



FALL
2016

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Alumni News



On Sunday, August 14, Mount Michael Benedictine welcomed new and returning students at the Back to School Mass and Picnic. It was a record crowd and a wonderful way to begin the new school year. Thank you to the Booster Club for sponsoring the picnic!

Join us for Mount Michael Benedictine's 61st Fall Festival on Sunday, September 18th from 11am-6pm!

Free Admission for all! We are featuring our famous throw-back cake tent, petting zoo, inflatables, horseback and hayrack rides and delicious food from our food booths! Other entertainment will include a visit from Real Princesses Omaha, live music, a magician, Wildlife Encounters, local dance teams, and more! Visit

www.mountmichael.org for more info! See you on Sunday, September 18th!



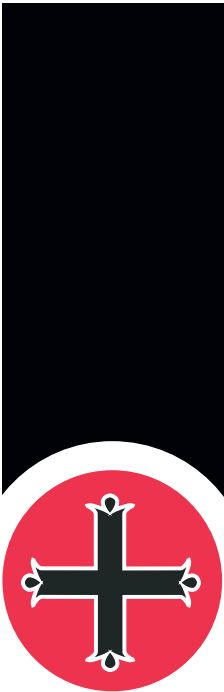


Letter from the Abbot

Every four years, Benedictines from around the world are summoned to Rome for a meeting of all the monasteries of the Benedictine confederation.

Some 380 monasteries of men encompassing 21 Benedictine congregations are represented at the meeting. There are also 62 congregations of Benedictine women represented at the meeting. World-wide there are about 7,300 Benedictine men and about 13,600 Benedictine nuns and sisters. The meeting is held at the primatial abbey of Sant'Anselmo, located on the Aventine hill. Sant'Anselmo is unique among Benedictine monasteries because it has only one member, the monk elected to be abbot primate. He is the leader of Benedictine monasteries world-wide. All other monks residing at Sant'Anselmo are on loan from their home monasteries.

The abbots' congress, as the meeting is known, is held in September to take advantage of the mild weather Rome enjoys at that time of year. The congress spans two weeks to provide time for all the items which need attention. One might imagine the abbots' congress as a sort of mini United Nations, but only for Benedictines. Since not everyone speaks the same language, translators are provided to all participants so that they can follow the discussions and resolutions of the congress.



The meeting for 2016 will have several points of focus.

For the last 12 years, Abbot Notker Wolff has served as the abbot primate. His term expires this year. So the most immediate point of business will be to elect a new abbot primate. In preparation for that election, abbots around the world were asked for suggestions for characteristics that the new abbot primate should have. The abbots were also asked for suggestions for names for candidates. The individual elected will have a term of 8 years. He could later be re-elected for another term of 4 years.

In addition to the election of a new abbot primate, there will be other matters to consider. One of the concerns for the congress of abbots is the viability of smaller Benedictine communities. For many houses, the number of vocations does not keep pace with members who die or otherwise depart. Since each Benedictine monastery is autonomous, paths for wider

cooperation among the monasteries will be explored and discussed to help address the deficit that some monasteries experience. Benedictine monasteries are growing in Asia, Africa and South America. In the developed nations of Europe, North America and Australia monasteries are generally losing numbers. To support the younger, growing monasteries in the developing world, Benedictine communities cooperate through the Alliance for International Monasticism to fund scholarships, provide instruction for leaders and novice masters and, sometimes, help with the material needs of the new communities. There are social and economic factors which impact the number of vocations that monasteries see in different parts of the world. It is a challenge for monasteries to maintain their traditions while addressing the changing needs of the world about them.

Because the celebration of the Eucharist and the Liturgy of the Hours is of such singular prominence in Benedictine monasticism, time is always devoted to improving the beauty and meaning of liturgical life. Sant'Anselmo is home to a school attended by both Benedictines and other religious students from around the world. Providing appropriate educational programs, attracting qualified professors, and maintaining a sound financial footing are topics that garner attention. There are also workshops for the abbots to attend which provide information and guidance on topics such as ecumenical and interreligious dialogue, addressing issues dealing with abuse, the formation of candidates to religious life, and work of monastics in missions around the world.

Aside from all the business of the abbots' congress, there is usually a day set aside for exploration of the rich culture and history in and around Rome. A day's trip to Subiaco, where St Benedict first embraced the eremitic life, or a day's trip to Monte Cassino, home of his first monastery, is a possibility for those who so desire.

This year marks my third trip to Rome for the abbots' congress. There will be familiar faces. There will be new faces. There will be familiar challenges. There will be new challenges. Above all, it is an opportunity to appreciate the wealth of the Benedictine tradition as it is lived in so many parts of the world. It is an opportunity to foster one's own growth as a follower of St Benedict.

J Michael Liebl, OSB

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

Announcements

May 26 – August 19, 2016

IN REMEMBRANCE

Dorothy Arrasmith, Friend of Mount Michael
Elizabeth J. Barnhart, Friend of Mount Michael
Patricia M. Bloemer, Friend of Mount Michael
Stephen E. Budd, Father of Joseph Budd '16
Peggy Caniglia, Friend of Mount Michael
Marvin D. Chesley, Friend of Mount Michael
Gertrude Ciurej, Mother of Jeff Ciurej '83
Merl R. Core, Father of Matt Core '04
Pauline Marie Corritore, Friend of Mount Michael
Maurice F. Cullen, Grandfather of Ashton Legenza '15
Mary Kaye Eggers, Mother of Dan '93 and John '98 Eggers
John F. Fitzgibbons, M.D., Friend of Mount Michael
Mary Shannon Grier, Friend of Mount Michael
Shelton M. Haskett, Grandfather of Anthony Haskett '08
Mary Lynn (Janicek) Hatfield, Friend of Mount Michael
Judith A. "Judy" Healey, Mother of Terrence Healey '83
John Daniel Horgan, Grandfather of Jack '07, Tom '08 and Joe '17 Horgan
Edwin Hull, Jr., Friend of Mount Michael
James J., M.D., Friend of Mount Michael
Dolores M. "Dee" Janowski, Grandmother of Alexander Raikar '17
Harley Alan Jensen, Friend of Mount Michael
Deanna L. (Talbot) Johnson, Mother of James Jay Johnson '80
Orin Joseph Kavan, Friend of Mount Michael
Arthur "Art" Kreikemeier, Friend of Mount Michael
Lt Col USAF (Ret) Earl Raymond Kreins, Friend of Mount Michael

