“Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but only one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may win.” [1 Corinthians 9:24]

We have all heard St. Paul’s quote many times. And I suspect that our life experiences will influence how the above phrase is received and how we individually define victory. I know that my father was a bit disappointed that his firstborn son was not more of an athlete and hunter. During my youth he took me fishing and hunting. I loved being in the woods and quietly walking through streams, especially in the fall. The first and last time I shot a rifle was during deer season 1959; and after firing I landed in the largest thistle bush in northern Wisconsin. Since then I have only shot a camera while in the woods. I tried.

At 12, with dad’s enthusiastic support, I went to the tryouts for a local Babe Ruth team. My dad practiced with me—every position. I was cut after the first day, as I was for the next two years. I knew that I would before even trying, as I was almost always the last kid chosen for “sides” for any team. During my first years of teaching I participated in a donkey-basketball fundraiser at the school. My four-legged friend and I were the entertainment! I never stayed in the saddle longer than five seconds and my ride was the only one to foul the gym floor. I tried.

I think we all realize that St. Paul’s reference to “race” was a metaphor for a lot of other things than those just related to sports. As Paul also reminds us, there are many gifts: “There are different kinds of spiritual gifts but the same Spirit; there are different forms of service but the same Lord; there are different workings but the same God who produces all of them in everyone. To each individual the manifestation of the Spirit is given for some benefit.” [1 Corinthians 12:4-7]

Our challenge as Christians is to take the specific gifts we have and use them for the benefit of all, in the best way we can. As Pope Francis reminds us, we need to try, as it is indeed good for the heart:

“Remain steadfast in the journey of faith, with firm hope in the Lord. This is the secret of our journey! He gives us the courage to swim against the tide. Pay attention, my young friends: to go against the current; this is good for the heart, but we need courage to swim against the tide. Jesus gives us this courage!” [Pope Francis]

We all will have the opportunity to swim against the tide. Abbot Pennings did so when he left Berne Abbey in the Netherlands in 1893 to work among the Belgians in Door County and eventually accepted the bishop's invitation to start a new community of Norbertines. He did the same when he started a school (the future St. Norbert College) in 1898. We Norbertines took a chance on a struggling NFL football team franchise in the 1930s and began to broadcast their games on our fledgling campus radio station. Those early risks paid off when we secured the first television broadcast license in northeast Wisconsin in 1953. By the 1960s the Packers were playing championship football, shared far and wide over those early television transmission waves, and we’ve since spent decades together making Sundays wonderfully exciting. (When I was a 10-year-old boy, a very young Bart Starr even rode my bike to practice!)

A good try and a little faith can go a long way. Discover your gifts and gift the world over and over again.

G. N. P. O. Proven.
Norbertines’ white habits pair well with Packers’ green and gold.

Abbey Magazine is a biannual publication of the St. Norbert Abbey community that illumines life at the abbey and welcomes readers into that life, mind, and spirit.

Abbot

Publisher

Executive Editor
Judy Turba

Managing Editor
Gina Sanders Larsen

Creative Director
Scott Mueller

Contributing Writers
Fr. John Bostwick, O. Praem.
Katrina Marshall
Judy Turba

Norbertine Editorial Consultants
John Bostwick, O. Praem.
Angelo Feldkamp, O. Praem.
Stephen Rossey, O. Praem.
Tim Shillcox, O. Praem.

Contributing Photographers
Jerry Turba

Please submit letters, articles, and inquiries to:
Judy Turba
St. Norbert Abbey
1016 N. Broadway
De Pere, WI 54115
e-mail: judy.turba@norbertines.org
phone: (920) 337-4312
web: norbertines.org

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Sport and
Hockey, soccer, running, volleyball, football, martial arts, cycling—what does sport have to do with spirituality? Paul famously uses athletic imagery to discuss the Christian life, from winning the race, receiving the crown, and the training required (Heb. 12:1, 2 Tim. 4:7, 1 Cor. 9:24-26). The world of sport offers a rich array of ways to describe our following of Christ. The notion of asceticism, so central to Christian spiritual teaching, is rooted in the idea of askesis, the “training rules” of the athletes which enable them to be stronger, swifter, more fit, and successful in their sports. Askesis becomes asceticism, the spiritual disciplines—especially prayer, fasting, and acts of charity—which make fit the Christian to achieve the goal of life in Christ, of holiness.

