



St. Mary's Colgan
CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

SMC ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Marian Times

Annual Magazine

2023 Edition

DID YOU KNOW? Until 1966, our high school yearbook was known as "The Marian". In 1967, the high school name changed from St. Mary's High School to Colgan High School after the unexpected death of Fr. Colgan.

Content

Why did you choose to send your children to SMC?.....1, 12

A Panther Family Tree 2

Letters from our Administration3-6

Finances 4-5

New JH/HS Principal..... 7

Announcements..... 8, 12

From the Archives.....8, 24, 28-31

Class Updates 9, 13

Living the Stewardship Way of Life10-11

A Deacon's Wife13, 25

Ring the Bells.....14-15

We are proud of you!...15, 17, 32

Looking Back 16-19

Annual Appeal Donors20-21

Panther Priests22-23

Meet Our IHM Sisters.....26-27

Bishop's Dream 28

Howard ('45) and Irene (Banke '46) Wilbert Family

Why did you choose to send your children to St. Mary's Colgan Catholic Schools?

Howard ('45) and Irene (Banke '46) Wilbert met while students at St. Mary's school. Howard began at St. Mary's as a first grader, but Irene lived in Chicopee, just south and west of Pittsburg and attended public school there until St. Mary's began running a bus route in the early 40's. The two married on Thanksgiving Day in 1949 and made their home in Pittsburg. Sending their children to St. Mary's Elementary and Colgan High School was just part of their active life as members of Our Lady of Lourdes. They had six children who all graduated from Colgan High School and who also chose to raise their families in the Pittsburg area and have sent all of their children to SMC. Next year, the youngest of

Howard and Irene's 16 grandchildren will graduate. The 4th generation at SMC has already begun as there are seven great grandchildren in the St. Mary's grade school and preschool, with the oldest in 4th grade. There are a total of 16 great grandchildren with three more on the way. Howard passed away in 1990 and Irene in 2016 but their legacy at St. Mary's Colgan continues.

