



# Michael

SPRING  
2025

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# Letter from the Abbot

Maintaining identity in a changing world is a challenge. The church founded by Christ and his apostles has endured through the centuries to this day, though fractured into many denominations. For Roman Catholics, the successors to the apostles, that is the bishop of Rome and the bishops of dioceses world-wide are integral to maintaining our identity as members of the Body of Christ.

This summer has been one of change for the people in the archdiocese of Omaha. Archbishop Lucas reached retirement age. I attended the installation Eucharist for his successor, Archbishop Michael McGovern. Pope Francis died, and the college of cardinals elected Cardinal Robert Prevost to be pope. He chose the name Leo XIV. In some fashion or another, I have been privileged to witness the passing of the torch for both archbishops and popes. Here is a brief account of how the archbishops and popes have touched my life.

When I first arrived at St. John Seminary (predecessor to Mount Michael Benedictine), the archbishop of Omaha was Gerald T. Bergan. Our gym is honored with his name. While I was a student, each year he made a visit to the seminary. Inevitably, after a Eucharistic celebration with the monastic community and the seminarians, he would give all the seminarians the rest of the day off from classes. The monastic prefects were not as happy about the free day as the seminarians. After all, what could possibly go wrong with some 200 teenagers with nothing to do? After Archbishop Bergan retired in 1969, he was succeeded by his auxiliary, Archbishop Daniel Sheehan. Archbishop Sheehan ordained me to the priesthood. After Archbishop Sheehan retired in 1993, the new archbishop became Elden Curtiss. Archbishop Curtiss had been a staff member at Mount Angel in Oregon, so he was familiar with Benedictine monasticism. He officiated at my blessing as abbot in 2007. Once Archbishop Curtiss retired in 2009, he was succeeded by Archbishop George Lucas. At the time, the small joke was that the new archbishop was not the George Lucas of Star Wars fame. I was fortunate to attend both the installation of Archbishop Lucas and in early May of this year, the installation of Archbishop McGovern. Both events were impressive and beautiful celebrations of the continuity of the Catholic church in northeast Nebraska.

When I began grade school in my hometown, our classroom had a photo of the current pope, Pius XII. While serving with the Army Air Corps during World War II, my father along with other soldiers saw Pius XII at an audience in St. Peter's square in Rome. Pius was succeeded in 1958 by Pope John XXIII, who convened the Second Vatican Council. The Italian word *aggiornamento*, which means updating, described efforts of the council to bring the church into the modern world. Among many reforms, that council brought the vernacular to the celebration of the Eucharist. Pope Paul VI followed next, elected in 1963. He was the first pope that I saw in person. While I was in theology, I had the great good fortune to spend a semester studying in the Holy Land in the spring of 1976. On the way home, we traveled through Rome and stayed at Sant'Anselmo, the Benedictine monastery on the Aventine hill. While there, we attended an audience with Paul VI at the Papal Audience Hall. After Paul VI died, his 33-day successor was John Paul I. The cardinals apparently were determined not to have to re-convene in such a short span of time, so the next pope elected was young, John



Paul II. In October of 1979, Pope John Paul II traveled to Des Moines to celebrate the Eucharist at the Living History Farms. We packed up all the students and faculty in buses. Left early in the morning for the drive to Des Moines to attend that celebration. What began as a raw October morning turned into a lovely October afternoon as John Paul II celebrated the Eucharist. It was a memorable event for everyone privileged to take part. Because he had a long papacy, I saw Pope John Paul II again a couple of times, mostly at general audiences when I was traveling with groups in Italy. After I was elected abbot, I attended Congress of Abbots which is held every four years at Sant'Anselmo in Rome. That gathering was also an occasion for an audience with the Pope. I saw Pope Benedict XVI, John Paul's successor at Castel Gandolfo, the papal retreat just outside Rome. Finally, at a Congress of Abbots in 2016, the assembled abbots had a private audience with Pope Francis inside Vatican City. He was the first and to date the only pope with whom I ever shook hands. We also saw Pope Francis at the Congress of 2024, but this was a larger gathering at St Peter's Square. He had just returned from a trip to southeast Asia and was in a wheelchair. But he greeted the faithful gathered in the Square, nonetheless. Sadly, Pope Francis died not long after.

The day after Archbishop McGovern was installed as archbishop of Omaha, the college of cardinals elected Cardinal Robert Prevost to be the next pope. I immediately had messages from my sisters asking what I thought about the new pope. I had to confess that I had never heard of him before. But I think we can draw some conclusions from his choice of name, Leo XIV.

Leo is the Latin word for lion. The very first Pope Leo was the man who persuaded Attila the Hun not to sack the city of Rome. Certainly, a bit of leonine courage that. Pope Leo III crowned Charlemagne emperor of the Romans. But Leo's immediate predecessor of the same name is Leo XIII. His famed and socially progressive encyclical *Rerum Novarum* addressed inequalities in the wake of the industrial revolution. Pope Leo XIII also composed the prayer to St. Michael that is used by many parishes immediately following the conclusion of the Eucharist. "St. Michael the Archangel defend us in battle...cast into hell Satan and all the evil spirits." I suspect Pope Leo XIV will be a defender of the faith, but also a man sensitive to the needs of the disadvantaged and marginalized.

**When I was in grade school, I never imagined that I would cross paths with so many bishops, nor ever even see a pope. But God has ways of touching our lives unexpectedly. Perhaps that alone speaks to the continuity of grace that maintains our church, and maybe more importantly, sustains the people of God, the body of Christ.**



*Michael Liebl, OSB*



**Mount Michael Benedictine School:**

# Campus Life



The residential program at Mount Michael Benedictine School sets it apart from all the local metropolitan high schools both public and private. It is fundamental and foundational to our identity. Hundreds of our alumni count, and value, the great impact the residential program has had on them. Being a boarding school adds an element to campus life not found everywhere. It is unique and transformative. We consider it extremely meaningful and a key to our identity.

The residential schedule has remained the same over the past fifty-five years. Five-day boarders arrive Sunday evening or Monday morning, and students follow a consistent schedule from the time they wake up to the 90-minute study hall in the evening to prayer before lights out. This allows for a disciplined approach to homework and studies.

This summer we are renovating forty-two of our dormitory rooms. Each of these rooms will have new desks, paint, sinks, and beds. New drywall will be installed where needed. Each room will have, for the first time ever, wall-to-wall carpeting. The light fixtures will be replaced with state-of-the-art lights, allowing for brighter rooms with less energy used. New closets will be built to replace the old ones. Each room will undergo a complete facelift.

We are currently raising funds for this important project. For those wishing to donate, we have naming opportunities available for each room. A personalized nameplate will be available for each \$6,000 dollars raised. Maybe you, or your Mount Michael roommate would like to contribute to a plate displayed on your old dorm room.

We also have some personnel changes for the upcoming 2025-26 school year. A new dean of students has been hired who will also oversee our residential program. Mr. Tyler Linder will start working this summer. He comes to us from Columbus Scotus, where he has taught theology for the last thirteen years and has been their head football

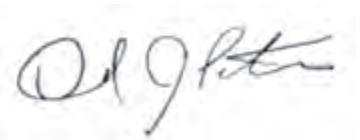
coach for the past eleven years. Our residential program will focus on enhancing leadership opportunities, spiritual life, mentoring and application of our core Benedictine values. Mr. Linder is looking forward to working with our young men and making these goals a reality.

