



MOUNT MICHAEL  
BENEDICTINE SCHOOL  
1970 - 2020



1970 → 2020

# Michaeleen

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SUMMER 2020



# UPCOMING EVENTS

## GOLF CLASSIC

August 28th, 2020

## FALL FESTIVAL

September 20th, 2020

*Get the latest updates on Mount Michael!*



Mount Michael Benedictine School



@Mount\_Michael



Mount Michael Benedictine

# MOUNT MICHAEL BENEDICTINE SCHOOL

1970 - 2020

Mount Michael Benedictine Abbey & School was founded in 1953 by Immaculate Conception Abbey in Missouri. The school began as a high school and junior college for men preparing for the priesthood and was called St. John Vianney Seminary. In the spring of 1970, the monks decided that their resources and talents would be better utilized by the creation of Mount Michael Benedictine School, a Catholic residential high school encompassing grades 9 through 12 with a focus on college-prep curriculum. The school has grown steadily from an enrollment of just over 100 in the early 1970s to around 238 today with an enrollment goal of approximately 240-260 highly qualified students.



1970

Mount Michael Benedictine High School is opened

State Championship in track

1973

1973-74

First full sized freshmen class enrollment (45 at that time)



# Letter from the Abbot

More than one reader noticed that my last letter was written before the impact of the coronavirus had taken hold. We had planned to have Abbot Primate Gregoy Polan join us for the feast of St Benedict. He was unable to leave Rome. No chance to even think about having him fall out of the back of a pickup. After spring break, the school moved to online classes. No students were on campus for the final quarter of the year. No Father-Son dinner. Some events like Awards Night took place online. We were especially grateful to volunteers and donors who made our online Night of Knights successful.

The campus was closed to visitors after spring break. Just before Holy Week, Br. Mel died from complications due to congestive heart failure. Br. Mel generously donated his body to medical research. At some point in the future, we will have a memorial mass in his honor. During Holy Week, Br. James also died. Br. James had been in a care facility because of dementia. Although we had a funeral mass for Br. James, we will also have a memorial mass for him in the future when guests are able to join us.

The monastic community is fortunate to be able to celebrate the Eucharist and the Divine Office every day. Our celebrations of Holy Week and Easter took place this year without guests. Noteworthy to all the members of the monastic community was the absence of Dean Duffy, a long-time friend of the abbey. Dean has joined us for Holy Week and Easter every year since 1978. The reading of the letter to the Romans at the vigil service is not the same without Dean. We all miss the guests who join us on a variety of occasions.

As of the writing of this letter, the monastic community, the staff members and maintenance personnel are all healthy and doing well. We take the precautions advised. Trips off campus are limited to necessary excursions such as doctors' appointments and purchasing of items like food that need to be replenished.

Human beings are the most successful species on the planet because they are also the most social species. Isolated, we feel alone; we feel aimless; we feel unloved; and we succumb to the simplest insecurities. To be healthy, we need the reassurance and confidence of being connected to those who are meaningful to us. We need others to nurture us, to guide us, to support us and to love us. It was the perceptive insight of St. Benedict that to achieve closeness to God, we need the help of one another. As monks, we have some practice in isolating ourselves from the outside. But we also have one another to rely on. That is why we gather for the Eucharist, for the Divine Office, for our meals and for our recreation. There is strength in both our diversity and our unity.

Be assured of our prayers for all of you in these challenging times. We are mindful that not everyone enjoys the benefits we have – a supportive group, a large campus to roam, and meaningful tasks to keep us busy. Especially when the distancing and isolation seem burdensome, remember the words which Jesus spoke to his disciples as he was preparing to leave them: "if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back again and take you to myself, so that where I am you also may be.

*Michael Liebl, O.S.B.*



Student Union and stage are built

1977-78

1982

State Championship in football

State Championship in basketball  
Coach of the Year, James Kane

1983





# Head of School ●●

All of us have felt the impact of the COVID-19 virus. Everything for us, as a school, began during spring break. Classes dismissed on Friday, March 6th. By the time spring break ended on Sunday, March 15th, we had announced to our students, staff, and families that we would be moving all instruction online and teaching would be done remotely. We cancelled classes on March 16th and 17th so the teachers could make the necessary plans for remote instruction. On Wednesday, March 18th we closed the school building and began classes with all students and staff at home.

As school progressed, we had to make many modifications to our end-of-the-year plans. All activities, events and athletic competitions were cancelled. We ended up having a virtual athletic banquet, senior/parent night and awards night. Graduation was moved to July in the hope that we could have a live event. True final exams were suspended, and our classes finished on Friday, May 15th. AP exams were altered and switched to an online format during the weeks of May 11th and 18th.

Even our annual gala dinner and auction, Night of Knights, was held virtually! Thanks to all of you who supported this important event. We could not operate without the funds raised by this event. The response was incredible!

When we decided to go online, some issues had to be solved immediately. Students had to come to campus to pick up materials and books. We had to issue specific laptops to the engineering students loaded with the software they needed. Other students borrowed laptops from our library. Some students, and even staff, had to be issued hotspots because of absent or spotty Wi-Fi. Overall, there were lots of logistical issues. Once school ended on the 15th of May we had to schedule students to come on to campus to drop off materials,

clean out the dorms and pick up summer assignments and class materials.

Going into the summer there are a lot of unknowns. Things appear to be changing every day. We are planning for contingencies. As a school we must adhere to the directives given to us by the governor, the state commissioner of education and the health department. Our calendar may be impacted. The goal is to open school on time and as close to normal as we can be both in the dorms and in the classrooms.

I ask you to pray for all of those directly and indirectly impacted by COVID-19. I also ask you to keep in your prayers all the dedicated healthcare personnel working around the world saving lives.

## THE CLASS OF 2020

The class of 2020 graduated on July 11th because of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. I would like to note some of the achievements of this class.

The Mount Michael Benedictine School class of 2020 has 61 graduates, our largest class ever.

- **The average ACT test score for this class is 28.9**
- **Four National Merit Finalists and two Commended Students**
- **Three earned National Merit Scholarships**
- **The 61 boys of the class of 2020 were accepted at 114 colleges in 33 states and 2 countries, including Gonzaga, Virginia Tech, Auburn, Rose Hulman, Northwestern, Notre Dame, The Naval Academy, West Point, Emory University, Loyola Marymount, and schools in the United Kingdom.**
- **\$11,056,574 of scholarship dollars**

State Championship in basketball

1985

1987

State Championships in cross country and golf

First Night of Knights

1988

1989

First musical at Mount Michael – Joseph and His Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat  
State Championship in tennis

Baseball begins permanently as a sport at Mount Michael

1990

State Championships in football and tennis

1991

State Championship in tennis

- **30% (18 of 61) of this class were offered full tuition scholarships.**
- **70% of the boys will be using scholarship money for the institution they will be attending, which is more than \$3.1 million or almost \$71,000 per scholarship.**

- Our valedictorian was **Brayden Whitaker**; salutatorian was **Minjun Choi**
- Mount Michael award (Mr. Mount Michael) went to **Jacob Gathje**
- Athlete of the Year was **Clifford Roepke**
- Omaha World-Herald Key Staffer award went to **Alex Schrier**
- Rotary Club Senior Student of the Year was **Henry Storbeck**

30% of the class qualified for the Omaha World Herald's All-Academic list (in the state of Nebraska, only 4% of students earn this honor). To qualify for this recognition, students need to have a minimum composite ACT score of 32 and an A average. Congratulations to the following students who earned this honor:

John Ackerman	Kolton Koubsky
Minjun Choi	Alex Payne
Joshua Davies	Tharein Potuhera
Benedict deMayo	Benjamin Quinlan
Yijie Fan	Jackson Ramold
Ben Gao	Alexander Schrier
Jacob Gathje	Evan Schroder
Joseph Johansen	Trenton Sedlacek
Andree-Zeid Kakish	Brayden Whitaker

The new school year is scheduled to begin on Thursday, August 13th. I want to thank you for your continued support and dedication to Mount Michael. May our good Lord bless you and your families.

