

ORA ET LABORA

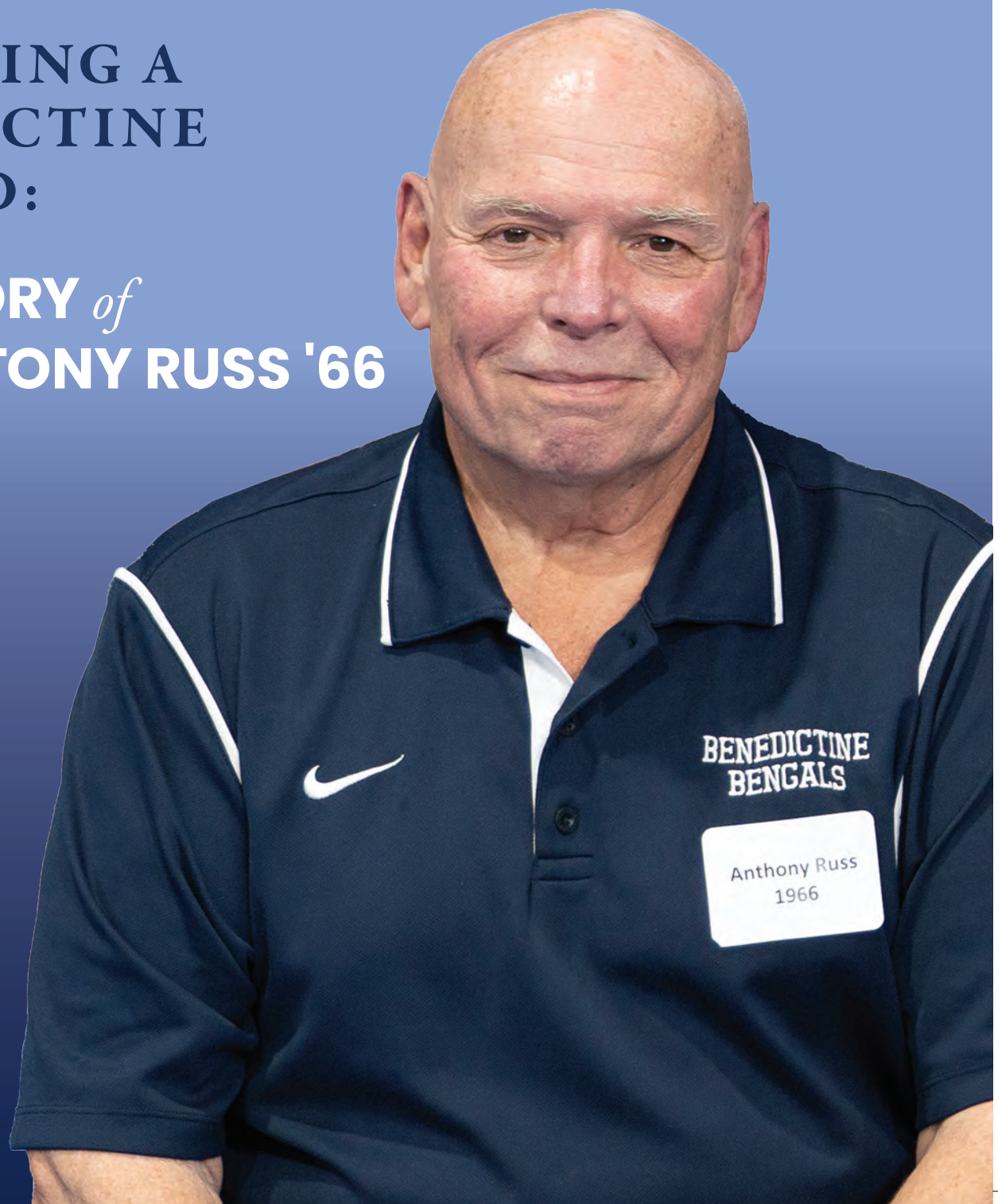


A publication of **Benedictine High School** and **Saint Andrew Abbey**

Fall 2024

**HONORING A
BENEDICTINE
LEGEND:**

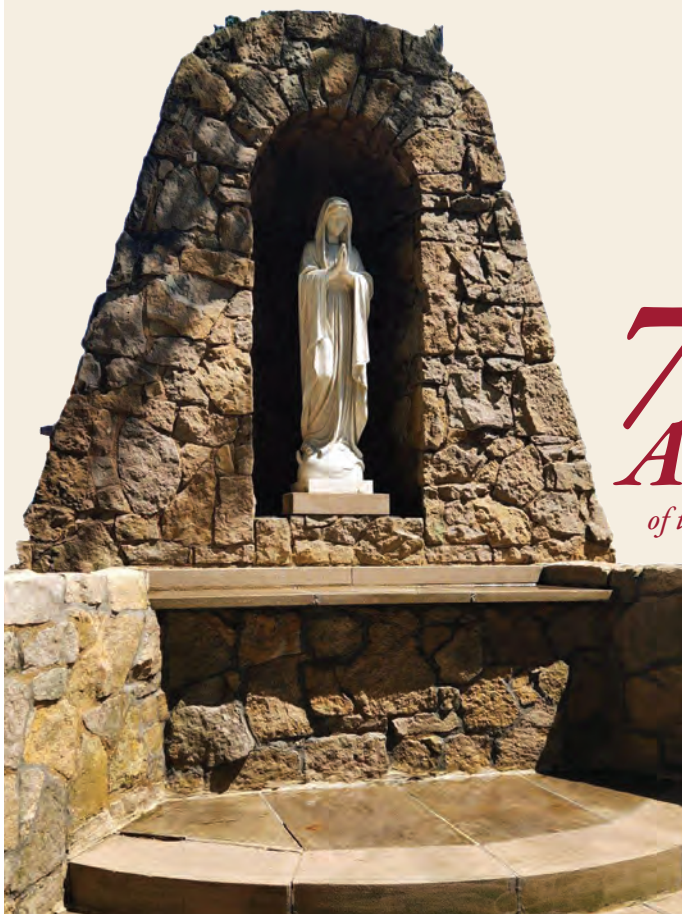
**IN MEMORY *of*
COACH TONY RUSS '66**



See Tribute pages 12-13

ABBOT GARY'S REFLECTION

Rt. Rev. Gary A. Hoover, OSB '74



70th Anniversary

of the Grotto at St. Andrew Abbey

Reflection on the Meaning of the Marian Grotto at St. Andrew Abbey

This year we commemorate the 70th anniversary of the Grotto at St. Andrew Abbey. In honor of this anniversary, we have been revitalizing and refurbishing the space with the generous support of alumni and friends.

The history of the abbey dates back to its founding by the Slovak monks in 1922. The grotto itself, was inspired by coach Augie Bossu and constructed in 1954 to serve as a space for prayer and reflection for the football team. *See full story on page 6.*

Historically, grottos hold a special place in Catholic tradition. The presence of the Virgin Mary in the grotto underscores themes of maternal care, intercession, and the nurturing aspect of Mary's presence in our lives. The construction of the grotto at St. Andrew Abbey embodies the rustic and contemplative aesthetic typical of grottos and the design is intentional, aiming to evoke a sense of the divine through nature's simplicity and beauty.

The grotto at St. Andrew Abbey is much more than a historical or architectural landmark; it is a place imbued with profound spiritual meaning. For the Benedictine monks and the faithful who visit, the grotto is a sanctuary for contemplation and prayer. It symbolizes a retreat from the world, a place where one can seek solace, reflect on their spiritual journey, and deepen their connection with God.

In today's fast-paced and often secular world, the grotto at St. Andrew Abbey remains a vital spiritual oasis. It stands as a historical monument, a cultural bridge, a spiritual sanctuary, and a symbol of enduring faith. As such, it continues to fulfill its role as a place of prayer, reflection, and community, embodying the spiritual heritage of the Benedictine monks and the broader Catholic tradition. Through its serene presence, the grotto invites all who visit to experience a deeper connection with Jesus through his mother Mary.