We want to acknowledge and thank the many generous donors at this year's Night of Knights dinner and auction. Through their generosity money was raised to begin work on two major renovations to the gym. One is the replacement of the bleachers. The current bleachers are not the original ones but have been in service for well over twenty years. They have had to be repaired several times over the years. The second aspect to our gym renewal project will be repairing the floor and offering complete resurfacing, greatly changing our current design. While we think of the gym as a place where basketball games get played, it also serves Mount Michael in many ways. We have hosted all-school Masses, summer camps, various sports camps, and probably one of the greatest annual events that takes place in the

gym is our graduation. It is a tradition that brings our community together to celebrate. Enhancing that space will add to the sanctity of our graduation.

**If you have already supported our current fundraising endeavors, I will say thank you! If you have not, this is a great opportunity to give so that current and future Mount Michael students can experience both the gift that a residential program offers and a gym that they can be proud of.**

God bless you!  
Go Knights!!!



David J. Peters, Ed.D  
Head of School



PHASE 1  
**Gym  
Revitalization**  
New Bleachers | Gym Floor



**Be part of the transformation.**

**Your gift today will help create a better Mount Michael for tomorrow.**

**Scan to give or visit: [givebutter.com/BBRenovations](https://givebutter.com/BBRenovations)**



On May 1, students celebrated the seniors' last day and the upcoming end of the school year with an all-school Mass, picnic lunch, Kona Ice, and a raffle for Bookstore prizes.





## ADMISSIONS

# A Season of Celebration and Anticipation at Mount Michael

As another school year comes to a close, we take a moment to celebrate one of life's most meaningful milestones: graduation. To the Mount Michael Class of 2025—congratulations. Walking across that stage is more than just receiving a diploma; it's the culmination of four years of growth, challenge, triumph, and transformation. You've lived the Benedictine values, supported each other through it all, and become men of character. Graduating from Mount Michael is no small feat—it's something to be incredibly proud of. I'm so proud of each and every one of you. And as you begin the next chapter, know this: you will always have a home here, and I will always be in your corner—cheering you on, praying for you, and ready to support you however I can.

While we send off one class with pride, we also look ahead with excitement as the Class of 2029 begins to take shape. To our newest Knights: the entire Mount Michael community is thrilled to welcome you to the hill this fall. You are stepping into something special—brotherhood, tradition, faith, and growth. We can't wait to see the incredible things you will do as Mount Michael students, and we're honored to walk alongside you on this journey.

This summer, Mount Michael will be buzzing with activity as we welcome hundreds of young boys to campus for a wide range of camps and events:

### CAMP MOUNT MICHAEL

Camp Mount Michael offers four exciting sessions that introduce boys to life at the Mount through fun, adventure, and community:

June 23–27 | July 7–11 | July 14–18 | July 21–25

### ATHLETIC CAMPS

Our Athletic Camps allow youth athletes to sharpen their skills and connect with our coaching staff and students:

Basketball | Football | Baseball | Wrestling  
May 27–29 | June 2–3 | June 9–11 | June 17–18

### ROBOTICS CAMP

And for those with a passion for technology, our Robotics Camp is the perfect opportunity to explore creativity and innovation in a hands-on environment.

#### Robotics Camp June 16–18

Finally, on a personal note, this summer marks 15 years since I graduated from Mount Michael. It's hard to put into words how much this place means to me. Choosing Mount Michael remains one of the best decisions I've ever made. The friendships I formed, the lessons I learned, and the values instilled in me as a student built the foundation for the rest of my life. I am forever grateful—for the memories, the mentors, the laughter, and the brotherhood. Mount Michael shaped the man I am today, and I thank God every day for the gift of being part of this community.



Here's to a summer of gratitude, growth, and great memories.

Sincerely,

**Tim Carlson '10**  
Director of Enrollment

# Credit Needs to Be Given

By Fr. John Hagemann O.S.B.

Many faithful Michaelleen readers have wished me well in the carpentry shop, constructing Mount Michael caskets and urns after my last article. I must be truthful! Constructing the caskets and urns is not my role in this ministry. Ever since Br. Andrew Sorensen OSB passed, there has not been a monk of Mount Michael who has continued constructing the caskets and urns. Many of our readers have wished me well in the carpentry shop. Thank you but I am not in the

carpenter shop nor is there a shop anymore!

Much has changed since Br. Andrew, the designer of our caskets, has passed. In fact, there is no longer a carpentry shop on campus. Br. Andrew's shop was in the school building proper, and as our school grew larger and larger the space was needed for the school. We no longer have a carpentry shop or a carpenter as such.

When the monks decided to provide caskets for the public, we outsourced construction of the caskets. Then when I was asked to take over the ministry, one of my many cousins who was very capable as a carpenter stepped up to the plate and inquired if he could do the construction. Paul Dohmen from Columbus, Nebraska is the cousin of mine who wanted to be a part of this ministry. And so, it happened. Paul's first casket was made around 2010, and it his skill surprised me. He simply made the casket after taking some measurements of one of Br. Andrew's and one day he showed up with it in his pick-up. From that day on, Paul was the master of the caskets in his shop in Columbus. Up until recently, Paul made all the Mount Michael caskets. He made well over 100 in that time period.

Paul and I share the same birth date: January 23. But he has me by 13 years. He turned 89 this past January, an age when constructing a casket was becoming too much. But Paul and his wife, Joyce always reminded me of this saying, "It is better to wear out, than to rust out". Paul is now making



Paul Dohmen





# Where Credit Is Due

nativity sets—a little less demanding. He makes many for me to sell here at Mount Michael. And since St. Francis was the originator of Nativity sets - the creche - this ministry is even more Franciscan! It all seems to fit very well with my Franciscan background and Paul's as well. He was born just a mile away from St. Bernard, Nebraska. It was where my mother lived as a young girl and very likely where she enrobed herself with my great uncle's habit.

Our present constructor of Mount Michael caskets and urns is Randy Hellerich. He is a retired pilot and is very capable as a carpenter. Randy lives very near Mount Michael, and near Menard's where he can purchase the wood for the caskets. Randy and I have made a few changes in Br. Andrew's original design to simplify things. However, we have remained true to Br. Andrew's creativity and simplicity. Mount Michael caskets and urns can be viewed any time at the Guest House.

At this point in history, we still do not have a carpentry shop at Mount Michael. Both of our carpenters create their products in their own shops with their own tools.

So, you might ask: "What is your role in the casket ministry, Fr. John?" I take all the phone calls and inquiries. I, along with the Advancement office, create the flyers and website information about the caskets. I make all the contacts with funeral homes and even at times deliver a casket or urn to a funeral home.

It has been a very rewarding opportunity to be a participant in

this ministry at Mount Michael. Many people are appreciative of the simplicity of carpentry work and likewise appreciate the monastic aspect of it all.