Louise A. Krejci, Friend of Mount Michael
Margaret Mary (Long) Landon, Friend of Mount Michael
Mary J. Larson, Friend of Mount Michael
Elwyn "Gus" Liebl, Uncle of Abbot Michael Liebl, OSB
Lorraine Marie Linenbrink, Friend of Mount Michael
Charles J. Marino, Friend of Mount Michael
Francis J. McLaughlin, Sr., Friend of Mount Michael
Patricia F. McGovern, Friend of Mount Michael
Bernard "Bernie" C. Miller, Friend of Mount Michael
John P. Munnely, Friend of Mount Michael
Richard E. O'Connor, Friend of Mount Michael
Coley P. O'Doherty, Brother of Jerry O'Doherty, Seim Johnson Accounting Firm
Mary Jane O'Gara, Grandmother of Matthew O'Gara '05
Elizabeth Otten, Grandmother of James Severa '18
Arlene L. Pantano, Friend of Mount Michael
Genevieve V. Parr, Friend of Mount Michael
Alice Carolyn Pfeiffer, Grandmother of Ian '12 and Nathan Thomas '15
Deacon Joseph "José" Ramirez, Grandfather of former student Joe Ramirez
Thomas "Stub" Sanders, Father of Shawn P. Sanders '11
Lawrence Earl Schwietz, Friend of Mount Michael
Edward Thomas Sobczyk, Friend of Mount Michael
Lorraine Stapleton, Friend of Mount Michael
Shirley A. Uhter, Friend of Mount Michael
Peggy Vencil, Friend of Mount Michael
Frieda Marie Wagner, Friend of Mount Michael
Eleanor M. Walsh, Friend of Mount Michael
Patricia N. Wayne, Friend of Mount Michael
Evelyn B. Willis, Friend of Mount Michael

WEDDINGS

Tim Huss '06 married Laura Miotke on July 2 at St. Francis Solano church in Sonoma, California. Tim and Laura met at Santa Clara University where they were both students. **Andy Huss '04** was the best man and other Mount Michael alumni in the wedding were **Paul Huss '11**, **Ben Vacha '06** and **Phil Schulte '06**.



BIRTHS

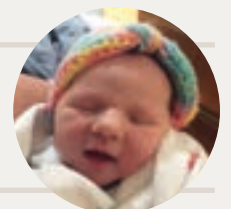
Michael Walsh '99 and his wife Katie welcomed their fourth child Henry Donald on May 17, 2016.

Alexander Engelkamp '11 and wife Hilary welcomed twin boys Benedict Harold and Francis John on July 7, 2016.



Daniel Feilmeier '01 and wife Tiffany welcomed their daughter Lucy Mae on July 27, 2016.

Justin Cheney '04 and wife Amy welcomed their daughter Hazel on July 31, 2016.



Devin Moylan '01 and wife Liz welcomed Marin Elizabeth on August 5, 2016.



Head of ● School ●

This past summer the earth moving equipment really took over our campus. Work on the *DJ Sokol Learning for Life Building* began in earnest. Many trees were removed, the ground was built up and leveled and the initial scaffolding was put into place. Over this next school year the transformation promises to be rapid. You can follow all of the work through a live-feed camera. A link can be found on the front page of our website. (<http://construction-camera-2.click2stream.com/>)

To run Mount Michael Benedictine School there is a team of six of us, the Management Team, that shoulders the necessary responsibilities. The team consists of: **Fr. Louis Sojka**, Business Manager; **Mrs. Kim Volpone**, Director of Advancement/ Development; **Mr. Jim Lewis**, Facilities Manager; **Mr. Dave Cormier**, Dean of Students and Residential Life; **Mr. Jack Pritchard**, Director of Admissions; and myself. Each summer we spend some time going through our strategic plan and establishing the goals we want to concentrate on for the upcoming school year.

Here are our goals for the 2016-17 SCHOOL YEAR:

We have a lot planned for this school year and we are excited to see its execution and fulfillment. Thank you all for your continued support of Mount Michael Benedictine School. We are the premiere college preparatory school for young men and we take our role very seriously. God bless you as this new school year unfolds.

Take care and God bless,

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

- 1** Under enrollment management, our goal is to maintain a population of at least 240 students with a 95% retention rate. I am pleased to report that our opening enrollment is a record of 250 young men! One area we are also looking at this year is a defined priority policy dealing with admissions.
- 2** Under financial management our goal is to operate a budget that is at least \$150k to the positive. We have been able to meet this goal over this past school year.
- 3** Another area of focus this year will be academic life. The three areas of concentration are evaluating our residential program, maintaining an ACT average of 28 or higher and recruiting and training a team of deans.
- 4** In the area of facilities, the new building and its construction is the main area of concentration.
- 5** There has been a tremendous amount of growth and change in the area of technology with the hiring of Dr. Thomas Rzemysk as our Director of Technology. We are integrating new technology, an updated WiFi system, a new SIS (Student Information System), and continued work on a Technology Plan and Committee.
- 6** The Advancement/Development team will continue to work on our Capital Campaign to secure funding for the *DJ Sokol Learning for Life Building*. We will also be working on our Mount Michael Brand and its utilization.
- 7** Our last goal will focus on our School Board, its contributions and communications to our public and families.