Image and metaphor are good and helpful connections between sport and spirituality, but after teaching scholar-athletes for a few decades, I learned that the sport-spirituality connection is much deeper. Beyond metaphor lies the reality that sport can be—and often is—an expression of spirituality in itself. Sport can trigger an experience of the Transcendent and of self-transcendence; sport is often a celebration of community. Sport brings people together in awesome ways. Witness the effect of the Olympics, the World Cup, the Stanley Cup, or more locally, the role the Packers football team plays in northeast Wisconsin or the positive energy that four national hockey championships give to St. Norbert College. Sport catches people up in longing, in discipline, in achievement, and often in self-giving and joy.

At its best, sport is an embodied act of thanks and praise to God, a fitting use of body and spirit to glorify the Giver of Life. All this as held within the experience of healthy athleticism—not as an add-on, but in its very essence, even if the athlete may not have the spiritual language to name it. God is present, enlivening the human experience. And we praise God not only in our minds and words, but also in our bodies.

“I feel God’s pleasure when I run.”
“Yo siento la complacencia de Dios cuando estoy corriendo.”

Eric Liddell in/en “Chariots of Fire/Carros de Guerra Ardientes”

Hockey, balompié, carrera, volibol, fútbol americano, artes marciales, ciclismo—¿qué tiene que ver el deporte con la espiritualidad? San Pablo es famoso por utilizar imágenes atléticas para hablar de la vida cristiana, véase ganando la carrera, recibiendo la corona, y el entrenamiento requerido (Heb. 12:1, 2 Tim. 4:7, 1 Cor. 9:24-26). El mundo de los deportes ofrece una rica variedad de maneras para describir nuestro seguimiento de Cristo. La noción de asceticismo, tan central para la enseñanza de la espiritualidad cristiana, se arraiga en la idea de askesis, las “reglas de entrenamiento” de los atlétas que los capacita para ser más fuertes, más velozes, más dispuestos, y más exitosos en sus deportes. Askesis llega a ser el asceticismo, las disciplinas espirituales—especialmente la oración, el ayuno, y los actos de caridad—que alistan al Cristiano para lograr la meta de vida en Cristo, de la santidad.

Imagen y metáfora son conexiones buenas y útiles entre el deporte y la espiritualidad, pero después de enseñar a estudiantes-atlétas por unas pocas décadas, he aprendido que la conexión deporte-espiritualidad es mucho más profunda. Más allá de metáfora se encuentra la realidad que el deporte puede ser—y muchas veces es—una expresión de la espiritualidad misma. El deporte puede disparar una experiencia de lo Trascendente y de la trascendencia de uno mismo; el deporte con frecuencia es una celebración de comunidad. El deporte reúne a la gente en maneras impresionantes. Fíjese en el efecto de la Olympiada, del “World Cup,” del “Stanley Cup,” o más local-mente, el papel que el equipo fútbol de los “Packers” juega en el noreste de Wisconsin o la energía positiva que cuatro campeonatos nacionales en hockey han dado a St. Norbert College. El deporte involucra a las personas en los anhelos, en la disciplina, en los logros, y muchas veces en la entrega propia y la alegría.

En mejor caso, el deporte es un acto encarnado de gratitud y alabanza a Dios, un uso apropiado del cuerpo y del espíritu para glorificar al Dador de la Vida. Todo esto como tenido dentro de la experiencia de un atletismo—no como añadidura, pero dentro de su propia esencia, aunque el atleta posiblemente no tenga el lenguaje espiritual para nombrarlo. Dios está presente, vivificando la experiencia humana. Alabamos a Dios no solamente con nuestras mentes y palabras, sino también con nuestros cuerpos.
“Sports, in fact, can make an effective contribution to peaceful understanding between peoples and to establishing the new civilization of love.”

Pope John Paul II, founder of the Vatican Office for Church and Sport

Prior to every match during the 2014 World Cup, the following message was shared: “Today we come together to strive not only for victory in the game, but also for the victory of peace. Brazil, the United Nations and FIFA wish to share a message of peace, tolerance, and respect for human rights...”

Through athletics, women and men come to understand the importance of teamwork, discipline, integrity, and perseverance. It is ultimately the coaches who instill these ideals, be it Little League, high school, college, or professional sports. Exceptional coaches are difference-makers, helping form competent, caring individuals who can ultimately change the world. Meet four special coaches who are influenced by the Norbertines and place a high priority on living their Catholic faith within the sporting world.

