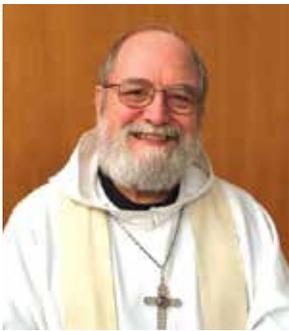


# Abbey Views



## The Lord is doing great things for us! Holy is his name!

When I was a young monk fifty years ago, Abbot David was our leader. We were a large community of almost 80 monks and the future was bright. The community began to develop a

master plan for a new church and to remodel the school, which was then about 75 years old. There was great excitement with the master plan and Abbot David was able to raise a good deal of money. We built what is now called the St. Bede Abbey Church. The process must have worn us out and remodeling the school was not given much attention. Twice in the 1980s the school Board developed plans to update the Academy building. When I became Superintendent in the mid-90s it was clear that the building was old and something needed to be done. We developed an exciting plan and went about raising money. However, the economy soured and we were not able to raise enough funds. But in God's providence, the money we did raise enabled us to address urgent financial issues.

Now, after much planning and effort, we have begun with the second phase of our plan for a campus that will be both new and old. For the last year or so building plans have been developed and fundraising began under the leadership of Matt McGinnis '85. We have reached the point where we are able to begin building the new Science Center and Student Commons. After 50 years of dreaming, the Lord is bringing our hopes and wishes to completion.

The work in the last years has generated more interest and support in our alumni. The Class of 1961, at a crucial point in the process, stepped forward in a leadership role and paved the way for the successful start to our campaign. In addition, they raised over a half million dollars for the Science Center. Their contribution will not be forgotten and we pray their example will be embraced by others.

In the past months Fr. Ambrose and Fr. Matthew died. They were both remarkable men who did whatever they were asked in the service of God. Fr. Ambrose spent most of his life in the Powerhouse and he was MacGyver before there was one on television. His creative genius was only surpassed by his willingness to help anyone in any way he could. His work with BREC fostered a desire to grow in his faith and share it with others.

Most people who were here after 1960 remember Fr. Matthew working in Maintenance with great diligence and passion in spite of physical challenges. His good example was noticed by many. At the same time, he was so quiet that few people had the fortune to know him well. God graciously sent Fr. Matthew to do weekend work at the parish in South Wilmington for almost 50 years. Fr. Matthew touched many people deeply and the outpouring of prayers from the parish at his death was evidence of how well he had served God's people.

Rich Pattarozzi, President of the Alumni Association, has been a great blessing to us. He has been working hard with their board and our alumni to hold events across the country that enable us to come together and talk about both our past and the future. I taught many of the people who attend, and it is wonderful to not only hear about their time at St. Bede, but about what they learned and how it has impacted their lives. We hope to see you at an upcoming event soon. If you would like to attend or host one of these gatherings, please contact Rich. I'd love to hear your stories and share the good news of what is happening at St. Bede.

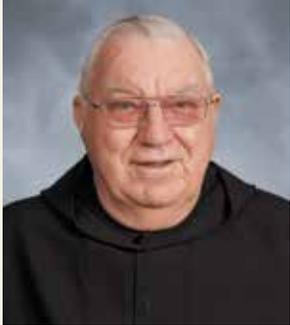
We believe that God is at work in the monastery and Academy. We pray for more new members and believe that the God who has led us faithfully for over 125 years will continue to guide us in the future. The Lord is doing great things for us and I am confident with the prayer and cooperation of all us who make up the St. Bede Family great things will happen. Holy is God's name.

God Bless,

*Abbot Philip Davey*

Abbot Philip Davey, O.S.B. '65  
frphilip@st-bede.com

## Fr. Ambrose Hessling, O.S.B.



Fr. Ambrose Hessling, O.S.B. was called to his eternal home on December 31, 2016, he passed away in the Abbey infirmary accompanied by the presence and prayers of Abbot Philip.

He was born January 2, 1931, the son of Edmund and Clara Hessling, in Peoria, Illinois, and was baptized under the patronage of St. Bernard. He attended St. Joseph's School in Peoria, graduating in 1944. He had an uncle who was a priest who suggested that he go to the Josephinum in Columbus, Ohio. Bernard did not like being so far from home and after a single semester concluded he was not destined for the priesthood. He then returned home and entered Spalding Institute.

