a five-day trek over 50 miles of the Appalachian Trail in the mountains of western New Jersey that marks the completion of freshman year.



'BIG D' HITS THE MAT ONCE AGAIN

Eighteen years ago, Fr. Edwin Leahy, O.S.B. '63 read Mike DiPiano, Sr. H '82 his last rites. Yet, on Jan. 8, the beloved athletic director and wrestling coach — "Big D" to his friends and students — took to the St. Benedict's Prep mat once again to talk about one of the more important moves of all: organ donation.

Mr. DiPiano's association with St. Benedict's Prep is the stuff of legends. As wrestling coach for more than 30 years, he led the Gray Bees to five state championships and an overall record of 274-89. A member of the St. Benedict's Hall of Fame, he was named Coach of the Year by *The Star-Ledger* in 1987 and has received the school's highest honor, the Medal of St. Benedict's.

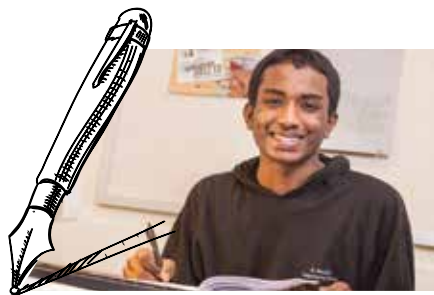
His most challenging battle, however, was with diabetes. Once, in 1998, his kidneys failed and he was rushed to the hospital, where Fr. Edwin gave him the sacrament of extreme unction. But his time was not up yet. One night soon after, Mr. DiPiano's beeper went off, alerting him that organs were available for his long-awaited transplant. A 21-year-old man's simple, selfless decision to be an organ donor saved Mr. DiPiano's life. The coach received the kidney and pancreas he needed and, after recovering from surgery, continued to coach at St. Benedict's Prep through the 2008-2009 school year.

During his visit to the Abbey in January, the retired coach was eager to show the current Gray Bees some of his championship moves, but first he spoke with the young men about the new lease on life he received before many of them had even been born.

Professional Development Hones the Teaching Edge

Our faculty pursue professional enrichment for the benefit of our students and the love of learning itself. For a full list of recent professional development activities, go to sbp.org/FacultyPD. Here are a few highlights.

- Director of College Guidance Delon McAllister began graduate work in neuroscience and education at Columbia University.
- History teacher David Carlo '99 became certified as a Wilderness EMT.
- History teacher Rich Gallerani attended the Jan Karski Institute for Holocaust Education certificate program at Georgetown University.
- Math Department Chair Cari Martinez participated in workshops on differentiated instruction, math leadership support and problem solving.
- Art Department Chair Pam Wye-Hunsinger and Dean of Faculty Michelle Tuorto presented at a roundtable on project-based learning.



1,000 WORD ESSAY EARNS \$1,000 SCHOLARSHIP

The Benedict News editor-in-chief Mahishan Gnanaseharan '16 said he "did not have much going on" over Christmas break last year, so he used his time to enter an essay contest sponsored by the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education

(FIRE). On Jan. 30, he heard the great news that he had earned third place out of 2,500 entries, and would receive a \$1,000 college scholarship.

FIRE's mission is to defend and sustain individual rights at America's colleges and universities. The Free Speech Essay Contest challenged high school juniors and seniors to discuss how censorship of student speech is incompatible with higher education. Mahishan said he is very interested in the topic, as it bears directly on so many of his passions. "Communications is a very interesting field for me," he said. "It connects me with different thoughts and opinions and, going forward, I hope to pursue political science and communications."

This is Mahishan's second national essay contest prize. He also took a \$500 second place in the 2013 Making Democracy Work Student Essay Contest sponsored by the United States Capitol Historical Society.



MEET NEW CHIEF ADVANCEMENT OFFICER MICHAEL A. FAZIO

Strong record of building alumni and philanthropic relationships

Michael Fazio comes to St. Benedict's Prep after spearheading a \$62 million campaign for Saint Peter's University in Jersey City, where he was vice president for advancement and external affairs for the past seven years. Mr. Fazio, who holds bachelor's and master's degrees from Fordham University, secured the two largest (\$7.5 million and \$5 million) philanthropic commitments in Saint Peter's history. He feels that his experience is particularly relevant to St. Benedict's.

"Saint Peter's University, in many ways, is a mirror image of St. Benedict's — not only in terms of the population we serve, but in the resources that we have at our disposal," explained Mr. Fazio. "Both institutions are well known for the financial assistance that they provide for their students, which is certainly a wonderful thing for those receiving it, but it can become a challenge for the institution in terms of meeting a budget."

Mr. Fazio, who lives in Nutley with his children, Giuliana, 10, and Mikey, 6, has ideas and plans about re-engaging constituents, especially alumni in their 30s and 40s who have lost touch with their *alma mater*. "Whether it's an event, or a networking opportunity, or a service opportunity, we need to get them reconnected. For many of our graduates, the school may look different to them, but it is exactly the same place."



Alumni Author Speaks

John Van Kirk '70, author of the recent well-received novel *Song for Chance*, returned to St. Benedict's on Dec. 6, 2014, to share his professional writer's perspective with St. Benedict's readers and writers in a series of workshops. Accompanied by Paula Dietz, editor of New York City's *The Hudson Review*, Mr. Van Kirk read and discussed his breakthrough story, "Newark Job", with students.

In *The Short and Tragic Life of Robert Peace: A Brilliant Young Man Who Left Newark for the Ivy League*, author Robert Hobbs tells the heartbreaking story of the promising St. Benedict's Prep and Yale alumnus who escaped the streets only to meet a tragic end back where he started.



COVERSTORY

86 Minutes at the Monastery

THE RULE showcases the spirit and promise of Newark Abbey





Newark flows through filmmaker Marylou Tibaldo-Bongiorno's blood. She grew up here in New Jersey's largest city. She and her husband, Jerome, explored Newark's protests in their 2007 documentary *Revolution '67*, and they are currently preparing another film, called *Rust*, about its economic collapse. Marylou harbors no illusions about her hometown, but she does have hope for it, thanks to the Monks of Newark Abbey, the accomplishments of St. Benedict's Prep and the great success of her most recent film, *The Rule*.

