

MICHAELLEN

SPORTS NIGHT

Saturday, January 24, 2009

Guest Speaker Mike Rucker

Former Nebraska Cornhusker/Carolina Panther Mike Rucker, returns to Nebraska to speak to Mount Michael at Sports Night, January 24, 2009.

Mike Rucker closed a strong Nebraska career ranked among the top five players in school history with 40 tackles for loss (175 yards). He also ranked among the top 10 Blackshirts in Husker annuals with 17 sacks (132 yards). He continued his career after being drafted in the second round with the 38th overall pick by the Carolina panthers in the 1999 NFL Draft. Mike joined former Husker teammate, Mike Minter, as a Panther. Mike Rucker retired from the Carolina Panthers in April of 2008. He was among the Panthers all-time leaders. Mike Rucker and teammate Kris Jenkins appeared in the 2003 Pro Bowl, marking the first time in team history that Carolina was represented in the game by two players from the same defensive front.

Sports Night has become an annual event at Mount Michael Benedictine Abbey & School. This year it will be celebrated for the fifth time since 2005. Past speakers have included Lee Corso, Tom Osborne, Trev Alberts, Pat Behrns, and this years keynote speaker, Mike Rucker.

An important piece to the evening is when the Benedictine Award is presented to fellow coaches.

The Benedictine Award was established in 2005 and is awarded by Mount Michael Benedictine School in memory of Coach Jim Kane. The Benedictine Award honors the contributions of volunteer coaches of elementary/junior high level for a minimum of five years. They must have acted as a volunteer and have received no compensation for their efforts. They must exhibit a love of the game and the ability to encourage each child to make the most of his or her God-given talents.

A Patron Party is scheduled to take place at Mr. Richard and Mrs. Heidi Anzalone's home beginning at 3:30p.m. followed by a 6:00p.m. Social Hour and Silent Auction at the Mount Michael Armory. Dinner will begin at 7:30p.m. in The Palace (Mount Michael Gymnasium), ending with Mike Rucker speaking at 8:00p.m.

Please contact the Mount Michael Development office if you have someone in mind that you would like to nominate for the Benedictine Award and/or are interested in attending Sports Night.

Your support and attendance would be appreciated.
Please join us as we welcome Mike Rucker back to Nebraska!



Mr. Mike Rucker

SAVE THE DATE

Sports Night
Saturday, January 24, 2009

Night of Knights
Saturday, March 28, 2009

Golf Classic
Friday, June 5, 2009

Alumni Reunion
Saturday, June 6, 2009

Ticket Purchases:

Contact

Kari Herbst

at 402.253.0950

events@mountmichael.org



A LETTER FROM THE ABBOT

Abbot Michael Liebl, O.S.B.

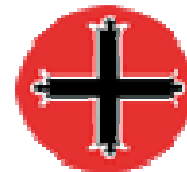
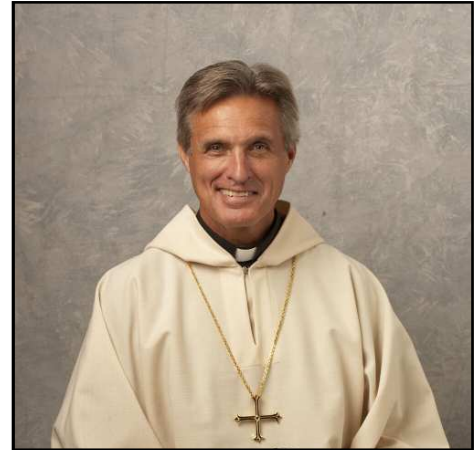
The lasting image of the story of Christmas is the Holy Family gathered in a manger near Bethlehem. Forced by the arrival of Jesus to seek shelter, the best Mary and Joseph can do is to give him a crib in which to lie. No roof over their heads, no decent place to stay. But you never walk away from that Christmas scene feeling that they are lacking anything. The aura of love and contentment makes any lack fade into the background. It is a scene of grace.

