

Abbot Richard, Brother Paul, Abbot Elias, Father Michael, Father Ed, faculty and fellow Alumni – I want to welcome all of you to the Winter Class Reps Dinner of the Delbarton Alumni Association.

In among the Hills of Morris, near the sky so blue: Stands our noble *alma mater* glorious to view!

For those of you who don't know -- this is the opening verse of our school song. "In among the Hills of Morris" – these words evoke precious memories for all of us here tonight -- much of what we do and think about as an Alumni Association is centered upon our school, its buildings, the Abbey Church, the Senior Garden and the rest of our campus; Homecoming, Sunday mass, reunion events and alumni games, DAA Board meetings, and the like.

In tonight's dinner meeting, as we prepare to "send off" our beloved Headmaster -- Brother Paul -- over the latter half of this school year and "out into the world" for his sabbatical of next year, we will focus our discussion "beyond the Hills of Morris."

How do we as an Alumni Association create and maintain a vibrant Alumni community and network that will continue to foster brotherhood and growth beyond our years on campus?

How do we build a bridge with current students through mentorship initiatives that not only indoctrinates them into the Alumni Association early on but also assists them in putting their skills and abilities to their highest use for the benefit of their families, their communities and the school?

How do we continue to practice and foster the Benedictine values we learned as students while at Delbarton through community service opportunities and spiritual activities for Alumni that bring us ever closer together with the School that we love?

Tonight we will discuss all of these topics in more detail, as we consider the ways in which the Delbarton Alumni Association makes a positive impact in all of our lives and the lives of those around us "beyond the Hills of Morris."

Thank you.

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