The Rule premiered at the Montclair Film Festival in April 2014, and was released Sept. 5, airing nationwide on PBS. In the fast-paced 86-minute film, the Bongiorno's document how Newark Abbey employs the 1,500-year-old Rule of St. Benedict to address the greatest challenges of urban education.

Marylou has described St. Benedict's Prep as a place of concrete hope. "It's not just ideas flowing out of there," she said. "They're doing real things. The caring and commitment and community are unparalleled."

Headmaster Fr. Edwin Leahy, O.S.B. '63 agreed. He described the film as an opportunity to inspire hope far beyond the Newark city limits. "Kids are an endangered species right now," he said. "And young men are an endangered species." Yet, he said, the young men of St. Benedict's Prep "are accomplishing community. And in the process, they are caring and watching out for one another. They are a sign of faith. We come to faith by witnessing communion — community and love. I hope people say, 'Wow. It's amazing what's going on there,' and wonder if it is possible to do something like this where they are."

Fr. Edwin's comment hints at the essential question of the film: Is the model at St. Benedict's Prep replicable outside the Abbey? Jerome Bongiorno believes firmly that it is. "This place is a model for urban school

reform," he said. To help make that happen, Bongiorno Productions is working with Teacher's College, Columbia University, to prepare a study guide for distribution to policymakers and educators.

UNPRECEDENTED ACCESS

The filmmakers were given unprecedented access to both the School and the Abbey itself. "They broke cloister to enable us make this film," said Marylou. "They let in a woman — a woman with a camera!"

Such an important break with tradition could not have been done without the permission of Abbot Melvin J. Valvano, O.S.B. '56, who took the decision before the whole monastic community. The local filmmakers were already well known and respected for their body of work, but their ace in the hole was Dr. Thomas McCabe H '02, author of *Miracle on High Street: The Rise, Fall and Resurrection of St. Benedict's Prep in Newark, N.J.* The Bongiorno's had originally been inspired to pursue the film project by a talk Dr. McCabe gave on his book, and the author provided a personal introduction to the Monks of Newark Abbey. "We discussed how this film might be in the best interest, not only of us, but of other people, as well," said Fr. Edwin. "But the question would never have even gotten to us if it had not been for Tom."



THE RULE OF ST. BENEDICT

Extracted from a talk by Fr. Albert Holtz, O.S.B. '60

The "Holy Rule" of St. Benedict of Nursia (480–547) lays out a vision of a Christian life balanced between communal prayer, work and meditation, especially on Sacred Scripture. St. Benedict based his Rule on two great principles:

- God is present everywhere, not just in the chapel, but in the kitchen and the classroom, as well. They are all "sacred ground."
- Jesus Christ is present in every person we meet. Jesus is especially present in the poor, the elderly, the very young and guests, all of whom place "inconvenient" demands on our time and attention. That troubled student in front of me is Jesus; so is that homeless woman in our food pantry, or that brother monk. They are all Jesus, and I need to treat them as such.



Unprecedented access meant much more than the opening of doors. The Bongiorno interviewed monks, students, coaches, parents and staff. They even documented spontaneous problem resolutions, including an emotionally powerful meeting between Chris Bonilla '13,

his parents and Fr. Edwin.

"I got involved in the film by surprise," said Chris, who had enrolled at St. Benedict's in seventh grade. "I was being thrown out of school. It was my grades."

His parents gave consent to film the meeting with the Headmaster. "It was the last straw for me," he said of his behavior at the time. "I had to live in the school. It was the only way I could have stayed."

He's happy he did. "My grades got better. My attitude became much more mature." Today, Chris is studying psychology and playing soccer at Centenary College in Hackettstown, N.J. "I'm glad I was in the film," he said. "The documentary shows kids that they can fight through anything. Don't give up! There were plenty of times I wanted to give up, but I thank God I did not give up on St. Benedict's."

The Monks of Newark Abbey provided for the film what they provide every day for the school: a spiritual grounding. In one sequence, Brother Maximilian Buonocore, O.S.B., turns a simple story about the gift of four handkerchiefs into a modern parable about monastic life. The film, he said, helps kids understand what monastic life is about. "It's about letting go of our own desires for the accomplishment of the desires of the community."

DISCOVERING NEWARK ABBEY

Few people know Newark as well as the Bongiorno, yet even they were relatively unfamiliar with Newark Abbey at the outset of their project. While St. Benedict's Prep enjoys an excellent academic and athletic reputation, the Abbey at its physical and philosophical center has remained relatively unknown. Those days are over. The release and success of *The Rule* has made Newark Abbey a topic of policy discussion around the world. In addition to the national PBS broadcast, the producers have gotten requests for information from education policymakers in Hungary, Barbados, the U.K., Canada and throughout Africa, as well as from educational powerhouses including the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, University of Notre Dame, Columbia University and many others. New Jersey Governor Chris Christie recently issued an advisory to the state's school superintendents to watch the film.

"Interest has crossed political parties," said Marylou, who perceives the St. Benedict's model as a particularly effective response to inner-city poverty — a challenge faced by virtually every state and nation. "The issue of poverty is not party dependent."

The film has also sparked introspection on the part of its participants. Jerome said he was inspired by two specific aspects of monastic life: "Spirituality and vocation. By vocation I mean, if you're going to take a job, you



have to see it as your life's work. When you see that 24/7 commitment from Fr. Edwin and all the monks, your life changes. You say to yourself, 'Wow, this is what I have to do with my life!' The spirituality brought to us by all of the monks is with us constantly now, and will be with us always."



Akeem Miller '12 was Senior Group Leader during filming, and his work with his fellow students features prominently in *The Rule*. He is currently studying international political science at Kean University, where the

film was recently shown. "This is something that needed to be documented," he said. "Those of us who had the benefit of a St. Benedict's education — I think we often take it for granted. I needed to see the film to step back and see that lives are being changed. It opened my eyes and made me feel like I'm part of something very big."

Br. Max added that the film has inspired the monks to reflect on their own work, as well. "I think the film has fostered a conversation, a heightened awareness, of who we are in the wider community," he said.

THE CONVERSATION CONTINUES

If it has done nothing else, *The Rule* has started countless fascinating conversations about the role of education as a solution to the woes of the inner city. The core question, "Is this a replicable model?" remains open.

WHAT IS THE ST. BENEDICT'S PREP MODEL?

