

Fall 2016

SMS Alumni
News—Page 1

Upcoming Events:

Dec 9 - Christmas Program
Dec 31 - Alumni Board Apps Due
Jan 29 - Pancake Breakfast
Jan 31 - Alumni Board Announced
Feb 3 - Talent Show
Mar 25 - Benefit Auction
Apr 30 - First Holy Communion
Apr 15 - Scholarship Apps Due
May 7 - Confirmation
May 19 - 8th Grade Banquet
May 21 - 8th Grade Graduation

Newsletter Contents:

Soliciting for Alumni Board	1
Christina's Farewell	1
Fr. Del Hello	1
Dr. Wallinger Note	2
Dominican Tradition	2
2017 Scholarships	2
Alumni's Current Students	2
Honoring Deceased Alumni	2
Alumni Highlights	3
Teacher Spotlights	3
School/Student Highlights	3
Benefit Auction	4-5
Stewardship Opportunities	6

Contact Information:

School

903 W. Mission Avenue
Bellevue, NE 68005
402-291-1694
stmarysschoolbellevue.com

School Principal

Dr. Trish Wallinger
402-291-1694, ext. 8
trish.wallinger@
stmarysbellevue.com

Parish Pastor

Fr. Del Lape
402-291-1350
frdellope@
stmarysbellevue.com

Business Manager

Collette Borland
402-291-1350
collette.borland@
stmarysbellevue.com

Alumni Relations

Christina (Hascall) Legner ('91)
402-598-1262
alumni@stmarysbellevue.com

SMS Mission:

"To provide a Catholic education that nurtures students' hearts and minds to become servant leaders in an ever-changing world."

St. Mary's School Alumni Newsletter



Establishing a St. Mary's Alumni Board - WE WANT YOU!

We are excited to announce the formation of a St. Mary's School Alumni Board—President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer—and encourage YOU to be a part of it! The board would create their by-law's and work with the Alumni Community, St. Mary's Parish, St. Mary's School, and the broader community. Please submit your [online application](#) (on school website - www.stmarysschoolbellevue.com) by **12/31/2016**. The new board will be announced on the school website by 1/31/2017. Remote board members are possible, so don't let your proximity to the school prevent you from applying!

Alumni Relations Coordinator Farewell

Dear Fellow Alumni,

It has been an honor and privilege to serve as the St. Mary's School Alumni Relations Coordinator for the past 2 1/2 years. When I started out in this role in Spring 2014 I set some goals and am happy to say that many of them have been achieved. In that time 5 newsletters were published, 2 "Home for the Holidays - Advent with Alumni" events were held, the 3 \$1000 scholarships were established, 2 t-shirt traditions for 8th graders were started, the 8th Grade Class Gift tradition was re-established, the August Rush Alumni-Hosted Corn Hole Tournament began and held twice, 10 Class Captains were identified, and the Alumni Honor Gift opportunity was established. I want to thank all of you who helped with these efforts. Your sharing of time, talent, and treasure was appreciated and impactful and will always be remembered.

The biggest goal I set is establishing a St. Mary's School Alumni Board (see article above). I look forward to transitioning my work to the board and supporting them in their efforts!

Happy Thanksgiving! Merry Christmas! Happy New Year! Go Spartans!!

Many blessings to you and yours,
Christina (Hascall) Legner ('91)

New Pastor Father Del - Note to Alumni

Dear St. Mary's Alumni,

I'm Fr. Del Lape and have been recently assigned as the new pastor of St. Mary's Parish in Bellevue. I grew up in Papillion and attended Sacred Heart Academy/St. Columbkille School. I've been a priest for 26 years and have taught in Catholic high schools and for the last 13 years oversaw a Catholic grade school at my previous parish, St. Anthony's in Columbus, NE. I made weekly visits to the grade school classrooms and remember fondly the priests' visits during my own growing up in Papillion. As my usual custom I've been visiting St. Mary's School classrooms weekly and must say how impressed I am with students' behavior and knowledge of their faith. We have a great faculty and staff and it reflects in the students. I look forward to getting to know the families and you alumni as well in the days ahead. As you know the portion that parents are asked to pay for tuition does not cover all the cost in educating their children. The parish and school have to find other funds to subsidize the remaining costs. St. Mary's definitely needs the support of our St. Mary's Alumni and I want to personally thank each and every one of you for continued support. Mary Queen of Peace pray for us!