Events & Development

DJ Sokol Learning for Life Building

As anyone who has visited campus recently knows, great progress has been made on the *DJ Sokol Learning for Life Building*. At the beginning of summer, the site was readied for construction, and a retention pond was built for rainwater runoff. Lately, however, the construction has become much more exciting. The elevator shaft and interior walls on the north side classrooms and study hall are under construction, and additional footings are steadily being completed moving toward the east of the building.

Mount Michael Benedictine is also blessed to have more generous donors agree to support the campaign. Throughout the summer, donors have met with school and campus leaders to discuss the new building and the opportunities it affords Mount Michael's students and teachers.

While construction is well underway, we are still raising the \$3 million needed to complete the building. Gifts of any size are very welcome and appreciated. Please contact Kim Volpone, Director of Development, at kvolpone@mountmichael.org or 402-253-0964 for more information.



SAVE THE DATE

- **Fall Festival**
September 18, 2016
- **Breakfast with Santa**
December 18, 2016
- **Night of Knights**
March 25, 2017



● Oblates of St. Benedict

- The Oblates of Mount Michael Benedictine Abbey will meet on September 11 at 3:30 p.m. in the Prayer Room at Mount Michael.

Oblates are laypersons Catholic or non-Catholic, young or old, who develop a special association with monastic communities like Mount Michael Benedictine. Oblates learn about Benedictine values and life through reading, discussions, study and prayer at the monthly meetings. The oblates use the Rule of St. Benedict prayerfully and actively in relation to their own life situations and spiritual journeys. Please call Br. Jerome at 402-206-2069 for more information.



WELCOME OUR NEW Director of Admissions

I hope this note finds you rested after an enjoyable summer break with friends and family. I wanted to take a moment to introduce, or in many cases reintroduce, myself to you. My name is Jack Pritchard, and I will be taking over as the Director of Admissions at Mount Michael Benedictine. I want to thank Dylan Parlor for his work at Mount Michael and I hope to build off of the foundation that Dylan has laid. I graduated from Mount Michael in 2007 and have worked at Mount Michael as the Dean of International Students since 2012. As a graduate, I understand that the quality of education and the life lessons learned at Mount Michael extend far beyond the classroom. Not only is Mount Michael a place where young men receive an extraordinary education, but it is also where students come to flourish in all facets of life.

Thank you all for allowing me to introduce myself. I look forward to the opportunity to connect with you in the years to come and to be part of Mount Michael's continued success. If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact me at jpritchard@mountmichael.org.



The quality of students that come through the doors here at Mount Michael never ceases to amaze me, and this year is no exception. Ten years ago, the school had about 175 students and today we stand at 249 students representing 11 states and 10 different countries. Mount Michael is expanding into a national and global presence. The majority of our students, though, do come from Nebraska, which is a testament to our local reputation as being one of the leading college preparatory schools in the region. Next time you see a teacher, monk, or any member of the faculty here at Mount Michael, please thank them. Their dedication to education coupled with the students' desire to learn and their parents' support make Mount Michael a phenomenal high school.

Below are the newest members of the Mount Michael community, the Class of 2020. The Class of 2020 is made up of 71 talented and well-rounded young men. We also added six new members to the class of 2019 and three new members to the class of 2018. These transfer students hail from China, Egypt, South Korea, Spain, Arizona, California, Elkhorn, and Omaha. Throughout the year, please welcome them and their families to our school when you get the opportunity.



MOUNT MICHAEL CLASS OF 2019

John Ackerman of St. Patrick's. He is the son of J.R. and Amy Ackerman of Bennington. John was awarded a silver and bronze medal in chess at the Cornhusker State Games and was selected "MVP" at the Bennington Goalie Soccer Camp. John also was on the St. Patrick's Honor Roll and received the Abbot Scholarship from Mount Michael.

Nick Arkfeld of St. Wenceslaus. He is the son of Mike and Kelly Arkfeld of Omaha. Nick was awarded a Chivalry Award and First Honors during his 8th grade year. Nick was a member of the AAA PAL basketball team at St. Wenceslaus that was PAL tournament champ in 2015 and runner up in 2016.

Joe Bazata of Elkhorn Valley View Middle School. He is the son of Jim and Becky Bazata of Elkhorn. Joe received the Presidents Education Award, Mount Michael Booster Club Scholarship, and 1st place in his school's 2015 science fair. Joe was named to the honor roll each semester, the High Ability Learner Education (HALE) program, his school's Quiz Bowl team, and the Duke TIP program.

Calvin Benson of St. Wenceslaus. He is the son of John and Gena Benson of Omaha. Calvin earned the Chivalry Award and First Honors during his 8th grade year. He was a 2x captain of his football team and set new St. Wenceslaus school records for high jump and the distance medley. At the PAL track Super Meet his relay team won the 4 x 100 relay and he also tied for 2nd in the high jump, finished 3rd in the triple jump, and 3rd in the distance medley. Calvin was awarded the Msgr. James Cain Memorial Scholarship from St. Wenceslaus and the St. Michael Scholarship from Mount Michael.

Max Berens of Evergreen Middle School. Max is the son of Troy '88 and Jennifer Berens of Evergreen, CO. Max is also the grandson of Kelly Berens '69 of Elkhorn.

