

The J. Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles, Ms. 64, fol. 152 (detail)

Dear Friends

I would like personally to thank all of you who have so generously contributed to our Easter appeal this year, for your generosity has eased my burden amidst the enormous costs of entitling our land and getting it to the point we can break ground some day soon. I approach you for alms, and yet as I do it, I need to assure you of our prayers for you constantly each and every day. One of our priests came to me, concerned, after the appeal was mailed. "We need to do a better job of letting the people know how and when we pray for them. We're so busy just doing it that we forget to tell them sometimes." This was a teachable moment for me, because I assumed that if you are now reading these words, you already knew that we pray for each one of you, and how and when we pray for you. Perhaps I have not communicated that clearly enough in the past. I will now address that issue.

As part of the St. Michael's family, we pray for you at every hour of the office, every day - that means Office of Readings; Lauds; Terce; Sext; None; Vespers and Compline and Holy Hour. Our daily community Mass is every day offered for all the confreres, friends and benefactors of the abbey, so we offer Mass for you every day. I would never make an appeal for our prayers, because prayer cannot be "paid" for - it is priceless, and it is our essential work as Norbertine canons. Please know that - whether or not you donate funds to us - you are in our daily prayer, and you always will be: that is what we do as Norbertines. My thanks to each one of you who is our friend, and may I request that you pray for us in return as well?

Devotedly in Our Lord,

Eugene J. Hayes

✠ Eugene J. Hayes, O.Praem.



The St. Michael Messenger

Blessed Peter Adrian Toulorge

Peter Adrian Toulorge was born in 1757 at Muneville-le-Bingard in Normandy. He received his priestly formation at the seminary of Coutances and was ordained a priest in 1782. He was appointed vicar of Denville where the pastor was a Norbertine from the abbey of Blanchelande. Struck by the example of his pastor, Peter Adrian entered the same abbey and became a Norbertine canon. When the French Revolution broke out in 1789, the entire country was convulsed in a conflict that would change the course of history. A principle objective of the Revolution was to destroy the Church and erase its traces as completely as possible, and laws were enacted to bring this about. When Peter Adrian heard about a law of August 26, 1792, which condemned all servants of the Church who refused to take the oath of the new constitution, he perceived a threat to his own position. Strictly speaking, he was not affected by the law since, as a religious, he was not serving any parish at the time. He nevertheless decided to go to the nearby island of Jersey under English rule. When he later realized that the anti-clerical law did not apply to him, he returned to Normandy and landed at Portbail, and he began clandestinely to minister to the people. Everywhere he went he brought with him his religious habit as well as vestments for Mass, liturgical books and an altar stone.



The following year, in September of 1793, Peter was betrayed and taken into custody while visiting the faithful disguised in women's clothing. The tribunal did not have any proof that he had fled France to Jersey. But after some hesitation Peter Adrian decided to tell the whole truth, knowing full well that this would put his life in danger. The judges responded by imposing the sentence of death by guillotine. The night before his death he wrote two letters. In one of them, addressed to his brother, he wrote: "You should rejoice, my brother, That God has found me worthy not only to suffer in prison but also to die for our Lord, Jesus Christ. I do not wish to grieve you with my fate. Rather you should rejoice and say with me: 'The Lord be praised!' wish you a holy life and paradise at the end of your days. I wish the same for my sister, my nephew and the whole family." On October 13, 1793, Peter Adrian was taken to the marketplace of Coutances. As the prisoner was being borne through the streets in a wagon escorted by soldiers, the shutters of every window were closed in protest as the cortege passed by. The entire city mourned the loss of this 36 year old priest who was beheaded under the guillotine. Peter Adrian was buried in the cemetery of St. Peter. The diocesan process for his beatification was opened on December 1, 1995 and closed on August 1, 1996. Peter Adrian was declared blessed in the cathedral at Coutances on April 29, 2012. His feast is October 13.

