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**ONTHE COVER:** Each year the Golf Classic, held in September, and the Annual Gala, held in April, bring in funds to support St. Mary's mission of providing a Catholic college-preparatory education to students in southern Colorado.

The Pirates' Treasure Magazine is published semi annually. Letters, comments, and article submissions are always welcome. The SMHS Development Office may be contacted by email at development@smhscs.org, by mail at 2501 East Yampa St., Colorado Springs, CO 80909, or by phone at 719-635-7540 ext. 38.

Throughout the school year, St. Mary's alumni and supporters can get the latest news and information on upcoming events online. Our web site is www.smhscs.org or follow us on social media.

You'll find St. Mary's High School on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram under the name @SMHSColorado.

# From the President

dvent and Christmas always bring a special time for contemplation and preparation following our opportunity to reflect on all of our blessings for which we are thankful. My family continues to be blessed by the St. Mary's community, and I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to each and every one of you who continue to support the students, families, faculty, and staff of St. Mary's High School.

This has been a tremendous year as we have been blessed with consecutive robust freshman classes, continuous stories of great successes of our alumni, and the unmitigated support of countless individuals who recognize the importance of offering a Catholic secondary education option in southern Colorado. However, none of this would be possible without the blessed support that St. Mary's receives from our benefactors. The support that we receive at our annual Golf Classic and our Annual Gala, our vital Annual Fund gifts, the fulfilled pledges from our We Believe campaign, and the countless volunteer hours provided by our families set St. Mary's apart from any other academic institution. With this *Annual Report on Giving*, we take the time to recognize and thank all who have shared their generosity with St. Mary's.

While we celebrate those who give their time and treasure to ensure the continuation of our ability to reinforce with our students our Catholic ideals on a daily basis, I am also incredibly proud of the ongoing efforts of our students who recognize a greater calling and exhibit a willingness to assist those who suffer great loss in their lives. The hurricane relief efforts of the National Catholic Education Association and the support of Catholic Charities through Penny Wars—coupled with the thousands of service hours performed annually—epitomize the level of commitment that our students have to serving our Catholic community.

So, while we honor you and your generosity, please know that our efforts to instill the spirit of giving in future generations is alive and well at St. Mary's High School. This is the true legacy that we will leave.

May Christ's blessings continue to bless us all in the New Year.



Patrick Carter President St. Mary's High School

# Biondini'66 Recognized for Service

t has been 15 years since Mike Biondini '66 returned to his alma mater as a counselor after retiring from Widefield School District. His continued service to the families of St. Mary's High School was honored this year when he was presented with the school's Marian Award.

Each year members of the St. Mary's family nominate individuals deserving of the Marian Award. The award, which has been given annually since 2001, is presented by the St. Mary's High School Board of Directors in recognition of unselfish service to others and outstanding contributions to the community.

Biondini said he is humbled by the recognition. "I'm in awe of this really," he said. "It's very special to be recognized for doing something that you really love. St. Mary's is a special place."

Admittedly when Biondini returned St. Mary's in June 2002, he never dreamed that a decade and a half later he would still be at the school. But as the years passed, the new opportunities that arose came from within. During his time at St. Mary's, he has been a counselor, assistant principal, golf coach for both the boys and girls teams, principal, and director of Counseling Services.

"For me it's always been about the kids," Biondini said. "As a student at St. Mary's, I had a great experience that prepared me well for the future. Now I've worn a lot of different

hats for St. Mary's. The school is providing a needed service to the community and filling a necessary niche."

Biondini said he has never had a morning that he dreaded having to go to the St. Mary's campus. His service to the school has always been a labor of love.

"I dearly love doing what I do," Biondini said. "I have been fortunate to



photo: Diane Torrence

Mike Biondini '66, center, with Bishop Michael Sheridan and Biodini's wife, Patty (Haney) '66

be able step in and do what needs to be done. Things grow and prosper when people do what needs to be done and do it with a positive attitude. For me, serving St. Mary's has never been a job; it's been a blessing."

Part of that blessing for Biondini has been seeing his own faith grow during the last 15 years.

"For me faith is the way you treat people, how you interact with others and how you give," he said. "My faith is how I conduct my life on a daily basis. I try in every way to live my faith and let the kids watch."

# St. Mary's Students Spend Semester Giving Back

nspired by their faith, students at St. Mary's High School continuously find ways to give to those in need.

This fall the St. Mary's student body has raised more than \$4,000 for those in need through various campaigns. With hurricanes ravaging the Gulf Coast in the late summer, the St. Mary's family joined together to contribute more than \$2,300 through the efforts of Student Senate, Youth Philanthropy Club (YPC), and Campus Ministry. The funds were given to the National Catholic Education Association's Student to Student campaign to assist Catholic school families affected by the hurricanes.