We are truly blessed to have the support of the community in the revitalization of this spiritual Benedictine landmark and look forward to seeing you at its dedication during the Abbey Benefit on September 29th.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Abbot Gary, OSB '74". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Abbot Gary, OSB '74

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Benedictine Family and Friends,

I am writing this edition of the *Ora et Labora* President update with a heavy heart. As I am sure many of you have heard by now, the Benedictine community lost one of the “rocks” of our foundation on June 30th. Mr. Anthony Russ '66, or as many of us called him Coach Russ or simply T.R. was welcomed into heaven. His life and Benedictine legacy will be written about and remembered for many years to come as thousands of Men of Benedictine, their families and friends reflect on a truly amazing life of dedication and service to Benedictine High School. I cannot do justice to what certainly deserves ample thought and reflection to honor a man that was one of those people who without question changed lives of those he came into contact with. I thought I would share my personal reflection as one of my fondest memories of Benedictine involves an interaction with Coach Russ. Unknown to me at the time, that life lesson he provided me is one that I continue to lean on throughout my adult life.

I don't think it is coincidental that my memory coincides with the fall start of school, but as we prepare to welcome another strong freshman class of 90+ to start their journey as Men of Benedictine, I only hope that those of us in the building as teachers, administrators and supporting staff might impact them just as Coach Russ did for me in the fall of 1988. You see, for many who call Benedictine home, there is a right of passage, so to speak, in August reporting to two-a-day football practice. I recall going into my junior year, so hopeful to earn my place on the varsity squad in a role more than just a third team practice squad quarterback. All I could think about that summer was competing for the starting QB position and earning my varsity letter. To do that, however, was not going to be easy. I was undersized with a decent but not overly strong arm, so when two-a-days started, I was crushed to learn that Coach Bossu had already decided that I was not his guy to lead the Bengals offense. I was not only devastated, but motivated even more to play and become a starter.

Enter Coach Russ. My relationship with Coach Russ did not really develop until the second week of that junior season. Certainly I witnessed his intensity, the famous scowl when the defense missed an assignment, and, of course, his temper. I will never forget the time when I was a sophomore QB on the practice squad and I managed to get past his number one defense on an option play. He called out to Coach Bortnick, “Run that play again, Art!” and then added, “And Schroeder, keep the ball.” Talk about scared, wow! Anyway, back to the story. After that first game, I walked into the coaches office and said I wanted to play and that I wanted to be a defensive starter. Coach Nolan looked at me and said, “Go talk to TR.”



Mr. Dave Schroeder '90

This is where a life lesson that I still recall clearly to this day happened. I timidly walked into his office, suggested he take a serious look at me for his defense, and then waited. He dropped his pencil, looked up at me and said, “You're a quarterback; you really want to play on my defense?” I swallowed and said, “I am a football player and I want to play!” He smiled and said, “Okay, I will give you a shot.” From that moment, something changed in me. The vote of confidence from a man who, to this day, I still fear out of respect was like a lightning bolt going off in me. I went on to start the rest of my junior year and was named captain of Coach Russ's defense my senior year. Years later, I look back on that moment, that interaction, and that simple gesture and I lean on it whenever adversity presents itself.

Coach, I still fear you in the most respectful way, but your kindness, your big heart, and the way you influenced me will never be forgotten. Thank You!

Bengal Proud,

Dave Schroeder '90

ABBEY RETREAT *and* MONKS' ANNIVERSARIES

As is customary for members of religious orders and priests in the Catholic Church, the monks of Saint Andrew Abbey pause for four days each year and make a retreat. In recent years this has taken place at Loyola Retreat House in Clinton, Ohio (near Akron) which has been sponsored by Saint Andrew Abbey since 2010. This year's retreat took place there from June 4-7.

This year's retreat master was something of a surprise to the monks. **Fr. Vincent (Paul) Velas** graduated from BHS in 1955 and entered the abbey as a monk two years later. He was ordained in 1964 and taught German in the high school until 1974 when he received permission to become a priest of the Diocese of Pittsburgh where he has served in a number of parishes until retiring a few years ago.

When he was a member of the Benedictine faculty, Fr. Vincent was well-liked by the students in his German classes. **Dennis DiGeronimo '71** would bring in his accordion and Fr. Vincent would lead the students in singing traditional German songs (see photo). Fr. Vincent's retreat conferences were reflections on humanity as created by God, trapped by Satan, and ransomed by Christ and the Holy Spirit.

During the final Mass of the retreat, the monks publicly renew their monastic vows. It is also the time to give special recognition to those monks marking their 25th or 50th jubilee of profession. This summer **Fr. Gerard Gonda, OSB '71** and **Brother Philip Petrow, OSB** marked the 50th year of their monastic lives. After they renewed their vows, Abbot Gary gave each a **ceremonial wooden staff** topped with a metal cross to symbolize the support they will receive from the monks of the abbey in the coming years.



Flashback to Fr. Vincent's German class in 1971 with Dennis DiGeronimo '71 on the accordion.



During the retreat Fr. Joachim (center) received a surprise visit at Regina Health Center from Bro. Mario (left), Fr. Vincent (right), and Abbot Gary and Fr. Gerard. Fr. Joachim welcomes visitors (5232 Broadview Road, Richfield, Ohio 44286), cards, and phone calls (330-659-4161 and ask for Fr. Joachim).

Abbot Gary thanks Fr. Vincent Velas for his successful retreat.

Two Monks Reach Monastic Milestone *Written by* FATHER MICHAEL

June 7 was the final day of the monastic retreat this year. It was particularly festive for, during the mass at which the monks renew their vows, the community celebrated the golden jubilees of two of its members. **Brother Philip Petrow, OSB** and **Father Gerard Gonda, OSB** marked this monastic milestone by being presented with a jubilee candle and staff that have traditionally marked this occasion in Benedictine monasteries. Both professed monastic vows on August 18, 1974.

Raised in Brooklyn, Ohio and a member of Corpus Christi Parish, Brother Philip graduated from Brooklyn High School and became a Registered Nurse through the Marymount School of Nursing. After profession, he led the Transportation Department of Benedictine High School with certification from the New York Technical Institute for Auto Mechanics. He was also trained at Max Hayes Industrial campus for a license in boiler maintenance. For 30 years, Brother Philip worked for Red Cross Disaster Relief as an on-site coordinator for which he prepared through the Cleveland Clinic EMT Paramedic Training Program. This work took him all over the US in some of the most problematic situations imaginable. Upon his return to the monastery, he has served as IT Coordinator for the abbey computer needs which also involves the Heating and Air-Conditioning Systems for which

he trained at the West-Side Technological Institute for Computer Management and Pneumatic Controls. Studying Evangelization at the University of Steubenville, he also evinced an interest in social justice through work at the local St. Benedict Parish where he helped to meet the food and clothing needs of the local poor.

A leader in Catholic Education for many years, Fr. Gerard taught English at Benedictine High School for over 40 years. A 1971 graduate of the Home of Champions, he distinguished himself as teacher, alumni director, admissions director and many other tasks before joining the administration. His educational studies from John Carroll University and the success of these endeavors in the administration of Benedictine earned him the Distinguished Alumni Service Award

NEW SUPERIORS NAMED FOR St. Andrew Abbey

Written by Father Gerard, OSB '71

During the monastic community retreat in early June, Abbot Gary Hoover, OSB announced the appointments of a new prior and subprior for three year terms. The prior is the abbot's primary assistant and leads the community in the abbot's absence. The prior is responsible for the internal operation of the abbey and for responding to outside requests for monks' ministerial assistance. The subprior is the third superior and stands in for the abbot and prior when needed.

Fr. Michael Brunovsky, OSB, 60, is the new prior. Fr. Michael grew up in St. Columbkille Parish in Seven Hills and is a graduate of Padua High School. In the abbey he has served for many years as the director of new monks in formation and as the Music Director and organist. He professed his first vows in 1985 and was ordained in 1993. His most recent assignment was subprior. He continues in his role as secretary to the abbot. In the high school, Fr. Michael has primarily taught social studies and served as assistant principal and principal. He represents the abbey as a member of national and local Slovak organizations.