As of the moment, we also have no roof over our heads. That is not quite true. The wing of the abbey building which was first completed in 1965 is still missing its roof which was destroyed in the storm last June. There is a temporary roof over our heads. But the bureaucratic necessities of modern life have led to a long delay in rebuilding a permanent roof. With the approach of winter weather, we are grateful that work is finally underway on the new roof. As I mentioned in the last Michaelen, the storm may actually have been a blessing in disguise. The new roof on the older wing should better match the roof on the new wing of the monastery. It should also be engineered to better withstand a storm like the one of last June.

So at the moment, we have no roof. But hopefully observers will not notice that we have no roof. Hopefully, visitors will notice instead, that like the Holy Family gathered in the manger, our monastic home has an aura of peace and contentment. Hopefully visitors here will find it to be a place of grace. The surroundings are not as important as the people gathered inside.

For all those to whom Christmas signals the promise of eternal life, we wish that your homes may share the same sense that nothing seems lacking. Nothing seems lacking because the peace and love of the new born Christ is present there.

Abbot Michael



MASS INTENTIONS

If you find that your pastor is unable to conveniently take care of the Masses you wish to have celebrated for your particular intentions, Mount Michael Abbey welcomes the requests for such intentions. We will see to it that the Masses are celebrated as promptly as possible.

The offering you make should correspond with that suggested by the diocese in which you reside. Your pastor will be able to inform you of what the stipend of a particular diocese may be.

Please address such requests to:

**Mass Intentions
Development Office
Mount Michael Benedictine Abbey
22520 Mount Michael Road
Elkhorn, NE 68022**

MEMORIALS

Often inquiries are made about our memorials, living or deceased, for relatives and friends. At Mount Michael one can enroll families or friends in our memorial foundation. This consists of daily remembrance at the Eucharist and the Divine Office by the monks of Mount Michael Abbey. Upon enrollment, we will notify the family with a card.

The offering for this memorial enrollment is:

INDIVIDUAL

One year	\$50
Five years	\$100
In Lifetime	\$250

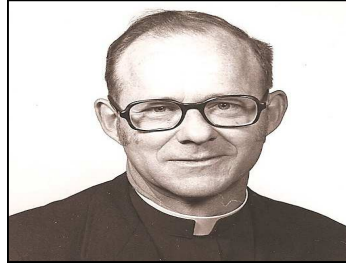
FAMILY

One year	\$100
Five years	\$200
In Lifetime	\$500

For a donation of \$1000 or more, the name will be enrolled in our memorial book, and a certificate of remembrance will be sent to the person or family.



Father Adrian Celebrates His 50th Jubilee



Father Adrian Laible, O.S.B.



**Father Adrian tends to his
Blue Birds**

Father Adrian Laible O.S.B. Celebrates Fifty Years of Priesthood

One wish that most people have these days is to live long enough to enjoy their grandchildren and even their great grandchildren. For a monk, often times it is the wish to live long enough to celebrate one's own fiftieth anniversary of monastic profession or ordination.

Mount Michael's jubilarian this year has not only made it to his fiftieth anniversary of profession, but has also made it to his fiftieth anniversary of ordination this past spring, May 27. Our jubilarian this year is Fr. Adrian Laible.

Fr. Adrian was ordained at Conception Abbey in 1958, along with his classmates. In those days the ordaining minister was Cardinal J. P. Cody, who was later to become a Cardinal in the Catholic Church.

Fr. Adrian is originally from Stuart, NE, in the northern part of the Archdiocese of Omaha, Nebraska. Also in those days, Immaculate Conception Seminary was where most were trained for the priesthood from this diocese. While Fr. Adrian (then Bernard) was at Conception, he was attracted to the monastic community of Conception and soon joined ranks at Conception. Little did he know at that time, the vow of obedience would eventually bring him to the community of Mount Michael.

Before being asked to come to one of Conception's daughter houses, Mount Michael, Fr. Adrian gladly served Conception Abbey in numerous places where that community had needs: Standing Rock Indian Reservation in North Dakota, St. James in Porcupine, North Dakota, and St. Gabriel in Shields, North Dakota.