Earlier in the semester, Students

for Life hosted a bake sale and donated the proceeds to the Life Network. Each October YPC hosts its Penny Wars competition between the classes. This year's Penny Wars brought in more than \$2,100 with the freshman class contributing the most to win the class competition. In early December, YPC presented a check to Catholic Charities.

St. Mary's students give in other ways too. The National Art Honor Society again hosted its Giving Tree this holiday season with gifts being purchased for residents at the Sunny Vista Living Center. Then Senate's annual food drive competition against Manitou garnered more than 5,300 pounds of food for local food banks This is the fifth year for

the food drive competition, and the fifth win for St. Mary's with a total of 3,320 pounds of food collected from our Pirate family.

"The big winners, of course, are the westside food banks and people," said Rick Champion, St. Mary's theology department chair and faculty adviser for Senate. "I'm really proud of my Senate kids for their work this year and for the students' efforts--and for Manitou, as well. They quadrupled their total from last year, so good effort and good competition."

As they continue to be obedient to God's calling, the St. Mary's family will undoubtedly find more opportunities to give back to their community in the spring semester.

# We Believe ... Our Faith, Our Family, Our Future

lmost three years ago, St. Mary's High School embarked on its We Believe capital campaign. The premise behind the campaign was that operational finances are a challenge for St. Mary's every year as the school struggles to keep tuition affordable while meeting its financial obligations. School leaders decided it was time to address the financial reality of past building projects, and the We Believe campaign was born.

## **RELIEVING PAST DEBT**

Since moving to the Yampa Street campus in 1992, St. Mary's has borrowed \$6 million to purchase the main building, add successive improvements, and open The Grace Center for Community Service and Athletics.

The first priority of the We Believe campaign was to alleviate the existing debt. School leaders pledged at the beginning of the campaign that no building renovations or construction would begin until \$2.5 million of debt service was reached. That focus was part of what drew Don Cloud's attention to the campaign.

"We wanted to give to the We Believe campaign since a primary goal of the campaign is help defer the bond payments for the school," Don said. "It would be great for St. Mary's to get to a point where the school could be released from the bond."

School leaders noted that in order for St. Mary's to function at its full capability, the school must be able to service its current debt without impacting operational funding. Reducing—and ultimately eliminating—St. Mary's current bond obligations would increase operational resources allowing students to directly benefit. Freeing up funds now going to debt retirement would help St. Mary's attract and retain the very best faculty, allow for updated textbooks, expand bus service and extracurricular opportunities, and ensure a successful future for St. Mary's students.

## **SECONDARY CAMPAIGN PRIORITIES**

Once the debt service objectives were met, St. Mary's leaders hoped that funds would be available to create a tuition assistance endowment fund, make enhancements to the current campus, and upgrade The Grace Center.

More than 30 percent of St. Mary's families receive tuition assistance but even that doesn't meet requests. With an increased emphasis on STEM curriculum, school leaders would like to upgrade the science labs and other classrooms. And upgrades to The Grace Center would include adding locker rooms.

The campaign priorities were based on \$10 million of need.

## **UPDATE ON CAMPAIGN PROGRESS**

While giving to the We Believe campaign has fallen short of the \$10 million needed to complete the campaign's priorities, St. Mary's has used the funds collected to move forward with its goals. Greg Garcia, long-time supporter of St. Mary's, said that he and his wife felt it was important to complete their giving goal to the campaign, even if the campaign overall fell short of its intended goal.

"When it came time to commit to the St. Mary's capital campaign, Mary Lou and I prayed for God's guidance," he said. "When we decided, our decision became a three-way pact between SMHS, us, and God. We were committed to complete our giving because our giving is not about us, but about the unwavering generosity God has bestowed on us. With His help, together we unwaveringly bestow a portion of our good fortune onto SMHS. This is the essence of commitment and giving, and we have accomplished our goal."

Garcia said the key to moving St. Mary's forward is for its leaders to learn from past mistakes and improve on future efforts.

"St. Mary's is a young school when you consider that

it was just 1987 when it became independent of the diocese," Garcia said. "That endeavor was undertaken with no financing and no endowment. As a young school, we will make mistakes but the key is to keep learning and to keep asking for those who love St. Mary's to give back in a variety of ways."

As St. Mary's leaders look to the future, they will continue to seek help in providing the only Catholic high school college preparatory education in southern Colorado.