Kate Sabish Geenen

BLV U CAN reads Kate Geenen’s license plate. These seven letters sum up her faith life as well as her coaching philosophy—Believe You Can. According to Geenen, “Coaching is a lot about believing in young women until they believe in themselves.” The highlight film for her is to see players begin to recognize their unique gifts, abilities, and potential.

Currently serving as assistant girls varsity basketball coach at Xavier High School in Appleton, Wisconsin, and assistant softball coach at St. Norbert College (SNC), Geenen has lived and breathed athletics most of her life. She was a standout basketball and softball player in high school and college, and worked with the Milwaukee Brewers as a minor league administrator and the Wisconsin Timber Rattlers as a director on their board.

“The opportunity to blend sports and spirituality is definitely a passion,” shares Geenen, who credits her parents, husband, and treasured uncle, Fr. Stephen Rossey, O. Praem., for her faith formation. She believes sports are a metaphor for life and faith is what ultimately sustains us.

“I encourage our players to find their way with kindness and faith. Win or lose, everything is for the glory of God.” Geenen continues to put her role as coach and her faith into action by co-founding and co-advising a new SNC student organization, SNC Sports Ministry, a service and faith formation group for student-athletes. “I believe we’re called to use the gifts we have been given in the service of others.”
Before every game, one of Bob Rickards’ soccer players leads the team in prayer. There may be a few “um’s” within the prayer and it may be shorter than longer, but Rickards wants to reinforce a core belief—“God belongs on the soccer field and in our lives.” Rickards is the boys’ and girls’ varsity soccer coach at Notre Dame Academy in Green Bay. “One of my high school coaches showed me that there was more to the game than wins and losses—that faith and life lessons are as much a part of the game as statistics,” he said.

Rickards does not buy into the winning-is-the-only-thing mentality, yet he has developed a highly regarded and successful high school soccer program. Within the past 10 years, his boys’ teams have been to Division III state tournaments four times, winning two state championships. His girls’ teams have been to state five times.

“I tell my players that God, education, and family are the most important aspects of their lives. They need to be their top priorities not only during soccer season, but throughout life. And then I follow it up with the importance of discipline, respect, and taking responsibility for all aspects of their lives.”

“I also realize I’m a role model for my players and I try to pause and think about how God wants me to act before I respond to a situation or a call on the field. My goal is always for me to do the right thing for the right reason.”

“It begins with a pyramid,” said Tim Coghlin, head coach of the St. Norbert College men’s hockey team. At the top are faith and family, followed by academics, hockey, and other aspects of life. “Faith and family come first and if they internalize this throughout their four years on campus, these young men will make solid decisions throughout their lives,” said Coghlin.

“I take a 10-year retrospective look. I look back at my players from 10 years ago and their success in life is my gauge for how well I coached,” Coghlin said. “Fortunately, I see young men who have become great dads, with fulfilling careers, contributing to their communities.”

Coghlin explained, “To me, leadership necessitates clarity. My standards and expectations are clear. I demand respect, 100 percent effort, and I challenge my players to become the best versions of themselves. Success will follow.” And it has for this coach of 23 years who has helped lead the team to four Division III national championships within the past six years.

The pyramid concept permeates every aspect of Coghlin’s personal life, too. Six years ago his wife Barb delivered a precious girl named Faith, who barely survived. Today their little girl is a priceless gift, full of love, and a constant reminder to keep his priorities straight. Faith and family are at the top.

Before other worshipers arrive, David Raih, the newest addition to the Packers’ offensive coaching staff, is already on site for the 9:30 a.m. Packer team Mass before the NFL season kickoff in Seattle. He is ready to roll even before Fr. James Baraniak, O. Praem., Packer team chaplain, arrives in the makeshift chapel that doubles as the mobile team meeting room. Raih spends his extra moments in prayer and reflection, some of it undoubtedly spent pondering predictable patterns in the Seahawks’ game plan.

Coach Raih turns from his work and prayer to ask Fr. Baraniak about an earlier homily, noting the scriptural reference and the homily’s main theme on a blank notecard printed with the iconic “G” of the Green Bay Packers. “I need to work to keep my responsibilities to my family and my new job in proper balance,” Raih said. “I consider both of them to be religious vocations.”