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



### The class of 2020 have been accepted into the following colleges and universities:

- |                              |  |
|------------------------------|--|
| Amherst College              | North Dakota State                           |
| Arizona                      | Northeastern                                 |
| Arizona State                | Northwestern University                      |
| Auburn                       | Notre Dame                                   |
| Baylor                       | Ohio State                                   |
| Bellevue University          | Oxford College at Emory University           |
| Belmont Abbey, NC            | Penn State                                   |
| Benedictine College          | Purdue University                            |
| Boston College               | Regis University                             |
| Cal Poly - Pomona            | Rockhurst                                    |
| Cal State Fullerton          | Rose Hulman Institute of Technology          |
| California - Long Beach      | Saint John's University - Collegeville       |
| California - San Diego       | Saint Louis University                       |
| California - Santa Barbara   | San Diego State University                   |
| California Polytechnic       | Santa Clara                                  |
| California - Riverside       | Seattle University                           |
| Case Western                 | Seton Hall                                   |
| Central Missouri             | South Carolina                               |
| Colorado                     | South Dakota                                 |
| Colorado School of Mines     | South Dakota School of Mines                 |
| Colorado State               | South Dakota State                           |
| Creighton                    | South Florida                                |
| Dakota State                 | Southern Methodist University                |
| Denver University            | St. John's University - New York             |
| Drake University             | St. Mary Leavenworth                         |
| Emory University             | State Univ. of New York - Stonybrook         |
| Fairfield                    | Stevens Institute of Technology              |
| Florida                      | Syracuse                                     |
| Fordham University           | Texas - Arlington                            |
| George Mason                 | Texas A & M                                  |
| George Washington University | Texas at Dallas                              |
| Georgia                      | Texas Christian University                   |
| Gonzaga                      | Tulsa  |
| Hastings College             | U. S. Coast Guard Academy                    |
| High Point University        | United Kingdom - Essex                       |
| Hillsdale College            | United Kingdom - Kent                        |
| Idaho                        | United Kingdom - Leicester                   |
| Illinois                     | United Kingdom - Manchester                  |
| Iowa                         | United Kingdom - Nottingham                  |
| Iowa State                   | United States Military Academy               |
| Kansas                       | United States Naval Academy                  |
| Kansas State                 | University of Dallas                         |
| Loyola Marymount             | University of Dayton                         |
| Loyola Chicago               | University of Houston                        |
| Maine                        | University of Missouri K.C. - Honors College |
| Marquette                    | University of Portland                       |
| Maryland                     | University of Sioux Falls                    |
| Metro Community College      | University of Tampa                          |
| Miami                        | Vanderbilt                                   |
| Michigan                     | Virginia Tech University                     |
| Michigan State               | Washington                                   |
| Middlebury College           | Washington University - St. Louis            |
| Minnesota                    | Wayne State College                          |
| Morehouse College            | Wisconsin                                    |
| Nebraska - Kearney           | Worcester Polytechnic Institute              |
| Nebraska - Lincoln           | Xavier                                       |
| Nebraska - Omaha             |  |
| Nebraska Wesleyan            |  |

Renovation to chapel and front drive  
State Championship in cross country

1995

1996

State Championship in cross country  
Student Union renovated and re-named the Armory

State Championship in cross country, 3rd consecutive year

1997

State Championship in cross country

2000

2001-02

Swimming begins at Mount Michael and we co-op with Burke High School

2003

Coach Kane inducted into the Nebraska High School Sports Hall of Fame

In the Fall, first international students enter Mount Michael from Korea  
Seven-day boarding reopened  
Mount Michael begins day student program



# Admissions

## Greetings Mount Michael Community!

In the 1995 hit movie *Apollo 13*, Mission Control and Flight Director Gene Kranz spoke the memorable line, "With all due respect sir, I believe

this is going to be our finest hour." As the wave of the novel coronavirus began to take its full effect in the city of Omaha, I was able to witness firsthand countless members of the Mount Michael community step up in response to this challenge. Our Head of School has been the first to arrive and last to leave as we continue to navigate the re-opening of the school. After moving to online learning, our families opened their homes to welcome international students needing a place to stay. The faculty transitioned their classrooms to the virtual world without hesitation. Our students picked up the rigorous college-prep curriculum behind their personal computer screens without missing a beat. Our facilities and maintenance staff worked tirelessly cleaning and sterilizing common contact points for those that need to be here on campus. Our business and advancement offices used their skills to create emergency

budgets and secure funding to help mitigate some of the financial strains that accompanied the virus. Our athletics department developed ways for our athletes to safely train in the weight room in preparation for the upcoming year. Our monastic community has adjusted to allow for online viewing of the Easter Triduum and Sunday Masses. From a professional standpoint, I believe Mount Michael's response to this unprecedented challenge has been second to none, a truly "fine hour."

With regards to admissions, I can't begin to tell you how excited I am to welcome the class of 2024 to campus. Coming from 30 different elementary schools, these future Knights will be fantastic additions to the Mount Michael student body. Like the rest of the Mount Michael community, I have no doubt that these students will rise up to the occasion no matter what next year may bring.

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

## What Does It Mean to Be a Student Oblate?



by Wyatt Walters '22

Mount Michael is a very diverse community and it's full of people from all walks of life; however the people we sometimes forget to focus on are the very monks who made Mount Michael. To me being an oblate is pretty much a trial run of being a monk and gets you involved more into the spirituality of Mount Michael. It can sometimes be very easy to just go to Mount Michael as a school but being an oblate you're able to go to prayers and dinner with the monks, lectio, help out on weekends in the guest house, and most important to me, learning about the Rule of Benedict. All of these are open to those who aren't oblates, but being one helps you to fully take in the Benedictine spirit of Mount Michael. The first word of the Rule of Benedict is listen, and being an oblate truly helps you to listen to the teachings of Benedictine spirituality. All in all, being an oblate is the key to unlocking the fullness of Mount Michael's spirituality and it allows you to become more involved in this community and the experience that comes with it.

**2004-05**

Renovation of the weight room

Booster Club is founded  
State Championship in soccer

**2005**

State Championship in tennis

Wrestling begins as a competitive sport at Mount Michael

State Championship in journalism

**2008**

**2009**

20th anniversary of the Night of Knights

State Championship in journalism

Bell Tower is constructed – donors, Joe and Ada McDermott; architect, Jim Classe '84

**2010**

State Championship in journalism

Baseball becomes a spring sport at Mount Michael

**2011**

State Championship in American Legion Baseball





# ATHLETICS



Learning to lose is an important lesson in life and sports. With COVID-19 restrictions and all spring sports seasons cancelled, our student athletes missed the opportunity to lose. Every practice, game, meet, match, and race slowly slipped by. Senior seasons, athletes defending titles and seeking new wins and

personal bests. Seasons being cancelled was heartbreaking for both our athletes and coaches. Out of all of this, I am incredibly proud and motivated by the coaches and athletes with whom I am fortunate to work.

Students rallied together (virtually). They found ways to lift and run independently. They kept in touch through social media. They stayed focused and motivated. When we were first able to open the weight room an overwhelming number of current and in-coming students signed up for times. Their

excitement to get back together and work out was palatable. Coaches and athletes continue to work together all the while following the recommended CDC guidelines. I can't help but smile as I see them together. We're a family and this pandemic has only strengthened these bonds. We may have lost our sports seasons but we gained lessons in tenacity and resilience.

Baseball is our one sport that is now able to return to limited competition. The legion team is coached by first year head coach, Tom Swanson '01.

The fall seasons are coming. We're hopeful we can have all our student athletes back safely in school and competing. We'll be ready. Ready because our athletes chose to stay focused. They took this lost season not as a loss but as an opportunity and a motivator. I'm excited to see them back competing. Go Knights!

Derrick Spooner  
Athletic Director

National Blue Ribbon School Award  
State Championship in cross country

2012

2013

New monastic garage built near abbey – made possible by the Rohloffs

Monks' old garage becomes weight room

2014

State Championships in journalism and academic decathlon

Addition of stands, lights, press box, and other improvements to football field  
First home varsity football game

State Championships in tennis, robotics, academic decathlon and cross country  
Improvements to the track  
Fiber optic laid for high speed internet

2015

2016

State Championship in academic decathlon  
Student chapter of Oblates reopened



# MONK RE-ASSIGNED

**Throughout the history of monasticism, there have been monks who have been assigned or even called to live outside the closure of their own monasteries. Many of these monks remained connected and even provided income and service to their own monasteries.**

This sort of arrangement has not been foreign to Mount Michael Abbey. In the past, the late Fr. Marimon Sitzmann OSB, who was a professor at Creighton University for a good number of years, found it necessary to live in Omaha to be closer to the university. Fr. Nathanael Fosahage OSB discerned years ago that he would like to work more closely with a Hispanic population. He is still out in the Pueblo Diocese of Colorado, helping a diocese in great need. Fr. Eugene McReynolds OSB, who has just recently returned to Mount Michael, worked at Boys Town for many years. These are just a few monks who had such an arrangement of living outside the abbey and who did or still bring “home the bacon” so to speak from where they are.