St. Mary's High School launched our "We Believe... Our Faith, Our Family, Our Future" campaign in April 2015. Below are the 125 donors who gave to the We Believe Campaign during 2016-2017. Donors have pledged \$1.5 million to the campaign.

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# Giving Life to St. Mary's HS

During the 2016-2017 school year, 646 supporters gave a total of \$776,211.05 (for all gifts combined) as of June 30, 2017. Giving happens in a variety of ways, including gifts to the Annual Fund, endowments, the We Believe campaign, the Annual Gala and more.

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# A Pirate Legacy of Giving

# Ten Ernsters have graduated from St. Mary's since the early 1970s

Joyce K. Sanchez, P.C.

Then Al and Jody Ernster moved to Colorado Springs in 1962, it was a given that their five children would attend Catholic schools. Both Al and Jody had attended Catholic elementary schools in South Dakota, and chose Divine Redeemer for their children's elementary education with their oldest, Joel, starting there in third grade after the move.

Jody was a little preplexed, however, when Al began taking Joel to St. Mary's basketball games when Joel was only in the fourth or fifth grade. Al said to him it seemed like a natural thing to do—they knew many St. Mary's families and his son enjoyed sports. That was the beginning of the Ernster family's relationship with the high school.

"We felt that Catholic education was very important and we were and are dedicated to supporting it in every way we can," Al said. "For a town this size to have only one Catholic high school is a shame, and I'm going to do what I can to keep it going. That's just part of who I am."

Over the years, Al and Jody have seen many St.

Mary's alumni go on to become successful and influential people in their communities. Both feel that St. Mary's, as well as the families of these alums, are responsible for that success.

"People send their kids to St. Mary's because they want a better education, not because they can afford it," Jody said. "And St. Mary's encourages students to try their best at everything."

All five Ernster children graduated from St. Mary's, Joel being the first in 1972 and Molly being the last in 1983.

"I felt honored to go to a private Catholic high school," said Dr. Joel Ernster. "It was a priviledge to attend St. Mary's. I always thought, 'Wow, this is better than the education the average kid gets."

The graduation of the five Ernster kids did not stop Al and Jody's involvement with the school. Al was a member of the Catholic Committee for Secondary Education, which kept St. Mary's High School open in 1987. That led to Al serving his second stint on the school's board of directors.

More than a decade after that tumultuous time for

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Ms. Joy S. Bears

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Ms. Delphine Bieszard

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Mrs. Josi Castaneda '54 Ms. Michael Mary Castaneda

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Ms. Joan Cox

Mr. Burton W. Crosby '09

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Mr. and Mrs. Sean Curran

Mr. & Mrs. Thomas G. Darneal '99

Mr. Robert DeFelice '48 & Mrs. Bertha

Aragon DeFelice '50

Mr. & Mrs. Michael B. Devericks

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Devericks

Mr. and Mrs. Steven Devericks

Ms. Ellen Devericks

Ms. M. Geraldine Dobson

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Mr. & Mrs. Stephen J. Drexler

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Mr. Michael J. Fowler

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Mr. Michael Garcia '07

Mr. Matthew C. Garduno '17

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Ms. Natalie J. Godec '17

Mrs. Anne E. Gonski '52

Mr. Matthew J. Gonzales '08

Ms. Emily N. Gonzales '10

Mrs. Lynn Goodwyne

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Mrs. & Mr. James H. Gumm

the school, Joel and Greg's children began attending St. Mary's. While Catholic education was important to Joel, he said his wife, Jan, was adamant that their children—Nick '03, Mark '06 and Johnny '09—attend St. Mary's even though she herself did not attend a Catholic high school.

"Catholicism is a big part of our family identity," Dr. Ernster said. "By the time my kids attended St. Mary's, the school was past those challenging times of the '80s, and the academics were back to being some of the best in the city."

Joel also followed in his father's footsteps and served on the St. Mary's Board of Directors.

Al said that their son Greg '77, a chemical and pertroleum engineer, moved back to Colorado Springs from overseas so his kids-Lauren '06 and Paul '08could attend St. Mary's High School.

Although there are not currently any members of the Ernster family attending St. Mary's, the family continues to support the school with their time, talent, and treasure.

"St. Mary's has a unique perspective on education. It's great that Catholic families have the option of a Catholic high school, and we want to foster that in the competitive environment for high schools that we have in Colorado Springs and help St. Mary's stay viable," Dr. Ernster said.