Eventually, Raih files his note cards in his office in what he calls his spiritual arsenal of wisdom and direction. He relies on the support of Fr. Baraniak and his co-workers to help him navigate life’s challenges, both on and off the football field.

“David is a humble yet impressive young coach with a healthy grounding in his Catholic faith,” said Fr. Baraniak. “He has the wisdom and insight to integrate his faith into all facets of his life.”
The Green Bay Packers, under the leadership of then coach Curly Lambeau, were seeking more visibility when they initially contacted the Norbertines of St. Norbert College (SNC) in the 1930s. The first commercial radio station in northeast Wisconsin had been built on campus by student-engineer and inventor Cletus Collom ’34, with assistance from Fr. Ignatius Van Dyke, O. Praem., seminarian James Wagner, and Coach George Carey. As a result of this meeting, the Norbertines agreed to be the first broadcasters to carry Packers’ football games over the airwaves.

Curly Lambeau soon used his connections with the Norbertines to purchase Rockwood Lodge north of Green Bay (now the site of Bayshore County Park) at a price of $25,000 in 1946 to make it into a Packers’ lodging and training facility. Up until the sale, the lodge on the shores of Green Bay was owned by the Norbertines who used it as a retreat center; although occupancy had fallen off precipitously in post-war years. Often on the brink of bankruptcy in that time, the team’s controversial real estate deal would eventually result in Lambeau’s exit from the team. In 1950, a suspicious fire would burn the well-insured Rockwood Lodge to the ground.

By 1953, when the Norbertines were granted the first television broadcast license in northeast Wisconsin, they remained loyal supporters of the local NFL franchise and immediately began broadcasting Green Bay Packers football games on television.

Most of us know what happened next. An unknown coach from the East Coast named Vince Lombardi entered the picture and established Green Bay as Titletown USA, leading the Packers to five national championships, including two Super Bowls, in his time as head coach from 1959 to 1967. During the Glory Years, for both football and the introduction of television into American homes, WBAY would eventually become a CBS affiliate and capture up to 90 percent market share during Packer broadcasts, cementing a mutual love and
respect between the Packers and the Norbertines that thrives to this day. The Norbertines sold their broadcast media interests in the 1970s, but rapport between the two Sunday greats has only strengthened in new and varied ways.

During the 1950s, the Packer-Norbertine affiliation was also broadening outside the realm of broadcasting. Scooter McLean, the head coach for the Green Bay Packers, approached Fr. Dennis Burke, O. Praem., president of SNC, in 1958 about holding the team's training camp at the college in De Pere. The team had been practicing in Stevens Point and wanted to train closer to home and its brand new City Stadium, a sacred place now known as Lambeau Field. McLean had hopes to revitalize a team with a nine-year losing record that had most recently topped off this misery with a last place finish in the NFL’s Western Conference.

Juxtaposed with this desperate state of football affairs, Fr. Burke was at the helm of SNC from 1955 to 1968, overseeing a period of steady growth and expansion. Doubled enrollment, 11 new campus buildings, and a soaring endowment during his tenure positioned the college as a dynamic and respected local force in Packerland.

The Packers did indeed train on campus in 1958, eating, sleeping, and meeting in campus facilities, but Fr. Burke had to renegotiate the agreement with the newly hired Lombardi in 1959. Each glorious season under his leadership continued to start with two months of training camp on the campus of SNC, as has every Packer football season since.

**Radical Hospitality**

The ethos of radical hospitality, or the welcoming of strangers with a meal, a place to sleep, and even health care, was established in the European abbeys of the 14th century. Every guest was to be received like Christ. Did those early abbey dwellers ever expect a pro football team at their door? Probably not, but the guiding principle explains some of the reasons why the Packers continue to be so warmly welcomed on campus.

Arrangements for the Packers have always gone well beyond a piece of bread and a tankard of ale. Tales still circulate at St. Norbert Abbey about the years in the 1960s when it was customary for the Packers to finish their training camp at the abbey because the college needed them out of the dorm. The Norbertines turned their vestry and tailor rooms into a bar for the coaches, and the players would take up two full wings at the abbey, often sneaking over to the professed area to watch TV with the Norbertines. They were served prime rib one evening, and when asked if he would like his steak well-done, medium, or rare, a Packer player is said to have replied, “Yes.”

