



Feast of St. Joseph - All School Mass

Michaeleen

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SPRING 2021



Letter from the Abbot

In our monastic refectory we have been listening to Massimo Faggioli, a professor of theology at Villanova University. An Italian native, the observations in his book center on polar perspectives that he has seen emerge both in our nation and in the Catholic church. Passionate but discordant voices want to guide and shape the future of both the nation and of the Catholic church. Many care deeply. But he notes that unreflective ardor only produces scenes like the incursion into our nation's Capitol or storms in our streets. Constraints resulting from the coronavirus have only exacerbated tensions. Wisdom will be needed to find a path that safeguards tradition, addresses grievances and envisions a bright future for both our church and our nation.

This letter is an invitation to our alumni and to our students to be trailblazers. Blessed with intelligence, education, opportunity and resources, these young men will become leaders in our communities both locally and nationally. As Catholic and Benedictine educators, we have a responsibility to speak the truth in which we believe. Our starting point is our faith in Jesus Christ and values we find in the Rule of St Benedict. It is our duty to instill in these young men a well-prepared sense of moral duty. The values of community, hospitality, moderation, integrity, and service are guideposts. Mount Michael has become a microcosm of the diversity in our world. We have discovered that students who work and live together see one another as individuals; respecting and appreciating world views that may differ from their own. We live in community because community provides feedback which alerts us to missteps. We want our students to be critical thinkers and lifelong learners. A singular reliance on media which reinforce one's already narrow convictions will not produce a foundation for making good moral choices. We want our students and our alumni to be confident and self-reliant, assuming responsibility for their behavior. We want them to be rational, reflective, and thoughtful. We want them to have a respect for the truth. Both faith and facts matter.

We would like to think that our alumni and students can imagine, create, and implement transformative change which fosters life, liberty, freedom, and the pursuit of happiness for all. We believe that they have the tools to forge a hopeful future. We hope that our students and alumni will bolster the disadvantaged, promote equality, and ensure access of all citizens of this country to the gifts of God. We would like to think that their faith in God will inform decisions they make. It is perhaps too much to dream that we can settle all the problems that have beset us currently. But it is not too much to hope that students and alumni of Mount Michael will do everything in their power to make this a better world for all.

Michael Liebl, OSB

UPCOMING EVENTS

GRADUATION

May 8th, 2021

ALUMNI GOLF CLASSIC

June 4th, 2021

*Get the latest updates
on Mount Michael!*



Mount Michael Benedictine School



@Mount_Michael



Mount Michael Benedictine

IN REMEMBRANCE

John Miksch, brother of Fr. Joseph Miksch '58

Marianna Rohleder, mother of Timothy Mitchell '82

Catherine Vail, aunt of Timothy Vail '68 and sister-in-law of former employee Dorothy Vail

John Dowd, brother-in-law of former teacher Pat Dowd

Shirley Weinstein, grandmother of Guy Weinstein '07

Janet Zaleski, grandmother of teacher Shanna Sedlacek

Jacob Render '88, father of former student Patrick Render

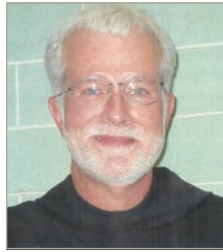
Darlene Berens, mother of Kelly '69, Stephen '70, and David '74 Berens and of former student Chris Berens; grandmother of Troy '88 and Shawn '88 Berens; and great-grandmother of Max Berens '20

John "Jack" Hansen, father-in-law of Rob Copenhaver, Jr. '77

Sally Baker, grandmother of Will Nicholson '08

Kathryn "Kay" Baye, mother of Daniel Baye '89

William Walters, father of Matt '91, Justin '95 and Andrew '03 Walters and grandfather of Wyatt Walters '22



Mount Michael is saddened to share the news that Bro. Patrick Harris, 77, died Monday evening, March 1, 2021. Please keep the monastic community, his family and our school community in your prayers.

Gordon Cizek, grandfather of Michael Cizek '89

Joseph "Joe" Weis, uncle of teacher John Gathje

Rebecca Smith, mother of teacher Michael Smith

Brian McGill '76, brother of Brad '77 and Bart '79 (RIP)

Pat Devall, grandmother of Jackson Ramold '20

Helen Gathje, grandmother of Jacob '20 and Ben Gathje '22 and mother of teacher John Gathje

Keith "Bub" Rounph, father of Eric Rounph '99

Margaret Grace, great-grandmother of Henry Stanek '24

Anna Mae Tomka, aunt and godmother of Fr. Daniel Lenz O.S.B. '76

Robert "Bob" Rose, father-in-law of TJ Horvath '00

Mike McTaggart, uncle of Jim '95, Joe '97, Tim '99, and Dan '02 McTaggart; uncle of Steve '88, David '94, and Paul '01 McTaggart

Jim Whitaker, father of Brayden Whitaker '20; uncle of Daniel '09 and Andrew '15 Whitaker

Grant Louis Mathey, grandfather of Grant Mathey III '06

Edward "Ed" Gillen, friend of Mount Michael

Rebecca Alice Tombe, aunt of Jacob Idra '18

Esther Balch, great-grandmother of John '23 and Andrew '24 Balch

Marlin Ackerman, grandfather of John Ackerman '20

Pamela "Pam" Ratzlaff, mother-in-law of David Pecha '93

Robert "Bob" Kampschneider, father of Fr. Dan Kampschneider '71; uncle of Loren Kampschneider '69

GOLF CLASSIC

The Alumni Golf Classic is being held this summer with proper social distancing. The 31st Annual Tournament is scheduled for Friday, June 4th at Stone Creek Golf Course (6220 N 160th Ave, Omaha, NE 68116). For more information, please visit www.mountmichaelgolf.com or call 402-238-1447.