On Nov. 4, the Ernster family gathered in New York to celebrate Al's 90th birthday and to see Mary Ernster '74, far right, in the Broadway production of War Paint. Pictured, left to right, are: Scott '76, Greg '77,

Mr. Roger P. Hadix '77 Ms. Christina L. Haile '17 Mr. & Mrs. Tom Harder Ms. Ellie Hartman Ms. Maggie Hartman '16 Mr. & Mrs. Blain Harvey Mrs. Mary A. Hemmerle '52 Ms. Suzanne Hibbert Mrs. Laura Hoelting '94 Mr. Alexander J. Hollingsworth '17 Mr. & Mrs. Dan Homec Mr. Stephen D. Jaynes 1SG (ret) & Mrs. Roger E. Jaynes III Mr. Kenneth C. Jensen '53 Mr. & Mrs. Philip L. Johnson Mr. Matthew J. Johnson '06 Mrs. Pat Johnson Mr. Robert Kabat '65 Ms. Stephanie Kemp Mr. William M. Kittrell '17 Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Klimek Ms. Ann Knutson Ms. Margaret Lambert Mr. & Mrs. Victor Lamke Mr. Edward B. Langlois '82 Mr. & Mrs. Ralph E. Layman '64 Mr. and Mrs. William Leusink Ms. Cheryl A. Loetscher '67 Mr. Jeffrey Louden Mr. Mark P. Martinez '97 Ms. Elisa Martinez Mrs. Mary F. Mayes '53 Ms. Holly McDougall Mr. Michael P. McGinnis '03 Mr. & Mrs. Jon Medved Mr. & Mrs. Arthur A. Menichiello Mr. Rohan B. Merrill '17 Mr. Sean M. Mersman '05 Dr. & Mrs. Milo Messner Mr. & Mrs. Jim Meyer Ms. Bambi Meyers-Miltenberger Mr. Daniel R. Miller Mr. Keion Mitchem Mr. & Mrs. Brandon M. Monson '92 Ms. Mary K. Muehlbauer Mr. Nicholas Murray '07 Dr. Jim Myers Ms. Lenore H. Nesler Mrs. Phyllis J. Nicks Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Nieman Mr. & Mrs. Donald J. Nutter Mr. Michael J. Oberle Mrs. Jane Obernesser Mr. & Mrs. John C. Ocken Mr. Sean O'Keeffe '07 Ms. Martha A. O'Leary Mr. Michael J. Ott Ms. Shawn Paap Mr. & Mrs. Dick Padrnos Mr. Jacob J. Payne '17 Ms. Janet K. Pease Mr. & Mrs. Terry L. Poirier Mr. Noah Poirier

Mr. Joe Reining '67 Mrs. & Mr. John A. Reister Mrs. Christine Resman Mr. Garrett C. Ricke '17 Mrs. Dorothy Riddlemoser Mr. Raul Rios Mr. Ruben Rios Ms. Kellly K. Rippen Mr. and Mrs. Mike Rogers Ms. Carolyn S. Romero Mrs. Patricia Roth Pierce '59 Mr. James R. Rowe '02 Mrs. Tammy Sandoval Mrs. & Mr. Mary A. Scadden Maj. & Mrs. Sean M. Scally Sr. Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Schaefer Marie Shandor Mrs. Marcella Sinclair '44 Ms. Anna E. Sniezek '17 Mr. & Mrs. Allen Dean Sperling Mr. and Mrs. David Steinhiser Dr. & Mrs. William W. Storms Mr. Todd Sturtevant Ms. Cecilia Sucher Mr. Eric D. Surita '92 Mr. Eric M. Tammone '04 Mr. Ryan A. Taylor '97 Mr. & Mrs. John G. Thomas '08 Mr. and Mrs. Phillip Thomas Ms. Cheryl Tolley Mr. & Mrs. David Torrence Ms. Julia A. Torrence Mr. & Mrs. Kevin Trechter Mr. & Mrs. William J. Trechter Mr. Christopher C. Trechter Mr. Joseph M. Trechter '17 Ms. Linda C. Trzyna '66 Mr. & Mrs. Markus Tyboroski Ms. Lori L. Valdez Ms. Maria Valdez Mrs. Kelsey E. Burkett Vance '03 Mr. David M. VanGampleare '17 Mr. Rene Vizcarra Jr. '07 Mrs. Karen Walker '65 Ms. Ruth Ward Ms. Patricia L. Watkins Mr. & Mrs. Byron Wells Mr. Jordan K. Westfall '11 Mr. Kevin Westfall Mr. Joshua R. Whitelaw '08 Ms. Christina Whitelaw '10 Mr. Carl Wick Mr. John P. Wickersham '57 Mr. & Mrs. Lee Wiegand Ms. Molly A. Wigand '06 Mr. & Mrs. Douglas Williams Mrs. Abby D. Yebba Mr. & Mrs. Jacob Zubel E C Enterprises, Inc. F.S.M.K. LLC dba Safari Inn Jim Whitlock Agency, LLC Mid-America Exteriors, Inc Nor, LLC Rudy's Little Hideaway St Paul Catholic Church - Knights of Columbus