Another one of our present monks has asked for permission to be assigned outside the abbey and to have a similar living arrangement. Br. Benedict Mary Ober OSB has asked to be assigned much closer to his home and family in New Jersey. Such a request is presented to the abbot and then it is also presented to the abbot’s council. And it is only after this meeting of minds, gathering of all the facts, consideration of what is best for the individual monk and community, and lots and lots of prayer, that such a request is granted. Br. Benedict’s request has been granted!

This change for Br. Benedict Mary will happen in mid-July. Because of the coronavirus, there is no way that Mount Michael can have any sort of public farewell gathering for him. The whole monastic community would like to express to Br. Benedict our gratitude for all the years of hard work in the development office and your absolute determination to be faithful to the Divine Office, no matter what kind of weather you had to take your electric chair through. Thank you!

Br. Benedict Mary has touched many lives while he has been here at Mount Michael. He wishes to thank all the wonderful people with whom he has worked through the development office, especially current alumni parent volunteers. You made his time working in the development office a joy! He wants all of you to know that.

I am sure that many would like to wish him well. His contact information in New Jersey is listed below.

Br. Benedict (Thomas) Ober  
Stonegate at St. Stephen II  
6312 Browning Road Apartment 120  
Pennsauken, NJ 08109  
Or. tober@mountmichael.org



We all wish you well with your new move, Br. Benedict. Take care of yourself and enjoy Jersey!

Fr. John Hagemann, O.S.B.

State Championships in robotics and academic decathlon

2017

2018

David “DJ” Sokol Learning for Life Building is opened

State Championship in academic decathlon

Crypt is Converted into small theater under the direction of Br. Roger Mangels OSB

2019

State Championship in academic decathlon  
National Blue Ribbon School Award

2020

State Championship in academic decathlon, 7th consecutive year

Coach Kane inducted into the Mount Michael Athletic Hall of Fame

\* 48 total National Merit Finalists\* and many more semi-finalists  
\*No records available before 1984





# A FOCUSED BENEDICT AND AN INDELIBLE MARK

by Fr. John Hagemann O.S.B.

After spending four years here at Mount Michael, many students feel deeply rooted and closely connected both to the place and to the spirit of what is Mount Michael. Many want to leave something of themselves for perpetuity—that will be lasting for future years. By expression of his artistic talents in his masterpieces that grace Mount Michael grounds and walls, Jim Classe (1984) has done just that!

When Classe was a student here at Mount Michael, I often would drop by the art room to check out what sort of masterpieces the art students were creating. One year, Classe was working on a “Crowned Jesus.” His Jesus was black, wearing a crown of thorns, but what definitely drew me into the drawing was the flower, a rose, behind the crowned head of Jesus. My memory is that it was totally done in black — no other color. It was striking! It was during Lent that Classe was working on this drawing and immediately I thought about using it in the Easter Vigil program that year. Although it was a crowned Jesus, it already gave way to new life with the rose in the background. Classe gave me permission to use his drawing in the program. And so I did.

Perhaps, Classe’s most indelible mark is in stone, brick and concrete. One can easily detect Classe’s style in the new DJ Sokol Building. The shapes, lines, and forms have his name written all over them. Classe was involved in the schematic design of the building - the site plan, floor plan and exterior elevations. Classe wanted to modernize the campus look, yet also relate to the existing school building (now St. Benedict Building) and of course, the Bell Tower. But for me, the two masterpieces that are most Classe-like are: the Bell Tower and the painting of St. Benedict - his gift to Mount Michael when the DJ Building was completed. It hangs in the main entrance of the DJ Building. Both masterpieces use St. Benedict as a central figure and focal point. And for me, Classe’s concept of who Benedict was as a man of God is most pleasing and intriguing.

Classe’s Benedict is a man focused upwards—I would say heavenwards. For over 50 years of my life now, I have thought of what type of man, leader and abbot St. Benedict was. And over those 50 plus years, I have met a lot of men who are leaders and abbots, and so I have formed my own image of who St. Benedict really was. And I also have the Rule that is attributed to St. Benedict and the Dialogues of St. Gregory that also provide an image of who St. Benedict was.

But Classe’s Benedict touches something which I think is the essence of who St. Benedict was. And what is that? It is none other than the central FOCUS. Classe’s Benedict, in his upwards or heavenwards look is really a focus on God. The

striking point of Classe’s Benedict masterpieces is not on Benedict’s clothing, footwear or anything else about his body. It is all about what Benedict is focusing on. And the fascinating point about the painting in the DJ building is that the viewer of the painting sees Benedict’s back. Benedict’s face is not really important. His raised head and upward extended hands are what is important—the focus.

## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT JIM CLASSE '84



Classe, my friend, you have much in you that needs more expression. I would like to make a suggestion to you. It is this: continue to read St. Benedict’s Rule. Continue to read and be inspired to create other masterpieces of Benedict and monastic life. You DO have it in you! Thank you for the indelible marks you have left for Mount Michael. You are here forever!

Lastly, I feel obliged to make mention of a comment that many people make when they visit Mount Michael. It goes something like this: “Oh my, all your artwork is truly amazing!” I would have to say the same. So, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the artists over the years of Mount Michael Abbey and School, who have contributed to the beauty and asceticism of our place. And although I cannot recall all the student artists over the years, I would like to mention some monks who

have beautified Mount Michael with their masterpieces: Abbot Theodore, Br. Jerome, Fr. Dan, and Br. Luke. And perhaps a little challenge and invitation is good. Would it not be an awesome event to display all the artwork created by Mount Michael connections? And we should all be mindful of this: an artist sees what many others cannot see. We need to pay attention to artists!



# 2020 SENIOR PLANS



**\*\*John Ross Ackerman** is the son of J.R. and Amy Ackerman of Bennington. John has received offers of admission to Creighton University, Purdue University, and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in the Honors Program. This fall, John will attend Creighton University in the Scott Scholars program and major in Business Pre-Health Services.

**\*Joseph Henry Bazata** is the son of Jim and Becky Bazata of Elkhorn. He has received offers of admission to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Kansas State University, and Auburn University. Joseph will attend the University of Nebraska-Lincoln where he plans to major in Biological Sciences.

**\*Calvin Maxwell Benson** is the son of John and Gena Benson of Omaha. Calvin has received offers of admission to Benedictine College, the University of Nebraska at Omaha, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Iowa State University, the South Dakota School of Mines, and South Dakota State University. Calvin will attend Benedictine College where he will study Mechanical Engineering and participate on both the football and track team.

**\*Maxwell Lincoln Berens** is the son of Troy and Jennifer Berens of Evergreen, Colorado. Max has received offers of admission from the University of Colorado, the Colorado School of Mines, the University of Portland, Virginia Polytechnic Institute, and State University, and Gonzaga University. This fall, Max will attend Virginia Tech and major in Biochemistry.

**\*Nicholas John Buresh** is the son of Tim and Leigh Buresh of Omaha. Nick has received offers of admission to Kansas State University, the University of Kansas, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and the University of Nebraska at Omaha. This fall he will attend the University of Nebraska at Omaha where he will major in Construction Engineering.

**\*Seth Joseph Carpenter** is the son of Byron and Lisa Carpenter of Omaha. Seth has received offers of admission from Auburn University, the University of Arizona, and Arizona State University. Seth will attend Auburn University in the fall and major in Aerospace Engineering.

**\*Zhuji Chen** is the son of Qi Chen and Hua Wang of Shanghai, China. Joey has received offers of admission to Santa Clara University, the Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology, Purdue University, and Creighton University. Joey will attend Creighton University and major in Physics.

**\*\*Minjun Choi** is the son of Jaeyoung Choi and Hyunsook An of Seoul, South Korea. Ryan has received offers of admission to Purdue University, the University of Wisconsin-Madison, the Stevens Technology of Institute, the University of Florida, and Worcester Polytechnic Institute. This fall, Ryan will attend Purdue University and study Data Science.

**Colton Joseph Cordes** is the son of Martin and Jennifer Cordes of Elkhorn. Cole has received offer of admission from Rockhurst University, Belmont Abbey, St. Mary's University, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, the University of Nebraska at Omaha, the University of Nebraska at Kearney, and Wayne State College. This fall, Cole will attend Rockhurst University where he will compete on the baseball team.

**\*Addison Cousin-Hardrick** is the son of Anita Cousin and Addie Donald-Hardrick. Addison has received offers of admission to Dakota State University, the University of Nebraska at Omaha, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and Morehouse College. Addison will attend Morehouse College and major in Computer Engineering.

