



St. Benedict's

PREPARATORY SCHOOL

ROOTED FORWARD

Inside the New Strategic Plan
Shaping Our Future





First-Ever Building Bridges Basketball Game

"Listening to this crowd, you might think a state championship is on the line. But there's something far more important happening here," WPIX News told viewers in a segment recorded inside the Dalton Gymnasium in the HAB. The happening was the first-ever Building Bridges basketball game, Gray Bees vs. New Jersey State Troopers, on February 16. The epic event was a natural outgrowth of the Building Bridges program and a testament to the genuine bonds of understanding developed between St. Benedict's students and Troopers over the past two years. CBS New York and nj.com also covered the event.

The game was down to the wire. The Troopers edged out the Gray Bees 39-34 and now students are ready for a rematch. More evolutions of Building Bridges, which consists of daylong challenges that bring kids of color and law enforcement together for experiences of shared adversity, are planned for the spring.

Visit sbp.org/press to see all of the Building Bridges media coverage.

Michael A. Fazio
Chief Advancement Officer

Alexandra Craft
Director of Marketing and Communications

Noreen Connolly H'11
Managing Editor

John Huss '81
Senior Director of Advancement

Ron Jandoli
Communications Officer

Michael Scanlan H'97
Photographer

John Jones
NJ Advance Media
Photographer

Erbach Communications Group
Editorial and Design Services

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On the Cover

Fr. Mark DiLone, O.S.B.
Marcos Maldonado '24
Jesse Alexander '81
Riko Joseph '35
Grace Lenahan
Tom Kilkenny '61
Totemi Adeyinka '24

Mission Statement

Guided by the Gospel and in service to Newark and its surrounding communities, St. Benedict's Prep builds community, tends to the heart, educates the mind and develops leaders.

How to Reach Us

520 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.
Newark, NJ 07102
(973) 792-5752
www.sbp.org
graybee@sbp.org

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Our Future is Bright

Fifty years ago this spring, I was the brand new Headmaster of an unproven school, struggling to fill seats. My brother monks asked daily, “How’s admissions going?” I always responded, “Like gangbusters!” no matter how bad the situation. Then, I’d find an excuse to slip away to make another round of phone calls or visits to talk up our new school venture. By the time July 2, 1973, rolled around, the date of our first Convocation and Summer Phase, there were 80 kids enrolled in Grades 9-11. A far cry from the 500-plus Gray Bees who attended in Benedict’s heyday, but it was a start.

In 2023, our circumstances have vastly changed. There are nearly 950 kids in our care, from the

youngest saints in the Elementary Division, to the co-ed Middle Division and single sex Girls and Boys Prep Divisions. Our facilities are stretched beyond capacity. The lasting impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic have taught us that kids need even more experiential learning, not less. Given our extraordinary growth and commitment to accompanying kids from in and around Newark, St. Benedict’s has reached another crossroads in its history.

Which brings me to *Rooted Forward: The Strategic Plan for St. Benedict’s Prep*, approved unanimously by the Board of Trustees earlier in the academic year. The plan outlines a foundational strategy to strengthen St. Benedict’s Prep and encompasses priorities and lines of effort that will inform our decision-making and drive progress over the next few years. I urge you to read the cover story detailing some of the work already underway (article begins on page 8).

Everyone in our community has a stake in the success of *Rooted Forward*. If you feel strongly that future Gray Bees get the same opportunities you did, familiarize yourself with strategic plan initiatives that will ensure our traditions and legacy continue. If you’ve wondered why fundraising appeals land so frequently in your inbox, review the section on our financial model to understand how a larger endowment will strengthen finances. If you want St. Benedict’s to be an even better Benedict’s for your kids and grandkids, support the people and programs shaping the future of this institution.

Worthy achievements are never easy. *Rooted Forward* compels us to tackle enormous challenges and opportunities in the days ahead. Most of you know me as pragmatic, yet I’m incredibly optimistic about our community’s ability to come together and do hard things. We do it every day. That’s how I can say with great certainty, “Our future is bright.”

Courage!

Edwin D. Leahy O.S.B.

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

TEAMWORK

The *Rooted Forward Strategy Team* developed the strategic plan. Many thanks to Abbot Augustine Curley, O.S.B. '74, Jim Duffy H'16, Michael Fazio and Gus Gusentine.



A Wider World View

Bicycling to school. Fútbol matches. Pannenkoeken (pancake) parties. A visit to Amsterdam’s Anne Frank Museum. Twelve Gray Bees stepped out of their comfort zones and gained a wider world perspective when the Netherlands Exchange with Supreme College (formerly Jac P. Thijssse College) restarted in February. The international exchange was paused for two years due to COVID-19. Students from the Girls and Boys Prep Divisions were warmly welcomed by their Dutch hosts and resided with Supreme College families for the week, which allowed them to become fully immersed in the culture. St. Benedict’s will reciprocate the hospitality. The group of students from the Netherlands arrived on March 19.



50 Years of New Beginnings

The Interdisciplinary Project presents an extraordinary learning opportunity each year. Gray Bees explore a meaningful theme from multiple academic disciplines, which is celebrated by the St. Benedict's Prep community. This year's theme, "50 Years of New Beginnings, 1973-2023" examined the evolution of St. Benedict's from a fledgling enterprise in 1973 to the robust K-12 Catholic school it is today. It's a rich topic that instills critical thought while developing students' creative and artistic skills according to Art Department Chair Pamela Wye-Hunsinger H'18.

In art classes for instance, Girls and Boys Prep Division students tackled concepts like metamorphosis and the artist's perspective utilizing the idea of new beginnings. They researched various topics — jobs the monks of Newark Abbey assumed during the one-year period St. Benedict's closed, changes in uniforms over the decades, the partnership with the U.S. Naval Academy, the birth of the Girls Prep Division — and produced striking works on canvas styled to look like stained glass. The theme was also explored in watercolors, pop art pieces inspired by Peter Max and graphic storytelling, "all to underscore the point that the School is constantly evolving and changing," said Ms. Wye-Hunsinger.

This year's showcase for the Interdisciplinary Project was held on March 30. In addition to artwork, the annual celebration featured academic projects, performances by music ensembles and the Drama Guild and many student clubs. The packed cafeteria, filled with students, faculty, staff and family members, was a proper and powerful testament to "50 Years of New Beginnings."

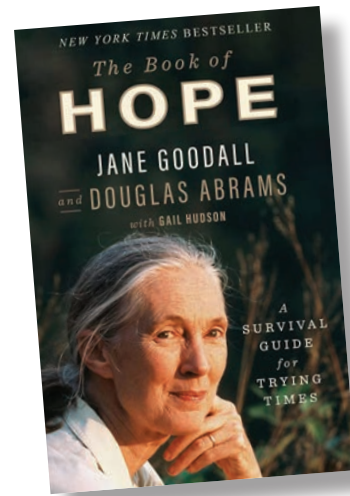
SENIOR CLASS GIFT

For the past 10 years, the Senior Class Gift Campaign has been an opportunity for the graduating class to participate in the Annual Fund and become educated about how their soon-to-be *alma mater* is able to carry on. It often comes as a surprise to them that St. Benedict's operating budget is nearly \$19 million annually. And every year, it continues to grow.