Discussions over the replicability of the SBP model may hinge on the definition of the model itself. The following description appears on the St. Benedict's website: "Just as the monastery is a community modeled on the human family, St. Benedict's is a school "family" to which each student belongs; here he is important, unique and irreplaceable. Because the monks are committed by their vow of stability to their particular abbey for life, the school reflects this permanence, continuity with the past, and promise for the future."

"I don't know," said Fr. Edwin. "But, I do know that two things are essential to even try it: Whoever is leading the effort needs to live there. And the place has to be open like a diner, 24 hours a day and seven days a week. Therefore, you need to have some kind of a community. Otherwise, on a practical level, it's not possible. You have to have somebody there all the time so that if a kid gets in trouble, the door is always open. I believe it's even more beneficial if the community is a praying community of faith."

Considering that the film was made and promoted on a shoestring by a team of two auteurs, and has only been widely available since the fall of 2014, its international reception has been outstanding. While the global conversation it has launched may continue for years, it has already borne fruit in a special way. "People who have never come here, who would never set foot in St. Benedict's, are aware of it," said Fr. Edwin, "and they may derive hope from it." **B**

Visit www.therulefilm.com to order a DVD of *The Rule*.



AFTERCLASS

WITH TYLER HAYES '15

SENIOR GROUP LEADER

“I truly believe the motto ‘whatever hurts my brother hurts me.’ I’ll live with that motto forever.”

St. Benedict's
Preparatory School



What is the role of Senior Group Leader?

I'm responsible for overseeing the daily operations of the school. Seven other seniors have similar positions; they're responsible for each section of the School, and we're basically a team that makes sure the school runs smoothly. We work with faculty members to handle any problems that go on throughout the day.

How did you wind up at St. Benedict's Prep?

It was through wrestling. I started wrestling in third grade as part of the Union township rec team, which only went up to sixth grade. My school didn't have a team, so after sixth grade I couldn't compete. One of my rec coaches recommended St. Benedict's. My parents came to visit and found out right away there was something special here, something different. Then I came to visit and just decided this was where I wanted to be. I transferred here in eighth grade.

When you first came to St. Benedict's, did you foresee that you would be this deeply involved in school leadership?

I don't think I realized how involved I would be. When I first got here, I wasn't who I am today. Before, I would go to school in the morning and come home in the afternoon. That was it. Sophomore (Upper Division I) year I was a freshman orientation counselor, so I oversaw a group of freshmen for the entire year. Junior (Upper Division II) year I was picked to be the Group Leader of my Group, Fr. Celestine Staab — along with two other junior classmates — which is usually a senior job, so it was kind of a big deal for us. I was happy to be responsible for the brothers in my Group.

Now I'm here from an hour before school starts until 7:00 p.m. every day. The school is my life now. When I leave the property, the school is still with me. My family understands how much responsibility I have here. I wouldn't want it any other way.

Where do you expect to be in 20 years, and how does your St. Benedict's experience align with your future plans?

I plan on going into the military. One of my top choices right now is the Naval Academy. I feel like the tight-knit community and all the structure here have prepared me for a school like that. Once I'm in the Navy, I hope to become a Navy SEAL — that's my ultimate goal. Then we'll see how long I want to do that for. First I've got to make it there —

it's hard to do that. After that, maybe I'll start my own business. My dad started his own business and worked for himself, and I saw how much he enjoyed that.

Aside from wrestling, do you have any other extracurricular interests?

My aunt started an organization in Haiti after the earthquake called Mission Haiti Helping Kids, and my family has been really involved in that. I've been to Haiti twice. I haven't been able to go as much as I'd like, because of all the responsibilities here in the school, but both times I went for about 10 days. We have two orphanages in Haiti, with around 30 kids that we take care of and support. We do fundraisers and donation collections to bring stuff there.

While we're there, we live in the orphanage with the kids. We teach classes in basic English and math skills. It's a really poor country, and while it's the law for every kid to go to school, there are not a lot of public schools. Everyone has to pay. So, when a family has to make a choice — put food on the table or send the kid to school — a lot of kids aren't educated. We really focus on teaching them and showing them that there are people who care about them and love them because they haven't really had that in their lives. Some have been abandoned, some have seen their parents killed in front of them or lost them in the earthquake. They've been through a lot. We're just there for them however they need us.

Are you taking anything away from your education here that is unique to St. Benedict's?

The aspect of community and the brotherhood here is going to be with me forever. I think that starts freshman year. They break us down as individuals and build us up as a class and as brothers. That's always been something important to me. I think that's something I'll always take with me — how close I am to my classmates and other students and the school. I can honestly say they're my brothers. Even after we leave, they're still going to be my brothers. I know they will always have my back, and I'll always have theirs. That close-knit community is kind of why I feel I want to go into the military or the Naval Academy because it's very similar to that — trusting your neighbor.

I truly believe the motto "whatever hurts my brother hurts me." I'll live with that motto forever. **B**



You can change a young man's life



Olu Ijandipe '16 and Walt Badroad-Mount '17

Nii Darko, M.D. '96 grew up in Irvington, N.J., a city with a stagnant economy and a murder rate eight times the state average. A scholarship made his St. Benedict's education possible and, today, the young doctor is helping fund a scholarship to enable other young men take advantage of the same priceless opportunity.

"When I first came to St. Benedict's," he said, "I was always getting into trouble, always at risk of being pulled out of school. But when I graduated, I took with me community, brotherhood and confidence that stuck with me through college and med school. It's with me all the time. This is my way of giving back," he continued. "My objective is to give someone with my background — hopefully somebody from Essex County — the same opportunity I had."

Scholarship student Olumide "Olu" Ijandipe '16 of East Orange, N.J., is the model of the type of student Dr. Darko hopes to help. As the youngest of four brothers to attend St. Benedict's, Olu says his scholarship makes it much easier for his parents to afford the school. "They would like me to get a ton of them," he said with a laugh.

Acutely aware of how academic performance affects potential future scholarships, the self-described "former athlete" focuses his energy on school work and journalism for *The Benedict News*, for which he writes movie and music reviews. After St. Benedict's, Olu hopes to pursue liberal arts at Rutgers University or



Fr. Edwin

"Scholarship gifts help young men finish school without financial worries constantly distracting them."

Since words cannot fully express our gratitude, these societies have been founded to recognize consistent and generous assistance.