**\*\*Joshua Temiloluwa Davies** is the son of Dele and Arike Davies. Temi has received offers of admission to Case Western University, Creighton University, the Ohio State University, the University of Iowa, Iowa State University, Michigan State University, the University of Nebraska at Kearney, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, the University of Michigan, the University of Miami, Purdue University, Northeastern University, the University of Texas, and the University of Nebraska at Omaha. Temi will be attending the University of Nebraska at Omaha where he will major in Computer Science.

**\*\*Benedict Daniel deMayo** is the son of Miles and Lynn deMayo of Omaha. Ben has received offers of admission to Wayne State College, the United States Coast Guard Academy, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, the University of Nebraska at Omaha, and the University of Central Missouri. Ben will attend Wayne State College where he will major in Business Administration-Marketing and plans to participate on the baseball team.

**\*\*Yijie Fan** is the son of Xiaojuan Zhang and Guijiang Fan of Qingdao City, China. Jerry has received offer of admission to Emory University, where he will attend and major in Business.

**\*Callan Patrick Farrell** is the son of Christine Neuharth and Patrick Farrell of Omaha. He has received offers of admission from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Fairfield University, Creighton University, the University of Dayton, Fordham University, Saint Louis University, Seton Hall University, Texas Christian University, and Loyola University Chicago. Callan will be attending Loyola University Chicago where he plans to major in Education.

**\*\*Benjamin Gao** is the son of Bin Gao and Huhai Chen of Omaha. Ben has received offers of admission from the University of California San Diego, the University of Wisconsin-Madison, the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Baylor University, the University of Minnesota, and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Ben will attend the University of California San Diego where he will major in Biology.

**\*\*Jacob Andrew Gathje** is the son of John and Melissa Gathje of Omaha. Jacob has received offers of admission from St. John's University (Collegeville) in the honors program and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in the Honors Business Academy. Jacob will attend St. John's University this fall and major in Economics and participate in cross country and track.

**Máximo Gaytan** is the son of Alan Diaz and Elizabeth Gaytan of Omaha. He has received offers of admission to Chicago



University, Creighton University, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and the University of Nebraska at Omaha. Max will attend Creighton University where he plans to major in International Business.

**\*Benjamin Joseph Goetz** is the son of Doug and Kathy Goetz of Bellevue. Ben has received offers of admission to Benedictine College and Metropolitan Community College. Ben will attend Metropolitan Community College and then later matriculate to the University of Nebraska at Omaha to study Evolutionary Psychology.

**\*Gregory Rey Gonzalez** the son of Gregory and Katherine Gonzalez of Omaha. Greg has received offers of admissions from Creighton University, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, University of Nebraska at Omaha, Drake University, and Rockhurst University. Greg will attend Creighton University and the Freshman Leadership Program where he plans to major in Business with future plans to attend Law School.

**Jack Richard Gottschalk** is the son of Rich and Rhonda Gottschalk of Omaha. He has received offers of admission to Creighton University, Rockhurst University, Penn State University, and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Jack will attend Rockhurst University where he plans to major in Business.

**\*Logan Michael Hock** is the son of Marc and Lori Hock of Valley. He has received offers of admission from Drake University, Creighton University, Regis University, University of Denver, Marquette University, Seattle University, and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Logan will attend Drake University where he plans to major in Business Marketing.

**\*William Joseph Janecek** is the son of Larry and Kerry Janacek of Omaha. Will has received offers of admission from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, the University of Nebraska at Omaha, and Kansas State University. Will has chosen to attend the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in the fall and major in Architecture.

**\*\*Joseph Martin Johansen** is the son of Frank and Akemi Johansen of Omaha. Joseph has received offers of admission to Kansas State University, the University of Kansas, and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Joseph will attend Kansas State University this fall and major in Interior Architecture and Product Design.

**\*Andree-Zeid Hussam Kakish** is the son of Sam and Marianna Kakish of Bennington. Andree has received offers of admission to Creighton University, the University of Missouri Kansas City, Baylor University, the University of Washington, Vanderbilt University, Amherst College, Oxford College of Emory University, and Emory University. Andree will be attending Creighton University where he will be studying Biochemistry on a Pre-Medical Track through the Honors Program.

**Max Randall Kaster** is the son of Randy and Kathy Kaster of Omaha. Max has received

an offer of admission to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, where he will attend in the fall with an undeclared major.

**\*Sanggyeom Kim** is the son of Ty Kim and Julia Ju of Cheonan, Korea. Jimmy has received offers of admission from the University of Washington, the University of Minnesota, the University of Maryland, Stony Brook University, Texas A&M University, the Stevens Institute of Technology, and the University of Colorado Boulder. Jimmy will attend Stony Brook University and study Computer Science.

**\*\*Kolton James Koubsky** is the son of Ken and Kristin Koubsky of Omaha. He has received offers of admission from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, the U.S. Naval Academy, the University of Notre Dame, Washington University in St. Louis, Hillsdale College, St. Louis University, Creighton University, the University of Nebraska at Omaha, and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Kolton will attend the University of Notre Dame where he plans to major in Business-Marketing, minor in Creative Writing and will join the Notre Dame ROTC.

**Michael Adam Kremer** is the son of Tim and René Kremer of Elkhorn. Mike has received offers of admission to the University of Nebraska at Omaha, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and the University of South Dakota. This fall, Mike will attend the University of South Dakota and major in Business.

**\*Jacob Paul Kubasik** is the son of Michael and Brenda Kubasik of Elkhorn. Jacob has received offers of admission to Creighton University, Syracuse University, the University of Nebraska at Omaha, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Rockhurst University, and the University of Sioux Falls. Jacob will be attending Syracuse University where he plans to major in Biological Sciences and Business in the Whitman School of Management.

**Jack Henry Larsen** is the son of Angela Larsen and Dan Larsen of Omaha. Jack has received an offer of admission to the University of Tampa where he will attend in the fall and pursue a double major in Marine Sciences and Business.

**Lucas Richard Lynes** is the son of Todd and Denise Lynes of LaVista. Lucas has received admission offers from University of Nebraska-Lincoln, University of Nebraska at Omaha, and Arizona State University. He will attend the University of Nebraska at Omaha where he will pursue a degree in Aviation.

**\*Joseph Aaron Lytle** is the son of Jason and Linda Lytle of Omaha. He has received offers of admission to the University of Nebraska at Omaha, Dakota State University, and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Joe will attend the University of Nebraska at Omaha where he plans to major in Cybersecurity.

**\*Mason Jack Matukewicz** is the son of Michael and Sara Matukewicz of Omaha. Mason has received offers of admission to

Creighton University, Seton Hall University, George Mason University, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and St. John's University (New York). Mason will attend St. John's University this fall and major in Economics.

**\*Cole Michael McNally** is the son of Dr. Michael McNally and Dr. Annette Cserna of Lincoln. Cole has received offers of admission to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, the University of Nebraska at Omaha, and the University of Nebraska at Kearney. Cole will attend the University of Nebraska at Kearney and major in Biology with a pre-health emphasis.

**Ethan Matthew Meduna** is the son of Matt and Nancy Meduna of Waterloo. He has received offers of admission from the University of Dallas, Rockhurst University, and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. He will be attending the University of Dallas next year where he plans on majoring in Business and will compete on the golf team.

**\*Ian Alexander Miller** is the son of Jon and Traci Miller of Gretna. He has received offers of admission to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, the University of Nebraska at Kearney, the University of Nebraska at Omaha and Benedictine College. Ian will attend Benedictine College where he plans to major in Nursing.

**Connor Terrence Murphy** is the son of Terrence and Melanie Murphy of Omaha. Connor has received offers of admission from Dakota State University and Bellevue University. Connor will attend Dakota State University in the fall and major in Cyber Operations.

**\*\*Alex Alexander Matthew Payne** is the son of Matt and Nicole Payne of Omaha. He has received offers of admission to Creighton University, Marquette University, Saint Louis University, Iowa State University, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, the University of Iowa, and the University of Tulsa. Alex will attend Creighton University where he plans to major in Chemistry and will participate in the Haddix Dean's Fellows program.

**Vu Hoang Phan** is the son of Son Truong Phan and Trang Van Nguyen Hoang of Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. Daniel has received offers of admission to University of Nebraska-Lincoln; University of California, Riverside; California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo; California State Polytechnic University, Pomona; California State University, Long Beach; California State University, Fullerton; University of Houston, and the University of Texas at Arlington. He will attend California State University, Long Beach where he plans to major in Computer Science.

**Charles David Plozay** is the son of David and Molly Plozay of Omaha. Charlie has received an offer of admission from the University of South Dakota, where he will attend in the fall and major in Business.