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Mr. William M. Kittrell

Mr. Rohan B. Merrill

Mr. Jacob J. Payne

Mr. Garrett C. Ricke

Ms. Anna E. Sniezek

Mr. Joseph M. Trechter

Mr. David M. VanGampleare

GIFTS-IN-KIND

Total Given: \$5,750.07

Mr. & Mrs. Michael Bukowski Dr. & Mrs. John V. Cichon Jr. Col. (Ret.) & Mrs. David J. Hyland

Stinar & Zendajas, LLC

GRANDPARENT GIFTS — The following

grandparents of SMHS students or alumnit made charitable contributions in support of

the school this past year. Total Given: \$42,302

Mrs. Dorothy Barta

Mr. & Mrs. Marc Boyce

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Bridenbecker

Mr. & Mrs. Arthur G. Cipoletti

Mr. & Mrs. Donald L. Cloud

Mr. & Mrs. Scott Defebaugh

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Ms. Suzanne Louden

Mrs. Mary Jo McMillan

Mr. & Mrs. Charles J. Murphy Sr. '54

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Mrs. Christine Resman

Mr. & Mrs. Mark Russell

Mr. & Mrs. John J. Sheehan

Mr. & Mrs. Lanny L. Smith

Mr. & Mrs. Donald Strobel Major (Ret) & Mrs. Joseph M. Trechter

FACULTY/STAFF GIFTS — The following

faculty and staff of the school made charitable contributions in support of St. Mary's this

past year.

Total Given: \$20,713.60

Mrs. Christine Baldwin

Mr. Greg Biondi

Mr. Dusty Campbell

Mr. & Mrs. Patrick J. Carter

Mr. Rick Champion

Mrs. Jeanne Cichon

Mrs. Robyn Cross

Father Joe Dygert

Mr. Mark L. England

Mrs. Delia Febres-Butler

Mr. Jim Felice

Mrs. Nora Frederick

Mrs. Candy Garrett

Ms. Kathryn J. Hanshew

Mr. Tom Harder

# **Cultivating a Giving Spirit**

# The Garcia Family Believes in Catholic Education, Gives Accordingly

or the Garcia family, the 21st century has been filled with Pirate spirit. Their oldest son Stephen started at St. Mary's High School in 1999, and the family has been involved with the school ever since.

Getting involved at St. Mary's seemed natural to Greg and Mary Lou after being active in the Corpus Christi Catholic School community while their boys were attending there.

Over the years, Greg and Mary Lou have given to St. Mary's in a variety of ways. Greg has served on the school's Board of Directors and the St. Mary's Catholic Education Foundation Board of Directors. Mary Lou was always involved in helping with the sports teams their boys played on.

And, of course, they have invested their treasure into St. Mary's as well, giving to the Annual Fund,

the 1885 Society and special campaigns like We Believe. Greg said that in their giving, he and Mary Lou think about the present as well as the future.

"Our motto is to give for the now, to give to special campaigns and to give later through our will," he said. "We feel that all of that is just part of what we should be doing as Catholics who support Catholic education."

They also helped instill a spirit of giving in their three boys, encouraging the boys to support the school even while they were still attending St. Mary's.

"We taught them by example and by formation, so now they do the same things without our encouragement," Greg Garcia said. "It's really about looking at what we have as being God's and not our own. We see ourselves as stewards and give back accordingly."

Michael Garcia '07 said one motivation for his giv-

Col. (Ret.) Al A. Hartzell

Mr. Jim Hopkins

Mrs. Tena Jelinek

Mr. J. T. Joyce

Mrs. Kathy Jung

Ms. Rebecca Keith '99

Mr. Mike Kloenne

Mrs. Kim Lachiewicz Mr. Daniel Mersman '77

Mr. Joseph Muehlbauer '79

Mrs. Linda O'Connor

Mrs. Anna Sanzo

Dr. Chantal Seitz

Mrs. Karen Simkiss

Mr. & Mrs. Joseph M. Trechter

Mr. Dennis Vigil

Mrs. Suzanne Wheeler

Mrs. Colleen Wilkes

Mr. Rick Wilson

**HONOR & MEMORIAL GIFTS** 

Total Given: \$9,950.00

In Memory of Mary Dawson '29

Mr. Patrick Dawson '62

In Honor of Michael C. Dawson '89

Mr. Patrick Dawson '62

In Memory of Pat Dawson '22

Mr. Patrick Dawson '62

In Honor of Christine D. Dawson-Glaser '88

Mr. Patrick Dawson '62

gifts of my life."