On behalf of my community, I would like to thank Paul and Randy particularly, but also those who choose to participate in a ministry that is so monastic. Blessings to all of you and know that all are remembered in our prayers.



Randy Hellerich



# Rita Wolfe

## Helps Mount Michael Continue Lectio and the Oblate Program

By Bro. Jerome Kmiecik O.S.B. and Fr. John Hagemann, O.S.B.

We have been overwhelmed with the reaction and response to the last article in the Michaeleen, titled Lectio and Monks and Oblates of this House. Admittedly, it is a good thing for lots of reasons.

Although Rita Wolfe passed into eternal life before the article appeared in the Michaeleen, she seemed to know what the article was about. Rita herself was an Oblate of Mount Michael Abbey for many years. She was very serious about her commitment to Mount Michael community. Her focus was really on two Benedictine values that Mount Michael has been emphasizing in recent times: Hospitality and Service.

Rita was particularly present when Mount Michael Abbey celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2006. We had arranged for numerous celebrations at the abbey. Some for just the Religious Orders of the Archdiocese, for the Priests of the Archdiocese, for the immediate families of the monks of Mount Michael, for the alumni and students of Mount Michael, etc., and all these events included receptions. At each of them, the food was carefully planned. Rita was the center of it all. Indeed, Rita knew how to prepare hors d'oeuvres and finger food and so very tasty it was! Rita was willing to work hours on end for these parties! She did so with meticulous care. Actually, Rita became famous for some of her recipes. Her husband was a liquor salesman, and at times she prepared food with liquor. She once made chicken with Vermouth at the Guest House for her family. It was so delicious that we thought about making her "French Style Chicken" as a meal at the Guest House in honor of Rita.

An organization that Rita worked tirelessly for was EPS—Essential Pregnancy Services. She helped with many, many fundraisers over the years. And one way she could directly help was her adeptness at crocheting shawls. She ordered unusually bright colored, loose yarn from different countries. The shawls

were absolutely stunning. She crocheted many shawls and donated all the money to EPS. There is some of her work still at the Guest House at this time.

Rita loved coming out to Mount Michael and she would help at the Guest House in any way she could. Eventually she thought it would be good to basically run the Flea Market. Some of the Saturdays were very hot days. But dear Rita loved the hot weather and direct sun. She would sit out in front of the barn waiting for customers and helping them. In her spare time, she would crochet. She was always invited to sit under the umbrella, but she loved the sun, indeed she did. She just wanted to be in the sun!

Rita was well aware of how the Oblate Program of Mount Michael was growing and she was so pleased about that. She was determined to help in any way so could. But she knew that as she aged, it wasn't as easy to do lots of physical work anymore. So, she decided that her money could help the program as well. Dear Rita, made sure that we could continue to finance the Oblate Program, especially with the students. So, Rita gave Mount Michael a very generous donation to the program before she passed into eternal life.

Mount Michael wishes to acknowledge Rita's generosity and express our gratitude to her family. Truth be told, it will be hard to ever forget Rita. She was quite a talker! But her actions have spoken much louder than her words.

**Thank you so much, Rita.  
You will always be  
remembered here at  
Mount Michael!**



We would like to invite all alumni and student oblates to join us monthly for lectio and study of The Rule and Life of Saint Benedict. These sessions will always be followed by a Social and Catching-Up time. During the summer months we will meet at 7:30 pm in the abbey on the 4th Thursday of each month. The first dates will be May 22nd, June 26th, and July 24th. Future dates will be decided then. We hope to see many of you as our oblate program grows.

**GUEST HOUSE AND  
FLEA MARKET BARN**

**OPEN EVERY FRIDAY &  
SATURDAY, 9 AM - 3 PM**



# Night of Knights 2025 Recap

Mount Michael's Night of Knights 2025 had us dancing All Knight Long! Inspired by Lionel Richie's legendary 1983 hit, our totally rad '80s theme brought bold neon colors, throwback beats, and a wave of nostalgia that took us straight back to one of the most iconic decades.

For the second year in a row, we gathered at A View West Shores on Saturday, March 29, and the energy was electric! Nearly 500 guests joined us in person, with hundreds more participating from home through our online silent auction.

Of course, this unforgettable evening wouldn't have been possible without the dedication of more than 60 volunteers working behind the scenes to make every detail shine. We're grateful for every minute you gave to bring All Knight Long to life!

A heartfelt thank you goes out to this year's incredible event leaders: Beth and Charlie Boone – general chairs, Lori and B.J. Wilson '84 – alumni chairs, and Beth and Dan Gard '04 – vice chairs. Beth and Dan will return as the general chairs for Night of Knights 2026!

Thanks to the remarkable generosity of our Mount Michael community, this year's event raised more than \$495,000 in support of our school. Our "Raise the Paddle" effort, aimed at launching Phase 1 of the revitalization of The Palace, our beloved gym, soared past our \$100,000 goal – reaching an incredible \$130,000!

Whether you attended, volunteered, donated, or bid from afar, you helped make this year's Night of Knights an overwhelming success. Thank you for your unwavering support of Mount Michael Benedictine School. We can't wait to see you next year!



**\$495,000+**

RAISED TO SUPPORT  
MOUNT MICHAEL  
BENEDICTINE SCHOOL

**\$130,000**

OF THAT WENT TO  
RAISE THE PADDLE  
TO SUPPORT THE  
RENOVATIONS TO THE  
BENEDICT BUILDING

SCAN FOR MORE  
INFORMATION ON OUR  
BENEDICT BUILDING  
RENOVATIONS



## MARK YOUR CALENDARS



**Sunday, September 21, 2025**

Food | Games | Cake Walk

Art/Vendor Show | And So Much More!

**NIGHT OF  
KNIGHTS  
2026**

**Saturday, March 28  
A View West Shores**

# MISSION & MINISTRY

By Amanda Schleimer



As a rising high school senior, in July 2009, I attended a social justice immersion program through the Archdiocese of Baltimore. The week-long camp challenged high school students from different parts of Maryland to learn about the injustices impacting Baltimore City and how we could be advocates for change. During the week, we visited various service agencies that promote justice in Baltimore. Before we entered our first service site, our leader told us that we might be taken outside of our comfort

zones. She said that the role of the Catholic Church—especially in service and justice—is to make the comfortable uncomfortable.

In many ways, this piece of advice came to shape my entire life. After that week, I dedicated much of my teen, college, and young adult years to service, often finding myself in situations that made me uncomfortable. What I found in those moments was that, in my discomfort, I was encountering Jesus. When developing ideas about adding a service day into the school calendar for each grade, that phrase—make the comfortable uncomfortable—was at the forefront of my mind. The goal for the service days was for our students to become uncomfortable so that they, too, could encounter Jesus.

When our students embarked on their service days to the Heart Ministry Center and Siena Francis House, many of them were uncomfortable. They encountered and met people who are unhoused, people recently released from prison, people addicted to drugs, people striving for recovery from those addictions, and people struggling to put food on the table—people whom I hope they realized are not all that different from them. People who reflected the face of Christ. People who are Jesus.





