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FROM THE PRESIDENT

True community

DR. BILL THIERFELDER

President

THE FIRST TIME MY WIFE MARY AND I beheld the Abbey as our car exited I-85, we took a collective breath and were instantly struck by the sanctity and beauty of the Gothic brick buildings that welcomed us to our new home. Those bricks — made true by the hands of our monks — have been a daily reminder to me of the love and sacrifice of our Monastic Community.

I am sure it would bring great joy to Abbot Leo Haid and the founding monks of the Abbey to know that the prayer and

work they began here almost 150 years ago has blossomed

into such a robust, loving, faithful, and intellectually vibrant community. Of all the monks, Abbot Leo Haid, responsible for all fundraising efforts at the Abbey, would be especially overwhelmed and thrilled by the launch of Made True — the \$100

million Campaign for Belmont Abbey College. He might even have to sit down — or more likely bow down in thanksgiving to God — after hearing that we have received over \$84 million in commitments!

Please continue to pray and work for the successful completion of the Made True Campaign. There is still a long way to go, but I am confident that with your help and God's grace, we will reach and perhaps even surpass our goal. I am

forever grateful to everyone who

has contributed so generously and to all those who will

participate in the future.

The Made True logo will certainly remind you of those handmade bricks.
May it inspire you and remind you of all the monks, faculty, and staff who dedicate their lives to ensuring generations

of Abbey students will be well-educated, well-formed, and well-prepared to spread God's blessing over this beautiful country in the years to come.

I hope to see you on campus sometime soon. Until then, you will remain in my daily thoughts and prayers.

God bless,

BELMONT ABBEY MAGAZINE

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MISSION STATEMENT of BELMONT ABBEY COLLEGE:

Our mission is to educate students in the liberal arts and sciences so that in all things God may be glorified. In this endeavor, we are guided by the Catholic intellectual tradition and the Benedictine spirit of prayer and learning. Exemplifying Benedictine hospitality, 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.

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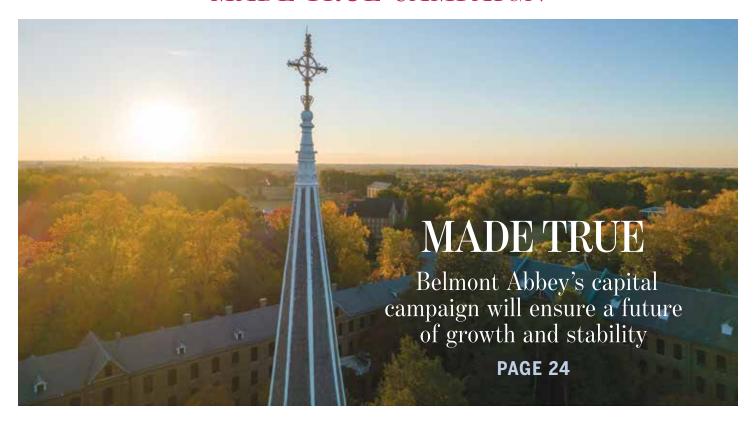
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ON THE COVER

Belmont Abbey College has just launched a \$100 million capital campaign to fund physical and academic improvements on campus. *Read more on page 24*Cover Photography by Bridget O'Boyle.

FROM THE FACULTY

Christian stability leads to holiness

FR. ELIAS CORREA-TORRES

Adjunct Professor, Mathematics and Physical Sciences

SAINT THOMAS AQUINAS IDENTIFIES THE VICE OF INCONSTANCY — or the

inability to remain constant — as the failure to persevere in the good that one has proposed to do. This failure to persevere is from impulsiveness when dealing with pleasurable things. It is from weakness or cowardice when dealing with unpleasant things or situations.

In the world's wisdom, the behavior of inconstancy is, ironically, often

presented as a desirable disposition. The world regards increasing pleasure and avoiding difficulties and hardships as the highest good one can attain, regardless of other considerations.

This philosophy of pursuing pleasure — especially sensual pleasure

— and eliminating discomfort at all costs leads to living a shallow life. One who chases pleasure or avoids hardship at any price will be tossed here and there by waves of life — dislocated and interrupted by every attraction or difficulty that life presents. The virtue of Christian stability stands in opposition to the vice of inconstancy in all respects, whatever its form.

The age-old adage "good things come to those who wait" is really talking about stability. Stability teaches us that to "do the good we propose to do," we must be

rooted and grounded. Once we have the conviction of the right path, we

must be encouraged to stay the course regardless of

temptations that pop up, tempting us to change directions to pursue pleasure or avoid hardship.

Saint Paul exhorts us to "be firm, steadfast, always fully devoted to the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord

your labor is not in vain" (1

COR. 15:58). When we practice living the hallmark of stability, we affirm God is found primarily not by changing external circumstances but by changing what is within.

We can learn to face difficulties with stability; our spirit grows stronger with every opportunity to be steadfast. Stability, both in our effort and commitment, is necessary for accomplishing anything of significance in life. Let us be encouraged by St. Paul, who reminds us that our labor is not in vain.

FROM THE CHANCELLOR

The Truth will set you free

ABBOT PLACID SOLARI

Chancellor

BAVARIAN MONKS BROUGHT BENEDICTINE MONASTIC LIFE to Pennsylvania

in 1846. Thirty years later, they took a bold step to establish a North Carolina monastery known today as Belmont Abbey.

Shortly after taking charge of the struggling community, Abbot Leo Haid became bishop of the entire state. In addition, the new monastery staffed missions in Virginia, Georgia, and Florida. Amazingly, we survived. By grace, we

persevered!

More recently,
the development of
monastery property
since the 1990s allows
the monks to fund the
college significantly.
Past instability
hindered the Abbey from
establishing a substantial
endowment. This, combined
with significant shifts in national culture
and government policy, pose ongoing

challenges to the college's future.

Our capital campaign, Made True, aims to meet these challenges. My confrères and I continue to sponsor Belmont Abbey College because of our faith commitment. We have bet our lives on the Gospel, which is faithfully handed down in the sacraments, worship, life, and teaching of the Catholic Church. According to this faith tradition, the college exists to lead students to understand the Truth, including the meaning and purpose of human life.

Made True frees the college from dependence on government financial

aid. Neither the federal nor the state government has a constitutional mandate to fund private education. Governmental policy shifts attach federal aid to mandates

directly opposing the Catholic

Church's public and authoritative teachings.

We cannot comply with such mandates.
Ending dependence on government funding allows us to educate future generations without external constraints.

Perhaps the most essential campaign pillar

is Made Free, to instill personal freedom through authentic love and virtue. Something is dangerously amiss in a society where fourth graders are shot in school, people attribute base motives to others merely because they disagree, and disorderly conduct shuts down the free exchange of ideas. When a person's will is untethered from Truth, choice degenerates into an exercise of raw power at the expense of others. We must recover respect for the dignity of each person, made in God's image and likeness, to regain our confidence in the good, true, and beautiful. This campaign's goal is summed up in the Lord's words: You will know the Truth, and the Truth will set you free (John 8:32).

BELMONT ABBEY NEWS

'Go out and engage with the world'

We spoke with Vince Ginski '17, who is using what he learned at the Abbey in his job to advance workforce development for the North Carolina Chamber of Commerce

WHAT BROUGHT YOU TO THE ABBEY? WERE YOU LOOKING FOR A CATHOLIC COLLEGE?

My story started in 2013 when I was dragged kicking and screaming to

BY JOHN ANDREW O'ROURKE Belmont Abbey. I wanted to go to a state school, partly because all my siblings had gone to the Abbey and partly because attending a Catholic college wasn't the cool thing to do.

But my parents gently nudged me, saying, "Hey, Vincent, just give it a semester, and you can transfer out. Do whatever you want afterward." So I did, and I fell in love with it. After stepping foot on campus and experiencing it hands on, it was an easy decision to stay.

My professors and my classmates challenged my notions of what it means to be Catholic, which ultimately brought me around. I was challenged every day — not just in the classroom but outside the classroom — to know my faith better. I had the space to learn my faith at the Abbey.

I witnessed many conversions every Easter season. That speaks to the Abbey's welcoming attitude. I believe more than 50% of the students weren't Catholic during my undergraduate years. The fact that many of those students also ultimately converted to Catholicism also speaks to just the welcoming aspect of Benedictine culture and campus life.

Do you think your liberal arts education prepared you well for life after college?

Definitely. I got to be an intern up in Washington, D.C., for a little bit as an underclassman. Most of all my fellow interns were from Harvard, Yale, and Hillsdale — schools with elite



reputations. But when I engaged with those students, I realized that my education had connected me to texts in a much deeper way. Instead of being a broad survey of philosophy or theology, my experience was incredibly deep and formative. At the Abbey, education wasn't soul-grinding work. It was soul-blossoming.

Flannery O'Connor said, "You shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you odd." I think differently than many people, and I'm just incredibly grateful for the Abbey.

John Andrew O'Rourke is President of Blackstone Films



What makes the Abbey different from other liberal arts colleges?

What sets the Abbey apart is that core tenet of intentional, relationship-based education, springing from the fact that we have a monastery on campus. The Benedictine hallmarks lay the foundation for our education here, and the monks actively participate in college life. I think it's easy for the average Abbey student to take that for granted, but it is different.

Plus, there's a student body size that lets you get to know each other. When you look at the Abbey and how much the professors, faculty, administration, and staff care about the students, it just sets us apart in a major way. The Abbey community is so intentional. You get to know the upperclassmen personally; you get to know your professors personally; you get to know the monks personally. At a state school, class sizes are massive, so it's hard to form relationships with your professors. But at the Abbey, you can explore great texts and great topics in an intimate way with your classmates and professors.

What makes those one-on-one relationships so particular to Belmont Abbey?

As much as those relationships can form organically, I think just a level of intentionality is present here at the Abbey. It doesn't matter who you are; those relationships will form.

It's a characteristic of our Abbey education that there wasn't a separation between classroom and community life. Of course, we had time allocated for our courses, but we readily and happily brought what we were learning in the classroom into our personal lives. It's remarkable how many friendly conversations revolved around what we learned in class. Everyone was trying to figure out life together. It was fun.

The fact that we were actively

cultivating that highest form of friendship — that mutual willing the good of the other — is a gift that extends well beyond college. I still carry those friendships to this day. Members of the alumni network look out for each other. I've been able to work very closely with a bunch of alumni on work-related projects, community-related projects, and everything in between.

The Abbey alumni understand the mission and the importance of being strong, solid Christians in today's world. That makes an impact, particularly considering that we have alumni in high-ranking positions across the country and the world. They're willing to go to bat for other alumni and other graduates and students. That speaks to the education and the community.

You mentioned that they're all on board with the mission. What is the Abbey's mission?

The Abbey's mission is to sculpt minds and souls in God's image. With the Abbey and where it stands in our day and age, I think there's an emphasis on helping graduates and learners engage in active life in a much more intentional way. There's the

contemplative life, and there's the active life. When I see the Abbey and what it's doing for students, I see that level of intentionality: to form the whole human person so they can go out and engage with the world.

What's the relationship between the college and the monastery?

The Abbey is one of the handful of institutions across the country with a clear direction in terms of where it's going and a clear identity in terms of where it's been.

The fact that we have a monastery on campus — with the Benedictine hallmark of stability animating campus life and education — is incredibly valuable, with the monks providing consistency across multiple generations of graduates.

Abbot Placid is my spiritual advisor, but all the monks play an active role in students' spiritual and academic development. Having that kind of one-on-one relationship with the Abbot and several other monks is unique. Not many other people could say, "My spiritual guide is a monk at my college." It does change your life. I mean, Abbot Placid even married my wife and me, which is pretty wonderful.

WHAT'S YOUR HOPE FOR THE ABBEY'S FUTURE?

I want to see the Abbey strengthen what it already does every day — getting actively involved in the lives of students and helping to sculpt their minds and souls for the good work they'll do in the world.

I am an Honors College graduate, so my heart is there. Looking back at my experiences, I can't help seeing the profound benefit of that deep type of education. When I think about the Abbey and its trajectory upwards, all the awards and accolades it's getting, I always think about how that will benefit the Honors College. I can only think of further great things that would happen as a result of more people being direct beneficiaries of that, as well.



A man of quiet purpose

Meet Brother Bede McKeon, the newest monk of Belmont Abbey

I ALWAYS THINK the Abbey

Basilica of Maryhelp is most beautiful in mid-morning when the angled light streams clean, dusty

BY LAURA SCHAFFER

Editor

lines that remind me of the linen edges of a book.

Brother Bede McKeon is genuinely at home in this monastic stillness. Having

made his Solemn Profession earlier this year, the now full-fledged monk of Belmont Abbey sat down to share his vocation story.

Brother Bede made vows of stability, obedience, and fidelity — meaning that he will live in faithful continuity, not only with the Rule of St. Benedict but also with his confrères in this particular home, men who have dedicated their lives to God in and through Belmont Abbey.

More than almost anything else, this hallmark of stability distinguishes the Benedictine way from that of other monastic



SCAN TO WATCH

a short video about Br. Bede's vocation

OR VISIT

bac.edu/bede

communities, and it gives Brother Bede a graceful steadiness of intention and a sense of being at rest in a place that was, itself, integral to his vocation.

CHUCKLING, BROTHER BEDE

describes his vocation as typical in that it was a surprise. Having worked as a journalist and then a teacher, he realized that, as much as he loved teaching, he struggled to identify it as his primary vocation.

So when his friend, a parish priest, suggested he consider religious life, Brother Bede began discerning what would become, not so much an altogether new life but a realization of the old.