Fr. Conrad Wald, OSB, 60, was named subprior. Born in Germany, he came to the United States as a child and grew up in Atlanta, Georgia. Raised in the Episcopal Church, he converted to Catholicism in 2003. He earned a master's degree in Political Science from The Ohio State University and worked for a number of years in pension plan administration with various companies in Ohio and New York. He entered the abbey and professed his first vows as a monk in 2013. He continued with studies for the priesthood and was ordained in 2019. He will continue in his position as business manager of the abbey.



in 2001. Fr. Gerard has served as Academic Dean, Principal and President of Benedictine High School, leading capital initiatives and improvements over the years. Since retiring from the classroom, he has used his extensive relationships with alumni and benefactors through working tirelessly in Advancement. For the Centennial of the Abbey in 2022, he spearheaded a committee that planned jubilee events and put his noted writing skills into the compilation of a Centennial Commemorative Book highlighting the history of the Benedictines in Cleveland. A noted speaker and presenter on contemporary religious topics, Fr. Gerard has given retreats and presentations throughout the Cleveland Diocese and the United States. Willing to try new opportunities in serving the Church, Fr. Gerard now serves as a military chaplain to the Kings Bay Submarine Base in Georgia at the request of Archbishop Timothy Broglio, a Cleveland native and personal friend.

May the Lord God grant both Br. Philip and Fr. Gerard continued good health and the consolation of the Holy Spirit as they continue their monastic commitment. *Ad Multos Annos!*



Bro. Philip and Fr. Gerard received their 50th jubilee year ceremonial staff from Abbot Gary.

Grotto History

Written by **Lynne Schroeder** and **Father Gerard Gonda, OSB '71**

In November of 1953, a lead story in *The Bennet* announced plans to move forward with the construction of a shrine to the Blessed Mother to be built on campus. That was the moment that a vision inspired by Coach Augie Bossu began to take form.

As Benedictine's legendary football and baseball coach for five decades, Augie Bossu is not often associated with the University of Notre Dame, but that is where he graduated from in 1939 and helped the Fighting Irish to an 8-1 record. Apart from academics and football, Augie's Catholic faith was strongly impacted by his four years at the South Bend campus, especially by the famous replica of the stone grotto in Lourdes, France where the Blessed Virgin appeared to St. Bernadette seventeen times in 1858.

The current Grotto at NDU was built in 1896, replacing a wooden grotto built on August 22, 1878. An artificial rock cave, the Grotto is used by students and visitors as a sacred space for prayer, meditation, and outdoor Masses. Groups like to gather there before and after football games and final exams.

As he began his coaching career at Benedictine in 1953, Augie felt his football teams needed a meaningful space on campus for prayer and reflection. He recommended the construction of the grotto as such a place and further suggested that it be similar to the Lourdes Grotto at Notre Dame.

The project was taken up by the senior Class of 1954 under the direction of class president Chuck St. John. The significant sum of \$3,000 had to be raised. The class officers came up with a

plan that required each senior to donate \$2 while juniors, sophomores, and freshmen each donated \$1. Remember the value of money at the time and also that the BHS enrollment had reached 1,000 students.

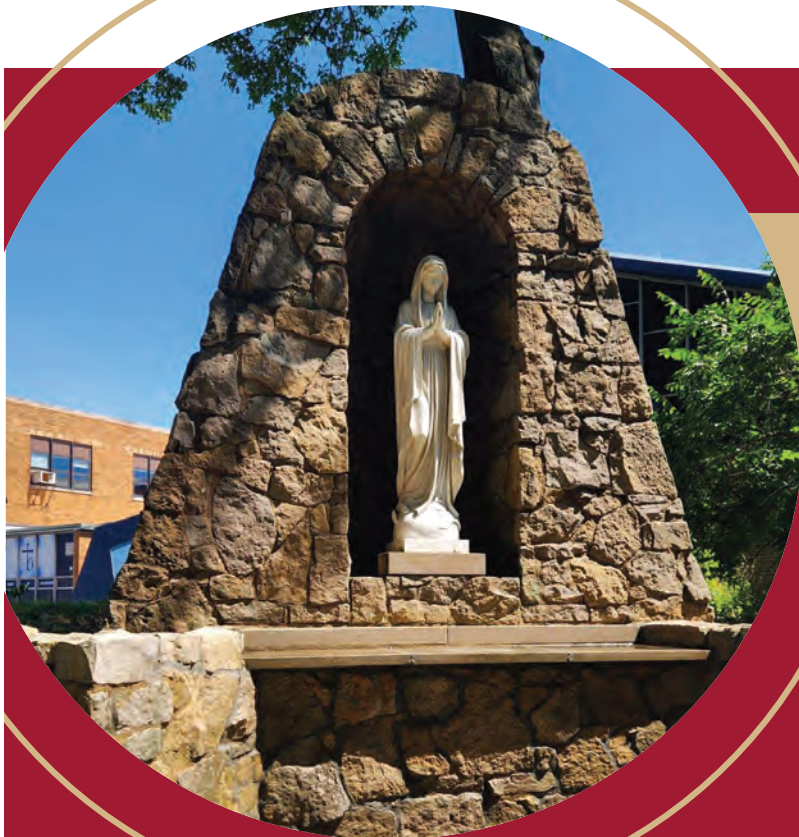
The drive was launched before Christmas and groundbreaking took place early in the second semester. Class president Chuck St. John '54 remembers that the senior class sponsored a musical show at St. Benedict's parish hall at which the hat was passed for donations for the new grotto from the large crowd. The original dedication of the grotto took place on May 30, 1954 as a May crowning with Chuck St. John having the honor of crowning the statue. The student body processed down East Boulevard around St. Benedict's Church and then back to the grotto. While in procession, they prayed the rosary led over a public address system by seniors William Gries, Lawrence Louis, Robert Pimpo, and Robert Rezac. Mary's statue was carried by Bengal gridders Paul Djubasak, Robert Hallahan, Frank Kuchta, and Theodore Rossy. A flowery wreath was placed on Mary's head by Charles St. John.

For 70 years, the grotto has stood as a site of spiritual reflection, silence, and beauty. Early in its history, Benedictine High School was placed under the protection of the Blessed Mother and her colors of blue and white were adopted as the school's colors. Coach Bossu began the tradition of having his football players stop at the grotto on the way to practice and then gather as a team after each game to give thanks – regardless of the outcome of the game.

Over this past summer, the grotto underwent a complete refurbishment to help restore it closely to its original glory ensuring that the space will continue to be a vital reflection point for students, families, and friends of Benedictine for decades to come.



In honor of the 70th anniversary of the Grotto's construction in 1954, we look forward to celebrating this important milestone, as well as showcasing the beautified transformation at this year's annual Abbey Benefit which will be held on Sunday, September 29th here on the campus. Please see the details to the right and kindly consider participating in this annual event which aids in offsetting the monks' healthcare, retirement, education, and daily living expenses.



SAVE THE DATE
for the ABBEY BENEFIT

70th Anniversary

of the Marian Grotto at St. Andrew Abbey

SUNDAY • SEPTEMBER 29, 2024

JOIN US for Mass at twelve o'clock noon

ST. ANDREW ABBEY

10510 Buckeye Road • Cleveland, Ohio

Reception is to follow on the Rufus Courtyard



SCAN TO REGISTER

For ticket or sponsorship information, contact Ainsley Gialamas at gialamas@cbhs.edu or 216.721.5300 ext. 280.

Fr. Dismas Speaks at Abbots' Workshop



Fr. Dismas Boeff, OSB '66 was one of the featured speakers at the annual meeting of the North American Benedictine Abbots held at Prince of Peace Abbey in Oceanside, California from February 2-6, 2024. Fr. Dismas accompanied Abbot Gary Hoover, OSB and spoke on "Understanding and Confronting Addictions." He shared personal experiences and the work he has done for many years counseling individuals with various addictions. Since his ordination in 1976, Fr. Dismas has worked at BHS, served as a prison chaplain both locally and at the federal level, and provided health care ministry at Southwest General Health Center in Middleburg Heights. Also attending the February meeting was **Abbot Primate Gregory Polan, OSB** from Rome, head of the worldwide Benedictine Order.

BACCALAUREATE, AWARDS, AND GRADUATION



The final week for seniors at Benedictine is always marked by Baccalaureate Mass, the Academic Awards Assembly, and Graduation. Once again, all events were held on campus and we were blessed with amazing weather to celebrate the success of these fine Men of Benedictine. Congratulations to all for your outstanding achievements!

Valedictorian with a cumulative GPA of 4.656 was **Charlie Roberto**. Charlie was also the recipient of the **Phi Beta Kappa** award for outstanding scholarship academic initiative, the **Kiwanis Service Award & Scholarship**, and the **Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA) Scholar Athlete** award for his academic prowess and his 4 varsity letters in Soccer.

