

# Abbey



magazine



**OUR NEW ABBOT**

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**SHARING GRACE EVERY DAY**

[norbertines.org](http://norbertines.org)

# Dear Friends of St. Norbert Abbey



In April, my brothers elected me the seventh abbot of St. Norbert Abbey. The immediacy of abbatial responsibility hit me when I embraced each member and listened to his personal words of love and support. I know these men. I love these men.

The abbey's roots reach back 125 years. As **Fr. Bernard Pennings, O. Praem.**, traveled across the Atlantic Ocean from the Netherlands in 1893, I wonder what his hopes and thoughts were? We know he and his companions had courage and vision because, with the help of the Holy Spirit, their spiritual work was graced with growth.

So many members have proved critical to the growth of St. Norbert Abbey. At one time, we tinkered on the edge of bankruptcy; then the hobby of one member introduced us to media broadcasting. We built and staffed schools

and sent a mission to South America. Our abbey experienced diminished membership, then saw the growth of two abbeys from our own, and we rejoiced in this renewal. I am acutely aware of the many individuals upon whose shoulders we stand.

We Norbertines held three retreat days prior to the abbatial election. Our prayer and dialogue gave rise to key themes and targets for growth. In the words of my confreres, "We seek a new beginning." As abbot I see hope and opportunity in these words. Together we are taking our first steps by writing a new mission statement, aligning personnel, and reviewing our common life.

St. Augustine preached the responsibility for common life is not reliant alone on the leader but on the whole community. A fundamental Augustinian principle is that religious help achieve unity of mind and heart by putting the good of the community before personal advantage. Each and all of us will need to engage in the process if St. Norbert Abbey is to realize its new beginning. I embrace this journey with joy.

I included something from each of my predecessors at my abbatial blessing on July 2 to recognize their contributions and honor them. In addition to the traditional items of mitre, crozier, pectoral cross, and ring, I held special items and even wore a pair of "happy socks" embroidered with a symbol from my coat-of-arms! May we all experience the hope, joy, and new beginnings given us through our faith in Jesus Christ.

In Christ through Mary,

Handwritten signature of Dane J. Radecki

Abbot Dane Radecki, O. Praem.



**ST. NORBERT ABBEY**  
DE PERE, WISCONSIN

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Volume 10

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

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Thomas Handgräteringer, O. Praem.,  
and Abbot Dane Radecki, O. Praem.,  
at the July 2 abbatial blessing



Fr. Bradley Vanden Branden, O. Praem., interacts with NDA students.

**Welcome Notre Dame de la Baie Academy families and area alumni**

St. Norbert Abbey is pleased to welcome families and alumni of Notre Dame de la Baie Academy (NDA) to *Abbey Magazine* readership. NDA is a vital apostolate of the Norbertine community and we are happy to share this publication with you.

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# Docere Verbo

(to teach by word and example)

By Fr. John Bostwick, O. Praem. Translated by Sr. Guadalupe Muñoz, RGS

*“We should try to live in such a way that if the Gospels were lost, they could be re-written by looking at us.”*

—*Russian Orthodox Archbishop Anthony Bloom of Sourozh*

There are three tombs in the crypt chapel beneath the Church of St. Norbert Abbey. One is occupied by our founding abbot, **Bernard Pennings, O. Praem.** The second contains the remains of our second abbot, **Sylvester Killeen, O. Praem.**, who built the current abbey. The third tomb remains empty. We don’t know for sure why the third tomb was added at the time of Abbot Killeen’s burial. The half-joking commentary in the community was that the third slot was in case a member of the community was canonized as a saint. Those conversations most often mention **Br. Clem Tourangeau, O. Praem.** (d. 2008), as an example.

Br. Clem was strong-spirited but self-effacing. Clem was a model of prayer, humility, and hard work. He never held office; he served as a housekeeper and cook. More importantly, Clem served as a model of authentic religious life. A man of few words, he taught the seminarians and priests with whom he lived by his example of prayer and fidelity. He was a model of poverty, chastity, and obedience, and a very wise and beloved member of the community.

Historian Caroline Walker Bynum identified the phrase *Docere Verbo et Exemplo* (to teach by word and example) as the summary of the spirituality of canons regular. It is a phrase we continue to use, most visibly at St. Norbert College, but generally as characteristic of our community. As an ideal, this principle applies to everyone. It is not tied to any office or position, even in the Church. While one hopes that the abbot and other institutional leaders embrace and live this ideal, “to teach by word and example” applies to everyone. And it not only resounds with everyone in the community, but also applies to every Christian in his or her context and circumstance. Leadership is found in living the values—not simply in talking about them. While some of us are called to teach by using words, all of us are called to teach through our actions. My favorite summary of this ideal is attributed to the Russian Orthodox Archbishop Anthony Bloom of Sourozh, who said, “We should try to live in such a way that if the Gospels were lost, they could be re-written by looking at us.”



## Meet Sr. Gu



*Issue after issue, this reflection is graciously translated from English to Spanish by Sr. Guadalupe Muñoz, a member of the Sisters of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, whose mother house is in*

*Carrollton, Ohio. Originally from Mexico, Sr. Guadalupe’s mission is to show love and compassion to every person, especially the poor and vulnerable. She ministered to people in need around the country before coming to Green Bay in 2000. Sr. Guadalupe currently works with the Hispanic community through Catholic Charities.*

# Docere Verbo et Exemplo

(enseñar con palabras y ejemplos)

Por El Padre John Bostwick, O. Praem. Traducido por La Hermana Guadalupe Muñoz, RGS

*“Deberíamos tratar de vivir de tal manera que, si los Evangelios se perdieran, podrían volver a escribirse al mirarnos”*

—Arzobispo ortodoxo ruso Anthony Bloom de Sourozh

Hay tres tumbas en la capilla de la cripta debajo de la capilla de la abadía de St. Norberto. Una está ocupada por nuestro abad fundador, **Bernard Pennings, O. Praem.** La segunda contiene los restos de nuestro segundo abad, **Sylvester Killeen, O. Praem.**, que construyó la actual abadía. La tercera tumba permanece vacía. No sabemos con certeza por qué se añadió la tercera tumba en el momento del entierro del abad Killeen. El rumor medio en broma en la comunidad fue que el tercer espacio era en caso de que un miembro de la comunidad fuera canonizado como un santo. Esas conversaciones a menudo mencionan a **El Hermano Clem Tourangeau, O. Praem.** (d. 2008), como ejemplo.

El Hermano Clem era fuerte pero humilde. Clem fue un modelo de oración, humildad y trabajo duro. Él nunca ocupó un cargo de autoridad; él sirvió en la limpieza y como cocinero. Pero lo más importante aún, Clem sirvió como modelo de auténtica vida religiosa. Hombre de pocas palabras, enseñó a los seminaristas y sacerdotes con los que vivía, con su ejemplo de oración y fidelidad. Era un modelo de pobreza, castidad y obediencia, y un miembro muy sabio y querido de la comunidad.

La historiadora Caroline Walker Bynum identificó la frase *Docere Verbo et Exemplo* (enseñar con palabras y ejemplos) como el resumen de la espiritualidad de los cánones regulares. Es una frase que seguimos usando, más visiblemente en el Colegio de St. Norberto, pero generalmente como característica de nuestra comunidad. Como ideal, este principio se aplica a todos. No está vinculado a ninguna oficina o puesto, ni siquiera en la Iglesia. Mientras uno espera que el abad y otros líderes institucionales abracen y vivan este ideal, “enseñar con la palabra y el ejemplo” se aplica a todos. Y no solo resuena con todos en la comunidad, sino que también se aplica a cada cristiano en su contexto y circunstancia. El liderazgo se encuentra en la vivencia de los valores, no simplemente al hablar de ellos. Mientras que algunos de nosotros somos llamados a enseñar usando palabras, todos somos llamados a enseñar a través de nuestras acciones. Mi resumen favorito de este ideal se atribuye al arzobispo ortodoxo ruso, Anthony Bloom, de Sourozh, quien dijo: “Deberíamos tratar de vivir de tal manera que si los Evangelios se perdieran, podrían reescribirse al mirarnos.”

## Guadalupe

Publicación tras publicación esta reflexión es amablemente traducida al Español por La Hermana Guadalupe Muñoz, quien es originaria de México. La Hermana Guadalupe es miembro de las Religiosas de Nuestra Señora de la Caridad del Buen Pastor y su casa madre se encuentra en Carrollton, Ohio. Su misión es mostrar amor y compasión a los demás especialmente a los pobres y más vulnerables. La Hermana Guadalupe ha trabajado con las comunidades necesitadas de diferentes lugares del país. En el año 2000 ella se estableció en Green Bay y actualmente trabaja en esa Diócesis apoyando a la comunidad Hispana en Caridades Católicas.



# Why

*By Abbot Dane Radecki, O. Praem.*

The series of three retreat days before our abbatial election in April was powerful. I saw in my brothers a yearning for a new beginning and a willingness to seek a more authentic Norbertine life. Through a series of other leadership ministries, I've been fashioned into a change agent, and this is what our community needed. These three days together helped prepare me to say yes.

Abbot Dane Radecki, O. Praem., greeting members of the Norbertine community during his abbatial blessing including (left to right) Fr. James Baraniak, O. Praem., Fr. John Kastenholz, O. Praem., Fr. Peter Renard, O. Praem., and Fr. Michael Brennan, O. Praem.



# I Said Yes

Meanwhile, I struggled with my sense of holiness; I pondered whether or not I was holy enough. I sought the counsel of a priest who helped me look at holiness differently, not as perfection, but as God-centered, continual conversion. As I grew comfortable with this, I felt that I could say yes.

The evening of the election I spoke from my heart to my brother Norbertines. I told them that I had been on a journey during the months preceding the election, and during this time I prayed that if

asked, I would be ready to say yes. Most importantly, I knew that saying yes required me to honestly love each and every member of this community. When I prayed separately for each of our 51 men, I also asked myself, “Can I love and serve him?” I realized that I could and did love each man.

In these initial months as abbot, I’ve come to know that I do truly love this community. The joy that comes from serving them is very real for me. I happily say yes each and every day.