Nicholas Buresh of Christ the King. He is the son of Tim and Leigh Buresh of Omaha. Nicholas received the Serra Club Altar Server Award and was the Knights of Columbus District Free Throw Champion for his age group in the 2015-16 year. Nicholas was also awarded the Christ the King Council Knights of Columbus scholarship.

Seth Carpenter of St. Patrick's. He is the son of Byron and Lisa Carpenter of Omaha. Seth earned Gold Honors each semester. He was awarded the St. Michael Scholarship from Mount Michael and the St. Patrick's Athletic Committee Angel Scholarship for leadership, scholarship, sportsmanship, character and athletic effort.

Zhuji (Joe) Chen of Shanghai, China. He is the son of Qi Chen and Hua Wang.

Ryan Clark of Glenwood Middle School. He is the son of Henry and Sandy Clark of Glenwood, IA. Ryan will achieve the rank of Eagle Scout in the fall and is a member of the Boy Scouts' Order of the Arrow. He was one of the Top 10 Mid-America Council Boy Scout popcorn sellers for three consecutive years, finishing in the Top 5 two years in a row. Ryan was awarded his 3rd degree Black Belt in Taekwondo three years ago, and his Cross Country team placed 3rd at the 3A Iowa State meet last year. He has also been active in 4-H, earning two grand championship livestock awards.

Cole Cordes of St. Patrick's. He is the son of Marty and Jen Cordes of Elkhorn. Cole was awarded the Knight Scholarship from Mount Michael. He

was a qualifier for the ACT as part of the Duke TIP program and an All-State Showcase Nominee for his baseball team.

Addison Cousin-Hardrick of Sacred Heart. He is the son of Mr. Addie Donald-Hardrick and Ms. Anita Cousin-Hardrick, both of Omaha. Addison maintained an Ace of Heart Honor Roll status and served 3 years as a Student Advisory Council Member. Addison was selected to compete in various Robotic programs at North High School, Skinner Magnet, King Science, and Mary our Queen. Addison attended Gifted and Talented Programs at King Science and Magnet Center (OPS). He was invited by King Science to OPS Skinner Magnet School to help set up their 5th, 6th and 7th grade Robotic and Engineering Course. He represented his school in the Catholic District Spelling Bee. Addison played golf on the Nebraska Junior and Pepsi Junior Golf Tour Team, for the First Tee of Nebraska. He is an all-around baseball player as well.

Joshua Davies of Lifegate Christian School. He is the son of Dr. Dele and Mrs. Arike Davies of Omaha. Joshua earned a Royal Rangers Bronze Medal of Achievement and placed second in the 2015 Metropolitan Science and Engineering Fair in the Electrical Engineering section. He was also awarded an Abbot Scholarship from Mount Michael.

Ben deMayo of Christ the King. He is the son of Miles and Lynn deMayo of Omaha. Ben was awarded the Serra Club Award as well as the St. Gabriel scholarship from Mount Michael.

Yijie (Jerry) Fan of Qingdao, China. He is the son of Fan Guijiang and Zhang Xiaojuan. Yijie was awarded the second prize for 23rd Olympics National Composition. Yijie also received Chang Quan fourth Duan of Chinese Wushu by Chinese Wushu Association.

Callan Farrell of St. Wenceslaus. He is the son of Dr. Patrick and Mrs. Christine Farrell of Omaha. Callan received First Honors each year in middle school and was awarded the Knight Scholarship from Mount Michael.

Ben Gao of Elkhorn Middle School. He is the son of Bin Gao and Huhai Chen of Elkhorn. Ben was awarded the President's Education Awards during the 8th grade and made honor roll for all three years in middle school. He was also accepted into the High Ability Learner Education program (HALE). Ben volunteered at Open Door Mission with his church youth group. He also scored a 21 on the ACT and was accepted into the DUKE TIP program. Ben also received the Knight Scholarship from Mount Michael.

Jacob Gathje of St. Patrick's. He is the son of John and Melissa Gathje of Omaha. Jacob was awarded the Serra Club Server Award, Abbot Scholarship from Mount Michael, Rotary Club Honor Roll Award, 1st Chair Trumpet Music in Catholic Schools Honor Band, 1st Alternate Nebraska All-State Band, 3rd Chair Blair Honor Band, Superior rating on solo at band festival, MCS Scholarship

to UNL Band camp, Duke TIP State and Grand National Recognition, 3rd Place School Woodman of the World Speech Contest, National Spanish Exam Third Place Nebraska Level 01, National Spanish Exam National Honorable Mention Level 01, Student Council Treasurer, 3rd place Science Fair, and the St. Patrick's track top 10 1600m time.

Maximo Gaytan of Our Lady of Lourdes. He is the son of Alan Diaz and Elizabeth Gaytan of Omaha. Maximo gave a speech at the School Choice Rally in front of the more than 1,000 people at the State Capitol Building in Lincoln.

Ben Goetz of St. Mary's. He is the son of Kathy Goetz and Doug Goetz, both of Bellevue. Ben was awarded a "Sprit of Mary" award, Serra Club award, and Highest Honors during his 8th grade year. He also broke the school record in the mile at 5 min, 30 sec. Ben played in the All-Star Basketball Game and performed as the lead role in the spring musical.

Gregory Gonzalez of St. Columbkille. He is the son of Greg and Kathy Gonzalez of Papillion. Gregory was awarded the St. Joseph Award in 2015 and selected to attend the Jr. National Young Leadership Conference in Washington, DC. During his eighth grade year, Gregory was captain of his grade school basketball team and received the CARE Scholarship from St. Columbkille. Additionally, Gregory was on the CYO All-Star Basketball Team, Boys/Girls Club All-Star Basketball Team, member of the AA PAL Tourney and CYO championship teams, and team captain for the Gross Jr. Cougars Football Team.

