

Fall 2015

SMS Alumni
News—Page 1

Upcoming Events:

Dec 20 - "Home for the Holidays:
Advent with Alumni" Event -
12:30pm Mass, reception, & school
tours

Jan 4 - Alumni General Meeting 6:30

Jan 31-Feb 6 - Catholic Schools
Week

Feb 1 - Alumni General Meeting 6:30

Mar 7 - Alumni General Meeting 6:30

Apr 4 - Alumni General Meeting 6:30

Apr 9 - "Spring for the Children"
Benefit Auction 5:00

Apr 20 - Alumni Scholarship Applica-
tions Due

May 2 - Alumni General Meeting 6:30

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SMS Mission:

"To provide a Catholic edu-
cation that nurtures stu-
dents' hearts and minds to
become servant leaders in
an ever-changing world."



St. Mary's School Alumni Newsletter



Principal's News

Dear Alumni Community,

I am very excited to be the principal at St Mary's School. St Mary's has always had a special place in my heart--my husband, Ted and I were married at St. Mary's over 30 years ago. To share a little about myself, I have two grown daughters, Katie and Emily. Both girls attended Catholic Schools from Pre-K through high school. I'm currently finishing a Doctoral degree in Educational Leadership from the College of Saint Mary and I received my Bachelor of Science in Education and Master of Science in Educational Administration degrees from the University of Nebraska at Omaha. I've been a teacher or administrator in the Archdiocese of Omaha for the last 30+ years.

We're having such an exciting school year. One of the things you'll notice when you visit is the way all of our St. Mary's family treats one another with respect. The cornerstone of all our relationships inside the school and out in the wider community is seeing Jesus in each person. The teachers and staff work hard every day to be shining examples. Our older students also model the love of Christ in all they do so younger students can see how to be kind and loving to others. All of our students make us very proud.

Since its beginning, St. Mary's School has been devoted to serving others. Our school is no different in that respect now than it was in 1948. Students are still serving the wider community. The 6th graders have held an Essential Pregnancy Service, or EPS, baby shower and took a field trip across the street to deliver the gifts to EPS for expectant parents. Student Council held a food drive to help re-stock Food Pantry shelves, and money collected for Spirit Days or special dress days goes to a local charity or community based group to help others.

There have been some wonderful additions to our technology program this year. We have deployed 3 Chromebook carts to be used by the students in grades K-8. Teachers had in-service sessions, attended EdCamp this summer, and took Chromebooks home to familiarize themselves with the new technology. When students came to school, the new tools were ready to put into their hands. We invite you to come and see the great things our students do in class using technology.

Our physical space has had a facelift in a few areas as well. Home and School purchased carpeting for the Kindergarten, Fourth, and Fifth grade classrooms. Instead of roll goods, the rooms have carpet squares. Parents and students helped our staff by having the annual Clean-Up Day right before school began. The volunteers painted a classroom, cleaned windows, and dusted hard to reach spaces. The entire school sparkled for the return of students.

Teachers at the school always look for ways to engage students. They often provide experiences that take them out of the school classrooms and into the community. Fourth, Fifth, and Sixth Graders went to Homestead National Monument and enjoyed a day of learning in a beautiful 195 acre National Park. The PreK and Kindergarteners ventured out to see a production of Pete the Cat.

All in all, we are a vibrant community of learners where we nurture students' minds and hearts to become servant leaders in an ever-changing world. I invite you to come visit and would be glad to arrange a tour of your school. You will always be an important part of St. Mary's.

In Christ,

Patricia Wallinger,
Current Principal



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SMS Alumni News—Page 2

Alumni with Current Students at St. Mary's School:

We have 16 alumni with 26 children currently at St. Mary's!