SEE A PANTHER FAMILY TREE — PG2

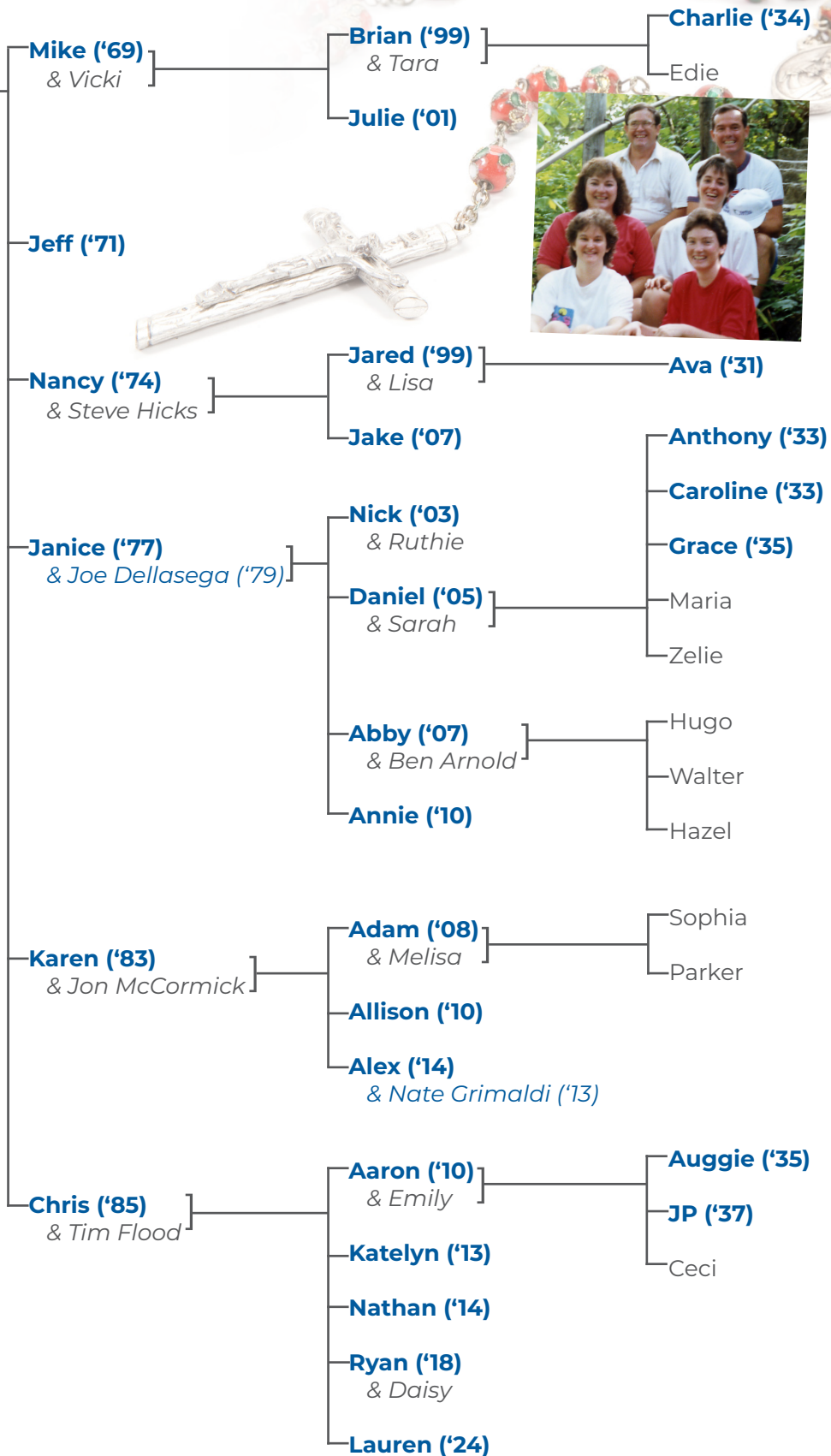


Howard ('45) and Irene (Banke '46) Wilbert Family

A Panther Family Tree

CONTINUED FROM PG 1

Howard ('45)
Irene ('46)



From our Chaplain

FR. ANDREW LABENZ

This school year, I have had the privilege of teaching all of our juniors and seniors in my Christian Vocations religion class. In this role, I see a unique opportunity to not only pass on the faith to them, but also to help form them and shape them for their future vocations. While I am hopeful that a few in the class will discern a vocation to the priesthood or religious life, the reality is that the majority of our students will get married and become parents in the future.

One of the big questions I pose to them as future parents is this - "How can you keep your future kids Catholic?!" After I let them ponder on the question, I gave them my answer - "By having a family who is living and breathing the Catholic faith!" I am a firm believer in the direct correlation that exists between a student who keeps their faith in junior high, high

school, and college and the family they come from. A student who is on fire comes from a family who is on fire with the faith! We are blessed to have these "on-fire" families and students here in the Our Lady of Lourdes and St. Mary's Colgan community. Our Sunday Masses are filled with the life and energy of young families, our adoration chapel has parents and students praying in it throughout the day, our students are active in CYM and faith activities, and our families gather in their own homes to pray together and to pray for one another! If we want to keep our kids Catholic, then living the faith actively, consistently, and faithfully in the family is a must!

I'll close with one of my favorite lines in the Bible. It comes from Joshua who was one of the ancient leaders of the tribe of Israel. Joshua posed a challenge to the people of Israel, "Choose this day whom you will serve." And then Joshua stated, "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord!" (Josh 24:15). I invite you to make these words your family motto, just as we are inviting our future husbands & wives and dads & moms at St. Mary's Colgan to have these words as the bedrock of their future households!

“As for me and my house,
we will serve the Lord!”