Jack Gottschalk of St. Patrick's. He is the son of Rich and Rhonda Gottschalk of Omaha.

Logan Hock of Elkhorn Valley View Middle School. He is the son of Marc and Lori Hock of Elkhorn. Logan was an "A" Honor Roll student throughout middle school and was awarded the Presidential Academic Excellence Award. Logan was also on the gold-winning Voltage Show Choir team and named Mr. Pre-Algebra for 8th grade, as well as being on the Shadow Ridge Interclub Golf Team.

William Janecek of St. Vincent de Paul. He is the son of Larry and Kerry Janecek of Omaha. William has served his parish as an altar server and has been a piano student for seven years. He is an active member of Boy Scout Troop 99, where he holds the rank of Life Scout and is currently serving his second term as Senior Patrol Leader. William is also a member of the Boy Scouts National Honor Society, Order of the Arrow. He was on the Honor Roll and awarded the President's Award for Educational Excellence.

Joseph Johansen of Christ the King. He is the son of Frank and Akemi Johansen of Omaha. Joseph received the Serra Club Award and was the district champion for 14 year old boys in the Knights of Columbus free throw competition. He also was awarded the St. Scholastica Scholarship from Mount Michael and two more scholarships from the Knights of Columbus and the Parents Club of Christ the King School.

Donovan Kaelin of St. Patrick's. He is the son of Teresa Kaelin of Elkhorn and Derek Kaelin of Springfield, MO. Donovan was part of the Duke TIP program and was on a state-qualifying Robotics team.

Zach Kahler of St. Wenceslaus. He is the son of Sarah Kahler and Rob Kahler, both of Omaha. Zach was an Honors Student each quarter of Junior High, Member of the 2016 Wits Clash Team, participated in the UNO Aim for the Stars Mathematics Summer Program, recognized at the state level for his score in Mathematics on the ACT Duke Tip Program, member of the 2016 St. Wenceslaus soccer team, 2015/2016 basketball team and is active in Suburban baseball.

Andree Kakish of St. Vincent de Paul. He is the son of Dr. Sam and Mrs. Marianna Kakish of Bennington. Andree was named to the Rotary Club of Omaha Honor Roll and first honors honor roll during his 8th grade year. Andree participated in spring conditioning at Mount Michael as well as playing for the Mount Michael reserve baseball team during the summer.

Max Kaster of St. Wenceslaus. He is the son of Randy and Kathy Kaster of Omaha. Max achieved 2nd Honors three out of four quarters during his 8th grade year and achieved 2nd Level, 1st Degree Black Belt in Tae Kwon Do.

Sanggyeom (Jimmy) Kim of Cheonan, South Korea. He is the son of Takyong Kim and Hyunsook Ju. Jimmy received 1st place in the English Essay contest, a full scholarship for 3 years to Joongang High School, a medal at the science contest, volunteer work award, and excellent academic achievement in math, science, and English.

Kolton Koubsky of Russell Middle School. He is the son of Ken and Kristin Koubsky of Omaha. Kolton earned a 4.0 GPA, was awarded Distinguished Honor Roll and received the President's Gold Award for Outstanding Academic Excellence. He was a member of Russell's Asset Builders and competed on the football, cross country and wrestling teams. Kolton also was selected as Captain of his USSSA select baseball team and was a member of Mount Michael's summer reserve team. Kolton holds Star Rank in the Boy Scouts.

Michael Kremer of St. Patrick's. He is the son of Tim and Rene Kremer of Elkhorn.

Jacob Kubasik of Elkhorn Valley View Middle School. He is the son of Michael and Brenda Kubasik of Omaha. Jacob was on the honor roll all three years of middle school. He received the Presidential Education Award for Excellence. Jacob also participates in basketball and baseball, and umpires for the Elkhorn Athletic Association.

Jack Larsen of St. Patrick's. He is the son of Dan Larsen of Elkhorn and Angela Larsen of Omaha.

Mingrui (Logan) Lu of Beijing, China. He is the son of Zhiren Lu and Wen Cheng.

Lucas Lynes of St. Gerald's. He is the son of Todd and Denise Lynes of LaVista. Lucas received Junior class 3rd place in the Eastern Cornhusker Trapshooting Conference and also earned 2nd place in the St Bernadette PAL basketball tournament. Lucas is an active altar server and also currently working on his Boy Scout Eagle project this summer with the hopes of earning his Eagle Scout Award by December, 2016.

Joe Lytle of St. James/Seton School. He is the son of Jason and Linda Lytle of Omaha. Joe received the Serra Club Altar Server Award. He was a member of St. James/Seton's Student Senate and Speech Club during 7th and 8th grade, as well as playing soccer and basketball. Joe was on the St. James/Seton Honor Roll for all four quarters of 8th grade and was also a Liturgy Leader. He received the President's Award for Educational Achievement. Joe attended the 2015 Nebraska Recognition Ceremony as part of the Duke University Talent Identification Program. He has earned the current rank of Star Scout with the Boy Scouts of America and is the current Senior Patrol Leader for Troop 383.

Alex Masek of St. Wenceslaus. He is the son of Mike and Amy Masek of Omaha. Alex was awarded First Honors during 7th and 8th grade. He was chosen as a Disciple of Christ his 7th grade year. Alex was a captain of the St. Wenceslaus PAL football team. His basketball team won the PAL league in 7th grade. Alex was a part of the St. Wenceslaus relay for track that got first at the Super Meet.

Robbie Masek of St. Wenceslaus. He is the son of Mike and Amy Masek of Omaha. Robbie was awarded First Honors during 7th and 8th grade. He was a participant in the spelling bee in 7th grade. His basketball team won the PAL league in 7th grade. Robbie was a part of the St. Wenceslaus distance medley for track that broke the school record.