Dane' (Huck) Ames ('86): 4

John Dacey ('05): 1

Cindy (Wessling) Donahue ('80): 1

Sean Giles ('04): 1

Suzy (Peters) Godwin ('99): 1

Patrick Kettleon ('95): 1* (**Debbie (Cook) Kettleon ('69)**)

Breanna Koch ('04): 1

Patrick Kouba ('77): 2

Joanna (Jungers) Lee ('89): 3* (**Dean Jungers ('56)**)

Christina (Hascall) Legner ('91): 3* (**Dean Hascall ('68)**)

Jackie (Hascall) Lizarraga ('97): 1

Patti (Ferrante) Nastase ('61): 1*

Alan Swiecicki ('89): 2

Willie Wessling ('87): 3

Janet (Jungers) Yale ('91): 1* (**Dean Jungers ('56)**)

Kim (Schreiber) Zieno ('97): 1

Angelo Zieno ('95): 1

* = Grandchild of Alumni
Italics = Graduation year listed, but did not attend through graduation

Alumni choosing St. Mary's for their child/grandchild sends a powerful message. Do you have someone you'd like to attend St. Mary's? Call the school today for information!

"Home for the Holidays : Advent with Alumni" Event - December 20, 2015



All Alumni—attendees & graduates—and their friends and families are invited to the **2nd Annual December Alumni Event. "Home for the Holidays: Advent with Alumni"** will be held on **Sunday, December 20, 2015**. We will celebrate **12:30pm Mass** together at St. Mary's Church (Fr. Dennis Haneman will preside), followed by a **reception in the school gym and tours of the school!** We are looking for alumni to serve as readers, ushers, Eucharistic Ministers, gift bearers, and altar servers for this event. Contact Christina (Hascall) Legner ('91) (contact info on page 1) **by Monday, December 7th if you are interested in helping out with the Mass** in one of these ways or **by Monday, December 14th to RSVP**.

Congratulations to the Newest Alumni - SMS Class of 2015

Welcome to the newest members of the St. Mary's Alumni Community! The St. Mary's School **Class of 2015 members and their current high schools**, if known, are:

Akot Akot (B. West); Anna Arrowsmith (B. East); James Bennett (B. West); Majok Bethow (B. East); Callie Billings (Gross); Addey Connealy (Gross); Kaitlyn Cornett (B. West); Sena Dijidjoho (Mercy); Mary Jane DuGuay (Duchesne); Ellie Foral (B. East); Katie Goetz (Gross); Maureen Goetz (Mercy); Maggie Heltzel (Gross); Paige Holbrook (B. East); Maddi Kimsey (Mercy); Jamie Legner (Gross); Cate Lillion (Duchesne); Macey McGargill (Mercy); Lia Rose Reckmeyer (Mercy); Therese Ruff (Mercy); Lauren Seaman (B. East); Nick Summers (B. West); Tony To (B. West); Ethan Yale (Creighton Prep)

This is the 2nd year for the Alumni T-shirt tradition. The students helped customize the shirt and the Alumni Relations Committee presented the shirts at the 8th Grade Banquet on Friday, May 15, 2015. We are proud of the SMS Class of 2015 and look forward to their future accomplishments!



We also now present the 8th graders with a "Class of" Spirit Shirt at the beginning of the school year. The Class of '16 received theirs at the August 17, 2015 Back-to-School Night Ice Cream Social. We also recognized alumni with current students at the event.

Alumni Scholarships - 2015 Winners & 2016 Info

Scholarship opportunities were introduced in 2014 and the \$3,000 is currently funded by the generous Home & School Association. The 2015 scholarships offerings and results were:

#1 - Alumni Attending Catholic High School (Freshman Year) - Awarded to **Ethan Yale ('15)**, son of Alumna **Janet (Jungers) Yale ('91)** and grandson of Alumnus **Dean Jungers ('56)**. Ethan attends Creighton Prep.

#2 - Alumni Attending Catholic College/University (Freshman Year) - Was not awarded. No applicants.

#3 - Alumni Entering Service Role/Non-Profit Work (any age alumni) - Awarded to St. Mary's Youth Minister **Will Targy ('00)**, son of Alumnus **Steve ('73)** & Tina Targy, for his Summer 2016 trip to World Youth Day in Poland. Will attended Gross Catholic and then the University of Nebraska-Omaha. After UNO he was involved with FOCUS (Fellowship of Catholic University Students) at schools in Maryland and Virginia for 3 years and now serves as the St. Mary's Youth Minister.