When Fr. Adrian first came to Mount Michael, he was among those early monks who would be considered the pioneers of the Mount Michael community. Life at Mount Michael was a bit like it is now, many monks having out of necessity to wear many hats and perform lots of duties and responsibilities. Fr. Adrian shared in this role in those early days. Some of his duties over the years: a teacher in both St. John's Seminary and Mount Michael Benedictine High School, Business Manager, Perfect in the Seminary days, Kitchen Master, Treasurer in the Business Office and Director of the junior monks and postulants.

Perhaps Fr. Adrian might admit that monastic life now is a little less stressful and a little more free of some of those responsibilities of his past years in monastic life. But he still functions wholeheartedly in monastic life and takes his turn to be leader at the Divine Office and celebrates the Eucharist, as all the priests of Mount Michael Abbey. Right now Fr. Adrian is particularly helpful with celebrating the Eucharist for the retired Mercy Sisters in Omaha at this time.

Many students will remember, Fr. Adrian as loving to play cards, especially bridge and hearts. No one could guess what cards he would be holding in his hand, always able to maintain a poker face. Among his other favorite pastimes are: stamp collecting and raising and caring for bluebirds. Every year Fr. Adrian has a great hatch of blue birds and many more populate our area.

The Holiday Season is our time to celebrate anniversaries, a tradition inherited from our mother house, Conception Abbey. This year we are proud to join with Fr. Adrian this Holiday Season for his fifty years of service in the priesthood of Our Lord Jesus Christ. Congratulations, Fr. Adrian and may you be blessed with more years of service to come!

Please remember in your prayers those who have died

Kay White, Wife of Tom White, Class of 1964

Margaret Longacre, Wife of Greg Longacre, Class of 1967

Jack Vail, Father of Timothy Vail, Class of 1968

Urma Drahota, Grandmother of John Drahota, Class of 1982

Helen Barry, Grandmother of Pat Barry, Class of 1996

Sebastian Salerno, Friend of Mount Michael



MISSION STATEMENT

MOUNT MICHAEL IS A COMMUNITY OF VISION AND PROMISE. THE VISION IS GIVEN LIFE AND DIRECTION THROUGH THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST AND THE RULE OF ST. BENEDICT. THE PROMISE IS KEPT THROUGH DEDICATED PRAYER AND WORK. TIME AND SPACE ARE MADE HOLY, THAT IN ALL THINGS, GOD MAY BE GLORIFIED.

A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT ABBOT RAPHAEL WALSH , O.S.B.

Many Meanings in Merry Christmas

Christmas time means many different things for many different people. For students it means vacation time. For children it means gifts. For parents it means tension to get everything ready. For priests it means extra hours of celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation as part of the spiritual preparation for Christmas.

For those away from home it means putting up with the hassle of travel to make it home for Christmas. For those who cannot make it home it can mean loneliness and home sickness. But most of all, for all of us Christmas means the birthday of our savior. St. Leo back in the fifth century put it best in a Christmas sermon that went something like this, "Dearly beloved, today our savior is born. Let us rejoice. Sadness has no place on the birthday of life. The fear of death has been swallowed up, life brings us joy with the promise of eternal happiness. No one is shut out from this joy; saints rejoice because victory is at hand. Sinners can be glad for they can receive forgiveness. Christians, remember your dignity for now you share in God's nature".

Christmas is the most fundamental feast of our faith. Without Christmas there could be no Resurrection or Ascension. Christmas has changed our lives forever. Because of Christmas we can be united with Christ's body—He the head and we the members of that Body.

Because of Christmas we can find Christ in the Eucharist. We can find Christ in one another. We can find Christ in ourselves, in our own hearts and souls.

As a school it is our privilege and duty to teach and create an atmosphere about the true meaning of Christmas, teaching our students about their true dignity and that the true Christmas spirit means sharing with others, especially the needy. It was to create and share this spirit that our students collected and distributed many boxes of food and gifts for the needy, expressing that what they do for the needy they do for Christ. Christmas makes this possible. Blessed Christmas Season to all.