In Matthew 25, we hear the words: "For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me.' Then the righteous will answer him and say, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? When did we see you ill or in prison, and visit you?' And the king will say to them in reply, 'Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.'" On their service days, our students embodied this Gospel passage.

**If the goal of service is to make the comfortable uncomfortable so that they can encounter Christ, then our time at the Heart Ministry Center and Siena Francis House was well spent. We were with Jesus in every second that we were there. My hope, as we continue to integrate new service opportunities into different aspects of Mount Michael, is that our students never stay comfortable—and that they seek out discomfort so they can continue to encounter Christ.**



## Service Day Reflections

By Easton Crouse



Spending the day at the Heart Ministry Center was a very fulfilling experience. I had never been there before, so when I first walked through those doors, I was not sure what to expect. However, by the end of the day, I left with a changed perspective, one that I believe many of my classmates shared.

The Heart Ministry Center provides food, medical services, and many other essential facilities to those in difficult circumstances. It is a symbol of hope in our community. The staff was incredibly supportive and energetic, and the volunteer director pointed out something that stuck with me. He said that it takes courage to ask for help. He had made my class realize that everyone who was at the Heart Ministry Center had already done something brave that day, asking for help.

Throughout the day, I had the chance to help several people. I was tasked with helping them get groceries and helping them carry it out. Some came alone and only grabbed food for a meal or two. Some brought their children and had full carts by the end. Everyone receiving help was very polite and respectful to us.

Seeing all the people that needed help put into perspective how fortunate I am. It made me appreciate my ability to go to a private school, my ability to have food on my table, and my appreciation for my family. The people I met may not have some of those luxuries, but they had the strength to ask for help.

What made the day even more meaningful was being along side my classmates. We have spent the last four years growing together, and the day felt like a culmination of our service and community. Seeing my teammates and friends step up to help strangers brought a sense of compassion and empathy. Our day of service made me proud to be in the Class of 2025 and a Mount Michael Knight.

# STUDENT NEWS

**The Knights are the 24-25 NSAA Multi-Activity Student Award Winners with 36% of students (62 Knights) competing in multiple NSAA Activities. This award recognizes our students who participate in multiple NSAA events. Congratulations to our entire student body and our many coaches that make this possible.**

## ACADEMIC DECATHLON

Congratulations to the Academic Decathlon team and coaches Dave Cormier and Eileen Sullivan for placing first in the Small School Division and first overall at the state competition.



Left to right: Cole Storch, Holden Kutash, Clemens Pavlish, Connor Smith, Blase Bosilevac, Michael Freilich, Rylan Pearson, Nathan Mullin, Jaxson Pigg, Cole Poutre, John Kelly, Timur Guliev, Brady Becker, Coach Dave Cormier

## WINTER SPORTS ACADEMIC ALL-STATE MEMBERS



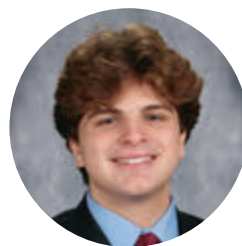
Griffin Snyder  
BASKETBALL



Wes Cobb  
BOWLING



Syler Sennet  
BOWLING



Nathan Mullin  
SPEECH



Jaxson Pigg  
SPEECH



Brady Quinlivan  
WRESTLING



Xavier Zimmerman  
WRESTLING



**MOUNT MICHAEL  
KNIGHTS**





## MUSIC AWARDS

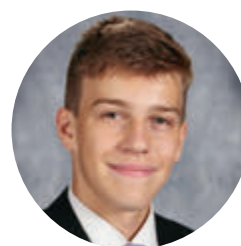
The Mount Michael band and choir competed at District Music Contest in Wahoo on April 25. The band and choir each received a 2 “excellent” rating for their group performances. Some standouts from solos and small groups include **Eason Jia**, who received a perfect score and a 1 “superior” rating for his vocal solo, and all three saxophone small groups who received a 1 “superior” rating.



## NATIONAL MERIT FINALISTS



**Connor Smith**



**Cole Storch**



**Kyle Oldehoeft '25** was awarded a scholarship from the West O Chamber of Commerce.

## PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARS AWARD

The students achieved a 3.5 GPA or higher, 30 ACT composite score or higher.

Aidan Balas

Ethan Bell

Beckett Beller

Dominic Beninato

Nathan Bluvus

Easton Crouse

Jack Dewhurst

Leo Dustin

Peter Haas

Peter Killeen

Augie Knobbe

Tony Newton

Mason Nick

Clemens Pavlish

Thomas Penne

Alex Poole

David Schmitz

Connor Smith

Will Snyder

Jacob Spencer

Cole Storch

Jackson Teetor

Cody Torczon

Noah Trueman



Congratulations to **Jaxson Pigg** and **Xavier Zimmerman** for scoring a perfect 36 on the ACT.

## NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY

Congratulations to the newest members of Mount Michael's National Honor Society

SOPHOMORES:

Ben Alessandro

Patrick Barnes

Jamison Barry

Brady Becker

Blaize Beller

Will Boone

Jack Burke

Liam Casey

Michael Fayad

Michael Freilich

Will Gray

Oscar Hou

Nolan Joslin

Patrick Killeen

Will McCoy

Mesach

Nkurubujango

Rylan Pearson

Connor Sall

Will Schieber

Joe Schmitz

Thomas Schroer

Charlie Schwartz

Ethan Siegmund

Griffin Snyder

Paxton Theis

Gavin Torczon

Noah Troester

Miles Wewel

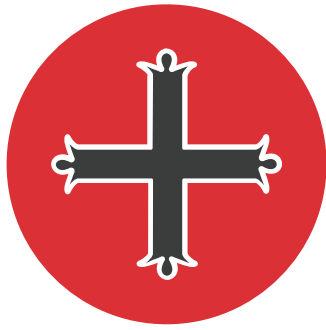
JUNIORS:

Brandon Nguyen

Matt Otten







## OBLATION

THIS SPRING, 11 STUDENTS TOOK A STEP IN THEIR FAITH AND MADE THEIR OBLATION TO ST. BENEDICT AND MOUNT MICHAEL.

Joseph Nord '28  
Eli Zimmerman '28  
Liam Kicken '27  
Kiriba Tombe '28  
Connor Langan '28

Patrick Johansen '28  
Leo Sheridan '28  
Patrick Killeen '27  
Laeth Sykora '28  
Joseph Schmitz '27



## UPCOMING EVENTS

**ALUMNI GOLF  
CLASSIC**  
JUNE 6

**ALUMNI REUNION**  
JUNE 7

**ALUMNI RUN**  
JULY 19

**BACK TO SCHOOL  
PICNIC**  
AUGUST 10

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updates on  
Mount Michael!*



Mount Michael Benedictine School



@Mount\_Michael



Mount Michael Benedictine



# 2025 SENIOR PLANS



**\*Stefano Antonio Anzalone** is the son of Sebastiano and Amy Anzalone of Omaha. Stefano has received offers of admission to the University of Nebraska at Omaha, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and the University of Nebraska at Kearney. Stefano will attend the **University of Nebraska-Lincoln** this fall where he will major in Biology on a Pre-med track.

