

# The St. Michael Messenger

News for Friends and Benefactors of St. Michael's Abbey and Preparatory School

## Dear Friends of St. Michael's Abbey

The newsletter has a new look, a new name, and a more comprehensive view. We want you, our friends, to be able to see all the things that happen here at the abbey and its school. As I look ahead to 2006, I see a time in our abbey's history that opens to a great vision. We contemplate different pieces of land around us, and seek to find the place that is meant for us and well adapted to our needs.

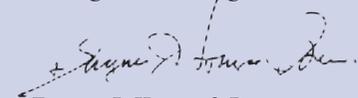
The leading news story is all about the issue that concerns all of us: our relocation. In addition, you will find an update on the Limited Liability Corporation (LLC) that has been set up to help our friends help us.

As we look forward, it is natural to look back, and a series of articles on our abbey's and our order's history will begin. In this issue we will focus on Godfrey of Cappenburg, a young man who had it all in worldly terms, was struck by St. Norbert and his message, and gave it all away to follow Christ, bringing with him a multitude of followers.

Our men in formation do their theological studies at the Angelicum University in Rome, and this issue will have a feature written by one of the community's deacons, fr. John Henry Hanson, on what is going on in the international house of studies of the Norbertines in the Eternal City.

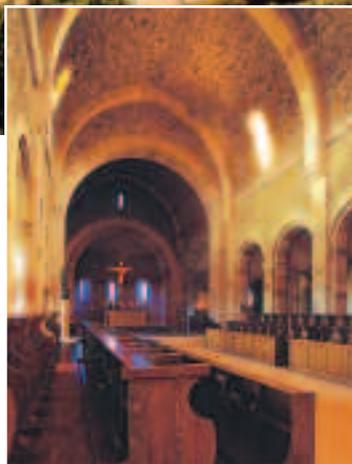
In thinking about our seminarians in Rome, my mind returns to my own student days there; I marvel at the works the Lord has done. Now, faced with the enormous task of moving our community and school to a more stable piece of land, all of us are aware of the Lord's grace sustaining us and the help He affords us through your generous support. We thank you for your generosity, and ask that you continue it as we lay the foundation of an exciting part of our history. May this newsletter serve to keep you informed of the work and the prayer here, and may it serve to remind you to pray for us as well as help us with your continued support.

May the Lord give you and your dear ones signal blessings in 2006,

  
+ Eugene J. Hayes, O.Praem.



## We're Moving!



**These past years, the growth of the high school and abbey community has forced us to face the necessity of expansion. We first looked to see what could be done to enable us to stay at our current location as it is the home base of our community since we first built it in 1961.**

**W**hen the community approached architects and contractors to put plans into effect, we learned that the hillside on which the abbey currently sits is undercut by an ancient landslide deep beneath the earth's surface. The grading that would be necessary to strengthen the land would have been an impossibility. At that point we realized that the relocation of the abbey and school was necessary.

With the help of dear friends of the abbey and school, we have begun actively looking for a large, secluded piece of land within the Diocese of Orange, where we hope to build a new abbey and school complex in order to accommodate the increasing number of young men seeking entry into our community. Each year, the abbey turns away vocations and the school turns away qualified students due to the lack of space. Relocation will enable us to continue to serve more in the Orange County community.

This is a great adventure that we have undertaken, placed under the protection of Divine Providence. The Lord will realize all things in His time. Continue to pray for the community of St. Michael's and our search for a new home.

*Abbaye Ste-Madeleine du Barroux in Southern France, pictured on this page serves as a model on which our new abbey will be based.*



## LETTERS FROM ROME

The most exciting feature of the new school year in Rome is the presence of such a large and multi-talented group of students from our abbey. There are ten St. Michael's students here at the *Collegio San Norberto* this year, including our newly-ordained priest, Father Sebastian Walshe. This gives our daily life together much more the feeling of still "being at home."

This school year has begun with the presence, inspiration and enthusiasm of our new Holy Father – Pope Benedict XVI. I have seen the Pope several times – once at a general audience and another time at Eucharistic Adoration at St. Peter's, held during the final week of the Synod. It is interesting that *the Pope wears red shoes*, which is a return to a venerable practice of the Pope always wearing red "slippers" to signify his kingly office.

Our liturgical prayer in the house chapel has been enhanced this year by the installation of a new, five-rank pipe organ from Germany.

The first community *gita* (recreational outing) was a great success. We visited the beautiful *Lago di Bolsena* and the cathedral of Santa Cristina, and then the town of *Bagnoregio*, where St. Bonaventure was born.