National Merit Semi-finalists

Seniors Zach Harvat and Luke Weitkemper have been recognized as National Merit Semi-Finalist which represents less than 1% of the 1.5 million entrants in the competition.

Luke Weitkemper also distinguished himself as one of only a few to achieve a perfect 36. A feat he shares with his brother Sam who graduated from Mount Michael in 2006.



Left: Zach Harvat Right: Luke Weitkemper

Fr. John's Homemade Jellies:

Apple Butter - Chokecherry - Grape



\$5pt/ or \$8/qt

Jalapeno

\$3/8oz jar

Homemade Pumpkin Bread

\$5/Loaf

Contact:

mwhitaker@mountmichael.org

"A Tradition of Excellence"

For current

Sports schedules and Information:

View the Mount Michael

Website:

WWW.MOUNTMICHAEL.ORG

go to:

BLACK ZONE SPORTS

Mount Michael School
Christmas Break begins
Friday, December 19, 2008
Classes will resume
Monday, January 5, 2009



Mike O'Hare, Class of 1993

Congratulations Mike O'Hare!

Mike O'Hare (Class of 1993) received a Degree in Business Administration from Creighton University in 1997 and a Juris Doctor Degree in 2000 from the Creighton University School of Law.

After graduation from law school, Mike worked in the Douglas County Attorney's office in the civil division until he joined Tax Help, LLC where he worked for the past 7 years.

He recently opened his own business which will specialize in tax preparation and planning for individuals as well as offer financial services.

Mike and his wife Rebecca reside in Elkhorn, NE

Alumni Weekend

Mark your calendars for the annual Alumni weekend scheduled to take place June 5-6 of 2009.

Friday, June 5

A day of golf at Tiburon Golf Course.

Saturday, June 6

Tours of Mount Michael and dinner to follow with fellow alumni.

Alumni Announcements

Alex McKnight ('05) is anticipating a May, 2009 graduation from the University of Notre Dame with a Major in Physics and Pre-medicine. He has been accepted to the University of Nebraska Medical School and anticipates an August, 2009 matriculation.

Roy ('91) and Theresia Bogar announce the birth of their daughter, Rachel Ann, born on September 26, 2008. The Bogar family resides in San Antonio, Texas.

Dr. and Mrs. Nick Bruggeman ('91) announced the October birth of their daughter, Ava. Ava has two brothers, Joseph and Will.

Tom Devlin ('88) and his wife, Kris, announce the birth of their twins (boy and girl). Chase Devlin and Dayton Devlin were born on September 19, 2008. The twins join siblings Kiely and Jake and the Devlin family lives in Lawrence, KS.

ATTENTION ALUMNI!

Check out the alumni Facebook page at Mount Michael Benedictine Alumni. A great way for you to keep informed of upcoming events sponsored by the Mount Michael Alumni Association.

Congratulations to

Mr. Jim Krone, Class of 1968

Jim Krone was awarded the Kansas state middle school principal of the year recently. He was also named the Kansas Association of Secondary School Principals Area 1 Middle Level Principal Honoree.

Join the Alumni network
by visiting the
Mount Michael
website!

[Www.mountmichael.org](http://www.mountmichael.org)

Alumni Basketball Tournament

January 3rd & 4th

Please view the Alumni
website for more details.

To view photos of fellow Mount Michael Alumni classmates at the 2008 Fall Festival which took place on September 21st of this year, please go to the Mount Michael website.

Right: Father Dan Lenz puts his artistic abilities to good use while painting a pumpkin at the 08' Fall Festival.





STOP - LOOK - LISTEN !!!

Answer Three Questions

1. What was invented by the American Bible Society in 1843?
2. What became very popular in the early 1920's?
3. What is still approved by the IRS today?

The answer to all three questions:
THE CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITY

Imagine This ...