Typically, each year, we also look forward to welcoming back our alumni for the Mount Michael Reunion and reminiscing about our days at the Mount. Given the concerns and need to ensure safety regarding COVID-19, we have made the difficult decision to cancel the reunion for this year. We hope to have an all-class reunion in 2022.



Head of School

DEAR MOUNT MICHAEL COMMUNITY,

Mount Michael Benedictine School has been working on a series of aspirations and goals tied to our 2020-2025 strategic plan.

Our teachers are currently working on *Aspiration 4-Support Teaching and Learning*: "We will deepen our traditional academic strength while broadening our curriculum and recruiting and retaining the best faculty and staff to prepare aspirational and thoughtful global thinkers." Goal 2 of this aspiration states: Review the school curriculum, including both available and required courses, to give students greater flexibility while still holding to our core requirements and following our mission of preparing them for college.

One content area that will be seeing some changes next year is the social studies department. American Government, which is a sophomore course, will be replaced with Civics. This class will cover much of the American Government course but also focus on the responsibilities of being a United States citizen. There will be two new AP classes: AP US Government and Politics and AP Human Geography. The Human Geography course will focus on populations and migrations, cultural patterns, political organization, agriculture and rural land use, industrialization, economic development and cities and urban land use. Other electives that we will be adding are Psychology (not AP), American Diversity and Holocaust Studies.

The English department has modified their senior English course allowing students to have more choices. The new areas of focus will be British Literature, Philosophy and Literature, Horror and the Supernatural, Dystopian Literature, and Individual vs Society literature. There will also be a new Creative Writing elective. These expansions will allow students to grow in their appreciation for different literary forms.

Over the past two years we have changed the science curriculum by adding a new AP Physics course and an Applied Biology and Chemistry course. Our math and theology programs will stay the same as they have been these past few years. The theology curriculum is the one required by the USCCB (United States Conference of Catholic Bishops).

One area we have transformed over the past three years is engineering. Currently we offer an Architectural/Engineering introduction class for freshmen. The sophomore students can take Honors Residential Engineering. As juniors, these students can take Honors Commercial Engineering and as seniors, they can take the capstone Honors Engineering course.

Currently, we are assessing other areas of the curriculum. One central area we will be working on is the fine arts. This was a specific area highlighted in the strategic plan. An expansion in the arts will be forthcoming. In reviewing and assessing our curriculum many times it becomes a balance. Because of our size we are limited in the number of classes we can offer. We operate on a nine-period day and we understand that we need to balance our course offerings against time. Every course offering is important, and we want it to have impact. We have an over-all curriculum committee that looks at all these offerings and the potential impact to our schedule and to our students. We balance areas and offerings that we feel will resonate with a student and have impact. These choices can be difficult.

As we go through this process, I have seen faculty members energized and excited about the future. Taking time to see what we teach, and why we teach what we teach, can be very empowering. As an institution we do not want to be complacent. We need to look to the future while also valuing our current fundamental curriculum and ideals. It takes a lot of assessment and judgement. I am proud of where we are and where we are headed.

Thank you for your constant support of Mount Michael Benedictine School. We would not be here if it were not for the support of our alumni, donors, parents, students, staff, and faculty.

God bless you all.

David J. Peters, Ed.D.
Head of School

St. Joseph

by Abbot Michael Liebl, O.S.B.

In Chapter 49 of the Rule, St Benedict begins by writing that the life of a monk ought to be a continuous Lent. But with typical wisdom, he immediately observes that few monks have the strength for that commitment. The church seems to share St Benedict's insight. Lent is interrupted by a trio of celebrations in the middle of March – St Patrick, father of Irish Christianity; St Benedict, father of western monasticism; and St Joseph father of the universal church. In the church's calendar, March 19 is officially the solemnity of St Joseph, spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary. A husband, a father provides his family with love, strength, example and a willingness to sacrifice. Sadly, our world knows too well how a family can suffer when a husband and father is absent.

There are unusual statues of St Joseph which show him asleep. No accident. It is in sleep that we dream. Like sleep, dreams are not well understood. Startled, we wake from a dream, and reality seems a foreign world. Scientifically, dreams appear to be neural processes that our brains undertake to help process emotions. Psychologically, we believe that dreams give insight into the workings of our subconscious. Spiritually, dreams are interpreted as bearing messages from God. St Joseph is inextricably linked to the Joseph of the Old Testament who was sold into slavery by his jealous brothers. The Joseph of the Old Testament comes to the notice of Pharaoh because of an ability to interpret dreams. Joseph becomes second only to Pharaoh in Egypt. When famine threatens Joseph's father Jacob and his brothers and their families, he comes to their rescue

providing for them in Egypt. St Joseph had a dream which told him that he and Mary should flee into Egypt to escape the deadly intentions of King Herod. Both Josephs acted to ensure that God's salvific activity would not be thwarted. St John Chrysostom wrote that St Joseph placed himself "at the service of the entire plan of salvation." He did so resolutely, discreetly, without fanfare and without expectation of reward.