"St. Benedict's is different from other private schools, where families pay tuition and it pretty much covers the cost of operations," said Seth DeMatha '23, the coordinator of the Senior Gift Campaign for the Boys Prep Division. Funding operational

expenses through tuition alone would be antithetical to Benedict's mission to ensure children in underserved communities have access to quality education.

"The majority of funding for St. Benedict's comes from alumni and friends. This is why it is important to emphasize early and often to current students that they need to stay connected to this place and give back like others have done for us," said Samantha Richardson '23, the point person for the Girls Prep Division's Senior Gift Campaign. "Scholarships, athletics, the counseling center and nearly every building here only exist because of donor support."



CLASS OF '64 BONDS WITH THE GIRLS PREP DIVISION

"Our world needs women like you," is the message the Class of 1964 delivered to the Girls Prep Division on November 4, 2022. The occasion was a special Convocation and the gifting of *The Book of Hope: A Survival for Trying Times* by Jane Goodall and Douglas Abrams to every senior member in the Division. The initiative was the brainchild of Don Gerberg '64, who was inspired by Goodall's message and personal story of persistence and thought it would resonate with young women at The Hive. Mr. Gerberg also saw an opportunity for the Class of '64 to connect with the growing Division and demonstrate, "how rich St. Benedict's history is and how extensive the greater Gray Bee alumni network is that young women are now a part of."

With the help of Kevin Moore '64 and Art San Filippo '64, the trio reached out to their Gray Bee class and raised enough money to gift a copy to every senior class member and then some. "It felt like a good initiative to close the loop between older alumni and this class of young women," said Mr. Moore. "It's our way of saying, 'We believe you have a rightful place at St. Benedict's Prep.'" The Class of 1964 plans to continue the program for the Classes of 2024, 2025 and 2026. Read more about this initiative in the online Spring magazine at sbp.org/magazine.



'Under the Hood' Series Debuts

NEW VIDEO SERIES FEATURES THE BENEDICTINE MONKS OF NEWARK ABBEY

A new video anthology capturing the memories, history and traditions that St. Benedict's Prep was built on, debuted on March 22. Dubbed, "Under the Hood," the series features the Benedictine monks of Newark Abbey, Abbot Augustine Curley, O.S.B. '74, Fr. Albert Holtz, O.S.B. '60, Fr. Edwin Leahy, O.S.B. '63 and Fr. Philip Waters '63, who provide fascinating firsthand accounts of the origin of many Gray Bee traditions, the closure and resurrection of St. Benedict's in 1972 and 1973, as well as the historic changes that have allowed the Benedict's community to grow and continue to thrive.

"Under the Hood" coincides with the 50th anniversary of The Hive's revival. Abbot Augustine said the project is vital so that future generations of Gray Bees better understand their place in the St. Benedict's story and legacy. "Archives hold the institutional memory of the community. Students can see how things have changed in many ways over the years and how things have not changed in important aspects," he said. "Traditions are what give you connection. Adopted kids become part of the family by learning the family story. They need to be rooted, be connected." Watch the series in its entirety at sbp.org/underthehood.



GRAY BEE CHESS TOURNAMENT

The Chess Club hosted its first tournament February 9-March 6. It was a competitive event involving 20 participants from the Middle Division, Boys Prep Division and faculty. Players were divided into four groups of five; two victors from each group advanced to the quarterfinals, semifinals and final. Organizers hope the inaugural tournament will be the start of a new tradition at The Hive. "There will be plenty more to come," said Daniel Da Rocha '24, president of the Chess Club. The club is open to seasoned and rookie players.



CLASS OF 2023 REAPS THE REWARDS OF EARLY APPLICATIONS

College placement plans kicked off early for the Class of 2023 since every member took the Senior Portfolio Class during Summer Phase. The head start on essay writing, college visits and to-do lists prompted more Gray Bees to submit Early Decision and Early Action applications, with impressive outcomes.

In December, four seniors in the Boys Prep Division (Pedro Cena '23, Marcilio Soares '23, Carl Olivier Estime '23 and Guitze Rodriguez '23), earned early admission and full scholarships to Boston College, Columbia University and Bowdoin College respectively, through the QuestBridge National College Match. Before the close of Fall Term, Senior Group Leader William Register '23 received an appointment to the U.S. Naval Academy and four Gray Bees were admitted Early Decision to Boston College (Kelvin Cooley '23 and Luis Suriel '23), Villanova University (Belmar Joseph '23) and Lehigh University (Kritihik Rajasegar '23).

Since Early Decision is binding, many more students applied Early Action to colleges and universities. Members of the Girls and Boys Prep Divisions have received acceptances to NJIT, Rutgers-Newark, Rutgers-New Brunswick, Montclair State University and Monmouth University, and more decisions are expected this spring.

"Getting in," is one part of the comprehensive college placement process, according to Susanne Mueller. "We review all financial offers with our students," the Dean of College Placement and Career Development noted. "We don't want students to graduate college with more than \$25,000 to \$30,000 in debt." While the majority of Gray Bees will opt for four and two-year colleges, the Office of College Placement and Career Development advises and helps seniors make plans for the military, vocational schools and apprenticeships. A complete recap of the Class of 2023's post-graduation plans will appear in the summer issue of *St. Benedict's Prep* magazine.



Stellar Winter Season 9TH STATE PREP A TITLE FOR BASKETBALL, PLUS THREE WRESTLERS NAMED ALL-AMERICANS

Not gonna happen. Blair Academy entered the packed Dalton Gymnasium looking for an upset in the NJISAA Prep championship game on February 24. Bolstered by the home crowd, the Gray Bees dominated the court, won 76-55 and captured the program's ninth state title in 11 years. The season was also notable for 16 straight victories and Head Coach Mark Taylor's 300th career win.

Wrestling also notched an impressive season. The team placed 12th out of 128 teams at the 87th Annual National Wrestling Championships, February 24-25 in Upper Marlboro, Md. Head Coach Frank DiPiano '01 saw three of his wrestlers, Shane Cartagena-Walsh '23, Declan Casey '23 and Oumar Tounkara '25 come home as All-Americans. The trio placed fourth, sixth and seventh respectively.

Faculty in Focus

AN EARTH DAY QUESTION: HOW DO YOU INCLUDE LESSONS ON THE ENVIRONMENT?



Students in Biochemistry class learn about the challenges of plastic recycling. A project about plastics awareness and recycling is the basis of their midterm project. I frequently find that students are surprised by how much plastic waste they generate personally when I ask them to take an informal inventory of the stuff they throw out in one (school) day. The students, in general, have no good information — before they begin their research project — about how much work it takes to recycle certain types of plastic. By the end of their research project, the students are much better informed about the impact of plastic on the environment. I've even convinced a few of them to bring a (metal) fork from home to use for eating lunch they bring from home rather than relying on a single-use plastic fork.

Dennis Lansang, M.D. Science Department



The impact of disposable water bottles comes up in my Summer Citizen Math course. Students hone-in on different mathematical skills and use them as a lens to look at critical issues. One topic is, "Are disposable water bottles actually necessary?" Students practice their measuring skills and work with surface area and volume calculations. We use these skills to look at the efficiency of the plastic used by different companies for various sizes of disposable water bottles. The topic sequence wraps up with watching the Nestle documentary, *Bottled Life*, which shows the desperate need for bottled water in some locations contrasted with the greed and scams of the companies that take and resell water back to those same places and all over the world. I don't know that my lessons stop students from using disposable water bottles, but it does make them give a second thought to their actions. They begin to recognize the impact their actions have on others because we are all connected.