Salutatorian with a cumulative GPA of 4.5038 was **Daniel Winterich**. Daniel was also the recipient of the **Fr. Donald Baydik Award** for excellence, leadership, and responsibility in writing for publications at Benedictine, the **Fr. James Award** for excellence in the Senior Scholars Program, and the **Kiwanis Service Award & Scholarship**.

The **Abbot Clement Award for Engineering** - senior **Gabriel So-Nunez** for his dedication to engineering and robotics, which included 4 years of classes after school with the Tri-C STEM program and travel to many cities across the country as part of the Tri-C First Robotics team.

The **Jack T. Hearn Sr. Award** for excellence and leadership in Music - sophomore **Cameron Huggins**.

The **Fr. Timothy Award** for excellence and leadership in the Theater program - senior **Vince Amata** and sophomore **Paul Karboski**.

The **Fr. Raphael Award** for outstanding student in freshman science - **Gavin Hurley**.

The **Albert N. Santilli Award** for most noticeable progress in scientific studies - **Jackson Stoltz**.

The **Vincent Award**, given to a rising senior interested in history and government and best represents the spirit of Vincent Francioli - **Shane Hopkins**. Shane also won the **Richard Gilder History Prize**, and the **Notre Dame Club of Cleveland Book Award**.

The **Fr. Robert Award** for outstanding business student - senior **Ben Trombetto**.

Christian Witness awards were given to **Gavin Hurley, Nathan Weaver, Donald Stewart, Lucas Dolan, Dominic Flauto, Paul Karboski, Charles Koppitch, Ryan Kehres, Shane Hopkins, Daniel Bozickovich, Matthew Torres, and Daniel Winterich**.

Mr. Sean Washington was presented with the **National Sorority of Phi Delta Kappa Book Award** by representatives from that sorority.

Seniors **Danny Bozickovich** and **Shamar Darling** were both recipients of the **American Red Cross Scholarships**. Sophomores **Cameron Huggins** and **Braylon Rose** were recognized with **Alpha Omega Foundation Awards**.





Seniors **Charlie Roberto**, **Ben Trombetto**, and **Danny Winterich** were all presented with the **Governor's Merit Scholarship**, which provides up to \$5,000 per year in financial assistance to high school seniors graduating in the top 5% of their class and can be applied to college tuition and fees.

Thomas Maloney and **Ben Trombetto** earned **Archie Griffin Sportsmanship Awards**. **Chase Rufus** was presented with the **OHSAA Courageous Student Award**. Seniors **Alexander English** and **Daniel Winterich** were recognized with **OHSAA Awards of Excellence**.

In addition to the many successes of our students, a number of faculty and staff were recognized for years of service or awards.

Mr. Ken Traben '86 won the **Smith Faculty Grant** for his leadership and further development of the Engineering and Robotics programs. The grant comes with a \$5,000 cash award funded by the Smith Family. The award was presented by **Mr. Dave Smith**.

For their dedication to maintenance and logistical support in athletics, **Mr. Mark Hall** and **Mr. Ryan Caithaml** were awarded the **State Award for Exemplary Sportsmanship, Ethics, and Integrity**. **Mr. Mark Hall** was also recognized for his 25+ Years of service to Benedictine High School. >



BACCALAUREATE, AWARDS, AND GRADUATION



Other milestones included **Joe Prevesk '94** for 5 years of service to Benedictine and **Mr. Richard Salem '90** for his 30 years of service.

The **2024 Yearbook Dedication** was given to Admissions Director **Mike Stircula '05**, known for his passion and dedication to Benedictine.

Finally, **Daniel Bozickovich**, **Charlie Roberto**, **Benjamin Trombetto**, and **Daniel Winterich** were asked to stand and be recognized for being finalists for **Mr. Benedictine** before the gathered community heard from 2024 Mr. Benedictine, **Mr. Sean Washington**.

In addition to all of the individual awards, we also took time to recognize the 199 students who achieved Honor Roll for the first three quarters of the school year. *Keep up the great work, men!*



The Rise of a Culinary Entrepreneur

In the heart of Shaker Heights, Dwayne Harris found his passion early on, not on the football field where he played right tackle during his freshman and sophomore years at Benedictine, but in the comforting warmth of his grandma's kitchen. It was there, in the fifth grade, that he first discovered the joy of baking.



Under his grandmother's guidance, Dwayne learned the art of baking from scratch. From simple cookies to decadent cakes, he mastered each recipe with care. Soon, his creations became a staple at family gatherings and special events, where he'd proudly present brownies, cupcakes, and cookies, all crafted with love and skill.

Encouraged by the reviews from friends and family, Dwayne took a bold step. With a friend's suggestion and his mother's support, he ventured into the world of entrepreneurship, starting his baking business at the age of twelve. What began as a small venture selling treats gave rise to something more significant.

Driven by his passion for baking and an entrepreneurial spirit, Dwayne expanded his reach beyond school. His creations caught the attention of local businesses, who eagerly became his customers. From bars to restaurants, his homemade goodies flew off the shelves, delighting customers with their unique flavors and high-quality ingredients.

As Dwayne's business grew, so did his ambitions. With a keen eye for innovation, he began experimenting with exotic flavors and trendy treats, setting himself apart from the competition. His Banana Pudding Cupcakes and Red Velvet Oreo Cupcakes became instant favorites.

But baking was just one element of Dwayne's many talents. Alongside his burgeoning business, he pursued other interests. From working as an assistant at Playhouse Square's Driftwood Catering Company to managing finances for his school, Dwayne's drive and determination was strong.

As he graduates from Benedictine and embarks on his college journey to Texas Southern University, Dwayne's entrepreneurial spirit continues to thrive. Inspired by his cousin's success, he dabbles in e-commerce, co-hosts Airbnb properties, and explores content creation, all while planning to pursue his studies in sports/event marketing and business law.

Despite his plans for Texas, Dwayne loves his Cleveland roots. With dreams of opening his own restaurant someday, he knows that his hometown holds the key to his future success. Each cupcake sold, each Instagram follower gained, brings him one step closer to realizing his dreams.

Dwayne Harris's story is a testament to the power of passion, perseverance, and the pursuit of one's dreams. From humble beginnings in his grandmother's kitchen to the halls of entrepreneurship and beyond, he proves that with dedication and hard work, anything is possible.



Dwayne's Snack Shop, one of his earliest business ventures from grandmas driveway



Whitmore's BBQ, one of the first restaurants to purchase wholesale baked goods from Dwayne

Benedictine



TONY RUSS '66

Beloved Legendary Teacher, Coach, Administrator Passes Away

Written by **WALLY MIESKOSKI '71**

Tony Russ '66, a long-time teacher, coach, administrator, and a legendary figure to thousands of Benedictine students, died on June 30, 2024 at age 75.

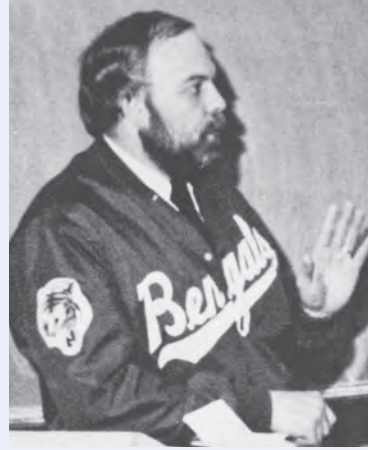
Russ served in many roles while at Benedictine including wrestling coach, Dean of Men, and most recently Athletic Director before retiring in 2013 after 44 years at the school.

He was a member of the second Benedictine Athletic Hall of Fame class in 1993.

For decades, Russ was a long-time assistant under head football coach Augie Bossu and succeeding coaches.

Russ was a coach on six Benedictine state championship football teams, 1973, 1980, 1981, 1996, 2003 and 2004.

Benedictine head football coach Joe Prevesk '94 said that the Bengals will dedicate their 2024 season to Coach Tony Russ.



CARING TASKMASTER

While Russ did not achieve much public recognition in the media, the influence on his students and teams was inestimable.

“As Dean of Men and disciplinarian, Tony’s image as a tough coach was his most valuable asset. He never smiled during school hours. He could walk into an unruly dining hall or study hall and suddenly there was complete silence,” said Fr. Gerard Gonda, O.S.B. ’71, former president, and principal.