Often, we use the word dream to speak about an ideal. We dream of being in love. We dream of what we would like for Christmas. Martin Luther King dreamed of a better world. Free at last, free at last. Thank God in heaven I am free at last. St Joseph dreamed that God would visit his people. God would not be found in a burning bush. God would not be found on a mountain top accompanied by earthquakes, thunder and lightning giving commandments on stone tablets. God would not inhabit a temple as he did in Jerusalem. God would not send a prophet to condemn the wicked and to console exiles. Joseph dreamed of the salvation of the world; God would enter the world as a child, and not just any child. This was to be the child of his own betrothed, Mary of Nazareth. Son of God and son of Mary. That is a big dream. That is a lot to believe. Joseph had to trust in God. Joseph had to trust in Mary. And Mary had to trust in Joseph's dream too. Pope Francis has proclaimed this a "Year of St Joseph". Perhaps that means we should have a dream. A dream of a world united in its pursuit of peace and finding a way to God.

Thank you for being part of our 2021 Night of Knights.

The School relies on nearly \$1 million in gifts each year to bridge the gap between tuition revenue, investment income, and operating costs and needed capital upkeep expenses. Night of Knights typically accounts for a quarter to third of this. Reaching this goal in these uncertain times has been challenging and we thank you for your eagerness to help.

Though the auction has passed, you can still support the event by giving to the School's Annual Knight Fund at <https://mountmichael.com/donate/>

The success of an event of this size and added virtual complexity relies heavily on the efforts of many committed volunteers. We are deeply thankful for our auction chairs, Mike and Tami Giitter and Joe and Lori Mullin, the entire Night of Knights committee, and all our family and student volunteers. Mount Michael can shape young men who lead and actively serve their communities because of generous supporters like you.



Dr. Mike, Tami, Jack Giitter '22, Michael '22, Lori, and Joe Mullin

Highlights from the Athletic Director, Derrik Spooner



As many know, in addition to being Mount Michael's Activities Director, I am also the Head Basketball Coach. It is in that role that I ask you to let me reflect a little bit. Four years. Eleven seniors this year. It has been an amazing journey with these young men and they have made an amazing impact on our program. They have led, encouraged, pushed boundaries, given us cause to cheer and moments of shared heart break. I am so proud of them, of our whole basketball program. The varsity finished with a 20-4 record for the season. It was a tough season ending game with Beatrice in the first round of the state tournament. They go out with three seniors, Kaleb Brink, Joseph Chouinard, and Brad Bennett, each scoring over 1,000 points in their careers. This

senior class won 78 games while they were in high school. While we did not bring home the ultimate prize trophy, we have so many memories, stories, growth, laughs, and shared experiences. I thank them for their dedication and look forward to our next season.

Right now, our spring sports are well underway and we are seeing successes in all of the spring sports. Sixty-two percent of all students are out for a spring sport. This level of participation is one of the things that makes Mount Michael so special. As we wrap up our seasons, our annual sports and activities recognition night will once again be virtual. Please look for a date soon. We will announce the winners over our social media pages. You may follow our social media pages to stay up to date on all of our spring sports:

BASEBALL
@MMBaseball

GOLF
@MMGolf Tracker

TRACK
@MMB_XC

SOCCER
@MtMichaelSoccer



BOOSTER CLUB

Seeing, feeling and experiencing Mount Michael's campus is something that I will not take for granted again. The pandemic greatly influenced a new way of living; and thus, minimized physical contact with the campus and lessened the opportunity for togetherness it provides. I have been frustrated not being involved, whether as a participant or spectator, in events even with though I have a clear understanding of why. We pray for the health and well-being of those directly

impacted by the virus and for recovery to normal work and activities, and yes, a return to the Mount!

I know the Booster Club's time on campus was absent. Everything from monthly meetings, to full concessions, our annual tailgate and the opening school picnic were all impacted. However, the Booster Club has been busy this year fulfilling multiple funding requests and we are expecting more. Supporting a stronger presence online during this past year was important to our students and the Mount Michael community. The Booster Club was and will continue to be an annual integral funding source for streamed production of activities on Striv.

Mount Michael's activity awareness and recognition on social media platforms through Box Out Sports

is also funded by the Booster Club. Whether you watch events online, Twitter, or Facebook the Booster Club is supporting awareness, recognition and viewing during this time and into the future!

The Booster Club is thankful for all our members and the advertising support during this past year that has positioned us well to support all of Mount Michael's athletic, extracurricular and student life activities! If you have any questions about Booster Club, want to join, advertise with or want to get involved in our mission to support activities at the Mount please contact me at mmboosterclubpresident@mountmichael.org.

Craig and Wanda Stumpff
Sean '20, Ryan '23

 Please visit the Mount Michael Striv page to watch your Knights in action at striv.tv/channel/mt-michael-benedictine/.



Admissions

Greetings Mount Michael Community!

As I walked into my office in the DJ Sokol Building the other day, I was greeted with a very familiar, yet unseen face this school year - Fr. John! As our globe continues its fight against COVID-19, I can't begin to tell you how thankful I am to have the monastic community back in the school building as of March 15th. Any alumnus will tell you how vital the role the monastic community plays in the Mount Michael experience, and for the monks to be back is important, especially for the current freshman who have not even met them yet.