~**Aidan Michael Balas** is the son of John and Michele Balas of Omaha. Aidan received offers of admission to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Iowa State University, and the University of Wisconsin (Madison). Aidan will attend the **University of Nebraska-Lincoln** this fall where he will major in Chemical Engineering.

**\*David Wayne Barkmeier** is the son of Wayne and Kelly Barkmeier of Omaha. David has received offers of admission to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, the University of Nebraska at Omaha, Saint John's University (Minnesota), and Ave Maria University. David will attend the **University of Nebraska-Lincoln** this fall where he will major in Pre-Health.

**\*Ethan Ryan Bell** is the son of Teresa Bell of Omaha. Ethan received offers of

admission to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and the University of Nebraska at Omaha. Ethan will attend the **University of Nebraska at Omaha** in the fall where he will major in Physics and Electrical Engineering.

**\*Beckett Jerrold Beller** is the son of Jude ('92) and Alexis Beller of Elkhorn. Beckett has received offers of admission to the University of Nebraska at Omaha, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Concordia University (Nebraska), Kansas State University, and the University of South Dakota. Beckett will attend the **University of Nebraska-Lincoln** this fall where he will major in Biochemistry.

**\*Dominic Joseph Beninato** is the son of Daniel ('91) and Pamela Beninato of Omaha. Dominic received offers of admission to Creighton University, Baylor University, Texas Christian University, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and the University of Kansas. Dominic will attend **Creighton University** this fall where he will major in Biochemistry.

**\*Samuel Leigh Beninato** is the son of Daniel ('91) and Pamela Beninato of Omaha. Samuel has received offers of admission to Baylor University,

Creighton University, the University of Tampa, and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Samuel will attend **Creighton University** this fall where he will major in Biochemistry.

~**\*Nathan John Bluvac** is the son of Christopher and Julie Bluvac of Omaha. Nathan has received offers of admission to Marquette University, Iowa State University, Kansas State University, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, the University of Nebraska at Omaha, and the University of Kansas. Nathan will attend the **University of Nebraska-Lincoln** this fall where he will major in Civil Engineering.

**Blase Casey Bosilevac** is the son of the late Genevieve Bosilevac and Michael Bosilevac of Omaha. Blase has received offers of admission to Iowa State University, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and the University of Nebraska at Omaha. Blase will attend **Iowa State University** this fall where he will major in Civil Engineering.

**Owen Matthew Brester** is the son of the late Matthew Brester ('90) and Michelle Brester of Elkhorn. Owen received offers of admission to the University of



Minnesota, the University of Iowa, and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Owen will be attending the **University of Nebraska-Lincoln** this fall where he will major in Computer Science and Business.

**\*Jack Henry Carda** is the son of John and Jennifer Carda of Omaha. Jack has received offers of admission to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, the University of Nebraska at Kearney, the University of Nebraska at Omaha, Embry Riddle Aeronautical University, the University of Dubuque, and LeTourneau University. Jack will attend the **University of Dubuque** this fall where he will major in Aviation/Aviation Management. Jack will also be competing on the track and field team.

**\*Wesley Douglas Cobb** is the son of Shoshone and Wendy Cobb of Bennington. Wesley has received offers of admission to Texas Christian University, the University of Nebraska at Omaha, Iowa State University, and the University of North Texas. Wesley will attend **Iowa State University** this fall where he will major in Cyber Security Engineering.

**Caleb Michael Courtney** is the son of Michael and Nancy Courtney of Elkhorn. Caleb has received offers of admission to Coe College, Nebraska Wesleyan University, and the University of Kansas. Caleb will attend **Nebraska Wesleyan University** this fall where he will major in Economics and Business Administration. Caleb will also compete on the swim team.

**\*Easton John Crouse** is the son of John (JJ) Crouse and Lesley Brandt of Elkhorn. Easton received offers of admission to the University of Kansas and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Easton will attend the **University of Nebraska-Lincoln** in the fall where he will major in Architecture.

**\*John James Dewhurst** is the son of John and Ruth Dewhurst of Omaha. John has received offers of admission to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, the University of Nebraska at Omaha, the University of Nebraska at Kearney, Texas Christian University, the University of Kansas, and Southern Methodist University. John will attend **Texas Christian University** in the fall where he will major in Finance.

**\*Leo Thomas Dustin** is the son of John ('97) and Colleen Dustin of Omaha. Leo received offers of admission to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, the

University of Kansas, and Benedictine College. Leo will attend the **University of Nebraska-Lincoln** this fall where he will major in Biology.

**\*John Daniel Farrell** is the son of Joe and Heather Farrell of Elkhorn. John has received offers of admission to Saint John's University (Minnesota), the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, the University of Nebraska at Omaha, the University of Nebraska at Kearney, Benedictine College, and the University of Iowa. John is undecided on his major, but he will attend **Saint John's University** this fall.

**Gavin Cain Gaither** is the son of David Gaither of Omaha and Michelle Gaither and Don Scott of Omaha. Gavin received offers of admission to the University of Nebraska at Omaha, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Colorado State University, and Regis University. Gavin is undecided on his major, but he will attend **Regis University** this fall.

**\*\*Peter Benedict Haas** is the son of John ('98) and Susanne Haas of Omaha. Peter has received offers of admission to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Concordia University, Benedictine College, Grinnell College, Creighton University, Nebraska Wesleyan University, and Midland University. Peter will attend the **University of Nebraska-Lincoln** this fall where he will major in Biochemistry.

**\*Drew Tyler Hoeft** is the son of Chadd and Suzi Hoeft of Omaha. Drew received offers of admission to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, the University of Nebraska at Omaha, Kansas State University, the University of Missouri (Columbia), Marquette University, Florida Atlantic University, and San Diego State University. Drew will attend **San Diego State University** this fall where he will major in Finance.

**\*Peter Martin Killeen** is the son of Marty ('98) and Amy Killeen of Lincoln. Peter has received offers of admission to Loyola University Chicago, Villanova University, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Marquette University, Boston College, Saint Louis University, and Creighton University. Peter will attend **Saint Louis University** this fall where he will major in Exercise Science.

**\*Augustus Thomas Knobbe** is the son of Roger and Leslie Knobbe of Elkhorn. Augustus has received offers of admission to the University of Alabama, the University of Nebraska at Omaha, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, the

University of Nebraska at Kearney, Baylor University, Creighton University, and Texas Christian University. Augustus will attend **Texas Christian University or Creighton University** this fall to major in Biology.

**John Alexander Kosierowski** is the son of Pete and Sandra Kosierowski of Omaha. John received offers of admission to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and the University of Nebraska at Omaha. John will attend the **University of Nebraska-Lincoln** this fall where he will major in Civil Engineering.

**\*Terry Le** is the son of Trang Vo and Viet Le of Omaha. Terry has received offers of admission to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and the University of Nebraska at Omaha. Terry plans to attend the **Gemological Institute of America (GIA)** for Jewelry Design.

**Ethan Alexander Moline** is the son of Kevin ('99) and Sarah Moline of Omaha. Ethan received offers of admission to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, the University of Nebraska at Omaha, and the University of Nebraska at Kearney. Ethan will attend the **University of Nebraska at Omaha** this fall where he will major in Construction Management.