Abbot Radecki is a graduate of Prémontré High School and St. Norbert College with master’s degrees in divinity and administration from Chicago Theological Union and the University of Notre Dame, respectively, and a doctorate in education from the University of San Francisco. He was ordained in 1977 and served at Prémontré High School, Notre Dame de la Baie Academy, and St. Norbert College in a variety of leadership roles. In 2012 he was named president to the Green Bay Area Catholic Education system (GRACE). He also served as planning consultant in the Office of Catholic Education for the Archdiocese of Chicago. In more recent years, he served as pastor of several parishes, some of which included overseeing major building projects.



Learn more at [norbertines.org](http://norbertines.org).

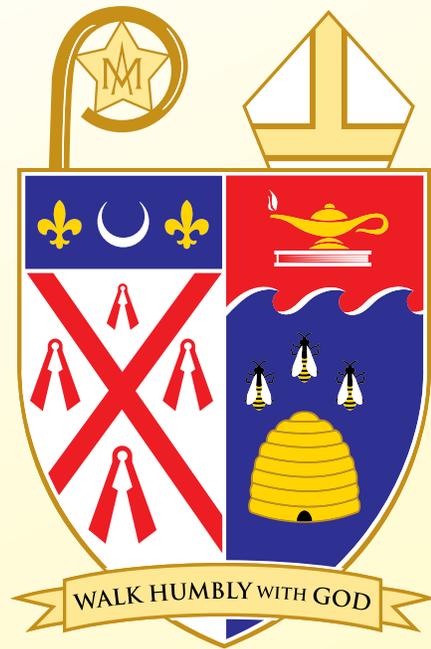
# “Walk Humbly with God”

(Prophet Micah 6:8)

To clarify what the Lord requires of us

## Abbot Dane J. Radecki

**Coat of Arms:** A gold beehive is taken from the medieval Radecki crest, as bees are praised for their industry, wealth, and creativity. Blue waves represent his French-Canadian maternal heritage and a happy youth in Upper Michigan. The lamp of wisdom denotes a lifetime in education. Red symbolizes his Polish heritage; the crozier, an *Ave Maria* salutation; a mitre with two-sided headdress signifies the Old and New Testaments.



**Abbot Radecki** hails from Pulaski, Wisconsin, and is a product of a faith-filled and hardworking family. “As a little boy, we never missed Sunday Mass, and if we were too sick to attend, we had to say a rosary next to our bed and playing outside was forbidden the rest of the day. I remember every Sunday between Masses my father and I would count the collection. Maybe this was the beginning of my fondness for math.

“Growing up, we always had an open door for neighbors and parish priests to pop over for dinner. It was a comfortable setting and in some ways I observed a very human side of priesthood. I found them to be likable guys.”

Abbot Radecki first shared his interest in the priesthood in middle school. “I remember it was during a small group discussion about changes in the Church, and I mentioned it to my classmates. I had already told my parents, but not anyone else.”

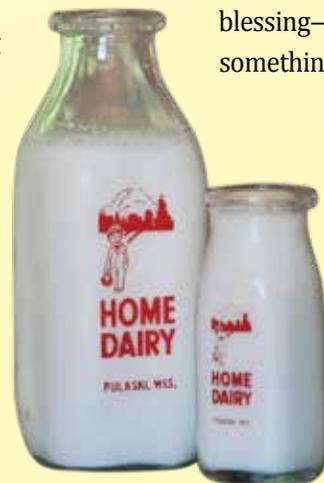
His first encounter with a Norbertine was during a liturgy at his Franciscan parish, Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Pulaski. “A man in a white habit concelebrated with the brown-habited Franciscans, so he really stood out. I asked around and found out he was a Norbertine priest and that Norbertines could be both priests and teachers, and I was drawn to both of those vocations.”

Abbot Radecki convinced his parents to let him attend Prémontre High School in Green Bay, a Norbertine apostolate. “I shared my interest in the priesthood with my junior theology teacher, **Fr. Henry Jafolla, O. Praem.** I’ll never forget how kind and respectful he was that day.”

It was during this time that Abbot Radecki’s family purchased Home Dairy, where he would spend hours bottling and delivering milk and orange drink, even in freezing winter weather. In fact, a Home Dairy milk bottle sits prominently on his office bookshelf to remind him of his roots. “I also worked at the local A&W and learned to make awesome ice cream cones with the signature swirl on top.”

Abbot Radecki became a high school math teacher after he was ordained; and after a few years, members of the community encouraged him to pursue school administration. “I had never seen myself in this role, yet it became a great blessing—the fact that my confreres called out of me something I never saw in myself.”

Abbot Radecki served as a respected and accomplished leader and administrator within secondary and collegiate Catholic education for three decades. “My recent election as abbot is another such call. Our community can bless us by helping us grow as Norbertines in ways we cannot see alone.”



View abbatial blessing images at [norbertines.org](http://norbertines.org).



Abbot Dane Radecki, O. Praem., greeting Norbertine confreres at his abbatial blessing dinner at St. Norbert College.

# Gifts He Brings

## **Fr. Bradley Vanden Branden, O. Praem.**

Abbot Dane is a gifted administrator who excels at inviting people into larger projects that help promote the love of Christ for others. His clear communication and attention to detail encourages us to take a step back and look at an idea with a fresh perspective.

He is quick to flash a smile, crack a joke, and chuckle with hearty laughter; he has the gift of humor. His love for his confreres is immediately apparent in his happy relationships with people. He brightens our days with his jovial and sincere personality.

The abbot has a dynamic understanding of collaboration. He invites everyone into the process or discussion at hand. His beautiful sensitivity makes him quick to think of those who may have been inadvertently forgotten. The abbot is able to make all feel comfortable voicing an opinion or a suggestion in the deliberation process—a very welcome, inclusive gesture for community life.

## **Abbot Emeritus E. Thomas De Wane, O. Praem.**

Abbot Dane is a man of many gifts and possesses a very strong faith. He is confident in his ability to lead, having been in challenging leadership roles in the past. I find him creative, with fresh ideas and the courage to test them. He is a man of energy with an incomparable work ethic.

## **Fr. David Komatz, O. Praem.**

Abbot Dane has exceptional managerial and leadership skills. He is not afraid to accept a challenge and has been proven an innovator in his various positions. Possessing a keen analytical mind, he looks for justification for decisions and practice. Moreover, he brings to the abbacy a willingness and ability to listen to others and creatively address their needs. He is even-handed and impartial. From his more recent pastoral roles, he brings to the abbacy a practical and polished management style tempered by sensitivity and compassion.



# A Light Upon Our Path

## The Abbot's Motto & Crest

*By Fr. Stephen Rossey, O. Praem.*

Mottos act as torches to guide our footsteps when and where footing is precarious and unsure. They remind us of the direction we mean to travel when we get sidetracked by less important things. A motto based on Scripture helps link our deepest values and goals to God and things eternal. Whereas complicated ideas get lost in space, simple mottos clarify. Upon his election, the abbot of St. Norbert Abbey chooses a motto. This choice represents the man, the times, and deeply held values that will help guide his term as abbot.

*The abbot of St. Norbert Abbey also designs his abbatial coat of arms, or crest, to honor his faith, family, and membership in the Norbertine community. All crests integrate the St. Norbert Abbey coat of arms. Most abbots also integrate symbols of their ancestry, special interests, and senses of humor.*

Abbot Emeritus Gary Neville, O. Praem., seated on the abbot's chair in the Church of St. Norbert Abbey. His crest appears above.



Abbot 1925 - 1955

## Bernard H. Pennings

*"Let us love one another"*

(1 John 4:7): *To honor the dignity and worth of every person*

**Coat of Arms:** A blue pansy on the shoulder of a silver lion evokes his family's medieval crest. In heraldry, "Pansies" is a play on the Pennings name. A lion with fountain suggests the family crest of Abbot Pennings' patron saint, St. Bernard of Clairvaux.



Abbot 1955 - 1970

## Sylvester M. Killeen

*"He must increase, I must decrease"*

(John 3:30): *With a heartfelt nod to humility*

**Coat of Arms:** The Killeen lion is an homage to the family's medieval coat of arms, and a triple tower denotes the abbot's mother's McLeod family name. Represented by trees, the name Sylvester means "of the woods."



Abbot 1970 - 1982

## Jerome G. Tremel

*"To spend and be spent for you"*

(2 Corinthians 12:15): *In recognition of priests as servants of God's people*

**Coat of Arms:** The shape is derived from the angularity of the abbey's stained glass windows. Shears symbolize Norbert of Xanten, Count of Gennepe. Fleurs-de-lis are symbolic of France, home of the Prémontré order. A crescent moon represents the Immaculate Conception.



Abbot 1982 - 1994

## Benjamin T. Mackin

*"It is written in the scroll of the Book:*

*Behold, I have come to do Your will"*

(Hebrews 10:7; Psalm 40): *To remind us God's will supersedes our own*

**Coat of Arms:** Red, white, and blue represent the United States and St. Norbert Abbey's crest. A harp is for his Irish ancestry; the medieval sheep shears, the family crest of Norbert of Xanten. Fleur-de-lis symbolizes Mary; the dancing bear, a favorite motif of Abbot Mackin, embodies joy.



Abbot 1994 - 2003

## E. Thomas De Wane

*"Let us affirm one another"*

(Romans 15:7): *On the importance of the presence others in our lives*

**Coat of Arms:** Crossbars represent the De Wane medieval crest. A griffin symbolizes the abbot's and abbey's Dutch ancestry; the shamrock, for Irish roots. A tree alludes to his mother's maiden name, Bos, Dutch for "woods"; the crozier, his Norbertine patron, St. Evermode; the scroll, his baptismal patron saint, Thomas Aquinas.



Abbot 2003 - 2018

## Gary J. Neville

*"Be holy, as God is holy"*

(1 Peter 1:16): *In recognition of our high Christian calling as a chosen people*

**Coat of Arms:** From the medieval Neville crest, a griffin stands for eternity and vigilance; a spear for Gary, "spear bearer" in Old English. A heraldic seashell symbol suggests his baptismal name, St. James. The "Navel" orange is a play on his surname; the cuckoo clock and snow are personal favorites; and the Belgian flag reflects his ancestry.

Patrick Snider is a 2018 graduate of St. Norbert College. At press time, he was discerning his next step, either pursuing the priesthood or a service opportunity working with refugees and other marginalized people.

