

MENS SANA IN CORPORE SANO



MOUNT  MICHAEL
BENEDICTINE ABBEY & SCHOOL

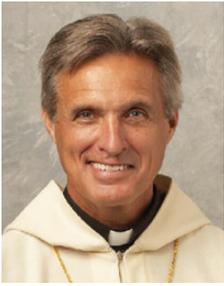
Michaeleen

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2021-22

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Letter from the Abbot

Psalm 118:1 O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good. His mercy endures forever.

I have a framed letter with verses from Psalm 118 which I have always enjoyed. The psalms dominate the Divine Office which monks pray daily. This year marks the jubilee of my profession as a monk of Mount Michael. Monks devote themselves to prayer and work for the greater glory of God. This letter reflects something of my prayer and work since profession.

Immersed in the Catholic environment of the small town parish where I grew up and inspired by the example of our pastor, I thought early on about coming a priest. Several students from my hometown had attended St. John Vianney Minor Seminary in Elkhorn, Nebraska. Following in their footsteps, I came to Mount Michael as a high school freshman seminarian studying to become a priest for the diocese of Dodge City, Kansas. At that time St. John's was a minor seminary – four years of high school and two years of college. Before I could complete my sixth year, the monastic community closed the two year college. So, I spent my sophomore year of college at St. Thomas Seminary in Denver. My stay there was short lived. Attracted by monastic life, I returned to Mount Michael to become a novice.

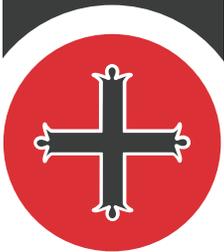
Psalm 118:8-9 It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in men. It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in princes.

Mount Michael Abbey represented a confluence of personal interests and goals. I wanted to become a priest. That was possible in the monastery. Captivated by the early days of manned space flight, I had an interest in science. At Mount Michael, I could become a teacher and pursue my interest in science. I enjoyed the company of like-minded people dedicated to the service of God and others. I had already witnessed that devotion to God and to others among the monks of Mount Michael. As I came to know the monks, I appreciated their individuality, their humility and lack of pretention. Just to give a taste - Abbot Raphael and Fr. Benedict rooting for the St. Louis Cardinals; Fr. Joseph rattling off nonsensical Latin conjugations; Fr. Mario engrossed in the Watergate hearings; Fr. Albert teaching class with pajamas under his habit; Br. Andrew's meticulous work in the woodshop; Br. Francis asking questions of which he already knew the answer. But all of them at prayer and work. I have told people in jest that my German heritage meant that once I decided to join the monastery and become a priest, I would stick with it no matter how miserable I happened to be. Thanks to God's grace, it has been just the opposite. I have enjoyed and prospered in monastic life. The daily routine of prayer and work has fostered learning and growth.

Psalm 118:12 They surrounded me about like bees, they blazed like a fire among thorns, in the name of the Lord I crushed them.

After completing my novitiate, I graduated with a degree in physics from Creighton University. I attended St. John University in Collegeville, Minnesota for my theology studies. The highlight of time at Collegeville was a semester studying in the Holy Land. To go from the midwest to the middle east is an eye opening experience. There is no better way to appreciate the Scriptures than to be in the places where the events of our salvation took place. An enduring image is the soft haze on the hills near Ein Karem where we lived. Once ordained, I began teaching science and math in the abbey's school, transformed from St. John Seminary to Mount Michael Benedictine. I also served as dean living with the students and additionally coaching the tennis team. I am no longer a dean or a coach, but teaching still.

I had the great good fortune to extend my studies in physics during summers. I completed a master's degree at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst. Among many programs, two



outstanding were at the Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory outside Chicago and the Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory in New Jersey. I wrote several articles, one of which was recently referenced because it relates to the Ingenuity rotor craft currently operating on Mars. Another article was written in conjunction with Mount Michael students. In the article, the students described their investigation of cosmic rays, a study headed by the physics department at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

I was grateful for the time that I was able to serve the students and their families as a dean. Especially in the early years acting as a dean, it felt that the students on the floor were all part of the family. Tennis coaching was also a blessing. Coaching was a way to interact with students differently than in the classroom. The tennis teams rewarded me with many tournament victories, and memories of the state titles are especially vivid.

Psalm 118:19 Open to me the gates of righteousness and I will enter; and I will praise the Lord.

In my monastic life, there are many highlights. I have fond memories of my profession, ordination and blessing as abbot of the monastery. My blessing as abbot took place at St. Patrick's church in Fremont. That lovely church always reminds me of the Hagia Sophia in Istanbul which I had the privilege to see. It is a wonder of the world. In my travels, I have been to Subiaco in Italy where St. Benedict first began his monastic life as a hermit. I have spent time at Sant'Anselmo, the primatial abbey of Benedictines worldwide in Rome. I have seen popes, shaken hands with Pope Francis. I was able to concelebrate Pentecost with Archbishop Lustiger of Paris at the cathedral of Notre Dame. I have celebrated the Eucharist at St. Peter's in Rome and in the Church of the Holy Sepulcher in Jerusalem. None of this did I remotely imagine when I came to the monastery.

Psalm 118:24 This the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice in it and be glad.