1. Income

- For your lifetime, or
- The combined lifetime of you and a second party

2. Rates

- | | |
|-------------------|---------------------------|
| • Age 60 ... 5.5% | • Ages ... 60+60 ... 5.2% |
| • Age 70 ... 6.1% | • Ages ... 70+70 ... 5.6% |
| • Age 80 ... 7.6% | • Ages ... 80+80 ... 6.6% |
| • Age 85 ... 8.9% | • Ages ... 85+85 ... 7.4% |

3. Tax Benefits

- Immediate Income Tax Deduction
- Partial Tax-Free Income
- Reduced Estate Taxes and Probate Costs
- Possible Charitable Tax Credit for Nebraska Taxpayers

4. Deferred Gift to Mount Michael

Want to see a proposal?

Please contact:

Michael J. Lynch

Major Gift Director

Mount Michael Benedictine Abbey & School

402.253.0971

mlynch@mountmichael.org

Year End Giving Opportunities

- Track / Sports Complex
- Corporate / Patron Sponsor Sports Night
- Corporate Sponsor Night of Knights
- Coaches Endowment Fund
- Annual Appeal

Please contact:

Kimberly A. Volpone
 Director of Development
 402.253.0964
 donate@mountmichael.org

1. INCOME

- For your lifetime, or
- The combined lifetime of you and a second party

2. TAX BENEFITS

- Immediate Income Tax Deduction
- Partial Tax-free Income
- Reduced Estate Taxes and Probate Costs
- Possible Charitable Tax Credit for Nebraska Taxpayers

3. DEFERRED GIFT TO MOUNT

MICHAEL

WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE
 A PROPOSAL?

Please contact:

Michael J. Lynch, Major Gifts Director at Mount Michael Benedictine Abbey and School. By phone, 402.253.0971 or at mlynch@mountmichael.org.

FALL FESTIVAL UPDATE!

Thank you to all who participated in the Fall Festival! We appreciate your time, talent and treasures.

Much fun was had by all and a net profit of \$62,000 was what your efforts brought to Mount Michael.



Bits and Pieces - Prior Richard Thell, O.S.B.

"Miscellany" is a word which refers to a collection of miscellaneous pieces of writing in one volume. It is apropos word to apply to the following article, as I have used this edition as a chance to follow up on some previous things I have written and have included a couple of new items.

Several issues ago I wrote an article on the "books on tape" that accompany the evening meals of the monks. I received numerous comments on that article with both suggestions for future books and from individuals who were going to make a reading list. One mother thought the idea of tapes or CDs was so good that she even incorporated the idea into her home-schooling. She started having her children listen to classic books, i.e. **The Chronicles of Narnia**, while they ate lunch. One drawback—the kids liked the books so much that they would take them to the play room and finish listening in a day or two.

Since that article the monks have listened to **The Nine** by Jeffrey Toobin, **Same Kind of Different as Me** by Ron Hall and Denver Moore, and **Three Cups of Tea** by Greg Mortenson. We are currently listening to **Rome 1960: The Olympics that Changed the World** by David Maraniss.

In a recent article on the monks moving into their new monastic residence I quoted from Ecclesiastes: "There is a time to tear down and a time to build up." Since the June '08 storm which tore off the roof of the older abbey building, some monks have been chanting that "build up" part of the scripture in the hope of facilitating the roof and building repair. The process has been agonizingly slow. Those of you who have had to deal with any sort of home repair and insurance companies know the problems that can arise—well, magnify that and you have some idea of what we have been going through. Fortunately, as this issue of the **MICHAELEEN** goes to press the repair work is underway. We are praying that through the intercession of St. Joseph the Carpenter that (despite the small crew) construction goes well (and quickly).

On Tuesday, October 7th, Mount Michael had a very special visitor. He was Abbot Primate Notker Wolf, O.S.B. "Abbot Primate" is the title given to the man elected by all Benedictine abbots to lead Benedictine men and women worldwide. At the end of September he was elected to his second 8 year term as Primate. One of the Primate's most important jobs is visiting Benedictine houses throughout the world. While Abbot Primate Notker was in Omaha because of some lectures he was giving as part of the Asian Studies program at Creighton University he took time to visit Mount Michael.