Mason Matukewicz of St. Stephen the Martyr. He is the son of Michael and Sara Matukewicz of Omaha. Mason was awarded the Serra Club Award and was regularly on his school's honor roll. Mason won the St. Charles Borromeo Knights of Columbus Council #14077 essay contest. Mason also earned First Degree Black Belt in Tae Kwon Do.

Cole McNally of St. Joseph's. He is the son of Drs. Mike McNally and Annette Cserna of Lincoln.

Ethan Meduna of St. Patrick's. He is the son of Matt and Nancy Meduna of Waterloo. Ethan was selected as the Captain for the Jr. Skyhawks; the football team completed their season as Pop Warner Regional Champions. Ethan also received the Elkhorn St. Patrick's Parochial Athletic League football sportsmanship award.

Ian Miller of Gretna Middle School. He is the son of Jon and Traci Miller of Gretna. Ian received the Serra Club Award and won the football championship in 7th grade. Ian also volunteered his time assisting special needs children in middle school. He holds a First Degree Black Belt in Tae Kwon Do.

Connor Murphy of St. Raymond's. He is the son of Terry and Melanie Murphy of San Ramon, CA. Connor received the 2016 Christian Service Award. He also graduated to the ATA Tae Kwon Do Leadership Program while holding a First Degree Black Belt as well as being a testing judge for belt testings.

Joseph Niemerg of Teutopolis Jr High. He is the son of Edward and Lori Niemerg of Dieterich, IL. Joseph qualified into Illinois Musical Elementary Association in 7th and 8th grade. He received the Effingham County Band Student of the Month Award in 8th grade. He was named football team captain and offensive lineman of the year in 8th grade. Joseph was elected the 8th grade student council president as well as receiving the promotion math award and Presidential academic award in 8th grade. He also received the Knight Scholarship from Mount Michael.

Alex Payne of Elkhorn Ridge Middle School. He is the son of Matt and Nicole Payne of Omaha. Alex is a black belt in Tae Kwon Do as well as a junior instructor. He also received the St. Raphael Scholarship from Mount Michael.

Vu Hoang Phan of Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. He is the son of Son Truong Phan and Tran Van Nguyen Hoang. Vu is a student at the Nguyen Du gifted secondary school. He was awarded second runner-up in the Vietnam Olympics English competition last year. He was also awarded excellent student for four years in a row at his school.

Sean Pink of St. Stephen the Martyr. He is the son of Amy Pink of Omaha. Sean played AA select baseball and summer legion baseball for Mount Michael as well as PAL basketball. He was a Conquest Program leader for youth as well as an honor roll student.

Charlie Plozay of St. Wenceslaus. He is the son of David and Molly Plozay of Omaha. Charlie holds a Brown Belt in Tae Kwon Do. He also received the Summer Camp Scout Award, Disciple of Christ, Aerospace Art Contest Runner-Up and was a 3x Chivalry Award Winner.

Tharein Potuhera of St. Wenceslaus. He is the son of Asthika and Durga Potuhera of Omaha. Tharein published his first book of a trilogy Tome Riders: Mr. Custos's Book in 7th grade. He is currently completing the second book in that series. He also represented Nebraska at the Scripps National Spelling Bee and tied for 22nd place. Tharein is currently a Life scout working towards his Eagle rank within the next few months. Tharein was also awarded the Abbot Scholarship from Mount Michael.

Ben Quinlan of St. Wenceslaus. He is the son of Dr. Mark and Jennifer Quinlan of Omaha. Ben received First Honors in middle school as well as the St. Raphael Scholarship from Mount Michael.

Jackson Ramold of St. Patrick's. He is the son of Jeff and Dru Ramold of Elkhorn. Jackson was a 3-sport athlete at St. Patrick's. He was named captain of the football team, earned the "most improved" award for basketball and was the

sportsmanship award winner for track. Jackson also earned a St. Raphael Scholarship from Mount Michael.

Clifford Roepke of Christ the King. He is the son of John and Kim Roepke of Omaha.

Collin Rogers of St. Wenceslaus. He is the son of Chris and Jill Rogers of Omaha. Collin was a Student Ambassador and was awarded Second Honors during his 8th grade year.

Parker Sandal of Lennox Jr. High. He is the son of Scott and Heidi Sandal of Lennox, SD. Parker received the President's Award for Educational Excellence, Lennox American Legion Scholarship Award, and the Benedictine Scholarship from Mount Michael. Parker was also a TAS member, awarded to students who received all A's during the school year.

Santiago Santa-Maria of St. Wenceslaus. He is the son of Rafael and Mariana Santa-Maria of Omaha. Santiago won an award in archery and was an active participant on his school's soccer team. Santiago was a Disciple of Christ and received the St. Gabriel scholarship from Mount Michael.

Alex Schrier of Russell Middle School. He is the son of Alan and Lisa Schrier of Omaha. Alex was an active participant in his school's Peer Tutoring program; he received the Presidential Award for Academic Excellence and Honors for his status as a Distinguished Honor Roll student, maintaining a 4.0 GPA throughout middle school. Alex was also awarded the St. Michael Scholarship from Mount Michael.

Evan Schroder of St. Vincent de Paul. He is the son of Andrew and Maree Schroder of Omaha. Evan was awarded the Rotary Club of Omaha Honor Roll Award, the Serra Club of Omaha Altar Server Award, the President's Award for Outstanding Academic Excellence, and Mount Michael's Presidential Scholarship. He was also part of the Duke TIP program, a student ambassador, and is currently working toward his Eagle Scout Rank.