On his first visit to Belmont Abbey for a discernment retreat, he remembered, "I felt at home here. I felt that I was already sort of a part of this family. It's strange. Sometimes you just enter places, and you feel at home, or you feel like this is where you're supposed to be. I felt that here.

"One of the things I loved about [monastic life] was the structure. For many people, doing the same thing, day in and day out, could be

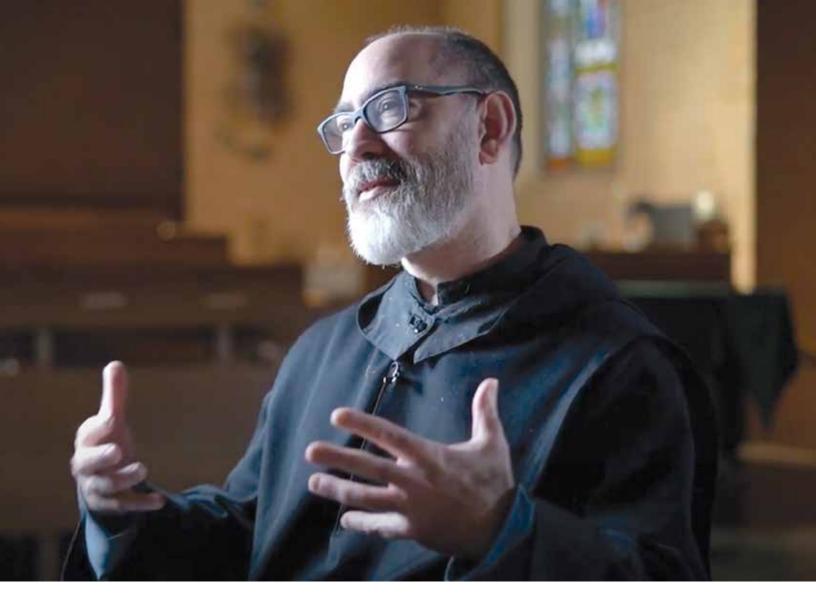


boring. For me, it was this anchor in my life.

"In the world, there was so much chaos, but here in the monastery, there was order, form, and structure. Through that order, form, and structure, I was able to develop my prayer life and grow closer to God through that consistency and repetition.

"Stability, for me," he continued, "is one of the most important things because so much falls apart without that. And for community life, it's even more important because, through ... this hallmark of Benedictine stability, you create friendships and relationships with your confrères, and that's important, too."

Behind him, the Bavarian windows, with saints' faces fired in the glass, make steady intervals down the length of the church.













ST. ANSELM

ST. BERNARD

ST. BONIFACE

ST. GERTRUDE

ST. GREGORY

AS BROTHER BEDE SAYS, the fruits of self-knowledge have become simultaneously more personal and more broadly human.

"I've always felt that teaching and literature were a big part of my vocation. Literature was one of the things that God used to bring me back to the Church, so my vocation — with my Master's in Literature and teaching here — is to lead students to Christ through literature.

"I want to show the students

that there's a greater reality, and we can find it in literature... and that it also takes silence and time to [create] that intimacy with the literature, [but] through that intimacy, I think [students] can find an intimacy with God as well if they're open to the grace."

WALKING BACK from the basilica to my office, I try to take a little of Brother Bede's quiet purpose back with me. As an Abbey family, we're called to glorify God in all things.

A student or professor, a donor or friend, an alumnus or monk will embody this differently. But the underlying vocation is a gift we all share as a community.

Please join me in congratulating Belmont Abbey's newly professed monk, who reminds us of the particular forms that beauty, truth, and goodness take in each of our vocations by the creative unfolding of God's incarnate presence.



Belmont Volunteer Corps makes an impact at home and abroad

Making a difference

MORE THAN 10 YEARS after

its inception, the Benedictine Volunteer Corps (BVC) at Belmont Abbey College continues to impact

BY JUAN MALAGON CASTANON '24 the lives of those it serves
— and those who give
their time and talents
to keep the program
running.

BVC has helped build countless relationships, and the community continues to grow each year as Abbey graduates and current students give their time and talent for the betterment of those in need.

The early years

The monastery-sponsored program began in 2012 when Abbot Placid Solari learned of a similar program at St. John's Abbey in Minnesota. Inspired to develop the program at Belmont Abbey College, he brought the idea to his fellow monks. They overwhelmingly approved.

Brother Paul Richards, who

John's, spoke to students and encouraged their participation. Father Christopher Kirchgessner was appointed chair of the new initiative. He has been helping to grow the program for over 10 years.

The program's early years took Abbey graduates to Africa, where they put their talents and charisms to work. BVC teamed up with the Missionary Benedictine Sisters and brought volunteers to Kenya, where they served for two years.

BVC sent its volunteers to Nanda, Tanzania, for the following six years. In both countries, volunteers at home and abroad fostered unlikely relationships that were

indeed life-changing.

headed the program at St.

Deborah Noga, a 2013 Abbey graduate, was a part of the second group of volunteers. Noga's story is much like other volunteers, as she wasn't sure what to do after college. A gap year in which she could make a difference in other people's lives was an appealing opportunity. Seeing the good she could do for those in need and how it wouldn't require her to sit behind a desk following graduation sealed the deal.

Noga's call to mission took her to Nairobi, Kenya, where a convent of nuns hosted her. She experienced their daily lives without the need to profess vows. A cradle Catholic, Noga said her time in Kenya was special. The immersion into convent life was intense but something she loved. The nuns and the community they served welcomed her with open arms. Before she knew it, she had found a second home.



Elena Fea '16 and young friends whom she met in Tanzania on a Bemont Volunteer Corps mission. While in Kenya, Noga served St. Scholastica's primary school community in Nairobi. The school offers education to children from all walks of life. Noga took on the role of assistant principal. Her tasks ranged from administrative work, finance work, or even direct childcare when attending the school's field trips.

She had expected her mission to Nairobi to be less than six months, but due to the profound impact it had on her, the nuns asked her to extend her stay to 15 months. Noga's experience while serving as a volunteer impacted her family, too. Sister Emily, the school's principal, got to know Noga's mom via phone calls and a trip where Noga's parents visited the school.

Since Noga returned home, her family has hosted Sister Emily in the United States. Noga's family sponsors one needy student annually, allowing them to attend St. Scholastica School. Looking back on her experience as a volunteer, she said that one of the most impactful things she experienced was how the childhood of Kenyan students compared to her American upbringing.

Post-COVID era

When the COVID-19 pandemic struck in 2020, Fr. Kirchgessner scrambled to get volunteers out of Tanzania. The volunteers caught the second to last plane out of the country. The pandemic left BVC at an impasse. Determined to continue the program's work, Fr. Kirchgessner made various calls in hopes of finding a new volunteer destination within the United States.

After multiple calls, meetings, and a trip to South Dakota and Montana, BVC found two new homes for the 2021-2022 year. Seeing the good happening in Montana, he decided to have BVC

stay only in Montana for the 2022-2023 academic year.

The volunteers' work in Montana is unlike any work BVC has done before. Volunteers help children at St. Labre Indian School, a non-profit that enriches the lives of children of the Crow and Northern Cheyenne tribes through a first-class Catholic education.

Volunteers aim to do more than just teach students. Through learning the culture, serving where they are asked to, and seeking personal growth, volunteers seek to fulfill the needs of an impoverished community. BVC is working to grow this relationship with the people of Ashland, Montana, and will return next year to continue the work that they have started.

Belmont Abbey College students do not only work abroad, but BVC members who still need to graduate can start as early as their first year of college. Father Kirchgessner asks students to help promote BVC and find suitable applicants for the program.

This early exposure to BVC often leads students who once helped Fr. Kirchgessner promote the program as first- and second-year students to apply for a spot as a volunteer in the year they graduate.

Today, Fr. Kirchgessner has a team of students and faculty working with him on the program. The students include his intern Max and his student assistants, Joe, Connor, and Jackson. These students say BVC provides opportunities to grow and nurture their interpersonal skills while contributing to a cause that makes a real difference.

Coach Kenn Caudell, Professor Gireesh Gupta, Professor MaryEllen Weir, and Registar Margot Rhoades are just a handful of the Abbey's faculty and staff who devote their time and knowledge to BVC's continued growth. The program also has a

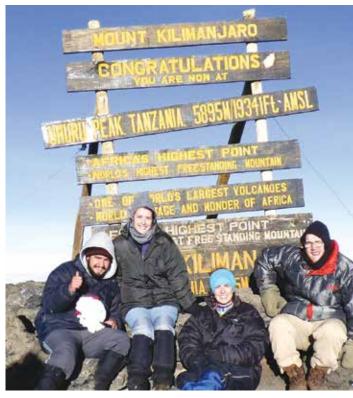


board of advisors comprised of The Sisters of Mercy and various BVC and College alumni that meet twice a year to help guide the program.

"This isn't anywhere else," Fr. Kirchgessner said. "The Benedictine Volunteer Corps is about building relationships, and the goal of the BVC is the goal of the college." He says he's blessed to be working with BVC, blessed that the monks have asked him to guide this ministry, and blessed to work with the people here and abroad.

Elizabeth (Wise)
Massell '14 (left)
and Bridget
Wilson '14 (right)
celebrate with
a Sister from
Tanzania.

Below: (left to right) Clem Narvaiz, Elizabeth (Wise) Massell '14, Bridget Wilson '14, and Daniel (Doodle) Callahan '15 reach the summit of Mt. Kilimanjaro.





Abbey students find an advocate in Jenny Johnson, who helps them embrace their strengths and face the uncertainties of the professional world.

Helping students navigate a career path

The Abbey's Career Center helps take guesswork out of career discernment

MOST WEEKDAYS FIND ME SHIFTING from one office task

to another — whether responding to emails, drafting new

BY LAURA SCHAFFER Editor communications, or reaching out to colleagues or benefactors by phone or Zoom. However, one afternoon last January, I did something I hadn't tried since leaving

school. I sat down for a test.

This test wasn't of the "fingers crossed for a curve" variety. I knew I'd receive a score, but it promised to be friendlier and more qualitative than the usual assessment.

I was taking "Focus 2," a diagnostic tool Belmont Abbey Career Center uses to help students understand the intersections of their interests, aptitudes, temperaments, and values when selecting a major or a future career. The test helps focus students' discernment and facilitates decision-making — something I've always found particularly daunting.

Career discernment

I met with Jenny Johnson to learn more about the student experience.

It soon became apparent that Career Services — an integrated part of the new Center for Student Excellence and Life Calling — had been created not only to aid in the career discernment process but also to help shape the individual nature of a student's vocation.

Sitting in the inviting rocker across from Johnson's desk, I smiled at the first thing she usually shares with students: "These decisions aren't permanent; many people change their majors and their careers."

I wish I'd heard this when I was a student. I remembered the pressure of choosing a course of study, a job, and a graduate program. I recalled the near paralysis of viewing these decisions as all but final — reversible only by starting back at square one if I decided to pursue something else.

Although I've been blessed in all the places I've worked or studied, I tended to lose sight of the horizon in the weeds of applications, resumes, and cover letters.

As Johnson described the services available to help students with their decisions — at whatever stage of the process they found themselves — I heard, again and again, an awareness of vocation as personal, organic, and ongoing.

Helping students with this discernment not only relieves unnecessary and artificial pressure but also places decision-making in its proper context.

The Center for Student Excellence and Life Calling helps students pursue the good life, that life of excellence and virtue — the unfolding vocation — particular to each individual.

Helpful guidance

After I'd spoken to Johnson, I pulled up the results of my Focus 2 test and thought about what it would be like for a student or alumni to interact with their scores.

Though the Focus 2 algorithms identified the career path I eventually found (and several other eye-opening possibilities, including toy designer and landscape architect), the assessment was more an opportunity for guided exploration than the key to career success.

Breaking down dozens of suggestions by experience, temperament, and values helped me to understand the process, visualize the possibilities, and develop a vocabulary — all of which would have made me more intentional and better able to ask for help in my discernment.

Student Noah Rivas came to the center for help. "When I needed to secure an internship, Career Services was helpful, kind, and only wanted the best for me," he said. "Jenny Johnson was able to find an internship for me that not only fit with my major but was also at a Catholic company! I love where I am working now, and I am so grateful."

Rivas is among the many students and alumni who benefit from from the Center's internship and networking opportunities.

The Center also offers resume workshops, mock interviews, one-on-one cover letter writing, and discernment guidance. These services are available by appointment.

Johnson has a background in business management, teaching, and administration. Her expertise and friendly guidance make her an invaluable resource for students.

But this is just the beginning.

Expanded programs

Karen Price, Vice Provost and Dean for Institutional

Effectiveness, said exciting changes are coming to the Abbey's new Center for Student Excellence and Life Calling, which encompasses a number of previously siloed services.

By integrating programs from the First Year Experience and Student Life to academic and career advising, the new, more organic initiative could invest itself in the "whole student."

Price pointed to the Benedictine liberal arts tradition as an integral process — not one limited to the classroom but extended to many ways that students "become a blessing to themselves and others." It reminded me of the Abbey alumni I've been privileged to meet so far, most of whom share a warm and genuine consciousness of who they are, individually and as a community.

Johnson and Price emphasized that formation can't be categorized without losing something essentially human. Much like a good interview, "it's all how you respond," Johnson explained.

There is no shortcut, which is both the good and the bad news. Instead of checking a box or creating a one-size-fitsall, foolproof cover letter, the vocational process involves relationships. It's personal and organic.

