



Belmont Abbey
COLLEGE

*That in all things God
may be glorified*

For Immediate Release

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Belmont Abbey College Alumnus Celebrates First Profession of Monastic Vows

Belmont, N.C. (July 11, 2024) – Today, on the Feast of St. Benedict, Belmont Abbey celebrates the first Profession of Vows of Brother Gabriel Hamilton, formerly known as John Paul Hamilton, an alumnus of Belmont Abbey College's Class of '20. The profession took place during the monastic community's Conventual Mass, which was attended by Brother Gabriel's family and friends and members of the college community.

In his homily Abbot Placid reminded Brother Gabriel that the monastic profession involves a unique embrace of the cross of Christ. Quoting from the Gospel of John, he assured Brother Gabriel with Jesus' words, *Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there also will my servant be. The Father will honor whoever serves me* (John 12:26).

Following the homily, Br. Gabriel professed with vows binding for three years, stability in the community, fidelity to the monastic way of life, and obedience according to the Rule of St. Benedict. Following the vows, the monastic community exchanged the sign of peace with the newly professed, recognizing Br. Gabriel's acceptance as a vowed member of the monastic community.

As a temporarily professed monk, Br. Gabriel will continue his prayer and discernment under the guidance of Father Elias to explore his true calling to the monastic life.

Br. Gabriel, an alumnus of Belmont Abbey College and a graduate of the Honors College, completed his studies in 2020 with a major in English. During his time as a student, he received invaluable guidance and mentorship from dedicated faculty members who played a crucial role in shaping his character and formation.

The celebration of Br. Gabriel's first Profession of Vows is not only a profound moment for him personally but also a significant milestone for the entire Belmont Abbey Community. Belmont Abbey College joins in offering prayers and support as Br. Gabriel continues his monastic formation and looks forward to witnessing the growth of his vocation in the years to come.

For more information about Belmont Abbey Monastery, please visit <https://belmontabbey.org/>.

For more information about Belmont Abbey College, please visit <https://belmontabbeycollege.edu/>.

About Belmont Abbey College: Founded in 1876, Belmont Abbey College is a private, Catholic baccalaureate and liberal arts institution. Our mission is to educate students in the liberal arts and sciences so that in all things God may be glorified. Guided by the Catholic intellectual tradition and the Benedictine spirit of prayer and learning, we welcome a diverse body of students and provide them with an education that will enable them to lead lives of integrity, to succeed professionally, to become responsible citizens, and to be a blessing to themselves and to others. Our beautiful and historic campus is conveniently located just 10 miles west of Charlotte, N.C., and is currently home to more than 1500 students. For more information, visit <https://belmontabbeycollege.edu/>.