Thank you and God Bless,
Fr. Del Lape

Fall 2016

SMS Alumni News—Page 2

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

23 alumni with 28 children/
grandchildren are at St.
Mary's! Alumni choosing St.
Mary's for their child/
grandchild sends a powerful
message. Have someone
you'd like to attend St.
Mary's? Call the school
today for information (402-
291-1694)!

-Dane' (**Huck**) Ames '86: 4
-John "Quint" **Dacey** '05: 1
-Sean **Giles** '04: 1
-Suzy (**Peters**) Godwin '99: 1
-Patrick **Kettleson** '95: 1*
(Debbie (**Cook**) Kettleson
'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 (Dean **Hascall** '68)
-Sarah (**Roth**) Mlnarik '92: 1
-Patti (**Ferrante**) Nastase
'61: 1*
-Alan **Swiecicki** '89: 2
-Jerome **Tyner**: 1* (Mary
(**Hascall**) Tyner '66)
-Willie **Wessling** '87: 3*
(Ken **Wessling** '53)
-Janet (**Jungers**) Yale '91:
1* (Dean **Jungers** '56)
-Kim (**Schreiber**) Zieno '97 &
Angelo **Zieno** '95: 1

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

Honoring Deceased Alumni

St. Mary's now has an "Our
Lady of Seven Sorrows"
Memorial Prayer Garden and
on St. Mark's east side the
names of those remembered/
honored by Prayer Garden
donors. Interested in having
a St. Mary's alum honored or
remembered? Contact the
parish secretary for more
information (402) 291-
1350.

Principal Dr. Trish Wallinger - Note to Alumni

It is great to begin another school year at St. Mary's. The last year brought many exciting changes to the building and to the school community. We are welcoming new staff members to the school this year. Mr. John Kastl is the Sixth Grade Homeroom teacher and teaches Middle School Math as well as sixth grade Social Studies. Ms. Jenny Schafer has also joined the staff, and teaches Technology and Library classes for all our students.

As for the building changes, if you take a look around the classrooms you'll see new technology has been installed. Each classroom has upgraded projectors and sound systems which allow teachers and students to share information, display projects and make presentations that leave a lasting impression. New access points make connections to the internet faster and more reliable. Overall, we are moving toward a technology rich learning environment. Our students benefit from knowing how to collaborate, create and evaluate materials using technology tools.

The Dominican Project by: Ted Menzel (father of 3 alumni)

Three Dominican Sisters traveled from their Motherhouse in St. Catharine, Kentucky to St. Mary's School in Bellevue, Nebraska. These faith-filled, enthusiastic and hard-working teachers started our school which was dedicated on August 29, 1948. Their names were: Sr. Irmina, OP, Sr. Joan Miriam, OP and Sr. Rosalia, OP.

Even though these wonderful, religious sisters no longer staff our school we are working to re-establish our relationship with the Dominican Sisters. We are proud to follow in their footsteps of educating students from the Bellevue and Offutt Communities for the last 68 years.

We are delighted to be working hand-in-hand with Sr. Pat Twohill OP who is the Prioress and her secretary, Mary Delaney. They have been so helpful in assisting us with the new "connections" between St. Mary's School and the Dominican Sisters of Peace.

The following are some of our exciting initial projects:

*A bulletin board display near the school office which includes a brief biography of Saint Dominic; a U.S. map detailing the Dominican Sisters' journey from St. Catharine, Kentucky to St. Mary's School in Bellevue, Nebraska; a special Dominican prayer that our students say each morning and a new school crest which contains the Dominican Shield.

*We have a new "tagline" which we are using on electronic and written communications – "Rooted in the Dominican Tradition since 1948!"

*We are working on adding the newly-designed school crest to a uniform sweater that the students will wear for All-School Masses, assemblies and other special occasions.

*We are remembering the Dominican Sisters in the Prayers of the Faithful at each All-School Mass.

*We are organizing Dominican Sister Pen Pals that will be assigned to each homeroom – Pre-Kindergarten through Eighth Grade. They will be corresponding with each other throughout the school year.

*Within the next few years we hope to integrate, in our school day, the Four Pillars of the Dominican Charisms of Study, Prayer, Community and Service.



St. Mary's School Crest Description: Dominican Cross, Shield, and Latin motto "Veritas" (truth); olive branches to remind us to strive for peace daily; our founding date of 1948; our school colors to remind us of the Blessed Mother as well as her traditional heraldic symbol; all in a circular shape to represent God's never ending love for us.