According to Fr. Robert Finnegan, O. Praem., “When the Packers were at the abbey, the Norbertines never ate better.”

**Localitas and Service to Others**

The current president of SNC, Tom Kunkel, explained, “The Green Bay Packers look at the world differently than other NFL teams. Their sense of community; the values of localitas, or meeting local needs; and their outreach and charitable giving all align with Norbertine core values.”

Kunkel serves on the Packers’ board of directors, as did his predecessor, President Emeritus Thomas Manion, where he sees the team annually contribute approximately $6 million to charitable causes in the Green Bay area.
In this same way, Norbert and the first members of his order believed that the highest expression of their Christian faith was not an isolated, self-reflective monastic life devoted only to personal salvation. Rather they believed strongly in the value of community life—both within the order and beyond, where they sought to be agents for positive change.2 “The Packers’ ethos is in very many ways a Norbertine ethos,” Kunkel said.

People who were there at the time recall the powerful witness of servant leadership embodied in Lombardi when he served at daily Mass. He was a regular at the 7 a.m. liturgy in the chapel at Sensenbrenner Hall during training camp but preferred St. Willebrord Parish in downtown Green Bay during the rest of the year, where Lombardi often served Mass for his friend Fr. David Rondou, O. Praem. The loud barking Italian was transformed into a meek servant in the presence of priests and nuns. He always arrived early and learned each priest’s predilections to prepare better for Mass.

Current Packers head coach Mike McCarthy is also a Catholic-educated man with a love of attending Mass. He is a graduate of St. Rosalia Academy in Pittsburgh and Bishop Boyle High School in Homestead, Pennsylvania.

Both Lombardi and McCarthy are border-crossers, men comfortable in realms of distinctly different character, who use their wide range of experiences to grow stronger in their varied roles as men, as coaches, and Roman Catholics. To believe strongly in the value of community life—both within one’s order and beyond—and to seek to be agents for positive change is a pillar of Packer pride and Norbertine spirituality.

A 2010 Super Bowl XLV ring was a gift from the Green Bay Packers to Fr. James Baraniak, O. Praem., Catholic team chaplain, as an acknowledgement of the important role he plays in ministering to the team.
I find my training often involves praying the rosary and relating the events of my life to the mysteries of the rosary. I recognize similar patterns in my commitment to personal prayer and commitment to an exercise routine. I am healthiest and most spiritually whole when I am both exercising and praying regularly.

Frater Michael Brennan, O. Praem., 37, tennis player and runner

I pray while I walk. I walk two or three miles a day to manage my arthritis.

Fr. Sebastian Schalk, O. Praem., 80, walker

It’s amazing how many homilies you discover along the roadside when you’re biking! Sometimes I even combine biking with hospital or sick calls or home visits. People seem to like it if I show up in bike clothes. If I don’t take care to achieve mind, heart, body, and soul balance, I get out of whack, I’m squandering God’s gifts, both to me and through me for others whom I serve.

Fr. Tim Shillcox, O. Praem., 60, bicyclist

Since I am in the pool alone, at least most of the time, I find it is a good opportunity for prayer. It is quiet, and I find myself alone with God. My swimming time is my contemplative time.

Fr. Robert Finnegan, O. Praem., 87, swimmer and water exerciser

While I’m on my long runs, I’m able to process my day, when I was at my best and when I was at my worst, what I need to improve, or where I need to make amends with people I may have hurt. Much of the benefit to my exercise involves emotional and mental well-being. It is both a duty and a responsibility, to me and to the people with whom I live. A healthy balance of ministry, prayer, sleep, nutrition, study, and exercise are essential to every Norbertine—and to every person.

Frater Jordan Neeck, O. Praem., 25, runner

Moved By the Spirit

These Norbertines combine spiritual fitness with disciplined exercise. Read more to learn how the spirit moves them.

Ministers who are overly stressed and experiencing burnout are not effective. It is important that we take time to achieve balance and good health to serve better our confreres in community and in ministry.

Finding the time to go fishing takes me away from worldly pressures by engaging in an activity that is, in a sense, purposeless. I soak up the beauty of my surroundings and feel a real connection with creation. I am able to abandon my personal ambitions for a soul-nourishing engagement with the divine.