Life at St. Michael's

Abbey Life

Holy Week

Photos by R. Belcher



Holy Thursday Procession



Lighting of the Paschal Candle



The Mandatum



Stripping of the Altar

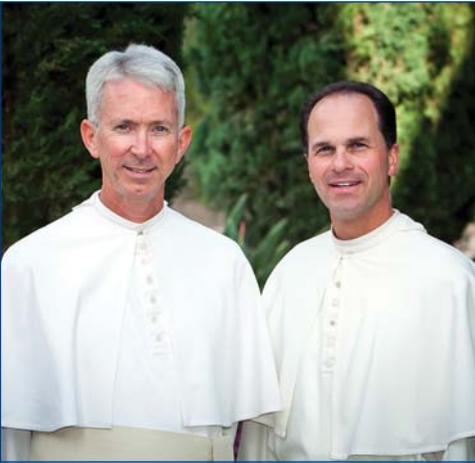




The Pioneer Press

News from St. Michael's Preparatory School • www.StMichaelsPrep.org

Photos by R. Belcher



Fr. Gabriel Stack and Fr. Victor Szczurek

Fr. Victor Szczurek, O.Praem. Named as Next Head of School

Abbot Eugene Hayes appointed Fr. Victor Szczurek as the new headmaster for St. Michael's Preparatory School starting July 1, 2012. Fr. Victor has been working as assistant headmaster to Fr. Gabriel Stack for the last three years. During this time, Fr. Victor studied educational theory while completing a degree in education administration and gained educational practice by coordinating admissions and academic schedules while he maintained his classroom presence teaching Latin and Greek. Prior to his role as assistant headmaster, Fr. Victor served as a St. Michael's dean of students.

Outgoing head, Fr. Gabriel noted, "St. Michael's Prep has a strong reputation for helping its students with an excellent spiritual life, customized academic program, and character opportunities. Fr. Victor understands and appreciates the unique qualities of our school and shares our vision for its future. I am excited that our young men will have the benefit of his expertise, commitment, and leadership."

"I am honored by the appointment," Fr. Victor stated to friends. "I rely on your prayers and look forward to helping the school and its students grow."

Freshman Student Enters the Church at the Easter Vigil

by Jerry Gao, '15

I first encountered the Catholic faith in my primary years when I attended St. Gabriel Christian School in the San Gabriel Valley. While we did not practice the Catholic faith there, we did discuss it. I first started thinking of becoming Catholic when I was in fourth grade. I lived with my grandmother at the time and I went to Mass every Sunday with her. Every time I went to Mass I wanted to receive the Eucharist. Despite grandmother's explanation, I did not understand why I could not.

I never fully grasped the integrity of the Catholic faith until I entered St. John the Baptist Catholic Elementary School in Costa Mesa. I attended St. John the Baptist for my middle school years. Living like a Catholic was just part of the air we breathed. There were classroom prayers and class Masses in the parish church. I was a bit surprised when even Halloween changed the customary vampires and ghouls I knew to angels and saints I never even heard about.



Freshman Jerry Gao enters the Church



I still wasn't completely convinced about the Catholic Faith until I started high school at St. Michael's Prep. Here I came to understand what Jesus sacrificed to save us from sin and to open the gates of heaven. Through my religion class with Fr. Benedict, I understood the Faith as a whole. Around the middle of the school year, Michael Cacho, my friend and fellow St. John the Baptist graduate, confronted me about converting to Catholicism. I was initially hesitant. Finally, I decided that it would be a good lifestyle choice for me.

Thanks to Bishop Brown and Abbot Hayes, I was baptized, confirmed and I received my first holy communion at St. Michael's Abbey during the Easter Vigil Mass. I was excited to receive all three sacraments at once. After the vigil, I felt Jesus was with me more than He ever was before! I am very happy to now be a Catholic.

St. Michael's Prep Alumni News

Reflections of the Son of an Alum

by Nick Munsell '15



Chris Munsell '89 and son Nicholas '15

My name is Nicholas Munsell and I am a freshmen as well as the son of alumnus Christopher Munsell, who graduated in 1989. As a teenager, my Dad lived in southern Orange County and attended St. Michael's from grades 8 through 12. Different from now, the school had a five-year program. As a freshmen, my Dad had a slight build at five feet tall and about eighty-five pounds. My Dad enrolled because it was the best Catholic school in the area; it really prepared a person for college. As my Dad grew from an eighth grader to a senior, he experienced many wonderful people and events. For example, in his first year he had Fr. Gabriel teaching him Geography; he was the student body president in his final year. His enthusiasm for his high school years which he related to me through inspiring stories and memories compelled me to join St. Michael's when it was my turn to pick a high school.