Josh 24:15



From our Pastor

FR. JEROME SPEXARTH

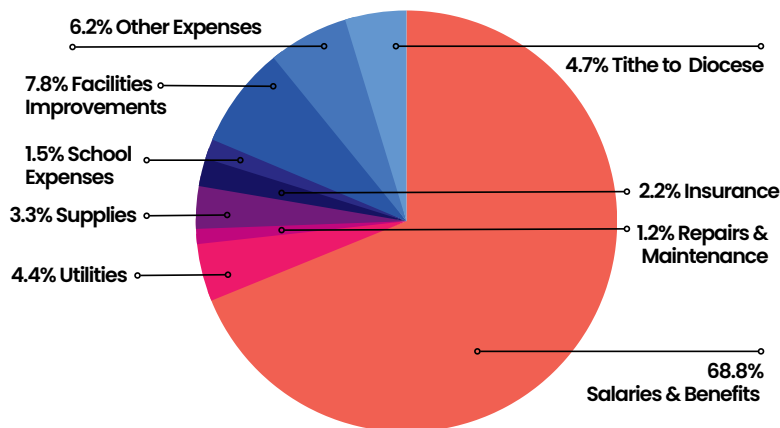
We just finished a two-year project in our church of renovating our stained glass windows. In case you have not seen them, you should come check them out--they are beautiful! They were disassembled, washed in a bath, and then reassembled with a new tin/lead alloy. They also are covered with new glass and anodized aluminum frames, which should help protect the original wood frame from the elements. Scott Hoefer, the owner of Hoefer's Custom Stained Glass, told me that they should be good for another 80 years or so! We laughed and said that we should not have to worry about doing that project when it comes up again. When I see the sun shine through the windows, especially the gorgeous transept window of St. Patrick--across from the presider's chair--the light bathes the sanctuary and my heart in joy! These saints' images make me think of our mission of providing a Catholic education for our children at our schools and hoping to allow the light of Christ to shine through them as much as possible and throughout all their lives. We hope and believe that all the attention, guidance, cleansing, (like the window restoration) is helping them to grow into future Catholic leaders... for perhaps 80 years and into eternity! Thank you to all of you who are alumni, for all you do spiritually and financially to help our kids to thrive. As Jesus says, may all at SME & SMC allow



the light of Christ "to shine before others" for years to come (Mt 5:16).

Finances

OLL/SMC Expenses 2021-2022



Our Lady of Lourdes is a thriving parish with over 1,000 active families. The largest ministry of OLL is St. Mary's Colgan Catholic school which educates over 450 students annually and employs over 80 faculty and staff. Expenses for Our Lady of Lourdes Church, St Mary's Colgan schools and other ministries for the fiscal year 2021-2022 totaled \$5,235,865. Just as we ask each parishioner to be a good steward, we in turn pledge to be good stewards of the contributions we receive.

From our President & Interim 7-12 Principal

MR. DENNIS BURKE

Dear Panther Family,

Have you ever wondered where the phrase “*in the trenches*” came from? If you didn’t sleep through all of your World or American history courses, you know it describes the type of warfare used in WWI. Since that time it is commonly used when describing something on the ground level or up close to the action. That effectively describes the year I’ve had at SMC as interim principal for this school year. Usually, I write this column from the perspective of president of schools but since I have been covering both roles this year, I thought I would write about a few things I have seen from being “*in the trenches*”.

To be completely honest, the real “trench warfare” is done by the teacher in the classroom. And while there are similarities in skill and knowledge attainment for both Catholic and public school teachers, the difference lies in the unique responsibility of a Catholic school teacher in developing the WHOLE child and the commitment to help each and every student get to heaven.

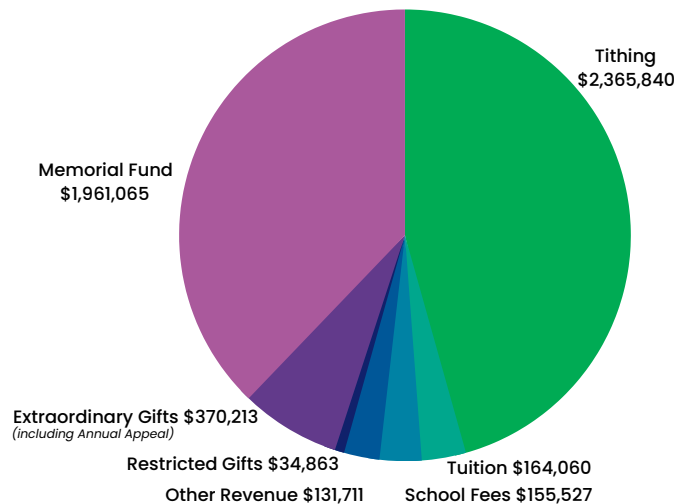
High schools have certainly changed through the years. Probably the greatest change has been that of technology and its use in the classroom. Moreover,