In Memory of Philip J. Eyen

Mr. John Fitzgerald

Cook Varriano, P.C.

In Honor of Jake & Amy Keuhlen's marriage

Capt. & Mrs. Daniel T. Keuhlen

In Honor of Elysa Kuo

Mrs. Marianne M. Martin

In Honor of James and Juanita Orff

Mrs. Christina Brims '67

In Honor of Teryl Ann Smith

Lt. Col. (Ret.) & Mrs. David E. Smith '65

Gala Gifts From the Heart — The following donors gave as part of the Gifts from the

Heart appeal during St. Mary's Annual Gala. Proceeds from the 2017 Gifts from the Heart

appeal were set aside for transportation.

Total Given: \$72,100

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Alexander

Mr. & Mrs. Patrick Baldwin

Mr. & Mrs. Bradley M. Barney

Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Barta

Mr. & Mrs. Andy Barton

The Bell Family

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Mr. & Mrs. Michael Biondini '66

Mr. & Mrs. Lawrence Blackford

Mr. Scott & Ann Eyen Blackmun '77

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Mr. & Mrs. Rick Champion

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Dr. & Mrs. John V. Cichon Jr.

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Dr. & Mrs. J. Thomas Cross

Mr. & Mrs. Scott Defebaugh

Mr. & Mrs. Kevin Dunbaugh

Mr. Tracy Dupree

Father Joe Dygert

Mr. & Mrs. John Elstad

Mr. & Mrs. Leland Englert

Dr. & Mrs. Al J. Ernster

Mr. & Mrs. L. Al Farr

Mr. & Mrs. Gregory Garcia

Mr. & Mrs. John Gebauer

Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Ghigleri

Mr. & Mrs. David Greenway

Mr. & Mrs. Tibor Hegedus

Mr. & Mrs. Joseph S. Hickert

Mr. & Mrs. Robert W. Hoette

Lt. Col. (Ret.) & Mrs. John O. Holt Jr.

Mr. & Mrs. John Hughes

Rev. Kyle Ingels

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Mrs. Lynn Jones '65

Mr. & Mrs. Steven R. Jung

Mr. Joseph A. Keuhlen '12

ing to St. Mary's stems from his favorite movie, It's a Wonderful Life. Think about what life would be like without a Catholic education? Michael said that while the world wouldn't end, it would be a much bleaker place, void of the talents and virtues that a Catholic education at St. Mary's provides.

"What would it be like if St. Mary's didn't exist? It's a reality that I hope never happens, which is one reason I give to the school," he said. "St. Mary's helped create the person I am today. A large part of all the various physical, intellectual, social, emotional, and spiritual aspects of my being were formed during my four years at that Catholic school on East Yampa and that is something that I cannot come close to repaying. St. Mary's is one of the great

While the Colorado Springs community has many good educational options, Greg Garcia agrees that St. Mary's offers something that none of the other schools can.

"St. Mary's is different, in that the education we



The Garcia family includes three St. Mary's alumni. Pictured are: Capt. Kevin Garcia '05, Greg Garcia, Mary Lou Garcia, Michael Garcia '07 and Stephen Garcia '03.

provide is a God-throughout type of education," he said. "God is at the center of the entire day through prayer and teaching. It's very important that Catholic schools are there to help mature our young people into young adults."

Mr. & Mrs. Matthew Klein Col. & Mrs. Robert J. Knapp (Ret.)

Mr. & Mrs. Stephen G. Koerner

Col. & Mrs. James Kohlmann

Mr. & Mrs. Greg Kraus

Mr. & Mrs. Curtis LaMack

Mr. & Mrs. Charles L. Lavezzi

Ms. Suzanne Louden

Mr. & Mrs. Luis Maal

Mr. Thomas A. McClernan '78

Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Mersman '77

Mr. & Mrs. Joseph A. Morales

Mrs. Katie Morse '98 and Mr. Matt Morse

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Muehlbauer '79

The Honorable Sheila Murphy '55

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Mr. & Mrs. R. Michael Raedel

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Mr. & Mrs. Joseph M. Trechter

Dr. George G. Ulrich '74

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Dr. Suzanne E. Wheeler '70

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# ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC EDUCATION

FOUNDATION

Total Given: \$18,170.05

THE 1885 FUND

Mr. & Mrs. Gregory A. Ernster '77

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Mr. & Mrs. Ky McCarty

Ms. Lenore A. Olson

Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Resman

THE TOM KELLY SCHOLARSHIP FUND

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Mr. & Mrs. Charles Ross

# **Pirates Once and Always**

# Cloud family supports St. Mary's after 90-plus years of association

at Cloud's family's association with St. Mary's began almost a century ago. Her father, Gerald Wagner, graduated from St. Mary's High School in 1929. Pat attended grade school at St. Mary's before switching to public schools for middle school and high school. After a one generation hiatus, the Clouds were back at St. Mary's when Pat's grandchildren began attending a decade ago.