As we all continue our theological studies here in the Eternal City, we thank everyone for their prayers and generous support, and we assure you of our prayers!

Sincerely in the Lord and St. Norbert,  
frater John Henry Hanson, O.Praem.



## Life at ST. Michael's



*The raison d'être of a Norbertine: the praise of God*



*After prayers, the fathers recite the Angelus behind the abbey church.*



*Fr. Charles practices then entertains some fans.*



*Novices take turns caring for the sick and elderly confreres at the abbey.*



*Pastoral work such as baptisms is also part of the Norbertine apostolate.*

## LLC Established for New Abbey

With the help of kind benefactors, St. Michael's has established a for-profit entity, **Shepherd's Care Investment LLC** that will purchase property in Orange County and then donate it to the abbey after its entitlement. This will provide a significant tax benefit to the original donors and investors to the LLC. If you have questions regarding this unique opportunity to save taxes while helping St. Michael's financially, please do not hesitate to directly contact Fr. Justin Ramos, O.Praem. at 949.858.0222 X266.

Some prospective properties look promising. Please join in praying with us especially to St. Joseph to help us find and acquire a piece of land that will enable us to continue our work among the People of God.

**O St. Joseph,** *Blessed and loving protector, guardian and provider of our Savior Jesus Christ and our heavenly Mother Mary, humbly prostrate before you, we beseech you to bear and answer our fervent prayers to acquire this land for the greater glory of God, the growth of the kingdom of Christ on earth, the conversion of souls, sanctification of all the canons of St. Michael's and all the members of the Church. Inspired by our confidence in you, O Chaste Spouse of Holy Mary, we entrust our worthy cause to your divine intercession. Do not despise our petitions but in your goodness and love bear and answer us, presenting our prayers to Jesus Christ your Son. Amen.*



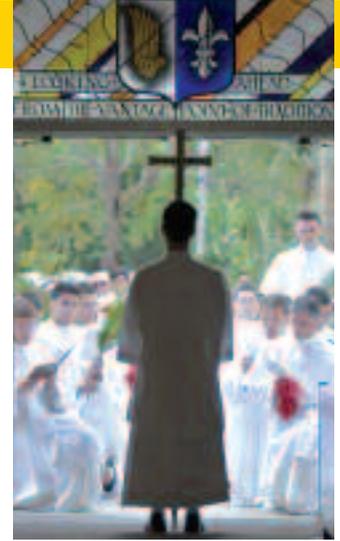
# The Pioneer Press

News from St. Michael's Preparatory School ■ [www.stmichaelsprep.org](http://www.stmichaelsprep.org)

St. Michael's Prep School is a one-of-a-kind place. Only on this hilltop can one find a Norbertine abbey of priests dedicated to teaching young men. Students learn not only about academic matters but also spiritual truths as well. The experience changes lives.

With a student body of about 65 and a student/teacher ratio of 4:1, students are given the best of the teachers' attention and guidance. Because of these promising learning conditions and rigorous curriculum, all of the seniors go on to university studies.

Moreover, the very lifestyle of this boarding school is specially tailored to the plan of a healthy intellectual life. While there is much academic work, there is also time for sports, extracurricular activities and relaxation.



*Veteran debater Thomas Dudro offers the concluding argument and clinches another trophy in Lincoln Douglas.*



*Chris Manly, Roger Urich and Shane Trear prepare in the school library for their next Congress.*

## Speech and Debate

*Rhetoric is part of the classical curriculum offered at St. Michael's. To hone their abilities, students can participate in Speech and Debate, one of many extracurricular activities.*

*Senior Roger Urich gives a perspective of the school's participation so far this year.*



One of the most exciting and challenging events of Speech and Debate, Student Congress, requires students to debate on a predetermined topic (or "bill") and use all their logical, rhetorical and persuasive skills. Being persuasive types, St. Michael's students do particularly well in this area.

Typically, students compete in several events in addition to *Student Congress*. These include *Lincoln Douglas* debates, where two students must take opposing sides of the same issue; *Parliament*, in which teams of students debate; and *Impromptu* where a student is given a topic that could range the gamut from mattresses to ferrets, and within 60 seconds must deliver a 5-minute speech on the subject.

Early in this debate season, our team is already earning recognition. At the close of the first competition, senior and team captain Roger Urich, received a first place in the *Presiding Officer* competition, an honor more noteworthy as it was his first time competing in that event! Senior Thomas Dudro received a second place in *Congress*. Freshman Colin Miller moved very quickly to the run-offs in recognition of his excellent speaking abilities.