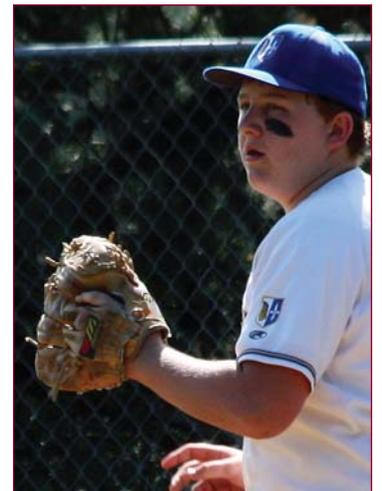
My Dad told me about his great experience in coming here, learning Latin, living a strong life of faith, all the while creating lifetime friendships. My Dad said that being able to live here with his friends and be with them while strengthening his faith and his mind was a tremendously valuable experience for him and that it will be for me as well.

I am happy to report that everything my Dad said is true. While I arrived already over 6 feet tall and almost 200 pounds, I'm very happy for having the opportunity to attend this school and already have great memories. I also have Fr. Gabriel as my teacher for two courses this first year—History and English. During my first quarter in the dorm my roommates and I would tell hilarious stories of past events in our lives after lights out. We would be laughing so loud and so much that we got in trouble with the deans for keeping those in the adjoining rooms awake.

One of my Dad's biggest challenges when he came here was maintaining high grades while adapting to living away from home. Because I live in Sonoma County, north of San Francisco, I also face this challenge. Yet,

when I feel this or another of the school's expectations weighing me down, I walk over to my Dad's graduation picture hanging in the dorm hallway. I look at his picture and think to myself that my Dad completed the same task many years ago that I am doing right now. I always conclude, "If he could do it, so can I," which helps me get through studying, focusing, or whatever I need help with at the moment.

When I graduate from St. Michael's and see my graduation picture up in the hallway, I will feel a sense of pride. I follow very big footprints—my Dad's.



"CIF Shake for Sportsmanship"



Brett Lenahan '13 and Coach Aaron Meschuk

On April 24th, Brett Lenahan '13 and the Athletic Department of St. Michael's Prep were the recipients of the 30th Annual "Shake for Sportsmanship" from the CIF Southern Section at Dodger Stadium. This award recognizes individual athletic departments throughout Southern California who exhibit sportsmanship through athletic competition.

At the conclusion of each sports season, head coaches from the Express League vote to determine which school exhibited sportsmanship through athletic competition. At the end of the school year, the votes from each sports season are then tallied to determine which school's athletic department and sports programs exemplified "sportsmanship" through athletic competition.

Throughout the years, St. Michael's Prep Athletics has received numerous team and individual awards; from team championships to student-athletes selected as All-League, and being recognized and honored with great sportsmanship is a testimony to the character of the student-athletes and coaches. This award reinforces the Catholic principles and teachings of St. Michael's Prep and the young men who participate in athletic competition. It reveals that as athletes and coaches we can win and lose with sportsmanship. Sportsmanship is treating the people you play with and against as you'd like to be treated yourself. Good sportsmanship is demonstrated when you show respect for yourself, teammates, opponents, coaches, referees, judges, and other officials. In the words of Knute Rockne "One man practicing sportsmanship is far better than a hundred teaching it."

For more alumni news, go to www.StMichaelsPrep.org.

Do you want to stay in touch with teachers and friends from your days on the hilltop? Please send us news about and photos of yourself and your family. You can do this by sending an email to alumni@StMichaelsPrep.org. Be sure to tell us whether you wish to make your contact information available to others, so we can respect your wishes.