From my current vantage point, it has been marvelous to see the school prosper. We are proud of our alumni, grateful for their generosity, and impressed with their accomplishments. For me, the one disappointment is that the monastery has not seen more vocations. Monasticism is a wonderful, rewarding life. At least it has been for me. If readers are given over to prayer, they might say a prayer to St. Michael the Archangel as we do every day for vocations to the monastery. Thank you.

Psalm 118:29 O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good. His mercy endures forever.

Michael Liebl, OSB

UPCOMING EVENTS

NIGHT OF KNIGHTS
April 2nd

CAREER KNIGHT
April 6th

GOLF CLASSIC
June 3rd

ALUMNI REUNION
June 4th



Head of School

In our current Strategic Plan, we have six target areas, or aspirations, on which we are focusing. One of them, the fourth aspiration, is **Support Teaching and Learning**. I would like to address some of the areas we are currently working on, and have accomplished, in this area.

The teachers are the backbone of Mount Michael Benedictine School. Without their dedication, hard work and expertise, we would not exist. Mount Michael has an incredible history of strong teachers with high expectations. It is easy to measure the instructors' impact by the success of our alumni. Our past was rooted in St. John Vianney Minor Seminary and the teaching monks that were responsible for all the teaching duties. This Benedictine influence still underpins all that we do when much of our teaching staff are now members of the laity.

1 Our first goal is to "Enhance hiring and retention of top faculty by providing competitive salaries and benefits along with funding for professional development and advanced degrees." I am pleased to report that our school board, and the finance committee of the board, have worked on a complete revamping of our salary schedule. After analyzing over two-hundred different teacher salary schedules they adopted one that, while it pushes us financially, compensates our teachers at a very competitive level. This schedule went into place this school year. Measures have also been underway, prior to this year, in providing a quality health insurance plan along with a 401K plan so teachers can save for retirement. These programs are constantly evaluated. We want them to be strong and competitive.

2 Our second goal, is "Review the school curriculum, including both available and required courses, to give students greater flexibility while still holding to our core requirements and following our mission of preparing them for college." This school year we saw some of the greatest changes to our curriculum that we have seen in a while. Teachers met within their content areas to assess our program and look at different offerings that would enhance student experience and cover core areas. The biggest and most significant changes took place within our English and Social Studies areas. Science and Math have been working over the past five years on their curriculum areas and we have recently changed some of those offerings. These two key areas are always evaluating and assessing potential

areas of growth. Our Theology curriculum is established by the UCCB, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. We adhere our program to the curriculum established by the bishops. While we do assess our theology program, we are bound by some limits on what we can change and teach.

When it comes to curriculum the principle that we must live by here at Mount Michael is doing more with less. Because we keep our student body at a manageable number we must limit, rather than expand, what we can offer. When we do look at a new course or class, we must evaluate its impact on other classes. There are nine periods in our school day and, while students may want to take certain classes, they are limited by the number. We cannot offer too much of a variety because we do not have many students to fill them. We are bound by these limits.

One major area of focus for us is our fine arts program. Mount Michael has a history of a strong arts program in art, music, and theater. Recently, with some of our expansion of course offerings in other curricular areas, our fine arts have become a little static. We are currently looking at what we offer and where we need to grow in this area. We hope to offer a few new courses in art next school year. Another major issue with this area is lack of proper fine arts facilities. This is something we are looking into too.

3 Our final goal is in **Support Teaching and Learning** is "Explore options to enhance readiness for college and life by offering more opportunities for service, internships, and other career experiences." This past year we had a night where several of our alumni participated in a career (K)night with our current students. The students were able to hear presentations by alumni working in a variety of fields and careers. We are planning on doing that again this year. Through our alumni association and alumni director, we are also working on a means to put current, younger alumni in touch with older, established alumni for internships and possibly mentoring opportunities. We have a wealth of alumni all over the country and world, and we want to tap more into that network and resources.

I am proud of our accomplishments over these past months in this area of our strategic plan, but more needs to be done. This is an area where we need to be constantly watchful and vigilant. We want the best and most comprehensive curriculum possible. We also want our dedicated teachers to feel supported and encouraged. Thanks to all of you for your ongoing and faithful commitment to our teachers and students!

God bless,

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



ADMISSIONS

Greetings Mount Michael Community!

As many of you know, Mount Michael is unlike any other school. Aside from offering a residential component, small class sizes, and an enrollment

represented by students from across the world, another interesting aspect that separates Mount Michael is the requirement of an admissions interview.

Mount Michael is blessed in the fact that we can be selective throughout the admissions process. Beyond that, we have been blessed for the past few years to have more applicants than we have space available. This is where the interview really comes into play. Throughout my time at Mount Michael, I have conducted hundreds of interviews with prospective students. The admissions interview not only gives the student an opportunity to learn more about the school, but it gives the admissions committee a better understanding of the student's desire to attend Mount Michael. This "desire" to attend Mount Michael is an integral

part as to why the class bond at Mount Michael is so strong. Despite the diverse backgrounds, education levels, and history of each student, they are accepted because they want nothing more than to be a Mount Michael Knight.

Getting to know each student personally by having a conversation with them for their interview is something I look forward to every year. As I begin the process of conducting these interviews, I cannot wait to hear the varied reasons why they think Mount Michael is the right place for them. The future is bright for these boys, as is the future of Mount Michael because of them!