Deacon Matthew Dougherty, O. Praem., 27, fly fisherman
At 35 years young, our vibrant, thriving spirituality center welcomes you with genuine Norbertine hospitality.

Whether you are seeking, searching, or simply in need of some time away from the hustle and bustle of everyday life, be it for an hour, a day, or even a week, contact the Center at (920) 337-4315 or ncs@norbertines.org to schedule your retreat, or visit www.norbertines.org to view a complete list of Center offerings and to register online.

Mark Your Calendars for 2015

The Morning of Spiritual Renewal for Women, packed with intriguing speakers and presentations, takes place on Saturday, January 17. A favorite annual “must”!

Kentucky Wonders: Merton, Bourbon, and Bluegrass is held on January 29 in honor of the 100th birthday of Thomas Merton, noted theologian and Trappist monk from Gethsemani Abbey in Kentucky.

A Day for Men on March 14 features keynote speaker Mike Sherman, former head coach of the Green Bay Packers. Be sure to register early, as last year’s event was a sellout!

Sr. Ann Rehrauer, OSF, former associate director of the Liturgy Secretariat for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and canon lawyer, leads the annual Triduum Retreat, April 2-5.

For additional information or to receive a program guide, visit www.norbertines.org or call the Center at (920) 337-4315.
This year, as the Norbertine Community of St. Norbert Abbey celebrated its annual observance of the Feast of St. Augustine, three men took their next steps in honoring their commitments to the order. Commitment to Norbertine life and to the priesthood includes movement through distinct stages. At each stage the candidate moves closer to achieving different goals.

First, the Norbertine candidate begins and deepens his commitment to religious life through a two-year novitiate. This journey began for DEACON ALFRED “FRED” SARNO, JR., who entered the Norbertine Community and was vested in the white habit of St. Norbert at the First Vespers of the Solemnity of St. Augustine on August 27. Abbot Gary Neville, O. Praem., presided over the solemn rite.

“It is an honor for me to be part of St. Norbert Abbey, and it was wonderful to have my two siblings Jean and John, both of whom live in Boston, present for the vestition ceremony,” said Deacon Sarno. The first-year Norbertine novitiate in which he will participate will take place at St. Norbert Abbey.

Next, the candidate commits himself to the traditional vows of poverty, celibacy, and obedience as he takes the second step toward his full incorporation into the Norbertine order. Poverty reflects simplicity of life; celibacy opens him to growth in the spirit in union with other women and men; and obedience makes him attentive to God’s will.

He professes these simple vows on a temporary basis, usually for three years. This is the step that was taken by FRATER PATRICK LAPACZ, O. PRAEM., on August 28, which was presided over by Abbot Neville.

"August 28th was a wonderful day, as I professed simple vows and took the next step in my formation as a Norbertine," said Frater LaPacz. "I hope these next few years studying theology will prepare me well for solemn vows and ordination." Since completing his apostolic year as a second-year novice, he is living at the Norbertine Holy Spirit House of Studies in Chicago, where he is studying for the priesthood at Catholic Theological Union (CTU).

After his five-year formative experience, a mutual lifelong commitment to the canonical life is bonded between the Norbertine candidate and the entire professed community. FRATER MATTHEW DOUGHERTY, O. PRAEM., professed these solemn vows at the abbey’s August 28 celebration. Abbot Neville presided. Two days later on August 30, Frater Dougherty was ordained to the diaconate by the Most Rev. Robert Morneau, D.D., Auxiliary Bishop Emeritus of the Diocese of Green Bay.

“Taking solemn vows is a little bit like getting married: a long-term relationship is brought to its fulfillment in a permanent bond of self-giving love. The vows, then, offer me an opportunity to stop focusing so much on discernment (is this the right person to marry?) and to start focusing exclusively on the relationship at hand: in my case, life in community,” said Deacon Dougherty.

Currently attending CTU, where he is working toward masters’ degrees in both divinity and systematic theology, this summer Deacon Dougherty also completed pre-doctoral studies through the University of Notre Dame in Indiana. For the rest of his time in Chicago he will be serving the Italian immigrant community at The Shrine of Our Lady of Pompeii in Little Italy.
News, Honors, and Distinctions

This June, BR. STEVE HERRO, O. PRAEM., Manager of Mission Resources and Data for Catholic Charities USA, presented to volunteers and staff from Catholic Charities, Archdiocese of San Antonio (“Relationship Building between a Catholic Charities Agency and Local Parishes”), and to San Antonio area Catholic parish social ministers (“Respect for Life and Dignity of the Human Person”). He has also edited the Catholic Charities USA publication, Reflections on The Joy of the Gospel for Those Serving in Ministry. Search for it on www.scribd.com.