**\*\*Tharein Sumanta Potuhera** is the son of Durga Dammapali Potuhera and Asthika Chalinda Potuhera of Omaha. Tharein has received offers of admission to the University



of Nebraska at Omaha, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, the University of Nebraska at Kearney, Middlebury College, Santa Clara University, Syracuse University, and Northwestern University. Tharein will attend Northwestern University and likely pursue a degree in Economics/Political Science.

**\*Benjamin Maurice Quinlan** is the son of Jennifer and Mark Quinlan of Omaha. He has received offers of admission to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and the University of Nebraska at Omaha. Ben will attend the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in the Honors Program where he plans to major in Pre-Health.

**\*Jackson Carl Ramold** is the son of Jeff and Dru Ramold of Omaha. He has received offers of admission to Rockhurst University, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, the University of Nebraska at Omaha, Hastings College, the University of South Dakota, Nebraska Wesleyan University, and the University of Nebraska at Kearney. Jackson will attend Rockhurst University where he plans to major in Biology.

**Clifford John Roepke** is the son of John and Kim Roepke of Omaha. Cliff has received offers of admission to the University of Kansas, Arizona State University, and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Cliff will attend the University of Kansas this fall and major in Interior Architecture.

**Peyton Jacob Rosenfels** is the son of Maria Gealy and Sage Rosenfels of Omaha. He has received offers of admission to Loyola University Chicago, Colorado State University, the University of Denver, Loyola Marymount University, San Diego State University, and The George Washington University. Peyton will attend Loyola Marymount University where he plans to major in Management.

**Santiago Santa-Maria** is the son of Rafael and Mariana Santa-Maria. Santi has received offers of admission from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, the University of Nebraska at Omaha, and the University of Nebraska at Kearney. This fall Santi will attend the University of Nebraska-Lincoln where he will study Psychology.

**\*\*Alexander Ryan Schrier** is the son of Alan and Lisa Schrier of Omaha. Alex has received offers of admission to the University of Washington Seattle, California Polytechnic State University, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, the University of Nebraska at Omaha, and the University of Nebraska at Kearney. Alex will attend the University of Nebraska-Lincoln this fall in the Honors program and major in Software Engineering.

**\*\*Evan Andrew Schroder** is the son of Andrew and Maree Schroder of Omaha. Evan has received offers of admission to Creighton University, Rockhurst University, and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Evan will attend the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in the Honors program and will major in Biochemistry and Mathematics on a pre-medicine track.

**\*John Joseph Schroll** is the son of Leland and Kristie Schroll of Omaha. John has received offers of admission the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, the University of Nebraska at Omaha, the University of Nebraska at Kearney, Rockhurst University, and Wayne State College. John will attend the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and major in Elementary Education with future plans to pursue law enforcement training.

**\*Trenton David Sedlacek** is the son of Don and Jennifer Sedlacek of Bennington. Trenton has received offers of admission to Boston College, Creighton University, Southern Methodist University, the University of Iowa, Seton Hall, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and the University of Nebraska at Omaha. Trenton will attend the University of Nebraska-Lincoln this fall in the Honors program and is considering a major in Linguistics and International Business.

**\*Joshua Lee Snyder** is the son of Patrick and Veronica Snyder of Omaha. Josh has received offers of admission to the University of Nebraska at Omaha, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and the University Nebraska at Kearney. Josh will attend the University of Nebraska at Omaha and major in Pre-Medical Studies.

**Kaleb James Stavneak** is the son of Kari Anzalone-Stavneak and Brian Stavneak of Ralston. Kaleb has received offers of admission to Colorado State University, the University of Idaho, the University of Maine, the University of Nebraska at Omaha, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and Xavier University. Kaleb will attend the University of Maine and major in Forestry.

**\*Keaton Thomas Stec** is the son of Robin Stec and the late Eric Stec of Omaha. Keaton has received offers of admission to Kansas State University, Iowa State University, North Dakota State University, the University of Nebraska at Omaha, and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Keaton will attend Kansas State University and pursue a degree in Athletic Training/Physical Therapy.

**\*Henry Joseph Storbeck** is the son of Patrick and Rebecca Storbeck of Omaha. He has received offers of admission to Creighton University, Rockhurst University, the University of Dallas, the University of Nebraska at Omaha, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Marquette University, Benedictine College, and the University of Kansas. Henry will attend the University of Kansas where he plans to study a business-related major along the pre-law track.

**Sean Paul Stumpff** is the son of Craig and Wanda Stumpff. Sean has received offers of admission from University of Nebraska-Lincoln, University of Nebraska at Omaha, Rockhurst University and Creighton University. Sean will attend Creighton University in the fall and major in Finance and Technology.

**James Maximilian Swiniarski** is the son of Joseph and Catherine Swiniarski of Papillion. Max has received offers of admission to

Dakota State University, the University of Nebraska at Omaha, and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Max will attend the University of Nebraska at Omaha in the fall and major in Pre-Pharmacy.

**Richard Drew Thornton** is the son of Rick and Laura Thornton of Omaha. Drew has received offers of admission to Rockhurst University, Wayne State College, High Point University, Elon University, the University of Nebraska at Omaha, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, the University of Kansas, the University of Georgia, and the University of South Carolina. Drew will be attending the University of South Carolina and study Sport and Entertainment Management.

**Anthony Dario Traggiai** is the son of Lora Traggiai and the late Ron Traggiai of Bellevue. Tony plans to attend Metropolitan Community College for the first two years of his college career and then will transfer to the University of Nebraska at Omaha to complete his education. His major is undeclared.

**\*\*Brayden Michael Whitaker** is the son of Jim and Shelly Whitaker of Omaha. Brayden has received offers of admission to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and the University of South Florida. Brayden will attend the University of South Florida this fall in the Honors College and major in Cell and Molecular Biology.

**\*Samuel James Wooten** is the son of Dave and Teresa Wooten of Papillion. Sam has received offers of admission from the University of Nebraska at Omaha, the University of Nebraska at Kearney, Creighton University, Benedictine College, and St. John's University (Collegeville). Sam will attend St. John's University and pursue a degree in Nursing while participating in the ROTC program.

**Chun Man Yeung** is the son of Hon Chu Yeung and Shan Tin of Hong Kong. Michael has received offers of admission domestically from Michigan State University and Stony Brook University and in the United Kingdom from the University of Manchester, the University of Nottingham, the University of Leicester, the University of Kent, and the University of Essex. Michael will attend Michigan State University the fall, with an as yet undeclared major.

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(\*) An asterisk beside a name signifies students who are currently members of the National Honor Society.

(\*) Signifies a National Merit Finalist - Top 0.5% or 8,400 students out of 1.5 million entered

(+) Signifies a National Merit Scholar - 1,000 students nationally

(oo) Signifies a National Merit Commended Student - Top 5% of 1.5 million entered in the competition

(x) Signifies a World Herald Scholar - Top 4% of students in the State of Nebraska

# SECOND SEMESTER 2019-2020



## Mount Michael Benedictine School Deans List

### SENIORS

#### FIRST HONORS

John Ackerman  
Joe Bazata  
Calvin Benson  
Max Berens  
Nick Buresh  
Seth Carpenter  
Joey Chen  
Ryan Choi  
Addison Cousin-  
Hardrick

Joshua Davies  
Ben deMayo  
Jerry Fan  
Ben Gao  
Jacob Gathje  
Ben Goetz  
Jack Gottschalk  
Logan Hock  
Will Janecek  
Andree Kakish  
Max Kaster

Sanggyeom Kim  
Michael Kremer  
Jacob Kubasik  
Jack Larsen  
Lucas Lynes  
Joe Lytle  
Ethan Meduna  
Ian Miller  
Connor Murphy  
Alex Payne  
Daniel Phan

Charlie Plozay  
Tharein Potuhera  
Ben Quinlan  
Cliff Roepke  
Peyton Rosenfels  
Alex Schrier  
Evan Schroder  
John Schroll  
Trenton Sedlacek  
Joshua Snyder  
Kaleb Stavneak

Keaton Stec  
Henry Storbeck  
Sean Stumpff  
Drew Thornton  
Tony Traggiai  
Brayden Whitaker  
Sam Wooten

#### SECOND HONORS

Maximo Gaytan  
Greg Gonzalez  
Mason Matukewicz  
Cole McNally  
Jackson Ramold

### JUNIORS

#### FIRST HONORS

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

Eli Crnkovich  
Nick Davis  
Cameron Detwiler  
Scott Ding  
Isaac Gart  
Matthew Geary  
Gavin Gloeb  
Henry Gnann  
Sam Gustafson  
Luke Gutschewski

Henry Hohman  
Parker Hottovy  
Aaron Karnish  
Ben Keller  
Huy Tuan Le  
Phong Le  
Airan Lopez  
Jack Lorensen  
Peter McAndrews  
Brennan McMahon