Proud to be a Knight,

Tom Maliszewski '13
Director of Admissions



BASKETBALL

Front: Matt Janecek, Daniel Mondì, Harrison Long, Kuon Kuon, Wyatt Torczon, Grant Foster; Back: Kume Duop, Chap Paljor, Conor Connealy, Will Brewster, Rocco Zimmerman, AJ Atayi, Hunter Miller



SWIMMING

Front: Michael Mullin, Kale Sykora, Griffin Dyche, Peter Killeen, Ethan Crouse, Caleb Courtney; Back: Leon Zhu, Gianni Anzalone, John Davis, Aidan Farrell, Blase Bosilevac



WRESTLING

1st Row: Jake Harris, Joon Ho Yoon, Blase Sindelar, Marc Fayad, Colin Robb, Tagg Crouse, Carter Cline, Sebastian Duran; 2nd Row: David Schmidz, Jack Roland, Chris Angel, Jack Giitter, Drew Kirklin, John Balch, Nathaniel Oehler; 3rd Row: Jack Dustin, Ethan Rapoza, Selwyn Vallente, Luke Wooten, Liam Ostrander, Joe Trautman, Zach Wooten; 4th Row: Raoul Djidjoho, Andrew Shotbolt, Nat Badley, Jackson Teetor, Carter Pearson, Ethan Gallant; Not Pictured- Jacob Spencer, Tony Newton



HIGHLIGHTS

from the Athletic Director, Derrik Spooner

Mount Michael has hired Allen Burrell Jr. As the new Head Football Coach and Assistant Track Coach.

Burrell currently works at Creighton

Prep as an Assistant Varsity Football Coach and Track and Field Coach. Since 2016, he has coached wide receivers in football and the sprints and jumps in track and field at Prep. Prior to Creighton Prep, Coach Burrell was an Assistant Varsity Football Coach at Millard North from 2008–2015.

Coach Burrell was born and raised in Aurora, CO. His collegiate athletic career began at the University of Nebraska-Kearney as wide receiver as a true freshman where he set a school record for catches by a freshman (36). Burrell then transferred to North Dakota State University to continue football as a wide receiver and kick returner as well as to run track. He is a four-time NCAA Division II All-American. Burrell graduated from NDSU with a Bachelor's degree in criminal justice in 2005. He continued his passion for football by joining the Indoor Football League playing for the Omaha Beef, Sioux Falls Storm, and the Council Bluffs Express as well as some time in the CFL.

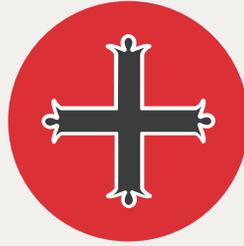
“ First and foremost, I would like to thank Abbot Michael, Dr. Peters, and Coach Spooner for this great opportunity to be a Knight. I am extremely excited and humbled to be the next head football coach here at Mount Michael Benedictine, as well as be a part of the faculty and staff. I am looking forward to getting to work!

– Allen Burrell Jr.



In addition to developing our football and track and field programs, I am excited to share that we have added a new space in the St. Benedict building for a golf simulator. The simulator is in the visitor locker room. It is complete with a viewing window for the coaches and players to watch safely. This will be great to use pre-season when the weather is not warm enough to get outside!





**MOUNT MICHAEL
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION**

**2022 ALUMNI
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

PRESIDENT

Eric Crawford '00

TREASURER & SECRETARY

John Von Dollen '12

GOLF COMMITTEE CHAIR

Davis Wilson '14

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jim Clements '95

Mike Danahay '96

Joe Ernst '12

Dan Hassing '02

Graham Jewell '12

Jeff Kosse '89

Tom Maliszewski '13

Gunhee Park '10

Dylan Parlor '07

Cooper Wilson '14

The Rule of St. Benedict provides a guide on how to live a life of spiritual fitness. The Benedictine core values can be both challenging and easy to live by. One value that I believe is easy for all Mount Michael graduates to live out is the value of community. So much of who we are as Knights is based on this core value. We enjoy being together and supporting one another.

Whether it's following our alma mater on social media, making a financial contribution, or simply wearing a Mount Michael shirt we all show our love and support of the place we love in different ways.

This alumni association annual report provides a summary of our achievements, our goals, and our vision for our alumni community. Part of that vision is formalizing membership into the Mount Michael Alumni Association. Additional information on this will be sent out soon.

On behalf of the Alumni Board THANK YOU for your support in 2021. Your support is one of the reasons why Mount Michael is such a great place and has such a wonderful community. Let's continue to support Mount Michael and celebrate our alma mater. Let's make Mount Michael even better in 2022!



UIOGD,

Eric Crawford '00
Alumni Board President

The mission of the Mount Michael Alumni Association is to create lifelong, mutually beneficial relationships between Mount Michael alumni, future alumni, and the high school through scholarships, social programming, and networking. Operations of the Alumni Association fund the Fr. Benedict Dohle Alumni Scholarship and the Br. Mel Tichota Legacy Scholarship.