*Many saints find grace in their lives: St. Ambrose teaches “a kindness received should be returned with a freer hand”; St. Francis of Assisi remarked, “it is in giving that we receive”; and Mother Teresa encourages us to do “small things with great love.” In the stories that follow, it is clear that small things in life and ministry can move people’s hearts. We are invited to explore more acts of kindness in our daily encounters.*

## SHARING GRACE IN

### LESSONS FOR LIFE >

Jacob Larsen is a recent graduate of Notre Dame de la Baie Academy (NDA) in Green Bay, a Norbertine apostolate Catholic high school. There he was initially drawn to volunteer as a peer tutor because he had a 15-hour-per-year volunteer requirement for his membership in the National Honor Society (NHS). “But when I added up my tutoring time, I was at about 45 hours from just one semester,” he said, dedicated almost entirely to one particular student who needed his help in several subjects.

Jacob devoted many hours per week of his own study time to his sophomore mentee, a recent transfer student to NDA. He said the first couple of weeks were difficult and awkward, but then he saw the young man’s confidence begin to build, not only in his studies but also in his belief that he really had ability—and a friend who would stick by him.

The graces traveled both ways. “I realized that he didn’t see school the same way I did. His life outside of school is very different from mine,” Jacob said. “Through him, I developed a broader view of the world, and I became accountable to him, too, not just the other way around.”

Madison (Madi) Polack was also an NHS member and peer tutor to a sophomore student at NDA. The young woman she met came from a background that had not prepared her well for sophomore-level work, so Madi backed up and helped her through remedial studies that would bring her up to speed. “It wasn’t just academics, though. I wanted her to get to know our school and see other ways she could get involved in student activities and service work.” The randomly paired young women exchanged cell phone numbers and Madi was available to her new friend for all sorts of school-related questions. “The best feeling was when she told one of our teachers that she did well on a test because ‘All of Madi’s tricks helped me!’ I tried to show her easy ways to remember things and it paid off.”

*Jacob Larsen and Madison Polack, Tutors at Notre Dame de la Baie Academy*

## < A G U I D E W I T H O U T G U I L E

“I seek what is in the best interest of the other and try to choose love as much as possible,” said Patrick Snider, a 2018 graduate of St. Norbert College with majors in secondary education and history. “This is my ideal; but, at the same time, I often fail. I try to recognize and remind myself of my humanity without beating myself up.” Humbly, he explained how he makes a point of greeting people, smiling, and befriending the outcast. “I try to be a person who gives my full attention, to be present in the present.” **Fr. Andrew Ciferni, O. Praem.**, former director of the Center for Norbertine Studies at the college and Snider’s spiritual director during his time on campus, said the young man reminds him of John 1:47. “Nathanael is an early disciple and is said to have ‘been without guile.’ This is how I see Patrick; he is without guile, a person of pure motives who acts with integrity.”

It was Fr. Ciferni who recommended Patrick as a resident assistant in Madelaine/Lorraine Hall, a post he assumed in September 2017. “Students know they can confide in him and trust him. Even in situations where he may have to write up a student [for an infraction], he is fair,” he said. “I see Patrick as a quiet leader in the way good teachers are leaders; he has a pastoral spirit,” then laughingly added, “but he is such a fanatic about Manchester United!”

Aside from his passion for intense soccer matches, Patrick has a thoughtful, calm communication style and an affinity for servant leadership. “We should lift each other up through the Little Way [of St. Thérèse of Lisieux]. If I am to be a leader, I choose to lead a life of love,” said Patrick.

*Patrick Snider, St. Norbert College Resident Assistant, Recent Graduate*

## O U R E V E R Y D A Y L I V E S *By Gina Sanders Larsen*



Jacob Larsen and Madison Polack graduated from Notre Dame de la Baie Academy in spring 2018. Larsen is the son of Tom and Sarah Larsen and attends Purdue University where he studies biomedical engineering. Polack, the daughter of Tim and Claudia Polack, attends the University of Wisconsin-Madison and majors in international business.

Sue White, a parish volunteer, speaks with Deacon Kevin DeCleene at St. Norbert College Parish.



## S H A R I N G   G R A C E   I N

### A H E A R T   O P E N   T O   C A R E G I V I N G >

This man who chose to follow Jesus Christ as a priest more than six decades ago considers his primary calling that of caregiver. **Fr. Bill Ribbens, O. Praem.**, 83, resides at St. Norbert Abbey and still works in the larger community on behalf of people who need care. Decades ago, he recalls sitting with a Hispanic mother as her daughter lay dying from cystic fibrosis. “We didn’t speak the same language, but I went to be with her. And when her girl died, I saw the family arrive and share their grief in the most beautiful way, a way I had not seen before,” Fr. Ribbens said. “That’s when I started helping families sort out medical bills, bless houses, and do other things.” Sr. Guadalupe Muñoz of Catholic Charities (see page 3) was his bilingual companion. He learned to celebrate Mass in Spanish, a gift he shared with migrant workers in Gillette, Newton, and Sturgeon Bay for more than 10 years.

In the 1970s, Fr. Ribbens was a science teacher in Green Bay and a chaplain at a home for unwed mothers and a separate residential treatment center for girls. “At the time, we saw an opportunity to proactively help families instead of treating them after problems had already started,” he said. This idea evolved into the precursor of today’s Family & Childcare Resources of Northeast Wisconsin, a center for parenting programs, childcare worker training, and other supportive services on whose board Fr. Ribbens still serves as vice president.

Fr. Ribbens also helps recovering alcoholics as they are called to contemplate the role of God in their lives, and he ministers to prisoners who call for a priest. For him, listening is caregiving. “Jesus did not ask us to light candles and build churches; he asked us to take care of the widow, the orphan, and the alien,” Fr. Ribbens said. “We are not simply named disciples; we are called to actively disciple to one another.”

*Fr. Bill Ribbens, O. Praem., St Norbert Abbey Resident, Serving the Larger Community*



# < THE MINISTRY OF BEING MISSED

"I miss you." It's a short but profound phrase. Missing people is a ministry in itself, Sue White believes. As a member and volunteer at St. Norbert College Parish, she spends "a lot of time reaching out to people who are lonely, going through health problems, or stop showing up to places we are used to seeing them," she said. A simple call, visit, or card can mean a lot to a person who feels unwell, lonesome, or shut out. "If you are trying to change the world, change the way you treat one person at a time. No one needs to do it all, but as a parish family, we can each do a small and meaningful part."

Sue considers herself just one person in a network of fellow parishioners who care, pray, visit, call, create, and cook for one another. "When we see a need, we should do it quietly and in the dark"; that is, without a lot of fanfare or calling attention to one's self.

"Sue is very humble, yet she has a fire in her belly that no one be forgotten," said Deacon Kevin DeCleene, senior director of parish services at St. Norbert College Parish. The two recently talked about times when we have fleeting thoughts of a person, maybe when we are driving or doing other things throughout the day. "Don't take those thoughts lightly. Act on them and reach out," he said. "That's God at work in our lives, and Sue gets that."

She's known as a first-rate cook and meal delivery driver, yet it's Sue's prayer journal that powers her soulful work. This notebook of spiritual needs is beside her coffee cup each morning so she can name each person during prayer. "I keep these notes and go back to them and offer prayers of gratitude. It never fails; I am always humbled by the way God works in our lives."

*Sue White, St. Norbert College Parish Member, Volunteer*

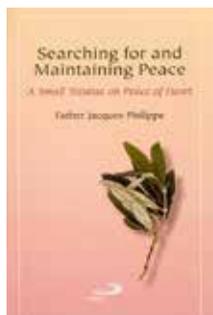
# OUR EVERYDAY LIVES

Fr. Bill Ribbens, O. Praem.,  
believes listening is an  
active form of caregiving.

# What We're Reading

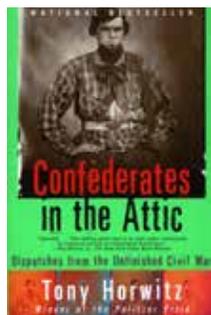
As days become shorter and weather colder, it is a perfect time to reach for a good book. We asked a few prolific readers within the Norbertine community for suggestions. Here are some recommended titles.

## Enjoy!



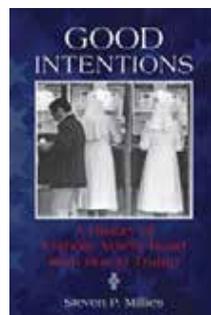
**Searching for and Maintaining Peace: A Small Treatise on Peace of Heart**  
By Father Jacques Philippe

Any book I have read by Fr. Philippe is filled with well-timed, easily digestible, and succinct advice. Organized in short sections, his spiritual guidance focuses on how to maintain our interior peace—critical to anyone trying to live a Christian life in our fast-paced, multitasking world.



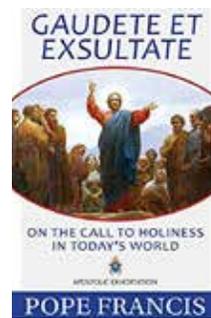
**Confederates in the Attic: Dispatches from the Unfinished Civil War**  
By Tony Horwitz

This is an excellent book about the Civil War and especially its remembrance of the South. I believe the book's messages are even more relevant today than ever.



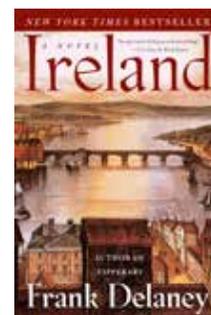
**Good Intentions: A History of Catholic Voters' Road from Roe to Trump**  
By Steven P. Millies

Millies uncovers the history of how and why the so-called "Catholic vote" went the way it did in the 2016 presidential election and offers some practical reflections on ways to put Catholic faith to use in American politics.



**Gaudete et Exsultate: On the Call to Holiness in Today's World**  
By Pope Francis

Pope Francis provides a practical and spiritual guide to living a holy life in the 21st century.



**Ireland: A Novel**  
By Frank Delaney

If you have an affinity for Ireland, its people, and history, this is the book for you. It weaves together a beautiful tapestry of a traveling storyteller and his impact on a young Irish boy and his family. A delightful read for everyone.



Recommended by Frater Johnathan Turba, O. Praem.



Recommended by Fr. Patrick LaPacz, O. Praem.



Recommended by Br. Steve Herro, O. Praem.

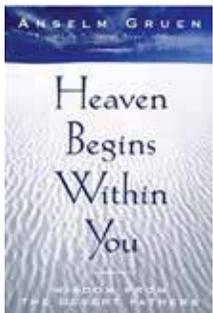


Recommended by Br. Steve Herro, O. Praem.