Beneath his gruff demeanor and tough-love discipline, Russ could be a most humble man.

Benedictine Chief Operating Officer Chris Lorber ’04 said, “After he announced his retirement, Tony kindly served an additional eight months in the Athletic Director’s office to help me as a young professional. He handled the odd responsibilities of the job which allowed me to coach. He was always available to answer questions and provide insight,” added Lorber.

“It was during this time that I finally saw him, not as an intimidating disciplinarian, but instead as a friend, mentor and inspiration,” he added.

Dave Schroeder ’90, current Benedictine President, and former captain of the 1989 Bengals defense, is thankful today for the difficulties of practice days and game nights under the guidance of Tony Russ.

Said Schroeder, “Coach Russ continually challenged me on the football field to overcome adversity to become a better player. I will never forget the chance he gave me to prove myself. That confidence he instilled helped me realize that adversity often brings opportunity. And that realization has been a significant tool in my business career.”

“We will continue to uphold his legacy at the Home of Champions with current and future Bengals as he had represented Benedictine High School,” Schroeder added.

Former school president Ryan Ryzner ’95 said, “Tony Russ said do your job and understand how it relates to the job of others around you. Be gracious. Be accountable and hold those around you to that same high standard.”

Continued Ryzner, “We thought he was giving us the game plan for Friday night’s game. He was giving us the playbook for servant leadership in life. For those who knew him, you know you were blessed. For those who didn’t, ask someone who did and pull up a chair...”

DEFENSIVE GENIUS

As defensive coordinator and architect of the historically-tough Bengals defenses, Russ was renowned for his ability to shut down opposing team’s high-powered offenses.

In the 1980 and the 1996 state title game wins, the Bengals did not allow their opponents to complete a pass.

From 1961 to 1997, Benedictine compiled a streak of holding at least one team to a shutout in each of those years. Russ played major roles for much of this streak both as a player and a coach.

In 1996, the Bengals defensive unit honored Russ by giving him a game ball after the team held its fourth straight opponent to a shutout, a school record.

He joined the Benedictine faculty in the fall of 1970 as an English teacher and football coach and moved up to the varsity staff in 1971. He was the head coach of the 1970 freshman football team, and his impact was immediate. That team went 7-0 and outscored opponents 200-6. Later, with Russ in charge of the defense, those players as seniors won the school’s (and Cleveland’s) first state playoff title with a 38-13 win over Ironton in 1973.

PLAYING DAYS

A three-year letterman at Benedictine, Russ played on the offensive and defensive lines. As a senior, he gained local accolades as an All-East Senate choice and All-Scholastic selection by the Plain Dealer, Cleveland Press and the Call and Post newspapers. He also won All-Ohio honors and played in the annual North-South All-Star game.

Russ was a captain on the 1965 Bengals team that finished as the area’s No. 1 team and was the highest-scoring team to that date in school history.

He played in three consecutive City Championship Games at the old Cleveland Stadium winning titles in 1963 and 1965.

In that 1965 title game, Russ blocked a South High punt to put the Bengals in scoring position. Later at a crucial point in the game, with the Bengals leading 14-0, South had driven to the Bengals five-yard line. On fourth down, the Flyers star running back tried to sweep right end but was thrown for a four-yard loss. It was Tony Russ who led the barrage of Bengals defenders to make the stop.

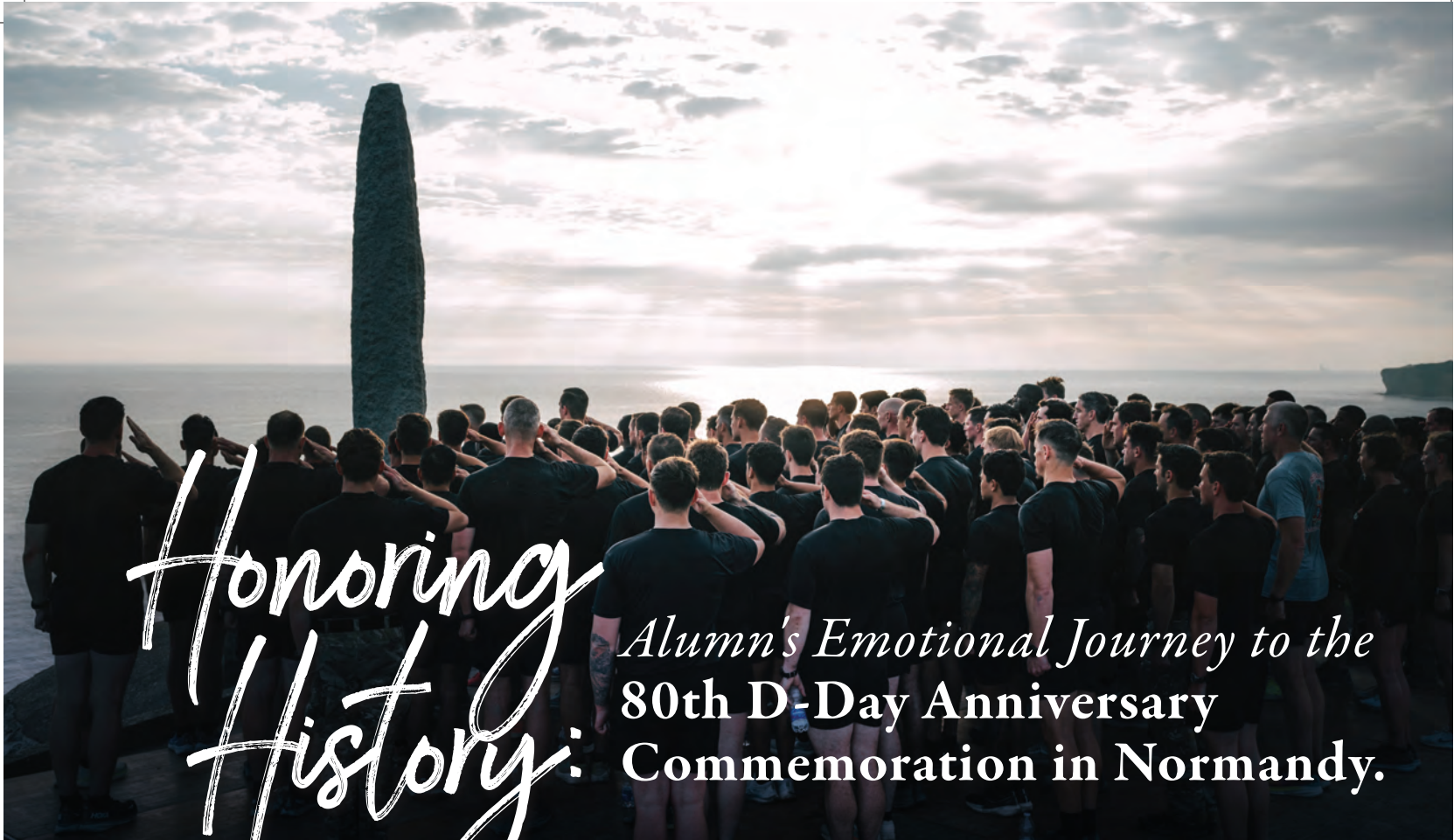
From there, the Bengals drove 91 yards for the score to increase their margin to 21-0. “That was the turning point,” said Coach Bossu after the game.

It helped Benedictine to win another Charity Game title 29-8 over South in front of a crowd of 36,202.

He earned a scholarship to the University of Cincinnati but knee injuries requiring several surgeries ended his playing career.

Russ lived in North Royalton with his wife of nearly 50 years, Ginny. He is also survived by his brothers Tim ’68 and Bob ’72 and their spouses, in-laws and many nieces and nephews.

A funeral Mass was held for Tony Russ on Wednesday, July 10 at St. Andrew Abbey on the Benedictine campus followed by a reception in the school dining hall. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests contributions to Benedictine High School, Advancement Office, 2900 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive, Cleveland, OH 44104.



Honoring History:

Alumn's Emotional Journey to the 80th D-Day Anniversary Commemoration in Normandy.





This past June marked the 80th anniversary of D-Day in France, and Maj. Jack Gibson '06 joined the commemoration in honor of his grandfather, whom he affectionately called “Papa.”