**\*Finn Damian Mutchie** is the son of Brian and Nicole Mutchie of Elkhorn. Finn has received offers of admission to the University of Arkansas and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Finn will attend the **University of Arkansas** this fall where he will major in Business.

**\*Anthony Peter Newton** is the son of Peter and Gabrielle Newton of Omaha. Anthony received offers of admission to Creighton University, Aquinas College, Baylor University, Xavier University, Bethel University, Drake University, Drury University, Hope College, Maryville University, Saint John's University (Minnesota), Saint Mary's University of Minnesota, University of St. Thomas (Minnesota), and Wheaton College. Anthony will attend **Creighton University** this fall where he will major in Pre-Medicine. Anthony will also be a member of the Creighton hockey team.

**\*Mason Riley Nick** is the son of Troy and Rochelle Nick of Bennington. Mason received offers of admission to the University of Kansas, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, the University of Nebraska at Omaha, Kansas State University and Iowa State University. Mason will attend the **University of Kansas** this fall to major in Aerospace Engineering.

**\*Kyle Joseph Oldehoeft** is the son of Adam and Becky Oldehoeft of Elkhorn. Kyle has received offers of admission to Doane University, Midland University, Briar Cliff University, Benedictine College, and Buena Vista University. Kyle will attend **Doane University** this fall where he will play baseball and major in Business.

**Eric Christopher Ortmeier** is the son of Jeff Ortmeier of Bennington and Holly Ortmeier of Elkhorn. Eric received an offer of admission to **Benedictine College** where he will attend in the fall to major in Mechanical Engineering.

**+\*Clemens Pavlish** is the son of Jacob and Kelli Pavlish of Omaha. Clemens received offers of admission to the University of Alabama, the University of Minnesota (Twin Cities), and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Clemens will attend the **University of Alabama** this fall where he will major in Psychology.

**\*Thomas Patrick Penne** is the son of Jeffrey and Sharon Penne of Elkhorn. Thomas received offers of admission to Gonzaga University, Creighton University, Loyola University Chicago, Marquette University, Saint John's University (Minnesota), Texas Christian University, the University of St. Thomas (Minnesota), the University of Kansas, and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Thomas will attend **Creighton University** this fall where he will major in Business.

**\*Alexander Thomas Poole** is the son of Jason and Jill Poole of Omaha. Alex has received offers of admission to Texas Christian University, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, the University of Nebraska at Omaha, the University of Nebraska at Kearney, and the United States Military Academy at West Point. Alex is undecided on his major but will be attending the **United States Military Academy at West Point** this fall.

**\*Grant Paul Rademacher** is the son of Carey Rademacher-Gille and Chris Gille of Omaha and Eric Rademacher of Omaha. Grant has received offers of admission to Colorado Christian University, Benedictine College, Dordt University, Concordia University (Nebraska), and MidAmerica Nazarene University. Grant will attend **Colorado Christian University** this fall where he will major in Business Management and play baseball.

**Michael Christian Rodgers** is the son of Michael and Shelly Rodgers of Elkhorn. Michael received offers of admission to Mount Marty University, the University of

Nebraska-Lincoln, Northwest Missouri State University, Saint John's University (Minnesota), the University of Nebraska at Kearney, Western Colorado University, Washburn University, the University of South Dakota, and the University of Kansas. Michael will attend the **University of Nebraska-Lincoln** this fall where he will major in Business.

**\*David Peter Schmitz** is the son of John and Collins Schmitz of Omaha. David has received offers of admission to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, the University of Nebraska at Omaha, and Benedictine College. David will attend **Benedictine College** this fall where he will major in Business and Psychology.

John received offers of admission to the University of Nebraska at Omaha, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, the University of Nebraska at Kearney, and the University of Kansas. John will attend the **University of Nebraska-Lincoln** in the fall where he will major in Business.

**^\*Connor Michael Smith** is the son of Michael and Michaela Smith of Omaha. Connor has received offers of admission to the University of Alabama, the University of Iowa, Iowa State University, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Kansas State University, Loyola University Chicago, and Marquette University. Connor will be attending the **University of Alabama** this fall where he will major in Mechanical Engineering and Business.

# Class of 2025 Accomplishments

Congratulations to our 58 graduates on their incredible accomplishments! This remarkable class earned \$9.3 million in scholarships, received 275 college acceptances across 111 institutions, and posted an average ACT score of 27.9. We're proud of each Knight as they begin their next chapter.

**Ian Titus Scott** is the son of Aaron and Mimi Scott of Winston-Salem, North Carolina. Ian received offers of admission to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Creighton University, Seton Hall University, Western Carolina University, University of North Carolina Asheville, Appalachian State University, and Belmont Abbey College. Ian will attend Belmont Abbey College this fall where he will major in Criminology.

**\*Syler McDowell Sennett** is the son of Sam and Holly Sennett of Omaha. Syler has received offers of admission to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and Iowa State University. Syler will attend the **University of Nebraska-Lincoln** this fall where he will major in Mechanical Engineering.

**\*John William Sitz** is the son of Jesse and Tori Sitz of Omaha and Megan and Michael Timmerman of Omaha.

**\*William Ryan Snyder** is the son of Bill and Sheilah Snyder of Papillion. William received offers of admission to St. John's University (Minnesota), Iowa State University, Creighton University, the University of Kansas, the University of Nebraska at Omaha, the University of Nebraska at Kearney, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and Colorado State University. William will attend **St. John's University** this fall where he will major in Biology.

**\*Oliver Matthew Sorensen** is the son of Chris and Chloe Sorenson of Omaha. Oliver has received an offer of admission from **Creighton University**, where he will be attending this fall to major in Marketing.

**\*Jacob Grant Spencer** is the son of Jonathan and Jennifer Spencer of Omaha. Jacob has received offers of admission to the University of Nebraska



at Omaha, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, the University of Nebraska at Kearney, Creighton University, Nebraska Wesleyan University, Seton Hall University, the University of Kansas, Rockhurst University, Drake University, and the University of Missouri-Kansas City. Jacob is undecided on his major, but he will attend **Creighton University** in the fall.

**\*Jonathan Robert Stanek** is the son of Jason and Anne Stanek of Bennington. Johnathan has been accepted to Iowa State University and Benedictine College. Johnathan will be attending **Iowa State University** in the fall where he will major in Electrical Engineering.

**Joseph Jagat Stiles** is the son of Dale and Jaya Stiles of Omaha. Joseph received offers of admission to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, the University of Nebraska at Omaha, the University of St. Thomas (Minnesota), Creighton University, Iowa State University, the University of Kansas, the University of Nebraska at Kearney, St. John's University (New York), and Florida International University. Joseph will attend the **University of Nebraska-Lincoln** this fall where he will major in Finance.

**\*William Paulsen Storbeck** is the son of Patrick and Rebecca Storbeck of Omaha. William received offers of admission to the University of Nebraska at Omaha, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and the University of Kansas. William will attend the **University of Kansas** in the fall where he will major in Accounting.