Quinn McMahon  
Ryan McMahon  
Louis Mixan  
Jacob Moore  
Mitchell Oberfoell  
Michael Oehler  
Kyle Pelan  
Zachary Rapoza  
Grant Schneider  
Jack Sorensen

Dane Storch  
Will Stringer  
Harrison Tarr  
Ben Tucker  
Nick Wehbe  
Liam West  
Logan Whitcomb  
Griffydd Wyse

#### SECOND HONORS

Ryan Brown  
Joe Bruggeman  
Christian Fletcher  
Jason Nyamatore  
Daniel Thomas  
Cole Wilber

### SOPHOMORES

#### FIRST HONORS

Matthew Allen  
Chris Angel  
Jacob Becker  
Jurgen Beller  
Luke Broderick  
Nathan Buresh  
Carter Cline  
Tucker Cudmore

Raoul Djidjoho  
David Drews  
Colin Eich  
Brendan Farrell  
Marc Fayad  
Landen Fogle  
Grant Foster  
Aiden Frazier  
Dillon Haliburton

Jagger Hastings  
Matt Janecek  
Eric Kaps  
Andrew Lee  
Sam Lund  
Michael Mullin  
Ethan Pentel  
Ben Rempe  
Colin Robb

Callan Schroder  
Mark Schroll  
Akilan Sivalumar  
Sawyer Thompson  
Wyatt Torczon  
Max Vossen

#### SECOND HONORS

Casey Bilau  
Caleb Brester  
Peter Gates  
Jose Gaytan  
Jack Giitter  
Andrew Hartin  
Charlie Janecek  
Xavier Johansen

Hyun Sung Kim  
Haitao Liu  
Daniel Mondt  
Connor Size  
Christopher Wolf

### FRESHMEN

#### FIRST HONORS

A.J. Atayi  
Nolan Beller  
Will Benson  
Will Brewster  
Aiden Brink  
Theo Bunawan  
Jose Castillo  
Conor Connealy

Taggart Crouse  
Alejandro Cueli  
Jack Dustin  
Andrew Fink  
Jack Flott  
Ethan Gallant  
Jacob Goertz  
Cole Gustafson  
Harper Held

Farhan Kakish  
Andrew Kirkin  
Sam Kleinschmit  
Landon Knobbe  
Max McCoy  
Shintaro Oda  
Nathan Oehler  
Ryan Quinlan  
Ethan Rapoza

Matthew Rodgers  
Sebastian Santa-  
Maria  
Elliott Simpson  
Ryan Stumpff  
Jacob Sykora  
Ryan Tillotson  
Drew Van Haute

#### SECOND HONORS

John Balch  
Sebastian Duran  
Griffin Dyche  
Ben Harris  
Jake Harris  
Eric Hu  
Chop Paljor  
Lane Schroeder

Andrew Shotbolt  
Jude Storch  
Andrew Tagel  
Brock Wamsley  
John Yu

# IN REMEMBRANCE

**Bill McDermott**, son of Jim McDermott '66

**Dr. Dwaine Peetz**, grandfather of Dwaine Peetz '93

**Shirley Benish**, grandmother of Stephen Benish '86

**Ralph Marasco**, father of Nico Marasco '12

**Bro. Mel Tichota**

**Gwendolyn Anne "Wendy" Keeler**, mother of Daniel Hooyboer '05

**Bro. James Pope O.S.B.**

**Mary Lou Melton**, grandmother of Seth Witulski '08

**Joan McFayden**, an oblate and mother of Robert McFayden '81 and James McFayden '83

**Mary Costello**, mother of Ben Costello

**Dolores "Dee" Bruggeman**, mother of Nick Bruggeman '91, grandmother of Joe '21 and Will '24

**Mike Keegan**, father of Kelly Keegan, grandfather of Cory '13 and Connor '11

**Jeanna Balch**, grandmother of John Balch '23 and Andrew Balch '24



**Brother James Pope O.S.B.**

Br. James Pope, a monk of Mount Michael Benedictine Abbey, died

Good Friday morning, April 10, 2020 at Ridgcrest Rehabilitation Center in Omaha. Br. James was 73 years old. The past several years brought health challenges to Br. James who entered hospice care one week prior to his death.

Br. James was born James Robert Pope in Madison, Tennessee on September 4, 1946, the son of Robert and Louise

(Oswald) Pope. He attended Saint Joseph Grade School in Madison and Father Ryan High School in Nashville. Following graduation in 1964, Br. James briefly attended Tennessee Tech in Cookeville focusing on business administration. Br. James discerned a call to religious life so entered Saint Meinrad Archabbey in Saint Meinrad, Indiana. While at Saint Meinrad, he became familiar with Mount Michael Abbey through his acquaintance with a former Mount Michael cleric. Br. James arrived in 1968 to begin a postulancy year before entering the novitiate the following year. He professed his first vows to Mount Michael Benedictine Abbey on July 26, 1970. This summer would have marked 50 years as a member of the Mount Michael community.

One of the first monastic assignments given Br. James was sacristan. For twenty-two years Br. James attended to the material preparations for every liturgical function with great care and an attention to detail. Saint Benedict's admonition to "regard all utensils and goods of the monastery as sacred vessels of the altar" was certainly a standard held by Br. James. Chalices, candle holders, and other accoutrements were cleaned and polished. One could find Br. James scrubbing and laundering liturgical, community choir robes on a regular basis.

Throughout most of his monastic life, Br. James was involved in public relations work. Br. James initially worked with the dynamic duo of Father Joseph and Father Mario in the Abbey and School's Advancement Office. Fr. Mario's efforts also included the promotion of the School and the search for students to attend the School. Mount Michael Benedictine School had recently transitioned from a minor seminary high school to a college prep high school in 1970 and student numbers were lean in those early years. Having assisted Fr. Mario with the recruitment of students for four years, Br. James was named Admissions Director in 1977. Br. James dedicated endless hours for the next twenty-three years in this capacity. He was often the first

person any parent or student officially met from Mount Michael. Dogged and tireless in promoting the School, Br. James visited countless grade schools, religious education classes, and homes. Each year during the fall he traveled not only throughout the local area but also throughout eastern and western Nebraska as well as western Iowa.

Summers marked another occasion for promoting Mount Michael and the campus by Br. James. He was actively involved in summer camp – often as the staff member in charge of the archery program – for over thirty years and served as the director for six years. A great number of campers from their summer experience later matriculated as students in the high school. Of course, there are plenty of camp stories from Br. James' time as director. One such story points to his inclusivity and ingenuity. Br. James' accepted a blind camper for a week of camp. He made arrangements for this camper to have the same experiences as his peers. While at the archery range, Br. James placed his boom box at the front of the target to assist the blind camper in finding the target. When the arrow was shot through the speaker of his boom box, Br. James howled with delight and approval... though moving the boom box behind the target before the next arrow was shot.

Br. James served for thirteen years as residential dean in the School. And if there was an event in the School or in the Abbey, often it was Br. James who was the coordinator. He enjoyed a grand event or party, taking delight for example in making a school prom an "extravaganza."

Br. James relished short walks especially with a yellow Labrador Retriever. He enjoyed a good novel or listening to organ music which might be felt at the volume played.

Br. James is survived by the community of Mount Michael Abbey as well as his brother Michael Pope and half-brother Thomas Oswald and family. Preceding him in death were his parents Robert and Louise (Oswald) Pope. We commend Br. James to your prayers.



## Bro. Mel Tichota O.S.B. 1942-2020

Bro. Mel Tichota, O.S.B., whose health had recently been in decline, died after a one day stay at a hospice residence. Bro. Mel was 77 years old.

Bro. Mel was born Melvin Tichota in Howells, Nebraska on May 3, 1942 to the late Joe and Martha (Lennamann) Tichota. He attended Saint Wenceslaus Catholic Grade School in Dodge. In 1960, Bro. Mel graduated from Saint John Vianney Seminary (now Mount Michael Benedictine School). He attended Conception Seminary College in Conception, Missouri, earning his Bachelor of Arts degree. Bro. Mel worked with his brother, Francis, for a time on the family farm before offering to help a friend on a Sandhills ranch. Though the initial commitment was for two or three months, Bro. Mel stayed three years. There he relished life under the vast expanse of prairie and open sky. The Sandhills remained a favorite vacation spot. While on the ranch, Bro. Mel acquired a number of skills including trick-rope spinning.

In 1978, Bro. Mel returned to Mount Michael. He professed his first vows to Mount Michael Benedictine Abbey in 1980. Bro. Mel began teaching freshman religion – Hebrew and Christian Scriptures – in Mount Michael Benedictine School. Moreover, he assumed the reins of the horse program for the School's summer camp.