Information about the 2016 Scholarships will be in the St. Mary's parish bulletin and on the school website (stmarysschoolbellevue.com) starting in January 2016.

Alumni Community General Meetings

We are introducing **monthly Alumni Community General Meetings**. These will be on the **first Monday of every month 6:30pm-7:30pm in the St. Mary's Rectory Conference Room** (811 W. 23rd Avenue). The first meeting will be Monday, January 4th. All are welcome! Come to listen and contribute! We can also have a conference call option if there is interest. Let Alumni Relations Coordinator Christina (Hascall) Legner ('91) know (contact info on page 1).

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SMS Alumni News—Page 3

Tell Us What's Going on With You!

We want to share achievements, weddings, births, passing of, milestones and whatever else you can think of. Don't be bashful. Pass it along to alumni@stmarysbellevue.com so we can share it with the rest of the St. Mary's Alumni Community!

Alumni Highlights

See below for some Alumni Highlights. Go to our school website or facebook page to read more!

Bridget Boeckman

('01) was recognized by Time Magazine as one of the 2014 "People of the Year" for fighting Ebola at the Nebraska Medical Center

Jacob Connealy ('07)

6th place in Decathlon at May '15 NAIA National Championships and lands job with KPMG

Matt Lewis ('11)

is now a sailor in the US Navy and Matt met up with former classmate Annie Norman at basic training

Ben Reckmeyer ('11)

& sister **Lia Rose ('15)** continue their Mrs. Feagan inspired love for National Parks

Three generations of **Wesslings** have served St. Mary's—yesterday & today!

In Memory Of

Chris Demman ('84) - January 2014

Dean F. Hascall, Jr. ('92) - April 2014

Alumni Relations - YOU are Needed! Get Involved TODAY!

Are **YOU** looking to get involved? We could use **YOUR** time & talents! Whether **YOU** have a lot of time to share or just an hour or two a month, we could use **YOU!** For many of these opportunities, **YOU** can even do them remotely (i.e., need not still live in Nebraska/Bellevue)!

Christina (Hascall) Legner ('91) has been the Alumni Relations Coordinator since Spring 2014 and will complete her second year of service in this role this coming summer. She is looking for a successor to commit to two years as Alumni Relations Coordinator (July 2016-June 2018) and start getting up to speed now.

Christina is also needing to fill the positions listed below. Some of these she was already doing as part of her Alumni Relations Coordinator role, but some of them need to be split out to various individuals so that more can be done. Other positions below are needs/ideas that haven't been able to get traction yet but need to! Please help the St. Mary's School Alumni Relations Committee keep its momentum. Descriptions and hour estimates are available at the "Home for the Holidays: Advent with Alumni" Event on December 20th (see page 2 for details) and upon request. Reach out to Christina with questions or to volunteer (contact info on page 1).

- Overall Alumni Relations Coordinator
- Fundraising
 - Annual Fund Lead
 - Benefit Auction Liaison
 - Honor Gift Coordinator
- Public Relations
 - Class Captains (one for each graduation year)
 - Decades Leaders (one for '40-50's, '60's, etc.)
 - 8th Graders Liaison (Christina to retain this assignment)
 - 2nd Graders Liaison
 - High School Students Liaison
 - College Students Liaison
 - Legacy Families Liaison
 - Scholarship Coordinator
 - Current & Former Faculty/Staff Liaison
 - Alumni Recognition Awards Coordinator
- Communications
 - Database Steward
 - Hard Copy Mailings
 - Semi-Annual Hard Copy Newsletters
 - Quarterly e-Newsletters
 - Articles/Stories
 - Website & Social Media Steward
 - Email Steward
- Events
 - "Home for the Holidays: Advent with Alumni" Event Coordinator
 - Cornhole Tournament Coordinator
 - Reunions Liaison
 - Spartans Showcase & Spartans Share Coordinator
- Spirit Gear

Thank **YOU** for considering these needs and **YOUR** interest/availability. Together we can do more! "Many hands make light the work." -John Heywood

Cool Stuff Happening at the School:

Visit our school website or facebook page to read more!