Jim Shalala was a World War II veteran who served with the 2nd Ranger Battalion during the invasion of Europe. Although he rarely talked about the war, Gibson remembers him tearing up when he did speak of combat. Papa was simply Gibson's hero. Sadly, he was killed in a car crash at the age of 84, and his stories stopped, but his legacy lives on in Jack.

After graduating from Benedictine, Gibson followed in his grandfather's footsteps to join the army by graduating from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point before beginning active duty service. During his military career, he had two deployments to Afghanistan, and in 2022, he deployed as a member of the 75th Ranger Regiment. He is also a University of Georgia Law School graduate and, for many years, was stationed at Fort Moore, serving as the unit's regimental judge advocate. Recently, he relocated to Austin, TX, to be stationed at Fort Cavazos assigned to the 1st Cavalry Division as the Chief of Administrative Law.

Aside from becoming a Ranger himself, one of the greatest ways he could honor his grandfather's memory was to make the trip to France and visit the country that his grandfather helped to liberate. He made the emotional trip with 120 fellow Rangers and 21 family members connected to his grandfather, including his wife Meredith, infant daughter Davis, his mother, and brothers Mike '04 and Pat '02.

The 10-day trip served as an official duty trip for the members of his unit, and they proudly represented the United States and the Department of Defense at a variety of commemorative events. Their itinerary took them on tours of battlefields and key D-Day sites where allied forces landed. From the beaches of Omaha, Utah, and Juno to sites where paratroopers landed to the initial battlegrounds, they got a real sense of what the events of June 6, 1944, must have been like for his grandfather and all US forces.

Omaha Beach was particularly poignant since it saw the highest number of US casualties during the invasion. Jack shared that being there and seeing the gradual slope of the hill, coupled with the 5-6 mile visibility the Germans would have had, led him to understand that the soldiers were “sitting ducks.” One activity they took part in was a fitness exercise where they ran down the beach, into the water, and did buddy carries, which are over-the-shoulder carries of a fellow soldier. This exercise gave them a sense of what the soldiers would have felt without simulating warfare.

There were close to 120 commemorative events throughout the course of their trip. Some larger ones were hosted by the national French government, but many events were organized by the small towns and villages to celebrate their liberation. Jack described June 6th in Normandy as having a similar feel to July 4th celebrations in the US.

One thing that stood out for Jack was the intense patriotism and pride he felt from the Norman people. He said, “I compare the trip to other patriotic sites I have visited in the US and feel they can't compare. I was especially touched by how grateful Normans remain today. They show a lot of gratitude for the US and allied forces that liberated them from Nazi rule that had gripped them for 4-5 years before D-Day.”

Roughly 600 people also attended a large ceremony for a battalion change of command at Pointe du Hoc that Jack describes as breathtaking. This site is run by the American Battle Monument Commission and is kept as close to June 6th, 1944, as possible, with bunkers, craters, and artillery. Jack's grandfather was part of one of the most daring missions of all when they scaled this cliff and seized the German artillery pieces that could have fired upon troops landing at Omaha and Utah beaches. He also noted that the last surviving member of the troop, John Wardell, was present at the Change of Command Ceremony.

Another highlight of the trip was a parachuting operation, where they had the opportunity to jump from a C47 airplane used in WWII that has been meticulously maintained. With 20 planes and 700-800 US and Allied soldiers participating, it was a spectacular sight.

This trip was a momentous time for Jack and offered great opportunities for reflection. He shares that Benedictine does a great job preparing students for life. Three core values from Benedictine paved the way for him to have a successful military career: high standards, hard work, and discipline. He went on to share that Mr. Francioli always had unwavering academic standards. Coach Bortnick demonstrated the importance of work ethic. He also shared that in all his years in the military, he has never met someone who displays and demands more discipline than the late Coach Russ. He is grateful for the foundation laid by his four years at Benedictine and encourages future Men of Benedictine to embrace the opportunities ahead.

STUDENT LEADERSHIP

Benedictine High School celebrates our students who have been selected as recipients of the National Honor Society award this year. The National Honor Society recognition is an accolade bestowed upon students who have demonstrated outstanding achievements in scholarship, leadership, service, and character. These students have not only excelled academically but have also shown dedication to serving their community and embodying the values of integrity and leadership.



We are proud of our National Honor Society recipients inducted on April 23, 2024, and we look forward to witnessing the great accomplishments they will achieve in the future as they continue to embody the values of the National Honor Society.

OUR OFFICER'S THIS YEAR WERE:

President Alex Herr, V-P Shane Hopkins, Secretary Ryan Kehres, and Treasurer Ben Trombetta

RETURNING MEMBERS FROM 2023:

Alex Herr, Shane Hopkins, Ryan Kehres, Charlie Roberto, Benjamin Trombetta, Alex Turpin, Sean Washington, Danny Winterich

NEW MEMBERS FOR 2024:

Jaydon Hauser, Charles Koppitch, William Lloyd, Joseph Morse, Jacob Shean, Aidan Spear, James Tangen, Deon Algee, Ahmad Bates, Alexander English, Nathan Zavoda, Caleb Bartlett, Oyekunle Olowu, Daniel Bozickovich, Russell Peterson, Jeremy Ade, Michael Grobelny, Cameron Huggins, and Ryan Winterich





Guiding Young Men Through
Faith, Tradition, and Leadership

High School Placement Tests

Saturday, October 12 — 9:00 AM-12:00 PM
 Wednesday, November 13 — 5:00 PM-8:00 PM
 Saturday, December 7 — 9:00 AM-12:00 PM

Fall Campus Tour

Tuesday, October 1 — 5:30 PM -7:00 PM

FALL OPEN HOUSE

Sunday, November 3

Mass — 10:00 AM
 Open House — 11:00 AM
 End Time — 12:30 PM



For admissions related questions, please contact Mike Stircula at admissions@cbhs.edu or 216-421-2080 ext. 356

[Learn More at cbhs.edu](https://www.cbhs.edu)

SPRING SPORTS WRAP-UP

BASEBALL

Varsity Baseball went into 2024 trying to build off of a District Runner-up finish from a year ago. They started off with some struggles, but built a lot of momentum and finished the regular season well with early May wins over Rocky River (9-0) and Lutheran West (14-3). These wins were part of a 13W-9L regular season record.

They lost to Norton in the Sectional Finals to end their season. **RJ Scoville '25** was named 3rd team News-Herald All-Star and **Luke Reed '24** and **Jackson Stoltz '25** were named to the News-Herald Honor Roll. Reed, **Nathan Zavoda '24**, and **Emerson White '24** graduate from this team with a lot of returning talent.



RJ Scoville on the mound vs Lake Catholic at Nobby's Ballpark.

LACROSSE

The Bengals ended their season under new head coach **Colin Covington** with a 4-13 record with some close losses amidst improved play overall.

Injuries to key attacker **Matt Torres '24** were among the challenges the Bengals faced, but **Lex Herr '25**, **Wyatt Toth '24**, and **Thaddeus Harris '25** provided a scoring punch for Benedictine. **Zach Reisner '24** had a solid year in goal and **Danny Bozickovich '24**, **James Rubadue '24** and **John McCalla '24** were steady starters on defense. Seniors **Fred Bonner '24**, **Dionte Sims '24**, and **Alex Turpin '24** made strong contributions, as well.



The Bengals celebrate Senior Night with their families.

TRACK AND FIELD

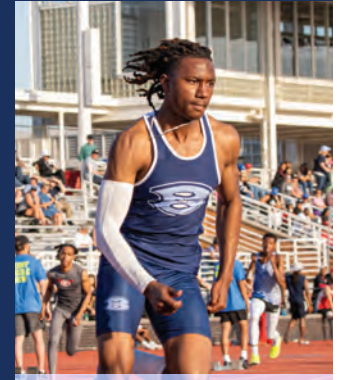
The Bengal Track and Field Team once again sent members to the OHSAA DII State Track Meet which was held at the University of Dayton this year. **Keion Mayberry '24** finished with the 9th best 400m and capped off a 3-time state qualifying career as a Bengal. **Chris Maloney '24** finished with the 12th best time in the 200m and ended a great year athletically where he also finished 4th in the State in Wrestling at 175lbs.

Thomas Maloney '24 was injured between a strong District performance and Regionals and could not participate in the 110m Hurdles or with the 100m and 200m relay teams which made it to the Regional Meet. Maloney, Maloney, Mayberry, **Mykel Henderson '26**, and **Carmello Jones '25** were on those teams, with Henderson in the 100m and Mayberry on the 200m.