**OVER
2,000
ALUMNI**

345

Alumni donated
in 2021

**ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
FINANCIAL SUMMARY**

The Alumni Association's
annual net income is
allocated in the following ways:

50%

of net income goes toward the Fr.
Benedict Dohle Alumni Scholarship

20%

goes toward the Br. Mel Tichota
Legacy Scholarship

20%

of our association income goes
toward the alumni operating budget
for the upcoming year

10%

goes toward the school's
endowment

**2021
BY THE NUMBERS**

\$720,237

Total amount donated by alumni in 2021

\$51,000

Approximate
net income
of the Alumni
Association for the
2020-2021 year

Nearly

\$35,700

going to
scholarships

\$5,000

going to the
school's
endowment

CLASS GIVING
BREAKDOWN



\$436,310

1957 - 1969

\$37,935

1970 - 1979

\$86,566

1980 - 1989

\$124,092

1990 - 1999

\$23,526

2000 - 2009

\$11,808

2010 - 2021

Mount Michael Alumni Board 3 Year Strategic Initiatives

2021 Accomplishments | 2022 Goals

STRATEGIC INITIATIVE 1

Be a board that is transparent, efficient, and responsible with raising, spending and educating on the use of all funds.

Accomplishments 2021

- ✓ Record year for funds raised at golf tournament - \$68,000
- ✓ Record year for number of sponsors at golf tournament - 33
- ✓ Created Br. Mel Tichota Legacy Scholarship

Goals 2022

- Create 3-year forecast budget for Alumni Association
- Educate senior class on philanthropy and senior class gift
- Review association's investments

STRATEGIC INITIATIVE 2

Create events that are strategic, intentional, and sustainable.

Accomplishments 2021

- ✓ Established a committee chair position for annual golf tournament
- ✓ Record attendance at golf tournament - 182
- ✓ Honored former faculty/staff member or friend of Alumni Association with creation of Alumni Appreciation Award - Mr. Brian Osborne

Goals 2022

- Improve attendance at all alumni events
- Establish clear visions and detailed goals for all alumni events to help the alumni board be more strategic and thoughtful
- Expanding alumni volunteer base

STRATEGIC INITIATIVE 3

Define and execute a comprehensive plan on how to purposefully and intentionally engage and cultivate relationships with all alumni, alumni parents, the school, and future alumni to assist the school's development office.

Accomplishments 2021

- ✓ Established a comprehensive plan on how to best work with Alumni Director
- ✓ Identified two class officers from graduating class to help better engage students immediately after graduation
- ✓ Provided lunch for the seniors and had a pre graduation talk with them on how to utilize their alumni network
- ✓ Started new tradition of giving Mount Michael freshman class a copy of the Rule of St. Benedict to help deepen their understanding of Mount Michael and Benedictine spirituality

Goals 2022

- Create Mount Michael Young Professionals Group
- Improve alumni networking and professional collaboration through events and other interactive activities
- Create formal Alumni Association membership
- Have an all-alumni association meeting over the annual reunion/golf tournament weekend
- Engage international alumni population

STRATEGIC INITIATIVE 4

Create a board that is diverse in all areas and assists alumni with personal and professional development.

Accomplishments 2021

- ✓ Reviewed board makeup and added new skillsets and alumni from different eras to help better serve the alumni association
- ✓ Revised board by-laws
- ✓ Established new board member onboarding process
- ✓ Added three new board members- Jim Clements '95, Mike Danahay '96, Gunhee Park '10

Goals 2022

- Create a plan to establish and implement a national alumni board
- Recruit more alumni to serve on committees and the alumni board

STRATEGIC INITIATIVE 5

Develop an alumni communications plan that provides consistent and clear messaging to educate, reinforce Benedictine values, and promote involvement.

Accomplishments 2021

- ✓ Began providing quarterly updates from the alumni association through the Michaeleen
- ✓ Created annual alumni report to inform Mount Michael community of summary of goals and achievements of the alumni association

Goals 2022

- Improve accuracy of alumni database
- Review alumni association website, social media, and other forms of communication to ensure alumni are being engaged in the most thoughtful way

9 Ways You as an Alumnus Can Support Mount Michael



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Creighton Basketball Pre-Game
February 20th, 2022

Night of Knights
April 2nd, 2022

Alumni Breakfast
April 11th, 2022

Golf Classic
June 3rd, 2022

Alumni Reunion
June 4th, 2022

Alumni Run
July 23rd, 2022

Alumni Networking Happy Hour
August 18th, 2022

Football 5th Quarter
September 16th, 2022

Alumni Breakfast
November 2022

Breakfast With Santa
December 3rd, 2022

Alumni Basketball Tournament
December 17th, 2022

1 Promote and engage with Mount Michael on social media

 @MountMichael

 Mount Michael Benedictine School and Mount Michael Benedictine School Alumni

 @Mount_Michael

 Mount Michael Benedictine and Mount Michael Benedictine Alumni

2 Attend activities and events and encourage other alumni to attend as well



3 Refer a student and talk to prospective students and families about Mount Michael:

Mount Michael Admissions Director -
Tom Maliszewski '13, admissions@mountmichael.org

4 Hire and/or provide internships and jobs for Mount Michael students and graduates

5 Contact a former teacher, dean or administrator and say thank you

6 Give your time, talent, and treasure - The Alumni Association always needs volunteers for events, speakers for career night, and financial support- both big and small.

Contact John Von Dollen '12 at alumni@mountmichael.org or 402-238-1447

7 Wear Mount Michael gear and show your support for Mount Michael

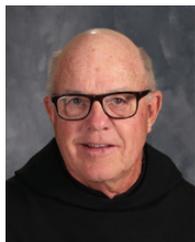
8 Keep your contact information current with the Mount Michael Advancement Office.