Developing the capacity to communicate, collaborate, think critically, and make ethical decisions is more important than memorizing essential information. It's critical to develop these "soft skills" that come from liberal arts education and the Benedictine community.

Belmont Abbey faculty and staff like Price and Johnson encounter each student as a distinct person with gifts and challenges particular to each individual BAC

Bernard **Benedictines**

THE NEXT TIME YOU VISIT

campus, we invite you to step inside the Abbot Vincent Taylor Library and ask about the coats of arms and college seal that Bernard William Cunningham created as a gift to Belmont Abbey in the 1960s.

Bernard Cunningham, who learned woodworking, painting, and wallpapering at Manual Trade High School in Louisville, Kentucky, could fix just about anything. His artistic eye brought beauty to everything he touched.

From a woodshop set up on his porch, he created three works of Abbey-inspired art for Fr. David Kessinger to display in the library.

One coat of arms represents Abbot Vincent Taylor. The abbot presided during Cunningham's son Augustine's seminary years. Another coat of arms represents Abbot Walter Coggin. The third piece, in natural wood, is an Abbey Seal, its lion standing in for the founding Abbot, Leo Haid.

Housed at the library, these artworks evoke a community of monks like Br. Augustine, students like his sister, Nancy Cunningham '65, and parents and benefactors like Bernard Cunningham, whose ties to Belmont Abbey College animate and personalize its rich, remarkable history.



SCAN TO HEAR from Abbot Placid on his predecessors' coats of arms.

OR VISIT

bac.edu/cunningham





Rich Sotell gives Investment Club students an inside look at Wall Street. Left to right: Sotell, Nelson Stafford, Regina Vehige, Adam Linkskog '22, Marco Garofalo, and Savannah Willis.

Students learn about money, the Abbey way

AS MEMBERS of the college's investment club, a small group of Abbey students has been learning about conducting stock market research and investing "the Abbey

BY DR. NATHALIE COTÉ

Director of the QEP and Professor of Psychology

They've enlisted the help of a college friend, Rich Sotell, and faculty involved in the college's financial literacy program —

Money the Abbey Way: Financial Literacy @ The Abbey. In 2021, Sotell donated

\$10,000 to the college to set up an investment brokerage account to teach students how to

Program focuses on ethical investing, financial management

manage investments. He is a Massachusetts-based CFP professional and benefits consultant. His son, Spencer, attended the college a few years

As the founder of the Kraematon Group, one of the first retirement benefits firms to specialize in 401(k) plans, Sotell has considerable expertise in investing and retirement planning. He has invested time and treasure to support Belmont Abbey College's mission. His donation led to the creation of the BAC Investment Club.

"I've been blessed." Sotell said. "so now I'm trying to guide and shepherd students at the Abbey to show them that if they are willing to work hard, they can do great things in the world, including the world of investment. I find that students are willing to take advantage of the opportunity and willing to work for it."

In addition to monthly lessons

on topics such as behavioral finance and the effect of geopolitics on the energy and agriculture sectors, Investment Club members serve on the research committee to pitch stock recommendations or participate as stock watchers to monitor one of the stocks in the portfolio.

Club members have taken a field trip to New York City during spring break for two years running to join Sotell for meetings with portfolio managers at major asset management firms.

This year's participants included Nelson Stafford, Marco Garofalo, Regina Vehige, Savannah Willis, and Adam Lindskog '22. Professor Nathalie Coté, director of the financial literacy program and professor of psychology, chaperoned the group from March 12-15. They met with the Deputy HM Trade Commissioner for North America at the British Consulate. They enjoyed the musical *Wicked* at the Gershwin Theatre.

In 2022, students Adam Lindskog, Gabriel Martin, and Nelson Stafford made



Nathalie Coté spearheaded the Financial Literacy program at Belmont Abbey College.

the trip. They learned about professionalism, ethics, finance, and the importance of a firm's culture. There was also time for some fun — good food, ice skating at the Rockefeller Center, and seeing the musical *Hamilton*.

"The trip to New York City was a great opportunity to learn and to meet industry professionals who gave great advice," said Stafford, a senior business major with a minor in finance. "The club is a fun learning environment. You're not just learning investment principles but applying them to what's happening today." BAC





BAC INVESTMENT CLUB

allows students to practice the Benedictine values of stewardship, discipline, and community. They learn about investment products and strategies, monitor a portfolio of financial assets that have been invested for the good of the college, actively research and evaluate companies, and interact with seasoned investors.

The BAC Investment Club is an academic club with limited capacity. Student members must be nominated by faculty and invited to apply. The club is guided by the college's investment policy statement and the Socially Responsible Investment Guidelines published by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

The club's approach is to "buy and hold" long-term investments in fundamentally strong companies. Investment returns/gains in the brokerage account are for the good of the college.

College supporters may contribute. Please indicate "BAC Investment Club Brokerage Account" or "Money the Abbey Way" if you would like to support the financial literacy program.

Faculty organizers are Dr. Nathalie Coté; Dr. Dan Kling, assistant professor of finance; and Dr. Brad Frazier, chair of the Department of Business. The administration liaison is Allan Mark, executive vice president for Administration, Finance, and Operations.

Learn more about the program at bac.edu/theabbeyway

Marco Garofalo

(left) and Nelson

Stafford (right)



Alumni and friends give back

Founders' Day 2023 raises \$175,000 to enrich student experiences

OUR BUDDING TRADITION

is growing! In its third year, the Abbey Founders' Day Challenge has raised \$175,000 from the 438 students, parents, friends, and alumni who've gone above and beyond to support Belmont Abbey's academic and student life programs.

Celebrating our history

Each Founders' Day, we honor the six faithful visionaries who founded Belmont Abbey College, dedicating their time, talents, and financial resources to the Abbey mission, which has endured long past their lifetimes.

Today's campus dates back to shortly after the Civil War, when Father Jeremiah O'Connell, a trailblazing missionary priest, purchased 500 acres of farmland in Gaston County, North Carolina. With Cardinal James Gibbons' permission as the Vicar Apostolic of North Carolina, Fr. O'Connell gifted the land to the Benedictines. His only requirement was that they establish a college alongside the monastery.

On April 21, 1876, Father Herman Wolfe, a Benedictine priest from St. Vincent's Abbey in Latrobe, Pennsylvania, arrived with two students and began instruction and instituting. This is why we celebrate April 21 as Founders' Day.

In 1885, Bishop Leo Haid began his 39 years of service as Abbot of Belmont Abbey, guiding standards

SCAN TO LEARN more about your impact during this year's Founders' Day Challenge!

OR VISIT

bac.edu/thanksfounders

and ambitions for the College, which forever shaped the Abbey's character. Abbot Haid insisted that the varied extracurricular activities such as band, theater, and sports should involve the monks and the students in a strong community of faith and fellowship.

Although a force of nature himself, Abbot Haid would never have accomplished so much without his Prior, Father Felix Hintemeyer, a Bavarian immigrant, scholar, playwright, essayist, and professor whose legacy lives on in the Abbey's Hintemeyer Catholic Leadership Scholarship.

Saint Katharine Drexel herself is the sixth Belmont Abbey founder. She was born in Philadelphia in 1858 to the wealthy and pious Drexel family, whose legacy of prayer and service inspired Katherine to serve and advocate for Indigenous and African American populations across the U.S. When she donated the funds needed to complete the Abbey Basilica, she did so to ensure that the Abbey could continue to offer unsegregated community worship.

Honoring our past

Like these six exceptional people, through whose generosity the Belmont Abbey family continues to grow and thrive, participants in the Founders' Day Challenge support and strengthen the Abbey in its tradition of excellence and virtue, providing for future generations of students.

Rich Sotell introduced students to Wall Street firms and taught investment strategies. He funded networking, enrichment opportunities, and hands-on portfolio management through the Abbey's Investment Club. He calls it "priming the pump." You could also call it "paying it forward."

Last year, Founders' Day donations enabled the Biology Department to purchase a mass spectrometer, which not only provides the students with crucial, hands-on experience with cuttingedge technology, but also expands the kinds of questions they can explore in their classes and their research. This year, the Math and Science Department surpassed their goal of \$7,000 and are using the funds to go on a networking trip to the medical community in Boston, MA as well as to fund undergraduate research projects.

The Motorsports Program led this Founders' Day Challenge with a total of \$12,412 and 26 donations. 100% of these funds will go toward student experiential learning opportunities, where students meet industry professionals and gain invaluable, hands-on experience, and also explore potential internships and career opportunities.

Building on the 1,500-year-old Benedictine tradition of prayer and learning, the original Abbey community has grown to over 1,500 students, faculty, staff, and monks — with a still wider family of alumni, friends, and benefactors. In the almost 150 years since Belmont Abbey's founding, however, our mission has remained unchanged: to educate students in the liberal arts and sciences so that in all things God may be glorified.

Thank you to all who became an Abbey Founder for the day and supported the programs and departments nearest to their hearts.



Award-winning faculty continue a tradition of excellence

BELMONT ABBEY COLLEGE is known for a focus on teaching, as shown through our recent award as the Top Institution

JENSEN

Associate Professor of English

BY ERIN B. for Undergraduate Teaching in the Southern region, according to US News and World Report. Abbey

professors challenge and engage their students every day in each department, both inside and outside the

classroom, and the national recognition only highlights what Belmont Abbey alumni have known for years.

In addition to excellent teaching, however, many faculty also engage in various conference presentations and scholarly publications. Many encourage students to pursue their own research interests.

The research highlight of my fall 2022 semester was the successful publication of an article that I co-authored with eight Belmont Abbey undergraduate students. A few years earlier, I had invited these eight freshmen to co-author an article with me about their experiences as student-athletes and their interest in being involved in research opportunities.

After countless revisions and several rejections, The Sport Journal (thesportjournal.org) published the article this past semester. It's available online for anyone interested in reading it. I appreciate the dedication of these students, who kept revising and re-submitting it with the hope that their hard work would eventually be rewarded with a publication.

Another recent highlight was the first Undergraduate Research Conference at Belmont Abbey College in April 2022, where 35 students presented research posters to their peers and professors. Many of the student presenters from last year presented their research posters at this year's conference, which took place on April 21 in the Haid Ballroom.

Please join me in congratulating and celebrating Belmont Abbey faculty for their ongoing research accomplishments.

This year's Student Research Fair filled the Student **Commons with** the results of their careful inquiry and critical analysis, on topics ranging from "Edgar Allan Poe & the Shakespearean Gothic" to "Mental **Health Treatment** in Correctional Institutions."



BELMONT ABBEY COLLEGE

professsors have contributed to publications and conferences over the last few years. The following is an alphabetized list of scholarly activity. The list includes a wide range of topics, including writing centers, Catholic bioethics, motorsport history, marketing, and literature.

Ian Crowe

Associate Professor of History



PUBLICATION: · Hanley, R. P., Mahoney, D., Turner, B., Wolf, B.,

Crowe, I., & Collins, G. M. (2021). Author Meets Critics: Commerce and Manners in Edmund Burke's Political Economy. The Political Science Reviewer, 45 (2), 575-618.

Richard Dell'Isola

Assistant Professor of Psychology PODCASTS:



• "Always Hope" podcast with Dr. Mario Sacasa, Episode 108: Dr. Richard

Dell'Isola on How to Share Your Values and Goals with Your Spouse

• "Mike'd" podcast, Episode 23: Why You Shouldn't Get Married

Chad Estabrooks

Assistant Professor of Math



PUBLICATIONS: • Bonifant, A., Estabrooks, C., & Sharland, T. (2022). Relations

between Escape Regions in the Parameter Space of Cubic CONTINUES ON NEXT PAGE



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Polynomials. Arnold Mathematical Journal.

• Gerving, C., Lasater, R., Starling, J., Ostendorf, D. M., Redman, L. M., Estabrooks, C., ... & Thomas, D. M. (2022). Predicting energy intake in adults who are dieting and exercising. *International Journal of Obesity*, 46 (12), 2095-2101.

Brad Frazier

Chair of Business Department and Associate Professor



PUBLICATION: Frazier, B.R., and Belcher, A.R. (2021). Is globalization

dying or re-entering? *International Journal of Social Science and Business*, 6 (2).

Carolyn Harmon

Dean of Nursing



PUBLICATIONS:

• The Challenges of Technology in Healthcare. In T. Heba & M. Rose

(Eds.), Handbook of informatics for nurses and healthcare professionals (7th ed.). Boston: Pearson.

- Harmon, C. S., Davis, J. E., Adams, S. A., Donevant, S. B., & Gephart, S. M. (2022). Adapted theory for unintended consequences of the electronic health record and cognitive load in emergency nurses. *Journal of Informatics Nursing*, 7 (4), 6-11.
- Harmon, C. S., Corbett, C. F., Davis, J. E., Adams, S. A., & Donevant, S. B. (2022). Principle-based concept analysis: Unintended consequences of the electronic health record. *Journal of Informatics Nursing*, 7(1), 15-23.

Daniel Hutchinson '02

Associate Professor of History



PUBLICATION:
Review: Port of
No Return: Enemy
Alien Internment in
World War II New

Orleans. (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 2021) By Marilyn Grace Miller. *Journal of Southern History* 88 (November 2022): 801-802.

Mary Imparato

Chair of Political Philosophy Department and Assistant Professor



PUBLICATIONS:
• "What I Saw at NatCon,"

Postliberal Order,
September 2022.

• "The True Sense of the People: Reconsidering Burke on Representation and Identity," *VoegelinView*, March 2022.

Erin Jensen

Associate Professor of English



PUBLICATIONS:
• "Engaging
Undergraduate
Student-Athletes
in Research and

Publication Opportunities. *The Sport Journal*.