OUR FRIENDS ARE OUR FOUNDATION **The Monte Cassino Society**

In the sixth century, St. Benedict of Nursia built his first monastery, the foundation of the Benedictine Order, on a rocky hill near Rome called Monte Cassino. Today a core group of alumni and friends serve as the foundation of

St. Benedict's Preparatory School through their membership in the Monte Cassino Society, which gives special recognition to our helpers who contribute \$1,000 or more annually. Alumni from the classes of 2000–2014 may join as Associate Members with a contribution of less than \$1,000 (please see the enclosed Annual Fund envelope for details).

These generous believers have each demonstrated their dedication to the school. The importance of these annual gifts cannot

be overstated. It costs approximately \$16,500 per student to provide good teachers, crucial extracurricular activities and safe, high-quality facilities — yet we currently charge only \$9,500 for tuition. Since about 80 percent of our students receive financial aid to pay even that amount, we rely on gifts from many to help us serve the students who need us most.

In addition to the satisfaction of helping students attain a unique educational experience in the Benedictine tradition, Monte Cassino Society

College of the Holy Cross, where two of his brothers matriculated.

While Olu merely crosses Route 280 to get to Newark Abbey, Walt Badroad-Mount '17 has crossed 2,200 miles, from the Fort Belknap Reservation — a 1,000-square-mile Native American-governed territory in Montana. A member of the AAniiih, or White Clay People, Walt benefits from the generosity of an anonymous donor who coordinated his move to St. Benedict's through a local priest.

Walt said the change from Fort Belknap to Newark Abbey widened his horizons. "It's not easy to get off

Michael Fazio

"People should know that it is entirely possible to transform a young man's life."

the reservation. I would have had some opportunities, but St. Benedict's will make it easier to go to college, to eventually get my master's," he said. The move also brought immediate advantages. In Fort Belknap, Walt traveled 40 miles each way, each day, to school. Today, he walks across the field from Leahy House. But there were some awkward moments, as well. He signed up for the water polo team without ever having seen the game played. "I thought it would be like polo — with horses," he said.

Walt hopes to meet his scholarship benefactor. "I would give them a big thank you," he said, "because it got me started on the road to success."

TIME TO START HELPING OTHERS

Although Dr. Darko has just recently embarked on his road to success, he believes this is the right time to start helping others find their own. In order to make as large an impact as possible, he has arranged to make his

scholarship gift in monthly payments over four years. "What I am doing is in no way unattainable," he said. "So I would like to challenge alumni to join me. Not every student has the opportunity to get the education and culture we were given. We should feel chosen and give something back."

"It takes tremendous focus for young people to truly succeed academically today," said Fr. Edwin Leahy, O.S.B. '63. "Scholarship gifts help young men finish school without financial worries constantly distracting them."

Michael Fazio, chief advancement officer, described a variety of ways to help fund scholarships at St. Benedict's. "People should know that it is entirely possible to transform a young man's life," he said. "They can make gifts to the general unrestricted fund, which primarily funds scholarships and financial aid. And those in a position to do so can create an annual scholarship with a minimum commitment of \$10,000 over a period of five years." Anyone interested in creating a scholarship that exists in perpetuity can fully endow a scholarship for \$250,000, or a half-scholarship for \$125,000, which could be paid over a series of years.

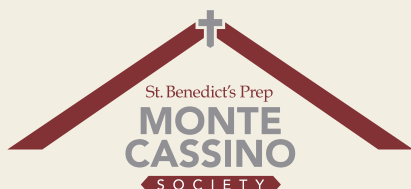
"You don't have to wait until you are a millionaire," he said. "You can make a difference in a young man's life today." **B**

To make a scholarship gift, contact Michael Fazio, Chief Advancement Officer, at (973) 792-5777 or mfazio@sbp.org.



Nii Darko, M.D. '96

members also receive personal correspondence from the Headmaster, a Monte Cassino Society pin, private school tours, exclusive opportunities to network with other members and a special thank you in the School's Annual Report.



The St. Benedict's Prep 1868 Loyalty Society

As one school year ends, another begins, and with it comes a repeat of the financial challenges of the preceding year. For that reason, we offer deep appreciation to the generous donors who give steadily, year after year, regardless of the amount contributed.

The St. Benedict's Prep 1868 Loyalty Society recognizes the reliable generosity that enables

us to serve the needs of our young students with confidence and consistency.

For more information on the Monte Cassino Society or the 1868 Loyalty Society, please contact Didier Jean-Baptiste, Esq. '86, Senior Director of Annual Giving, at (973) 792-5747 or djeanbaptiste@sbp.org.





The St. Benedict's soccer team finished their 19 and 1 season by picking up their 26th straight State Championship and 9th National Championship.



PHILANTHROPY IS HIS FORTE **Larry Cetrulo equips St. Benedict's Fencing Team**

An unplanned visit with Fr. Edwin Leahy, O.S.B. '63 in 2011 led fencing legend Larry Cetrulo to St. Benedict's Head Fencing Coach Jeff Austin '96, which led, in turn, to Cetrulo's making a significant donation of equipment to the St. Benedict's fencing program.

Mr. Cetrulo, who graduated from Newark Academy and was an All-American fencer at Harvard University, recalled that when he was in high school, every school in Newark had a fencing team. Coach Austin made him aware that St. Benedict's was the only Newark school that still had a program.

A member of the Board of Trustees of Newark Academy, Mr. Cetrulo shared with Coach Austin his vision of building such strong fencing programs at Newark Academy and St. Benedict's that they might inspire other Newark schools to create their own fencing teams.

"He had an 'If you build it, they will come' attitude," Coach Austin said. And build he did.

Mr. Cetrulo told Coach Austin to put together a list of what he needed, and, over the course of two years, Mr. Cetrulo donated uniforms, travel bags, team warm-up gear and weapons.

"Larry wanted every kid to have his own blade," Coach Austin said.

The largest donation — two new fencing strips — were installed in the Fr. Theodore Howarth, O.S.B. '41 Field House. Mr. Cetrulo's former coach at Harvard, Branimir Zivkovic, designed the strips and supervised the installation.

"Mr. Cetrulo's generosity has changed the way we run our program," Coach Austin said. "The gear we have at our disposal is top tier, and our facility is dramatically enhanced."

When Mr. Zivkovic personally delivered the final shipment of International Federation of Fencing-approved jackets and weapons, he told Coach Austin, "Now you are better equipped than the U.S. National Team!"