Speech and Debate provides both challenge and reward to veteran and novice participants alike. The team is hopeful that it will once again send representatives to State Finals.

# St. Michael's Prep Alumni News



*Tom Tuttle '99 with Richard Lacerte '99 and his wife Catherine at the Gala dinner.*

**Jose Ruiz '80** works in the family real estate business with his brother in the Los Cabos area of Mexico, which is growing at approximately 17 percent per year. He has a daughter who is studying at a boarding school in Rhode Island and three sons.

**Frank Meccia '85** lives in Brookings, Oregon and works for Fred Meyer's, a division of Kroger's. He is involved with the Coast Guard Auxiliary as the Public Affairs Officer and has a bi-weekly radio show that addresses issues in health and politics.  
Website: [www.heavenhelpus.org](http://www.heavenhelpus.org).

**Dorian Vallecillo '85** works in radio in Miami, Florida. While organizing a class reunion in 2006, he is considering both moving to San Diego and getting married.

**Carlos Sosa '88** manages an office for a family-run civil engineering company.

**James Price '90 AA** graduated from Thomas Aquinas College. He lives with his wife, Nancy, in Milford, Pennsylvania and works in finance at Smith Barney. He is a city councilman and active in his parish. He and his wife run a Catholic apostolate on the internet: [www.sanctus.com](http://www.sanctus.com)

**Benny Ruiz '90** worked in banking for two years after his graduation from the University of San Francisco. After a stint helping his father with cotton, he now farms beans and corn. Benny and his wife, Gabriela Gutierrez, have two daughters, Daniela (5) and Valentina (2).

**Do you want to stay in contact with teachers and friends from your days on the hilltop? Please send us news about yourself and contact information. You can easily do this by sending an email to [alumni@stmichaelsprep.org](mailto:alumni@stmichaelsprep.org). Be sure to tell us whether you wish to make your email address available to others, so we can respect your wishes.**

**Johnny Lin '97 AA** is a Corporal in the US Marine Corps and is currently stationed in Fallejah, Iraq. His marriage to Yoon Kim is scheduled for June 17, 2006.

**Mark Payne '97** is a Captain in the US Marine Corps and is currently stationed in Camp Pendleton and will be deployed to Iraq in January.

**Joe Park '98** is in his third year of medical school. He lives in Manhattan and would like to meet up with any alumni who are in the New York city area.

**Jimmy Munozcano '99** and his wife Marianne had their newborn son, Javier Martin baptized by Fr. Justin.

**Tom Tuttle '99** is a financial representative for Northwest Mutual in San Jose. Tom and his mother joined St. Michael's at the annual Gala.

**Ricky Lacerte '99** works for his father's company, Advantage Software. His parents, Arthur and Susan Lacerte were honored at the 2005 Vantage Point Gala. Ricky and his wife Catherine were married in May 2005 at St. Andrew's in Pasadena by Fr. Justin.

**Lowell Schaper '05** visited the school, the football team and old friends. He is working for Schaper Painting and working on his general education requirements. Lowell plans to join the Fire Academy in Texas.



*Captain Mark Thomas Payne USMC '97 who spoke at an information evening at the abbey is pictured here with Novice Master, Fr. Augustine Puchner at Gala 2005.*



*Little Javier Martin Munozcano made his first visit to his father's alma mater with his mom Marianne and dad, Jaime Munozcano '99.*



*Corporal Johnny Lin USMC '97 AA, with fiancée Yoon Kim came to the abbey for a blessing before leaving to Fallujah, Iraq.*

# Election Day

Students from St. Michael's regularly involve themselves in activities outside the school. These are as varied as the curriculum itself, and include work to help the needy in Tijuana as well as outreach to the elderly. For the first time this year, members of the senior class helped the staff at two polling locations for the special election in November 2005. Senior Alan Ng shares some reflections of this experience.

At 4:45 am, five groggy U.S. Government students rose from their beds and prepared themselves for Mass. After Mass in the Mindszenty Chapel, they hurriedly ate cereal and dashed on their way to make school history: For the first time, St. Michael's seniors helped staff the election polls!

Two seniors, Jeremy Anoc and Phillip Nguyen, traveled to the community room of the Foothill Ranch Public Library to join a father-daughter team who had staffed the site on eleven previous elections. Meanwhile, seniors Joseph Atchley, Thomas Dudro and Alan Ng worked the poll precinct at the Orange County Fire Station 54, directly across the street from the abbey.