John Schroll of St. Robert's. He is the son of Leland and Kristie Schroll of Omaha.

Trenton Sedlacek of Bennington Jr High. He is the son of Don and Jennifer Sedlacek of Bennington. Trenton was a 3 time Bennington District Geography Bee Champion and Nebraska State Finalist with his best finish of 4th place at State. He was awarded the St. Michael Scholarship from Mount Michael and received a 23 on the ACT as part of the Duke TIP Program. Finally, he was selected for the Badger Blue Select 14U Baseball Team.

Joshua Snyder of Russell Middle School. He is the son of Patrick and Veronica Snyder of Omaha.

Kaleb Stavneak of St. Gerald's. He is the son of Kari Anzalone-Stavneak and Brian Stavneak, both of Ralston. Kaleb received the Home & School Association High School Scholarship. He was on the Honor Guard for May Crowning, chosen by the school's faculty. He also achieved the rank of Life Scout.

Keaton Stec of St. Wenceslaus. He is the son of Eric and Robin Stec of Omaha. Keaton received the Serra Club Award and was a member of his school's basketball, football, and soccer teams.

Henry Storbeck of St. Wenceslaus. He is the son of Patrick and Rebecca Storbeck of Omaha. Henry was awarded the St. Raphael Scholarship from Mount Michael and was selected as a Rotary Club Eighth Grade Honor Roll recipient.

Sean Stumpff of St. Patrick's. He is the son of Craig and Wanda Stumpff of Elkhorn.

James "Max" Swiniarski of St. Columbkille. He is the son of Joseph and Catherine Swiniarski of Papillion. Max is active in band, piano, and robotics. He was an altar server for 4 years, a member of the Sarpy County Seawolves and Papio Dolphins swim teams. At St. Columbkille, he participated on the basketball team, Wits Clash team, and Math Counts competition.

Drew Thornton of Elkhorn Valley View Middle School. He is the son of Rick and Laura Thornton

of Elkhorn. Drew received the Presidential Scholar Award and also won the Math Award for his eighth-grade class. He has played middle school football and basketball, as well as travel basketball and baseball since moving to Nebraska from the East Coast one year ago.

Tony Traggiai of St. Mary's. He is the son of Ron and Lora Traggiai of Bellevue. Tony received the St. Mary's School Alumni Scholarship. Tony was awarded First Honors each quarter of his 8th Grade year. Tony was also St. Mary's Christian Witness Award Recipient. Tony received a Certificate of Achievement for successfully completing JA Exploring Economics and a Certificate of Recognition for participating in Wits Clash during his 8th grade year. Tony has art work that was selected to appear in the 22nd Annual Duchesne Academy's Art Contest.

Wilson Tran of Our Lady of Carmel. He is the son of Vu Tran and Chichi Nguyen of Tempe, AZ.

Brayden Whitaker of St. Patrick's. He is the son of Jim and Shelly Whitaker of Omaha. Brayden was

the school ambassador for 2 years. He won the all-school geography bee in 8th grade. He won the AMC math competition 2 years in a row; he won the Central High math counts competition, and he achieved the highest score on the written portion of the YMCA math contest. He received 3rd place in the regional math counts competition, which qualified him for state. He achieved the highest score in the state for the national Spanish exam in 7th grade. Brayden received the Rotary Honor Roll in the 8th grade and was also awarded the Abbot Scholarship from Mount Michael. As a 7th grader, Brayden scored a 31 on the ACT as part of the Duke TIP program.

Sam Wooten of St. Columbkille. He is the son of David '87 and Theresa Wooten of Papillion.

Lucas Wurtz of St. Patrick's. He is the son of Joe and Susan Wurtz of Omaha. Lucas received the St. Raphael scholarship from Mount Michael. He was a qualifier for the ACT as part of the Duke TIP program.



In Memory of Merl Core

Oct. 25, 1950 – Aug. 19, 2016

An article for this issue of the Michaeleen about Merl Core, father of alumnus Matt Core, was planned in recognition of Merl's many contributions to Mount Michael. Unfortunately, before this article could appear, Merl died on August 19, 2016. The Development Office and the entire Mount Michael Benedictine community wish to extend our deepest condolences to the Core family. Thank you for sharing your husband, dad and grandpa with Mount Michael Benedictine School and Abbey.

Asked to describe the impact Merl Core has had on Mount Michael Benedictine's American Legion baseball team, current parent and president of Mount Michael Legion Baseball Mike Riddle responded:

“ Merl has been a vital part of Mount Michael's Legion Baseball program for more than 20 years. He has been one of our main constants as players, coaches and board members have come through the program and moved on. As the liaison between Mount Michael and the American Legion, he successfully got Mount Michael named as host of several tournaments. A few years ago, thanks to Merl, we were honored to host the Junior State Tournament allowing us to showcase our top notch campus and field. We are not sure what we will do without him but we thank him for all he has done for our players and families...he will be missed. ”

Mount Michael's American Legion baseball team has existed on and off since 1980. The program has continued uninterrupted since 2006. Merl Core volunteered as the American Legion coordinator for over ten years and was



invaluable to the Legion baseball team, according to current parent Rod Jewell. As coordinator, Merl managed communication with the American Legion, kept track of all the required documents for

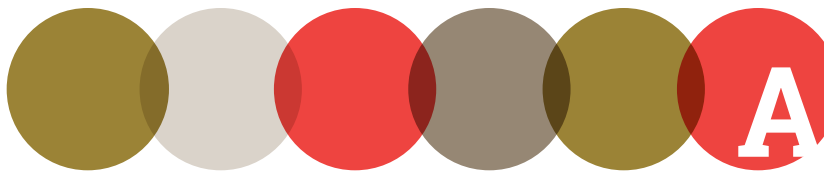
the players and did everything that was needed to keep the Legion baseball team qualified to play.