St. Michael's Abbey Foundation

Meeting our Neighbors

If you make the short trip from our current location here on the hilltop, past Cook's Corner and into the canyon lands, the normal Orange County landscape of homes and hills and careful urban planning gives way to a completely different kind of place.



When we purchased the Holtz Ranch property and began the long and involved (and expensive!) process of entitlement, we already knew that our future home is a peaceful and rural oasis that feels like it's a million miles from the hustle and bustle of Southern California life. We also happily discovered that there is a tight-knit community of people in Silverado Canyon who care deeply about each other and about their quality of life in their canyon home. So that we could let all our future neighbors know just how perfect a fit there is between our monastic life and their care for the rural and peaceful life of the canyon, we embarked upon a series of community introductions and meetings.



County of Orange hosted visit to the existing Abbey site

We began our communications efforts with monthly mailings to all the local residents of the canyon lands, just to keep everyone informed about what we plan to build on the Holtz Ranch and where we are in our entitlement process. We also launched a new and comprehensive area on our abbey website so that people can find out just as much information as we are able to offer. Already our canyon neighbors have expressed a tremendous amount of appreciation for these forms of outreach!



Local residents tour the Abbey at an Open House

We also have invited people to come up here to our current location to find out more about who we are and what we do here at St. Michael's Abbey. In February we held an Open House to which we invited anyone and everyone who wanted to come. The turnout was larger than we expected, and we were delighted to meet so many of our current and future neighbors. There were even a few descendants of the Holtz family who had heard about our purchase of their grandparents' and great-grandparents' property and wanted to come to tell us how happy they are with our project. One of them remembered the Norbertine Fathers regularly coming there to the old family estate to celebrate the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass several decades ago.



Local residents attend the County's Scoping meeting for the St. Michael's Abbey Project

Our community introduction also included meetings with some of the organizations that already exist to bring together people and ideas out here in the canyon lands. The Inter-Canyon League and the Silverado-Modjeska Recreation and Parks District are two such organizations. We invited the boards of directors of these two groups to come here for "meet and greet" style discussions and tours of our current location.

In all of the community outreach efforts of the last several months, we have found some wonderful new friends. When the time finally comes for us to make the move to our new abbey, just that short trip up the road past Cook's Corner and into Silverado Canyon, we will already be "coming home" to a community of family, neighbors, and friends.

For more information on the land purchase and entitlement process, please visit
NewAbbey.StMichaelsAbbey.com



From the Hilltop

News from St. Michael's Abbey • www.StMichaelsAbbey.com

Have you met the risen Lord?

“Go into all the world and preach the gospel to the whole creation. ... And they went forth and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the message by the signs that attended it.”

Mark 16:15,20

In the early part of the Easter season, we are often presented with appearances of the risen Lord, as well as the encounters of the risen Christ with His disciples—who cannot believe Whom they see and hear. The question inevitably falls upon us: *Have you encountered the risen Lord? Are there any signs that indicate we have?*

In the Gospel accounts of the Resurrection appearances, we notice that almost without exception, all those to whom Christ appears are suddenly in a hurry to share the news, to tell others: *He's alive! I have seen the Lord!* The very ones who had been mourning outside of the tomb or dragging their feet to Emmaus, suddenly have hearts of fire, and *feet as swift as those of hinds*. And they forget their sorrow and their fatigue and go forth in haste to announce, to share, to evangelize. Have you met the risen Lord?

The question might amount to asking: *What are you hastening toward (or from)? What fire is burning you up on the inside? What drives you?* The Church teaches that in virtue of our baptism alone, all Christians share not only a universal call to holiness, but also a universal call to apostolate—sharing Christ, the Gospel, the Church with “all the world.” And we are the only ones who can do this in our time and in our place—whenever and wherever that happens to be.