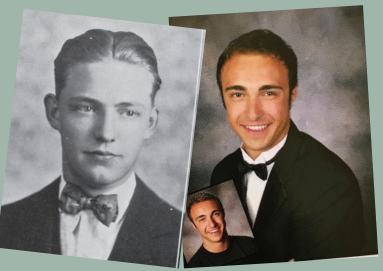
Over the years, Pat and her husband, Don, have generously supported St. Mary's High School in a variety of ways. Although the couple resides in Colorado Springs for only six months of the year, Don has served on the school's Board of Directors and continues to serve on the financial committee. Those experiences provided him with a deep understanding of the struggles faced by the only Catholic high school in southern Colorado.

In an effort to help, the Clouds have supported the We Believe campaign and fund an endowment through the diocese called the Cloud Family Fund. Both of these giving opportunities provide needed assistance for St. Mary's and its families.

The Cloud Family Fund is a personal way for the

family to support the school. The fund provides money that helps make a St. Mary's education available to families that may otherwise not be able to afford tuition.

"We decided to fund an endowment because we really liked the idea of helping with tuition so each year there are funds available to kids who could otherwise not afford a St. Mary's education," Don said.



Gerald Wagner, Pat Cloud's father (pictured left in his senior picture), graduated from St. Mary's High School in 1929. His great-grandson, Ben Cloud, was the last of the Cloud family to graduate from St. Mary's in 2013.

# Funds of the St. Mary's Catholic Education Foundation

#### The 1885 Fund

Established at the 125th Anniversary Gala in 2010, the 1885 Fund honors those whose leadership, commitment and dedication have ensured the school's continued success for its first 125 years and beyond. Honorees of the 1885 Fund include the Sisters of Loretto who founded the school in 1885; Monsignors Raber, Kipp, Kelly, and Hoffman, who guided the school as pastors, superintendents and principals; lay leaders such as Leo Smentowski '54, Tom Kelly and Andy Middlemist and, of course, the hundreds of faculty, staff and religious, including Fr. Rawley Myers, who served the school unselfishly over the decades. The fund provides ongoing general operating support of St. Mary's High School.

# The Ertel Family Endowed Scholarship

On an ordinary Friday afternoon in the spring of 2002, Patrick Ertel '68 walked into SMHS and made an extraordinary gift. "I want the school to have this for scholarships for those in need," he said as he handed over an envelope. "These are some investments I inherited from my family. I managed them for some time, but have lost interest in them and have decided that they would be best used for this purpose."

Upon graduating, Ertel entered the seminary, but ultimately discerned that he did not have a calling to the priesthood. His love of the Church and of SMHS, however, continued to grow as he spent the next 35 years in various forms of service to others, first in the Peace Corps and then as a community volunteer. Grateful for the education that he received SMHS, Ertel decided to create an endowed fund in his family's name. The Ertel Family Endowed Scholarship Fund provides a lasting revenue for financial aid. Ertel hopes to add to the fund in the years ahead.

# The Ernest J. Golobic Endowed Scholarship

Ernest J. Golobic moved to Colorado Springs more than 20 years ago upon retiring from the USPS in Chicago. Though he and his wife, Catherine, had no formal connection to SMHS, they valued Catholic education and began to support the school with yearly gifts to the Annual Fund.

When Mr. Golobic's sister-in-law, Margaret A. Rick, passed away she left him a modest inheritance. To honor his sister-in-law for her generosity and his wife's commitment to Catholic education, Mr. Golobic chose to create the Margaret A. Rick Endowed Memorial Scholarship Fund to support the school's financial aid program. This permanent fund provides the school with revenue to help ensure that SMHS will be available to those in need.

Shortly before his death in 2004, Mr. Golobic contributed some of his own assets to the scholarship fund and, with his daughter's encouragement, changed the name of the fund to The Ernest J. Golobic Family Endowed Scholarship Fund.

# The Ernster-Blichmann Family Endowed Scholarship

Greg Ernster '77 and his wife, Suzanne Blichmann Ernster, parents of Lauren '06 and Paul '08, established the Ernster-Blichmann Family Endowed Scholarship to provide need-based tuition assistance to students, particularly those interested in math, the sciences, sports, and/or debate. When possible, the gifts follow the receiving students for their entire time at SMHS so long as their need is proven to the Foundation each year.