Recommended by Fr. Michael Brennan, O. Praem.

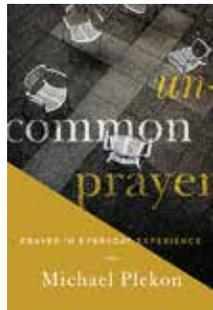
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**Heaven Begins Within You: Wisdom from the Desert Fathers**

By Fr. Anselm Gruen, O.S.B.

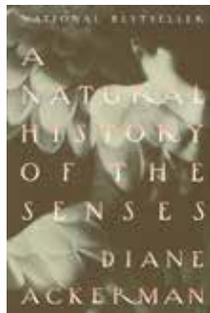
Fr. Anselm Gruen, Benedictine Monk from the abbey of Münsterschwartzach, Germany, is today's most famous spiritual writer in Western Europe. This psychotherapist combines the wisdom of the Desert Fathers with insights of actual psychotherapy to help people grow spiritually. *Heaven Begins Within You* is a book to help one grow in self-observation, "because that's the way to God," according Fr. Gruen.



**Uncommon Prayer: Prayer in Everyday Experience**

By Michael Plekon

Theologian Paul Evdomikov counseled us not only to say prayers, but also to become prayer. Fr. Michael Plekon, who draws on the experience of a broad range of spiritual writers, opens up for the reader a broader vision of prayer beyond saying prayers. He identifies a prayerful life in work, family, and relationships, in service and in just being. *Uncommon Prayer* is a breath of fresh air, enabling new possibilities for spiritual growth.



**A Natural History of the Senses**

By Diane Ackerman

A splendid affirmation of the goodness of the five senses, I first read this book while pursuing my M.F.A. This very book was informally shared among the grad students as "required reading" for those for whom beauty mattered, and I have read and reread these 352 pages without ever tiring of its tone of wonder and awe. Be prepared to be catapulted into realms of joy and delight!



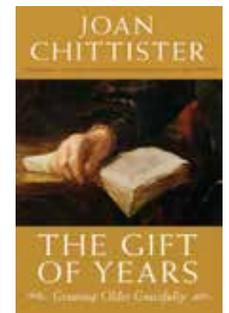
**Christmas Miscellany: Everything You Ever Wanted to Know about Christmas**

By Jonathan Green

A splendid little book that will revive and reinvigorate the joy of celebrating the most wondrous season of Christmas. A charming primer in the history of beloved holiday customs and rituals, this is a perfect gift for young and old alike, sparking the imagination and enlarging one's delight in celebrating holy days and holidays.



Find more recommendations online at [norbertines.org](http://norbertines.org)



**The Gift of Years: Growing Older Gracefully**

By Joan D. Chittister, O.S.B.

Grace and wisdom flow from some 40 short essays. A rich source of reflection for anyone approaching or experiencing the elder years.



Recommended by Fr. Peter Ambting, O. Praem.



Recommended by Fr. John Bostwick, O. Praem.



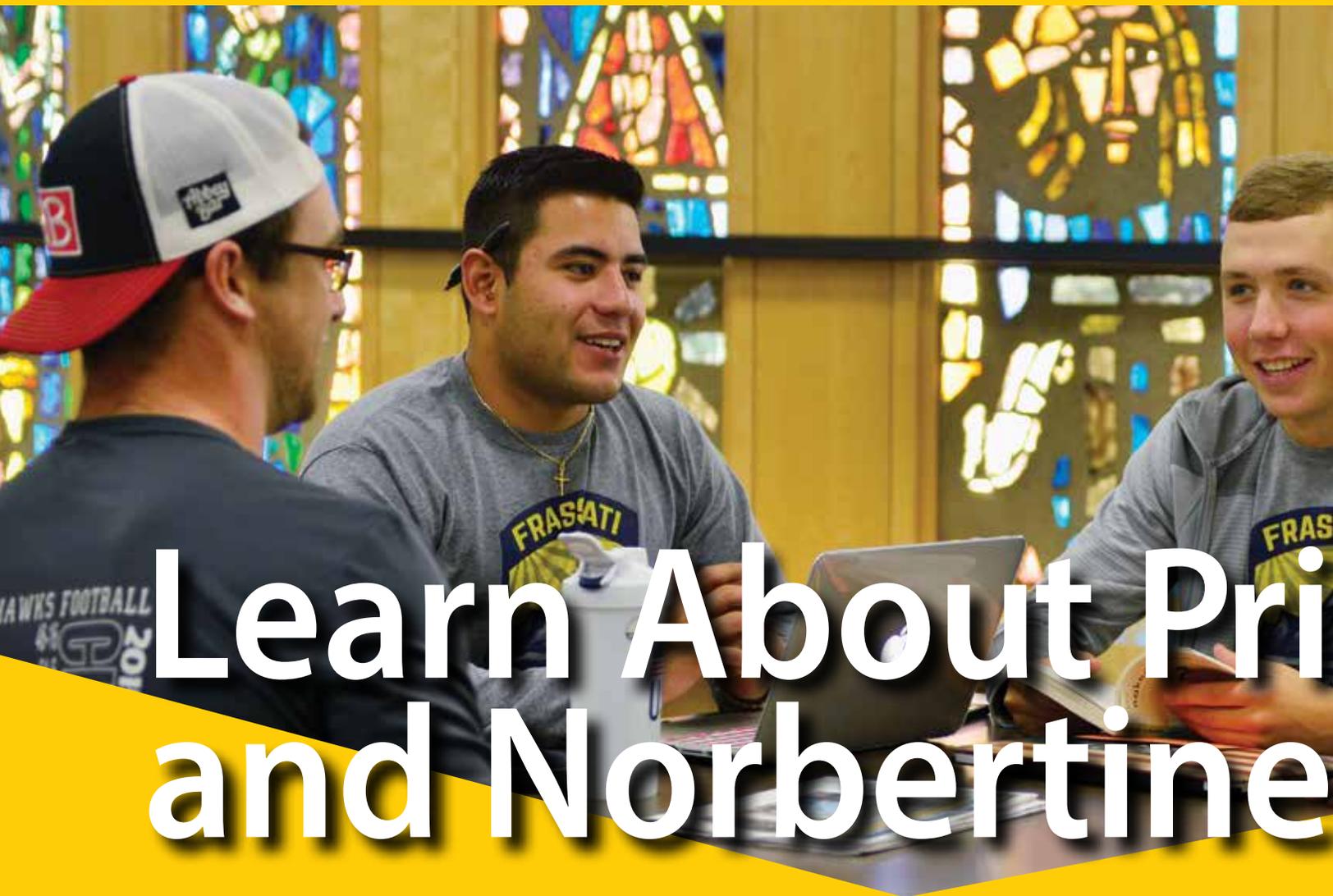
Recommended by Fr. James Neilson, O. Praem.



Recommended by Fr. James Neilson, O. Praem.



Recommended by Abbot Emeritus Jerome Tremel, O. Praem.



# Learn About Pri and Norbertine

## Come and See

By Fr. Michael Brennan, O. Praem.,  
Vocation Director at St. Norbert Abbey

*John was standing with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by, he said, "Behold, the Lamb of God." The two disciples heard what he said and followed Jesus. Jesus turned and saw them following him and said to them, "What are you looking for?" They said to him, "Rabbi" (which translated means Teacher), "where are you staying?" He said to them, "Come, and you will see."  
—John 1:35-39*

It was a cool, crisp October day in 1994 when I first visited St. Norbert College (SNC) as a prospective student. One of the highlights of that visit was sitting down with **Fr. James Baraniak, O. Praem.**, and listening to his vocation story and enthusiasm for priesthood and Norbertine life.

Recently, I found myself on the other side of that conversation as director of Norbertine vocations when I welcomed a prospective student to discuss his interest in SNC and Norbertine priesthood.

Given this encouraging visit, and the growing interest of several high school-age young men from Notre Dame de

Fr. Michael Brennan, O. Praem., meeting with St. Norbert College students.

# esthood Life

la Baie Academy (NDA) who are also discerning the priesthood, Fr. Baraniak, **Fr. Bradley Vanden Branden, O. Praem.**, and I decided to host a Come and See evening for high school students at St. Norbert Abbey.

Several young men joined us for Mass, Vespers, dinner with the community, and abbey tours, after which an NDA freshman told me, "I'm really glad that I came tonight."

This high school Come and See evening is one of several vocation experiences our abbey community hosted this year. These evenings have included men from Silver Lake College and SNC, as well as individual visits from college-aged men from across the United States.

We hope to continue our journey with these young men as they discern God's call to serve God and neighbor as members of our Norbertine community.

If you or someone you know might be interested in joining the Norbertine community, we encourage you to contact our vocation office to schedule a similar Come and See experience.

**vocations@norbertines.org**  
**(920) 403-3012**  
**norbertines.org**

*Join us for an Hour of Adoration at 7 p.m. in the Church of St. Norbert Abbey on the fourth Thursday of every month, beginning September 27. All are invited.*

## Why Norbertine Life?

There are many religious orders throughout the world with a variety of charisms and apostolates. We are often asked, "Why did you choose to join the Norbertines of St. Norbert Abbey?"



Given the compelling responses to this question from Norbertines young and old, we decided to post these reflections on our website in a series called "Why Norbertine Life?"

Whether you are discerning a call to priesthood and religious life, or are simply interested in hearing from faith-filled men, we hope you find these posts inspiring.

**norbertines.org**



# WHEN IN ROME

*By Deacon Jordan Neeck,  
O. Praem., and  
Frater Johnathan Turba,  
O. Praem.*



Deacon Jordan Neeck, O. Praem.,  
and Frater Johnathan Turba,  
O. Praem., enjoying the sights  
and sounds of Rome.



Abbot General Emeritus  
Thomas Handgräteringer,  
O. Praem., leader of the  
international Norbertine Order,

read an article about the St. Norbert Abbey  
podcast, **Canons on the Run**, hosted by  
Deacon Jordan Neeck, O. Praem., and  
Frater Johnathan Turba, O. Praem.  
Consequently, he invited them to Rome  
to serve on the international media relations  
committee in preparation for the 900th  
anniversary of the Order of Prémontré  
(Norbertine Order) (1121-2021).