- Undergraduate Belmont Abbey co-authors: Desislava Yordanova, Lauren Denhard, Kira Zazzi, Jose Mejia, Timothy Shar, Julia Iseman, Tucker Hoeniges, and Madison Mitchell
- "Using Memes as a Pedagogical Tool in the English Classroom: Promoting Student Learning and Engagement." *Fringes Journal:* North Carolina English Teachers' Association. 4(1), 7-12.
- "Media, Performance, and Student Engagement: Creating Video Lectures for Online Literature Courses." In John Miller and Julie Wilhelm (Editors), Teaching Literature in the Online Classroom, MLA.
- "How Do You Do It?: Using Memes and Twitter to Teach Short Stories." *Teaching American Literature: A Journal of Theory and Practice.*
- "Instagram Writing Analysis and Reflection." *Dynamic Activities* for First-Year Composition: 96 Ways

to Immerse, Inspire, and Captive Students, edited by Michal Reznizki and David Coad, NCTE.

• "Students Create Memes Throughout the Semester." *Dynamic Activities for First-Year Composition: 96 Ways to Immerse, Inspire, and Captive Students*, edited by Michal Reznizki and David Coad, NCTE, pp. 174-176.

Lindsay Adams Kennedy

Assistant Professor of English



PUBLICATIONS:
• "All Winged
Creatures" *Nexus Journal*, Volume
2, eds. Michael P.

Murphy et al., Loyola University Chicago. An Excerpt from a Full-Length Play.

• "The Last Supper." *Stage It, Stream It: Plays for Virtual Theatre*,
ed. John Bray. Applause Theatre &
Cinema Books. Short Play.

Daniel Kling

Assistant Professor of Finance and Business



PUBLICATION: Kling, D. T., & Stratmann, T. (2022). Large-Scale Evidence

for the Effectiveness of Partisan GOTV Robo Calls. *Journal of Experimental Political Science*, 1-13.

Hannah Kling

Assistant Professor of Data Analytics and Economics



PUBLICATIONS:
• Mead Kling,
H., Norgaard,
J.R. and Wenzel,
N.G. (2022),

"The economics of Pope Francis: the promise of markets and the poverty of intervention" *International Journal of Development Issues* (forthcoming).

• Mead Kling, H., Norgaard, J.R. and Wenzel, N.G. (2022)

"The Economics of Pope Francis: Markets, Liberty, and the Poverty of Socialism" *Journal of Markets & Morality* (forthcoming).

Farrell O'Gorman

Chair and Professor of English Department



PUBLICATION:
"Coming in
from the Porch:
Walker Percy
and the English

Department," South Atlantic Review, 87 (4).

Gina Noia

Assistant Professor of Theology



PUBLICATION:
"Sensus
Fideli-whom?:
Retrieving
Insights from

Johann Adam Möhler." *Journal of Moral Theology*, 11, special issue no. 2 (2022): 78-105.

Joseph Pizza

Associate Professor of English



PUBLICATIONS:
• "All Aboard for Natchez, Cairo, and St. Louis":
Minstrelsy and

Conversion in T.S. Eliot's Ash-Wednesday." Journal of Modern Literature, vol. 45 no. 4, 2022, p. 41-57.

- "Breathing Between the Lines: Diane di Prima and the New American Poetry," forthcoming in *Tulsa Studies in Women's Literature*
- "The Blues Poetics of Harryette Mullen and Lorenzo Thomas," forthcoming in *African American Review*
- "Blue Village: A.B. Spellman, Joel Oppenheimer, and the Politics of Interracial Friendship in the Downtown New York Scene," forthcoming in *MELUS: Multi-Ethnic Literature of the United States*
- "Zen Closets: John Cage's Mesostics for Merce Cunningham," forthcoming in the Journal of Black Mountain Studies
- "The Beat Surrealism of Ted Joan," forthcoming in the *Beat Studies Journal*
- Book: *Dissonant Voices*, will be published by Iowa UP next Fall.



Alessandro Rovati

Chair and Associate Professor of Theology



PUBLICATIONS:
• Co-editor with
Dr. Matthew
Philipp Whelan:
Journal of Moral

Theology 11, Special Issue no. 2 (2022).

- "Vocation, Friendship, and the Catholic Moral Tradition," in *Journal of Moral Theology* 11, Special Issue no. 2 (2022), coauthored with Matthew Philipp Whelan
- "History and Person: Newman's Approach and Contemporary Issue," *Newman Review*, November 10, 2022.

Christopher Tomaszewski

Assistant Professor of Philosophy



PUBLICATIONS:

• "How the
Absolutely Simple
Creator Escapes a
Modal Collapse"
edited collection

in Classical Theism: New Essays on the Metaphysics of God

• *The Doctrine of Divine Simplicity* book with Cambridge University Press to be published in 2024.

Thomas Varacalli '11

Assistant Professor in Honors College



PUBLICATIONS:
• "The Promise of National Conservatism,"
Catholic Social

Science Review, forthcoming Spring 2023.

• "The Coming Tension between the Pro-Life Movement and Public Opinion," *Catholic Social Science Review*, forthcoming Spring 2023. Dr. Matthew
Siebert, 2023
Adrian Excellence
in Teaching
Award Recipient,
prepares students
to tackle the
most difficult
questions during
a Philosophy
Seminar in Grace
Auditorium.

Patrick Wadden

Associate Professor and Chair of History Department



PUBLICATION:
Co-editor and
co-authored a
book titled *Origin*Legends in Early

Medieval Western Europe.



SCAN TO VIEW Dr. Christine Basil's brief lecture on Aristotle, Philosophy, and the Good, a sample of the type of education students receive at the Abbey,

OR VISIT bac.edu/basil



New opportunities in nursing

Belmont Abbey changes the healthcare landscape in Gaston County



Join the generous donors who provided the Abbey's first Nursing Labs with access to state-of-the-art equipment and unparalleled hands-on learning opportunities.

IN CONSIDERING THE IMPACT of a particular program or career, it's rarely easier to demonstrate importance than in a field that quite literally deals with life and death. Belmont Abbey's new nursing program demands student excellence, not only for the students' sake or for some ideal of quality, but also for our grandparents, our children, our friends and family, who may encounter these future nurses at times of personal crisis.

Though we're not often forced to reflect on this fact, nurses stand beside us, offering deft care and effective comfort, at some of the most vulnerable points in our lives. Birth, death, injury and illness: each approaches in ways we can't

always control, or even predict. What we can do is help prepare the next generation of ethical, compassionate nurses within Gaston County and beyond.

In proportion to its significance and its level of impact, the needs

of an accredited nursing program — like Belmont Abbey's — are substantial. Even beyond the necessary textbooks and materials, Nursing degree programs need to meet strict licensure benchmarks, including properly supervised instruction and training in dedicated, state-of-the-art space. Candidates require the tools and resources to develop and excel in this challenging but essential vocation.

Your contribution equips young men and women to serve our communities and loved ones, in profound and critical ways. Consider making a gift to BAC Nursing, as it meets the growing needs of students and establishes Belmont Abbey as a leader in the future of Christian healthcare.

Explore an Abbey BSN or MSN

OUR NEW DEGREE PROGRAMS

in healthcare prepare our graduates for service and ethical leadership in the healthcare community. Informed by the Benedictine Hallmarks, Saint John Paul II's *Ex Corde Ecclesiae* and the USCCB's Ethical and Religious Directives for Catholic Health Care Services, our students will also benefit from the CaroMont Health Hospital adjoining our main campus.



SCAN TO APPLY for your Bachelor's or Master's Degree in Nursing at Belmont Abbey College.

OR VISIT

bac.edu/nursing

The Cherry family's gift

Generous scholarships equip the next generation of nurses



WHILE SERVING AS PASTOR of

St. Michael's Parish in Gastonia, Father Gregory Eichenlaub, O.S.B., welcomed James and Eunice Cherry into the Church in the 1940s. Many of Father Gregory's fellow monks at Belmont Abbey also came to know and love this unfailingly generous couple over the years.

Active both in the St. Michael's Parish and in the broader Gaston County community — including the local hospital — James and Eunice frequently opened their home to the Abbey community.

Monks — including then-Father Placid Solari — often enjoyed Sunday dinners at the Cherry home. Abbot Placid also officiated at weddings, baptisms, and funerals for family members. Although the couple passed away 20 years ago, a firm bond remains between the Cherrys and the college.

The James P. and Eunice S. Cherry Scholarship Endowment Fund provides tuition assistance for deserving candidates within the college's Master's in Nursing program — the only Catholic Nursing Program in the Carolinas.

This year's recipients are Hannah Kurtz and Michelle Dinh.

"I chose an education in nursing to make a positive impact on the lives of others," Hannah explained.
"I have always found that helping others through compassion, kindness, and empathy brings me great joy."

Michelle, likewise, has reflected on her inspiration and her journey.

"I chose to pursue my passion in nursing ever since my grandpa ended up in the hospital. It was difficult for me to see my grandpa in the hospital and not [be] able to help him heal and get well. Seeing your impact on the patients and being a part of their journey while they are healing in the hospitals makes nursing so rewarding."

James and Eunice Cherry's enduring legacy enriches and empowers our students working towards their Master's in Nursing — and all those they will touch during their healthcare careers.

Above: Ann and Steven Cherry, pictured with Drs. David Williams (right) and Carolyn Harmon (left), represent James and Eunice and continue their legacy.

Below: Cherry Scholarship recipients Hannah Kurtz and Michelle Dinh.





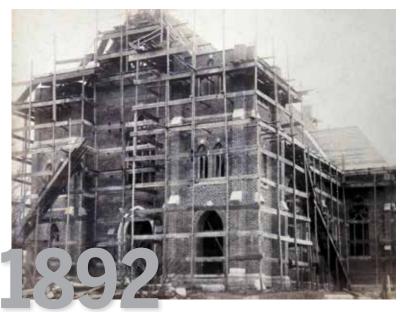
1871

Father Jeremiah O'Connell

purchases the Caldwell Farm for \$10, donating the land to the Benedictine monks of St. Vincent Abbey in Latrobe, Pennsylvania, and initiating the history of Belmont Abbey College — and all that God has done and will do through its monks, faculty, staff, students, and benefactors.

1886

The State of North Carolina officially charters St. Mary's College.



Construction begins on the Abbey Church of Mary Help. Thanks to the generosity of **St. Katharine Drexel**, who visits the Abbey in 1904, the building concludes, and the Abbey Church extends Benedictine hospitality to the local community and the entire Belmont Abbey family.

Faithful giving through the years

Photo by Giuseppe Felici, via Wikimedia Commons

Pope St. Pius X names Belmont Abbey a nullius "diocese," giving the Abbey cathedral rank and expanding its pastoral ministry in the American Southeast.

1913

Saint Mary's College becomes Belmont Abbey College, and the Abbey welcomes alumni home for their first reunion.

1936

The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) accredits the Abbey.

1957

SACS accredits Belmont Abbey as a senior college.

1965

With the support of generous donors, the Abbey renovates the Cathedral of Mary Help, consecrating the new church on March 28.

1983

The College Building is renamed "Robert Lee Stowe Hall" to recognize the **Stowe family**'s exceptional contributions to Gaston County and the Abbey itself.

1988-1989

The college awards the first **Lettie Pate Whitehead** Scholarship, the beginning of a longstanding relationship with the Foundation, which has led to a combined \$3.3 million in scholarship support to women attending the Abbey from seven states in the Southeast.

1995

Sarah Sutherland's Estate creates the Sarah Horne Sutherland Endowed Scholarship Fund, which enables deserving students with a demonstrated need to receive a Benedictine liberal arts education at Belmont Abbey College. Over the next 20 years, the Estate of Louis Schmitt and the W. Duke Kimbrell Family Foundation also contribute over \$1 million combined, providing further scholarships and supporting the needs of Belmont Abbey students.

1999

A generous benefactor makes the first \$1 million estate gift as part of the Abbey's *Bridge to the Future Millennial Campaign*.



The Estate of **Johnnie Lowry** creates Alumni House, a gathering place for the Abbey alumni family. Over the next two years, the Lowry Estate provides significant funding for the Reidy Tennis Center, along with other donors, in recognition of the late, beloved **Coach Mike Reidy**.

2018

Alumni, students, and benefactors "Raise the Red" with the first Giving Tuesday Challenge, through which they equip studentathletes with the resources and opportunities to help them excel, on and off the field.

2020

A generous estate gift establishes the **Julienne Michel Shakespeare** Fund and begins a new era in the Abbey's longstanding tradition of quality performing arts.

Hundreds of alumni, friends, and benefactors meet the first Founders' Day Challenge, providing essential funds to the Abbey's Academic Departments.

2021

1940 Belmont Abbey Prep School Graduate **Ben Sargeant**'s Estate donates \$3.5 million (see the article on pages 42–43 for more about his remarkable legacy gift).

Dr. Peter Wittenberg gives \$1.6 million to establish the Betty Ann & Dr. Peter H. Wittenberg Biology/Biochemistry Endowed Scholarship and fund the Betty Ann & Peter Wittenberg Microbiology Lab, creating new opportunities for nursing and science students.



Unprecedented gifts by **George F. Horner** '66, which will ultimately total \$7 million, provide the William Gaston Science Building with new physics, chemistry, and biochemistry labs, a new exterior, and a renovated entranceway.



Through the leadership of extraordinary benefactors like **Mike Soignet**, **Mike Snyder** '62, **Chuck Cornelio**, and our beloved monks, Belmont Abbey launches *Made True*, the \$100 million campaign which anticipates our 150th anniversary in 2026 and invites you to strengthen, free, and secure the next 150 years of Belmont Abbey history.