Stephanie F. Kranz-Santoro Chair, Mathematics Department Gray Bee Garden, Co-Moderator



Each term, my Earth Science class has lessons and a project concerning greenhouse gases, the carbon cycle and global warming. Student teams research a variety of "What if?" questions to determine the effects of greenhouse gases that get added to the atmosphere from human activities, and how those additions affect other portions of the global carbon cycle. Then, they propose solutions to those problems that we discuss and evaluate in class. The end product is usually a poster and an in-class presentation. Depending on time, students may also do an activity to help determine their personal carbon footprint.

Jon Marlow Academic Dean of Freshmen Chair, Science Department



A SUCCESSFUL VISIT

When students from Noor-Ul-Iman School in Monmouth Junction visited St. Benedict's last month, Associate Headmaster for Mission Fr. Mark DiLone, O.S.B., thanked the many people here who made the visit a success. He noted that the visit centered on leadership and faith with student presentations on Lent and Ramadan. Also, nine St. Benedict's students have been participating in seminars on racism and antisemitism with students at the Jacob Kushner Yeshiva School in Livingston.

ROOTED FORWARD

“We’re trying to live as Christians, be light for others while respecting others. What we do by ‘Announcing the Gospel’ is say, ‘Here’s The Rule, here’s what we take from it, and here’s how to run with it.’”

Fr. Mark DiLone, O.S.B.
Associate Headmaster for Ministry



A foundational strategy for the future, *Rooted Forward: The Strategic Plan for St. Benedict’s Prep*, is driving improvement, investment and recommitment to standards and principles The Hive holds dear. The actual work of manifesting vision into action has begun on **Five Strategic Priorities: Ministry, Community, Ecosystem, Endowment and Experience. Here’s a look at how the new strategic plan is shaping up.**

If you want to visit Abbot Augustine Curley, O.S.B. ‘74, you won’t find him in a remote corridor. The new Abbot’s office is across the hallway from the Dalton Gymnasium, a central location in the HAB where the door is usually open. Kids stick their heads in to say “Hi” or stop by for conversation and tea if they are between early college classes at NJIT or Rutgers-Newark. It’s a busy area, so how does the Abbot get any work done?

Being present and more visible to students is the work, or a significant part of the Benedictine monks’ ministry at Newark Abbey. It’s also a concrete example of involving the monastic brotherhood more fully in St. Benedict’s Prep, a core line of effort outlined in the strategic plan to recommit to Ministry by **Announcing the Gospel Through Prayer and Work**. The monastery recently restarted gatherings that had been paused due to COVID-19. Student dinners and Mass with the Benedictine monks (along with a few games of friendly pool) are now a regular recurrence in the Hospitality Center and the monks are looking to branch out with events geared to faculty and others.

In a diverse, multi-faith community like The Hive, “Announcing the Gospel,” is practiced by example. “It’s more of here’s how we live and here’s what we do because we’re Christians,” said Abbot Augustine. “Many of our kids come from terrible circumstances. ‘Announcing the Gospel’ is another way to announce that you don’t have to be defined by where you come from. It’s a way of saying there’s hope.”

Rooted Forward aims to enhance interactions between the monks and parishioners at St. Mary’s Church and Newark Abbey. It is also identifying ways to engage more broadly with the City of Newark. Strategic Priority Ministry is led by Br. Bruno Mello, O.S.B. and Director of Theatre Patricia Flynn H’95.

Everything good about St. Benedict’s stems from community. While the community within The Hive retained its connectedness throughout the global pandemic, outward connections were halted or operated in cyberspace. Job one for the strategic planning committee on Community tasked with **Deepening and Expanding Our Relationships and Connections** is rebuilding partnerships in the U.S. and overseas. Progress is already underway. The interfaith seminar on antisemitism and racism with Rae Kushner Yeshiva High School is meeting in person and was even featured on an NBC New York segment, “Fighting Hate by Forging Friendships.” The international exchange with Supreme College (formerly Jac P. Thijsse College) in the Netherlands restarted in February, an experience that broadens the cultural and global perspectives of Gray Bees.

Relationships are multiplying within the Fr. Mark Payne Institute, as well. A resource for public, charter, Catholic and private schools nationwide interested in adapting Benedict’s model of community, student leadership, counseling and experiential education, new partnerships have been formed with schools in Cleveland, Ohio and Wilmington, Del. The Institute has met with or hosted schools from New York, New Jersey, Texas and Arizona. “The more we are able to connect with people, whether it’s across the street or across the country, it helps us as an institution to learn from other schools and expand our offerings to students,” said Glenn Cassidy, Ed.D. ‘90, director of the Fr. Mark Payne Institute. “Creating all of these connection points allows us to step outside of ourselves and see our relationship to the larger society.”

Other lines of effort to make the St. Benedict’s community stronger and more resilient will involve increasing diversity and representation on the Board of Trustees and bolstering civic relationships. Fr. Mark DiLone, O.S.B., Associate Headmaster for Mission, and Dr. Cassidy are co-leading the Strategic Priority of Community.

Enrollment at The Hive increased 30% from 2017 to 2022, a good problem to have considering the dramatic decline in Catholic school admissions across the country. The growth – spurred largely by the Elementary Division and establishing the Girls Prep Division – has also brought growing pains that *Rooted Forward* is set to address via the Strategic Priority Ecosystem to **Ensure Structural and Operational Effectiveness**. Faculty recruitment and retention is a key line of effort to achieving the goal, and recruiting for mission is at

“Having our own space for the Girls Prep Division would give us a feeling of ownership. It would give us a real home and a place to grow and be ourselves.”

Totemi Adeyinka ‘24

The Facilities Master Plan is central to ensuring a thriving Girls Prep Division for the future.



“We are the beneficiaries of those who gave for us. This place has been here for 150 years and served those trying to make it in the world. We have an obligation to pay it forward and do for others what others have done for us.”

Tom Kilkenny '61 and
Jesse Alexander '81



the center of it. “What makes Benedict’s, Benedict’s is people committed to the mission,” said Dean of Administration Michael Scanlan H’97, who is co-leading this portion of the strategic plan with Chief Advancement Officer Mike Fazio.

Hiring mission-aligned candidates and providing more intentional training and support for adults to acclimate to St. Benedict’s unique approach can help retain talented faculty, coaches and staff. The Ecosystem committee will also study compensation to determine how the School can offer the most competitive employee package possible.

With nearly 1,000 kids on the Property and at the Elementary Division facility on Livingston Street, the Facilities Master Plan is another crucial element in elevating the environment in which St. Benedict’s operates.

The School has contracted with the architectural firm Beyer Blinder Belle to develop the Master Plan with the input of key stakeholders. Chief priorities include a suitable home for the Girls Prep Division, deferred maintenance and space solutions that accommodate what Gray Bees need: dynamic learning experiences, tending to the heart and room to develop their talents in activities and sports.