St. Mary's School was in the Bellevue Veteran's Day Parade on November 7th and held the Annual Veteran's Assembly on November 11th

The 4th/5th grade volleyball team took 1st place in the GSA tournament on November 1st

The 5th grade and their Pre-K buddies had a Thanksgiving feast

Students and their families supported drives for food, Halloween candy (for shelters), and baby items

The H&S purchased molecule sets for the middle school science classes

There are lots of students engaged in the various extracurriculars that St. Mary's offers: Chess Club, Book Bowl, Wits Clash, Student Council, Budding Botanists, Pokemon, Junior Legion of Mary, and so much more!

New principal has set goals across all of the following areas: Mission and Philosophy, Administration, Human Resources, Facilities, Budgeting, Development and Fundraising, Catholic Identity, Teacher Leadership and Professional Development, Curriculum, Technology, Student Leadership & Discipline, Coordination of Student Services with Bellevue Public Schools/ Omaha Public Schools, and Sports Coordination. The goals have strategies, action plans, and timelines. Contact Mrs. Wallinger to find out more!

Teacher Spotlights

Ms. Sharon Gaspers - 1st Grade Teacher



Years Teaching: 23 years total, 22 at St. Mary's

Family: Aunt to 18 nieces and nephews and 5 great nieces and nephews. What she enjoys most about teaching: "It is said that teaching touches lives forever. That saying goes both ways because over the years each student has taught me something new about myself. As much as teachers want to impact a student's life we cannot help but be transformed ourselves"

Why she chooses to teach at a Catholic School: "Because for me teaching has to be about educating the whole child and without the spiritual the experience feels less complete. Sharing the stories and teachings of Jesus and exploring how to live those teachings is one of my favorite parts of the day."

What sets St. Mary's apart from other schools: "St. Mary's is a special kind of family with an amazing staff dedicated to giving their all each and every day."

Mrs. Michelle Storch - 6th Grade Homeroom Teacher, Middle School Social Studies & Math



Years Teaching: 8 years, last 2 at St. Mary's!

Family: Steve and five children that all attend St Mary's (Dane 7th, Jude 5th, Katharina 4th, Cole 3rd, and Marlee Kindergarten)

What she enjoys most about teaching: "I love to see when the "light goes on" when they finally understand a concept or skill that they have been struggling with. I love to teach students that no matter what, they can be problem solvers, to nurture their curiosity, and impart on them that they can reach further than they every imagined. To make something (like math) that they have been struggling with, fun and where they want to come back to learn more."

Why she chooses to teach at a Catholic School: " I choose to teach at a Catholic School in order to share the teaching of the Church and to develop students' capacity for faith, which I hope will come to fruition and blossom in their later years."

What sets St. Mary's apart from other schools: "The teachers!! St Mary's has an exceptional teaching staff who are experienced and go out of their way for children to learn in various mediums. They are absolutely phenomenal and I feel blessed to be a part of the teaching staff and for all of my children to experience their expertise and love in the classroom."

The 2015-2016 St. Mary's School Faculty & Staff

We appreciate those who answer God's call to be teachers, school administrators, and support staff. We are especially blessed that they choose to work in a Catholic school and that St. Mary's is the Catholic school!! We appreciate these women and men for what they've done in the past, what they currently do for St. Mary's, and the bright future that the school has because of each and every one of them!