the technology brought into the school from outside has had its impact on education, both good and bad. While this holds true as well at SMC, what hasn’t changed is the expectation we have for each and every student to be molded into becoming disciples of Jesus Christ.

In a world where history is rewritten, gender is fluid, sexual expression is a fundamental right and faith and tradition is under attack, you should know that the things our faith tells us are truthful, good, and beautiful, are still being taught. With God’s help and your support, that faith and tradition will continue for generations to come.



OLL/SMC Revenue 2021-2022



As a parish school, funding for programs and payroll for St. Mary’s Colgan comes from weekly gifts to Our Lady of Lourdes, tuition from non-Catholic students, school fees, grants and the SMC Annual Appeal. The Memorial Fund supplements the school income as necessary.

From our Elementary School Principal

MRS. KRISTEN O'BRIEN

Dear St. Mary's Colgan Alumni and Friends,

I am writing to you at the start of a nationwide, week-long celebration of Catholic Schools. Here at St. Mary's Elementary School, we have much to celebrate! We have a top-notch faculty, amazing students, and supportive family, parishioners, and alumni.

We have a staff of nearly forty of the most dedicated, loving, experienced, quality educators. Eleven of those forty are alumni of our schools. That speaks volumes of the impact our schools are making on the lives of students who return to share their faith and knowledge with the next generation. In addition, many of our staff hold advanced degrees and take on leadership roles within our school and the diocese. Our students and families are blessed with quality teachers who see their work as a vocation and not a job.



The growth our students make spiritually, academically, and socially each school year never ceases to amaze me. We have so many opportunities for our students to grow in their spiritual lives. Each week they attend Mass three times, visit the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Atrium, spend time with Jesus in Adoration every Wednesday, are taught in their classrooms by the priests on Thursdays, and pray the rosary with the student body on Fridays. They continue to do well in their classrooms and on state and national tests. In addition to all of these opportunities, we have also implemented a program this year called Virtues in Practice. Each month we focus on a virtue and learn about saints whose lives exemplify the virtue. We are helping our children to grow closer to Jesus by imitating the virtues of the saints!

Our school could not exist without the support of our families, parishioners, and alumni. The ways that people are willing to give so generously of their time, talent, and treasure for the benefit of our schools is nothing short of spectacular. Whether it is serving in our Parent-Teacher Organization, contributing to our teacher Giving Board at the H.O.P.E. Auction, or supporting our Annual Appeal, we could not do the things we are able to do without this generous support from so many.

On behalf of the faculty, staff, and students of St. Mary's Elementary, we can't thank you enough for all of your prayerful and monetary support. At St. Mary's Elementary School we have much to celebrate because of our parishioners, alumni, and friends!

New Junior High/High School Principal

MR. TIM CONRAD

Welcome back, Tim!

St. Mary's Colgan Catholic Schools is happy to announce that Mr. Tim Conrad, a Colgan class of 1982 graduate, has accepted the position of 7th-12th grade principal. Mr. Conrad was born and raised in Pittsburg, received all his sacraments at Our Lady of Lourdes, and has a deep generational family history as both parishioners at Our Lady of Lourdes and graduates of St. Mary's Colgan. Tim's parents, Conny ('58) and Maxine (Ray '60), as well as his brothers Eddie ('81) and Todd ('85) are all graduates of St. Mary's Colgan Schools. His wife Robin (Titus) is a class of 1983 Frontenac graduate. They have four children and six grandchildren. The transition to Pittsburg will be easier since two of their daughters and five grandchildren live in Girard and their son will be a freshman at Pittsburg State University this fall. Their third daughter and family live in Kansas City.