Tito Wilson '24 qualified for Regionals in Shotput and **Joseph Pomnean '25** and **Donovan Valentine '25** both had strong District and Regional fill-in performances.



Thomas Maloney handing off to his brother Chris in warm-ups at Districts.



Keion Mayberry takes off in Perry at the District Meet.

SIGNING DAY

Congratulations to all of our graduated athletes from the Class of 2024 who will be continuing their athletic careers at the next level!



Back Row (Left to Right) Luke Reed, Darnell Johnson, Eddie Dinwiddie, Zavien McKinney
Front Row (Left to Right) Kris Smith, Matthew Torres, Wyatt Toth, Shamar Darling

BASKETBALL

Kris Smith
Kentucky Christian University

BOWLING

Wyatt Toth
Baldwin Wallace University

FOOTBALL

Shamar Darling
Allegheny College

Luke Reed
University of Akron

Eddie Dinwiddie
University of Mount Union

Zavien McKinney
Hocking College

LACROSSE

Matthew Torres
Heidelberg University

WRESTLING

Darnell Johnson
Wilmington College

CLASS NOTES & CAMPUS HAPPENINGS

Class of 2002

T.J. Powell, '02, is a 17 year police veteran and was lead investigator on the baby Jailyln case. You may recall that Jailyln Candelario's mother left her home alone for over 10 days which led to Jailyln succumbing to



dehydration and neglect. Officer Powell spoke on baby Jailyln's behalf during the perpetrator's sentencing on March 18, 2024. He gave Jailyln a voice when she had none and advocated on her behalf, when none of her family showed up. He and his partners delivered powerful "heartfelt speeches" that have been recognized on national and international platforms. In addition, Det. Powell was honored with the Cleveland Division of Police Chief's Letter and Chief's Coin, in commemoration of his hard work, dedication and commemorative speech.

Class of 2011

Zach Walker '11 returns to Benedictine this Fall as a new faculty member. Zach is entering his ninth year teaching and coaching. He shares that his family recently moved back to Cleveland, Ohio from Charleston, South Carolina after his wife finished her PhD at Medical University of South Carolina, which is why they moved there in 2019. Zach said, "I decided to come back to Benedictine because this school impacted my life immensely. What is a better way to give back than coming back to teach and coach future Men of Benedictine? I want to instill the lessons that I learned into upcoming generations of young men, and I believe in the mission and vision of this incredible institution."

Class of 2019

Bill Boehlke, '19 graduated from the United States Military Academy at West Point with a degree in Operations Research from the Department of Mathematics. Bill shared his news on LinkedIn saying "It's been a long time coming since attending the United States Military Academy Preparatory School back in 2019. This place has exposed me to many amazing and incredibly talented people and instructors and the lessons I've learned these past 5 years have been invaluable. I'm very excited to have the opportunity to lead soldiers alongside my best friends that graduated with me and the fellow officers that I'll cross paths with in the near future."



Did you know? The city of Lyndhurst is home to a team of Benedictine alumni and friends that help lead the city. Mayor Patrick Ward was elected November 2015. At that time, he appointed Lyndhurst residents John Luskin (Bengals football announcer) as Law Director and Prosecutor and **Raymond Schmidlin Jr. '82** as Assistant Law Director. Raymond has also been a member of the Lyndhurst Civil Service Commission since 2006 and has lived in Lyndhurst 60 years. **Charles Lopresti '89**, councilman at large since January 2007, is a highly educated graduate of BHS and holds the following degrees: J.D., LL.M., MPA, MBA, MCJ. He is Chief Counsel for the Ohio Lottery. Also, serves as a Major, Brigade Judge Advocate, 17th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, Army National Guard. **Stephen Gruschetsky '86** was appointed as ward 4 council in July 2016. He is a 21-year Lyndhurst resident. He is an OSU graduate with an MBA from Baldwin Wallace University. He is also chairman of the finance committee.



Pictured left to right John Luskin, Law Director, BHS football announcer, Raymond J. Schmidlin Jr., Assistant Law Director -1982, Charles LoPresti-Councilman -1989, Stephen Gruschetsky - Council President - 1986

Share Your News!

New Job? Engagement? Marriage? Baby? Professional Awards and Accolades?

We are always looking for fresh ideas and new content for our readers. Send your story ideas and personal updates to lschroeder@cbhs.edu.

IN MEMORIAM of alumni and friends of Saint Andrew Abbey and Benedictine High School

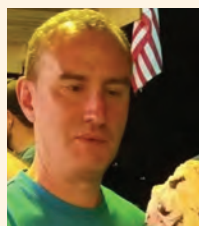


Bill Basel, 69, of the Class of 1974, passed away on May 22, 2024. Bill was a longtime member of St. Rita Parish. He was a frustrated, but always optimistic Cleveland sports fan. He was the strong, silent type; man of few words, but his presence was always felt. Quick with a joke and easy to laugh with and worked hard for many years to provide for his family.



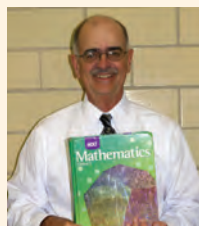
Dennis Courtad, 71, of the Class of 1971, died suddenly on June 19, 2024. He is survived by his wife MaryChris of 50 years and sons Chris, Tim, Tom, and Nick. He was a successful business owner and entrepreneur. For over 40 years he was the proud owner of "Courtad Inc," where he worked alongside his father, mother, wife and sons and was

known not only for his business expertise but also for his kind heart and generosity. His Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in Aurora.



Christopher Fontanella, 52, of the Class of 1989, died suddenly on June 16, 2024 after completing his daily run and preparing to attend a Father's Day family gathering. He was the brother of **Brian '90**. Chris attended Marquette University and later Temple University for graduate school achieving a doctorate degree in philosophy. He was working with information systems for schools. His

funeral Mass was celebrated at St. Clare's Church in Mayfield Heights.



Philip J. Hodanbosi, 76, of the Class of 1965, passed away on February 28th, 2024, in Physicians Hospital in East Naples, after a brief illness while vacationing on Marco Island. He resided in Westfield Center, Ohio. Phil Hodanbosi began his mathematics and science teaching career at Benedictine High School in the late '60s before enjoying a long career with the Barberton Schools.

After his passing, it was announced that a \$1.4 million grant that Mr. Hodanbosi and a faculty colleague had submitted last year to the state education department to secure new manufacturing and computer equipment for the district's machining and cyber security courses had been awarded.



Dr. Daniel Newton M.D., 55, of the Class of 1987, passed away on April 29, 2024. Following his graduation from Benedictine High School, he attended Loyola University Stritch School of Medicine and was accredited as an Interventional Cardiologist. He practiced at Summa Akron, Wooster Community Hospital, and Fisher-Titus Medical Center. His is survived by his wife Angela

and his children Hannah, Tyler, and Ellie.



William (Bill) Rini, 74, of the Class of 1967, died June 12, 2024 after a courageous battle with ALS. He was a partner with the law firm of Carlisle, McNellie, Rini, Kramer, and Ulrich. His 40-year career was marked by respect, compassion, and fairness. He served on



the Benedictine High School Board of Trustees. His funeral Mass was celebrated at St. Gregory's Church of Sacred Heart Parish in South Euclid by Fr. Joe Brankatelli, son of Bill's BHS classmate Ross '67. He is survived by his wife Dorothy and daughters Danielle, Megan, and Lauren.



Paul Shelling, 62, of the Class of 1979, passed away on August 7, 2023. At Benedictine, Paul was active in the band, Drama Club and National Honor Society. He worked as a software engineer at Progressive Insurance until a myriad of health issues forced his retirement. He is survived by son **Alex (BHS '03)** and brother **Peter (BHS '82)**.



John "Jack" St. John, 93, of the Class of 1949, passed away on February 28, 2024. Jack was one of three brothers who graduated from Benedictine High School; **Jim '50** and **Chuck '54**. Jack received a B.A. in English from John Carroll University and then served in the U.S. Army as a first lieutenant in Greenland. Working for many years in the family funeral business, he was a member of the Bedford

school board for several decades and officiated high school sports for more than 50 years. In later life, he obtained a B.S. in geology from Cleveland State University, and taught adult education courses in geology and archeology at Tri-C. His funeral Mass was celebrated at St. Mary's Church in Bedford, Ohio.