A gift from
fencing legend
Larry Cetrulo has
redefined "cutting
edge equipment" ▶

► **GRAY BEE SOCCER PICKS UP NATIONAL CROWN**

Anderson Asiedu's Ninth Goal Helps Secure Ninth National Title

Being the best soccer team in New Jersey is a big deal. Yet, St. Benedict's Prep has claimed that distinction 26 times in a row.

Being the best in the nation is a touch more difficult — but the Gray Bees have done that nine times, including three out of the last four years under the guidance of Coach Jim Wandling '92.

The team secured their most recent state title on Nov. 5, 2014, with a 1-0 victory over Peddie at NJIT's Lubetkin Field. Senior forward Anderson Asiedu made the winning goal — his ninth of the season — with just 6:18 left on the clock.

Before the game, the Gray Bees were ranked third in the nation. The win against Peddie, coupled with key losses for No. 1-ranked McDonough and No. 2 Copley, moved them into the No. 1 spot nationwide.

It was a nerve-racking win for the young men. After 70 scoreless minutes and 36 Gray Bee shots on goal, "Somehow the ball just found its way to me and I was able to finish," said Anderson. "They teach us at St. Benedict's to never give up — 'Benedict's Hates a Quitter.'"

The Gray Bees finished the season with a 19-1 record. "The season can't be described as anything but fantastic," said Coach Wandling. "Even the game we lost, we dominated the match. We're awfully proud of the body of work we have here. We've tackled a very difficult schedule that I'd put up against anyone in the nation."



Coach Jim Wandling '92

A member of the 1990 Gray Bee team that won the school's first national crown, Coach Wandling has racked up a 101-4 record as coach, and laid claim to national crowns in 2011, 2012 and 2014.



▲ **ANONYMOUS DONATION NETS TWO CREW SHELLS**

Gray Bee Crew has been on the water only since 2012, thanks in large part to generous support during its first two seasons from Tom Quinn '62. However, the team has already rowed to some notable results, including first place novice and JV finishes in the Upper Merion Regatta.

Now, student fundraising and an anonymous \$3,000

donation has enabled the team to purchase two new shells. "Additional shells enable us to have more efficient practices," said Craig White '04, who founded the team in 2012 and now coaches the 45 rowers. "More students on the water means more competition within the team itself. This makes the teams faster and the kids better rowers."

Crew purchased an 8+ shell like the one above as well as a 4+ shell — with funds provided by an anonymous donor. (+ = the coxswain)

CAPELLI SPORT RENOVATES FIELDS ►

Everyone knows that the Gray Bees do not quit. Now, the turf on their soccer fields won't quit either. Thanks to a generous donation from George Altirs, CEO of Capelli Sport, Fr. Anselm Murray, O.S.B. Field — also known to many alumni as "Hatcher Field" or the "Upper Field" — has been equipped with FIFA-approved Shaw Sports Turf. The new playing surface is expected to last more than 12 years, and is engineered to help protect players from injuries to the knees and hips.

The field renovation also includes three new stadium lights for the Upper Field and four new stadium lights for the Fr. Benedict Tyler, O.S.B. '44 Field (the "Lower Field"), whose turf was replaced in 2013 with the help of Mr. Altirs, Capelli Sport and other alumni and friend supporters. In all, Mr. Altirs' and Capelli Sport's investment totals close to \$400,000.

Assistant Headmaster Michael Scanlan said, "Mr. Altirs and Capelli Sport have a strong interest in youth soccer and want to use our location to attract more people to the sport. It also helps the school when guys come to play on our facilities and hear about our students' success."



Gray Bee Basketball Brings State Title Home to the Hive for the Third Time in Four Seasons

In a display of indomitable momentum, the Gray Bees swarmed rival Blair Academy to post a 72–52 victory and bring home the State Prep A Championship title on Feb. 21. This is the third title for St. Benedict's in four seasons and atones for the Gray Bees' loss to Blair in the state championship last year and a defeat to the Buccaneers during the regular season.

Gray Bee fans watched the team struggle all season with slow first quarters, and the title game was no exception, as the team trailed 20–11 at the end of the first quarter. An 11–2 run at the top of the

second quarter, followed by a frenzied 22–5 spurt to close out the game, more than made up for the slow start.

"Everyone played a part in this victory," said Coach Mark Taylor. "They trusted in each other and in the coaches. It sure feels good to get the trophy back on their floor."

Earlier this year, St. Benedict's Prep again hosted the Newark National Invitational (NNI) basketball tournament, but suffered a disappointing loss to Roselle Catholic. The Gray Bees finished the season with a 31–6 record.



BREAKING IT DOWN AT HOME AND IN BEANTOWN

The SBP Jazz Band performed on Dec. 4, 2014, to close out the fall semester. Dr. Jeremy Fletcher's musicians performed songs based on Pete Seeger's album, "God Bless the Grass."

The Jazz Band also participated in the Berklee High School Jazz Festival in Boston, where senior Dakota Gibbs '15 (pictured below) was recognized as best musician in the St. Benedict's group.



DRAMA GUILD RISES TO THE CREATIVE CHALLENGE

While hundreds of high schools coast to coast mount productions of classics like *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Our Town*, *The Crucible* and *Harvey*, the St. Benedict's Prep Drama Guild has a tradition of tackling more obscure, and decidedly more challenging, theatrical projects.

In the fall of 2014, the Drama Guild took on the emotionally charged August Wilson play *Jitney*, and their spring production, which opened March 19, is Bill Cain's *Equivocation*. Set in 1605 England, *Equivocation* is a behind-the-scenes "what if" about the writing of *Macbeth*. If the Elizabethan dialect and historical politics were not challenge enough, the students are also building an especially challenging two-story set inspired by the Bard's original Globe Theatre, and sewing their own period-appropriate costumes.

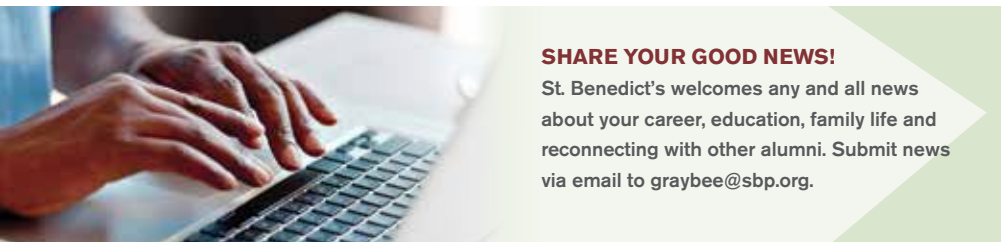
Drama Guild Director Pat Flynn H '95 explained that she chooses these challenging projects according to the abilities and interests of her students. "Right now, I have intellectual kids who appreciate irony. They have all read *Macbeth*. This is the development these kids are ready for."