Like a good monk, Bro. Mel assumed numerous other tasks in addition to his primary duties. He was a bus driver for many years, hauling athletic teams near and far throughout the school year. Bro. Mel enjoyed interacting with the coaches and student athletes he transported. He was fiercely loyal to his alma mater. Students and alumni from the school's very beginning to the most recent graduating class were sought out by Bro. Mel.

At Mount Michael home basketball games, Bro. Mel would mesmerize the packed gym with amazing trick-rope spinning. Concession sales slowed and the crowd left hungry to see another performance. Later Bro. Mel took several of his ropes and carefully coated them

with fluorescent paint. On cue the gym lights were dimmed and country music played while Bro. Mel took his rope spinning to another level. Exhausted when the lights came back on, Bro. Mel would doff his cowboy hat and bow to the roar of an appreciative audience. Bro. Mel also performed at grade schools, civic functions and even for a run of "The Will Rogers Follies" at the Omaha Community Playhouse.

The cowboy influence stayed with Bro. Mel throughout his life. If you asked him about a professional rodeo performer or trick roper, Bro. Mel could give you a full listing of information. He might even add the name of the bull or the horse ridden by the cowboy! Twice Bro. Mel made a trip to the rodeo national finals in Las Vegas.

Bro. Mel covered a study hall or classes in the school when a substitute was needed. He served as moderator for a time for the student work program and assisted in the school's athletic program.

The cause of Bro. Mel's death is likely related to congestive heart failure. But it was his heart, his ever-giving and ever-expansive heart, that he was known for by many throughout his life. He had a deep compassion for people, for nature, and for animals. Bro. Mel would fully give himself to anyone who asked. Bro. Mel was not afraid of hard work and seeing a project to its completion.

Bro. Mel's family upbringing led him

to seek connections in everyone he met. Anyone would be greeted with a massive, strong handshake. And then he would pepper his new friends with questions about what they did, about their family, about their nationality, about their relatives and friends, and so on. The questions would continue with a deft agility by Bro. Mel to find familiar connections between his new friends and with others. Those forged connections would never be forgotten. He enjoyed those occasions over beverages and a meal to better know his friends. Throughout the year, Bro. Mel sent postcards – sometimes hand-made postcards – to countless people. His earthiness, while perhaps not totally in keeping with monastic decorum, endeared him to many.

He was faithful to the monastic horarium. To the very end Bro. Mel did not want to miss prayer time or to miss community meals. Bro. Mel could be found in the chapel well before the start of prayer with a bible perched on his knee totally engrossed in *Lectio Divina*.

Bro. Mel is survived by the community of Mount Michael Abbey as well as his sister Maureen Grubar, nieces and nephews. Preceding him in death were his parents Joe and Martha (Lennamann) Tichota, brother Francis Tichota, and brother-in-law Martin Grubar, Jr. A memorial Mass will be held at a later date.



**DUE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC WE ARE UNABLE TO HAVE OUR FALL FESTIVAL IN PERSON THIS YEAR.**



**MOUNT MICHAEL**  
BENEDICTINE ABBEY

MOUNT MICHAEL BENEDICTINE ABBEY

# Fall FESTIVAL

OUR 65<sup>TH</sup> YEAR • COVID-19 EDITION



We hope you can still support our Benedictine monks and Abbey with these various activities!

**August 1 - October 31, 2020**

**FOR A COMPLETE LISTING OF ACTIVITIES VISIT**  
<https://one.bidpal.net/ff2020>

**Fall Festival Virtual 5k & 1-mile walk**  
Friday, September 18 – Monday, September 21, 2020  
\$25 entry fee, includes t-shirt  
Register by August 17, 2020  
To register go to [https://store.ideal-images.com/mount\\_michael\\_5k](https://store.ideal-images.com/mount_michael_5k)

Visit Tanner's at the Ruggles Street or Pacific Street locations for carry-out or dine-in any time on **Wednesday, September 9** and **Tuesday, September 29, 2020**, and mention MOUNT MICHAEL and 25% of all sales will be donated back to Mount Michael.  
For more information, visit <https://one.bidpal.net/ff2020>

**COVID-19 EDITION**  
We invite you to purchase baked goods from these Omaha businesses to support the Fall Festival Cake Tent tradition and the Mount Michael Abbey!

**Nothing Bundt Cakes**  
August 1 – September 4, 2020  
Place an order between August 1 and September 4, 2020, for a cake or bundtins and pick up at Mount Michael on September 20. 20% of the purchase price will be donated back to Mount Michael.  
For more information and to order, visit <https://one.bidpal.net/ff2020>

**Book a Bounce House or Order Balloons with Fun Services**  
August 1 – October 31, 2020  
Book a bounce house or purchase balloons from Fun Services and 20% of your total will be donated back to Mount Michael.  
Use code MTMICH2020 when booking.  
Call 402-393-7393 or visit [FunServicesNela.com](http://FunServicesNela.com) to book.

**Journey's End Farm Apparel**  
on sale through September 1, 2020  
Apparel featuring Mount Michael's farm will be available for purchase until September 1, 2020.  
Go to [https://store.ideal-images.com/journeys\\_end\\_farm](https://store.ideal-images.com/journeys_end_farm) to purchase.

Visit Dairy Chef and 20% of all sales will be donated back to Mount Michael. Specific date of when you can visit for a giveaway is TBD.  
For more information, visit <https://one.bidpal.net/ff2020>

**Mount Michael Cookies**  
Order 1 dozen of special Mount Michael cookies from Be Sweet Omaha. Part of the proceeds from cookies sold will benefit Mount Michael.  
For more information and to order, visit <https://one.bidpal.net/ff2020>

**Kids Coloring Contest!**  
August 1 – September 19, 2020  
Color in the coloring sheet, submit it to Mount Michael and a winner will be drawn on September 20, 2020.  
To download your coloring sheet, visit <https://one.bidpal.net/ff2020>

**Adopt a Monk!**  
August 1 – October 31, 2020  
Sponsor or underwrite various needs of the Abbey.  
Donate here <https://one.bidpal.net/ff2020>

Visit Scatter Joy Acres Petting Zoo  
4966 Newport Avenue • Omaha, NE 68152  
September 1 – 30, 2020  
Visit them any time between September 1 – September 30, 2020 – mention Mount Michael and 20% of your admission fee will be donated back to Mount Michael.  
<http://www.scatterjoyacres.org/>

**The Cookie Company**  
Order from The Cookie Company and part of the proceeds benefit Mount Michael!  
For more information and to order, visit <https://one.bidpal.net/ff2020>

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<http://one.bidpal.net/ff2020>  
**402.253.0950**

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August 1 – September 20, 2020  
Watch for your letter to be entered in a drawing to win a cash prize of \$1,000, \$500, \$250 or \$150. The winner will be announced on September 20, 2020.  
For more information and to donate, go to <https://one.bidpal.net/ff2020>

**Original Ty Beanie Babies for Sale!**  
Kids love these cute and cuddly Beanie Babies! \$5 each.  
Purchase them at <https://one.bidpal.net/ff2020>

**WheatFields**  
EATERY & BAKERY  
Order from WheatFields and part of the proceeds benefit Mount Michael!  
For more information and to order, visit <https://one.bidpal.net/ff2020>





# Alumni News



**Scott Ritzman '06** was recently promoted to Executive Director at Nebraska Soybean Board.



**Ryan Fuxa '11** married Amanda Wehbbe on April 18th, 2020.



**JT Hudson '16**, a senior on the Auburn University golf team, was recently awarded the Richard Rickey Award for demonstrating outstanding character development throughout the academic year.



**Matt Denton '12** married Mikaela Piche on May 9th, 2020.



**Eddy Huang '16**, a student at University of Washington, was recently recognized on the Husky100, an honor awarded to graduate and undergraduate students who have demonstrated excellence inside the classroom and beyond.



**Matthew Okalebo '14** married Katie Siwa on May 30th, 2020.



**Zachary Tucker '08** was ordained a priest on June 6th in the Archdiocese of Omaha. Fr. Zach Tucker will be assigned to St. Vincent de Paul and St. James parishes in Omaha.