Several years ago I read an article in a Catholic publication where the author said that what the Church in America needs right now is a man like Bishop Sheen: a charismatic, educated, well-spoken, respected spiritual leader to whom both Catholics and non-Catholics alike could look for inspiration and guidance. The implication may have been that we in America need someone from the past, someone other than ourselves, to be convincing and effective witnesses to Christ

Have we ever thought something similar: *If only Bishop Sheen were still alive or could come back. If only Mother Teresa were still here*—or any saint whom we admire. How would they respond to our situation—to the politics and morals of our time? It's not at all a bad idea to ask ourselves how they would respond. In fact, we who belong to an ancient religious order can and should ask ourselves how our founder would respond to us, whether or not he would be pleased with us. If St Norbert were to walk into this church right now, or anywhere at this Abbey, would he be pleased or satisfied by our efforts?

But whether we yearn for the return of a saint, or ask ourselves whether we are approved by a saint, on this feast of St Mark the Evangelist, the evangelical truth that we have to allow to sink into us is: *We're it. We are the saints of today, the apostles of today, the evangelists of today*—each



Photo by R. Belcher

in his or her own way. No one else can take the place that God has assigned to us. St Paul tells the Colossians and us, that “*you* have put off the old nature with its practices and [*you*] have put on the new nature, which *is being renewed* ... after the image of its creator. Here ... Christ is all, and in all.” Think about it: we are regenerated and renewed people—reborn and renewed by the same risen Lord who changed His frightened and confused disciples into courageous saints and apostles.

Can people who see us say about us that we have seen and met Someone who has completely changed us? Have we encountered the only One who has come back and is always present to us? The One who said that He would not leave us orphans, but be with us always? Are we acting as if we are orphaned and abandoned? Again, we look to what drives us forward. It is not wrong to be motivated by desires for professional success, prosperity; to be fascinated by art and music; to enjoy sports and entertainment; but it is very wrong if that's main thing or the only thing that inspires and interests us. For a Christian, it is sin to put anything in place of Christ. “Life is Christ.” And this new life is what we are given to share.

Maybe our mission is not that of St Mark, Fulton Sheen or Mother Teresa, but we share their same baptismal call to holiness and apostolate. We have the same God, the same Savior, the same faith, the same sacraments, the same Lord. For “there are varieties of gifts ... and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of working, but it is the same God who inspires them all in every one.”

Fr. John Henry Hanson, O.Praem.

Fr. John Henry was ordained in 2006 and teaches at the Preparatory School

Norbertine Notes

The Headmaster and Faculty of
St. Michael's Preparatory School

together with the

Class of 2012

cordially invite you to attend

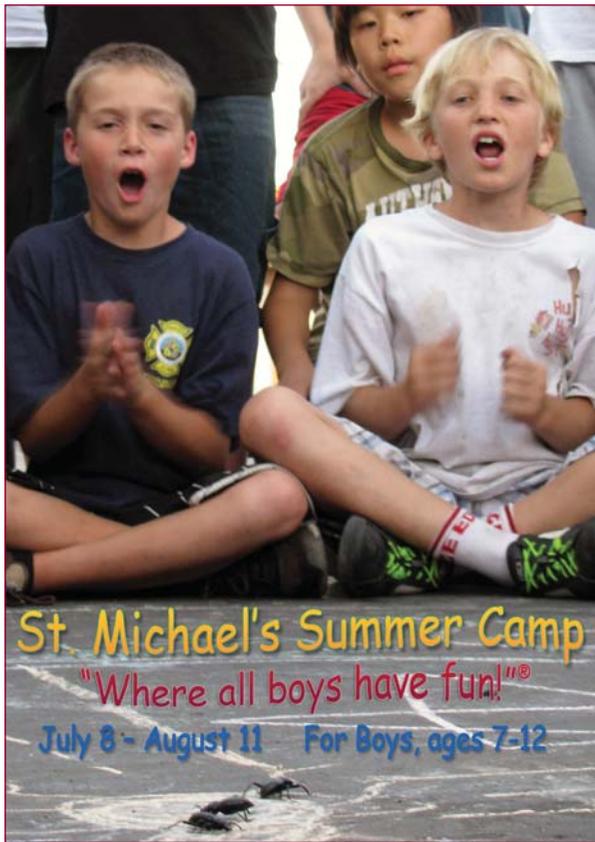
Commencement Exercises

Monday, May 28th at 7:00 p.m.
St. Michael's Abbey Church

Reception following

"Where all boys have fun!"[®]

St. Michael's Summer Camp



July 8 - August 11 • For Boys 7-12

Register online at: StMichaelsAbbey.com/SummerCamp

LIMITED SPACE AVAILABLE!