## **The Tom Kelly Scholarship Fund**

The St. Mary's Catholic Education Foundation has established the Tom Kelly Scholarship Fund in memory of Tom Kelly, who faithfully served the St. Mary's High School community as a member of the school board, foundation board, and in advisory capacity for more than 25 years. The fund benefits scholarship and financial aid programs of St. Mary's High School."

## **The Clergy Fund**

The St. Mary's Catholic Education Foundation established the Clergy Fund to assist with the funding of the clergy office

at St. Mary's High School, including the salary of a school chaplain and supplies needed to carry out the mission of the office.

## **Anna Stevens Scholarship Fund**

A local community volunteer and philanthropist, Anna Stevens desired to leave a lasting legacy through her estate. As part of her estate plan, she established the Anna Stevens Scholarship Fund to provide need-based tuition assistance to St. Mary's High School students.

#### **The Good Sisters Fund**

Named in honor of Srs. Valerie and Ann Monica Pierce, the Good Sisters Fund supplements funding of the school's curriculum and teacher development. Each semester, the departments heads submit grant requests to the principal for funding of curriculum or programs that would not otherwise be available. The principal prioritizes the requests for the Foundation board which, pursuant to the Fund, awards \$1,500 per semester in grants.

In creating the Fund, Sr. Valerie hoped that it grow through additional gifts from SMHS families, friends, and alumni.

## **The Tafolla Family Fund**

Patrice and Jerry Tafolla established the Tafolla Family Fund endowment in gratitude for all SMHS has provided their family, including an excellent education for their daughter, Sarah '13, and son, Michael '15. Their association with the school is a lifelong relationship rooted in faith, community, and a sense of belonging.

The Tafolla Family Fund is a legacy gift, providing permanent funding for debt relief and tuition assistance. At the end of each fiscal year, 5 percent of the balance of the fund is available to the school for the following school year.

The Tafollas intend to be lifelong supporters of SMHS, through the Annual Fund and events like the Golf Classic and the Gala, and by adding to the endowment fund. They encourage other families to consider a gift that will provide for the financial future of the school.



St. Mary's High School 2501 E. Yampa Street Colorado Springs, CO 80909

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## Save the Date

Feb. 2, 2018 ...... Catholic Schools Week All-School Mass
Feb. 14 ...... Ash Wednesday All-School Mass
March 24 ..... Alumni Basketball Tournament
April 1 ..... Easter

April 14..... Annual Gala

May 21 ..... Baccalaureate Mass and Graduation

# The 1885 Society Needs Your Legacy Help!

#### What is the 1885 Society?

The 1885 Society is a recognition of the St. Mary's Catholic Education Foundation (SMCEF, a 501c3 non-profit organization) given to benefactors who have remembered St. Mary's High School (SMHS) in their Last Will and Testament (Estate Plan).



#### Why 1885 Society Needs Your Legacy Help.

Until recently in SMHS's 130 year history, our beloved high school had never sought an endowment to provide for tuition assistance for our students. Like most Catholic schools, SMHS had always depended on the Lord to provide through Diocesan and Parish Budgets, annual fundraising, and modest tuition. With the virtual elimination of Teaching Orders in our Church, and with the rise of State sponsored Charter schools (Government money used to open specialty public high schools competing with private high schools) tuition has increased putting our students' families in greater need for tuition assistance in order to attend our Diocese's only Catholic high school.

#### What Can You Do for the 1885 Society?

By remembering SMHS in your Last Will and Testament (Estate Plan) with a gift of your assets, your after-death gift will help grow the St. Mary's Catholic Education Foundation's tuition assistance endowment from \$250,000 to...you choose.

#### How Can I Get Started and Help SMHS though the 1885 Society?

SIMPLE, Just call St. Mary's High School Development Office at 719-635-7540, ext. 38, and let them know you'd like to speak with the Foundation Board President, and I will call you back to discuss your desire to help our beloved St. Mary's High School!

Thank you for your help!

Michael Pepper, President Randy Cloud, Secretary Mackenzie Barta, Treasurer John Stinar, Legal Counsel

Note: SMHS is currently undertaking a Capital Campaign and a 2017-2018 Annual Fund Drive to support the CURRENT needs of the school. The Foundation seeks not to detract from your current giving, but asks you to prayerfully consider remembering SMHS in your Last Will and Testament today.

# **Address Corrections**

You are important to us! Please update your contact information by email development@smhscs.org. Thanks!