The polls officially opened at 7 am so poll workers were already on hand to put up signs and set up booths. The first wave of voters came in on their way to work. Student volunteers all had similar tasks: they served as greeters for approaching voters, asked them to sign their names in the registry and verify their street address.

*The exposure to our cherished democratic privilege was worthwhile*

One student printed out access codes for the voters while reminding them not to push the red "Cast Ballot" button until they had actually completed their voting. People from the neighborhood came in shifts throughout the rest of the day. While the polls closed at 8 that evening, the workday lasted until 9 as everything set up in the morning had to be dismantled and put away.

It was a long day, but helping to staff a polling site was ultimately satisfying. Senior Joseph Atchley reflected, "It was a real eye-opening experience to participate in the whole voting process." Phillip Nguyen added, "Even though there were some slow parts, the exposure to our cherished democratic privilege was worthwhile in the end." Indeed, missing a day of classes and earning a stipend of \$70 added to the value of the experience.

## Open House at St. Michael's Prep

Saturday, January 21, 2006 from 9 am – 2 pm

For more information, please call the school office at 949.858.0222 X237 or visit [www.stmichaelsprep.org](http://www.stmichaelsprep.org)



*Dutiful citizens, Phillip Nguyen, Jeremy Anoc and Alan Ng prepare the polling machines for the November election.*



*Signs in various languages are posted as part of preparing the polling site for voters.*



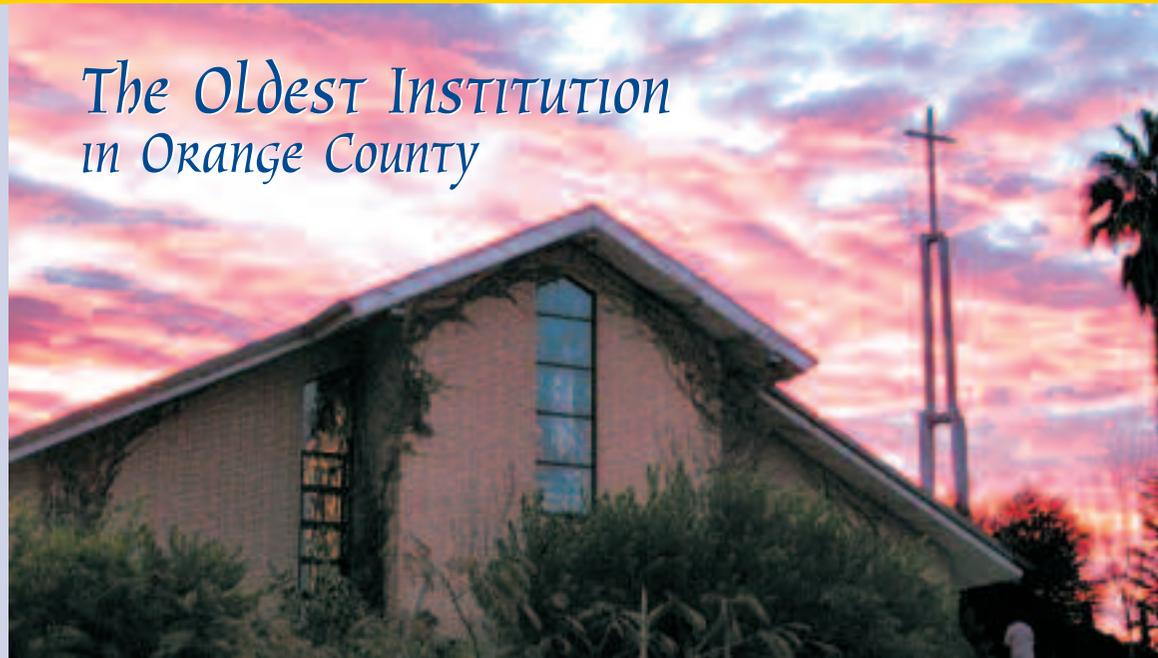
*Alan Ng hands the all-important access number to each voter.*



# From the Hilltop

News from St. Michael's Abbey ■ [www.abbeynews.com](http://www.abbeynews.com)

**Take a look at  
this outrageous claim:  
St. Michael's may just be  
the oldest uninterruptedly  
existing institution of Church  
or State in Orange County  
or Diocese. Let me explain.**



## *The Oldest Institution in Orange County*

**O**ur county is now affectionately known as “the O.C.” all around the nation. The other day at John Wayne Airport the perky stewardess announced, “Welcome to the O.C.” A bit dismayed by this, I thought to correct her gently and suggest a more wholesome and venerable local theme, like, “Welcome to the Magic Kingdom.” This led me to think, well, what is the oldest uninterrupted entity in “the O.C.”? Then it dawned on me (if you’ll excuse the colloquialism): maybe it’s us. Our canonry here in the O.C. began not as a new foundation, but as a house of brethren of a very old foundation: St. Michael’s Abbey in Csorna in the County of Győr in the kingdom of Hungary.