**\*Cole Joseph Storch** is the son of Steven and Michelle Storch of Kaiserslautern, Germany. Cole has received offers of admission to Iowa State University, Saint John's University (Minnesota), the University of Alabama, the University of Oklahoma, Louisiana Tech University, and the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Cole will attend the **University of Alabama** this fall where he will major in Mechanical Engineering.

**\*Barrett Daniel Sykora** is the son of David and Helen Sykora of Elkhorn. Barrett has received offers of admission to the University of Nebraska at Omaha, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, the University of Nebraska at Kearney, the University of Kansas, the University of Arizona, and the University of Tampa. Barrett will attend the **University of Kansas** this fall where he will major in Biology.

**\*Jackson Arthur Teetor** is the son of Adam and Catherine Teetor of Omaha. Jackson received offers of admission to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, the University of Nebraska at Omaha, the University of Nebraska at Kearney, the University of Arkansas, the University of Kansas, Iowa State University, Wayne State College, and Benedictine College. Jackson will attend **Iowa State University** this fall where he will major in Finance.

**~\*Cody Jacob Torczon** is the son of Kevin and Sarah Torczon of Omaha. Cody has received offers of admission to Iowa State University, the University of Kansas, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Cody will attend the **University of Nebraska-Lincoln** this fall where he will major in Mechanical Engineering.

**\*Noah Steven Trueman** is the son of Andy and Kylie Trueman of Bennington. Noah received offers of admission to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, the University of Nebraska at Omaha, the University of Nebraska at Kearney, Iowa State University, and the University of Kansas. Noah will attend **Iowa State University** this fall where he will major in Aerospace Engineering.

**Selwyn Bensula Vallente** is the son of William and Richel McKenna of Omaha. Selwyn has received offers of admission to the University of Nebraska at Omaha, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, the University of Nebraska at Kearney, Creighton University, Benedictine College, and Nebraska Wesleyan University. Selwyn will attend the **University of Nebraska at Omaha** this fall where he will major in Forensics.

**\*Anson Noah Vogtman** is the son of Dave and Lacy Vogtman of Elkhorn. Anson has received offers of admission to the University of Kansas and Iowa State University. Anson will attend the **University of Kansas** this fall where he will major in Aerospace Engineering.

**\*Harry Nicholas Vondrak** is the son of Stephanie Vondrak of Omaha and Nick Vondrak of Mesa, Arizona. Harry has received offers of admission to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Iowa State University, and Purdue University. Harry will attend **Iowa State University** in the fall where he will major in Mechanical Engineering.

**Elijah Thomas Walters** is the son of Paula and Matthew ('91) Walters of Omaha. Elijah has received an offer of admission to **Northeast Community College**, where he will be attending this fall to major in Welding, Machining and Manufacturing Automation, while also earning an associate's degree in business.

**\*Quinn Thomas Wamsley** is the son of Mark Wamsley of Omaha and Kathy Wamsley of Omaha. Quinn has received offers of admission to Iowa State University, the University of Nebraska at Omaha, and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Quinn will attend **Iowa State University** in the fall where he will major in Construction Engineering.

**Benjamin Carl Weber** is the son of Nate and Jeanette Weber of Valley. Benjamin has received offers of admission to the University of Nebraska at Omaha, the University of Nebraska at Kearney, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, the University of Kansas, and Loyola University Chicago. Ben will attend the **University of Kansas** this fall where he will major in Finance.

**Isaac Jon Weeder** is the son of Kurt and Jennifer Weeder of Omaha. Isaac has received offers of admission to Butler University, Creighton University, Marquette University, the University of Kansas, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, the University of Nebraska at Omaha, the University of Nebraska at Kearney, and Palm Beach Atlantic University. Isaac will attend **Butler University** this fall where he will major in Business Marketing and Pre-law.

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(\*) Signifies a member of National Honor Society

(^\*) Signifies a National Merit Finalist

(+) Signifies a National Merit Semi-Finalist

(~) Signifies a Recommended Omaha World Herald Scholar

(#) Signifies an Omaha World Herald Scholar

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# ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

## LUKE VAN HAUTE '18

Written by: Nate Van Haute '12



When people hear that there are five boys in our family, they typically respond in one of two ways: “Your poor mother,” or “That’s enough to field a basketball team.” Luke (‘18) is fourth in the starting lineup, following Vince (‘11), me (Nate, ‘12), Sam (‘16), but ahead of Drew (‘23). The decision to attend Mount Michael was made long before eighth grade, and Luke certainly had big shoes to fill. Please don’t misread this as self-indulgent. Mount Michael faculty will acknowledge this as a tip of the hat to Vince, not to Sam or me. Fortunately for all of us though, the last impression of the Van Haute tenure at Mount Michael was left in Drew’s hands.

As I asked Luke to reflect on his time at Mount Michael and the impact it had on him, the word “brotherhood” kept coming up.

Now, as one of five, the concept wasn’t new to him. But over his four years at Mount Michael, he learned that brotherhood was much more than backyard scuffles and oversized hand-me-downs. It was built on everyday moments— dodging demerits, cramming for exams, and building forts in the gullies. Brotherhood became a deep-rooted loyalty and a commitment to lifting each other higher, a bond that exists to this day with many of his classmates. While we spoke a lot about brotherhood, it was clear that some of the most meaningful connections came from outside of his Papillion/La Vista comfort zone.

For Luke, Mount Michael’s approach to welcoming international students expanded the very idea of what brotherhood could be. Some of his closest friendships were with classmates whose hometowns he couldn’t even pronounce in his freshman year.

“I loved the fact that at the Mount, we didn’t have foreign-exchange students who were there one semester and gone the next. We had international students from South Korea, China, Mexico, and other countries— guys who stuck with us from freshman year to graduation.”

For all of us Van Hautes, these students became brothers and, more often than not, weekend guests at our house. Our parents usually didn’t realize an extra guest was coming until we pulled into the driveway on Friday evening, but they always made room. As a bonus, their presence allowed us to sidestep lectures about failed quizzes or well-deserved demerits.

For Luke, the cross-cultural exchange went beyond Omaha. Without these bonds or trips to Mexico during high school, Luke recognizes that he likely would not be where he is now, running his health and mindfulness coaching business from Mexico City. He first visited classmate Sebastian Alegrett (‘18) in his sophomore year, and he returned the next two years with mission trips led by Mr. Cormier. Reflecting on these trips, Luke jokingly rattled off the usual post-mission trip reflections of “recognizing my privilege” and “seeing how happy people could be with so little”. Beneath the clichés, something deeper stuck with him. Witnessing the Benedictine values of hospitality and balance helped him understand that caring for others and caring for yourself are not in conflict, but deeply connected.



Returning to the Mount, he approached Spanish classes with new seriousness. Weightlifting with Mr. Struckman wasn't just about "gains" and "getting swole". He thinks this was the turning point, the moment his professional goals took root, and he attributes his passion for entrepreneurship and holistic health to the final years at Mount Michael.