FR. ALFRED MCBRIDE, O. PRAEM., has published his 51st book, All I Own I Owe, which is also his autobiography. During the last few months, Fr. McBride has made several promotional and book signing appearances in the Green Bay area. For details about his latest work, visit www.norbertines.org.

Recently FRATER JORDAN NEECK, O. PRAEM., finished first among more than 240 participants in St. Norbert College’s third annual Don Schneider Memorial 5K Challenge Run with a time of 18:36.

A collection of new mixed-media work by FR. JAMES NEILSON, O. PRAEM., was on view at the “Images that Celebrate and Challenge” 2014 Summer Art Exhibition in the Mary-Frances and Bill Veeck Gallery at Catholic Theological Union in Chicago. In addition to the exhibition, Fr. Neilson presented a lecture addressing art and the Catholic imagination to the school’s president, faculty, students, and members of the President’s Circle.

Two Norbertines from the Norbertine Community of Jamtara in the state of Madya Pradesh, India, have come to the United States to minister with the Norbertines in Raymond, MS. FR. XAVIER AMIRTHAM, O. PRAEM., and FR. BINU VARGHESE, O. PRAEM., responded to the invitation to come to the mission diocese of Jackson. Both priests add to the international flavor of the Norbertine house at the Priory of St. Moses the Black, melding natives of Nigeria, the Congo, the U.S., and now India.

This summer, eight Norbertines, including seven men in formation, accepted the ALS Ice Bucket Challenge presented to them by FR. JAMES BARANIAK, O. PRAEM., Prior of St. Norbert Abbey. They were doused with ice water in support of the John Paul II Medical Research Institute and its amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) research.

Visit St. Norbert Abbey on Facebook to enjoy the video and to learn whom they challenged in return.
This summer, the Norbertine Volunteer Community (NVC) welcomed three new members to its 2014-2015 program. Rachel Muhns (right) is serving at American Foundation of Counseling Services (AFCS) with its Treatment Foster Care program. Matt Mahon (center) is spending his year of service at St. Thomas More School in Green Bay. Nicole Zoch (left), too, is assisting at St. Thomas More School and also hopes to work at Syble Hopp School for children with disabilities. To learn more, visit www.norbertines.org.

Stephanie Birmingham, member of the Norbertine Volunteer Community (2010-2011), is the recipient of St. Norbert College’s 2014 Young Alumni Award. It is presented to a graduate who exemplifies the college’s tradition of service, vision, and community activism, while impacting cultural changes at the college and in the community. As an undergraduate student, Birmingham studied political science and peace and justice, and as a Norbertine volunteer she served at the Brown County Jail in prison ministry. She is currently pursuing a master of arts in pastoral counseling at Loyola University in Chicago.

If you would like to learn more about the NVC, a full-time service opportunity and outreach program of the Norbertine priests and brothers of St. Norbert Abbey, contact Ellen Mommaerts, Director, at (920) 403-2944, or via e-mail at ellen.mommaerts@snc.edu.

As a Native American and a member of the Oneida Nation, I was both inspired and impressed by the ministry of the Norbertine Community to the Menominee Nation. Fr. Mack’s (Fr. David McElroy, O. Praem.) openness to the Menominee culture and traditions and the continued use of both in prayer and liturgy is a reflection of the Norbertine openness to all cultures and all peoples.

Following the lead of Pope Francis, Fr. Mack is serving the poor with respect and compassion and learning from the people he serves. It is apparent from the article that the Menominee people are responding to the presence of Fr. Mack with appreciation and enthusiasm. I do as well.

Rosa M. Coenen
De Pere, WI

Posoh! (Hello!) As I was visiting friends in Green Bay I picked up the Abbey Magazine and was delighted to read of the presence of the Norbertine Community on the Menominee Reservation. The Menominee people have a special place in my heart because for 14 years I lived among the people and taught at St. Anthony School in Neopit. In the course of these wonderful years I had the honor of learning and helping to teach the Menominee culture and language and worked with the people in blending the Menominee culture and language into the fabric of the liturgy.