After graduation he was approached by our Fr. Fabian who was on the Spalding faculty at that time, and he suggested the young man attend St. Bede Junior College. Bernard joined nine of his Spalding classmates in the seminary department on the fourth floor. Rediscovering a vocation to the priesthood and eventually the monastic life, he entered the abbey novitiate in 1950, taking the name Ambrose, and professed his first vows on July 11, 1951. After studying theology at St. Bede College and St. John's University, he was ordained to the priesthood in 1957, at which time he was put in charge of the Abbey's print shop for a period of nine years.

For many years Fr. Ambrose was active in ministering to divorced and widowed Catholics through the Benedictine Religious



A young Fr. Ambrose hard at work in the powerhouse.

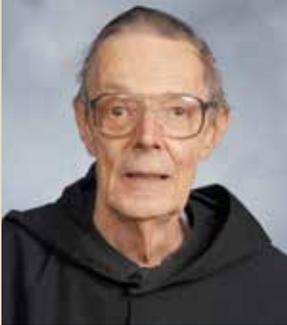
Education Center. He served several terms on the Abbey's senior council, and regularly played the organ for Abbey church services until shortly before his death. In 1995, Fr. Ambrose undertook the Recyclage program at Sant'Anselmo, or as he put it, "went to Rome to have my theology recycled." He returned with a wealth of stories with which he entertained the community at haustus, and with spiritual insights to share in his homilies. For many years he also enjoyed attending the summer scripture workshops at Loyola.

From 1966 until 2010 Fr. Ambrose was in charge of the Abbey powerhouse and grounds crew. It was in this capacity that he made his most lasting and memorable contributions to the community. Easy going and genial by nature, he proved nearly unflappable in the face of mechanical crises, repairing everything from broken water mains to temperamental tractor engines and fractious radiators. He kept all of the Abbey and Academy vehicles in good working order and directed the efforts to maintain the grounds, often spending hours on a mower or behind the wheel of a snowplow.

He continued to serve on weekend mission assignments, and was even known to hear the confessions of fellow mechanics as they repaired a vehicle, one leaning over the motor above and the other on the mechanic's trolley below, with the engine block serving as the confessional screen. Even as his involvement with maintenance gradually lessened, he continued to serve as a valuable advisor to the maintenance staff and remained in his living quarters on the upper level of the powerhouse, accompanied by a succession of beloved cats.

In his later years, Fr. Ambrose suffered from hearing loss and macular degeneration which made it difficult for him to see. However, he filled in as organist whenever he could, even after starting to lose feeling in his hands and feet. He made use of a walker and eventually an electric wheelchair. His kidneys gradually failed, and after a month-long hospital stay and a short time in a nursing home, he returned to the Abbey infirmary for his final days. His beloved family visited en masse, much to his delight and comfort, and he died peacefully, just two days shy of his 86th birthday.

## Fr. Matthew (Charles) Mazzuchelli, O.S.B.



Fr. Matthew (Charles) Mazzuchelli, O.S.B. '49 passed away at St. Bede Abbey on January 24, 2017. He was 85. Fr. Matthew was preceded in death by his parents and is survived by his brother, Michael Mazzuchelli '64 of La Salle.

Fr. Matthew was born on December 3, 1931, in La Salle, to Charles and Mazie (O'Donnell) Mazzuchelli. In baptism was given the name

Charles. He attended St. Patrick's Grade School and St. Bede Academy, graduating in 1949. After graduating from the junior college in 1951, he entered the novitiate at St. Bede, taking the name Matthew. He studied theology at St. John's University and was ordained a priest on June 1, 1958. He taught mathematics and typing for a few years in the Academy, and in 1961 was put in charge of maintenance and housekeeping, for both the Abbey and Academy, positions he held for decades. His conscientious nature and competence made him well suited for the many demands of caring for such a large place.

Although he was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis shortly after his ordination and had difficulty walking in later years, Fr. Matthew remained active throughout his life. At the monastery, he was the Abbey locksmith and always seemed happiest in his basement shop, working on various carpentry projects. In his workshop, Matthew created decorative woodwork for the Abbey and was especially known for his Adirondack chairs.

Fr. Matthew's greatest joy was his longstanding weekend mission to St. Lawrence Church in South Wilmington which began shortly after his ordination and continued for nearly 50 years. Members of St. Lawrence auctioned off his beautifully crafted wood pieces at their annual fundraiser and he became a beloved figure in the parish and at Sacred Heart in nearby Kinsman.

Matthew's good friend, the Rev. John Hornicak, originally from Joliet and now pastor at Church of the Holy Ghost in Wood Dale, worked with Matthew from 2007 to 2015 when John served at St. Lawrence.