Contact John Von Dollen '12 at alumin@mountmichael.org or 402-238-1447

9 Join the Mount Michael Alumni Association with our new membership platform - more info coming soon

A Metallic Holy Family and 50 Years of Monastic Life

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



Often times when we publish an article about our monks when they celebrate monastic or priestly anniversaries, the article ends up being obituary-like. Beginning with early life and moving through life's gyrating paths, the article normally lists many accomplishments, awards and honors - sometimes

disappointments.

Although having already turned the corner from 2021, at Thanksgiving time Abbot Michael Liebl OSB celebrated his 50th anniversary of monastic life with our community. Following a long tradition from our Mother House, Conception Abbey, Thanksgiving Day is the time these anniversaries are observed and celebrated. The theme of gratefulness seems so appropriate for these anniversaries.

Rather than being obituary-like with Abbot Michael's 50th anniversary article, I have decided to focus on a tiny part of his life. This tiny part says a lot about who he is, besides the occasion indelibly marking me.

Most people who know Abbot Michael know that he is an avid biker. No, not motorcycle bikes, for he, himself, is the motor.

Several years ago, Abbot Michael had numerous accidents while biking, but there was one that was very serious. Abbot Michael was caught by the side mirror of a passing vehicle and was thrown off his bike into the road ditch. His right leg was seriously injured. 911 was called and Abbot Michael was taken to the emergency room immediately.

No doubt this was a very humbling experience for a man always in control.

Surgery was necessary. Abbot Michael had a great surgeon and the best of medical care. All went well with the surgery and Abbot Michael was determined to bounce back and return to his rigid schedule of classes and all other duties as an abbot. Indeed, recovery was going the best it could go, but then something went askew.

One evening when he was on the bottom floor of the abbey, rather than taking the elevator to get up to his room on

the second floor of the abbey, he decided to take the back stairwell. In doing this, he fell! Of course, there was no one around to help him. So again, being the person he is, he managed to crawl up the stairs and get to his room and call for help. However, when falling, he broke open the meticulous work of surgery. The wound was torn open and he bled profusely while crawling to his room. There was an ugly trail of blood the entire way to his room.

My memory is that one of the monks got him back to the hospital and to be noted, there was no ambulance involved. I also remember that Abbot Michael was chastised a bit by his doctor who had performed wonderfully well with the first surgery. Now, the surgeon was faced with trying to redo what had been undone by none other than his patient. It is better to say there was not just a little scolding involved.



But back to the trail of blood. After I heard about the "incident," I thought that I needed to clean up the blood. Starting from the point of the fall, proceeding all the way to his room, much was going through my mind about Abbot Michael. What is going to happen now? Will Abbot Michael be able to walk again? Will he be able to bounce back after a second surgery? It is near Holy Week! An abbot is the central part of Holy Week. What about Abbot Michael's classes and parish assignments? On and on my mind raced. After all this, it was in his room that I was really marked by this occasion.

To clean up the blood, I was on my hands and knees for the whole trail of blood. When I got to his room, while on my knees, I looked up and there was a drawing sitting on the floor on

the west wall of his room. I knew instantly he was the artist. As I glanced up, at first, I was not exactly sure what it was. It was done in drab colors, gray, black, orange, drab red, lots of shading. Suddenly, I realized that it was the Holy Family. Joseph, Mary, and Baby Jesus in the manger. It was the Holy Family in metallic pieces - like bolts, washers, and nuts. The drawing itself is not a masterpiece, but at that moment and while cleaning up Abbot Michael's blood, I was awesomely struck by what was before me.

I felt a type of coldness in the drawing and at the same time

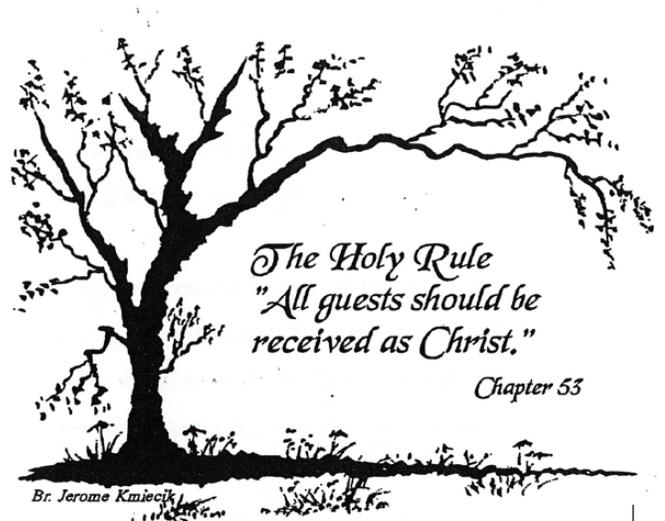
an incredibly warm tenderness. It is hard to explain what I felt, but coldness and warm tenderness is the closest I can come to expressing it in words.

The whole experience was not even an hour in length. This short time has stayed with me ever since. There are many reasons why I feel this whole event says so much about Abbot Michael. His determination to go it himself and then to recover is a major part of it. However, so much of himself is expressed in his drawing. Abbot Michael, in my experience, is not an emotional person. Expressing feelings does not always come easily and if he does express feelings, his manners do not always convey the feeling. Glancing up at his artwork instantly made me aware of this. Abbot Michael's choice of drawing the Holy Family at the birth of Jesus is a choice of one of the most emotional scenes in Scripture. Thinking about all of this now draws me to the words of Silent Night: "Holy infant so tender and mild; sleep in heavenly peace." Whether or not Abbot Michael was aware of all of this in his choice of the scene does not matter. But it definitely came across to me in the moment of blood, what had happened with Abbot Michael and his artwork.