Have you ever wondered why a constant stream of texts, calls, emails, letters and social media appeals are directed your way every year, asking for support of The Hive? St. Benedict’s financial model is a big reason why. Most private and Catholic schools fund annual operating expenses through tuition. St. Benedict’s does it through fundraising. Nearly \$13 million was raised in 2021-22, which covered approximately 70% of the School’s operating expenses, including financial assistance to 85% of Middle and Prep Division students. Roughly the same amount of money needs to be raised, *every single year*, a challenging circumstance that *Rooted Forward* seeks to address.

The Strategic Priority Endowment presents a smarter path to meet St. Benedict’s annual operating costs and secure the institution’s future.

Preserving Legacy Through Endowment Growth aims to triple the endowment from approximately \$36 million to \$100 million, yielding more investment income to underwrite school operations, manage inflationary costs, and ensure Benedict’s remains viable and available to all who seek it. A significantly larger endowment works on behalf of the School, allowing for more manageable annual giving goals. It can also free up time and effort to develop advancement programs that further improve St. Benedict’s.

Director of Annual Giving Lauren Alampi and Executive Assistant to the Headmaster and Chief Advancement Officer Susan Kronberg are co-leading the endowment initiative. The central line of effort is an endowed giving marketing campaign, open to donors at any capacity. “A gift to the endowment, no matter the amount, has an impact,” explained the committee co-chairs. “The more we can grow the endowment, the more investment income we will have, lightening the lift of our annual giving initiatives.”

Named endowed giving opportunities for scholarships and program support will also be communicated to the Benedict’s donor community once finalized.

St. Benedict’s has been way ahead of the pedagogy pack since its rebirth in July 1973, because monks and teachers were always willing to adapt and change the curriculum, daily schedules, even the length of the school year — 11 months — in service of kids. Now, another reimagining is underway, inspired by the Strategic Priority Experience of **Advancing Excellence in Teaching and Student Outcomes**. A committee of seven faculty and staff, led by Rich Molina '06, physics teacher and Grace Lenahan, religion teacher, are pursuing multiple lines of effort that include boosting professional development opportunities, integrating more academic differentiation into educational programs, and engaging faculty and students in efforts to recommit to school life and community standards.

“Almost 40% of faculty are new to St. Benedict’s as of four years ago,” explained Mr. Molina. “This is the first time in a long time that we have a large number of people unfamiliar with the intricacies of our community and how things are done. There is an onboarding process, but there are so many things you have to learn as an adult or employee at The Hive.” A more intentional onboarding process is envisioned by the committee on Experience, one that outlines the expectations for adult participation while providing support for faculty to successfully manage the many demands the accompaniment of Benedict’s students requires.

The primary effort involves innovating the curriculum, which Ms. Lenahan described as a paradigm shift. Members of the committee and a separate working group have been meeting regularly with Headmaster Fr. Edwin Leahy, O.S.B. '63, about academic differentiation and the goal to introduce more critical life skills into traditional classroom learning. Capabilities that Gray Bees lean on for a lifetime — persistence, problem solving and resilience — are developed in large part during Spring and Summer phases. How can that be extended and integrated into the entire academic year? “It’s the grit part of the curriculum, which involves changing how we think,” Ms. Lenahan said. “What it may look like is still preliminary, but I’m excited. I think it’s needed.”

Balance will be key since the majority of Gray Bees are college-bound. Mr. Molina recalled a humanities course on Newark that he took as a St. Benedict’s student that provides a good model for balance. The class was academic. It encompassed traditional and project-based learning. And it was relevant to students’ lives. Gray Bees were so engaged in the study of their city, that learning how to source primary documents and write research papers (critical skills needed to succeed in college) didn’t seem like a chore.

However the re-envisioning of curriculum happens, it will happen soon. Fr. Edwin set the next academic year, 2023-24, as the target date for the new curriculum to be put into practice. Stay tuned. **B**

“Reimagining the curriculum will be a paradigm shift. The academic piece will still be there, but we’re looking to incorporate more out-of-the-box thinking to teach our students skills they’ll need after St. Benedict’s.”

Grace Lenahan
Religion Teacher





After Class

WITH REV. PAUL TAYLOR, O.S.B., PH.D., PRESIDENT OF SAINT VINCENT COLLEGE



Our Common Mission

St. Benedict's Prep and Saint Vincent College in Latrobe, Pa., share a long history and common mission. College President Rev. Paul Taylor, O.S.B., Ph.D., sat for an interview about our Benedictine connection.

You went to Saint Vincent College and entered the monastery in 1987 after graduation. What influenced your path to become a Benedictine monk and Catholic priest?

I came to Saint Vincent College to be a mathematics major and to learn to teach mathematics. In the context of doing that, I got to know the monks and thought, 'This might be something I would like to try.' It really was a getting-to-know experience and finding that fit. I've been trying the life now for 36 years and have had a wonderful experience in so many ways.

I did go to graduate school to pursue mathematics, eventually pursued higher education administration, and came back to Latrobe in 1996. Since then, I've worked in a variety of roles and had the great gift to get to know the College on so many levels, which really prepared me for the work I do now.

You became connected to St. Benedict's Prep a few years into your tenure at Saint Vincent College. Can you tell us about that?

Fr. Edwin visited our monastery in 1999 and invited me to visit St. Benedict's Prep, where I was immediately welcomed by the monastic community and faculty. One of the strongest connections I made was with Dr. Ivan Lamourt. He took great care to make sure I felt welcome and introduced me to students. Our common mission for St. Benedict's and Saint Vincent students is held closely by us, and I later invited Dr. Lamourt to be on our Board of Directors. I have to say the relationships with Fr. Edwin, Abbot Melvin, Abbot Augustine and all the monks and faculty has been tremendous. I always feel very much at home in Newark because of their Benedictine hospitality and our common sense of knowing what community is as Benedictines.

Our institutions share a founder, Fr. Boniface Wimmer, O.S.B. You wrote your dissertation on Boniface Wimmer and the beginnings of American Benedictine education. What did you learn about Fr. Boniface and

the relationship between Saint Vincent Archabbey and College and St. Benedict's and Newark Abbey?

When Boniface Wimmer came to the U.S. in 1846, he came with a particular mission in mind: minister to the German and Catholic immigrants to keep their faith through pastoral work and education. He knew that education was the primary instrument by which immigrants would be able to enter mainstream American society. He also knew that Catholic immigrants were discriminated against, so Wimmer set up a school and community that would welcome them. Once Wimmer was here, he realized that there were more people in need than German Catholics. There were Irish Catholics, Italian Catholics, Eastern European immigrants and even Native American communities that he served.

For Wimmer, it was about immersing himself into the broader community of people so that faith could be communicated, ministered and extended. He was so motivated in Germany when he heard the plight of immigrants, and asked [to come to the U.S.] so often he got the name, träumer, dreamer in German. It was derogatory. His brother monks made fun of him but thank God Wimmer was a träumer because we're all here living out these practices because of his dreams.

Generations of Gray Bees have matriculated to Saint Vincent College. What do St. Benedict's graduates bring to the Saint Vincent community?