"Home is always home," Tim said "It's one of those things where the Lord was pointing us in this direction. We happened to be blessed with a great situation that I'm currently in now, but to leave that and come to an even better situation is exciting."

Tim received his Bachelor of Science in Education and Master of Science in School Leadership from Pittsburg State University (1982-86, 1990-92) as well as his District Level Superintendent Licensure from Emporia State University (1993-95). He began his teaching career at Bishop Ward High School in 1986 before transferring into the public sector in 1989. His education journey has spanned 38 years with eight of the years spent as a teacher/coach, two years as an assistant principal, 13 years as a building principal, and 15 years as a school district superintendent. Tim is currently in his 4th year as principal at St. Patrick Catholic School in Kansas City, Kansas, with



Mr. Tim Conrad

Colgan High School class of 1982

an enrollment of 335 located in Western Wyandotte County. During his tenure, the school was awarded the Archdiocese School of Excellence and School of Excellence Runner Up.

Tim said, "My family and I are excited and blessed to return home! St. Mary's Colgan has always played an instrumental role throughout my career. I am grateful for the opportunity to be a part of the school and parish community once again! I am also eager to begin the transition and to meet all of the wonderful staff and students who make St. Mary's Colgan special."

**“ Home is
always home.”**

From the Archives

BY CHRIS FLOOD

The Three Tabernacles

In June of 1949, newly appointed pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes, Rev. Alex Stremel, announced plans to build three new buildings, a rectory, a gym and a convent. After three weeks as pastor, this was part of Fr. Stremel's message to the congregation. "The question is: when are the three tabernacles to be erected? We would like to build all three this summer and have it all over with. This can be done if everyone in the parish will do his or her part. All of you without doubt realize that all three are needed. Our rectory is an eye sore, we all admit; the Sister's house is too small; and the gym is needed the worst way to provide more classrooms. My dear friends, therefore let us pray that the three tabernacles will become a reality in the near future." By the end of 1952, all three were built.

The Rectory

The new rectory was built to accommodate four priests and was completed in 90 days at the cost of \$65,000. Twelve hundred people attended the open house on October 16, 1949. The Rectory served the parish well and was replaced in 2010.

The Gym

The new gym was to be known as the Monsignor McCullough Memorial Gym, in honor of the late and longtime pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes. The cost of the gym was \$150,000 and was used for the first time on December 7, 1950. Although not the primary gym on campus, the McCullough Gym is still used today.

The Convent

The bid for the convent of \$69,000 was paid for by the Towner families. The furnishings, which totaled \$30,000, were paid for by the McNally family. The convent was built with 17 private rooms. The Sisters of St. Joseph moved in in September of 1952. In 2008, after 113 years of service to our parish and school, the last of the Sisters of St. Joseph returned to the motherhouse in Wichita. In 2010, the chapel of the convent was converted into Christ the King Adoration chapel which has adoration continuously Monday through Friday. Beginning in 2018 IHM Sisters began teaching at St. Mary's Colgan schools and living in the convent.

Alumni Announcements



*Welcome to these
Baby Panthers!*

BIRTHS

Ben and Abby (Dellasega '07) Arnold welcomed daughter, **Hazel Lucia**, November 17, 2021.

Jason ('99) and Sandra Spangler welcomed daughter, **Brooklyn Larae**, on December 16, 2021.

Jeff ('06) and Mariel Smith welcomed daughter, **Stella Rose**, on September 16, 2022.

Curtis and Maggie (Sloan '11) Beall welcomed son, **Henry Joseph**, on November 14, 2022.

Colby and Katie (Evans '07) Childs welcomed son, **Brooks Colby**, on December 10, 2022.

Daniel ('05) and Sarah Dellasega welcomed daughter, **Zelie Marta**, on January 22, 2023.