Belmont Abbey's capital campaign will ensure a future of growth and stability

MADE TRUE

BY LAURA SCHAFFER

Editor

AS WE APPROACH the Abbey's 150th anniversary and prepare to welcome a vibrant new era, the words of our founding Abbot, Bishop Leo Haid, resonate with renewed conviction.

They evoke fresh confidence in God's work at Belmont Abbey: in the fruitful union of prayer, labor, grace, and will. And they invite us into a vast, invisible communion across time.

Each of us — whether alumni, students, friends and benefactors, faculty and staff, or monks — shares in a community that reaches both back into the past and forward into the future, animating Belmont Abbey with a "cloud of witnesses" who unite tradition and hope in the living present.

The monks' daily prayers and work — ora et labora — draw strength and meaning from the unbroken, 1,500-year tradition of monasticism we trace to St. Benedict's *Rule*. But a monastery is not an isolated or enclosed phenomenon. All those who pray with them, who learn from them or support their work, draw from the same enduring



and fruitful tradition.

Belmont Abbey is a home, not only to monks but to an extended family that reaches out to each of us. You and I are here, after all, through our participation in a vision that both includes and transcends us.

May the Abbey, made true by the inexhaustible treasures of the Benedictine tradition and the authentic freedom of liberal arts education, continue to spread God's blessing across this beautiful country!

So we are honored to introduce you to our Made True capital campaign with its three pillars.

Pillar One: Made Secure

As a Catholic liberal arts college that's proven itself serious about maintaining this identity, Belmont Abbey faces a steep, uphill battle. The fact is, we live in a society distrustful of — and at times hostile to — Christian values.

As a private institution dependent to a certain extent on federal funds — especially when it comes to student loan access — it's vital to safeguard our freedom as a Benedictine liberal arts college and a visible witness to Judeo-Christian values in the public square.

As long as we are bound to federal funds, we remain precariously dependent on political values that often contradict our own. Our means of pursuing the Abbey mission and the Benedictine way of life come under threat, risking the fruits of stability we've long enjoyed and cultivated.

This is why the first pillar of Belmont Abbey's Capital Campaign is "Made Secure" through financial freedom. We want to enable our students to continue growing in excellence and virtue. We want to ensure the

CONTINUES ON PAGE 28



Campaign launch inspires excitement

Donors affirm 'Made True' with generous giving

MORE THAN 375 MEMBERS of the Abbey community — monks, benefactors, faculty, and staff — gathered for the historic launch of *Made True: The Campaign for Belmont Abbey College* on Feb. 18, 2023, at Founders' Hall in Charlotte, N.C.

Throughout the evening, Abbey guests enjoyed live music, cocktails, dinner, dancing, and an array of distinguished speakers, including the Honorable Patrick McHenry '99. The skyline lit up "Abbey Red" as the Stardusters played late into the night, and Phil Brach, Vice President of College Relations, revealed that generous donors had already pledged an extraordinary \$73 million of BAC's \$100 million goal. Since the launch, a further \$11 million has been secured, totalling over \$84 million!

























CONTINUED FROM PAGE 26

Abbey has the means to effectively uphold Christian values in the public square. And we want to know that our shared legacy is one of enduring truth.

Throughout the campaign, we hope to raise \$55 million under this first pillar, increasing Belmont Abbey's endowment and providing for student needs without incurring either the direct or the looming cost of federal funding.

Pillar Two: Made Strong

Drawing from almost a century and a half of excellence and virtue, today's Abbey — under the leadership of Abbot Placid Solari and Dr. William Thierfelder — continues to empower young women and men as they embrace the truth, beauty, and goodness of their vocations.

Preparing remarkable alumni to be a blessing to themselves and others, to understand who they are and what it means to live well and fully in their communities and the world — this in itself would be enough of a reason to rejoice as we approach our 150th anniversary. Offering spiritual and educational resources, hosting conferences and seminars, and always maintaining a firm foundation in the Benedictine way, each of these would be sufficient reasons to

thank God for all He has done.

But truthfully, these enduring elements of our legacy are only half the story.

The other half involves a legacy poised for realization, with the Abbey's roots and new growth — each as vigorous, expansive, and ambitious as they've been at any time in history.

This legacy is unfolding daily at the Belmont House in Washington, D.C., where congressmen, religious leaders, and young professionals can gather and collaborate to defend religious freedom.

It's unfolding in the Abbey's partnership with CaroMont

CONTINUES ON PAGE 30



Campaign announces new monastery

WHEN YOU ASK ALUMNI what part of their Abbey experience they remember most fondly, they almost always point to the monastery. Sometimes it's a specific monk's guidance or friendship — or particularly inspiring class. Sometimes it's the monastic community as a whole, the way its prayer life permeates campus and anchors us with the hope "that in all things God may be glorified."

The monks give rootedness to our community. Today's fathers and brothers are the successors of those who arrived in 1876, forming local clay into the walls and walkways of a home they've since extended to thousands of students, faculty, staff, alumni, and friends.

Throughout Abbey history, the monks have been a mainstay of Benedictine identity, preserving a 1,500-year tradition of excellence and virtue. They've made its strength and fruitfulness accessible to all of us within the Abbey family through their stewardship, love, and hospitality.

The Benedictine way reminds us to listen. It teaches us to consecrate the ordinary motions of our daily lives with prayer and humility, embracing the means at our disposal to love God with and through the community.

The historic monastery will convert to muchneeded classroom space, while the new monastery will offer updated facilities and invite increased vocations to the Benedictine life. We can't all make vows of stability or enter monasteries, but we can and do participate in Abbey life, joining in partnership with the monks in their steady rhythms of *ora et labora*.

In light of all the monks have done for us — generously and unwaveringly making their home ours, even prioritizing the college's needs over their facilities — Belmont Abbey's Made True capital campaign will construct a new monastery.

It is time to give back to our greatest benefactors, to express our gratitude for their unfailing stewardship, sacrifice, and love.

Over the coming years, we look forward to building a new home for this cherished Benedictine community at the heart of the Abbey. The current monastery, a true historic treasure, will continue to serve the mission as a much-needed academic and administrative space, while the new monastery will provide a space better adapted to community life and the needs of retired monks. In this way, we will gratefully usher our family into its next 150 years.























scan To VIEW highlights from the launch event

OR VISIT bac. edu/launch



As a brand new **CaroMont Health** hospital nears completion on Abbey land, future nurses prepare for the challenges and rewards of an essential career.



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 28

Health, in the new hospital already rising on monastery land, where nursing students will attend classes, and where compassionate and ethical care will meet the ongoing needs of this burgeoning area near Charlotte.

This legacy continues in future transformative centers of education and culture across the country. It develops, with the Abbey's new graduate programs in Nursing, Health Administration, and Business and Leadership. Graduates will enter their chosen fields prepared, not only to excel professionally but also to seek the good and to know how and

why they are called to serve their communities.

This ongoing story bolsters the second pillar of Belmont Abbey's capital campaign, "Made Strong." Throughout this campaign, we hope to raise \$15 million to strengthen our students, our community, and the public square.

Pillar Three: Made Free

Liberal arts education is liberating, not just because it explores great questions and makes us more fully ourselves but also because these explorations — and the relationships that develop through them — cultivate a more authentic community.

If freedom is our capacity to

pursue the good, the true, and the beautiful, surely we're better able to do this among friends who recognize and want these things as well — both for themselves and for us.

This is why so many Abbey alumni return as faculty: it makes perfect sense to come home to teach in the community where you came into your own as a thinking adult. Liberal arts education doesn't happen in a vacuum, nor does it end when you graduate.

Although it might begin in school, the work of exploring together with a growing family of learners — what it means to be human, to be happy, and to live a full life is a lifelong process.

Our nationally recognized faculty facilitate the kind of freedom that they themselves learned to cherish, across classes, friendships, clubs, and teams. Each becomes part of the journey we are making together as human beings learning how to be fully human: mind, body, and soul.

We're made free by the grace of God and by our participation in His creative love. He gives us the capacity to exercise and develop our humanness through the joyful discipline of liberal arts education, which invites the whole person to love truth, goodness, and

How you can help

BELMONT ABBEY COLLEGE'S mission is rooted in a desire to fill society with graduates prepared to restore the culture for the greater glory of God, helping to create a world where charity and goodness thrive.

Made True: The Campaign for Belmont Abbey College is about embracing the call to transform American culture so that humanity may thrive in a world made true by the light

of God's providence.

Amid the social upheaval, cultural battles, and challenges to free speech, securing and strengthening a future that frees us to live authentically in God's sight is more necessary than ever. Your participation in this historic campaign for Belmont Abbey College opens new possibilities for our students. our society, and our beautiful country.

Help reclaim our culture, fostering what is true and good for human beings.

As faithful Christians, we are called to cultivate a world alive to human

flourishing and aligned — made true — with God's grace. Through Belmont Abbey College, you are equipping a growing number of graduates who are revitalizing the next generation of business, government, and church leaders — plus community members, parents, and conscientious citizens with an infusion of excellence and virtue.



SCAN TO EXPLORE how you can help make the Abbey Secure, Strong, and Free

bac.edu/made-true

beauty. Ultimately, it's the kind of education that cultivates virtue by teaching us to recognize and pursue the good in our daily lives.

As Belmont Abbey students challenge themselves and each other to grow, to become more intellectually honest, generous, understanding, and creative, they become better able to see the good and better able to choose it.

Through the Abbey, we — monks, benefactors, faculty, and students — help to equip each other with the skills and wisdom necessary to make us free from the false promises of sin, ignorance, isolation, fear, and distraction — and to live lives of excellence and virtue instead.

The beauty of a liberal education is that it cultivates capacity, not just knowledge. It invites us to embrace our authentic, created self, to know and love God in the ways we were specially made to love and to know. This is why "Made Free," in truth and love, is one of the primary pillars of Belmont Abbey's capital campaign.

By raising \$30 million, we plan to build new residence halls and an updated performing arts center. We hope to revitalize the Benedictine oblates and provide lifelong career resources for students and alumni.

Ultimately, we are made free in truth and love. This pillar grounds our Abbey future in traditions of excellence and virtue, but it also invites us to look forward to a future made free by that faith and reason at the heart of Benedictine liberal arts education.

Made True: Our highest calling

To be "made true" isn't as simple as it sounds. Or as easy.

On the surface, it evokes a craftsman working from a design or a blueprint. "Made true" suggests a pattern against which something is measured and by which it is formed. It implies a consciousness of standard,

purpose, or objective — and it places the "made" thing as a passive object in relation to the maker.

At the same time, to be "made true" means that the object has diverged from truth — or at best affects a rough approximation of it. Something that's already true to form doesn't need to be "made true." There's a corrective element at work.

Indeed, these implications resonate with our experience and understanding. It's true, after all, that we are imperfect beings. Our creatureliness, compounded by our fallen nature, means that we rely on God for all that we have and all that we are. It's quite a paradox that this is not the whole truth.

As creatures formed in the image and likeness of God, being "made true" involves more than the inert, material match of product to the pattern. We are made in the image of our Maker, and our essential humanity flourishes by participating in the very act of creation — His work in our own lives. We aren't "made true" as human creatures unless we embrace both our lowliness and our active role in God's creative love.

To model Belmont Abbey's capital campaign on the theme "Made True" points to more than our passive accommodation to any particular mold. As a Benedictine liberal arts college, the Abbey recognizes that being "made true" involves active encounters as much as humble receptivity. It's a part of God's profound, affectionate mercy that we are co-creators within our individual and shared lives.

As a part of the Abbey family, we are "made true" with and in it. The work of educating students, revitalizing culture, and reclaiming the public square is not something we acknowledge from a distance but something we are intimately



involved with. These are missions that we "make true" together and which, in turn, help to make us true as participants in God's creative love.

When each new freshman arrives at the Abbey, his or her August orientation includes a crash course in brickmaking.

Each student takes a mound of wet clay and uses it to make a brick, imprinted with the year. These bricks are then fired and stored for future use in campus construction and maintenance. This activity is not simply a gesture toward the first Belmont Abbey monks — who made the bricks for the first buildings and pathways — but also as a sign of the ongoing participation through which each community member builds up this remarkable place.

We are "made true" to the extent that we abandon ourselves to God's workings in our lives, actively cooperating in this work through our generosity and hope—and better able, with each grace-filled circumstance, to participate with the true, the good, and the beautiful.



SCAN TO VIEW the Made True Campaign video and further explore the three pillars.

OR VISIT bac.edu/madetrue

Our Benedictine

identity informs



Sharing a tradition in support of excellence

Part of something bigger

What sets Belmont Abbey College apart?



BOB GALLAGHER ALUM '72 | PARENT **GRANDPARENT**

There's a Benedictine charism to meet all strangers as though they were Jesus Christ. The monks and the administration have tried to do that. If you meet all people as though they were Christ, that will be something pretty special.

The monks, who live just 50 yards away, intermingle with the students. You see them walking down Abbey Lane in their habits. Their presence tells you there's more to life than what you see on television or social media. It's a contrast. It's beautiful, even foundational.

How did you first encounter Belmont Abbey?



MIKE SNYDER

ALUM'62

I came here in 1958 as a student and didn't really fall in love with the place then. The freshman class was a struggle, but soon we bonded and could mix with the upper-class guys. I graduated in 1962.

About halfway through the first semester, I realized the bounty that was here, and it just made life very easy because everyone was helpful. Upperclassmen were glad to show you the ropes. Then the intramurals program created real bonds.