Benedict's students bring a connection that existed before they step foot on campus. They know the system and are comfortable communicating often, directly and freely with me and the other monks. That's very refreshing. They also bring great diversity because they become part of a growing community at Saint Vincent, where they and others from around the nation bring their own unique experiences, whether it's from Bolivia, Guyana or the African-American community

in Newark. Our community is richer because we all get to learn more about each other.

You were named president of Saint Vincent in 2019, a few months before COVID-19.

What Benedictine values or principles sustained faith and the community through such a challenging time?

Every one of them. The 10 Benedictine Hallmarks were leaned on heavily through the global pandemic. To name a few, priority of community, respect for the other, especially when dealing with the health of community members, and humility. We had to be able to listen to differing perspectives regarding science, medicine and proposed remedies, and make decisions, sometimes without full information. We worked with the priority of community, priority of one another and priority of humility realizing that we don't know everything and to look to others for wisdom.

The Rule of Saint Benedict, the book of precepts Benedictine monks continue to live by, was written in the sixth century. Why is it so relevant today?

Benedict had such great insight into the human psyche and always put the human person in the perspective of God. How do we as human people stand before God? It's the perspective of creature and our relationship with the creator. That sets the whole tone for who we are, how we are to live our lives and be together as one. Benedict also understood that leaders need to make difficult decisions. He knew that sometimes brothers will fall. He talks about wayward brothers, how to correct faults and about the key values of humility, obedience and silence. When you hold fast to those values the human-to-human relationship is stronger, and the human-to-God relationship is stronger.

It's all centered in the person of Jesus Christ and our perspective as Christian believers that the values Benedict had in the sixth century held western culture together.

He's the patriarch of western civilization because he had a priority for everything that was beautiful and not just religious. He saved books. He saved art. His community saved people when they were wandering in the wilderness and monasteries were refuges from thieves and killers. Benedict's priority for every human person being sacred, Benedict's priority for love of God and love of neighbor and the correction of faults, means there is a priority for each monk to work at. Sometimes the work is very hard in difficult circumstances, but that is why I think his wisdom is so important today.

Is there anything we haven't discussed regarding the relationship between Saint Vincent College and St. Benedict's Prep?

What I appreciate the most about this connection and relationship is the shared priority we have. Young people who come to us are looking for a way to be successful and happy in their lives. They choose a path that is unique and perhaps more difficult by going to St. Benedict's or Saint Vincent. They choose a path that has values, but also realize that by choosing this path, they have an opportunity not just for a successful career but a meaningful and joyful life. It's the communities of St. Benedict's, Newark Abbey, and Saint Vincent Archabbey and College that challenge our students to go beyond just book learning. While that is critically important, it is the human formation that extends from the classroom that will create a life of opportunities for our graduates. But it takes making a choice of community that might be more difficult. That's St. Benedict's and that's Saint Vincent. **B**

Rev. Paul Taylor, O.S.B., Ph.D., is the 18th president of Saint Vincent College. Prior to his appointment in 2019, he held an array of leadership roles in Institutional Advancement, Admissions and Financial Aid. The extended version of this interview can be found at shp.org/magazine.



THE MAGNANIMOUS LEGACY OF JAY HARTMANN

Honorary alum leaves entire estate to The Hive

James "Jay" Hartmann H'08 didn't attend St. Benedict's Prep. And his many years based in Newark as a corporate communications executive never brought him in contact with The Hive either. A few years after he retired in 2001 however, Mr. Hartmann visited 520 MLK Boulevard, which prompted a lasting affinity for the Benedict's mission. When the honorary alumnus passed away in May 2022 at the age of 78, he left his entire estate to the School.

"It's such a magnanimous gift," said Robert J. DiQuollo '65, chairman of the Board of Trustees, who is also the executor's representative for the estate. "I'm so impressed by him and what he obviously felt for St. Benedict's Prep. Jay obviously understood what Benedict's is all about."

Jay Hartmann was born in 1943, the only child of Joseph and Frances Hartmann. He graduated from Bishop Loughlin Memorial

High School in Brooklyn and went on to St. John's University and the Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth College. After graduation, he enlisted in the U.S. Army, completed Officer Candidates School and was stationed at Fort Dix during the Vietnam War.


Mr. Hartmann then began a long and successful career in corporate communications for several banking institutions, rising to Senior Vice President at Midatlantic Bank and PNC. Friends described him as brilliant, irreverent, funny and stubborn, and also a man who cared very deeply about others. Mr. Hartmann was a devoted parishioner at St. Rose of Lima Church in Short Hills, N.J., and it was through the parish ministry that he was introduced to The Hive.

In 2003, Hartmann and his good friend, Joanne Kennedy, were volunteering at a Catholic grammar school in Newark. They accompanied three of the school's eighth grade students on a visit to The Hive, one of whom was Simon Clayton '08. Paul Thornton '63, then head of advancement, happened to greet the group that day.

"Jay's relationship with the School developed organically," Mr. Thornton remembered. "Step by step he became more aware and involved in Benedict's to support Simon." Mr. Hartmann volunteered in the Office of Advancement, where his "sharp eye and sharp pencil" were beneficial in the editing and proofreading of annual reports, newsletters and other fundraising materials. He introduced benefactors to The Hive and made known his interest in remembering St. Benedict's in his estate. Most of all, Mr. Hartmann was incredibly proud of his association with St. Benedict's and being named an honorary alumnus in 2015.

For the 50th reunion of his graduation from the Tuck School of Business in 2016, he shared his admiration for St. Benedict's with classmates and expressed gratitude for his status of honorary Gray Bee in the Class of 2008. Since he had no immediate family, Mr. Hartmann had long planned to leave his estate to non-profit organizations. Still, it was an astonishing act of generosity that the entirety of the estate, estimated at nearly \$4 million, was left to St. Benedict's.

The proceeds will support areas close to Mr. Hartmann's heart: named scholarships in memory of his parents, and program support for the English Department and the Office of College Placement and Career Development. The gift impacts the School's finances in other ways, as well. "St. Benedict's has to raise \$10 to \$12 million annually to fund operations," explained Mr. DiQuollo. An estate gift of this magnitude, the largest planned gift received thus far in St. Benedict's history, helps the School reach its annual fundraising goal faster, freeing advancement staff up to raise money for other programs and priorities.

Mr. Thornton reflected on the rapport and friendship developed with Mr. Hartmann over the years. "Sometimes friends become donors and donors become friends," he stated. "Jay was a great example of a donor becoming a friend. He was exceedingly generous to us the more involved he became in St. Benedict's, and I think he derived great satisfaction from that." 

SAY HELLO TO THE HONOREES

The St. Benedict's Prep community will honor Peter Wilderotter '72, Joseph Mosquera, M.D. '72 and Patricia Flynn H'95 at the 2023 Annual Scholarship Gala on May 11.

The 2023 Annual Scholarship Gala caps a year of community-wide commemorations, from the 50th anniversary of the 1972 closure of St. Benedict's Prep to its resurrection in 1973. It is altogether fitting that the honorees are all connected to that pivotal time and will be recognized with the Medal of St. Benedict's for decades of dedicated service to The Hive and the greater community.



Peter Wilderotter '72

Peter Wilderotter '72 and **Joseph Mosquera, M.D. '72** began St. Benedict's during its Centennial year, a time of celebration and hope. By February of their senior year, the School announced its closure, which Mr. Wilderotter called shocking. "There was just this sense of profound loss," he recalled in an interview for St. Benedict's Sesquicentennial in 2018. Both Gray Bees went on to make tremendous contributions to their respective professions by answering the call to serve others.