Abbot General Emeritus Thomas Handgräteringer,  
O. Praem., meeting with committee members.



Frater Johnathan Turba, O. Praem.,  
washing his habit after the pigeon visit.

**We** expected to be awed by the sight of the Vatican, magnificent churches, stunning works of art, and delectable food. And indeed we were. However, it was the unexpected moments that brought delight, challenge, and transformation to our days in Rome.

### Message from Above

Eager to see the sights with tour guide Romanian Frater Aron Balogh, O. Praem., we were no more than 20 minutes out the door when we ALL felt something from above. One look at each other in our white habits and we knew what had happened—we had been the targets of a large, merciless pigeon. Realizing we had to wear our habits every day, we made our way back to the Norbertine Generalate, administrative headquarters of the worldwide order, to try to clean them before heading out again. **Lesson Learned** There are some things in life we simply cannot control. When we let go of that control, we are free to laugh, to embrace life, and to see opportunity in the moment.

### When in Rome

What were we thinking! Of course prayer at the Generalate would be in Italian—morning, noon, and evening. **Lesson Learned** Out of our comfort zone, we became more attentive to our prayer and more reliant on the patience and assistance of others.

### Mistaken Identity

Have you ever noticed how similar Pope Francis' habit is to the Norbertine habit? After a few outings, we began to realize that

people, from a distance, were mistaking us for *il Papa*. With the click of a smartphone or the flash of a Nikon we knew we would become part of someone's travel photos. One day in particular we accepted an invitation to be in a photo with college students. Suddenly there were people lining up to take photos with us! **Lesson Learned** These uninvited, mini "paparazzi" moments gave us the chance to enjoy other travelers, share who we are, and share the joy of the Gospel.

### Stories that Inspire

Being the only two non-European members of the committee, we were awed and inspired by stories of Norbertine communities who experienced the tragedy of World Wars I and II and the impact of communist suppression of religious men and women. **Lesson Learned** Hearing personal stories, we have a newfound appreciation for the resiliency, fortitude, and Christian witness of those who have struggled with war, suppression, and other tragedies. We also realize everyone has a story and if we take time to truly listen, compassion takes root.

### Train Strike #wewalkedeverywhere

Taking the train to the Vatican Museum required transferring train lines at Roma Termini, but the line we needed was closed due to a workers' strike. We had to walk miles to get to our destination. **Lesson Learned** This unexpected detour afforded us the opportunity to experience Roman neighborhoods, delightful Italians, and extra servings of gelato.

# THE NORBERTINE CENTER *for* SPIRITUALITY

## *Discovery Awaits; Enter Here*

By Tony Pichler



**Tony Pichler**, Director of the  
Norbertine Center for Spirituality

On the Solemnity of St. Joseph, March 19, 2018, Pope Francis issued his latest apostolic exhortation, *Gaudete et Exsultate: On the Call to Holiness In Today's World*. In this letter, the Holy Father reminds us of the universal call to holiness regardless of our vocation or state in life. Specifically, as we balance action and contemplation, the Pope states:

*The presence of constantly new gadgets, the excitement of travel and an endless array of consumer goods at times leave no room for God's voice to be heard. We are overwhelmed by words, by superficial pleasures and by an increasing din, filled not by joy but rather by the discontent of those whose lives have lost meaning. How can we fail to realize the need to stop this rat race and to recover the personal space needed to carry on a heartfelt dialogue with God? Finding that space may prove painful but it is always fruitful. Sooner or later, we have to face our true selves and let the Lord enter. (Gaudete et Exsultate, #29)*

With the transformation of the northeast corner of St. Norbert Abbey property, it is easier than ever to enter into a sacred place or meaningful conversation that will enrich your spiritual life. Come explore the many creative and thought-provoking ways you can experience the Norbertine Center for Spirituality (NCS) and St. Norbert Abbey.



**Kathie Tilot**,  
Spiritual Direction Coordinator

### **SPIRITUAL DIRECTION**

Our team of spiritual directors is available to accompany and guide individuals as they work to deepen their relationship with God. To begin this process, contact Kathie Tilot, spiritual direction coordinator, at **(920) 337-4340** or **kathie.tilot@norbertines.org**.

### **SPIRITUAL PRACTICES**

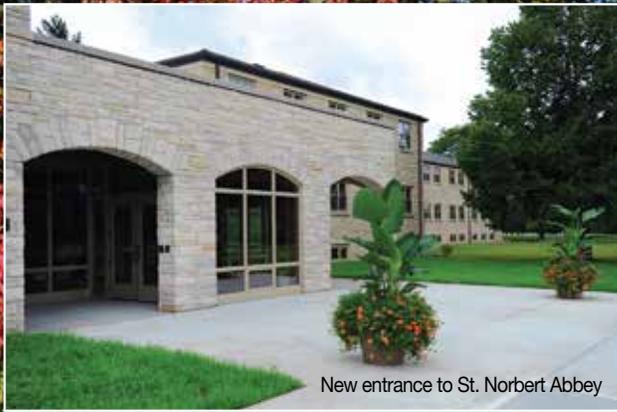
Learn from NCS staff about varied methods of contemplation and prayer. An outdoor prayer labyrinth and 160 acres of quiet green space welcome every visitor. Then consider participating in prayer at the abbey:

**Centering Prayer** is offered at the NCS every Tuesday at 7:10-7:55 a.m. A 7:30 break allows participants to join the Norbertine community for Morning Prayer (*Lauds*). Further opportunities for prayer with the Norbertine community include:

**Morning Prayer (*Lauds*) with the Norbertine Community:** weekdays, 7:30 a.m.; Saturday, 8 a.m.; Sunday, 9 a.m.

**Mass with the Norbertine Community:** weekdays, 4:30 p.m.; Saturday, 8:30 a.m.; Sunday, 10 a.m.

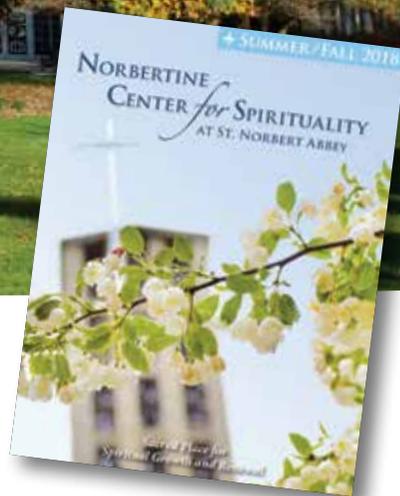
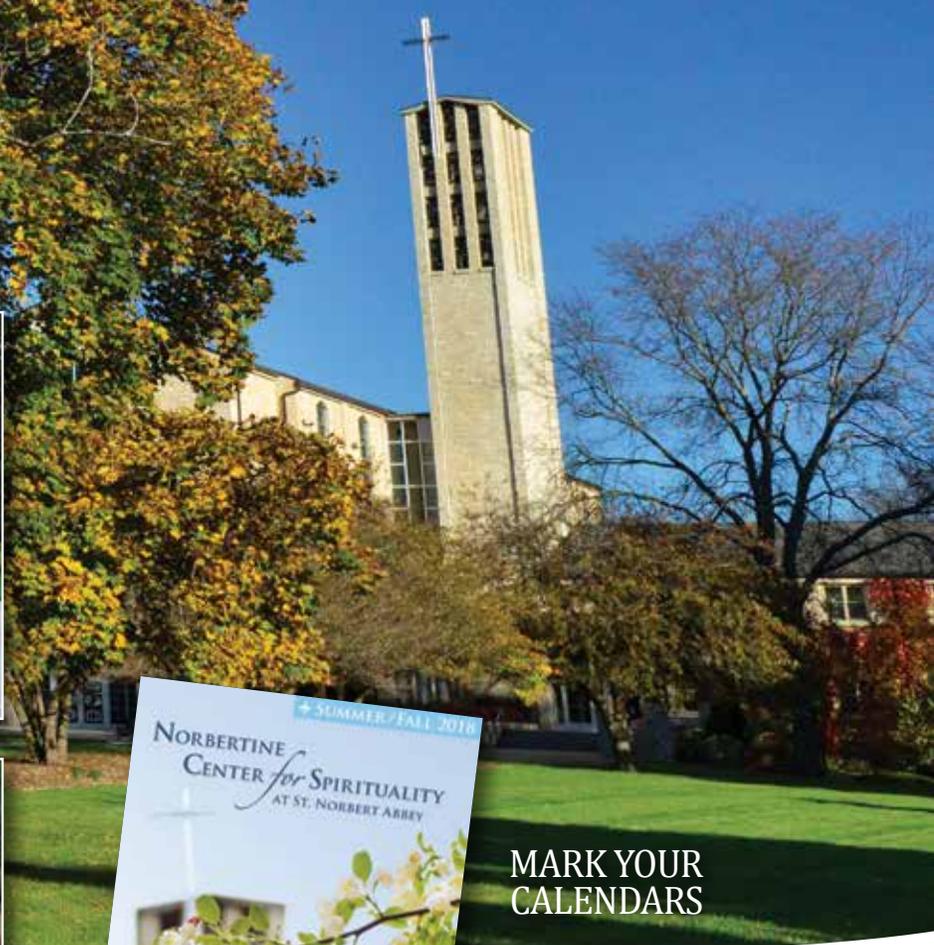
**Evening Prayer (*Vespers*) with the Norbertine Community:** weekdays, 5:05 p.m.; Saturday & Sunday, 5 p.m.



New entrance to St. Norbert Abbey



Contemplative moment on the grounds of St. Norbert Abbey



## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

For additional information or to receive a program guide, visit [norbertines.org](http://norbertines.org) or call the Norbertine Center for Spirituality at (920) 337-4315.

