

## MEET THE MONKS...

I threw this together so that when you arrive (and as you meet them) you will be able to identify various monks. Although the English Benedictines are known for their eccentricity, nonetheless, we all dress the same, and it can be difficult to tell us apart sometimes. Forgive me if I boast a little about each of my brethren as I introduce them (in no particular order).



**Abbot Gregory Mohrman** is the third abbot of the monastery, and the first alumnus of the Priory school to serve as Headmaster and then as Abbot.

TRIVIA: Abbot Gregory enjoys playing the piano, and has the same piano teacher today that he has had since he was in the 5th grade.



**Prior Cassian Koenemann** is an alumnus of our school. He graduated from Vanderbilt with a degree in economics, and was working for IBM in Washington DC when he started to hear the call to be a monk of Saint Louis Abbey.

TRIVIA: Father Cassian captain of the football team at Priory (and the first rugby player I ever sent to the hospital)!



**Father Cuthbert Eliot** is a graduate of Holy Cross College, a veteran actor, mock trial coach, and the headmaster of the school.

TRIVIA: Father Cuthbert made the highest grade possible (a “first”) at Oxford when he studied Theology there!



**Father Aidan** grew up on “The Hill” in South Saint Louis. He did his theological studies at Mundelein and serves as pastor of our parish.

TRIVIA: Everyone likes Father Aidan. There are no exceptions to this.



**Father Augustine** is the author of three books and our Director of Vocations. He has degrees from Rice University, Oxford University, and Middlebury College.

TRIVIA: Father Augustine was a surfer and a professional juggler!



**Father Andrew** is a polymath autodidact. You won't know what that is, but he will. A graduate of Saint Louis University, he reads everything and anything he can get his hands on.

TRIVIA: Father Andrew is the infermarian, caring for the needs of the oldest in the monastery.



**Father Athanasius Soto** studied economics at UCLA. He was working as a government auditor when he discovered his call to be a monk.

TRIVIA: Father Athanasius used to weigh 300 pounds! Now he does hand-stand push-ups!



**Brother Mark Kammerer** is one of the most accomplished artists in our community. For many years, he taught photography in our school.

TRIVIA: Brother Mark has had every job you can think of, from Marine medic to jewel-cutter, to whiskey brewer!



**Father Francis** is the abbey kitchenmaster and works part-time in the parish.

TRIVIA: Father Francis speaks fluent Japanese!



**Brother Hugh** made his solemn profession last January and works as the librarian in our school. He is a convert to Catholicism, an avid linguist, and a book-binder.

TIVIA: Before becoming a monk, Brother Hugh taught himself Korean--then moved to Korea for a year!



**Father Gerard** entered Saint Louis Abbey in 1980 with no thoughts of becoming a priest. Nonetheless, he hsa served as a teacher, pastor of our parish, and prior of the monastery.

TRIVIA: Father Gerard was friends with Dorothy Day!



**Abbot Thomas** was the first American abbot of Saint Louis Abbey. After graduating from Harvard, he went to Oxford and was converted to Catholicism by Elizabeth Anscomb. He then taught Philosophy at Notre Dame before becoming a monk.

TRIVIA: Abbot Thomas was the world's first disabled Rhodes Scholar!



**Father Dominic** is a Theology teacher in our school, and the Director of Formation for the Abbey.

TRIVIA: He is the first man to be ordained a priest and the first man to profess religious vows from his home parish in Troy Missouri!



**Father Lawrence** is an organist, scripture scholar and the abbot's secretary. For many years, he taught English in our school, then Hebrew and Old Testament at Kenrick Seminary. He is the second American vocation to persevere at the abbey and the author of *Praying the Psalms in Christ* (Notre Dame Press)

TRIVIA: Father Lawrence in addition to his expertise in Hebrew, Father Lawrence is also adept at Latin and Greek, and speaks fluent French and German!



Born in Dublin, **Father Finbarr** is Irish in every imaginable way. He served as one of our first headmasters, and as a teacher of Math, French, and Theology. A natural contrarian, you can expect that anything you say to him will be contradicted in the most charming and baffling way.

TRIVIA: Father Finbarr captained the top high school rugby team in Ireland!



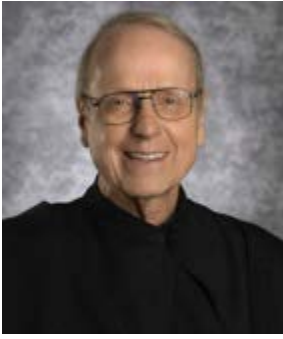
**Father Ralph** was born in England in 1938 and spent two years in the British Army with the elite "Sherwood Foresters" before becoming a monk at Ampleforth Abbey. After graduating from Oxford, he spent four years studying theology at Fribourg in Switzerland. He has served in the school, the parish, and as novicemaster and director of vocations for the abbey.

TRIVIA: Father Ralph has published seven books of poetry—and once taught himself Italian using only a copy of Dante's *Divine Comedy* and an Italian/English Dictionary.



**Father Linus** is officially the smartest monk at the abbey. He earned his PhD in Physics from Princeton and teaches seven science classes in the school. In 2019, he won the University of Chicago Outstanding Educator Award.

TRIVIA: Father Linus is an avid rock-climber and cross-country runner!



**Father Benedict** may look like he's fifty years old, but he's really eighty-eight! The first American vocation to persevere at the abbey, he has taught in the school, coached, and served in the parish.

TRIVIA: Father Benedict recently learned Spanish so he could travel to Chile, where he works with the Manquehue Apostolic Movement.



**Brother Symeon** is a quiet man of prayer. He is a stained glass craftsman and taught in the Fine Arts Department of our school for 25 years, followed by eight years as a monastic hermit. He is currently retired.

TRIVIA: Under his tutelage, Priory students constructed two two-story stained glass windows for the high school, one of which is an accurate, scale reproduction of the Jesse Tree window from Chartre Cathedral!



**Brother Philip** is a choir oblate, meaning that he renews his vows yearly. He is our chief liturgist, and is responsible for all of our pamphlets, booklets, and liturgical aids.

TRIVIA: Brother Philip knows just about everything there is to know about Gregorian Chant. Go ahead! Test him!

## ON THE MISSIONS...

You won't see these monks on campus because they are serving "on the missions"...

Three of the brethren have been assigned to Portsmouth Abbey to help refound that community. They are...



A graduate of Howard University, **Father Michael** he has served as the headmaster of our school, the pastor of our parish, and now the Prior Administrator for Portsmouth Abbey.

TRIVIA: Father Michael is a convert from Islam!



**Brother Sixtus** is the vocation director at Portsmouth Abbey. He has served our school and monastic communities in a number of roles, including archivist, sacristan, teacher, and coach.

TRIVA: Before becoming a monk, he was one of the countries leading "prop men," locating, designing, and warehousing props for theaters and movies all across the country!



**Brother Edward** is an alumnus of the school and our youngest monks. He is currently finishing a Masters Degree in Mathematics from Harvard.

TRIVIA: Brother Edward was first-chair violin in the Saint Louis Symphony Children's Orchestra!

### Currently serving at the South Pole (No joke. He is in the Falkland Islands)!



A liturgical expert and vocal advocate of the Extraordinary Form, before coming to the abbey, **Father Ambrose** put himself through Princeton while simultaneously running his family's restaurant.

TRIVIA: Father Ambrose had a pet Puma growing up!