- Mrs. Trish Wallinger* (Principal)
Miss Amanda Kritzer (Pre-K)
Mrs. Marion Lewis** (K)
Ms. Sharon Gaspers (1st grade)
Mrs. Maureen Sobilo (2nd grade)
Mrs. Diane Embury (3rd grade)
Miss Mary Jankovich* (4th grade)
Mrs. Cindy Menzel (5th grade)
Mrs. Michelle Storch (6th grade)
Mrs. Jennifer Thompson (7th grade)
Miss Carol Sheridan (8th grade)
Mrs. Joan Hug (PE)
Mrs. Debbie Van Huffel (Library/Technology*)
Miss Peg Kallman (Music/Math)
Mrs. Joanne Sjostedt (Spanish/Resource)
Mrs. Stacey Schutt (Art/Math)
Mrs. Becky Billings (T.A./Lunchroom)
Ms. Collette Borland* (Business Manager)
Mrs. Cathy Braxton* (Administrative Assistant)
Mr. Charles (Maintenance/Custodian)
Ms. Ginger Dennis (Maintenance/Custodian)
Ms. Kathy Goetz (Financial Administrator)
Mrs. Bridgette Laney (Nurse)
Ms. Nicole Koster (Extended Day)
Mrs. Cheryl Shanker** (Counselor)
Mr. Joe Shaver (Maintenance/Custodian)
Miss Alisha Thiher (T.A.)
Mrs. Lora Traggiai (T.A.)

*= new for school year 2015-2016
** = returned school year 2015-2016

Help YOUR School - 22nd Annual “Spring for the Children” Benefit Auction on April 9, 2016



The Benefit Auction started in 1995 and continues to be the school's largest fundraiser. The **22nd Annual “Spring for the Children” Benefit Auction** is **Saturday, April 9, 2016, 5:00pm** at the historic Livestock Exchange Building (the Stockyards). To date the Benefit Auction has profited \$917,904, including the 2015 profit of just under \$97,000. Auction 2016 will be a big milestone year. A goal of \$100,000 profit has been set and we will likely also cross the \$1,000,000 mark for the event's total profit in its 22 year! **YOU could help us reach our \$1,000,000 mark!**

You may ask, why is the money needed and what is it used for? Currently 60% of the monies required to educate a child at St. Mary's comes from St. Mary's Parish (e.g., parishioners tithing, income from the Endowment, etc.) and 40% comes from tuition. However, not every child pays full tuition. St. Mary's offers reduced tuition for families with multiple children and other students receive help from the Adopt-A-Student Program and various scholarship programs. This leaves a gap in the funds the school needs and the funds available.

The Home & School Association, our Parent/Teacher Association, helps address gaps in the operating budget as well as helps fund “extras”. Among the various efforts that H&S has provided money for are: carpet, field trips, teacher supplies, laptops, projectors, Chromebooks, water fountains, gym sound system, playground set, and so much more! School families work hard to raise money for their beloved school, but if it weren't for the **generous support of alumni, St. Mary's parishioners, local businesses, and various other friends of St. Mary's, we would not be able to fund all these efforts.**



There are numerous ways that Alumni can get involved with the Benefit Auction. For example, **last year ~15% of all raffle tickets purchased were bought by alumni!** Other alumni donated an item or gift certificate to the event, some gave their time to make the event a success, and the list goes on. **Please see page 7 for a detailed list of Auction 2015 alumni support.**

What specifically can you do? If you are a business owner, how would you like **350 members of the community to see your business—an alum's business—as a supporter** of local schoolchildren? These schoolchildren go to your alma mater (St. Mary's School is part of your story and is part of theirs too)! This event brings local businesses and residents together with the St. Mary's community, a community full of consumers who would love to know about your business and witness your support of the school. Support from businesses can come in the form of **donating an item or gift certificate** for a silent or live auction package; **purchasing ad space in our catalog;** or **purchasing a corporate sponsorship package.**

Maybe you're not a business owner, but you can still support the auction! Individuals can **donate an item or gift certificate** for the silent auction or maybe you have a **bigger ticket item** that would be a good fit for the **live auction** (e.g., major sporting event tickets/boxes, time shares, travel vouchers, etc.). You could also purchase **raffle tickets**. Another option would be to attend the event on April 9, 2016! Grab your spouse, a relative, a friend, or a fellow classmate and come to enjoy food, beverages, bidding, fellowship, and more! You could even get 4 other classmates and their spouses or friends and have your own alumni table of 10!