Alumni Scholarships - 2017 Opportunity

Since 2014 the St. Mary's Home & School Association has funded 3 **\$1000** Alumni Scholarships—(1) Alumni Attending Catholic High School (Freshman Year); (2) Alumni Attending Catholic College/University (Freshman Year); (3) Alumni Employed by a Non-Profit Organization (any age alumni). Past winners have been shared in previous newsletters and are viewable on the school website. Information about the 2017 Scholarships will be in the St. Mary's parish bulletin and on the school website (stmarysschoolbellevue.com) starting in January 2017. Applications are **due 4/15/2017**. Contact Alumni Scholarships Coordinator and H&S President Janet (Jungers) Yale ('91) with questions (jmyale10@gmail.com/402-250-7190).

Fall 2016

SMS Alumni News—Page 3

Tell Us What's Going on With You!

We want to keep our data current and share achievements, weddings, births, deaths, milestones and whatever else you can think of. Don't be bashful. Go to the Alumni page on the school website (stmarysschoolbellevue.com) to submit the [Alumni Information Form](#) with contact information updates or story leads!

School & Current Student Highlights

Read these full stories and many others on the school website and Facebook page.

Veteran's Day Parade & Assembly - Lt. Gov. Mike Foley and

Congressman-elect Don Bacon attended, active duty and retired members of all branches of the military were honored, and a kindergartner got a surprise visit from his dad who had been deployed!

8th Graders Go to El Museo Latino - Field trip helps students get more exposure to Mexican culture.

4th Graders Make Edible Cell Models -

After displaying their knowledge of cell parts and how they enable the cell to function, students ate their edible assignments.

6th & 8th Grade Volleyball Teams Go to CYO Championship -

All of our girls' volleyball teams worked hard this season and had fun. Two of our teams made it to the championship round and each took 2nd place!

Alumni Highlights

Read these full stories and many others on the school website and Facebook page. Stories by Jackie Ortega (School Development Committee Co-Chair with husband Larry Ortega ('69)).

George A. Thompson ('84) - New Judge in Town: George is now a Sarpy County District Court Judge! His father, who once held this same position, swore him in and gave him his robes!



Julie Targy ('10) - A Young Woman on a Mission: Julie was a "Promotions Intern" for the Sioux City Explorer Baseball Team and went on a mission trip to Mexico City with a group from FOCUS. She ministered to street children and helped host a sports camp.



Marlene Djidjoho ('11) - Destination Medical School: Marlene received the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Scholarship for African American women. She is a graduate of Mercy and is a sophomore at College of Saint Mary majoring in biology and minoring in psychology.



Fr. Matt Rolling ('96) - No Place Like Home: Home from Rome for summer break, Fr. Matt celebrated an All School Mass and visited with some of his former teachers, Fr. Del, and the current students.



Teacher Spotlights

Mrs. Marion Lewis - Kindergarten



Years Teaching: 35 years

Family: "My husband Mark and I have 9 children; all of whom have attended St. Mary's School. We have 4 grandsons who live in the Omaha area and we love to spend time with them!"

What she enjoys most about teaching: "The thing I love most about teaching is seeing the joy in my students faces when they finally accomplish something they have been struggling to do. It is so rewarding to be a small part of their growing independence."

Why she chooses to teach at a Catholic School: "I choose to teach at a Catholic school because I live my faith everyday, it is a part of who I am. I enjoy working in a place where I can share my faith and not hide the biggest part of who I am."

What sets St. Mary's apart from other schools: "St. Mary's has a strong feeling of community, and I love being a part of that."

Mrs. Cindy Menzel - 5th Grade Teacher



Years Teaching: "My very first year of "real" teaching was in a 5th grade position at Highland Park Elementary in Columbus, NE. in 1981. I came to Bellevue and taught for six years for Bellevue Public Schools; then subbed at St. Mary's for 9 years before joining the faculty 10 years ago. So the short answer to "How long have you been teaching?" is....26 years!"

Family: I marvel at the blessing my family is to me. My husband, Ted is a constant source of inspiration and seems to have the knack of drawing the best out of me...most of the time! We have three adult children, two of whom are married, and three grandchildren. Hannah (St.

Mary's '02) is married to John Clark. They are the very proud and exceedingly busy parents of Gabriel who turned 4 on Oct. 17, Caroline is a very vocal 2 1/2 and Elijah, who is keeping everyone entertained with his almost-1 antics. Aaron ('05) and his wife Rachel both teach at Cheongna Dalton International School in Incheon, S. Korea. They keep us entertained with their adventures abroad! Rebekah ('07) is enjoying her second year of teaching K-8 Art at Christ the King in Omaha.