In 1180, the Counts de Osl of Sopron obtained a band of Norbertines for ministry to everyone on their lands—nobles, peasants and serfs. The counts had a special devotion to the Blessed Sacrament and so required regular Eucharistic processions throughout the year. Worldly duties were added as well. The canons were notaries public, and also kept boats on the Danube for the transport of farm produce. All this continued with typically medieval regularity (with the occasional fire, epidemic or antipope!) until the arrival of Muslim Turkish terrorism in the late 1400s. **Stay tuned then, not for “the O.C.,” but for the terrifying next episode of the “History of Orange County’s Oldest Institution of Church or State.”**

## *Visiting Guest*



**D**r. James Patrick came to the abbey on November 19 and gave two excellent talks to the community for a day of recollection. Dr. Patrick is Chancellor of the College of Saint Thomas More in Fort Worth, Texas. A convert from the Episcopal church, his talks centered on the nobility of sacred doctrine and a reflection on teaching, the first spiritual work of mercy.

Dr. Patrick is steeped in the doctrines of St. Thomas Aquinas, and an engaging and informative lecturer. In his first conference, he outlined the present climate in the world and some church circles, where relativism has become the norm. The purpose of the talk, however, was not polemics but a consideration of the nobility of Sacred Doctrine as proposed by St. Thomas in the *Summa Theologica*. Everything in the talk served to underline the importance of the Scriptures and the theological virtue of faith.

The second talk centered on the gravity of the role of teacher, a role Dr. Patrick did not hesitate to call a ‘vocation’. The scope of this vocation is vast, for it is not limited to the supernatural work of catechesis, but also includes the treasury of wisdom, philosophy, literature, art and music.

Such a day of conferences was a gift to the community, involved in a life both conventual and apostolic. Throughout each day, we consider the Scriptures at Mass and the Office. This in turn animates our work in the preparatory high school, where we hand on the Catholic Faith and the great intellectual traditions of our culture to our students.

# ST. Godfrey



**Imagine if the wealthiest, most landed, most handsome, and well-connected man in Orange County joined the abbey, then brought along his brother, and then his equally rich and beautiful wife and two sisters joined our sisters, and then they all turned their most lucrative properties into monasteries, and this in turn caused their peers to join in numbers.**

**Y**ou could imagine too that this man's father-in-law might not be too happy, but then, after a long series of court battles and some domestic violence, decides himself to repent, and enters the monastery himself, meek as a lamb. Then these monasteries, far from being a fad, though begun with almost mega-church panache, last for seven-hundred years, giving the county its most enduring edifices. If you can imagine this here, then you can begin to get a picture of the life achievement centuries ago and half a world away of St. Godfrey, count of Cappenburg in Westphalia in Germany, Norbertine.

Inspired by his meeting St. Norbert, and with the ideals of the Second Crusade being preached by St. Bernard—a crusade which filled as many sanctuaries as it did battlefields, since medieval people knew how to fight on every front—Godfrey determined to turn his estates into abbeys. This was not a vertical or even lateral career move. St. Godfrey intended to be a simple cleric without ever becoming a priest. When his former subjects, now fellow confreres, would forget and call him “Count” he would correct them firmly.

He devoted himself to the care of the poor in the hostelry of the abbey, and serve Holy Mass as an acolyte. Forseeing his early death, he would lie down for sleep crossing his arms as though dead and pray, “O Lord My God, make me fit and prepared for that hour!” When the hour came, he saw the angels coming to assist him and exclaimed, “Welcome, messengers of the Lord my Creator!”

Let us pray to St. Godfrey for the grace of a holy life and a happy death! His feast is January 14.

## QUESTION and ANSWER

**Q** Why are there three different Masses for Christmas Day: midnight, dawn and day?

**A** The three Masses come historically from the early liturgy of the Popes in Rome. At Midnight they would say Mass at the shrine of the crib of Bethlehem at St. Mary Major, and then process to the Emperor's Chapel on the Palatine Hill for a Mass at Dawn, and then process to St. Peter's for the Mass of the Day. This custom continued and spread throughout the Western Church.