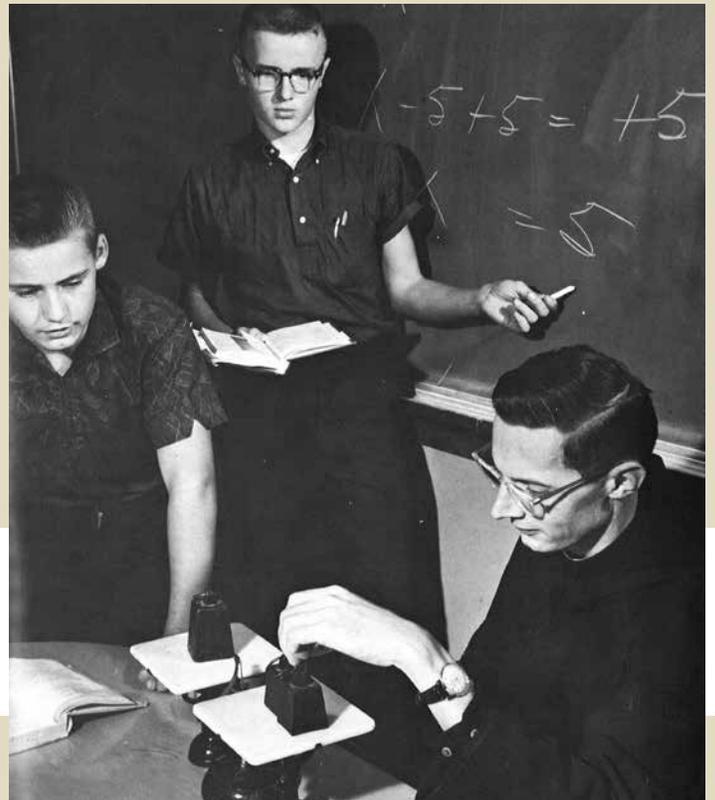
John said Matthew was very unassuming, very humble, and very committed to saying Mass, despite the multiple sclerosis that made walking difficult. Matthew, John said, exemplified the priesthood. "He never took a weekend off," John said. Matthew had a tremendous sense of humor and even joked about his infirmity, especially as he grew older.

Fr. Matthew's favorite recreation was dinner with close friends and sharing of tales from the past. He drank water to the exclusion of other beverages, except for his lone can of beer at cookouts. His favorite foods were soup and spaghetti. If he didn't like a particular dinner menu at the Abbey, he made himself microwave popcorn.

In the last several years, Fr. Matthew would often be found chatting with those in the Business Office or offering a sarcastic comment or two to Dr. Struck. His sense of humor and dedication to the Abbey will certainly be missed.

**"Matthew exemplified the priesthood. He never took a weekend off."**

Rev. John Hornicak



Fr. Matthew giving a lesson in mathematics.

# Monks on the Move

*'For in him we live and move and have our being.'  
As some of your own poets have said, 'We are his offspring.'*

ACTS 17:28

And so we capture here, just a few of the many places our monks have been. Would you like to know more about the places our monks are going and the projects they are involved in? Drop an email to them by locating their name on the Abbey website at [www.stbedeabbey.org](http://www.stbedeabbey.org).



Fr. Dominic surprised students in freshman religion with an interactive lesson on St. Nicholas.



In September 2016, Abbot Philip Davey, O.S.B. '65 had the honor of meeting Pope Francis at the Vatican in Rome.



Fr. Dominic posed with the film crew in Denver at Craftsy's headquarters. Check out Fr. Dom's online baking classes at [www.craftsy.com](http://www.craftsy.com).



In honor of his 95th birthday, O.J. Stoutner presented Br. George Matsuoka with an Official Senate Recognition Certificate from the State of Illinois signed by Senator Sue Rezin.



Fr. Ron's Annual Mystery Trip took students to New Orleans & Memphis. (front row, left to right): Sue Weber, Megan Bolelli, Jaci Cain, Riley Dirks, Kelsey Wilson, and Fr. Ronald Margherio '68; (back row): Dave Margherio '74, Cody Corneglio, Adam Lenkaitis, Evan Knoblauch, Brett Knoblauch, and Rich Pattarozzi '61 (from New Orleans).



Lauren Silfies, Matt Snyder, Fr. Ron, and Kirsten Gage joined the 10th Annual March for Life Rally in Chicago.



Nancy Zukowski and Chris Huffman enjoyed Fr. Dominic's cooking presentation at St. Valentine's Church in Peru.



Abbot Philip with Rachael Heitmann-Christensen '95 at Camp Pendleton in California.



Fr. Ron took several students to the Respect Life Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral in Peoria.



Abbot Philip traveled to St. Anslem College in Manchester, NH.