When Mr. Wilderotter was a teenager battling Hodgkin's disease, he pledged to help other people with cancer if he recovered. Recover he did and the Gray Bee kept his promise, raising money for Poughkeepsie's local cancer board while still a student at Marist College. His first professional position was with the American Cancer Society, and for the next 40 years Mr. Wilderotter became a fundraiser, chief executive and champion for mission-driven organizations that



Joseph Mosquera, M.D. '72

include the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, WNYC and the Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation.

A member of the St. Benedict's Board of Trustees for nearly 19 years, Mr. Wilderotter's counsel was central to the success of *Forever Benedict's*, the campaign that raised more than \$108 million for The Hive. He currently serves as board secretary and chairs the Governance Committee.

The medical CV of Dr. Mosquera is extensive and impressive. He is a graduate of Rutgers Medical School, trained at George Washington University and Hackensack University Medical Center, and completed fellowships at the University of Arizona and Harvard Medical School. A noted expert in integrative medicine who has appeared on *The Today Show* and contributes to *Consumer Reports*, perhaps most impressive is Dr. Mosquera's decades of service to Newark. The physician's practice is based in his childhood home in Down Neck and he provides services to patients from all over the area.

Dr. Mosquera has been there for St. Benedict's, too, especially during COVID-19, an overwhelming time for medical professionals.



Patricia Flynn H'95


His counsel was critical to establishing regular COVID testing protocols and allowed the School to safely open for in-person classes, activities and sports.

Director of Theatre **Patricia Flynn H'95** knew a bit about life inside The Hive pre-1972. Her 40-year relationship with St. Benedict's Prep began in 1969 as a high schooler at Lacordaire Academy when she auditioned for *The Man Who Came to Dinner*.

Ms. Flynn performed in many Drama Guild productions and was devastated by the School's closing.

A few years later, Fr. Albert Holtz, O.S.B. '60 got in touch and Ms. Flynn, a student at Albertus Magnus College, taught acting for the first Summer Phase in 1973. After graduating from college and earning an M.F.A. in acting, her performing career got underway, until another call from Fr. Albert brought the actor and director back to The Hive. She revived the Drama Guild in the 1980s and became a teacher, mentor, confidante and friend to generations of students. Many Gray Bee performers and tech crew even became colleagues.

A co-creator of Stage Rage, the Spring Phase course that combines theater and group therapy for kids to work through difficult emotional issues, is a program Ms. Flynn is intensely proud of, and rightly so. The program was showcased at an international conference of Benedictine educators held in Sydney, Australia, in 2019.

The 2023 Annual Scholarship Gala will be held in Dalton Gymnasium. Tickets may be purchased at sbp.org/gala2023. 

GRAY BEES FOREVER CLASS NOTES AND EVENTS



1. 1949: John Conway and Brien Graham '97
 2. 2001: Michael Hobbs
 3. 2002: Adam Crompton
 4. 2006: Minga Batsukh
 5. 2012: Frantz D. Soiro
 6. 2014: Nolan Edmonson
 7. 2020: Robbie Rollins

1949

1972

2001

2002

2006

2012

2014

2020

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.

'49 John Conway turned 91 in October 2022 and lives in Egg Harbor Township, N.J. He has four children, 12 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. John is in good health and spirits and still enjoys an occasional round of golf. But his greatest joy comes from spending time with his family.

'62 Thomas Quinn received the Member of the Year award as the Quarter Century Club President at the New York Athletic Club's 100th Quarter Century Club Dinner.

'65 Gregory Waters has been elected Chairman of the New Jersey Council for the Humanities, an independent

nonprofit and state partner of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

'68 Pete Landers reports he is officially retired after 30 years as Vice President Sales for Turtle & Hughes in Linden, N.J. Pete will be a consultant for the company for three years with an office in Jupiter, Fla. All good (and always available for lunch), Pete advises.

Jim Moynihan reports from California that he is a newly elected Trustee of the Oak Park Unified School District, having won a board election in November 2022. "School districts are like small cities with many issues that are challenging," he said. "As I learn about difficulties facing our students, I try to imagine what would Fr. Ed and the leadership at St. Benedict's do. I have shared the *60 Minutes* story about The Hive with my fellow board members and the district superintendent and all found it to be inspiring."

Bill O'Neill reports he and his wife, Kathy, have become "reverse snowbirds," having acquired an apartment in Alexandria, Va., where they can be close to kids and grandkids, while still spending most of the year in Naples, Fla. A lot of areas in Naples (and especially a

little further north in Fort Myers and near there) were devastated by Hurricane Ian, but the O'Neills are far enough inland that they had no structural damage and relatively little inconvenience. They celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on February 17 and look forward to their daughter's wedding in Washington, D.C., in April.

'72 William Brown met **Brien Graham '97**, an architect from Dallas, Texas, at the Nashville Unplugged Conference, a gathering sponsored by the National Organization of Minority architects. "Brien recognized the 'B' on my shirt—a Gray Bee connection!" wrote William.

'73 Ramon (Ray) Venero shared that he is living the ex-pat life in Playa San Juan, Alicante, Spain. "I pull up stakes in the summer and go to my place in Laredo, Cantabria, from whence I hail. In between, I travel a bit and return to the states to visit with friends and family, especially my daughter, Samantha, in Florida."

'93 Frank Robinson was promoted to Vice President of Econsult Solutions, Inc.

'95 A longtime police captain in East Orange, **Maurice Boyd** has been selected to lead the Public Safety Department as its Director. He will oversee the East Orange Police Department, Fire Department and Office of Emergency Management and is the first African-American man to hold the position.

'01 Michael Hobbs is pleased to announce a partnership with the New York Giants as an official Team DJ for all practices and select home games.

'02 Adam Crompton was inducted into The Ohio State University Athletics Hall of Fame.

'06 Minga Batsukh was inducted into the St. John's University Hall of Fame for Wrestling.

'09 Jared Pietz was promoted to Captain of the Roselle Park Fire Department, Lorraine Hose Company #1.

'12 Frantz D. Soiro successfully completed his summer internship with the biotech company, Myovant Sciences, and joined the Publix Pharmacy family at Princeton Lakes as a Registered Licensed Pharmacy Technician.

'13 Raheem Veal joined BET+ platform as a Manager of Brand Marketing & Strategy.

'14 Nolan Edmonson began law school at the University of Virginia School of Law.

'19 Damon Wright received the NWCA Scholar Academic All-American wrestling award for the NCAA Division III school, New England College.

'20 Robbie Rollins stopped by to tell us that he graduated from the Essex County Police Academy and joined the Newark Police Division. He is assigned to the Sixth Precinct in the West Ward. After graduating from The Hive, Robbie worked for Frankoski Construction Company, Inc. for a few years while taking college classes at Felician University. He plans to complete his degree in criminal justice while working on the police force. "I always wanted to help people," Robbie said. "I especially want to have an impact on young people. I want to be a symbol to young people that change is possible."

