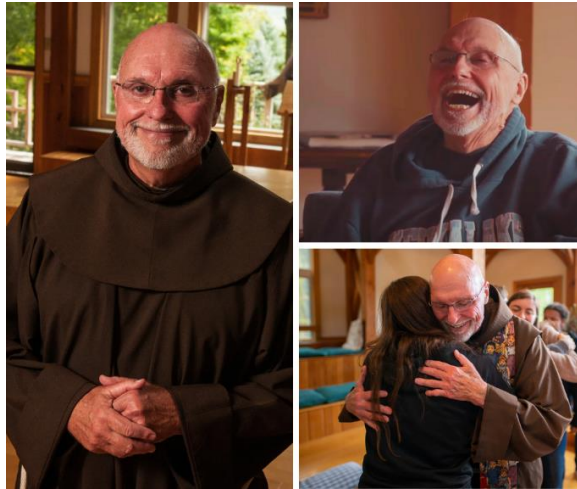




The Jilot Family 1990s Alumni Challenge: Honoring the Memory of Fr. Dan Riley, ofm



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 the fifth year of its 2021 Strategic Plan, 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 \$5.3 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 Jilot Family 90s Alumni Challenge: Accelerating Fr. Dan's vision

Fr. Dan was a friend, mentor, coach and spiritual guide to many St. Bonaventure University alumni, particularly in the 1990s when he lived in Devereux Hall among students on the Fourth Floor. He was present for students, and then as alumni, in good times and during challenging times—celebrating weddings, baptizing children and being present when we experienced the loss of loved ones. Fr. Dan taught us how to pray and reflect and how to respect and embrace our differences.

Jay '92 and Cassie Jilot of Reno, Nevada, remember with great fondness their relationship with Fr. Dan, who witnessed their wedding. They are also proud that Fr. Dan had a relationship with Jay's Mom and Dad, Lynne and the late Dennis Jilot. Fr. Dan knew many individuals during his lifetime but had a gift of engaging entire families.

As a way of honoring the memory of Fr. Dan and investing philanthropically in Mt. Irenaeus' ministry, **the Jilots will make a contribution of \$25,000 to the Fr. Dan Riley Memorial Endowment Fund at Mt. Irenaeus when 10 alumni from the 1990s make a commitment to the 3 Peaks Campaign.**

Here's how it works:

- All gifts, made by 1990s St. Bonaventure alumni, on or after April 1, 2026 will count toward the 10-goal Jilot Family 1990s Alumni Challenge.
- Mt. Irenaeus commitments, payable over five years or less, from individuals, families, donor advised funds, 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 endowment count toward the Challenge.
- Pledges of \$25,000, \$50,000 and \$100,000 or more are encouraged however a minimum commitment of \$5,000 is required for participation in the Jilot Family 90s Challenge.
- While estate gifts are graciously encouraged, they are not eligible for the challenge bonus.

About the 3 Peaks Campaign: *A Campaign Cabinet of volunteers has been formed to spearhead this ambitious fundraising endeavor. It is led by Kathy Pekar Colucci '77 (Chair, Mt. Irenaeus Board of Trustees), Bob Daugherty '77 (co-chair), Jim Gould '80 (Upstate NY Chair), Br. Kevin Kriso, ofm (Mt. Irenaeus Guardian and Animator) and Leslie Quick, III, '75 (co-chair). They are assisted by Mt. Irenaeus Executive Director Mike Fenn '91, Campaign Communications Chair Evan McElroy '75 and Campaign Director Rob Buckla '84.*

For more information, contact Mt. Irenaeus Campaign Director Rob Buckla at rbuckla@sbu.edu or 847-393-5628.