In addition to directly supporting the Legion program, he also helped Mount Michael in a number of other ways, according to Gene Pieper. Merl helped with the building of the concession stand and the installation of a lighting and sound system for the field. He took team photographs each year, which have always been a top seller at Night of Knights. He helped Mount Michael in any way he could, and “was an all-around great guy,” according to Gene.

According to John Taylor, father of Clayton '11 and Jackson '14, and previous president of Mount Michael American Legion,

“ Merl Core has been a steady hand and invaluable asset to the Mount Michael American Legion baseball program for over 2 decades. He has insured that the values of Mount Michael and the American Legion organization are exemplified by the Mount Michael's boys of summer and the entire baseball program. Mount Michael has been blessed in many ways. Tireless volunteers like Merl Core, who model for young people the highest level of integrity, are what make Mount Michael special. ”

Thank you, Merl Core, for everything you have done for Mount Michael Benedictine!



Alumni News

CONGRATULATIONS to the following Mount Michael Benedictine Alumni for their recent accomplishments.

Mount Michael Benedictine alumni in Minnesota met for a gathering with Abbot Michael Liebl. Left to right: Quentin Tanko '91, Zach Voller '99, Andy Hansen '91, Ed Rejda '89, Connor Hills '08, Jack Pritchard '07, Abbot Michael Liebl



More than 75 students received College of Business Administration awards for academic achievement at the 2016 CBA Honors Ceremony and Reception held this spring at UNL's College of Business. **Justin Lytle '14** was among the recipients. He received a high scholar award and a gold key for being in the top 2% of the College of Business class.



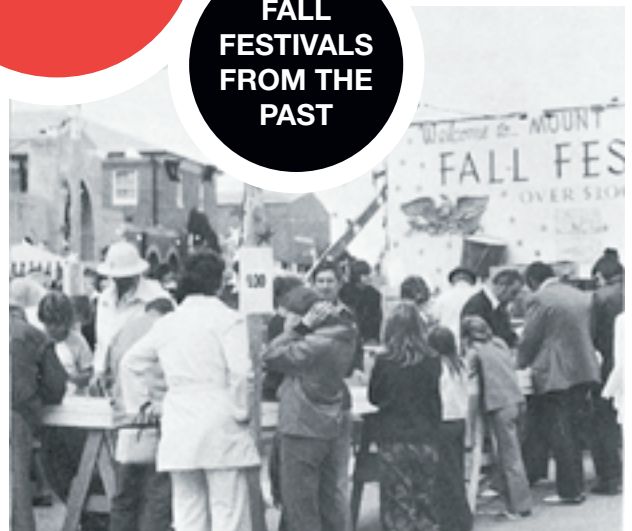
We want to hear about you! Please let us know if you have recently been married, had a child, moved or have been recognized for an accomplishment. Contact development@mountmichael.org with your information and photos. There are also many alumni for whom we do not have current contact information. Your help in locating them is greatly appreciated. Please review the list of "lost" alumni on our website and contact development@mountmichael.org if you know their whereabouts or have contact information for them.

ALUMNI UPDATES!



**Flash
Back!**

**FALL
FESTIVALS
FROM THE
PAST**



In Memoriam & Honor

May 26, 2016 – August 12, 2016

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

In Memory of Shirley Allely

Boyd and Kathy West

In Memory of Joanne Healy

Bill and Jeanette Behrendt

In Memory of Paul High

Cathy High

In Memory of Walter High

Cathy High

In Memory of Tom Kelly

Bill and Jeanette Behrendt

In Memory of John Kildare '93

Kim Volpone

In Memory of Nate LaFave '16

Steve Budd*

Gregg and Susan Coghill

Gary and Laura Dugick

Kevin and Linda Hitzemann

John Hoich

Beth LaFave

Dave LaFave

Bill and Gina Miklas

Brian '84 and Kris Morrissey

Kim Volpone

In Memory of Marianne Lange

Louis and Jacque Sojka

In Memory of Albert Massmann

David and Joanne Kolenda

In Memory of Betty Schanbacher

Douglas and Terri Colling

Edward and Carolyn Fogarty

Thelma Kirkland

Dave and Kathy Owen

Wesley and Monica Richert

Perry and Kimberly Seay

Joseph and Karla Townley

In Memory of DJ Sokol '99

Gregory Abel

In Memory of Flora Mae Suing

Bill and Jeanette Behrendt

*indicates deceased

With the best of intentions we strive to provide accurate lists. Please contact the Mount Michael development office with questions at any time. Phone: (402) 253-0964 or development@mountmichael.org



**MOUNT MICHAEL
BENEDICTINE SCHOOL**

FEATURING THE DJ SOKOL LEARNING FOR LIFE BUILDING

Mission

Mount Michael Benedictine School is a Catholic college preparatory residential/day high school rooted in Benedictine values for young men committed to excellence. Students develop spiritually, intellectually and socially through the comprehensive curriculum and communal experience to become future leaders.



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Michaeleen

A Quarterly Publication of

MOUNT MICHAEL BENEDICTINE ABBEY & SCHOOL

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 Abbot Raphael Walsh, O.S.B.
 Emeritus, Scott Gass, '77
 Emerita, Mary Kay Miller
 Emerita, Peggy Sokol

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, 402-206-2069

Vocation Ministry

For information about monastic life:

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

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Prior Richard Thell, O.S.B., 402-289-2541 x1002

rthell@mountmichael.org

Alumni Association

For information about meetings/events or to report news:

402-253-0953, alumni@mountmichael.org

Prayer Needs and Spiritual Direction

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

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