What she enjoys most about teaching: "Some of the aspects I most enjoy about teaching are the chances I have to be creative in how I present lessons, and the opportunity to interact with my students and learn about them."

Why she chooses to teach at a Catholic School: "Paramount is the chance we have, as a class, to learn and talk about the beauty of God's creation in every sense, and develop a greater understanding of what it means to live as a follower of Jesus. As goofy as it may sound, I learn an awful lot from my fifth graders! The chance to explore new topics, see those light bulbs go on, or have a quiet conversation with a child that may be having a rough day keep me coming back."

What sets St. Mary's apart from other schools: "St. Mary's is my faith home, and I am blessed beyond belief in being able to teach the children here. The rich history this parish has in the area, the families that have been here for generations as well as those that are brand new all help to create a vibrant community. The fact that we have children in our school whose families come from all over the world helps us get the idea that Jesus Christ came for all of us. I love being in a school that is small enough to truly know the families. It's a treat to be out and about town and hear a student yell across the parking lot "Hey, Mrs. Menzel!" and not think twice about running to one another to find out how life is going. Perhaps one trait that sets us apart is that sense of community - or maybe a more precise term is "family". We know that we are all connected, simply because we are all created by and for God; and that we're all on an incredible journey of faith together. I cannot possibly think of a group of people with whom I'd rather travel that road."

Help YOUR School - 23rd Annual “Spring for the Children” Benefit Auction on March 25, 2017



The Benefit Auction started in 1995 and continues to be the school’s largest fundraiser. To date the Benefit Auction has profited just over \$1M, including the 2016 profit of \$99,114.

Thanks to the following **Alumni who supported the 22nd Auction on April 9, 2016:** Liz Conneally '05, Debbie (Cook) Kettleson '69, John “Quint” Dacey V '05, Kaitlyn Embury '04, Sean Giles '04, Susan Gold (former teacher), Christina (Hascall) Legner '91, Dean Hascall '68, Eva (Hascall) Grimes '72, Theresa (Hascall) Gillespie '74, Dane' (Huck) Ames '86, Dean Jungers '56, Janet (Jungers) Yale '91,

Joanna (Jungers) Lee '89, Patrick Kettleson '95, Dan Kouba '75, Pat Kouba '77, Steve Kouba '73, John Longo '71, Aaron Menzel '05, Hannah (Menzel) Clark '02, Rebekah Menzel '07, Charmaine Ortega '71, Larry Ortega '69, William Reilly III '71, Sarah (Roth) Mlnarik '92, Jerry Ryan (former principal), Kim (Schreiber) Zieno '97, Alan Swiecicki '89, Maggie Targy '14, Steve Targy '73, Will Targy '00, Mary Ellen (Vacek) Reckmeyer '74, Randy Walther '77, Cindy (Wessling) Donahue '80, Willie Wessling '87, Angelo Zieno '95. *Please notify us of any errors or omissions.*

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 School comes from St. Mary’s Parish (e.g., parishioners tithing, income from the Education Endowment, etc.) and 40% is covered by-tuition. However, since 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, not every child pays full tuition. 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 both emergencies and “extras”. Among the various efforts that H&S has provided money for are: roof repairs, 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.**

The **23rd Annual “Spring for the Children” Benefit Auction** is **Saturday, March 25, 2017, 5:00pm** at the historic Live-stock Exchange Building (the Stockyards). Auction 2017’s profit goal is \$105,000 and **YOU could help get us there!**

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 school-children 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 to-gether 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 March 25, 2017! 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.**

See page 5 for the various ways you can help!

Alumni Support Interest Form

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

Please print legibly. Return form to the school office (Attn: Benefit Auction); 903 W. Mission Avenue, Bellevue, NE, 68005). Note various "due dates" by the different support options. 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 (specify if home/ _____
cell): _____

Email Address: _____

Please check all of the auction support opportunities you are interested in. You will be contacted by the appropriate Auction Committee Member(s)). Thanks in advance for your stewardship!!

Donor silent auction item/gift certificate (donations due 2/28/17)

Advertise in auction catalog (sizes available: business card, half page, and full page) (ads due 2/28/17)

Raffle tickets (\$10 each). Indicate # of tickets you would like to purchase here _____. Prize levels are \$250, \$500, \$1000, and \$2000. Drawing to be held on March 25, 2017 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: Benefit Auction; 903 W. Mission Avenue, Bellevue, NE, 68005) 12/25/16-3/18/17. Due to federal regulations tickets cannot be distributed through the mail, but a copy of the raffle ticket stub is available upon request.