COVID-19 presented serious roadblocks during the recruitment season. Despite being unable to travel to the local Catholic schools and speak to the 8th graders, Mount Michael's leadership put a plan in place for me to welcome parents for individual tours, host limited shadow visits, and even invite 90+ families to attend our annual Open House. This plan allowed for Mount Michael admissions to have one of its most successful years to

date, comprising of over 100 applications and 97 students who sat for our entrance exam in January. After an extremely difficult selection process, we were finally able to sign the official letters of acceptance and invite 79 young men from the Omaha area to join the Mount Michael Class of 2025. Twenty-seven of these students performed well enough on our entrance exam to be awarded a merit-based scholarship, which we presented to them in early February.

I am also thankful that we will be moving forward this summer with all our summer camps! We will be hosting five different athletic camps in the month of June as well as the traditional Camp Mount Michael in July. If you know of any boys that would have interest in attending any of our camps, I ask that you please help my efforts and get them registered as soon as possible!

It is truly an exciting time for this community.

Proud to be a Knight,
Tom Maliszewski '13
Director of Admissions



BASKETBALL
JUNE 2nd-3rd (overnight)

WRESTLING
JUNE 7th

BASEBALL
JUNE 8th-10th

SOCCER
JUNE 11th

FOOTBALL
JUNE 21st-23rd

**REGISTER
ONLINE!**



WEEK 1
JUNE 27th-July 2nd

WEEK 2
July 5th-July 9th

WEEK 3
July 11th-July 16th

WEEK 4
July 18th-July 23rd

WWW.MOUNTMICHAEL.COM

FIRST SEMESTER 2020-2021



Mount Michael Benedictine School Deans List

SENIORS

FIRST HONORS

Lincoln Badley
Brad Bennett
Kaleb Brink
Dylan Brown
Ryan Brown
Will Byrnes
Joe Chouinard
Colin Christo
Matthew Collins

Sam Corey
Eli Crnkovich
Nick Davis
Cameron Detwiler
Scott Ding
Phoenix Fletcher
Isaac Gart
Matthew Geary
Gavin Gloeb
Sam Gustafson

Luke Gutschewski
Henry Hohman
Parker Hottovy
Aaron Karnish
Ben Keller
Lincoln Badley
Brad Bennett
Kaleb Brink
Dylan Brown
Ryan Brown

Will Byrnes
Joe Chouinard
Colin Christo
Matthew Collins
Sam Corey
Eli Crnkovich
Nick Davis
Cameron Detwiler
Scott Ding
Phoenix Fletcher

Isaac Gart
Matthew Geary
Gavin Gloeb
Sam Gustafson
Luke Gutschewski
Henry Hohman
Parker Hottovy
Aaron Karnish
Ben Keller

SECOND HONORS

Joe Bruggeman
Henry Gnann
Jackson Heller
Jack Lorensen
Cameron Mallisee
Ryan McMahon
Jason Nyamatore
Caleb Vincentini
Cole Wilber

JUNIORS

FIRST HONORS

Matthew Allen
Chris Angel
Jacob Becker
Jurgen Beller
Casey Bilau
Caleb Brester
Luke Broderick
Nathan Buresh
Carter Cline

Tucker Cudmore
Dominic Cyr
Raoul Djidjoho
David Drews
Colin Eich
Brendan Farrell
Marc Fayad
Landen Fogle
Grant Foster
Peter Gates

Jose Gaytan
Jack Giitter
Dillon Haliburton
Andrew Hartin
Jagger Hastings
Matthew Janecek
Xavier Johansen
Eric Kaps
Hyun Sung Kim
Michael Kult

Andrew Lee
Sam Lund
Michael Mullin
Ben Rempe
Colin Robb
Ethan Roepke
Callan Schroder
Mark Schroll
Akilan Sivakumar
Connor Size

Andrew Skaggs
Sawyer Thompson
Wyatt Torczon
Max Vossen
Wyatt Walters
Luke Wooten

SECOND HONORS

Aiden Frazier
Ben Gathje
Charlie Janecek
Daniel Mondt
Ethan Pentel
Elijah Salmon
Christopher Wolf
Joon Ho Yoon

SOPHOMORES

FIRST HONORS

A.J. Atayi
Will Brewster
Aiden Brink
Theodore Bunawan
Leon Chacon
Conor Connealy
Jack Dustin

Jack Flott
Cole Gustafson
Farhan Kakish
Andrew Kirklin
Sam Kleinschmit
Landon Knobbe
Max McCoy
Shintaro Oda

Nathan Oehler
Ryan Quinlan
Ethan Rapoza
Matthew Rodgers
Sebastian Santa-Maria
Elliott Simpson
Ryan Stumpff
Jacob Sykora

Andrew Tagel
Ryan Tillotson
Drew Van Haute
Ayden Wright
Yu Ang Zhu

SECOND HONORS

John Balch

Nolan Beller
Will Benson
Taggart Crouse
Sebastian Duran
Griffin Dyche
Andrew Fink
Jacob Goertz
Jake Harris

Harper Held
Shengkun Hu
Chop Paljor
Lane Schroeder
Andrew Shotbolt
Jude Storch
Andrew Wooden
Chang han Yu