We look forward to your support of this event and our school, **YOUR school**, where we nurture students' hearts and minds to become servant leaders in an ever-changing world. Thank you in advance for **making a difference in the lives of today's St. Mary's School children, for influencing the future of our community.**

Please see the **reverse side** of this page for a form to denote your auction support interests. Please return the top form **ASAP**, but no later than **February 1, 2016**. If your interest involves the **purchase of raffle tickets**, please note that we cannot accept any money for the raffle tickets until 90 days before the event. Complete the bottom form between **January 9, 2016 and April 2, 2016**.

In addition to learning more about the event at the school website stmarysschoolbellevue.com, you can also visit springforthechildren.org to find out more!

22nd Annual "Spring for the Children" Benefit Auction

April 9, 2016 - Alumni Support Form

AUCTION - SUPPORT INTEREST: DONOR/ADVERTISER/SPONSOR/ATTENDEE/RAFFLE

Please print legibly. Return form to the school office (Attn: Christina Legner; 903 W. Mission Avenue, Bellevue, NE, 68005) ASAP, but no later than February 1, 2016. Prefer to email? Send info to alumni@stmarysbellevue.com.

Name (& Business Name if applies): _____

St. Mary's Attendance Years & Graduation Years: _____

Address Street, City, State, Zip: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Auction Support Interest: (please check all that apply)

- Donor silent auction item/gift certificate
 Advertise in auction catalog
 Raffle tickets (fill out form below and mail in after 1/9/16)
- Donate live auction item (condo/time share use, travel voucher, trip, etc.)
 Sponsor
 Attend event

(cut here)

AUCTION - RAFFLE ORDER FORM

GRAND PRIZE: \$2,000 cash (with other prizes levels: \$1,000, \$500, and \$250) - **\$10 Per Ticket**

Drawing to be held on April 9, 2016 at the Benefit Auction. Need not be present to win. Complete the form below and return with your check made out to "St. Mary's Home & School Association" to the school office (Attn: Christina Legner; 903 W. Mission Avenue, Bellevue, NE, 68005) January 9, 2016 thru April 2, 2016. Due to federal regulations tickets cannot be distributed through the mail, but a copy of the raffle ticket stub is available upon request.

Name (& Business Name if applies): _____

St. Mary's Attendance Years & Graduation Years: _____

Address Street, City, State, Zip: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

I wish to purchase _____ raffle tickets @ \$10 each.

Total Amount Included \$_____ Check #_____ Please do not send cash. Include "Alumni Auction Ticket Purchase" in memo.

SMS Alumni News—Page 7

Alumna Dr. Charmaine Ortega ('71) Takes Chicago Trip she bought at Benefit Auction 2015

See below for part of a review that Dr. Charmaine Ortega ('71) sent to package donors Dean ('56) & Marty Jungers (other donors were Larry & Judy Reed, Colleen Sulewski, and Windy City Anesthesia):

"...won the trip to the Chicago Cubs vs. Chicago White Sox game...great opportunity for R&R...what a great hotel! We loved the location and the staff were so hospitable. They really made us feel welcome! Also, we really appreciated the food vouchers!! It was a few less decisions to make...You made some great choices!!...free popcorn (at Garrett's, what a treat!!)...Wrigley Field...what a great experience! The food! The souvenirs! The crowd! It was all great...We loved it, we needed it, and we are grateful for it!"



Want to go on a trip like that and help out St. Mary's while you're at it? Attend the 22nd Annual "Spring for the Children" Benefit Auction to have a chance! See pages 5-6 for additional information about the event and how you can help make it a success!

Thanks to Our Recent Alumni Supporters!

Thank you for what you gave to St. Mary's as students and students' families and thank you for all the support you continue to give to the school. Your generosity is inspiring. Whether you have shared your time, talent, treasure, and/or prayers, it is all appreciated and vital to the continued success of St. Mary's School. We are working on improvements to our internal communication flow between parish, school, H&S, and School Development/Alumni Relations and so if there are any errors or omissions regarding this information, please accept our sincerest apologies and let us know so we can make the correction and take it into account as we refine our procedures!