What are Belmont Abbey students like?



MIKE SOIGNET

PARENT

When you look at the student body here, there's so much joy, whether in athletics or academics. You recognize people who are generally happy in what they're doing and don't have to fit into one mold. You don't have to be an athlete; you don't have to be a scholar. It's a place where all those things are nurtured. Belmont Abbey does a great job of equipping students to move out into the world because it models an environment where you can be successful.



SCAN to hear Bob Gallagher talk about why he supports Belmont Abbey College OR VISIT bac.edu/gallagher

How would you explain the Abbey to someone?

BOB GALLAGHER:

I can't explain it better than my good friend Humpy Wheeler did at a board meeting one day, probably 25 years ago. Humpy said, "Belmont Abbey College changes lives."

If you go to a secular university, the predominant value is that there's no such thing as objective truth. Well, if there's no

such thing as objective truth, everything goes out the window. But if there is objective truth and it can be known, then that's the foundation of who we should try to become. The search for truth is the foundation of a Benedictine education. When done correctly, it's imparted to the students, who build upon it for the rest of their lives.

What kind of education do students receive here?

MIKE SNYDER: It

took me a few years to appreciate my education. When you reach about 35, you realize why you had four years of philosophy and theology. I had a family by then, and I continued to grow. My intellectual experience through philosophy and theology helped me raise and guide my family in the right direction.

What is Belmont Abbey's mission?

BOB GALLAGHER:

Belmont Abbey's mission is to educate young people in the liberal arts within the Benedictine tradition. After the fall of the Roman Empire, everything fell apart. Who was it that saved civilization? It was the Benedictines. New towns grew up around the monasteries. They saved education. Ultimately, we who live in the West owe something to the Benedictines. The mission of this college is to take that rich history and use it to provide a solid education, which cultivates the capacity to find the truth. A Benedictine education means that truth exists and it's knowable.



What are our students most grateful for?



DALTON SMITH, Senior

I am most grateful for the professors here that want to know their students and help us in any way they can.



I am most thankful for the wonderful community and the great friendships that I have made here at the Abbey.

I am most grateful for the dance program at the Abbey. Mrs. Hayes has done an extraordinary job guiding the dance students. She constantly encourages us to love the art of dance and to feel confident in every little improvement.

ELIJAH J STANSBERRY, Sophomore

Here at the Abbey, there is an air of growth, where you can not only discover who you are, but they provide you with all the tools so that you can choose who you want to be for the rest of your life. I have discovered who I am and the kind of man I want to be all because of the Abbey.



RONAN OSTENDORF, *Junior* The Adoration Chapel



What is your hope for Belmont Abbey College?

MIKE SOIGNET: One of my kids attended and graduated from Belmont Abbey College, and the faculty supported them. Throughout those four years, they formed so many personal relationships.

There are lots of places you can go for a four-year degree, but ultimately you want to go where you'll be challenged and pushed, where you'll encounter experienced faculty, and where people care about you individually. In addition to the caliber of education. Belmont Abbey cultivates personal relationships.

BOB GALLAGHER: I hope that Belmont Abbey continues to influence young people's lives for another hundred vears and more because what it represents is truth, and we need the truth. I've got several grandchildren here as students. I want my great, great, great grandchildren to get that same message, that same foundation. If they have that, they can face the world, whatever it throws at them, and they'll be fine. If they don't, the world will eat them up and spit them out.

Why should people support Made True?

MIKE SNYDER: If you look at what Belmont Abbey is now compared to where they were, say 10 or 15 years ago, we are light years from where we were.

Anyone that wants to back a winner can see that Belmont Abbey is on that threshold. The students being educated here will amplify precisely what you want to support respect for your fellow man. That's what these students are trained to do.

MIKE SOIGNET: Made True is about fulfilling Belmont Abbey College's mission. It's about putting God first, putting life first. The campaign is about solidifying what has existed, so the good work continues into the future.

When I first became involved, the college was struggling. It didn't have the needed resources, but I saw more and more people get involved. I've always wondered, "How can we grow because there's something great here?" More people need to know what's happening at Belmont Abbey College. People want to see students growing in their faith, receiving formation in virtue and excellence so they can go out and change the world and it's all happening here.

What are our students most grateful for?

MORGAN LANZO, Senior

I'm grateful for the Honors College and the Abbey Players here at Belmont Abbey College for the ways they challenge and inspire me to explore

beyond the limits of what I thought was possible for me as a student, not just as an individual, but as a member of two vibrant and dedicated communities, as well as equipping me with the knowledge I need to succeed as I advance into the professional world.

BEN DERRIG, Sophomore

What I am most grateful here at the Abbey is the atmosphere around this campus and how incredibly neat

the campus is, with the beautiful and historic architecture and the Catholic presence on campus. I also love the connections the Motorsports Management program has, especially after being able to meet many drivers in NASCAR, IndyCar, and Formula One, as well as corporate executives and team owners.

JULIA CONGER, Senior

I am grateful for the friends I have made.

HELEN BEHE. Senior

Being in the Honors College means being a part of something bigger than yourself. It's a community of students who, encouraged by their professors, approach each text with wonder and their own unique way of seeking the truth.

TAMIYA ELLIS

Everything is a little bit more closeknit, and the community's smaller, so that you get more of the attention that you need, instead of being lost in the big

crowds at other, bigger universities.

MATÍAS BESTERIO

One of my favorite things about the Abbey is the people here. I like to talk to the monks; they're pretty cool. And being with my coaches and teammates is pretty cool as well. I love to talk to them; they are great people. Raise the red!





You are invited to

HOMECOMING 2023

October 5 - 8, 2023





THURSDAY OCTOBER 5, 2023

• 1876 Heritage Society Dinner

FRIDAY OCTOBER 6, 2023

- Welcome Back Center
- Class of 1973 50th Reunion
- Wall of Fame
- Welcome Back Concert with Scythian



- President's Breakfast
- Alumni Field Games
- Class of 1998 25th reunion
- Abbey Players Reunion
- Open House Mix and Mingle

SUNDAY OCTOBER 8, 2023 • Farewell Brunch

- Mass of Remembrance



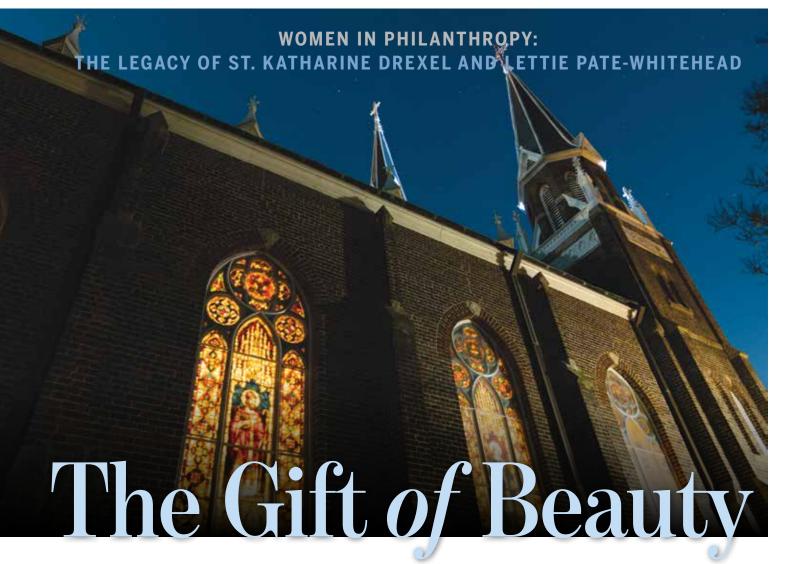












I REMEMBER THE FIRST TIME I SAW BELMONT ABBEY'S BASILICA.

To my untutored imagination at 17 years old, it was like beholding a real-life castle — the kind you see in a Disney movie from an imaginary **DR. CHRISTINE** world of princesses, princes, nobility, and tradition.

J. BASIL '11

Assistant Professor, Honors College

It was beautiful, and its defining grandeur left an imprint on my heart and mind, becoming a bedrock in my imagination that played no small part in drawing me to the Abbey, first as a student and later as a faculty member.

Even now, on the way to my office in St. Leo's Hall, I still feel a thrill when I pull into the main entrance of campus and see the Basilica of Our Lady Help of Christians, welcoming me on my way to perform the less fantastical, though rich and rewarding, tasks associated with being a professor here.

Faithful philanthropy

Only in recent years did I learn the significance of the Basilica and Abbey in the history of American Catholicism — and the way it was shaped by saintly intervention.

In the early 1890s, the Basilica's construction was on the brink of stalling due to a lack of financial resources. Abbot Leo Haid turned to a prominent Catholic philanthropist to seek aid.

That philanthropist was Mother Katharine Drexel of Philadelphia, then a 35-year-old nun whose inheritance became the foundation of a religious order dedicated to aiding Native Americans and African Americans. Today, we know her as St. Katharine Drexel, canonized in 2000 by Pope St. John Paul II.

Before she entered religious life and founded the Sisters of

'There is no use in butting the head against the hard wall of prejudice—but we may climb over the wall or go around it slowly—especially by good example. There are other reasons—but let these suffice.'

ABBOT LEO HAID, FROM A LETTER TO ST. KATHARINE DREXEL ABOUT THE MORAL EXAMPLE OF INTEGRATED WORSHIP

the Blessed Sacrament in 1891, Katharine was one of America's wealthiest heiresses, born in 1858 into the Drexel family of Philadelphia. While her family pursued philanthropic giving that served as the financial bedrock of many charities and universities, Katharine felt a call to devote not only her fortune but her very life to the service of God in the Catholic Church.

Her order's unique apostolate ministered to minority populations left behind in post-Civil War America — especially through education. During her travels across the nation as a young woman with her stepmother and sisters, Katharine witnessed minority communities' struggles firsthand. These encounters planted the seeds of her life's vocation to service and giving.

Building Belmont

When Abbot Haid received funds from Mother Drexel to complete Our Lady Help of Christians Church (which would become North Carolina's first Cathedral), he did so in accord with what came to be known as "the Drexel conditions." These conditions required that any church built with the future saint's aid would move towards racial integration within the worship space by allowing African Americans to worship within.

While Abbot Haid had already provided measures for integrated worship, "the well-publicized 'conditions' Katharine Drexel imposed when she helped build a church" provided leverage "to people like Haid who sought to secure this relative racial unity,"

writes Fr. Paschal Baumstein in his biography of Leo Haid.

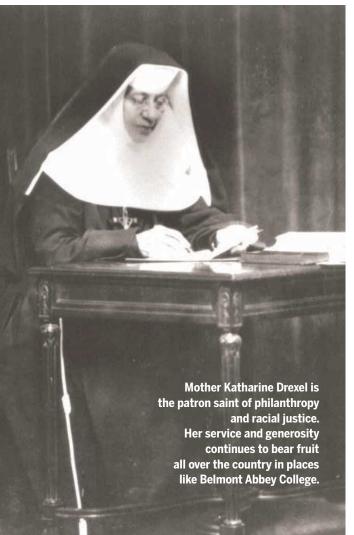
In a letter to Mother Drexel, Abbot Haid emphasized the larger effect her donation would have in establishing a moral example of integrated worship in what was then the Jim Crow south:

If the Benedictines at the Abbey and in Charlotte break down the ugly prejudices against [racial minorities]—it would go far to enable the Bishop to insist on building all future churches large enough to make room for [racial minorities]. This last reason seems to me the principal motive. There is no use in butting the head against the hard wall of prejudice — but we may climb over the wall or go around it slowly — especially by good example. There are other reasons — but let these suffice.... It would do my heart good to see some black faces there too - in the body of the church at that.

Saint Katharine's generosity allowed for the completion of the Abbey Basilica of Maryhelp, which continues to welcome students, faculty, and visitors of all backgrounds into the warmth of our monastic community, which abides by the hallmark of encountering everyone it meets in persona Christi — as though greeting Christ himself.

Its iconic beauty is the fruit of the hidden labors of that community, brought to completion through the saint's \$4,000 gift. Her donation — a vast sum at the time — seems today inconceivably small to build something so beautiful. While the monetary value of that donation has

CONTINUES ON NEXT PAGE





CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE substantially decreased in today's economy, the value of what she gave has only increased with time.

Firm foundation

Architecture is like education — it provides the space for flourishing and shapes the places in our souls too deep for words that reach out for divine beauty, truth, and goodness. While Mother Drexel's gift to build the Basilica continues to afford our community a space to worship and encounter the divine, so too do those benefactors who provide the financial assistance that allows students to encounter the truth, beauty, and goodness of God through education.

Perhaps less known to many who inhabit the Abbey community than the relationship between Mother Drexel and the Belmont Abbey community is the relationship between the college and the foundations that have contributed to the flourishing and educational opportunities of our students.

The Lettie Pate-Whitehead Foundation stands out among these. Conkey Pate Whitehead chartered the foundation in 1946 to honor his remarkable mother's life and legacy. Belmont Abbey College has enjoyed a relationship with the foundation since the 1980s.

Letitia "Lettie" Pate was born in Virginia in 1872, just four years before the Abbey and College were founded. Lettie, as she was known, was a precocious learner born into a devout Episcopalian family. Her early life was marked by a dedication to faith and learning during her family's financial instability.

During her youth, Lettie

lived "among elderly female family members of uncertain means." The absence of formal education and economic uncertainty among these women later influenced her interests as a philanthropist. The foundation that bears her name was specifically chartered "for the aid and benefit of poor and deserving Christian girls and women" in nine states, including North Carolina.