FRESHMEN

FIRST HONORS

Matthew Adam
Luke Albers
Alex Broderick
Andrew Busenbark
Nick Coldiron
Daniel Collins
Austin Danahay
Callaway Deffenbaugh

Aidan Farrell
Andrew Gates
Adam Glow
Nick Halpin
Ricky Kmiecik
Martin Kuhn
Henry L'Heureux
Micah Lytle
Aidan McGarry

Jack McMahon
Finn Murphy
Joshua Palmer
Carter Pearson
Robert Poteat
Sebastian Regan
Aiden Ronk
Ryan Saxby
Ashton Schroder

Ben Schumacher
Sam Schwartz
Ben Sindelar
Jack Skahan
Antonio Stanco
Henry Stanek
Kale Sykora
Joe Trautman
Andrew Tselentis

Jacob Vandenack
Thaden Wewel
Zachariah Wooten
Rocco Zimmerman

SECOND HONORS

Gianni Anzalone
Andrew Balch
Will Bruggeman

Max Coover
Charles Gnann
Nathan Hovey
Ryan Kremer
Chaz Larsen
Ian McGrane
Zachary Sall
Owen Stricklett

Student News...

STATE CHAMPIONSHIP!



The Academic Decathlon team won their eighth consecutive State Championship!



SWIMMING

Leon Zhu '23 broke school swimming records in the 100yd freestyle (48.13); 200yd freestyle (1:47.19); and 500yd freestyle (5:00.38).

The Mount Michael/Skutt Catholic co-op boys swim team won the River Cities Conference Championship and of the 8 state qualifiers, 4 were from Mount Michael.



WRESTLING



The wrestling team won the River Cities Conference Championship and had two qualify for State.



SOCCER

Ryan Brown '21 signed with Concordia University to play soccer.

BASKETBALL



The basketball team not only took home the River Cities Conference title, but also won the B-4 District Championship and qualified for State.



Brad Bennett '21 beat the school basketball records for career points (1,334) and career three pointers (229).



Joe Chouinard '21 signed with the University of Dallas to play basketball.

JOURNALISM



The journalism team participated in the JEA Nebraska contest via online entry. Out of 636 entries from 25 mostly Class A Nebraska schools, 13 student journalists placed.

MISSION TRIP

On Monday, March 8th, Fr. John Hagemann, O.S.B. organized his yearly Benedictine Mission Trip during Spring Break where five of our students had the opportunity to visit several parishes, monasteries, and a Benedictine House.





Renewed Efforts for Lots of Beautiful Colors in Mount Michael's Garden

WRITTEN BY FR. JOHN HAGEMANN, O.S.B.



Spring and summer are not far off! Undoubtedly, most people throughout the world are ready for a real change, especially after lock downs, bitterly cold temperatures and cancellations of family events. It is time for bright colors and warm sunshine.

I must say that I am more than ready for lots of change as well, as the weather begins to warm and hints of new life are appearing all around us

here at Mount Michael. In the early days of March, I have already been in the garden planning.

I hope to bring some changes to my gardening efforts this

year. Some things will remain the same, but I intend on going back to some older efforts as well.

The older efforts include going back to the years of emphasizing flowers - cut flowers for arranging purposes. The past few years I have worked with Kathy Kaster, whose son (Max) graduated from Mount Michael last spring - 2020. Kathy now operates *Flower and ArtProject*. She has used a lot of Mount Michael flowers over the past few years at her shop located at 2014 S. 156th Circle in Omaha.

Kathy's style is what I would label a "naturalist." She uses lots of flowers and greenery that most arrangers would not consider using. She has a real eye for what grows naturally and sees the possibility of it working well in an arrangement. For example, when she saunters through the garden, she sees possibilities for using dill sprigs, when it is blooming or when it has seeded. Cilantro sometimes works and even some weeds like foxtail. It is fun to work with a person who

has such an artistic eye and who can create beauty from what one might never consider as beautiful.

When my flowers come into bloom, Kathy or her sister will be on site, here at Mount Michael, making arrangements and perhaps even conducting some classes on flower arranging. We intend to spread the word better this year on the abbey website and will supply information about what is available and what programs will be offered. The Development Office personnel will be helping me in that regard, especially John Von Dollen.

Flowers that I will grow: sunflowers, dahlias, bells of Ireland, zinnias, bachelor buttons, shasta daisies, sweat peas, peonies, celosia, cosmos, even millet and other grasses.

Admittedly, I feel that I have aged a bit during this crazy pandemic and so I know that it will be a little harder for me to do as much as I have in the past. I intend to cut back somewhat on the "veggie" part of the garden this year. Or at least the part about stuffing veggies into jars and canning and preserving. I hope to make that a lesser part. I will still have fresh veggies available as has been in the past.

Vegetables and fruits that I will grow: rhubarb, radishes, kohlrabi, lettuce, spinach, kale, zucchini, cabbage, cucumbers, tomatoes, corn and peppers.

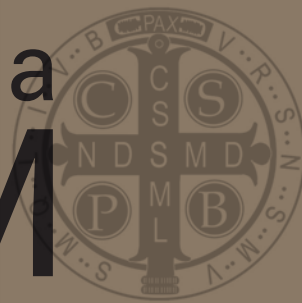
At this writing, the early days of March, I can say that I am excited and looking forward to the growing season, especially with the renewed emphasis on flowers. I have ordered lots of seeds and plan to create a new addition to flower arranging with dahlias. Many years ago, I grew them. Hopefully, I have not lost my touch.