Ms. Flynn, who performed at St. Benedict's as a teenager, said she is not particularly concerned whether or not her students pursue theater after St. Benedict's. "My goal is to help them be creative human beings." From the quality of the productions on stage at Conlin Auditorium, it seems safe to say, "Mission accomplished."



Above: A scene from *Jitney*.
Right: The crew building the set for *Equivocation*.





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.

1949

Harry Durkin was honored at the Covenant House Florida Night of Broadway Stars on Feb. 21 at the Broward Center for Performing Arts in Ft. Lauderdale, Fla. He was recognized for 30 years of service since Covenant House opened in Ft. Lauderdale.

1958

James P. Murphy, M.D., was one of five Holy Cross College alumni presented with the *Sanctae Crucis*

Award in September 2014. The highest non-degree recognition bestowed on a graduate, the annual awards are presented to alumni leaders in business, professional or civic life who live by the highest intellectual and ethical standards, and who are committed to the service of faith and promotion of justice. Jim, an otolaryngologist, has worked in Tamale in northern Ghana since 2007. He and his wife, Cynthia, an audiologist, only return to the United States for a few weeks a year. Most of that time is spent soliciting

donations of medical equipment, supplies and pharmaceuticals to support his work. Over the past seven years he has personally raised hundreds of thousands of dollars in donations and equipment.

1967

Rev. Donald K. Hummel, D. Min., wrote, "[I am] Chaplain of the Paramus Catholic H.S. football team, winner of back-to-back State Championships. Also chaplain at Philmont Scout Ranch, Cimarron, N.M., for the twenty-third year in a row!"

Greg Thornton's play, *Pastime*, was picked as the winner of the 2014 Page-To-Stage series and was produced in February at the Cloverdale Playhouse in Montgomery, Al., where Greg is artistic director. He had submitted the play anonymously. Greg also directed the world premiere production. *Pastime* is set in the late 1980s in a large middle-class, suburban/metropolitan neighborhood near New York City. It tells the story of a close-knit family dealing with the loss of the father and the subsequent battle over keeping the family house.

1974

Nijel Binns presented an exhibit titled "Persistence of Vision" at the Museum of African American Art (MAAA)

in Los Angeles from Sept. 14, 2014 through Jan. 4, 2015. This is from the MAAA catalog: "Acclaimed Los Angeles artist Nijel Binns celebrates three decades of stunning bronze portrait sculptures, paintings, and other works of art. With a client roster that includes sculptures for legendary figures such as Michael Jackson, Stevie Wonder, Celia Cruz, and Stan Lee, Nijel Binns has established himself as the portrait sculptor of our generation. Nijel Binns celebrates the one quality that drives him toward excellence — persistence!"



Events

CAREER INFORMATION DAY/RECENT GRAD REUNION



1



2



3



4

1. Tyrone Heggins '02, an SAP specialist at Becton Dickinson and one of 32 alumni and other presenters who volunteered to speak to our college-age alumni about career options in January, shared his experience in the field of information technology. **2. Annual Giving Officer Candace Bradsher H '99** listened in as **Ian Frankoski '00** and **Marc Onion '89** traded stories. The recent graduates in attendance enjoyed catching up with one another while also networking with more senior Gray Bees. **4. Emmanuel Yamoah '93, Frank Robinson '93 and Peter Elias '90** were among those who gave of their time to make the day a great success.

1982

David E. De Lorenzi, Chair of the Intellectual Property Department at Gibbons P.C., has been named among only 25 intellectual property attorneys nationwide by the BTI Consulting Group in its 2015 BTI Client Service All-Stars Report.

1983

Phil Whyte sent this picture taken at Galloping Hill Caterers in Union, N.J., at the 100th birthday celebration for classmate **Marvin Bazemore's** grandmother, Mrs. Mildred Pugh. From the left, **Phil Whyte, Shawn Norwood, Fred Davis, Marvin Bazemore** and **John James '86**.



1991

Joseph Almeida, Sr. H '91 wrote, "Wife and I just retired and are looking to spend much more time with our seven grandchildren and counting!"

1994

Ron Powell (second from right) was one of six artists whose work comprised the "Mind-Body-Spirit" exhibit that ran from Dec. 7, 2014 to Jan. 11, 2015 at Maxwell's Tavern in Hoboken, N.J. Benedict's classmates **Roger Omeus, Joseph Etta** and **Mauricio Barragan** attended the opening night reception.



1996

Marc Riley '79 reported that in October, Karateka **Simeon Etta** and Gerald Chelule, son of physics teacher and Assistant Track Coach Ngeitch Chelule, represented Benedict's Hachikenkai Dojo at the 28th Annual Shorinjiryu International Shinzen Shiai Tournament held in Middle Village, Queens, N.Y. Both earned first place in *shiai* (fighting). The two also took second and third places, respectively, in *kata* (forms) in their divisions. Marc, their instructor, earned second place in forms and fourth place in weapons in the senior black belt division.

1997

Rashan Broadnax, who is an executive assistant at Bennett Career Institute in Washington, D.C., wrote, "Things are going well. I

just received my diploma in the mail from my National Institute of Cosmetology classes. Things are moving forward positively."

2000

Theodore Bonner-Perkins co-starred in a critically acclaimed production of the three-man play *The Brothers Size* that ran for several months at The Fountain Theater in Los Angeles. Theo is pictured here (second from left) with the two other members of the cast.



2001

Michael Hobbs spent the summer with Jay Z and Beyoncé as a senior

marketing analyst for the "On The Run" Tour.

Frank DiPiano clinched the 100th dual meet win of his young career on Jan. 17. Fittingly, he reached the milestone at the Gift of Life Duals, which supports organ donation, a deeply personal cause for his father, **Mike DiPiano, Sr. H '82**.