IN MEMORIAM

Virginia Fleming

It is with great sadness we heard of the death of our friend Virginia Fleming on Friday, April 27, 2012. Virginia was the mother of Kathy Fritz, whose son, frater Cyprian, entered the abbey in 2004. The funeral Mass was in the Abbey church on Saturday, May 5. May she rest in peace.

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.

May 3 St. James

Patron saint of pharmacists

May 7 Translation of the Relics of St. Norbert

May 10 St. Damien of Molokai

Patron saint of lepers

May 16 St. Brendan

Patron saint of sailors

May 17 St. Pascal Baylon

Patron saint of cooks and Eucharistic organizations

May 24 St. Herman Joseph, O.Praem.

Patron saint of St. Michael's Preparatory School

May 25 St. Hildebrand (Gregory VII)

May 25 St. Philip Neri

Patron saint of U.S. Army Special Forces

June 1 St. Justin Martyr

Patron saint of public speakers and philosophers

June 3 St. Charles Luanga

Patron saint of Catholic youth and converts

June 6 St. Norbert, O.Praem.

Patron saint of peace and founder of the Norbertine order

June 15 St. Isfrid, O.Praem.

June 22 St. Thomas More

Patron saint of lawyers, politicians and civil servants

June 24 St. John the Baptist

Patron saint of epileptics, the Order of Malta and monastic life

June 27 St. Ladislaus

June 29 SS. Peter and Paul

Patron saint of fishermen, bakers, butchers, cobblers, and clock makers

July 9 SS. Adrian and James, O.Praem.

July 11 St. Benedict

Patron saint of Europe, farmers and monks

July 13 St. Eugene

July 14 St. Hroznata, O.Praem.

July 21 St. Victor

July 24 St. Charbel Makhloof

July 26 St. Joachim

Patron saint of fathers and grandparents



ST. MICHAEL'S ABBEY & PREPARATORY SCHOOL

19292 El Toro Road • Silverado, California 92676-9710
www.StMichaelsAbbey.com

NONPROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE

PAID
EL TORO, CA
PERMIT NO. 122

MOVING?

Please let us know before you move. Send us both your current address and the new address. That way we will save postage, and you will not miss an issue of the St. Michael Messenger.

If you receive duplicates, please send us both mailing addresses, and tell us which one is correct.

Calendar of Events

May

- 13 Mothers' Day
- 17 Ascension Thursday, 11:00 a.m. Mass
- 20 May Crowning, 11:00 a.m. Mass
- 27 Pentecost Sunday, 11:00 a.m. Mass
- 28 Memorial Day; High School Graduation, 7:00 p.m.

June

- 1 End of the School year
- 3 Trinity Sunday, 11:00 a.m. Mass
- 6 St. Norbert's Day, 11:00 a.m. Mass
- 7 Corpus Christi Thursday, 11:00 a.m. Mass and Procession of the Blessed Sacrament after 5:00 p.m. Vespers
- 17 Fathers' Day Picnic at the Abbey
- 23 Ordinations at Mission Basilica San Juan Capistrano, 9:00 a.m.
- 24 Nativity of St. John the Baptist, 11:00 a.m. Mass
- 29 Sts. Peter and Paul, 11:00 a.m. Mass

July

- 4 Independence Day
- 8 Summer Camp begins (runs through August 11)*

August

- 15 Solemnity of the Assumption of Our Lady, 11:00 a.m. Mass
- 20 First day of School
- 28 Solemnity of St. Augustine, 11:00 a.m. Mass

*For Summer Camp information and registration, please visit StMichaelsAbbey.com/SummerCamp

Mass is celebrated each day at 7:00 a.m. and on Sundays at 11:00 a.m.

All schedules of Liturgies and events are subject to change, please visit StMichaelsAbbey.com for more information and updates.

Photo by R. Belcher