It makes me wonder what else Abbot Michael could have done with painting and drawing, had he pursued that sort of field! A multi-talented man he is. He very likely could have chosen another field besides science and math to teach and to soar to great heights. He has always seemed to have the Midas touch, being successful with everything he does, tries and touches.

Monasticism for 50 years. I have always felt that Abbot Michael feels more comfortable with Mount Michael High School and all that it entails, especially having been a dean, teacher of math and science, and a tennis coach. Indeed, Mount Michael High School owes much of its success to Abbot Michael Liebl, OSB, about that, there is no doubt. On the other hand, Mount Michael Abbey and Abbots' Congresses and General Chapters are a different matter. Being elected as abbot very likely threw Abbot Michael out of his comfort zone. Being an abbot is at the very heart of Monasticism. He submitted himself. Like being thrown off his bike, abbatial election likely threw him out of his comfort zone of deaning, teaching math and science and coaching tennis. Again, he submitted and was determined to do his best, no matter what.

Abbot Michael, congratulations on your 50th anniversary, blessings to you always and thank you for your determination in never giving up. Thank you for getting back up after you were thrown off your bike. Thank you for submitting yourself to monastic life, especially in the abbatial role, even when it was not something in your comfort zone. Lastly, ever since the incident with your artwork, I have wondered what else you could have produced in the area of painting and drawing, had you pursued that field. A multi-talented person you are! I will not wish you another 50 years, but I do encourage you to do more artwork!



GUEST HOUSE

A place of prayer, quiet or good conversation. Coffee and tea served along with Benedictine hospitality. Gifts and food items available. Call or look online for a schedule of programs.

Open Thursday - Saturday | 10am-3pm

Br. Jerome 402-206-2091

Oblates of St. Benedict

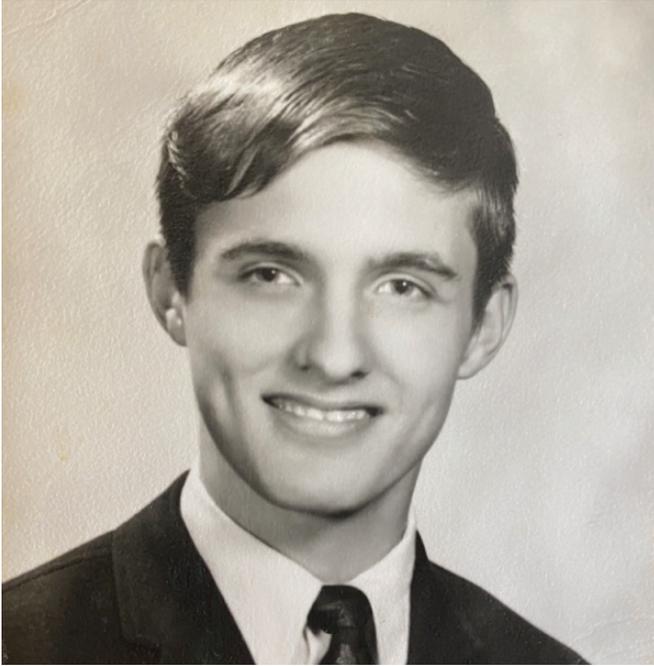
Lay people are invited to shape their lives around the teachings of The Rules of St. Benedict. Oblates of St. Benedict are encouraged to interpret the rule prayerfully and actively in relation to his or her own life situation and personal spiritual journey. Oblates spend a time of preparation, usually about a year - as Oblate novices, learning about Benedictine values and life, through reading, lectio, discussion, study and prayer. Following that year, novices proceed with an Act of Oblation and become Oblates of Mount Michael Abbey.

If you are interested in learning more about Benedictine Oblates, contact:

Br. Jerome 402-206-2069

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

ABBOT MICHAEL LIEBL, O.S.B. '68



Written By Dr. Ted Mikuls '86

When I came back to Mount Michael in the autumn of 1990 to serve as a freshman dean and volunteer teacher, there was a sign that hung over the doorway to the open-air dormitory, hand-carved and varnished that read "*Mens sana in corpore sano*" – a healthy mind in a healthy body – it may still hang there. Fr. Mike, who served as the freshman dean at the time had translated the simple Latin for me - the novice assistant dean fresh from the college ranks.

When the Abbot's name comes up in conversations with my Mount Michael classmates or other alumni, the topic invariably turns to physics class where Fr. Mike was clearly the person in charge – in charge and in command. Where those prone to daydreaming or suboptimal scholarly effort found themselves assigned to the front row where they were abruptly brought back to reality by the loud whack of a meter stick over a tabletop. The bell, standing for prayer, a crisp and efficient 'Hail Mary' and then a one-hour immersion into the often rigorous concepts of modern physics. Where we discussed and memorized Newton's laws of motion, quantified the magnetic force created by a 9-volt battery hooked to a homemade solenoid comprised of copper wires, and estimated the distance in miles from the bluff to the Fremont grain elevators on the horizon by using a few stakes pounded in the ground, a measuring tape, and some

basic geometry. One of my classmates who was a perpetual front row resident noted "Fr. Mike was never a yeller and I appreciated it, particularly since I deserved to be yelled at frequently." He was not a yeller because he did not need to be.