2006

Cameron Bernard Jones' classmates, **Sam Sylvain, Michael Mohamed** and **Marcos Taboas**, along with **Charles Harris, Jr. '97** were among those who came to support Cameron (second from right in photo) when he performed his self-produced, one-man artistic experience, "All of Me," at St. Paul's Church in Brooklyn, N.Y. this fall. The hour-long performance of "song, word, and dance

BOSTON REUNION



1. The Gray Bees attending Holy Cross, Boston College and other area schools have made it a tradition to participate in the annual fall Boston Reunion.

2. **Hank Smith '54** enjoyed lunch with **Rommel Guadalupe '96** and his wife, Janet.

CLASS OF 1954 60TH REUNION



The **Class of 1954** celebrated 60 years of life after Benedict's with a dinner at The Breakers in Spring Lake in September.

CLASS OF 1959 55TH REUNION

Al Reinoso (top left) traveled all the way from the Canary Islands to Spring Lake, N.J., to join his classmates for their 55th Reunion at The Breakers.



delved into Cameron's thoughts and feelings and witness stories and vignettes of triumph, trial, love, longing and happiness." A few days later, Cameron was off to Europe for several months to perform in *Showboat* at the Landestheater Linz and in the New York Harlem Theater's production of *Porgy and Bess* at the Grand Théâtre de Genève, among others.



2008

Kwasi Agyeman has begun the Cooperstown Graduate Program for his master's in Museum Studies. The school in Cooperstown, N.Y. is one of the most selective in the country.

2011

Kieran Lenahan is a senior at Davidson College and is Vice President of the Student Union Board. This fall Kieran was scheduled for an interview with McMaster-Carr, a privately owned supply company, in Princeton, NJ. He was flown in for the interview the night before, but after learning that his brother, Jared, had been injured, following the interview Kieran requested a flight to Washington, D.C. to visit his brother at Walter Reed Hospital. Jared, who is in the Navy, was seriously injured in a training accident. Fortunately, after returning to school, Kieran received and accepted the job offer.

2013

Olivier Brillant has been named a fellow by the Office of Intercultural Education at Bates College. The fellows

program, currently in its first year at the college, is intended to offer needed support to the student body. Fellows went through a rigorous application process in the spring to qualify for their fall appointment, and each of them has a specialty in which he or she is especially suited to answer questions and offer support to fellow students.



BIRTHS

A.J. Calloway '93 and his wife, Dionne, were blessed with a second baby daughter, Ava Claire, at 6:13 a.m. on Jan. 1. Ava came into the world weighing 8 pounds, 3 ounces.

David Dyer '97 and his wife, Tamara, welcomed their third child, a son, Elijah Jayden



Dyer, on Sept. 23, 2014. He joins sisters Kaylah and Nylah. David is the Head of the Leahy House residence at St. Benedict's.

Mike O'Hara '97 wrote, "Leo James O'Hara was evicted from the womb 20 days early on Jan. 8, at 1:48 p.m. He weighed 6 pounds, 2 ounces and was 18 3/4 inches long. Class of 2023 or 2024! Ever dear St. Benedict's!"

Naji Williams '02 and his, wife, Marie, welcomed Giselle Marie on Nov. 29, 2014. Naji wrote, "We've been quite busy as new parents. One thing we will instill in her is that you're never too busy to give back

to those that helped shape who you are; you make time for that which you want to make time."



MARRIAGES

Carlos Martin '01 married Elisabetta Belgiovine on Oct. 11, 2014.

Charlie Miso '03 and Gabriela Jumbo were married in August 2014. Charlie is now teaching history at the Hive.

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Correction: In the "Dinner Honors" article in the last *St. Benedict's Newsletter*, Larry Froelich '65 was referred to as "Garry Froelich." We apologize for the mistake.

Events

CLASS OF 1962 – 70TH BIRTHDAY PARTY



Dozens of members of the **Class of 1962** chose St. Benedict's as the place for a unified 70th Birthday celebration on Sept. 4. Among the guests were classmate Bishop **Nicholas DiMarzio** and their former teacher and current St. Benedict's Treasurer, **Fr. Boniface Treanor, O.S.B. '47**.

DONOR APPRECIATION



1. As Charlie Villano, Jr. '60 and Pete Cahill '60 looked on, **Bob Silvestri '73** told the assembled student body why he contributes to the Annual Fund and why they should follow his example. **2. Handel Destinvil '01** was among 21 alumni who attended the November event and fanned out to the different Group rooms to deliver personal testimonies about why their support to the Annual Fund.



GOLF OUTING



1. Jim Delany '66, the Commissioner of the Big 10 Conference, was the keynote speaker at the dinner that followed the October outing at the Spring Lake Golf Club. **2. Jim Sheick '65, Paul Pinizzotto '65 and Dan Meehan '65** completed their foursome with current student **Isaiah Whitaker '16**.



STAFF AND FACULTY NOTES

Kaya Sage Henriques was born at 1:56 a.m. Jan. 28. Mom, Kelly, Dad, **Cavill Henriques**, and Kaya are all doing well. Cavill teaches English to UDIs.

Biology teacher **Sara Gallo** and Admissions Director **Mario Gallo** announced the birth of their sixth child and second son, Sebastiano, on Nov. 18, 2014.

APRIL 10, 2015

An Evening with Mr. C, Mr. D and Fr. Edwin

MAY 14, 2015

Annual Scholarship Gala

MAY 30, 2015

60th Reunion of the Class of 1955

JUNE 5-7, 2015

50th Reunion of the Class of 1965

JUNE 12, 2015

Senior Alumni Luncheon

JUNE 13, 2015

55th Reunion of the Class of 1960

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

SAVE THE DATE

SPOTLIGHT



THE WORLD IS HIS COMMUNITY

Jason Scarpone '84

St. Benedict's Prep introduced suburban New Jersey-raised Jason Scarpone '84 to the excitement of international travel and cross-cultural cooperation.

"I had the good fortune of joining Fr. Edwin and a group traveling to Mexico," he recalled, saying that it was his first significant exposure

to different cultures and communities. Jason, who is the son of James Scarpone '58 and brother of Justin '87, said watching those communities pull together to rise to challenges inspired his studies at Northwestern University and New York University, and motivated him to join the Peace Corps.