In the texts of these Masses the Church considers a threefold birth of Jesus, from all eternity from the Father in the Blessed Trinity, in time in Bethlehem of Juda, and today in the hearts of those to whom He comes at Christmas.

The post-Vatican II Missal added a fourth Mass, of the Vigil, the evening of December 24. Just as on Good Friday and Holy Saturday the Church shows her sorrow by having no Masses, so on Christmas (maybe better *Christmasses*?!), she shows her extreme joy by having more than on any other day.

## NORBERTINE SAINTS

Patron saints are chosen as special protectors or guardians over areas of life that are important to us. The saints listed are either Norbertine saints or patrons of the confreres of St. Michael's.

**January 7**

**St. Raymond of Penafort**

*Patron saint of lawyers*

**January 14**

**St. Godfrey, O.Praem.**

*Patron saint of benefactors*

**January 14**

**St. Gerlac**

**January 20**

**St. Sebastian**

*Patron saint of athletes*

**January 25**

**Conversion of St. Paul**

*Patron saint of public relations personnel*

**February 4**

**St. Frederick, O.Praem.**

**February 10**

**Bl. Hugh of Fosses  
first Abbot of Premontre**

*Patron saint of the Norbertine  
Abbot General*

**February 15**

**St. Claude de la Colombiere**

*Patron saint of toy makers*

**February 15**

**Bl. Jordan of Saxony**

**February 27**

**St. Gabriel of the Sorrowful Mother**

*Patron saint of seminarians and students*

**March 17**

**St. Patrick**

*Patron saint of Ireland and  
against snake bites*

**March 19**

**St. Joseph**

*Patron saint of peaceful death,  
church, husbands and working men*

**April 5**

**St. Vincent Ferrer**

*Patron saint of builders  
and construction workers*

**April 25**

**St. Mark**

*Patron saint of notaries*

**April 26**

**St. Ludolph, O.Praem.**

# ST. Michael's Calendar of Events

- January**
- 1 Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God
  - 9 Classes resume (Prep School)
  - 15 Vantage Point Lecture Series 7 pm  
*Fr. Victor discusses God the Father*
  - 21 Prep School Entrance Exam and Open House  
9 am – 2 pm
  - 28 SAT exams (Prep School)
- February**
- 2 Solemnity of the Presentation
  - 5 Vantage Point Lecture Series 7 pm  
*Fr. Joseph discusses Jesus Christ*
  - 11 ACT test (Prep School)
  - 20 President's Day holiday
- March**
- 1 Ash Wednesday
  - 12 Prep School Open House  
3:30 – 5 pm
  - 20 Solemnity of St. Joseph [*transferred*]
- April**
- 8 Prep School Open House  
3:30 – 5 pm
  - 9 Palm Sunday
  - 14 Good Friday
  - 16 EASTER
  - 24 Classes resume (Prep School)

Mass is held each day at 7 am and on Sundays at 11 am.

For further information on calendar of Liturgies and events, please visit [www.abbeynews.com](http://www.abbeynews.com).

For more information about the Prep School, please visit [www.stmichaelsprep.org](http://www.stmichaelsprep.org).

## Like to help ST. Michael's?

There are many ways that you can contribute.

- The abbey and the school have year-round needs that rely upon your generosity.
- Many students receive scholarships and your continued generosity allows these young men to receive the best education available.
- Many companies offer an Employer's Matching Gift Program that you can ask about at your work.
- Have you considered a charitable bequest as part of your will? Or donating a gift of stock?
- A simple gesture will have far-reaching effects: it will help clothe, feed, house and educate a rapidly growing number of seminarians; it will enhance the sacramental ministry of the abbey and it will help to meet the retirement needs of our Norbertine priests.

For more information on how you can donate, please call 949.858.0222 x264.



### Prayer to St. Michael

St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle; be our defense against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray, and do thou, O prince of the heavenly host, by the power of God, thrust into hell Satan and all the other evil spirits who go about the world for the ruin of souls. Amen.

An envelope has been included in this newsletter to allow you to request the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass to be celebrated for you and your loved ones, both living and deceased.



### St. Michael's Abbey and Preparatory School

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[www.abbeynews.com](http://www.abbeynews.com) ■ [www.stmichaelsprep.org](http://www.stmichaelsprep.org)

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