Class Updates

Tom Kuhn ('71)

Tom says, "Hello to all my friends from the class of '71 at Colgan. I just retired from 37 years of restaurant ownership in St. Charles County Mo. My retirement happened to coincide with my receiving the Colgan newsletter today so I thought it would be a good time to say hello to a lot of old friends who I have never forgotten and think of often. My wife Julie and I have been married for over 38 years and have 6 kids and 4 grandkids. I am really looking forward to being able to get back to Pittsburg for future reunions and other events that I could not make in the past because of my schedule. I will keep an eye on future newsletters to see what's happening at Colgan. By the way, congrats to coach Crespino who taught me how to be a team player and a winner as a football player during my first 2 years at Colgan. He has probably forgotten me but I will never forget him."

Susie (Walker) Edwards ('77)

For over 30 years Susie has worked in the area of Employee Benefits. Two years were spent at Via Christi and 21 years at NPC International, both in Pittsburg. For the past eight years she has worked for Kansas City Southern Railroad and lives in Kansas City, MO. Susie loves going to KC Royals games and is a Chiefs season ticket member... the best part of moving to Kansas City that she had not expected. Her son, Jake ('08) is a chiropractor in Oklahoma City. Jake and his wife Jordan are the parents of Susie's three granddaughters, Kiya (5 years old), Kylian (2 years old) and Rainey Jo (1 year old).



John Curran ('93)

John has been with the University of Kansas for the past ten years. For the first nine years he was the university's Chief Audit Executive. In October 2021, he was named as KU's first Vice Chancellor for Audit, Risk and Compliance and Chief Risk Officer. John leads the university's enterprise risk management program and provides direction and oversight of the regulatory compliance and risk management activities for the Lawrence Campus, KU Medical Center and other KU campus locations. John's wife, Dr. J.J. O'Toole-Curran, is the Interim Executive Director for KU's student union. They live in Lawrence with their three children, Robert (12), Camly (8), and Rae (7).



Benjamin O'Connor ('01)

Dr. Benjamin O'Connor has accepted the position of Superintendent of the Lamar School District in Lamar, MO. Ben has been working in education for the last 17 years. Ben lives with his wife of 14 years and three children in Webb City.

SEE CLASS UPDATES – PG13

Living the Stewardship Way of Life

BY CHRIS FLOOD

Featuring Tom Compton



The Diocese of Wichita defines stewardship as ***the grateful response of a Christian disciple who recognizes and receives God's gifts and shares these gifts in love of God and neighbor.*** Tom Compton ('70) has taken his God given gifts of teaching and counseling and shared them with the students of St. Mary's Colgan schools. But it took some patience.

Tom's life motto could be "How can I serve St. Mary's Colgan?" For the past 40 years, that is what Tom has done. Mr. Compton recently shared how it all started and what he does today.

Tom's first foray into school at St. Mary's was less than perfect. Tom's Dad became interested in the Catholic faith and, after taking instructions, the entire family was baptized. Monsignor Stremel approached Tom's parents saying that they should send their children to St. Mary's. Tom is the oldest of eight children and was in the second grade. When the first day of school rolled around, Tom's Dad dropped him off outside of the school and left. Tom climbed up the east steps of the elementary school and looked in through the little skinny windows of the big white doors. It looked dark inside so he waited for someone to open the doors. After what seemed like an eternity to a six-year-old, he decided it must not have been the first day. Tom walked home – all the way to the edge of PSU campus. He even stopped near the old train depot on Joplin street to eat his lunch, even though it was still morning. His mother was quite surprised when Tom walked in the door. When his Dad came home for lunch, Tom was taken back to school and

this time his dad walked him all the way in to the second-grade classroom. Tom kept coming back and graduated with the class of 1970.