'21 Downtown Cranford, N.J. is abuzz about a new and very chic café, Craft. The proprietor? Nineteen-year-old **Kamily Flores**, who started the business selling handcrafted protein shakes, iced coffee and other beverages two years after graduating from The Hive. A full-time marketing student at Union County College, Kamily's entrepreneurship was profiled in the *Star-Ledger* and on nj.com. Follow Kamily's venture on Instagram at craft.nj.



Engagements

Robert Innis '03 was recently engaged to Ruth Georges.

Marriages

Denise and **Shawn Norwood '83** were recently married.

Ofunne and **Chidi Asoluka '01** were recently married and **Mike Hobbs '01** was the DJ.

Amelia Jeffcoat and **Allan Bartow '04** were married in August 2022.

Births

Kimberly and **Mark Brescia '00** welcomed their first child, Luca Joseph Brescia, on July 25, 2022.

Christopher Lavy '01 and Dimitris Kostopoulos welcomed a baby boy, Apollo Kostopoulos Lavy, born in January.

- 9. 1983: Denise and Shawn Norwood
- 10. 2001: Ofunne and Chidi Asoluka
- 11. 2004: Amelia Jeffcoat and Allan Bartow



ACCOMPANIMENT ON THE MEXICAN BORDER



Peter Allgeier '65 has a history with Mexico dating back to his early days in college. At Brown University, he and his wife, Marsha, joined a summer service project, Amherst Amigos, for college students to do community service in Mexican villages. Coincidentally, **Noreen Connolly H'11** also joined that same group. The three were assigned to Jiquipilco, a small village in the state of Mexico in the hills near the capital, Toluca.

That experience was transformative. And when, a few years ago, nearly 30 of the original group who worked in four separate villages returned for a reunion at Amherst College, people talked about reestablishing connections with Mexico. Mr. Allgeier, who was U.S. Deputy Trade Representative from 2001 to 2009, brought up a visit he had made in 2018 to the Kino Border Initiative in Nogales, Mexico. His former parish in Washington, D.C., sponsored immersion week at Kino, and Mr. Allgeier joined.

Nearly five years later, Mr. Allgeier organized a group, including Mrs. Allgeier, Ms. Connolly and three other former Amigos, to participate in an immersion week at Kino. It was another transformative experience.

Kino's mission is to promote humane, just and workable migration through direct humanitarian assistance and holistic accompaniment of migrants. It provides education and encounters between migrants and others that transform people and communities toward solidarity with migrants. And it engages in policy advocacy in Mexico and the U.S.

Unlike in 2018 when the migrants Kino served were mostly single Mexican men deported and dropped off in Nogales, this time, Mr. Allgeier said, the migrants were mostly Mexican mothers and children fleeing violence in Mexico and also some young men from Venezuela.

"All came to the border in hopes of being granted asylum but being denied that opportunity — and legal right — to present themselves at the U.S. border to file a request for asylum," he said. Migrants, stuck indefinitely in Nogales, came to Kino every day for food, shelter and psychological, legal and social services. "We were privileged to serve them and listen to their stories," Ms. Connolly noted. And their stories were heartbreaking. A mother fleeing "narcos" who had taken over her village and threatened to kill her young daughters, assumed her husband, who had to stay behind, was dead.

The Kino hosts did not shy away from the complexities of the immigration problem; the visitors spent time talking to border patrol agents and ranchers who appreciated the Wall. But the most important part of the week was the immersion in the experience of the migrants, a sobering, educational and humbling experience

"The St. Benedict's motto 'Whatever hurts my brother or my sister, hurts me' sums up the message and the work of Kino and the lesson of the Border," Mr. Allgeier said. For more information, visit kinoborderinitiative.org/.

NEW FILM PRODUCED BY GRAY BEE AVAILABLE TO STREAM



Peter James Elias '90 regards film investing as somewhat perilous and not for the "faint-of-heart." Nonetheless, the former actor turned producer has been drawn to film production for many years. Last year he connected with an old director friend who was working on a "dramedy" called, *Who Invited Charlie* and was impressed enough with the script to get involved.

After assisting with the early table-reads and seeing the work being done on set, he decided to buy-in, becoming a major contributor and executive producer. Mr. Elias says that the film, which premiered February 3 on Video on Demand (Amazon, iTunes, cable) and is available to 120 million households, is about a New York hedge fund manager, Phil, and his family who escape the pandemic by relocating to the Hamptons. When Phil's college roommate, Charlie, shows up and joins them, family life is upended.

"The acting is great," Mr. Elias says of the principals, Jordana Brewster, Adam Pally, Reid Scott and newcomer, Peter Dager. "Adam Pally is a comedic star, and the feedback has been overwhelmingly positive from early audience members."

The Elias household is now all in on the film production scene. Peter's partner, Lindsay Berra, baseball hall-of-famer Yogi Berra's first grandchild, is the producer and narrator of a documentary about Yogi, *It Ain't Over*, which will debut in theaters in April or May.

UPCOMING REUNIONS

The Class of '83 will be celebrating its 40th reunion in San Juan, Puerto Rico, from June 22-26!

If your class is interested in planning a reunion, please contact Director of Alumni Affairs Candace Bradsher H'99 at candaceb@sbp.org or call (973) 792-5752.



WE HAVE RECEIVED WORD THAT THESE MEMBERS OF THE ST. BENEDICT'S COMMUNITY OR MEMBERS OF THEIR FAMILIES HAVE DIED.

ALUMNI

- Theodore A. Bauer '42
- Paul D. Ritger, Sr. '43
- John A. Sheehan '43
- James DiNardo '44
- Wilfred G. Schulz '44
- David W. Amory, M.D., Ph.D. '46
- Vincent Galante '46
- Andrew J. Spano '46
- Robert E. Weber '46
- John P. Garrigan '47
- Richard F. Higgins '49
- Harry C. Reddington '49
- George T. Cooney '51
- Edward J. Kirk '51
- Joseph C. Schuh '51
- John J. Radel '52
- Bernard Beihl, Jr. '53
- John J. Duffy '53
- Andrew L. George '53
- Robert J. Geiger '55
- John J. Duhig '55
- John A. Giampolo '56
- Raymond P. LeFebvre '56
- Peter M. Sullivan '56
- John L. Shanahan '57
- Gerald H. Fehrenbach '58
- Bernard J. Fitzsimmons '58
- Thomas Mazur '58
- Arthur Mulligan '58
- James G. Del Mauro '59
- Henry P. Rogers '60
- Rocco A. Summa '60
- Julian E. De Lia '62
- John F. Bosquett '64
- Russell B. Coen '64
- Nicholas C. Romano '64
- Robert John Wharton '64
- James D. Fericola '66
- Donald S. Gulbicki '71
- Crispin J. Kope '72

- Thomas R. Payne '74
- Luis X. Valentine '92
- Joseph M. Sokolewicz H'12

COMMUNITY

- Helen Virginia Alexander *Mother of Jesse '81*
- Barbara J. Allgeier *Mother of Peter '65 and Chris '68*
- Karman Beamon *Mother of J'Ream '10 and Jonathan Lewis '16*
- Laurel J. Brennan *Widow of Donald '54*
- Louise E. De Masi *Widow of Joseph '62*
- Nancy Ensenat *Widow of Bart '66*
- Florance Felber *Mother of Ron '69*
- Marianne Gallerani *Mother of Rich (Faculty)*
- Rosie Guillespie *Sister of Carolyn Hunter (Staff)*
- Mary Catherine Hunt *Mother of Karl '82*
- Parthenia R. Jones *Mother of Larry '87*
- Michael McCloud *Father of Kevin '89*
- Daphne Anita Moore *Mother of Mai-Lan, Grandmother of Charlyze Graham '26*
- Richard Perkins *Brother of Ray '56*
- Zona Mae B. Shockley-Hampton *Mother of Louis '80*
- Hazel Scruggs *Mother-in-Law of Derrick Hoff H'96*
- Brian Sheehan *Father of Dan '08, Nick '01*
- Selena B. Shuler *Mother-in-Law of Phil Whyte '83 and Grandmother of Nigil Whyte '10*

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.