My heart is singing to know the Menominee people are being well-served and that Fr. Mack continues to value and enculturate Menominee symbols and traditions into the life of the Church. Wae-wanen! Wae-wanen! (Thank you! Thank you!)

In appreciation and joy,
Sr. Martha Mary Carpenter
Bapchule, AZ (Gila River Indian Community)

Please submit letters to:
Judy Turba
St. Norbert Abbey
1016 N. Broadway
De Pere, WI 54115
e-mail: judy.turba@norbertines.org
phone: (920) 337-4312
2014-15 Winter/Spring Calendar for St. Norbert Abbey

NOVEMBER
16 – Taizé Prayer, Abbey Church, 7 p.m.
18 – Hidden Wisdom: The Abbas and Ammas of the Desert (Fr. John Bostwick, Dustin Katona), 6:30-8 p.m.

DECEMBER
6 – Advent Series: The Visitation: A Time for Leaping (Sr. Diane Baumann), 9:15-10:30 a.m.
13 – Advent Series: The O Antiphons (Fr. Andrew Ciferni), 9:15-10:30 a.m.
21 – Taizé Prayer, Abbey Church, 7 p.m.

JANUARY
4 – Schola d’Arezzo Concert (Gregorian chant of the Christmas season), Abbey Church, 2:30 p.m.
13 – Deepening Your Friendship with God through Honest Prayer (Fr. Paul Demuth), 6:30-8 p.m.
14 – Coffee and Conversation (Fr. Al McBride), 10-11 a.m.
17 – Morning of Spiritual Renewal for Women, 8 a.m.-1 p.m.
18 – Taizé Prayer, Abbey Church, 7 p.m.
29 – Kentucky Wonders: Merton, Bourbon, and Bluegrass (Fr. Tim Shillcox, Dr. Paul Wadell, Bentgrass Combo), 6:30-8:30 p.m.

FEBRUARY
4 – Coffee and Conversation (Fr. Rod Fenzl), 10-11 a.m.
10 – Old Testament: Ecclesiastes (Dr. Tom Bolin), 6:30-8 p.m.
15 – Taizé Prayer, Abbey Church, 7 p.m.
21, 28 – Lenten Series (Fr. Tim Shillcox, Fr. John Bostwick), 9:15-10:45 a.m.
24 – Enriching the Spiritual Life: A Lenten Pilgrimage (Rev. Lee Goodwin, Sr. Judy Miller), 6:30-8 p.m.

MARCH
3, 10, 17, 24, 31 – Enriching the Spiritual Life: A Lenten Pilgrimage (Rev. Lee Goodwin, Sr. Judy Miller), 6:30-8 p.m.
4 – Coffee and Conversation (Fr. Steven Vanden Boogard), 10-11 a.m.
7, 21 – Lenten Series, 9:15-10:45 a.m.
10-19 – Solemn Novena to St. Joseph
14 – A Day for Men (Coach Mike Sherman, Bishop Robert Morneau, Fr. Dan Felton, Fr. James Baraniak, Fr. James Neilson, Fr. John Tourangeau, Fr. Tim Shillcox, and others), 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m.
15 – Taizé Prayer, Abbey Church, 7 p.m.
19 – Heaven: Is It for Real? (Fr. John Tourangeau), 6:30-8 p.m.
21 – Canon John Bruce Organ Concert Series (Isabelle Demers), Abbey Church, 2 p.m.
26 – The Good Thief (Msgr. Jim Feely), 6:30-8 p.m.

APRIL
2-5 – The Easter Triduum Retreat (Sr. Ann Rehrauer), 4 p.m. Thursday through 10 a.m. Sunday
14 – Interreligious Dialogue (Bishop Richard Sklba), 6:30-8 p.m.
18 – Canon John Bruce Organ Concert Series (Michael Hey), Abbey Church, 2 p.m.
19 – Taizé Prayer, Abbey Church, 7 p.m.
26 – Schola d’Arezzo Concert (Gregorian chant of the Easter season), Abbey Church, 2:30 p.m.
28 – Disillusionment: The Grit and Grace of Prophetic Hope (Sr. Rhea Emmer), 6:30-8 p.m.

For a complete list of programs and retreats, please visit www.norbertines.org/programs.html or call (920) 337-4315 to receive our latest program guide.