### SCRIPTURE

Enhance your experience of Scripture with weekly discussions:

**Tuesdays – Enhancing the Sunday Scripture**  
with Sr. Judy Miller, CSJ, 10:30-11:30 a.m.

**Wednesdays – Sunrise Scripture**  
6:30-7:20 a.m., followed by optional Morning Prayer

### SOCIAL JUSTICE

Social justice learning and participation helps us put faith into action. Upcoming social justice programs include:

#### American Prophets Series:

**The Struggle for Social and Political Justice**  
Mondays, September 24, October 1, and 8

**Homeless Panel on Affordable Housing**  
Tuesday, November 20

**Lovers of the Poor: Literature and Social Justice**  
Thursday, November 29

### RETREATS

Disengage from your normal routine and embrace the beauty and quiet of St. Norbert Abbey at a retreat. Different formats, themes, and time commitments accommodate a wide variety of interests:

**RiverMapping Your Spiritual Journey Retreat**  
with Deacon Steve Meyer; September 21-22

#### Twilight Retreat for Couples :

**The Art and Science of Being a Happy Couple**  
with Carol Bruess, Ph.D.; Tuesday, September 25

**What Do You Mean, “There Is Not Enough Room for Joy?”**  
with Dr. Terry Nelson-Johnson; October 26-28

**Finding Balance: The Practice of Mindfulness for Resilience and Well-Being**  
with Pastor Lee Goodwin; November 2-4

#### Count Your Blessings!

with Betty Manion; Wednesday, November 7

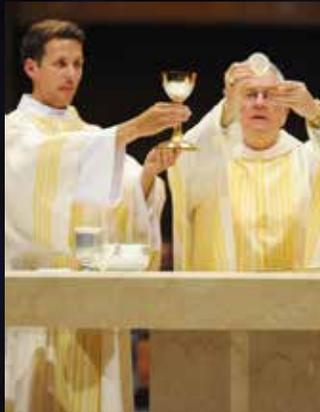
# Committed to Christ

## Celebrations at St. Norbert Abbey

*The Norbertine Community of St. Norbert Abbey celebrates as four men take their next steps in honoring their commitments to the order.*



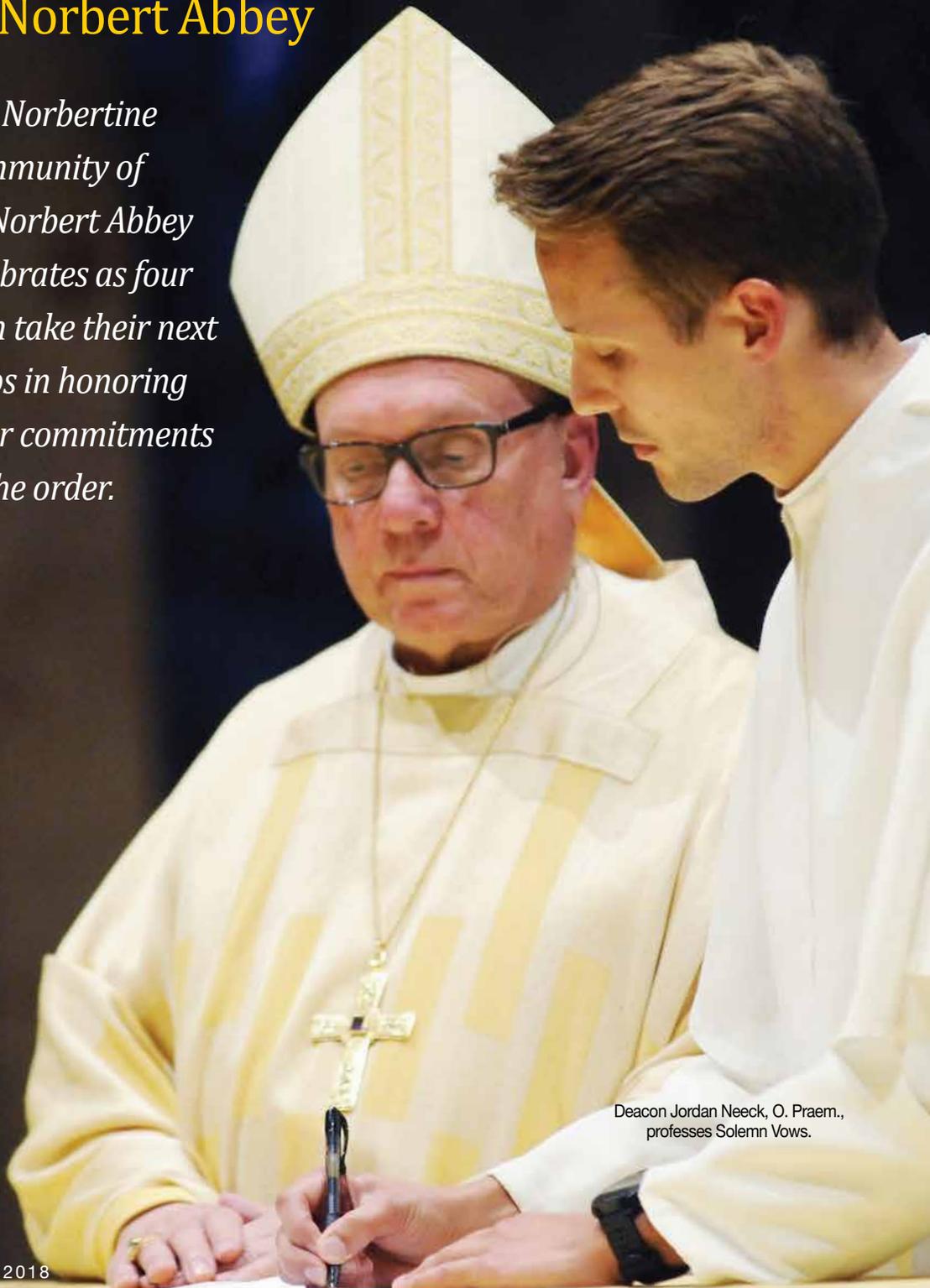
Deacon Jordan Neeck, O. Praem.



Frater Johnathan Turba, O. Praem.,  
professes Simple Vows.



Newly vested Frater Charles (Griffin)  
Burris, O. Praem., and  
Abbot Dane Radecki, O. Praem.



Deacon Jordan Neeck, O. Praem.,  
professes Solemn Vows.

**FRATER JORDAN NEECK, O. PRAEM.**, professed Solemn Vows, forging a mutual lifelong commitment to the canonical life between himself and the entire professed community.

**Abbot Dane Radecki, O. Praem.**, presided over the solemn rite.

The following day, Frater Neeck also was ordained to the diaconate by **Bishop David Ricken** of the Diocese of Green Bay.

**FRATER JOHNATHAN TURBA, O. PRAEM.**, and **FR. PETER AMBTING, O. PRAEM.**, professed Simple Vows, committing themselves to the traditional vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience: poverty reflects simplicity of life; chastity opens them to growth in the Holy Spirit in union with others; and obedience makes them attentive to God's will. Abbot Radecki presided over the solemn rite.

**FRATER CHARLES (GRIFFIN) BURRIS, O. PRAEM.**, was vested in the white habit of the Norbertine Order, beginning and deepening his commitment to religious life through a two-year novitiate. Abbot Radecki presided over the vestition ceremony.



View vestition, profession of vows, and diaconate ordination images at [norbertines.org](http://norbertines.org).



Imploring the intercession of the saints, Deacon Jordan Neeck, O. Praem., lies prostrate during his Solemn Profession.



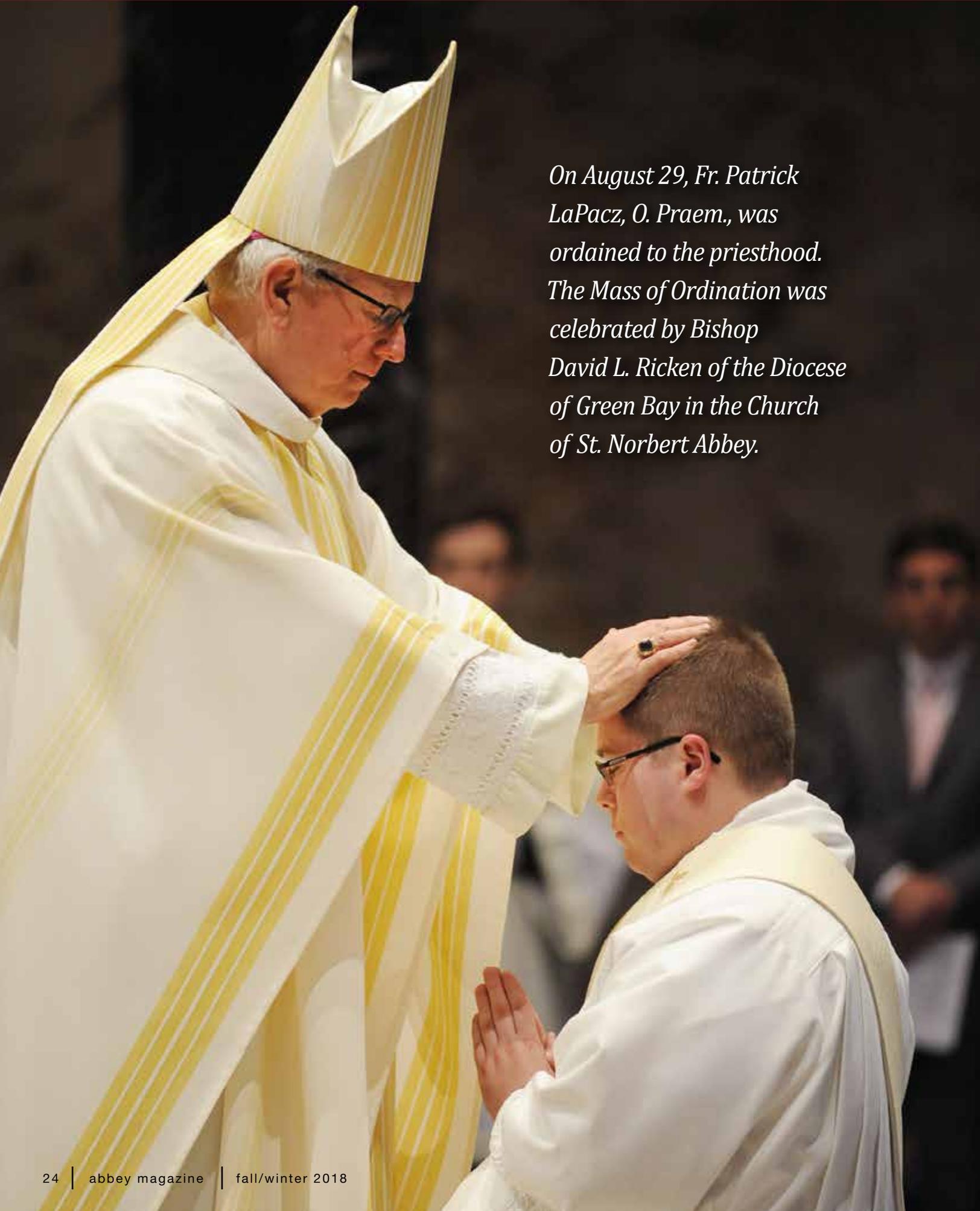
Deacon Jordan Neeck, O. Praem., is ordained to the diaconate by Bishop David Ricken. Fr. Jacob Sircy, O. Praem., serves as acolyte.