**“ I remember above our freshman dorm painted ‘Mens Sana in Corpore Sano’, a sound mind in a healthy body,” he said.**

**“At the time, I probably didn't think much of it. But now, it's the core of everything I try to instill in the individuals I coach. ”**

In his practice, he helps clients bridge the gap between where they are and where they want to be. He guides them toward tangible habits, from regular workouts to daily meditations, that anchor their momentum and catalyze a happier, healthier life. After four years, he has worked with over 60 clients, 15 of whom are Mount Michael graduates spanning four decades of graduation years. Channeling my Sharleen Ball journalism skills, I required him to compare himself to a Mount Michael coach. He responded, “I'd like to think I'm a disciple of John Gathje, helping my clients realize that winning doesn't happen overnight. It's the result of putting in the miles, week after week. That's when the victories start to show up.”

Luke's advice to current students is predictably zen— “Enjoy every moment. The four years go much faster than you think.” And to fellow alumni, Luke encourages us all to realize that being a Mount Michael advocate goes beyond financial support (likely because he hasn't yet established an endowment). All of us have had moments at events, where upon mentioning the Mount to a stranger, they'll respond, “My nephew is thinking about going there. Would you recommend it?” Luke always gives a resonant yes. He acknowledges that things may be different now—a new building, teachers, extracurricular activities, and student body, but some things are timeless about Mount Michael, brotherhood and Benedictine values at the top of the list.

Watching my brother's journey unfold, I realize that Mount Michael didn't necessarily make life easier, but richer. It gave him more brothers than he already had, and the understanding that success isn't measured by achievements, but instead by how you lift up others. Though I risk ridicule from Vince, Sam, and Drew, I'll wholeheartedly admit it— I'm proud of the man he's become.







MOUNT MICHAEL  
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

# ALUMNI WEEKEND

## Friday, June 6th GOLF CLASSIC

Stone Creek Golf Course  
6220 N. 160th Ave

7am: Registration / Check-in

8am: Shotgun Start

1:30pm - 3pm:  
Lunch, Raffle, and Awards

ENTRY FEE Includes:  
18-hole green fee  
Cart rental  
Driving range and balls  
Drink Tickets  
Post round meal  
Prizes and awards  
Lunch & Reception

There will be a post-round award ceremony with pin prizes and awards at Tanner's Bar & Grill  
15505 Ruggles St #106, Omaha



## Saturday, June 7th ALUMNI REUNION

Student Union (Armory)  
on MM Campus

5pm: Mass in Chapel and  
self-guided campus tours

6pm: BBQ Dinner, Beer Tent,  
Live Music

All alumni are encouraged to come back for the All-Class Reunion, especially our 0s and 5s who are celebrating an anniversary year. We hope to see Knights from all classes!



Scan for more information  
and to register

[mmalumni.com](http://mmalumni.com)



# Alumni News

**Addison Morris '12** has been promoted to Elite Account Executive at Hudl in Lincoln, NE. In his new role, Addison will shift from working with high school programs to supporting Division II and III colleges across more than a dozen conferences, spanning from Texas to New York.



**Grant Schneider '21** has shared that after graduating from the University of Nebraska–Lincoln in May, he will attend Georgetown University Law Center this August to pursue his J.D.



**Josh Render '92** has been promoted to Senior Vice President at Kiewit in Omaha.



**John Beckman '14** was ordained a deacon on February 23rd in Ranchi, India, where he is part of the Redemptoris Mater Seminary. He plans to return soon to continue his ministry and anticipates priestly ordination next year.



## CHAPEL SPEAKERS

This spring, Josh Render '92 and Justin Cheney '04 returned to speak at morning Chapel, sharing how their Mount Michael experience continues to shape their faith and lives today. We're grateful for their wisdom and example to the next generation of Knights.



**Josh Render**



**Justin Cheney**

## BIRTHS

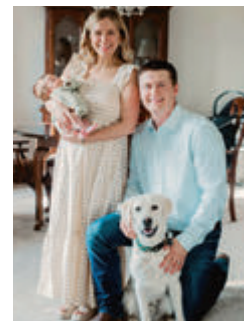
Recently, an estate planning event was put on for parents, alumni, and friends of the Mount Michael community.



**Mark Loeffelholz '13** and his wife Morgan welcomed their son, Easton Walker Loeffelholz, on April 14th, 2025.



**Cooper Wilson '14** and his wife Brianna welcomed their son, Wells Roth Wilson, on April 26th, 2025.



**Logan Kalkowski '15** and his wife Katie welcomed their son, Charles Michael Kalkowski, on March 5th, 2025.

Thanks to our alumni speakers **Paul West '94** of Carson Wealth and **Devin Moylan '01** of Moylan Kropp for coming back to The Mount and sharing their insights!

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

**John Von Dollen '12**  
**402-238-1447**  
**[jvondollen@mountmichael.org](mailto:jvondollen@mountmichael.org)**

# IN REMEMBRANCE

**Dolores "Doe" Wolff**, sister-in-law of Abbot Theodore

**Thomas Jensen alumnus ('SJS '60)**; grandfather of J.P. Jensen ('19)

**Rita Bastian**, mother-in-law of Mark Sojka ('80)

**Donald Cleary**, alumnus ('SJS '63)

**Marie McCarthy**, mother of Michael McCarthy ('69)

**Marlene Weinfurtner**, cousin of Father Daniel Lenz, O.S.B. ('76) and Brian Lenz ('80)

**Peter Baumann**, uncle of Jeremy Schiefen ('00)

**Leo Mallinger**, grandfather of Evan ('20), Callan ('22), and Ashton ('24) Schroder

**Clara Stithem**, grandmother of Logan ('15) and Cole ('19) Kalkowski

Please let us know if a loved one passes. It is Mount Michael Benedictine Abbey's custom to remember for two weeks those who have died in our concluding litany at Middyay Prayer. The Abbey also includes your loved one in our All Souls Remembrance service. While someone from the Abbey may try to attend the funeral of a loved one, we are grateful for your understanding that our availability is limited by our community numbers and by our commitments. Our thoughts and prayers are certainly with you! Blessings.



## 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	FAMILY
One Year . . . . . \$50	One Year . . . . . \$100
Five Years . . . . \$100	Five Years . . . . \$200
Lifetime . . . . . \$250	Lifetime . . . . . \$500



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## Michaeleen

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MOUNT MICHAEL BENEDICTINE ABBEY & SCHOOL

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Rt. Rev. Michael Liebl, O.S.B.

**Head of School**  
Dr. David J. Peters

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Dr. Ted Mikuls '86  
Dr. David Peters  
Mr. Todd Rohweder  
Fr. Louis Sojka, OSB'81  
Mr. Bob Van Haute  
Mr. Colten Venteicher'08

### Mount Michael Directory

#### Mount Michael Chapel

Visitors are always welcome  
Daily Mass 7:15am | Sunday Mass 9:30am | Saturday 8:00am

#### 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:  
[vocations@mountmichael.org](mailto: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](mailto:alumni@mountmichael.org)

#### School Admissions

Tim Carlson, 402-238-1457, [admissions@mountmichael.org](mailto:admissions@mountmichael.org)

#### Advancement Office

John Von Dollen, 402-238-1447, [jvondollen@mountmichael.org](mailto:jvondollen@mountmichael.org)

#### Caskets & Urns

Fr. John Hagemann, O.S.B., 402-270-9026