FLORIDA EVENTS

Headmaster Fr. Edwin Leahy, O.S.B. '63 provided updates on St. Benedict's today and its plans for tomorrow to six gatherings of Florida alumni and old and new friends in February and March. Accompanied by Chief Advancement Officer, Mike Fazio, Fr. Ed was hosted by Gene O'Hara '55 in Bonita Springs, Carole and Paul Hannan '56 in Tampa, Susan and Don Laurie '60 in Vero Beach, Peggy and Ron Del Mauro in Tequesta, Miguel and Olga Solares in Coral Gables and Jim and Judy Dorsey in Naples.



Bonita Springs, Fla.
On February 7, Gene O'Hara '55 hosted a St. Benedict's gathering in Bonita Springs. Pictured are members of the Class of 1955, left to right, Ed Moran, Walt Gilligan, Gene O'Hara and Bill Lawless.

Naples, Fla.
Jim and Judy Dorsey, friends of The Hive, hosted Fr. Ed and 30 guests at their home in Naples.



Vero Beach, Fla.
Susan and Don Laurie '60 hosted a gathering at their home in Vero Beach.



Tampa, Fla.
Twelve Gray Bees and their spouses joined Carole and Paul Hannan '56 for lunch at The Rusty Pelican in Tampa on February 9. Back row: Walt Manning '65, Ed Bendokas, Robert Covino '65, John Juliano '57, Mario Fuentes '81, Clarence Richardson '79, Pat Sheil '58, Brian Jennings '70, Luis Villacis '08 and Chief Advancement Officer Mike Fazio. Front row: Paul Hannan '56, Paul Schultz '96, Fr. Edwin Leahy, O.S.B. '63 and Jeffrey Guigni '19.



Tequesta, Fla.
Peggy and Ron Del Mauro hosted a cocktail reception at their home in Tequesta.



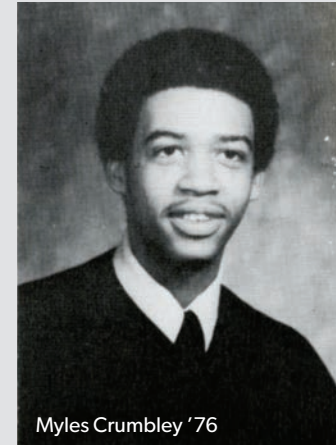
Coral Gables, Fla.
Friends of St. Benedict's Prep, Miguel and Olga Solares, hosted a group of around 20 friends and alumni at their home in Coral Gables, where Fr. Ed shared news of The Hive.

50-year milestones

1972 2022

'THESE GUYS REALLY CARED'

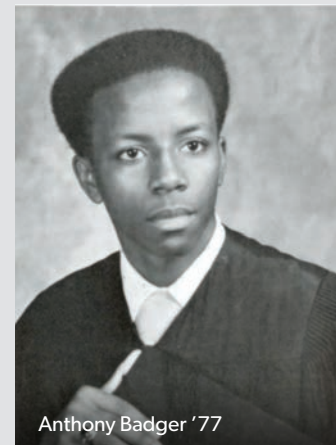
THE FINAL INSTALLMENT OF 50-YEAR MILESTONES LOOKS AT THE RESURRECTION OF ST. BENEDICT'S PREP FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF STUDENTS WHO WERE THERE.



Myles Crumbley '76

When Myles Crumbley '76 was applying to high schools in the fall of 1971, St. Benedict's Prep was at the top of his list. He was elated to receive an acceptance, however, the School announced its closure a few weeks later. "It was such a heart break," said Mr. Crumbley who matriculated to Essex Catholic High School. During his freshman year, the monks of Newark Abbey decided to start a new educational venture at St. Benedict's, but Mr. Crumbley wouldn't learn about it until sophomore year. He transferred to Benedict's junior year, the second year of the School's operation.

From the beginning, Anthony Badger '77 and Tom Leahy '77 knew there was a place for them at The Hive. Mr. Leahy, Benedict's long-serving Director of Athletics, practically grew up on the Property having attended the matches and games of his older brother, Fr. Edwin Leahy, O.S.B. '63. "The monks always talk about the 1973 re-opening as a new venture," Mr. Leahy said. "But it was always St. Benedict's to me. When the monks said they were opening a school, I was going to St. Benedict's Prep."



Anthony Badger '77

Mr. Badger lived in Newark and had "not a clue" about St. Benedict's or its history in the city. He attended Project Link, a school founded by the Sisters of St. Dominic, Caldwell shortly after the civil unrest that devastated Newark in 1967. He also played CYO basketball in Shanley Gymnasium. In the winter of 1973, Fr. Edwin asked Mr. Badger and his teammates if they'd like to attend St. Benedict's.

The freshman class was small, about 25 students. "We were very

close," Mr. Leahy recalled. "We had no choice. We were together all the time." Students understood they were part of a startup school. "It seemed like we were trying to figure it out as we went along," Mr. Badger remembered. Mr. Crumbley agreed, describing Fr. Edwin, the monks and faculty as often, "Flying by the seat of their pants."

The Benedict's pillars of community, student leadership, counseling and experiential education may have been in its infancy, but Gray



Tom Leahy '77

Bees of this era knew they were a part of something special. "There were juniors that first year who were freshmen when the School closed," Mr. Leahy stated. "They'd retained the tradition of 'Benedict's Hates a Quitter.' The old traditions of grit and toughness were passed down from the beginning."

"Fr. Declan [Cuniff, O.S.B.] would tell us all the time, 'You are Benedict's men,'" recalled Mr. Badger. "That resonated with me. It's a powerful feeling that I'm

still drawn to." Decades later, Mr. Badger who volunteered to coach boy's freshman basketball after retiring, heard Fr. Edwin tell Gray Bees at Convocation, "Why are these guys trying to help me?" The

"It wasn't Newark's best days. Fr. Al, Fr. Phil and Fr. Ed could have packed it in. They saw a need and they heard the call. I'm a better man for it."

statement brought him back to 1973 and the realization of how deep the commitment to kids from in and around Newark went.

"These guys really cared," is something Mr. Crumbley says he felt from the start. "Otherwise, the monks wouldn't have attempted to do what they did. It wasn't Newark's best days. Fr. Al, Fr. Phil and Fr. Ed could have packed it in. They saw a need and they heard the call. I'm a better man for it." **B**



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Joseph L. Mosquera, M.D. '72

Peter T. Wilderotter '72

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