Tom graduated from PSU with his bachelor's degree in education in 1974 majoring in History with a minor in Philosophy. "I liked to learn, so I planned to get my Masters. I ran into Pat Forbes at coffee and donuts at the Newman Center and he asked if I could teach two hours of history the next year." That fit nicely in his plan and gave Tom his first taste of teaching. "Some of those kids that I taught as juniors in high school that year, now have grandkids in the school," Tom laughed. Tom then took a job teaching in Neosho, MO. After a couple years in Neosho, Tom and Sharon moved their family back to Pittsburg and Tom worked for Moore's furniture store. But Tom could not shake the need he felt to be in the classroom. He applied unsuccessfully for a few jobs, but with the desire of raising their girls near grandparents in Pittsburg, the options seemed limited. So, Tom turned to God. "In 1983, I distinctly remember," Tom said. "after receiving communion, I prayed 'OK God, I am going to try one more fall for a teaching job and if I don't get it I'm going to take that as a sign from You that I'm to do something else.'" He then asked St. Mary's Elementary principal Sister Elizabeth Ann about an open 7th grade position, but it was already filled. Sister told Tom to leave his resume. A few weeks later, Tom received a call from St. Mary's School Board member Melva Wilbert, who happened to work in the Education Licensing department at PSU. St. Mary's now had an opening for an 8th grade home room teacher. After seeing Tom's transcript, Melva realized that Tom was only six hours short of being eligible to teach 7th-9th grade

Living the Stewardship Way of Life, cont.

English and asked if he would be interested. An interview with the entire school board followed. Tom was asked many questions, but one by Jerry Stockard stuck out; would he be willing to coach. Tom had told himself he did not want to be the stereotypical history teacher who coached, but he would do it to get the job. That was the right answer. Tom was hired as the 8th grade home room teacher in the fall of 1983. The 6th, 7th and 8th grade teachers collaborated to cover all the subjects.

Fr. Eck recognized early Tom's servant heart and his inability to say "No." In a casual meeting, Fr. Eck told Tom he needed to get his license to drive the bus and tossed him the keys with the instructions to "drive it around the block a few times and take the test." So, Tom became a bus driver, which he continued until COVID. Since Tom was driving the bus and keeping the book for the junior high girls basketball team, it just made sense for him to coach also. With little coaching experience, he assisted the boys team for one year; but then the boys coach also left. Tom happened upon Principal Sister Rebecca and Fr. Eck talking about it, and Sister asked Fr. Eck who was going to coach the boys, to which Fr. Eck quickly answered, "Tom will." And he did. For six years Tom coached both boys and girls junior high basketball, then for an additional 13 years coached just the boys. Some of his best advice came from assistant coaches Bill Gill and John Duncan. "Bill told the team, 'You may be the only bible these other people see.' That stuck with me."

With the high school in the need of a counselor, the fall of 1990 took Tom across the street to fill that need. He once again went back to PSU to take the necessary courses. As counselor, Tom oversaw state testing, scheduling classes and enrollment, QPA (Quality

Performance Accreditation), career counseling and more, as well as teaching four hours each day. Tom's ability to teach a variety of subjects came in handy as he built the schedule each year. After Mr. Forbes retired in 2005, Tom was the constant who worked to shepherd the new principal as well as protect and honor the history of the school. As Tom saw a couple of principals come and go, he decided to once again step up. It is a good thing he likes to learn, because Tom once again returned to PSU to become licensed and served as principal from the 2013-2014 school year through 2016-2017. During Tom's four-year tenure as principal, the school was finally able to hire a full-time school counselor. But after four years, Tom felt it was time for someone new to lead the school. "I had a vision but didn't see the school moving as I had hoped it would, so I thought a younger principal might be better." In his humble way, Tom stepped aside but was still led by the question, what can I do now for the school? That question was answered by the need for a technology facilitator on campus. Tom continues to provide the on-campus IT support for our teachers and staff. This became even more important during COVID and moving forward as our students each have a school supplied Chromebook computer. During COVID, Tom helped prepare the faculty and students for remote and virtual teaching. Tom was prepared to retire last year; he had turned 70 years old and thought it was time. But the school again needed him, so he stayed on part time to oversee Power School and technology support as well as to help collaborate with the new JH/HS Counselor.