Fr. Peter Ambting, O. Praem., professes Simple Vows.



Frater Charles (Griffin) Burris, O. Praem., receives both the Norbertine habit and Constitutions, and a Bible. Frater Johnathan Turba, O. Praem., serves as acolyte.



*On August 29, Fr. Patrick LaPacz, O. Praem., was ordained to the priesthood. The Mass of Ordination was celebrated by Bishop David L. Ricken of the Diocese of Green Bay in the Church of St. Norbert Abbey.*

# What it Means to Be a Priest

I say “YES!” *By Fr. Patrick LaPacz, O. Praem.*

Before my time as a Norbertine, I studied at Conception Seminary College in northwestern Missouri, a Benedictine school, where the phrase “Life begins at Conception” was a popular expression. At that time I was a seminarian for the Diocese of Green Bay. I treasured my years at Conception; however, after much discernment, I eventually chose to join the Community of St. Norbert Abbey to complete my seminarian training. I returned to Conception Abbey in July 2018 for a retreat prior to my Norbertine priesthood ordination, and it proved to be a very good and peaceful week.

During my retreat, I began to read *The Priest Is Not His Own* by Archbishop Fulton Sheen. In this book, Archbishop Sheen discusses what it means to be a priest. This line stood out to me: “Becoming a holy priest is not completed the day of ordination ...” I believe my “yes” to God’s call was manifest at my ordination to the priesthood on August 29. However, my journey to priesthood ends, as a new journey begins. This journey will be ongoing—being a holy priest.

I am excited to begin this next stage of serving God and His people. It’s been nine years from the beginning of formal priestly formation to my ordination, and roughly 20 years from the first time I considered becoming a priest. Despite my long journey, I was nervous as my ordination day approached. Among other questions, there is the obvious one: Am I worthy? The truth is that no one is worthy; yet regardless of my nervousness, I believe that God has called me to this vocation—to serve Him and His people all the days of my priestly life. In response to God’s calling, I say “YES!” Please pray that I am successful in this holy endeavor!



Fr. Patrick LaPacz, O. Praem., during the Mass of Ordination.



Newly ordained Fr. Patrick LaPacz, O. Praem., offers the host to his mother Mary.



View ordination images at [norbertines.org](http://norbertines.org).

# News, Honors, and Distinctions

## Norbertines Minister Within Green Bay Diocese and Beyond



**ABBOT EMERITUS GARY NEVILLE, O. PRAEM.**, is now pastor of Holy Cross Parish, Bay Settlement, Wisconsin.



**FR. JAMES HERRING, O. PRAEM.**, former prior of St. Norbert Abbey and most recently the associate formation director and house superior at Holy Spirit House of Studies, Chicago, is now prior de regimine of Immaculate Conception Priory, Middletown, Delaware.



**BR. STEVEN HERRO, O. PRAEM.**, is now assistant archivist for the Diocese of Green Bay, following his service as grant coordinator of the Catholic Foundation for the Diocese of Green Bay.



**FR. BRADLEY VANDEN BRANDEN, O. PRAEM.**, former chaplain at Notre Dame de la Baie Academy, Green Bay, is now prior of St. Norbert Abbey.



**FR. MICHAEL BRENNAN, O. PRAEM.**, has been named vocation director of St. Norbert Abbey.



**FR. DAVID MCELROY, O. PRAEM.**, is now interim director of the Norbertine Volunteer Community.



**FR. JAMES BARANIAK, O. PRAEM.**, former prior of St. Norbert Abbey, is now assistant formation director and house superior at Holy Spirit House of Studies, Chicago.

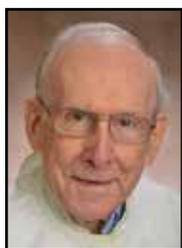


**FR. SALVATORE CUCCIA, O. PRAEM.**, house superior, has been appointed Norbertine delegate and chaplain for the Norbertine Associates of St. Norbert Abbey.



**FR. BINU VARGHESE, O. PRAEM.**, moved from St. Norbert Abbey to Holy Spirit House of Studies, Chicago.

### IN MEMORIAM



**FR. XAVIER COLAVECHIO, O. PRAEM.**, passed into God's Eternal Kingdom on March 22, 2018. Fr. Colavechio was born on April 7, 1931, in Philadelphia. He graduated with a bachelor's degree in philosophy from St. Norbert College (SNC) in 1952 and continued his education, earning graduate degrees

in theology from the Gregorian University in Rome, Italy, in 1957, and from the Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C., in 1959.

Upon entering St. Norbert Abbey, he was vested as a novice on August 28, 1948. He professed Simple Vows on August 28, 1950, Solemn Vows on August 28, 1953, and was

ordained to the priesthood on June 29, 1955. He celebrated the 60th anniversary of his priesthood ordination on June 5, 2015.

Fr. Colavechio taught at SNC for more than 15 years, where he also served as chairman of the humanities division for much of his tenure. From 1999-2005, he served on the Board of Trustees.

Fr. Colavechio served at the Norbertine Generalate in Rome, the Norbertine Priory of St. Moses the Black in Raymond, Mississippi, and the Norbertine Center for Spirituality at St. Norbert Abbey. He also assisted at St. Agnes Parish, Green Bay, and ministered at the Quad Parishes of Green Bay.



Learn more about Fr. Colavechio at [norbertines.org](http://norbertines.org).

## Community Celebrates 270 Years of Norbertine Priesthood

On June 6, the Solemnity of St. Norbert, Abbot Dane Radecki, O. Praem., presided at Mass in the Church of St. Norbert Abbey. This sacred celebration also honored the priesthood ordination anniversaries of six Norbertines.



Their profiles can be found online at [norbertines.org](http://norbertines.org).

### 60 Years



**FR. BARTHOLOMEW AGAR, O. PRAEM.**  
Ordained  
May 31, 1958



**ABBOT EMERITUS E. THOMAS DE WANE, O. PRAEM.**  
Ordained  
June 6, 1958

### 50 Years



**FR. EUGENE GRIES, O. PRAEM.**  
Ordained  
March 19, 1968



**FR. PETER RENARD, O. PRAEM.**  
Ordained  
March 19, 1968

### 25 Years



**FR. JAMES BARANIAK, O. PRAEM.**  
Ordained  
January 3, 1993



**FR. JAMES NEILSON, O. PRAEM.**  
Ordained  
November 13, 1993



Abbot General  
Jozef Wouters, O. Praem.,  
photo by  
Ramon Mangold



**THE GENERAL CHAPTER** of the worldwide Norbertine Order was held July 22-August 4 at Abdij Rolduc (Rolduc Abbey) in the Netherlands. In attendance were (from left to right) **ABBOT DANE RADECKI, O. PRAEM.**, canonry delegate **FR. JAMES BARANIAK, O. PRAEM.**, and protocolist **FR. DAVID MCELROY, O. PRAEM.**

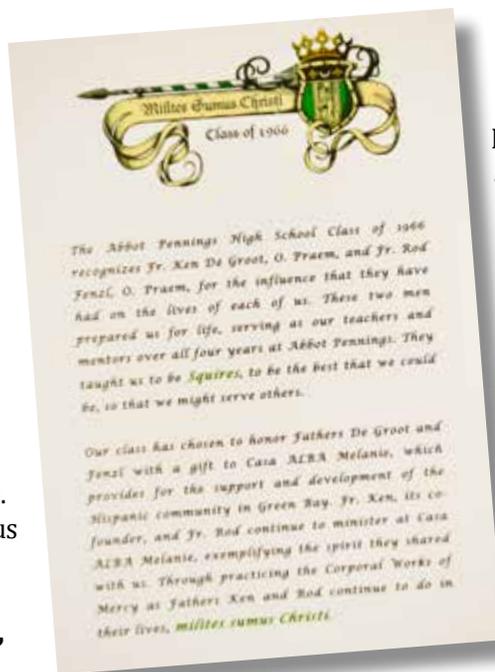
**ABBOT JOZEF WOUTERS, O. PRAEM.**, from Averbode Abbey in Belgium was elected as the new abbot general, replacing **ABBOT GENERAL EMERITUS THOMAS HANDGRÄTINGER, O. PRAEM.**

### ABBATIAL ELECTIONS at three American Norbertine Abbeys

In 2018, abbatial elections were held at three American Norbertine abbeys: **ABBOT DANE RADECKI, O. PRAEM.** (left), was elected abbot of St. Norbert Abbey; **ABBOT DOMENIC ROSSI, O. PRAEM.** (center), was elected abbot of daughter abbey of Daylesford (Paoli, Pennsylvania); and **ABBOT JOEL GARNER, O. PRAEM.** (right), was re-elected as abbot of daughter abbey of Santa María de la Vid (Albuquerque).



On August 18, Notre Dame de la Baie Academy, Green Bay, hosted a dinner and program for the inaugural Triton Academic and Athletic Hall of Fame (est. 2018). **FR. KEN DE GROOT, O. PRAEM.** (left), a 1953 alumnus of Central Catholic High School, was inducted into the Academic Division for Ministry. Former Abbot Pennings High School principal † **FR. GERY MEEHAN, O. PRAEM.** (center), was inducted into the Legends Division as Faculty/Staff/Friend, along with **SR. JUDY MILLER, CSJ** (right), who taught religion at St. Joseph Academy and currently offers spiritual direction at the Norbertine Center for Spirituality at St. Norbert Abbey.



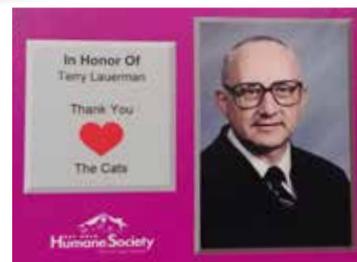
**FR. KEN DE GROOT, O. PRAEM.,** and **FR. ROD FENZL, O. PRAEM.,** received a recognition plaque (left) from the Abbot Pennings High School Class of 1966, for the positive influence they provided as teachers and mentors during those years. In their honor, a gift was given to Casa ALBA Melanie. This local organization supports Hispanic initiatives and was co-founded by Fr. De Groot. Both he and Fr. Fenzl minister there.