I hope to see you at the Farmer's Market this coming season. Please check out the new information of the abbey website, so that you have a better idea of what is coming and available.

- If you would like to include an announcement in an upcoming issue of the Michaelleen, please contact

John Von Dollen '12, 402-238-1447
jvondollen@mountmichael.org

Become a GEM



When you join Mount Michael Benedictine Abbey's GEMs you join a special group of people reaching out each month (or on a regularly scheduled basis) to our monks to help provide for their welfare and further their vocation and ministerial missions. As you think about giving, I encourage you not so much to ask, "What does the abbey need me to give?" but rather, "How am I called to respond to God's loving presence in my life and that of the community?". This giving that is personally meaningful and guided by the Holy Spirit often has three qualities: intentionality, regularity, and generosity.

Approach giving with intentionality. Be prayerful, deliberative, and purposeful. Your gift to the abbey is sustaining. Pledging a regular donation is a great way to make this commitment. In 1 Corinthians Paul tells the churches to form a regular pattern of giving in keeping within their means. Such regularity allows gifts in smaller amounts and provides the abbey with the ability to better forecast funding, budget finances, and plan future initiatives. Monthly giving allows you to make a bigger charitable impact. The third characteristic is generosity. Jesus challenges us to be generous throughout the Gospels. His words in Luke 12:34, "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also," apply so well to our donors who give out of love to the abbey.

Signing up to be a GEM by making a recurring gift is a meaningful way to help the abbey by providing steady, reliable funding for them and their work through a monthly, quarterly, or annual gift. Gifts of all sizes matter. For example, a monthly gift of even \$5-\$10 dollars for the year would help fund liturgical supplies or an oblate gathering.

Gifts may be made on-line at
mountmichael.org/donate
or by calling
402-253-0969

Thank you for your support, whether it be as an abbey GEM or one of our Abbey Impact Partners who generously give at unscheduled times.



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

SYLVESTER SCHIEBER '64

BY ABBOT MICHAEL LIEBL, O.S.B.

Readers of the Michaelleen will know from the previous issue that at the end of 2020, alumnus Sylvester Schieber '64 made a gift to honor a former teacher, Christine Kneifl. He wanted to acknowledge the impact she had on his career. In corresponding with Syl Schieber, it became apparent that his own story merited being told.

After graduation Syl attended college at St. Benedict's (now Benedictine College) in Atchison, Kansas. Upon earning a degree in economics there, he volunteered for the navy but failed a physical because of a deformed back. So, he went to graduate school at Notre Dame. While still taking classes in early 1971, Syl started work on a federally funded research project in Gary, Indiana partly to gather dissertation data and, by serendipity, found a wife, Vicki. They were wed at the end of 1971 at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart at Notre Dame.

Syl's experiences led him to an interest in public policy, motivated considerably by his debate experience with Mrs. Kneifl. In the summer of 1973, he joined the Office of Research and Statistics at the Social Security Administration in Washington, DC. While working there, he finished a dissertation in the momentous summer of 1974: a daughter Shannon arrived on August 8 and he was awarded a PhD on August 9. In February 1976 a second child, son Sean, arrived. Syl left Social Security at the end of 1980 and signed on as research director at a policy think tank in DC working on issues related to employers' provision of benefits

to workers - health insurance and pensions. In the fall of 1983, he joined a consulting firm working with employers on setting up and managing their employee benefit plans. He ran a research unit for the company for the next 20 years. During his last three years there, he managed a consulting unit.

In the mid-1990s, Syl was appointed to a Social Security Advisory Council by the Clinton Administration. That Council's activities wrapped up in 1996. He was then appointed to the Social Security Advisory Board at the end of 1997. He served on that Board for 12 years. These were part-time service activities while still working at the consulting firm. He retired from the consulting firm at the end of September 2006, partly because of travel fatigue and also because President George W. Bush named him chair of the Social Security Advisory Board at the beginning of October 2006. He finished that activity at the end of 2009 but continued to work on retirement and health policy issues mainly doing research and writing.

Syl and his wife Vicki suffered a terrible loss when their daughter, Shannon, was murdered by a serial rapist on May 7, 1998. She was a graduate student at the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania pursuing a PhD in finance. It took the police four years to catch the assailant. Of the 14 known assaults to which he confessed, tragically Shannon's was the only one that resulted in murder.

Syl wrote that after Shannon's murder, homicide investigators and Philadelphia prosecutors wanted to pursue the death penalty. But Syl and his wife were both opposed to the death penalty on conscientious grounds. Syl and Vicki, more intensely, have worked in the ensuing years with a variety of groups trying to put an end to the use of the death penalty in the United States. Mostly notably, Syl and Vicki connected with Sr. Helen Prejean known for her book and the movie adapted from the book, *Dead Man Walking*. Via that connection, Vicki became involved in the establishment of the Catholic Mobilizing Network (catholicmobilizing.org). Later, Vicki and Syl were involved in the development of a documentary on the death penalty, *In the Executioner's Shadow* which can be found on YouTube. At the time Syl and Vicki joined efforts to halt the death penalty, there were only 9 states that ruled it out. Today, 23 states no longer allow capital punishment and several others have it but do not use it. All of Vicki's efforts were gratis. Syl stayed with work to cover the bills and confesses that he should dispose of his keyboard, but always finds another windmill to tilt at.