How did this unique girl become the woman capable of establishing a philanthropic organization that since 1946 has given some \$767 million in aid?

In 1894, while in her early twenties, Lettie Pate married Joseph Brown Whitehead, an attorney turned businessman. A few years into their marriage, Joseph approached Asa Candler, the president of the Coca-Cola Company, with an innovative idea: why not bottle the famed fountain soda?

Candler and his colleagues deemed this scheme "preposterous" and sold Joseph and his business partner the exclusive bottling rights for Coca-Cola for just one dollar — a single dollar that would become the seed of one of America's great financial successes in the 20th century.

When Joseph Whitehead died suddenly at the age of 42 in 1906, Lettie Pate Whitehead did not allow grief or premature widowhood to crush her spirit. She helped ensure a bright future for the bottling business and became one of the early 20th century's most successful businesswomen. She became one of the first women ever to sit on a major corporate board when she joined the Coca-Cola

Joseph Whitehead bought exclusive Coca-Cola bottling rights for \$1 at the turn of the century

PHOTO BY WILERSON S. ANDRADE VIA FLICKR / CREATIVE COMMONS

Company board of directors in 1934. Lettie died in 1953, leaving her entire estate to charity. She also inspired her sons to dedicate their fortunes to worthy philanthropic causes.

Two years later in Philadelphia, Mother Drexel went home to her Lord, leaving the remainder of her family's estate to the philanthropic and educational endeavors of her religious order.

Saint Katharine Drexel and Lettie Pate Whitehead Evans were two of the 20th century's most remarkable American women, each with a distinct path in the service of God and struggling neighbors, providing a model of generosity that continues to bless and inspire us today.

These women serve as a reminder that the beauty of a philanthropic gift is its ability to bear fruit long into the future.

Saint Katharine's gift provides a glimpse of beauty, spires reaching towards the divine, that blesses our community every day. It is an icon of the soul searching for God, that in all things He may be glorified, the very kind of soul that the Lettie Pate Whitehead Foundation seeks to build up by providing educational opportunities to women with

significant financial need.

These gifts break the bounds of time and span generations. Their lives also remind us of something else: so many good things can hinge on the life of a single person. These valiant women — in their perseverance through adversity in pursuit of the good and true — became an origin of goodness for countless others.

Not all of us have the financial means of St. Katharine Drexel or Lettie Pate Evans Whitehead, but, in the end, each woman gave all she had, her very substance, her life. May their example call each of us to do the same.

Pate Whitehead Foundation officials visit campus

TWO SENIOR OFFICIALS from the Lettie Pate Whitehead Foundation visited Belmont Abbey College over the past few months.

» Carrie Conway, the Foundation's senior program officer, visited campus last October to meet with most of the students who received scholarship funding from the Foundation this year.

During her visit, Conway also met with Belmont Abbey leadership to discuss updates at the college. She also toured the new nursing space on the Sacred Heart Campus.

"I got a real sense of the positive momentum on campus and the many exciting initiatives underway," Conway said. "And I especially enjoyed the opportunity to meet with Lettie Pate Whitehead Scholars."

» In January, the Foundation's chair, **Lyons Gray**, met with the 56 students who received a total of \$220,000 in scholarship money.

Marveling that they could all benefit from one woman's vision, all those years ago, Gray said, "I'm honored to be part of it.

"We don't go around seeking

publicity," he added. "Our goal is to help people, not to be on the front page."

When he asked students what they most loved about the Abbey, the scholarship recipients shared their own stories and the ways that the College continues to form them

Riley, a sophomore pre-med student with a major in Health Care Management and a minor in Biology, reflected that "the monks especially make this place feel like home."

Alexis, a sophomore in Business Management, agreed: "The professors really care about you.... It feels like I'm home."

"We're blessed that [Lettie Pate Whitehead] had such foresight," said Dr. William Thierfelder, looking around at the students and pointing out that, in a way, these were the children Lettie and her husband never had.

Lesley, a Business Management senior, spoke for all the students when she told Gray, "I appreciate



During her campus visit, Carrie Conway (right) meets with Phil Brach, Vice President of College Relations (left), and Dr. Carolyn S. Harmon, Dean of Nursing (center).

all that you're doing for all of us.... Thank you, and God bless you."

Before the group dispersed for lunch, Gray told the scholarship recipients, "I wish you each success on your journey. You never know what those experiences will be, so enjoy them."



The ground on which we stand

Examining the fruits of nearly a century and a half of sacrificial giving

I'LL NEVER FORGET THE DAY I FELL IN LOVE with Belmont Abbey College. It was Feb. 17, 2007. I was a senior in high school visiting the Abbey for the first time. I enjoyed meeting the upperclassmen, attending the liturgies, and participating in the various activities of Scholarship Weekend. But what stood out the most was the beauty of the grounds.

The woods, the fields, the gentle slopes, the architecture of the

BY DR. THOMAS VARACALLI'11

Assistant Professor, Honors College

buildings, and even the clay in the soil captivated me. I distinctly remember standing in front of

St. Leo's and looking down Abbey Lane as a slight breeze whistled past. At that moment, a strong sense of interior peace came over me, and I knew that God wanted me to attend the Abbey.

Many current students, alumni, faculty, staff, and benefactors have had a similar experience. The Abbey's grounds are naturally beautiful, but they have been further perfected by the cultivation and stewardship of the monks and the Abbey community.

A history of giving

As we approach the Abbey's 150th anniversary in 2026, we have the unique opportunity to reexamine its origins, which owe so much to generations of sacrificial

In fact, the very first gift the monks received was the land itself. Both the college and monastery

stand on the old Caldwell farm. The original 500-acre farm, just a few miles west of Charlotte, dates back to the Revolutionary War. The Caldwells were local gentry with notable military laurels. The first Captain Samuel Caldwell fought with distinction during the Revolution, and a later namesake served in the Confederate Army.

The Civil War decimated North Carolina's economy. After the death of the latter Caldwell, the property was put up for auction. Father Jeremiah O'Connell, a priest stationed in Charlotte. bought the Caldwell estate for \$10 cash on Dec. 18, 1871.

O'Connell, an ailing missionary priest with grand ambitions to build a Catholic college in the South. had already founded a college in 1857. But St. Mary's College in Columbia, South Carolina, had failed after six years.

Even with this failure and his declining health, his desire to build another institution of higher learning never faded. He acquired the Caldwell estate with the hope of donating the land to a religious order that would establish a

Catholic college.

The prospect proved more daunting than expected.

Father O'Connell's property was then in the middle of nowhere. According to the 1870 Census. Gaston County had a population of approximately 13,000, while Charlotte had fewer than 5,000 people. The unincorporated town of Garibaldi (modern-day Belmont) consisted of little more than three stores and a train station.

The farmland was beautiful, but it produced only modest harvests. The clay in the soil hindered yield. as the Benedictine monks would later discover. Despite owning the land for almost a century, the Caldwells had never cleared the full

Nevertheless, several religious orders showed interest in the property for its remoteness, in terms of Catholic population centers. With only a handful of Catholics living in Gaston County, and with a mere 800 Catholics living anywhere in North Carolina at the time, the site was missionary territory.

Father O'Connell convinced Bishop James Gibbons of



Fr. Jeremiah O'Connell purchased the future site of **Belmont Abbey** College for \$10 cash in 1872.



Richmond to help him find a religious order. Abbot Boniface Wimmer of St. Vincent Archabbey accepted their offer in 1876. Wimmer, a native Bavarian, had migrated to the United States and founded St. Vincent, the first Benedictine monastery in the United States.

From his perch in Latrobe, Pennsylvania, he had then established several other monasteries throughout the country. Wimmer's missionary zeal was unique for the Benedictine Order. Stability, after all, is a Benedictine vow, and Benedictines rarely engage in missionary activity.

Wimmer had to push back against some initial hesitancy among the Pennsylvania monks to take the property, but he eventually secured enough votes to establish the new venture.

Leadership and growth

The new monastery reflected various aspects of American history. Father Herman Wolfe, its first superior, was a Confederate veteran, while Brother Ulric Barth had fought for the Union. Many of the original monks had immigrated from Europe, especially Bavaria.

With the Caldwell farm, the monks also inherited the "Mariastein," a large granite boulder first used by the Catawba tribe as an altar — and later by the Caldwells as a slave auctioning block. Today, the Mariastein rests in the basilica as a baptismal font.

For much of its first decade, the monastery teetered on the brink of ruin.

Living conditions were uncomfortable, with the buildings little better than shanties. The farm was poorly managed, and tension was high among the monks. After just one year, several monks appealed to Wimmer for a transfer out of North Carolina. Wimmer denied the request, visited the property, and reorganized the

priory for greater efficiency. Still, problems continued.

Enrollment at the college

remained low, and the monks were so poor that they could not afford to paint the buildings.

After Leo Haid became the first abbot in 1885, order gradually improved. Under his leadership the monastery expanded, stricter monastic discipline returned, new buildings were erected, and more students enrolled. Haid oversaw the construction of the Gothic Revival-styled Abbey Basilica of Maryhelp.

Even the Vatican recognized Haid's leadership. He was appointed Apostolic Vicar of North Carolina — the first abbot-bishop in American history. Thanks to Haid's extraordinary leadership, today's Belmont Abbey thrives. But, without Fr. O'Connell, the Abbey's first donor, we would not have even had Abbot Haid!

A culture of giving

When I was a student, I learned the Abbey's history sporadically, mostly from different monks and teachers. I always enjoyed the stories, but I neither fully comprehended the sacrifices made by those who came before me, nor understood the way gift-giving preserves the Abbey.

It took me years to fully appreciate the long-lasting implications of gifts. The monks of Belmont Abbey still own the land O'Connell purchased. They have been faithful stewards of this land for 146 years, praying and working in Belmont for more than half of our country's history!

The good that has come from it is incalculable. It almost brings me to tears, thinking of all the prayers, Masses, religious processions, vocations, conversions, careers, classes, sports games, conversations, and friendships that have sprouted — and will continue to sprout from the Abbev.

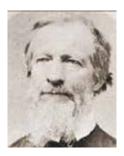
This is because gifts build upon other gifts. Father O'Connell's \$10 contribution provided a string of unforeseen opportunities. When the priest donated the land, he envisioned a college. But because of subsequent gifts, the college developed in ways that he could not have foreseen: a vibrant Catholic community in the Charlotte metropolitan area, generations of dedicated Benedictine monks, a beautiful basilica, a grotto, a stunning adoration chapel, distinguished alumni in various different fields, talented lay faculty and staff, gifted students, beautiful buildings, a distinguished theatre troupe, the Mira Via college residence, and soon a hospital, among many other wonderful things.

Ultimately, we are the beneficiaries of gifts made long ago by people we do not know. I have the unique privilege of being both an alumnus and professor at the

Many of my favorite professors are retired, my former peers have moved away, and monks I once knew form a row of their own in the cemetery. Yet their legacies - spiritual, moral, intellectual, and financial — are an intangible part of the Abbey's heritage and foundation. Their sacrifices ensured that future generations enjoy the fruits of their generosity.

Their gifts and all the gifts that respond to theirs ensure that, in the words of Belmont Abbey's motto, "in all things, God may be glorified" (1 Peter 4:11).

It's humbling to think that Father O'Connell did not see all the fruits of his gift while here on Earth — but he will in heaven. We may not always see the immediate implication of our gifts, but that is because fruit takes time to grow. Scripture tells us that "by their fruits you will know them" (MT 7:20). Truly, God loves the Abbey very much! BAC



Fr. Herman Wolfe and two students arrived on Abbey land in 1876.



The Abbey's founding Abbot. Leo Haid, served as bishop for the entire state of North Carolina.



Abbey alumnus was war veteran, world traveler, and generous family man

Ben Sergeant's enduring legacy

ALTHOUGH WE NEVER MET DURING HIS LIFE. I COUNT

myself among those fortunate enough to have encountered

BY LAURA SCHAFFER Editor

— even vicariously — the irrepressible, funny, gentle, and generous late Ben Sergeant, Abbey alumnus and benefactor.

Thanks to his niece and nephew, Matthilde "Pinkie" Kauffman and Rob Sargeant — and to Rob's wife, Sally — here are a few important pieces of advice I can pass along to you from Ben:

- Travel as much as you can with the people you love, but cherish your roots.
- Always cultivate a sense of humor, no matter life's challenges.
- Marry someone "sympatico;" then take as many nieces and nephews under your wings as possible.
- When in doubt, order a Pisco Sour.









The U.S. government awarded Ben the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star (above) for his sacrifice and service during WW2.

Ben at Colonel's **Cove in 1926** (far left)

Ben as a cadet at Virginia **Polytechnic** Institute in 1940 (left)

"Sympatico" from the beginning, Ben and Kay celebrate their wedding on Jan. 31, 1956 (right).

The Abbey years

Ben Sergeant was born on Jan. 4, 1921. He went home to Our Lord only a few weeks before his 100th birthday. Ben lived almost a century of love and stability. His generosity, however, didn't end with his death but continued in 2021 with a \$3.5 million estate gift to Belmont Abbey.

Since his legacy embraces 16 nieces and nephews, many grandnieces and grand-nephews, and an incalculable number of Belmont Abbey students, faculty, staff, and friends, I'm sure Ben wouldn't mind my sharing his story.

After struggling academically for years, being repeatedly bullied, and even losing his father at a young age, Ben arrived at Belmont Abbey Preparatory School in the late 1930s to find himself quickly at home among the monks and his fellow students.