It is no understatement to say that he truly captivated Mount Michael students and monks alike. The sixty-eight year old abbot is a native of Germany; he can speak at least eight languages and play several musical instruments. He has a wealth of Benedictine knowledge to share; he plays in the Christian rock band, Feedback; and in his "spare time" he has authored several books.

At Mount Michael he was met by our Abbot Michael and joined the monks and students in chapel for a prayer service. After prayers he spoke briefly on the value of a Benedictine education and then answered student questions. His most interesting comments dealt with his travel to such diverse places as North Korea and Tanzania. The most compelling part of his visit came when he gave an informal flute concert in the chapel. He started by playing some Mozart and ended with something from Jethro Tull. Longfellow has said that "music is the universal language of mankind," Abbot Primate Notker certainly proved that with his impromptu "gig."

As monks we are encouraged to continue our education through classes and workshops whenever possible. Early in November I attended the annual Priors' Workshop held this year at Saint John's Abbey in Collegeville, Minnesota. The purpose of the gathering is to give the various Benedictine Priors a chance for a long weekend of spiritual enrichment. This year's presenter was Father Columba Stewart, O.S.B. from the faculty of Saint John's School of Theology. He addressed the topic—"Early Monastic Insights on Self-Knowledge and Spiritual Development." While this may sound a little intimidating and esoteric, throughout the weekend Father Columba made ancient texts come alive with contemporary relevance. He gave a series of conferences on the early (3rd century) Christian monastic writings of Origen, Evagrius, John Cassian and The Rule of the Master. He concluded by tying these ancient texts to Chapter 7 of the Rule of Benedict and Benedict's "ladder of humility." The weekend also included a lecture and viewing of the "Wisdom Books," the latest installment of The Saint John's Bible.

By the time you receive this **MICHAELEEN** we will be well into the Advent season and our preparations for Christmas, so I will conclude with the following thoughts. First from Pope Benedict XVI: "Advent is concerned with that very connection between memory and hope which is so necessary to all of us. Advent's intention is to awaken the most profound and basic emotional memory within us, namely, the memory of the God who became a child. It is the beautiful task of Advent to awaken in all of us memories of goodness and thus to open doors of hope."

And finally from the seventeenth century English poet, John Milton, one of my favorite Christmas quotes from his poem, "The Morning of Christ's Nativity":

This is the month, and this the happy morn
Wherein the Son of Heaven's eternal King,
Of wedded Maid, and Virgin Mother born,
Our great redemption from above did bring;
For so the holy sages once did sing,
That he our deadly forfeit should release,
And with his Father work us a perpetual peace.

That he our deadly forfeit should release,
And with his Father work us a perpetual peace.

May the Peace of the new born Christ Child be with you and your family this Christmas and throughout 2009!

Mount Michael Directory

Mount Michael Chapel - Visitors are always welcome.

Daily Mass 7:15 a.m.

Sunday Mass 9:30 a.m.

Saturday 8:00 a.m.

Liturgy of the Hours

6:30 a.m. (M-F) 11:45 a.m.

5:15 p.m. 7:00 p.m. (In the Abbey)

St. Benedict Guest House

Gift Shop □ Lunches □ Teas □ Dessert Days □ Retreats

Br. Jerome Kmiecik 402-289-2541 ext. 1206

Vocation Ministry

For information about monastic life:

Fr. John Hagemann, O.S.B., Vocation Director

402-289-2541, ext. 1111 vocations@mountmichael.org

Oblates of St. Benedict

Br. Jerome Kmiecik, O.S.B., 402-289-2541, ext. 1206

oblates@mountmichael.org

Alumni Association

For information about meetings/events or to report news:

Fr. John Hagemann, O.S.B. 402-289-2541, ext. 1111

alumni@mountmichael.org

World Wide Web

www.mountmichael.org (Abbey)

www.mountmichael.com (School)

www.mountmichael.net (Alumni)

Prayer Needs and Spiritual Direction

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BENEDICTINE ABBEY & SCHOOL

MICHAELEEN

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