Although Syl originally came to St John Seminary (Mount Michael's predecessor) to study for the priesthood, God clearly had other roles for him in the service of God's people. It is an honor to provide a glimpse of what God can accomplish through those who give themselves over to God's grace.

Alumni News



Daniel Sylvester '84 was recently made partner at Holland & Knight LLP.

Rob Stark '83, who was ordained a permanent deacon on Aug. 4, 2018, was joined by his son, Nick Stark, who was ordained a transitional deacon on December 30th and will soon be ordained a priest.



Photo courtesy of America Duran/Diocese of Des Moines.



Jim Jansen '95 began his new role as director of Pastoral Services for the Archdiocese of Omaha. He has been director

of Evangelization and Catechesis for the archdiocese since 2017.



Mike Witt '64, a renowned scholar of J.R.R. Tolkien and teacher at Creighton Prep, was featured in the Jesuits

Midwest Magazine for his scholarly articles.



Paul West '94, Managing Partner of Carson Wealth, was recently recognized by Forbes as a Best-In-State

Wealth Advisor for the state of Nebraska.



Kyle Pelster '06 has been promoted to Senior Vice President at NAI NP Dodge. Kyle specializes in retail and industrial real estate.



John McLean '92 was promoted to VP-Director of Business Development at Operations at Faction, a

media production company.



Julius Agonor '08 was selected to join the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Chicagoland & Northwest Indiana Diversity,

Equity and Inclusion Task Force as the Red Shoe Society Co-Chair of Corporate Partnerships.



Luke Paladino '96 recently joined First Nebraska Trust Company as Trust Officer and he was also appointed

to his second term on the Board of Directors of Special Olympics Nebraska.



Jacob Idra '18 was featured in the "Catholic Voice" for speaking in favor of LB364, testifying to benefits of scholarship tax credits.

Photo courtesy of MEL O'KEEFE/MEL WATSON PHOTOGRAPHY 2020



Stan Steuter '70 featured in the Minneapolis Star Tribune highlighting his life and his store, the Golf Club Hospital.



Tommy Maliszewski '13 was the overall winner of the Mount Michael Alumni Fantasy Football League.



Eric Crawford '00 was recently elected president of the Mount Michael Alumni Association.



Nico Marasco '12 was awarded the K. Carol Leisey Award for Salesperson of the Year along with the Young Gun Award, the Summit Award for Highest Per Agent Productivity and the Oracle Award for Top Individual Producer.



For this year's Catholic Schools Week, Fr. John Hagemann O.S.B. arranged to have several guest speakers address our school community on their perspectives on Catholic education. Usually, they speak to an assembly in the Chapel for the start of each day of the week-long celebration. Following our safety guidelines, speakers pre-recorded their messages to be viewed in the 1st period classrooms at the start of each day. Of those speakers were the following alumni: **Tony Tang '16**, **Jerry Fan '20**, **Joey Chen '20**, **Sid deMayo '19**, and **Dr. BJ Wilson '84**.



Michael Collins '12 recently began his Nurse Residency at Children's Hospital in Omaha.



Dr. Curtis McKnight '01 co-authored an academic case report titled A "Trip" to the Intensive Care Unit: An Intravenous Injection of Psilocybin which has become widely popular.



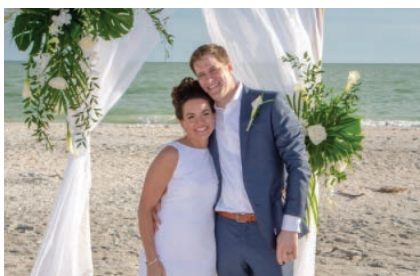
J.P. Lage '95 began his novitiate with the Mount Michael Benedictine Abbey at vespers on Sunday March 21st, the Feast of Saint Benedict.



Officer Tim Huffman '89 is retiring after over 20 years of dedicated service with the Omaha Police Department.

WEDDINGS

Brandon Copple '01 married Michaela Bernady on January 15th, 2021.



Hunter Hottovy '13 married Billie Kunzman on February 6th, 2021.



BIRTHS

Matt Holt '02 and his wife Amber welcomed their second son William James Holt on Feb 24, 2021



Curtis McKnight '01 and his wife Holly welcomed their fourth child Callen Michael McKnight on March 22nd, 2021.



Mass Information

If you find that your pastor is unable to conveniently take care of Masses you wish to have celebrated for your particular intentions, Mount Michael Abbey welcomes the requests for such intentions. We will see to it that the Masses are celebrated as promptly as possible.

The offering you make should correspond with that suggested by the diocese in which you reside. Your pastor will be able to inform you of what the stipend of a particular diocese may be.

Mass Intentions: \$10.00

Please address such requests to:

Mass Intentions
Development Office
Mount Michael Benedictine Abbey
22520 Mount Michael Road
Elkhorn, NE 68022

Memorial & Tribute Information

Often, inquiries are made about our memorials and tributes for relatives and friends, living or deceased. At Mount Michael one can enroll families or friends in our memorial and tribute foundation. This consists of daily remembrance at the Eucharist and the Divine Office by the monks of Mount Michael Abbey. Upon enrollment, we will notify the family with a card.