Adopt-A-Student (2009+)

- Jane Carnazzo ('74)
- Mary (Zuerlein) Cunningham('67)
- Dean Hascall ('68)
- Theresa (Kouba) Howell ('66)
- Christina (Hascall) Legner ('91)
- Amy Longo ('62)
- Larry Ortega ('69)
- William Reilly ('71)
- Lori (Marx) Rimington ('64)
- Rosanne (Cook) Stangl ('65)
- Randy Walther ('77)
- Chad Wiesler ('90)
- Mary Wright ('70) (company matched)

Auction 2015 Supporters

Support below is across the various types: donors, advertisers, sponsors, volunteers, and attendees/bidders.
Dane' (Huck) Ames ('86)
Hannah (Menzel) Clark ('02)

- Wendy (Wessling) Clifton ('83)
- Mary (Zuerlein) Cunningham('67)
- Cindy (Wessling) Donahue ('80)
- Theresa (Hascall) Gillespie ('74)
- Eva (Hascall) Grimes ('72)
- Dean Hascall ('68)
- John Hascall ('91)
- Theresa (Kouba) Howell ('66)
- Robb Huck ('84)
- Dan Kouba ('75)
- Steve Kouba ('73)
- Pat Kouba ('77)
- Dean Jungers ('56)
- John Jungers ('86)
- Mike Jungers ('73)
- Mary (Reilly) Lang ('76)
- Mary (Severin) Leahy ('74)
- Joanna (Jungers) Lee ('89)
- Christina (Hascall) Legner ('91)
- Eileen (Kouba) Lesiak ('71)
- Jennifer(Mayhan)LillionTargy('85)
- John Mascarello ('70)
- LaJoy (Popejoy) Mathers ('57)
- Joe Norris, Jr. ('71)
- Charmaine Ortega ('71)
- Larry Ortega ('69)
- MaryEllen (Vacek)Reckmeyer('74)
- William Reilly ('71)
- Patty Regan ('67)
- Matt Reres ('56)
- Christine (Current) Rogers ('63)
- Mikaela Schmitz ('12)
- Mary Beth Shanker ('06)
- Scott Steele ('06)
- Greg Sosso ('71)
- Alan Swiecicki ('89)
- Steve Targy ('73)
- Mary (Hascall) Tyner ('66)
- James Vacek ('65)
- Randy Walther ('77)
- Tim Wessliing ('78)
- Willie Wessling ('87)
- Mary Wright ('70)
- Janet (Jungers) Yale ('91)

Class of 2015 Gift to School



A tradition of a "class gift" from graduating 8th graders to the school was reinstated in the spring. The following families donated toward the Class of 2015's gift to the school—

St. Francis statue:
Anonymous, Anonymous, Cory & Becky Billings (Callie), Shane & Jennifer DuGuay (Mary Jane), Joe & Mary Beth Foral (Ellie), Kathy Goetz (Maureen), Ryan & Christina (Hascall, '91) Legner (Jamie). Drew & Mary Ellen (Vacek, '74) Reckmeyer (Lia Rose), Joe & Martha Ruff (Therese), Dave & Joanne Sjostedt (Annika), Janet (Jungers, '91) Yale (Ethan).

Education Endowment Fund

Alumni who have recently contributed to this fund will be acknowledged in the Spring 2016 Newsletter. Total donations (not just from alums) to the fund last year were \$29,000.

Graduate Honor Gift Donors

Bob & Suzanne Hasiak, in honor of Rene' (2014)
Ryan & Christina (Hascall) Legner ('91), in honor of Jamie (2015)

Gym Murals Project (2015)

Kaitlyn Embury ('04)
Charmaine Ortega ('71)
Larry Ortega ('69)

Alumni Gift Opportunities for 2015-2016

A variety of alumni gift opportunities are available. There is capacity and desire out there and we want to match supporter interests with school needs. If you are interested in any of the opportunities listed below or have questions, please contact Alumni Relations Coordinator Christina (Hascall) Legner ('91) (contact info on page 1). Don't see something that appeals to you but have something else in mind? We'd love to hear about that too!

