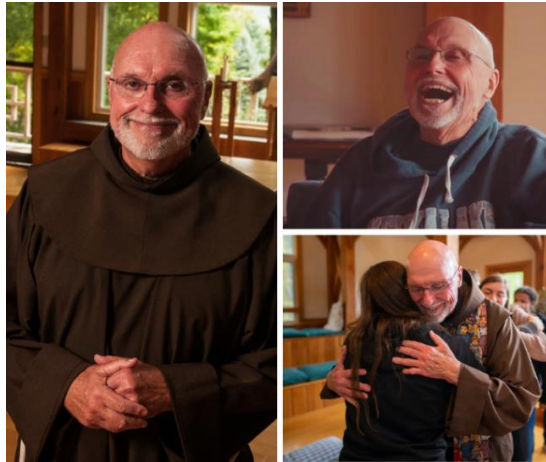


ATTENTION SBU ALUMNI FROM 2000-2009

Announcing the Benvenuto 2000s Alumni Challenge: Honoring the Memory of Fr. Dan Riley, ofm



Introduction

The vibrant and impactful Mt. Irenaeus Franciscan Mountain Community of today would not exist if it was not for the brilliant vision of our beloved founder, **Fr. Dan Riley, ofm**, the hard work of countless volunteers and the thoughtful philanthropy of many individuals and families from around the nation.

While Fr. Dan may not be physically with us today, we all continue to feel his presence and inspiration, personally and through Mt. Irenaeus. As the Mountain embarks on the next 40 years of its mission and ministry, the time is right to honor the legacy of Fr. Dan, and to ensure that the philanthropic resources are secured to invest in essential people and the three peak strategy of the Mountain: Service to the St. Bonaventure University student community, Service to Alumni & Adults and Service to the Franciscan World and the Province of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

It is our hope to enhance the Mountain's current endowment fund, valued at approximately \$6 million, by adding \$9-10 million to the fund so we have the resources, in part, to serve the demand from University students, faculty, staff, alumni and many friends who have found their way to Mt. Irenaeus' "manner of life." An independent and fiscally sound Mt. Irenaeus helps enhance the St. Bonaventure student experience and helps differentiate the University among its peer higher education institutions. And this is a campaign that Fr. Dan wanted us to execute—articulated even in the final hours before his passing in July 2024.

The 2000-2009 Alumni Challenge Sponsored by Rich '70 & Pat Proly Benvenuto '70

Fr. Dan was a friend, mentor, coach and spiritual guide to many St. Bonaventure University students and alumni, particularly in the 2000s when he encouraged young people to visit Mt. Irenaeus for retreats, overnights and Sunday Mass. He was present for students, and then as alumni, in good times and during challenging times—celebrating weddings, baptizing children and being by our side when we experienced the loss of loved ones. In addition, Fr. Dan taught us how to pray and reflect and how to respect and embrace our differences.

Rich '70 & Pat Proly Benvenuto '70, of Belleaire Beach, Florida, remember with great fondness their relationship with Fr. Dan that spanned decades. Fr. Dan knew many individuals during his lifetime but had a gift of engaging alumni throughout the nation. Rich, a native of Queen, N.Y., and Pat, a native of Long Island, have been active supporters of Mt. Irenaeus since 1994 when they made their first gift toward the construction of the House of Peace at Mt. Irenaeus. Rich & Pat are also recognized as Living Stones by the Mountain for their years of generosity. Rich serves on the University's Alumni Council and has been active in reunions as well as supporters of Bonnies athletics.

As a way of honoring the memory of Fr. Dan and investing philanthropically in Mt. Irenaeus' ministry, **the Benvenutos will make a contribution of \$1,000 to the Fr. Dan Riley Memorial Endowment Fund at Mt. Irenaeus for any alumna or alumnus, from 2000-09, who makes a pledge of any amount over five years to the 3 Peaks Campaign. The Benevenuto Challenge will conclude after the first 25 commitments have been received.**

Here's how it works:

- All pledges, made by 2000-09 St. Bonaventure alumni, on or April 19, 2026, will count toward the Benvenuto Challenge.
- Mt. Irenaeus commitments, payable over five years, from individuals, families, donor advised funds (DAF), corporate matching gifts or charitable family foundations will count toward the Challenge.
- 3 Peaks Campaign gifts to both the Mountain (annual) Fund and/or the Fr. Dan Riley Memorial Endowment count toward the Challenge.
- Pledges of \$5,000, \$10,000 and \$25,000 or more are encouraged however no minimum commitment required for participation in the Benevenuto 2010-26 Challenge. Our only stipulation: you make a five-year pledge.
- While estate gifts are graciously encouraged, they are not eligible for the challenge bonus.

How can I make a commitment to the 3Peaks Campaign and take advantage of the Benvenuto Challenge?

- ✓ Make a commitment by contacting Campaign Director Rob Buckla at rbuckla@sbu.edu or 847-393-5628.
- ✓ Enroll in a recurring monthly gift via credit card, debit card, Venmo, Googlepay, Paypal via our secure online giving page: <https://mountainonline.org/give-receive/donate-to-the-mountain/>
- ✓ Call Michelle Marcellin who can talk you through monthly, quarterly or yearly gifts. Her phone number is 716-375-2096