Today, Jason utilizes his 22 years of experience in international development as president and CEO of the African Fertilizer and Agribusiness Partnership (AFAP), an independent non-profit that works to support fertilizer markets so African smallholder farmers can grow food and profits. He said it was "an exciting time to be in Africa. While most of the world is talking about yesterday – the good old days – in Africa the good days are in front of us."

A specialist in developing public-private partnerships in post-conflict, post-crisis environments, Jason has spearheaded economic efforts throughout Africa, South and Southeast Asia, Eastern Europe, the Balkans, the Caucasus and the United States. He has lived in more than a dozen countries and worked in more than 130.

"These days, if I don't experience a new country," he said, "it's a wasted year!"

Find out more at afap-partnership.org.



NNI ALUMNI RECEPTION



1. Members of the Alumni Association Board of Directors worked the check-in desk for the alumni reception at the Newark National Invitational basketball tournament in January. **2.** **Anthony Gallegos '98**, **Mike Scott '98** and **Andre Crompton '98** were among the dozens who attended the reception that preceded the last game of the day, St. Benedict's versus Roselle Catholic.

WINTER ALUMNI REUNION



Rev. Philip Waters, O.S.B. '63, who currently teaches Latin at The Hive and serves as Pastor of St. Mary's Church, took a break to spend time with the alumni from the 2000s decade who have started an annual tradition of reuniting in mid-January.

SHORE REUNION

At the annual Reunion at the Shore in September, **Fred Rimmele, Jr. '60** (right) presented Associate Headmaster **Paul Thornton '63** with the collection of St. Benedict's student newspapers dating back to the 1930s that his late father, **Fred, Sr. '33** had amassed.



THE RULE



1. At the very well-attended September reception around the screening of *The Rule* at the Princeton Garden Theater, Fr. Edwin thanked **Walter Krieg '62** and **James Degnan '64**, a dynamic duo who organized the event. **2.** During the post-screening "talk back," Fr. Edwin was flanked by alumni who attended St. Benedict's after its reopening in 1973 and for whom he served as Headmaster.

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

ALUMNI

Adrian M. Foley, Jr. '39
Robert B. Burns '41
Robert F. Delaney '43
Rev. Alfred J. Kowalski '43
Francis P. Bottone, M.D. '44
Bernard W. Fay '45
Joseph A. Byrnes '46
Philip J. Henry '46
Charles F. Fagan '47
John E. McCormack '47
Peter A. Cullen '49
Robert J. Cummings '49
John V. Juliana '49
Charles P. Kirsteuer '49
Robert Hewson '51
George H. Grimm '52
James J. Brown '53
James E. Fitzgerald '53
John H. Budd '54
Edward J. Isdanovich '54
Thomas A. (Colman) Clohosey '56
James M. Corley '57
Francis P. Dalton III '57
James Peter McGevna '57
William F. Rhatican '58
Robert R. Zambri '58
Edward J. Gilhooly '59
Raymond Mullaney '59
John N. Mackessy II '60
Peter A. Locascio, Esq. '64
Andrew A. Rekawek '65
Thomas J. Lichtenberg '68
Jean T. Leahy H '94
Damon Lattimore '02
Regina L. Blackwell H '10

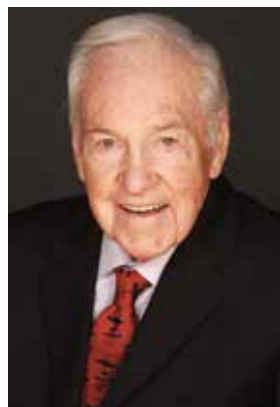
Elsie Lorraine Baskerville
Former St. Benedict's Employee
Melvin Baskerville
Father of Reggie St. Benedict's Employee
Mary Grace Bonavolonta
Mother of Jules '58
Rosemarie Briante
Wife of Nicholas '55
Pierre-Antoine Charles
Father of Reginald '98
Alice Charpentier
Wife of Fred '46 †
Diana Coker
Wife of James '55
William A. Frese
Father of William '66, Gregory '70 †
William & Ruth Manning
Parents of Walter '65
Marguerite Muench
Wife of George '33
Hilda E. Onion
Mother of Marc '89
Bettina Pino
Wife of Joseph '48
Clement A. Price, Ph.D.
St. Benedict's Board of Trustees
Mary Treanor
Sister of Father Boniface '47
Joanne Zehler
Mother of Andrew '82
Rose A. Wickham
Mother of Robert '64, Mark '71 †, Joseph '71
Eleanor Werthmann
Wife of Milton '54

COMMUNITY

John Bailey
Father of Jonathan '81, Kevin & Kenneth '83

† Rest in peace

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.



ADRIAN M. (BUD) FOLEY '39

The entire St. Benedict's family mourns the death on Feb. 9 of Adrian M. (Bud) Foley '39. He was 93.

One of New Jersey's most distinguished attorneys and an Emeritus member of our school's Board of Trustees, Bud served generously through the 1970s, 80s and 90s. He was an inaugural recipient of the Medal of St. Benedict's, along with Bernard M. Shanley '21. A stellar athlete for the Gray Bees, he was also an early inductee into the St. Benedict's Hall of Fame.

As his official obituary stated, "Adrian Foley lived a life of remarkable accomplishment without sacrificing his firmly held religious beliefs or the ethical responsibilities of his legal profession. With his extraordinary powers of persuasion combined with his wise vision, his life defined the concept of thoughtful leadership. He was a man of warmth and grace who could never say no to any call for help..."

May he rest in peace.

Many students and alumni turned out to offer a proper farewell to two women who have meant so much to Newark Abbey and St. Benedict's Prep.



MRS. JEAN LEAHY H '94

Mrs. Jean Leahy, the mother of Fr. Edwin Leahy, O.S.B. '63 and Tom Leahy '77, and grandmother of Bill Leahy '03 and St. Benedict's Athletic Director Ed Bendokas, passed away on Dec. 7, 2014. Mrs. Leahy, one of our longest-serving and hardest working Board members, received the school's highest honor in 2002 — the Medal of St. Benedict's.



MRS. REGINA BLACKWELL H '10

Mrs. Regina Blackwell, the school nurse since 1992 and mother of Adrian '89 and Maurice '94, passed away on Dec. 12, 2014. Mrs. Blackwell, the in-school mom to decades of Gray Bees, was honored at St. Benedict's Annual Communion Breakfast in 2010 as an Honorary Alumna.



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the Date

May 14

2015
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Honorees to be announced.
Business Attire.