Adopt-A-Student (AAS)

Approximately 20% of our students are in critical need beyond what is received through the St. Mary's Tuition Assistance Program. The AAS Program helps these students.

Alumni Honor Gift

Introduced in Spring 2014, Honor Gifts are made by families in celebration of their graduate. The commitment is for 8 years (through the graduate's high school & college years), then the gifting transitions to the graduate to continue. To-date these gifts have been applied to the AAS program.

Alumni Scholarships (\$1,000-\$3,000 total)

Alumni Scholarships were first offered in 2014.

For the last two years the Home & School Association has provided the \$3,000 annual funding. We want to gradually transition to alumni funding these scholarships. Our 2016 Scholarships goal is \$1,000, one-third of the total.

Benefit Auction

See pages 5-6.

Education Endowment Fund

Provides critical support for the school's basic operating costs.

School Marquee (\$11,000 total)

The marquee in front of the school has been in place for a number of years (exact date unknown, has been at least 10 years). The sign is in need of significant repair and a replacement for it (like kind) has an estimated cost of \$5000. Instead of an exact replacement we want to upgrade the sign to be electric, eliminating the need for volunteers to manually change the sign in the poor weather, removing the communication/message limitation a static sign imposes, and improving the exterior appearance of the school. The bid for the project is \$11,000.

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Prayer of St. Francis:

(Recited daily at school)

*Lord, make me an instrument of
Your peace;*

*Where there is hatred, let me sow
love;*

Where there is injury, pardon;

Where there is discord, harmony;

Where there is error, truth;

Where there is doubt, faith;

Where there is despair, hope;

Where there is darkness, light;

And where there is sadness, joy.

*O Divine Master, Grant that I may
not so much seek*

To be consoled as to console;

To be understood as to

understand;

To be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive;

It is in pardoning that we are

pardoned;

*And it is in dying that we are born
to eternal life.*

St. Mary's School is Sarpy County's People's Choice!

For the 2nd year in a row St. Mary's Church and School are winners of Sarpy County People's Choice Awards. Over 30,000 votes were submitted, up from 18,000 votes last year. Thanks to everyone who voted for our church and school in the suburban newspapers, Omaha World-Herald and Omaha.com. Below are some quotes from the 2015 Alumni Scholarship applications. These are examples of why St. Mary's School is a two-time winner of this award, why our alumni feel well-prepared for their futures based on the foundation they built at St. Mary's, why we have alumni who chose St. Mary's for their children and grandchildren.



"St. Mary's has taught me that you will always have someone there who wants to help you through a struggle. You can't be left alone...everyone cares about you...This school has shown me how love breaks barriers..." Katie Goetz ('15)

"Throughout my St. Mary's experience, I have yet to be disappointed. I have learned a lot of lessons that will help me throughout my life. Lessons that a public school couldn't provide me with...The St. Mary's experience is one that everyone should have." Macey McGargill ('15)

"I've learned how to be a better student at St. Mary's. I've also learned more about my faith with the daily religion classes...I wouldn't change this experience ever." -Lia Rose Reckmeyer ('15)

"I remember in all my years at St. Mary's, alumni would come back and serve lunch or help out in a classroom and visit their old teachers. I wanted so bad to be one of those people and I plan to...St. Mary's has given me so much, so I want to give some of that back." -Ethan Yale ('15)

"I made many friends, learned from excellent teachers, and graduated prepared for high school. St. Mary's was a place where I was able to learn about the church and grow in my faith. Many of the things taught at home were reinforced at school. At St. Mary's I was able to learn life skills that stayed with me through high school and college." -Liz Connealy ('05)

"I am grateful for the opportunity my parents provided for me to attend an institution that cared about the formation of young people in every way." -Will Targy ('00)



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