For those who know Fr. Mike, it probably will not surprise you to hear his advice as I set out to teach my first physics class now so many years ago. *Never get outworked by your students. Be prepared. Be accountable. Be available.* For those who took junior level or advanced physics, you know it was not just lip service. During evening study hall, a long physics queue formed outside his office door. How many hours of his "free time" did Fr. Mike spend re-teaching what he had already taught, helping students to prepare for an upcoming quiz or guiding them through homework assignments? Too many to count.

It goes without saying that Fr. Mike's work at Mount Michael has gone well beyond the classroom. For many alumni such as myself, he has been a trusted counselor, friend and confidante. I suspect if such records were kept, he has very likely presided over more wedding ceremonies than all other physics teachers combined. Over decades of service, he has been a student dean and Abbot, but also coached tennis, chaperoned international trips (and is credited with teaching several of us how to play 'Hearts' in the summer of 1985), and covered for parish priests across the region, among his many other responsibilities. It was through Fr. Mike's parish outreach at St. Patrick's in Gretna that two of my eventual classmates became familiar with Mount Michael. One relayed the story of how parishioners routinely took up the back pews, leaving the front of the church nearly empty. At least once Fr. Mike invoked his "laryngitis" as a reason for the parishioners to shift to the front. Once obliged, he then belted out a very loud and clear "Now that we have gathered together, let us proceed..." I imagine a homily following linking Christian faith to gravitational pull or quantifying the speed of light. As quoted by others, for Fr. Mike I suspect "Science is a glimpse of God's mind."

While I cannot speak for all of the alumni (or really any for that matter), when I am asked about Mount Michael or my Mount Michael experience, the word 'Community' immediately rises to the forefront. My memories as a student, part-time teacher, dean, and eventually as a student's parent are flooded with the many different faces and personalities that have made Mount Michael for me the most enduring example of community. That being said, there is little doubt that the community is stronger in part due to the servant leadership of Fr. Mike and others.

When Fr. Mike translated the Latin phrase that hung over the door for me, I recall the distinct feeling that it meant much more to him than simply brains and brawn. It was a call – or a reminder perhaps - to continually and routinely strive and expect more from yourself. To do more. To have a greater purpose. To serve both God and fellow man. In Fr. Mike's 50-plus years as a Benedictine monk at Mount Michael, he seems to have followed the call. As an alumnus and beneficiary of his service, I am deeply grateful.

Alumni News



Michael McCarthy '69 was selected to be inducted into the Nebraska Business Hall of Fame. McCarthy is the founder of McCarthy

Capital in Omaha. He serves on numerous boards including those of the Joslyn Art Museum, the Omaha Community Foundation, United Way of the Midlands, the Henry Doorly Zoo & Aquarium, Creighton University and is the current chair of Heritage Services.



Michael Sojka '12 started a new position as Senior Copywriter at Pollen in New York.



Abiola Kosoko '05 started a new position as Photographer and Videographer at First National Bank of Omaha.



Scott Hedrick '93 was promoted to Regional Property Manager at Physicians Realty Trust in Omaha.



Dash Wedergren '18 accepted a full-time Associate offer with EY-Parthenon's Software Strategy Group (SSG) in their New York City office after graduating from Tufts University.



Sean Anderson '12 accepted a position with Wyandot Behavioral Health Network in Kansas City as Manager of

Emergency Services for Kim Wilson Housing.



Fr. Dan Andrews '89 celebrated the Eucharist at Mount Michael for the Feast of All Saints. He is the Pastor & Director at St. John Paul II Newman Center in Omaha.



Dylan Venteicher '11 was promoted to Business Development Training Manager at Buildertrend in Omaha.



Fr. Zach Tucker '08 celebrated the Eucharist at Mount Michael for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. He is the Associate Pastor at St. James Catholic Church in Omaha.



Matt Davis '16 recently accepted a new job as a Software Engineer at Kiewit in Omaha where he previously interned.



George J. Townsend '12 starting a new position as Staff Attorney at Legal Aid Society of Eastern Virginia. He is a recent graduate of The William & Mary Law School.



Cooper Wilson '14 accepted a position with R&R Realty Group for Brokerage and Development in Omaha.



Ron Kmiecik '05 recently started a new job with Arthrex as a Clinical Specialist for Orthopaedic Trauma in Naples, FL.

Mount Michael welcomed back three alumni that have joined our faculty and staff this school year.



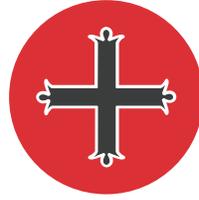
John Elster '09
English, Journalism



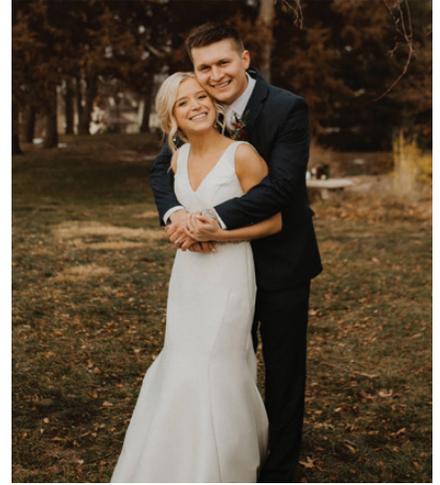
Matt Coghill '16
Social Studies



Cade Johnson '17
Junior Dean



WEDDINGS



Logan Kalkowski '15 married Katie Pallesen on January 8th, 2022.