The suggested offering for this memorial enrollment is:

INDIVIDUAL

One Year \$50
 Five Years \$100
 Lifetime \$250

FAMILY

One Year \$100
 Five Years \$200
 Lifetime \$500

In Memoriam & Honor

January 1st, 2021 – March 30th, 2021

Mount Michael Benedictine keeps all those
 in memoriam and honor in our prayers.

In Memory of Earl and Darlene Berens

Chris and Peggy Berens

In Memory of Michael Borer

Deanne Borer

In Memory of Lloyd Carmen

Rick and Maureen
 Weitkemper

In Memory of Bernard W. Costello

Mary Petersen

In Memory of George Dehn

Marlene McCall

In Memory of Mary Frances Garrigan

Ronald Baxter
 Rich and Pat Garrigan
 Patty Vipond
 Boyd and Kathy West

In Memory of Helen Gathje

Rita Luettel
 Dr. David and Nancy Peters
 Boyd and Kathy West

In Memory of Jerry Hagemann

Nancy Bogenreif
 MaryIn Camp
 Gene and Janice Engelbert
 The Jerry Hagemann family
 Hubert and Virginia
 Hagemann
 Edward and Lorraine
 Hoffman
 St. Marietta Kerkvliet OSB
 Robert and Elizabeth Knapp
 Terry and Kathleen Kuchar
 Mark '77 and Angie Nelson
 Arlene Nissen
 Dale and Sharon Noon
 Larry and Linda Pedersen
 Josh '92 and Rayanne Render
 Dr. Louis and Jackie Sojka
 Dan and Brenda Sprunk
 Marvin and Suzanne Wies
 Don and Lorraine Zwiener

In Memory of Br. Patrick Harris, O.S.B.

Nancy Bogenreif
 Terry Burdett
 Bob and Lisa Goldsmith
 Dan and Paula Perchal
 Judith Santiago
 Dr. Louis and Jackie Sojka
 David '63 and Millie Spinner
 Jeff and Colleen Starman
 Raimund and Kim Volpone

In Honor of Eric Hrabovsky '97 Family

Grant and Sharon Hrabovsky

In Honor of Grant Hrabovsky Family

Grant and Sharon Hrabovsky

In Memory of Frances Hyde

James Hyde

In Memory of Ken and Clarice Kaup

Marvin and Dorothy Rief

In Memory of Theresa Kohanek

Fred Peterkin

In Memory of Susan Love

Marvin and Dorothy Rief

In Memory of Steven Maji

Loren Steenson

In Memory of Ann Menghini

Zita Kohanek

In Memory of Jacob Render '88

Brian '84 and Kris Morrissey
 Janeen Render
 Josh '92 and Rayanne Render

In Memory of Marianna Rohleder

Christie Fishbaugh
 Noreen Gilquest
 Roger Heideman
 Jane Kathol

In Memory of Keith Rounph

Jacqueline Rounph

In Honor of Will Steinauer

Essential Pregnancy Services
 In Memory of Br. Mel Tichota,
 O.S.B.
 Grant and Sharon Hrabovsky
 Matt and Constance Reres

In Memory of Barbara Van Haute

Kevin and Linda Hitzemann

In Memory of William Walters

Mary Sharon Engelbart
 Denmar Inc
 Jason and Linda Lytle
 Andy and Teresa Ryba
 Matt '91 and Paula Walters
 Nick '96 and Erin Wessling

In Memory of Laverna Weis

Helen Gloeb

In Memory of James Whitaker

John and Pat Sullivan

In Honor of the Whitaker Family

John and Pat Sullivan

In Memory of John Wolters

Therese Wolters

In Honor of the Wolters Family

Therese Wolters

In Memory of Raymond Zdan '60

Matt and Constance Reres

In Honor of the Zdan Family

Matt and Constance Reres

Michaeleen

A Quarterly Publication of
MOUNT MICHAEL BENEDICTINE ABBEY & SCHOOL

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Head of School

Dr. David J. Peters

Director of Admissions

Tom Maliszewski '13

Director of Advancement

Matt Hoppe

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Fr. Louis Sojka, O.S.B. '81

Dr. Pat Sullivan

Ms. Shelley Wedergren

Mr. B.J. Wilson '84

Mount Michael Directory

Mount Michael Chapel

Currently closed to public due to COVID-19

Liturgy of the Hours (Monday-Saturday)

Morning Praise 6:30am | Noon Day Prayer 11:45am

Vespers 5:15pm | Night Prayer (In the Abbey) 7:00pm

St. Benedict Guest House

Gift Shop/Lunches/Teas/Dessert | Day Retreats

Brother Jerome Kmiecik, O.S.B., 402-206-2069

Vocation Ministry

For information about monastic life:

Brother August Schaefer, O.S.B., vocations@mountmichael.org

Oblates of St. Benedict Director

Brother Jerome Kmiecik, O.S.B., 402-206-2069

Alumni Association

For information about meetings/events or to report news:

John Von Dollen, 402-238-1447, alumni@mountmichael.org

Prayer Needs and Spiritual Direction

Abbot Theodore, O.S.B., 402-206-2089

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