In October 2017, **FR. KEN DE GROOT, O. PRAEM.,** (right) was presented the 2017 Green Bay Packers Give Back Award (senior category), from Packers' president and chief executive officer Mark Murphy. Fr. De Groot, co-founder of Casa ALBA Melanie Hispanic Community Resource Center for Green Bay (Casa ALBA Melanie), has volunteered 1,200 hours annually for the past five years, working tirelessly to raise funds for this organization.

 Learn more at [norbertines.org](http://norbertines.org).

In December 2017, **BR. TERENCE LAUERMAN, O. PRAEM.,** was honored at the volunteer banquet of the Bay Area Humane Society in Green Bay for contributing more than 2,250 hours of his time—especially to helping care for homeless cats at the local shelter. A plaque with his picture and name honors his work.



### CLOISTER ART GALLERY EXHIBIT

In keeping with our recent abbatial election, the mini-exhibit in the St. Norbert Abbey Cloister Art Gallery, *Abbots, Accessories, Achievements*, attempts to answer some of the questions frequently asked about Norbertine life and our abbatial structure.

The gallery is located near the entrance to the Norbertine Center for Spirituality and is open daily free of charge.

 Learn more at [norbertines.org](http://norbertines.org).

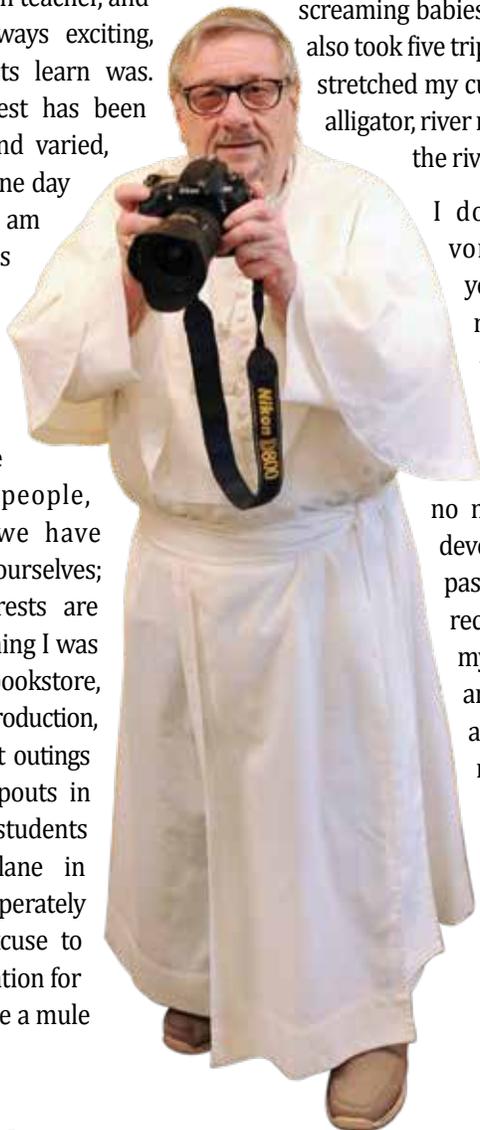
# Something to Contemplate



By Abbot Emeritus Gary Neville, O. Praem.

It is not uncommon throughout my 50 years as a religious that I have been asked about my life. Is it exciting or boring? Some assume I only spend time in silence, praying, or reading spiritual books. I took my career as a teacher (almost 25 years) most seriously. I graded countless essays and papers as an English teacher, and although it wasn't always exciting, witnessing my students learn was. My ministry as a priest has been the most rewarding and varied, always different from one day to the next. And now I am in my first few months as a pastor, and a whole new world has opened for me.

I think it important that folks out there know we priests are people, too. We have fun, we have hobbies, we challenge ourselves; and not all our interests are ministerial. While teaching I was also registrar, ran a bookstore, supervised yearbook production, and chaperoned student outings (including winter campouts in January and watching students parachute from a plane in Omro, all the while desperately looking for a good excuse to decline the pilot's invitation for a free jump). I even rode a mule



during a charity basketball game, and yes, it did defile the court.

As a definitor of the order for 12 years, I traveled to Europe more than 20 times, most often to the Norbertine Order administrative headquarters in Rome. My travels are legendary for missed flights, lost luggage, strange encounters, screaming babies, and frightening weather. I also took five trips to the jungles of Peru and stretched my culinary courage; I ate snake, alligator, river rat, goat, and creatures from the rivers I had never seen before.

I do have hobbies. I am a voracious reader. Several years ago, I took a three-month sabbatical and read 40 books. I have collected coins since I was 11 years old. My greatest joy is photography. I am by no means an expert but have developed some skills over the past 40 years. It is a great way to record memories and appease my frustrated desire to be an artist of some kind. My new assignment will afford me many opportunities to meet new people and partake of new experiences as a priest. It is always exciting to turn the page to a new chapter.



Learn more at [norbertines.org](http://norbertines.org).

On April 23, 2003, Fr. Gary Neville, O. Praem., was chosen as the sixth abbot of St. Norbert Abbey.

On May 4, 2012, Abbot Neville was re-elected for the first time in the 93-year history of this Norbertine abbey (also making him the second-longest serving abbot).

Abbot Emeritus Neville is a graduate of Prémontré High School and St. Norbert College. His theological training took place at Catholic Theological Union (CTU), Chicago, and he was ordained to the priesthood in 1978. Abbot Emeritus Neville received his doctorate in canon law from St. Paul University, Ottawa, Ontario, in 1990.

In his early years of ministry, Abbot Emeritus Neville served as vice principal, registrar, and English instructor at Prémontré High School. He also served as assistant professor of canon law at CTU. Abbot Emeritus Neville was elected First Definitor of the International Norbertine Order in 2006 and Second Definitor in 2012. Four definitors and the abbot general govern the International Norbertine Order.

Abbot Emeritus Neville concluded his abbatial ministry on April 4, 2018, after 15 years of dedicated service. He currently serves as pastor of Holy Cross Parish in Green Bay.



**ST. NORBERT ABBEY**  
1016 N. BROADWAY, DE PERE, WI 54115

## 2018 FALL/WINTER CALENDAR FOR ST. NORBERT ABBEY



*October 26-28*

### OCTOBER

- 3 – Coffee and Conversation with Fr. Peter Ambting, 10-11 a.m.
- 4 – Blessing of the Animals (Fr. John Kastenholz), 3:30 p.m.
- 4 – Bible 101: Rules for the Road (Thomas Bolin), 6:30-8 p.m.
- 11 – The Conrad J. Kratz, O. Praem. Abbey Lecture Series (Paul Wadell), 6:30-8 p.m.
- 16 – Best Lecture and Breakfast Series: God and Suffering: Contradiction or Invitation? (Howard Ebert), 7:45-9 a.m.
- 20 – Canon John O. Bruce Memorial Organ Concert (Jens Korndörfer), Abbey Church, 2 p.m.
- 23 – 1968: A Year That Rocked the World (Robert Boyer, Barb Boyer, David Littig, Michael Lukens), 6:30-8 p.m.
- 26-28 – What Do You Mean, “There is Not Enough Room for Joy?” (Terry Nelson-Johnson), Friday, 4:30 p.m.-Sunday, 10 a.m.



*November 27*

### NOVEMBER

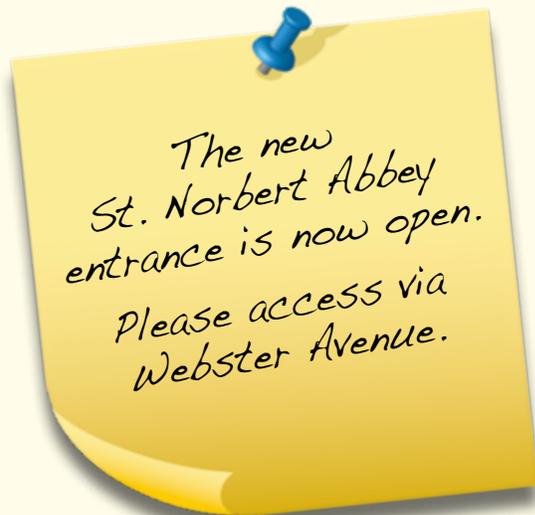
- 1 – Solemnity of All Saints Mass, Abbey Church, 4:30 p.m.
- 2 – Solemnity of All Souls Mass, Abbey Church, 4:30 p.m.
- 7 – Count Your Blessings! A Mini-Retreat with Betty Manion, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
- 13 – Feast of All Saints of the Order Mass, Abbey Church, 4:30 p.m.
- 20 – Homeless Panel (Robyn Hallet, Dave Pietenpol, Nicole Schneider), 6:30-8 p.m.
- 22 – Thanksgiving Day Mass, Abbey Church, 10 a.m.
- 27 – Beauty, Wonder, and Awe: Reflections of an Artist (Fr. James Neilson), 6:30-8 p.m.



*December 6*

### DECEMBER

- 1 – Advent Presentation: Waiting in Joyful Hope for the End of the World as We Know It! (Fr. Tim Shillcox), 9:15-10:15 a.m.
- 4 – Anticipating with Song: The Music of Advent (Fr. Bradley Vanden Branden), 6:30-8 p.m.
- 6 – Kentucky Wonders Part II (Fr. Tim Shillcox, Paul Wadell, Bent Grass Combo), 6:30-8 p.m.
- 8 – Advent Presentation: Walking Through the Advent Experience with Mary (Sr. Donna Koch), 9:15-10:15 a.m.
- 12 – Coffee and Conversation with Fr. Ken De Groot, 10-11 a.m.
- 15 – Advent Presentation: A Season of Four Ws: Waiting, Watching, Wondering, Welcoming (Most Rev. Robert F. Morneau), 9:15-10:15 a.m.
- 24 – Christmas Eve Vigil Mass, Abbey Church, 8 p.m.
- 25 – Christmas Day Mass, Abbey Church, 10 a.m.



For a complete list of programs and retreats at the Norbertine Center for Spirituality at St. Norbert Abbey, please visit [norbertines.org](http://norbertines.org) or call (920) 337-4315 to receive our latest program guide.

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