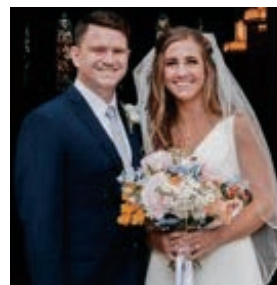


**Tom Maliszewski '13** married Claire Shook on June 13th, 2020.

## WEDDINGS



**Josh Charvat '10** married Lucy Finocchiaro on March 28th, 2020



**Bobby Thomas '11** married Joslyn Brugh on June 20th, 2020.



# BIRTHS

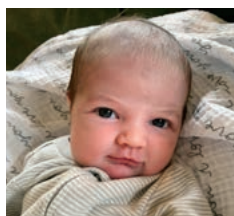


**Daeho Kim '07** and his wife welcomed their daughter Taerie on January 9th, 2020.

**Cody Babbel '07** and his wife Mariah welcomed their daughter Berklee Rose on February 12th, 2020.



**Nathan Sprunk '10** and his wife Johanna welcomed their daughter Sasha Alejandra on March 28th, 2020.



**Tom Horgan '08** and his wife Mary welcomed their baby Quinn Mimi on April 16th, 2020.



**Aaron "AJ" Zeller '08** and his wife Joanna welcomed their daughter Charlotte Frida on May 6th, 2020.



**Chris Leonard '08** and his wife Ashley welcomed their daughter, Ivory Linda, on May 11th, 2020.



**Jamie Antonelli '01** and his wife Nicole welcomed their son, Anthony Solanus on May 17th.



## 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

# In Memoriam & Honor

## February 25th, 2020 – July 1st, 2020

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

**In Memory of Michael J. Andersen**  
Janet Haney

**In Memory of Thomas and Adelyn Beaty**  
John '80 and Mary Beaty

**In Memory of Helen Boland**  
Jack J. O'Connell

**In Memory of Dolores R. Bruggeman**  
Theodore and Patricia Cox  
William and Elizabeth Mulligan

**In Memory of Robert Carlson**  
Ted and Jean Crouchley  
Kevin and Linda Hitzemann

**In Honor of the Class of 2020**  
Fr. John Hagemann O.S.B.

**In Memory of Norman A. Connelly**  
David and Caroline Beringer  
Myron and Arlene Mayberger

**In Memory of Sandy Connelly**  
Myron and Arlene Mayberger

**In Memory of Bernard W. Costello**  
Anonymous  
David and Mary Egan  
Diane Hannam  
Marlene Lindeman  
Douglas Marsh  
Kent Mortensen  
Ashlee Jean Murray  
Michelle Petersen  
Stephen and Karen Schrader  
Warren Snyder  
Jo Elaine Stewart  
University of Nebraska Medical  
Center-College of Nursing

**In Memory of Kevin Denker**  
Bill and Jeanette Behrendt

**In Memory of Judy Dosch**  
Marvin L. Rief

**In Memory of Tish Fazio**  
Bill and Jeanette Behrendt

**In Memory of Dale & Elaine Filkins**  
Gregory Filkins  
Charles O'Donnell

**In Memory of Mark Hartin**  
Dele and Arike Davies  
Terry and Linda McClain

**In Memory of Richard Hearn**  
Thomas Fulcher

**In Memory of Ed Hoelsing**  
Bill and Jeanette Behrendt

**In Memory of Ken Kampf**  
Thomas and Caye Fulcher

**In Memory of Barbara Lanspa**  
Dr. David and Nancy Peters

**In Honor of Jack H. Larsen '20**  
Don '79 and Susan Wilson

**In Memory of Catherine Lucia**  
Bill and Jeanette Behrendt

**In Memory of Ralph Marasco**  
Michael and Pattie Bittles  
Terry and Michaela Bolamperti  
John Finocchiaro  
John Gustafson  
Mark and Patrice Kruger  
Ben and Lucille Mannino  
Michael and Susan McDermott  
Brian '84 and Kris Morrissey  
Jacqueline J. Williams

**In Memory of Rev Albert Massmann, O.S.B.**  
David and Joanne Kolenda

**In Memory of William McCoubrey**  
Michael and Betsy Sorensen

**In Memory of Bill McDermott**  
John '66 and Sharon Sullivan

**In Memory of John McLeavy**  
Bill and Jeanette Behrendt

**In Memory of Thomas P. O'Keefe**  
Sally Becker  
Nancy Biga  
Janet Haney

**In Memory of Dan Pogge**  
Bill and Jeanette Behrendt

**In Memory of Br. James Pope, O.S.B.**  
Greg and Terri Anderson  
Todd Andrews

Vincent and Linda Antonelli  
Bill and Jeanette Behrendt  
Nancy Bogenreif  
Dennis and Sandra Cihal  
Eric and Emily Coldiron  
Mary E. Cormier  
Denis and Rose Cuka  
Frank and Pat Dowd  
Myles and Theresa Gart  
Bob and Lisa Goldsmith  
Judith Gubbels  
Bill Keiderling '65  
Tim and Sara Kenny

Bob and Betty Knapp  
Mark and Patrice Kruger  
Michael and Karen Liebentritt  
Ann M. Falco Marr  
Susan Moylan  
Joan O'Keefe  
Greg and Lourdes O'Leary  
Fr. Wayne Pavela  
Dr. David and Nancy Peters  
Gene and Barb Pieper  
Judith A. Santiago  
June Schweiger  
Dan and Tricia Smith  
David '63 and Millie  
Dan and Brenda Sprunk  
Raimund and Kim Volpone  
Joann Vorrath  
Rick and Maureen Weitkemper  
Boyd and Kathy West

**In Memory of Rose Ann Prinz**  
Marvin and Dorothy Rief

**In Memory of Helen Rotella**  
Lou and Jackie Sojka

**In Memory of Steve Rowe**  
Bill and Jeanette Behrendt

**In Memory of Gary Runge**  
Bill and Jeanette Behrendt

**In Memory of Br. Francis Schmitz, O.S.B.**  
Bill and Jeanette Behrendt  
June Schweiger

**In Memory of Gilbert Schroeder**  
Boyd and Kathy West

**In Honor of Quintin Lee Serrano**  
Norma Jablonski

**In Memory of Virgean Shields**  
Nancy C. Hornstein

**In Honor of Keaton Stec '20**  
Pete and Rose Stec

**In Memory of James G. Sullivan**  
Dr. David and Nancy Peters  
Mary Sprinkle  
Dennis and Julie Waggoner

**In Memory of Fr. Richard Thell, O.S.B.**  
Greg and Lourdes O'Leary

**In Memory of Br. Mel Tichota, O.S.B.**  
Greg and Terri Anderson  
Todd Andrews  
Dawn Assmann  
Drahota Dental Associates

Bill and Jeanette Behrendt  
Mary Clare Beninato  
Nancy Bogenreif  
Gregg and Susan Coghill  
Eric and Emily Coldiron  
Mary Cormier  
Denis and Rose Cuka  
Patrick Cunningham '60  
Paul and Debbie Delgado  
Jim and Joan Dohle  
Frank and Pat Dowd  
Tom and Sue Eberle  
Mike and Janelle Fitzgerald  
Myles and Theresa Gart  
Barbara A. Gobel  
Bob and Lisa Goldsmith  
Joan Grinbergs  
Judith Gubbels  
Jerry and Mary Hendrickson  
Bill Keiderling '65  
Tim and Sara Kenny  
Bob and Betty Knapp  
Mark and Patrice Kruger  
Theresa Kumpf  
Michael and Karen Liebentritt  
Ann Falco Marr  
Brian '84 and Kris Morrissey  
Susan Moylan  
Joan O'Keefe  
Greg and Lourdes O'Leary  
Fr. Wayne Pavela  
Dr. David and Nancy Peters  
Gene and Barb Pieper  
Matt and Constance Reres  
Scott and Gail Robertson  
Judith Santiago  
Patricia Schaefer  
Patsy Schmidt  
June Schweiger  
Dan and Tricia Smith  
David '63 and Millie  
Dan and Brenda Sprunk  
Raimund and Kim Volpone  
Joann Vorrath  
Rick and Maureen Weitkemper  
Boyd and Kathy West

**In Honor of Fr. Zach Tucker '08**  
Bob and Betty Knapp

**In Memory of Abbot Raphael Walsh, O.S.B.**  
Michael and Katie Beacom

**In Honor of Leander Weis**  
Helen Gloeb

**In Memory of Mary Margaret Wilcox**  
Myron and Arlene Mayberger



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# Michaeleen

A Quarterly Publication of  
MOUNT MICHAEL BENEDICTINE ABBEY & SCHOOL

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**Director of Admissions**  
Tom Maliszewski '13

**Director of Advancement**  
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## Mount Michael Directory

**Mount Michael Chapel**  
Visitors are welcome (currently closed to public due to COVID-19)  
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:  
Brother August Schaefer, O.S.B., [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)

**Prayer Needs and Spiritual Direction**  
Abbot Theodore, O.S.B., 402-206-2089

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