He learned to compensate for learning disabilities by exercising his prolific memory — even memorizing entire books. He soon discovered in Belmont Abbey the stability and the loving recognition that embraced his potential and invited him more fully into the community.



During his Belmont Abbey years, following which he enrolled as a cadet at the Virginia Polytechnic Institute, Ben flourished.

He became the brave, patient, funny, and imaginative man who would be (among other things) a devoted husband, generous benefactor, and beloved uncle.

Possibly his most inspiring quality, however, was his indefatigable humor. Despite losing his father at eight years old, sustaining life-threatening injuries in France during World War II, and even learning that he and his wife, Kay, couldn't have children, Ben was the kind of man who never allowed his circumstances to diminish his capacity for warmth, generosity, or humor.

Pinkie, Rob, and Rob's wife Sally recalled their Uncle Ben's characteristic playfulness.

A lifelong member of a local swimming club, he used to enjoy kidding the kids. When they saw his shrapnel-scarred back, they'd ask, "What happened to you?"

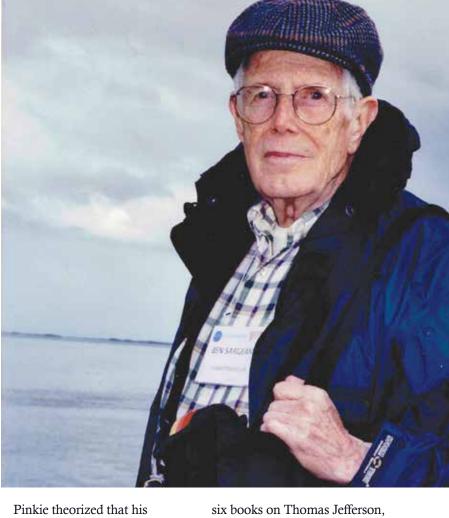
"I used to be an alligator wrestler," he said with a quick smile. "You should have seen the alligators!"

Embracing fatherhood

Ever since his brother Dan's death, Ben had embraced a surrogate, paternal role for Rob and Pinkie. He and Kay loved their nieces and nephews as their own children — even walking Pinkie down the aisle on her wedding day.

The boy who had lost his father at a young age, who could not have children of his own, took to fatherhood with a warmth and grace reminiscent of the Benedictine hospitality he found at Belmont Abbey during his formative years.

Inveterate traveler, Ben relished the opportunity to visit new places, from Scotland to Machu Picchu.



Pinkie theorized that his enduring love for and gratitude toward the Abbey grew, in part, from the way the monks became his paternal figures for him after his father's death.

I got to know "Uncle Ben" and "Aunt Kay" from Rob, Pinkie, and Sally's stories. It made me think about the special kind of hospitality that invites a stranger into family lore.

I learned that Ben and Kay were married for 64 years until Kay died in 2020. I got a sense of their Charlottesville, Virginia, home, with its shelves full of photo albums and guest logs, detailing memorable travels and warm dinner parties.

I watched vicariously as Ben drove his brother, Dan, to church or the grocery store in the years before his death. Dan had suffered from polio as a young child, and he was never able to drive.

I learned that Kay had worked as a researcher and typist for Dumas Malone, who published six books on Thomas Jefferson, dedicating the last of these to her. And I pictured the old note that Rob and Pinkie found in their uncle's things after he died: "Kay Lee Moon" (his wife-to-be's maiden name) and a phone number.

Ultimately, Ben Sergeant's legacy compounds beyond any single — even extraordinary — gift. Our community is eternally grateful to this joyful Abbey alumnus, Second World War veteran, world traveler, and generous family man.

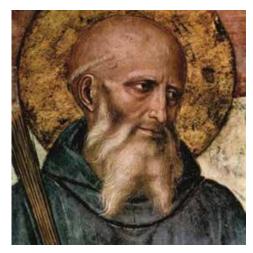
The longtime State Farm
Insurance underwriter lived up to
the challenge in his favorite poem
— Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's
"A Psalm of Life."

Act, - act in the living Present! Heart within, and God o'erhead!

When I consider the largerthan-life gentleman who was Ben Sergeant, I'm certain this wholeheartedly "living present" will continue to reverberate far into the future. BAC

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St. Benedict and You The Life and Influence of This Saint



Political Principles For Catholic Voters Catholic Citizenship: 101



The Benedictine
Hallmarks
A Path to Inner Peace



Tocqueville's
Democracy in America
Exploring the Connection Between
Faith and Freedom



Abbey Lane Update

MONK NEWS

» On March 21, the monastery and college communities celebrated **St. Benedict's Day**. The monastic community was joined at the Mass by priests from the Diocese of Charlotte, including the Vicar General, **Monsignor Patrick Winslow**, and our pastor in Belmont, **Father Paul Buchanan**.

The Sisters of Mercy from Sacred Heart Convent also attended, along with Dr. and Mrs. Thierfelder, members of the Board of Trustees, and other members of the college community.

The community enjoyed lunch in the Haid following the Mass. In the evening, the monastic community hosted the first-year students at the St. Joseph College Seminary for Vespers, supper, and Compline.

- » The monks hosted men from the college community again this year for an **Easter Triduum Retreat**. The students stayed in the monastery from Holy Thursday through dinner on Easter Sunday and assisted the monks at the Triduum liturgies.
- » The monastic community invited the college faculty, staff, and administration to Vespers, followed by a buffet supper, to celebrate **Founders' Day** on April 21, marking the 147th anniversary of Belmont Abbey's founding.



Congratulations, Deacon James Raber!



was ordained a deacon in the Abbey basilica on March 8 by Bishop John Tran, Auxiliary Bishop of Atlanta. Brother James is continuing his studies at Saint Vincent Seminary, Latrobe, Pennsylvania, and will be ordained a priest at the Abbey next spring.

ABBEY LANE UPDATE



BEN IS A PROFESSIONAL ATHLETE for a NASCAR team on the pit crew at RFK Racing. Last year his team won a NASCAR championship with Zane Smith.

CLASS NOTES

1960s

» REGINALD WRIGHT '65

"Reggie" retired at the end of 2020 from Financial Security Consultants, Inc., a consulting firm specializing in civil and criminal tax, forensic, and management support.

» BRUCE BEAUVERD '69

Bruce retired and returned to school to earn a Ph.D. in public health. He will graduate this year. He also enjoyed a trip to Costa Rica recently.

» CLARENCE COLLINS '69

"Chuck" retired from the USMC in '93. He also retired as EVP of Marine Federal Credit Union in 2009. Chuck now serves as Chairman of the Board of Marine Federal CU. He travels extensively with his wife, Patricia Rafferty.

1970s

» WARREN J. JEFFORDS '73

Warren owns an insurance agency and a Piggly Wiggly grocery store.

» JAMES NAYLOR AND NANCY (LINMAN) NAYLOR '73

James and Nancy are both retired, with four married sons and 10 grandchildren. They live in Las Vegas but plan on moving back to Virginia Beach. James and his sons are all dual citizens of the U.S. and Ireland, and James and Nancy always make sure to stop in the Emerald Isle when traveling in Europe. They've also enjoyed visiting their sons, who live and teach in China and South Korea.

» BERNARD SCIBIENSKI '75

Bernard has just returned from a Rhine cruise, during which he and Patricia celebrated 46 years of marriage. They fondly remember flying Father Oscar Burnett to New Jersey to officiate their wedding.

» CHARLES GRISSOM '79

Charles is retired after 35 years in the international logistics industry.

1990s

» JAMES PETTIS '95

James has been retired since 2016, and he enjoys traveling three or four times per year.

» TARA GOODFELLOW '97

In addition to owning Athena Consultants, Inc., Tara started teaching public high school at 46 years old, offering Business Essentials for the Career Technical Education (CTE) program at Independence High School.

2010s

» MIKE LAHETA '12 ALLY (CRAVEN) LAHETA '14

Mike and Ally, currently living in Florida, welcomed their second child in May of 2022. Mike works for NASCAR and enjoys playing golf whenever he can. Ally is currently taking a year off teaching and is enjoying her time with their two children.

» STEVE DOWLING '15

Steve will graduate from Hood Theological Seminary this year with his Master of Divinity.

» MICHAEL WAITE '15 KASSONDRA (EASTER) WAITE '17

Michael and Kassondra welcomed a "future crusader" early this year.

» STEPHEN HUEBER '17

Stephen's new daughter was born at the end of 2022.

» EMILY (HOPEL) '17 PETER KOBET '17

Emily and Peter recently

welcomed a baby daughter, Theodore!

» SEAN MORIARTY '17

Sean and his wife welcomed a new baby girl in May.

» DANIEL PETERS '17

Baby Peters number three was born in May.

» JARRETT SCHMIDT '17

Jarrett graduated medical school in 2022

and is currently in his first year of anesthesiology residency at the University of Florida.

» CATHERINE CASEY '18 CLAY DIMICK '17

Catherine and Clay are awaiting the birth of their second child. They recently bought their first home and started a coffee brand based on their conversion stories to the Catholic Church.



ASHLEY (NAVAS) '20 PATRICK BAGATTA '20

CONGRATULATIONS TO ASHLEY AND

PATRICK on their beautiful wedding!

» HAILEE JARRY '18

Hailee opened a gourmet donut shop in Lincolnton, North Carolina, called Sweet Side Bakery & Cafe. The shop sells out almost every day!

» NATALIE NELSON '18

After graduation, Natalie moved back to Idaho to work for a recruiting company called Redfish Technology, a talent agency for small Silicon Valley startups. She then moved to Boise and started her own contracting company, ultimately working full time with SMHeurestics. A year later, she married Aaron Lair, and almost a year after that, they had their first child.

» MEAGHAN JONES '19

Meaghan was married at the Abbey in 2021 and welcomed a baby girl in July 2022.

HAVE YOU RETIRED? MARRIED?

Traveled somewhere exciting? Taken on a new job or welcomed a new baby? We'd love to hear from you! To be featured in the next issue of Belmont Abbey College Magazine, please email your life updates to collegerelations@ bac.edu



Fill us in on your

new arrival, and

we'll send a cuddly,

Abbey ambassador

to welcome the future

Crusader!

CONGRATULATIONS TO TAYLOR AND EMMA, who welcomed a new arrival this year.

IN MEMORIAM

» STANLEY NORTON '62



Jacksonville Beach, FL September 29, 2022

» BRENDA TYSON Lake Wylie, SC OCTOBER 13, 2022

» GRANT E. OHORI Chicago, IL OCTOBER 19, 2022

» RICHARD JOSEPH KINGSTON. JR. Fort Mill, SC November 1, 2022

» JACK LEE STECK '67



St. Simons Island, GA NOVEMBER 10, 2022

» ELAINE KASPARIAN Belmont, NC NOVEMBER 13, 2022

» ROBERT F. DAUGHERTY. JR. '63



Pinehurst, NC November 15, 2022

» STEVEN MICHAELS, SR. Gastonia, NC NOVEMBER 16, 2022

» AMANDA LOUISE (GLADD) BLANCHARD Fairbanks, AK NOVEMBER 19, 2022

» JOSEPH MICHAEL (JOE JOE) WHITLEY '59 Washington, NC November 23, 2022

» JULIO F. PRIETO

Rome, GA NOVEMBER 24, 2022

» ALPHONSO PATRICK, JR. '62



Salisbury, NC November 27, 2022

» MARGARET GORMAN '92

Brockton, MA NOVEMBER 28, 2022

» WALTER HAROLD WINDLEY, JR. '57

Gastonia, NC **DECEMBER 7, 2022**

» JOSEPH CHARLES FORD '72



Vestavia Hills, AL DECEMBER 8, 2022

» SANDRA HOLLOWAY STEPP REYNOLDS '92



Gastonia, NC DECEMBER 8, 2022

» ALMA HEDRICK

Dickson, TN DECEMBER 10, 2022

» JOHN EDWIN **SCHACHTE III '67**



Charleston, SC DECEMBER 10, 2022

» PATRICIA O'NEILL '61



Charlotte, NC DECEMBER 13, 2022

» PAUL JEROME POLKING

Charlotte. NC **DECEMBER 14, 2022**

» TIMOTHY J. O'CONNOR '92



Toms River, NJ DECEMBER 26, 2022

» SR. MARY MONICA PEREZ Belmont, NC

DECEMBER 27, 2022

» JOAN (JOANNE) RUFF

Charlotte, NC **DECEMBER 28, 2022**

» DONALD RAY DeSANTO, SR. '59



Greensboro, NC January 7, 2023

» JACQUELINE YOUNG

Rock Hill, SC January 19, 2023

» JOHN WILLIS SHANLEY '67

Madison, VA JANUARY 30, 2023

» GREGORY DEROCK

Salisburv, NC February 16, 2023

» LINN BROSNAN

Mount Holly, NC February 18, 2023

» FRED PAYONK '71

Gastonia, NC February 28, 2023

» DOROTHY KLINGENSMITH

Atlanta, GA March 7, 2023

» JOHN LAVERTY '86

Lynchburg, VA March 9, 2023

» MARY FITZGERALD '78



Sandy Springs, GA March 15, 2023

» JULIAN MASSI '59

Charlotte. NC March 26, 2023

» PRESTON GUITON '61

Charlotte, NC March 27, 2023

» BOBBY BRIDGES '72



Gastonia, NC March 30, 2023

» THOMAS SUGGS

Concord, NC APRIL 6, 2023

» DARRYL GRENIER '69

Simpsonville, SC April 7, 2023

» JAMES ZECHINI '75



Lynchburg, VA April 9, 2023

» WILLIAM CONWAY WALKER '61

CHAPEL HILL, NC April 12, 2023



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