Donate live auction item (e.g., condo/time share use, travel voucher, trip, etc.) (donations due 1/31/17)

Sponsor an area of the event (most sponsorship packages include a reserved table of 10, signage at the event, and a full page ad in the auction catalog) (sponsorships due 2/28/17)

Attend event (\$60 per person; \$650 for a reserved table of 10. Includes beer/wine/soda; meal; and dessert.) (ticket purchases due 3/15/17)

Volunteer (many opportunities exist!) (volunteer commitments due 1/31/17)

Fall 2016

**SMS Alumni
News—Page 6**

Dominican Prayer:

(Recited daily at school)
Dear loving God,

Thank you for Saint Mary's School and all of the opportunities we will have today. Help us all to make wise choices, be kind, and always strive to tell the truth. We ask that you watch over, protect, and guide us through our day. Please bless the Dominican Sisters who started our school in 1948. In the name of Jesus we pray.
Amen.

Alumni Giving - Sharing Blessings and Making an Impact

We would like to take this opportunity to thank our generous alumni financial supporters for sharing some of their blessings with their alma mater. Your generosity is deeply appreciated and is making an impact! [We apologize for any unintended omissions. Please notify us of our error.]

Tom Brannen '63, Jane Carnazzo '74, Liz Conneally '05, Debbie (Cook) Kettleson '69, Rosanne (Cook) Stangl '65, Christine (Current) Rogers '63, John "Quint" Dacey V '05, Kaitlyn Embury '04, Gary Garofalo '65, Sean Giles '04, Susan Gold (former teacher), Julie (Grant) Petr '75, Christina (Hascall) Legner '91, Dean Hascall '68, Eva (Hascall) Grimes '72, John Hascall '91, Mary (Hascall) Tyner '66, Theresa (Hascall) Gillespie '74, Dane' (Huck) Ames '86, Robb Huck '84, Dean Jungers '56, Janet (Jungers) Yale '91, Joanna (Jungers) Lee '89, John Jungers '86, Mike Jungers '73, Patrick Kettleson '95, Dan Kouba '75, Eileen (Kouba) Lesiak '71, Pat Kouba '77, Steve Kouba '73, Theresa (Kouba) Howell '66, Amy Longo '62, John Longo '71, Lorraine (Marx) Rimington '64, John Mascarello '70, LaJoy (Popejoy) Mathers '57, Jennifer (Mayhan) Lillion Targy '85, Aaron Menzel '05, Hannah (Menzel) Clark '02, Rebekah Menzel '07, Joe Norris Jr. '71, Charmaine Ortega '71, Larry Ortega '69, Patty Regan '67, Mary (Reilly) Lang '76, William Reilly III '71, Matt Reres '56, Sarah (Roth) Mlnarik '92, Jerry Ryan (former principal), Mikaela Schmitz '12, Kim (Schreiber) Zieno '97, Mary Beth Shanker '06, Greg Sosso '71, Scott Steele '06, Alan Swiecicki '89, Maggie Targy '14, Steve Targy '73, Will Targy '00, Sarita (Troia) Penka '63, James Vacek '65, Mary Ellen (Vacek) Reckmeyer '74, Randy Walther '77, Cindy (Wessling) Donahue '80, Tim Wessling '87, Wendy (Wessling) Clifton '83, Willie Wessling '87, Chad Wieseler '90, Mary Wright '70, Angelo Zieno '95, Mary (Zuerlein) Cunningham '67.

Support has been given to: Education Endowment, Adopt-A-Student, Benefit Auction, Omaha Gives, Capital Improvements, and Special Projects. If you are interested in learning more about stewardship opportunities, please visit the school website and submit the form today! There are some programs that require you to spend nothing more than you are already and still make an impact to St. Mary's: Amazon Smiles, Dillion's [Baker's] Community Rewards, Box Tops for Education, & Coke Rewards. Shop at Spartan Nash stores in 10 states (e.g., Family Fare) and send us your receipts (\$150,000 in receipts = \$1,000 for St. Mary's School). Contact the school for more information (402) 291-1694.



Address Service Requested
St. Mary's School Bellevue
903 W. Mission Avenue
Bellevue, NE 68005