ALUMNI BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

The 2021 Alumni Basketball Tournament was held on Saturday, December 18th, 2021. Alumni competed in a double-elimination tournament and the Class of 2020 took home the title.



Winning Team: **Jacob Kubasik '20, Seth Carpenter '20, Cliff Roepke '20, Jack Gottschalk '20, Ethan Meduna '20, Henry Storbeck '20, Greg Gonzalez '20, Cole Cordes '20.**



Alex Lim '10 married Soojin Kim on November 6th, 2021.



Group Photo: First Row: **Pat Vondra '96, Dave Levy '02, John Levy '99, Andy Jewell '08;** Second Row: **Chris Bell '09, Eric Crawford '00, Dylan Parlor '07, Nick Hall '07, Abiola Kosoko '05, Mike Danahay '96, Cole Bunner '05, Will Ernst '14, Mohammad Elradi '15, Joe Ernst '12, Tommy Maliszewski '13, Chris Thomas '12, Zach Murphy '12, Graham Jewell '12, Matt Denton '12, Cole Cordes '20, Cliff Roepke '20, Carson Leahy '19, Matt Zarybnicky '19, Quinton Mohr '19, Matt Brichacek '19, Laken Beller '19, John Von Dollen '12;** Third Row: **Cade Johnson '17, Jacob Idra '18, Lorcan Jamal '18, Cameron Bretsen '15, Eli Crnkovich '21, Andrew Nigro '18, Joe Bruggeman '21, Jack Gottschalk '20, Kaleb Brink '21, Seth Carpenter '20, Quinn McMahon '21, Henry Storbeck '20, Aaron Karnish '21, Greg Gonzalez '20, Jacob Kubasik '20, Ethan Meduna '20, Drew Carleton '19;** Not Pictured: **Jim Clements '95 and Dan Jewell '17**



Drew Goddard '17 married Kaylee Konda on December 12th, 2020.

BIRTHS



Vince Van Haute '11 married Emily Philbin on September 17th, 2021.



Zachary Casey '05 and his wife Annie welcomed their third child, Sullivan Patrick Casey, on December 27th, 2021.



David Jarvis '00 and his wife Ashley welcomed their son, Bodie Reyn Jarvis, on November 12th, 2021.



Drew Goddard '17 and his wife Kaylee welcomed their daughter, Lucy Joyce Goddard, on November 28th, 2021.



Justin Cheney '04 and his wife Amy welcomed their daughter, Alice Rose Cheney, on November 9th, 2021.

IN REMEMBRANCE

Francis Xavier Baron '58

Gerald Nanos '63

Jerry Judt '59

Fr. Frank Lordemann '64

Frank Santiago, friend of Mount Michael

Bernard "Bernie" Krajewski, grandfather of Luke Krajewski '16

Edward "Ed" Spenner, brother of Dave Spenner '63

Richard "Dick" Boyle, father of David '82, Richard '84, and Timothy Boyle '87

Sr. Mary Clare Brown, O.S.C., friend of Mount Michael

Cheryl Dorman, mother of Mark '07, Rob '08, and Kyle Dorman '10

Howard Ball, Jr., husband of Sharlene Ball

Sr. Theresina Santiago, O.S.C., friend of Mount Michael

Dennis Schroeder, father-in-law of Brian Morrissey '84 and grandfather of Jack Morrissey '16

John Hudson, grandfather of Jack Carda '25 and father Jen Carda

Eugene Kindbeiter, friend of Mount Michael

Anne Kramer, mother of Alex '10 and Austin Kramer '10

Regena Rice, mother of Ken Rice

Joanne Rice, friend of Mount Michael

Janice Goertz, grandmother of Jake Goertz '23

Clinton Weber, grandfather of Alex '10 and Austin Kramer '10

Joanne Glow, grandmother of Adam Glow '24

Terry Maides, friend of Mount Michael

Margaret "Liz" Carnazzo, grandmother of Nick Michalak '07

Edwin Benes, grandfather of Kurt Benes '07 and Jacob Benes '19

Donna James, grandmother of Gavin Forster '22

Donald Peters, friend of Mount Michael

Phyllis Jean (Molgaard) Anderson, grandmother of Steven '09, Jacob '12, and Trevor Anderson '12

Fr. Patrick O'Kane, friend of Mount Michael

Muriel Grimm Alger, grandmother of Paul Dougherty '16

Rene Marino Iway, grandfather of Blase '22 and Ben Sindelar '24

THE GAMES BEGIN APRIL 2, 2022



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All proceeds fund the education and experience of our students.

Visit www.nightofknights.org for more information.



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

22520 Mount Michael Road | Elkhorn, NE 68022-3400
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Fr. Louis Sojka, O.S.B. '81

Dr. Pat Sullivan

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Mr. B.J. Wilson '84

Mount Michael Directory

Mount Michael Chapel

Visitors are always welcome

Daily Mass 7:15am | Sunday Mass 9:30am | Saturday 8:00am

Liturgy of the Hours (Monday-Saturday)

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

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

St. Benedict Guest House

Gift Shop/Lunches/Teas/Dessert | Day Retreats

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

Vocation Ministry

For information about monastic life:

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

Oblates of St. Benedict Director

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

Alumni Association

For information about meetings/events or to report news:

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