RECENTLY DECEASED

The following members of our Benedictine Community have gone on to Eternal Rest between February 21, 2024 and June 30, 2024. May they all Rest in Peace.

Class of	Name	Deceased
Class of 1948	John Oravec	3/18/2024
Class of 1949	John Hruby	4/23/2024
Class of 1949	John St. John	2/28/2024
Class of 1950	Peter Choukalas	6/6/2024
Class of 1951	Albert Onchak	4/25/2024
Class of 1953	Thomas Talty	6/15/2024
Class of 1954	Bernard Bocian	2/27/2024
Class of 1955	John DiCioccio	4/10/2024
Class of 1956	Raymond Salata	6/2/2024
Class of 1956	Richard Thomas	6/15/2024
Class of 1958	James Ziak	3/20/2024
Class of 1961	Robert Jankovsky	2/21/2024
Class of 1963	James Hosek	5/10/2024
Class of 1965	Philip Hodanbosi	2/28/2024
Class of 1966	Tony Russ	6/30/2024
Class of 1967	Richard Fienga	3/15/2024
Class of 1967	William Rini	6/12/2024
Class of 1968	Joseph Konecny	3/8/2024
Class of 1971	Dennis Courtad	6/19/2024
Class of 1974	Chester Baldzicki	3/3/2024
Class of 1974	William Basel	5/23/2024
Class of 1981	Chris Liederbach	2/26/2024
Class of 1982	Gregory Roscoe	3/7/2024
Class of 1987	Daniel Newton	4/29/2024
Class of 1989	Christopher Fontanella	6/16/2024
BHS friend	Francis Ondik	4/26/2024
BHS friend	Lawrence Robilotta	3/23/2024

Recently notified of earlier deaths

Class of 1984 Ralph Sierakowski 9/6/2021

If anyone knows of other recently deceased alumni, please contact the alumni office at 216-421-2080 ext. 342 or alumni@cbhs.edu.

Reunion Weekend

The Benedictine campus and Rufus Courtyard were buzzing on Friday, June 14th as we hosted the Mr. Benedictine dinner in the Atrium and kicked off Reunion Weekend. It's always great to see our alumni back on campus and enjoying the new amenities. For most, it was their first time seeing our new Spirit Store and they left with fresh logo wear and merch. The Class of 1954 celebrated their 70th Reunion with the Class of 1959 not far behind at 65 years! The Class of 1964 had many at their 60th reunion and the Class of 1974 was there in force at their 50th Reunion. Graduates with years ending in 4 and 9 reminisced with each other and even some of their adjacent schoolmates showed up! All got to celebrate their Benedictine experience and enjoy our new campus improvements with old friends.

We hope you enjoy the photos. Be sure to stay connected to the Home of Champions by visiting our alumni page here: www.cbhs.net/alumni





1982 & 84



1994



1999



2004



2014



2019

SEAN WASHINGTON

welcomed as the

72nd Mr. Benedictine

During Reunion Weekend, our 2024 Mr. Benedictine Sean Washington was welcomed into the ranks at the annual Mr. Benedictine Dinner. Sean, his mother Deana, and his brother Rodney '22 were there to meet close to 22 other Mr. Benedictines on the second floor of the Atrium. Sean spoke of how grateful he was to be amongst this group of esteemed graduates which ranged from our 2nd Mr. Benedictine Bishop Roger Gries, OSB '54 to our 71st Mr. Benedictine Jacob Dolan '23.



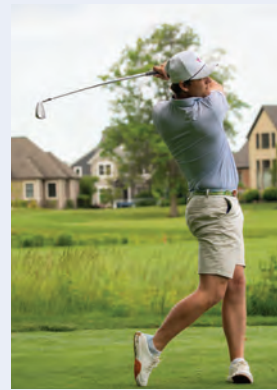
From left to right are: Charles Palsa '68, Nolan Hopkins '17, Bishop Roger Gries '54, Timothy Ditchman '92, Thomas Zagorski '03, Edward St. John '84, Joseph Ditchman '63, Marvin Conkle '22, Colin St. John '09, Matthew Stauffer '20, Nathaniel James Betts III '67, Sean Washington '24, Aaron Gilliam '14, Jamie Georgeson '78, Patrick Vrobel '99, Tom Evert '69, Jacob Dolan '23, Kenneth Moultrie '95, Thomas Longville '04, James Kebres '90, Dr. Manuel Martinez '73, Jerold Mihalek '66, and Michael Zelenka '97.

JOE MARINO MEMORIAL GOLF OUTING

The Joe Marino Memorial Golf Outing, named after deceased alumnus and former BHS Advancement Director Joe Marino '78, was held on Thursday, June 6, 2024 at Red Tail Golf Club. It was a picture perfect day for golf that began in prayer led by Bishop Roger Gries, OSB '54 followed by a beautiful rendition of the Star Spangled Banner sung by Joe's daughter, Ally.

Over the last 8 years, the outing has generated over \$300,000 to support the Marino Scholarship Fund at Benedictine. The scholarship celebrates Joe's zest for life and incredibly positive spirit. The scholarship is awarded to two students per class who meet the criteria established by his wife, Alison Marino.

Thank you to everyone who came out in support of our Men of Benedictine!



Turning Tax Dollars into Tuition Dollars

Dear Alumni and Friends,

The sight of athletic teams practicing, the band rehearsing, faculty prepping their classrooms, and our dedicated maintenance team tidying up final building improvements in early August means one thing... The start of the 98th academic year at Benedictine High School is just a few weeks away!

We will welcome another strong freshman class of 90+ young men from over 43 different grade schools to join the Home of Champions' family and are excited to see the growth of our returning upperclassmen as they matriculate to their next grade level. Because of you and your philanthropic support, we have kindly been able to award over 97% of our families with scholarships and tuition assistance to off-set the \$15,400 tuition cost. Thank you!

As you have read throughout our communications last year, Benedictine High School proudly launched our own Scholarship Granting Organization (SGO) called **BengalSGO**. As a reminder, **BengalSGO** is an accredited initiative that allows those living in the State of Ohio, who have an Ohio tax liability, to make a contribution up to \$750 or \$1,500 for married couples to receive a dollar for dollar tax credit. We communicate the opportunity by stating it is "Turning Tax Dollars into Tuition Dollars!"

To assist with some additional frequently asked questions, here are a few of the most common inquiries:

How do I receive the BengalSGO tax credit with the State of Ohio?

Taxpayers claim the credit when they complete their tax return by writing in their contribution amount on the designated lines of the Ohio individual income tax return and attaching their tax receipt from the **BengalSGO**. You will not receive the benefit of the **BengalSGO** if you do not have a tax liability to the State of Ohio or have other Ohio tax credits that reduce your Ohio tax liability to zero.

How does the new tax credit allow me a dollar for dollar credit?

- If you owe money for the current tax year, you deduct the amount you contribute to the **BengalSGO** from what you owe. Example: You owe \$1,000 to the state, and you make a tax credit contribution of \$750. You now only owe the state \$250.



Mr. Chris Lorber '04

- If the state owes you a refund for the current tax year, your refund will increase by the amount you contribute to the **BengalSGO**. Example: You are due a refund from the state of \$500. You make a tax credit contribution of \$750, and you've increased your refund to \$1,250.

To learn more about the **BengalSGO** opportunity, visit the website cbhs.edu/bengalsgo. You will aid in our mission and continue our rich tradition of educating young men in mind, body, and spirit.

We look forward to seeing you at an upcoming event!

Yours in St. Benedict,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Chris L '04".

Mr. Chris Lorber '04
Chief Operating Officer



ORA ET LABORA

St. Andrew Abbey / Benedictine High School
2900 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive
Cleveland, Ohio 44104-4898

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Abbot Gary Hoover, OSB '74
Publisher

Chris Lorber '04
Chief Operating Officer

Fr. Gerard Gonda, OSB '71
Contributing Editor

Lynne Schroeder
Director of Marketing

Brian Devers '08
*Director of Content &
Media Production*

Tom Bennett
Director of Development

Ainsley Gialamas
*Director of Advancement
Operations & Events*

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SAVE
THE
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2025

NEW LOCATION!!!
HILTON CLEVELAND DOWNTOWN

BLUE AND WHITE

GALALA