Fr. Harold Datzman '56 retired as Pastor for St. Joseph's Parish and is now living at the Abbey. His classmates Franklin Jasiek, Paul Perona, Tom Cleary, Tom Wall, Ken Sondergroth, and Ron Mini celebrated the occasion.



Abbot Philip traveled to the University of Illinois-Urbana Champaign to say Mass at St. John's Catholic Newman Center. He was joined by, (left to right) Emma Perona '15, Nicole Yaklich '13, Nick Puhr '13, Jake Peruba '16, Mary Perona Hinders '80, and Tristan Pisarczyk '98.

# Broadcasting NEWS

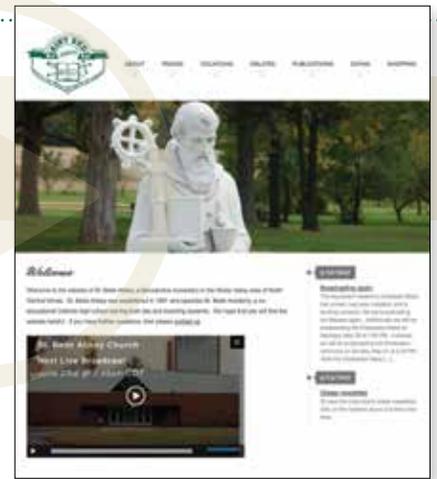
Recently the monastic community has been broadcasting its Masses through our website, and I would like to share with you how such a development occurred. When the Abbey's website was put together, Fr. Dominic and I spent some time composing short biographies of community members as a way for visitors to meet us. After the Abbey's website was launched, I began to wonder if it was possible for people to see the monks "in action" – a way to share with others the monastic community's prayer, worship, and the Gospel. I had considered broadcasting



Mass but I needed to convince myself of its merits before we started the project. At about that time, I attended a workshop at which a presenter spoke about monasticism and evangelization. During a question and answer segment he mentioned broadcasting Mass and how it was indeed a great way to spread the Gospel. After the seminar I was convinced that broadcasting Mass would be a good thing to start.

I worked with our Dennis Summers, our maintenance director, and Ron Barnes, our IT director, concerning the technical aspects of broadcasting Mass, and Fr. Dominic to develop ways to enhance audio in the Abbey Church. After purchasing and installing the camera and other equipment, we broadcasted our first Mass on Sunday, January 31, 2016. Since then, we have also broadcasted other important events that happen in the Abbey Church, such as Christmas, Easter, Homecoming, Funeral and Graduation Masses. More recently we have linked our Sunday Mass broadcast to the Abbey's Facebook page.

This year's graduation may have been one of our better productions. Fr. Dominic enhanced the audio experience by placing a body microphone on each of the speakers



**WATCH MASSES AT  
www.StBedeAbbey.com  
OR ON FACEBOOK!**

and I remotely operated the camera. Important events like graduation, can be viewed through the video archives for up to thirty days after the event. The community's daily and Sunday Masses are stored in the video archives for seven days.

Our community is very excited to share our Masses with alumni and other visitors to the Abbey. We hope to continue broadcasting and make each one better than the last. We invite you to watch our Masses on the Abbey's Facebook page or website.

God Bless,

*Fr. Michael Calhoun, O.S.B.*

Father Michael Calhoun, O.S.B. '89  
mcalhoun@st-bede.com

## Boarder Proud Program

The Boarding Legacy Lives On!



St. Bede Academy has had a Boarding Program for most of our 126 years. In fact, for several years Boarders outnumbered the "Day" students! Over the decades, current and past Bruins tell us that learning and living with students from diverse places and cultures expanded their worldview and challenged them to achieve more.

Our proven Boarding Program, coupled with our college preparatory curriculum, increases the readiness of our students for success at the next level of education and adulthood.

St. Bede intends to grow and diversify our Boarding Program with young men and women from around the country and around the world. We feel strongly that our program offers an excellent education in a safe, pastoral environment that enables students to focus on their studies, while also taking advantage of many enriching activities on- and off-campus.

To support our goals, we are offering a special boarding rate for the children, grandchildren (and other relatives) of St. Bede alumni of \$24,000 for the 2017-2018 school year.

- The standard rate for the Boarding Program is \$32,500.
- This special offer will apply for up to four school years.
- Our program has nearly 30 students from China and Mexico.
- Tuition, room, board, and all fees are included in this special offer.
- Costs and fees for extracurricular activities are not included.
- A \$500 pre-payment discount is available.

**APPLY ONLINE NOW at [www.st-bede.com](http://www.st-bede.com)**

Please contact Dr. Ted Struck, Superintendent, at (815) 250-0360 or struck@st-bede.com with questions.