"I prayed for this job, and I always felt like this is where I was supposed to be," Tom said. He doesn't consider what he has done and continues to do for SMC to be anything special. As a student at Colgan, Tom witnessed families demonstrating stewardship. "We didn't keep track or a tally sheet, we just did it." He didn't grow up using the word stewardship, just doing what needs done. Tom said he is ready to retire but will do whatever the school needs. Maybe he will be a substitute teacher. It is hard to say what Tom Compton will do in the future, but it is easy to say that when he does retire, he can be assured that he was where God wanted him to be and that his example of stewardship was witnessed by generations of students at St. Mary's Colgan.

“ Act and God will act,
work and He will work.”

St. Joan of Arc



Phil and Cassie Weber and their children, Luke (9 years old), Gemma (7 years old), Benjamin (5 years old) and Laura (3 years old). Cassie is in her 5th year of teaching Technology at St. Mary's Colgan and her 12th year of coaching. Phil works for Austerman construction as the job foreman. Cassie is from Garden Plain and Phil is from Halstead.

Why did you chose to send your children to St. Mary's Colgan Catholic Schools?

"We chose St. Mary's Colgan Catholic Schools for our children because we wanted a school that would nurture our children's Catholic faith along with their education. St. Mary's Colgan gives our kids the opportunity to participate in their faith on a daily basis and the fantastic teachers are a true blessing. We know the decision to send our children to St. Mary's Colgan Catholic Schools will benefit our children for the rest of their lives."

Alumni Announcements



And Two Shall Become One

— WEDDINGS —

Annamarie Cooper ('14) + Evan Townsend
June 8, 2022

Jamie Naylor ('09) + Chris Ryan
September 3, 2022

Andrea Bolinger ('15) + Colton Paasch
September 3, 2022

Shelby Wilbert ('13) + Bob Eberling
January 28, 2023

Chelsea Duncan ('09) + Fletcher Sunderman
February 4, 2023

— ANNIVERSARY —

Jim ('53) and Wava VanBecelaere
December 28, 2022 - 65th Anniversary



May their soul and the souls of all the faithfully departed rest in peace.

— RECENTLY DECEASED —

Andy Hoffman ('70) January 5, 2023

Class Updates

CONTINUED FROM PG 11

Scot Schiefelbein ('03)

Scot lives in Overland Park, KS with his wife, Neely, and two children, Chance (5) and Ella (3). Scot is a partner at PwC within the healthcare mergers and acquisitions group and Neely works as a director of sales for Golden Link North America. After finishing college at Pittsburg State, Scot moved to Kansas City where he met Neely. They spent five years in Chicago, where Scot completed his MBA from the University of Chicago, and then moved back to the Kansas City area in 2019. Scot loves seeing the close relationship his children have with their nearby cousins (though he does wish there were fewer land mines of Paw Patrol and Cars toys around the house), as those family connections were something he valued greatly growing up in Pittsburg at St. Mary's Colgan.



Scot with his family

Jesse Watt ('10)

Jesse is currently living in Kansas City, MO, working at Husqvarna construction products. He has been in construction sales for eight years. He is a regional manager overseeing sales for his division across the western United States. Jesse graduated from Pittsburg State University in 2015 with a bachelor's degree in Physiology. He is currently building a home in Ft. Worth, Texas where he will be moving in March to pursue an executive MBA.

Zena (Monsour) Weist ('86) has a perspective somewhat unique to many Catholics, that of being married to a Catholic Deacon. According to the USCCB, "The Second Vatican Council (1962 – 1965), authorized the restoration of the diaconate as a PERMANENT order of ministry. So, while students for the priesthood are still ordained deacons prior to their ordination as priests, there are more than 13,000 deacons in the United States alone who minister in this Order permanently." Zena shares...

A glimpse into the life of the wife and family of a Deacon's wife

John and I got married at Our Lady of Lourdes in 1993. About eleven years into our marriage our pastor (who actually presided over our wedding Mass), Fr. Bill Porter, asked to meet with us and informed us that the Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas was starting formation for its first cohort of permanent deacons. He suggested John should apply and

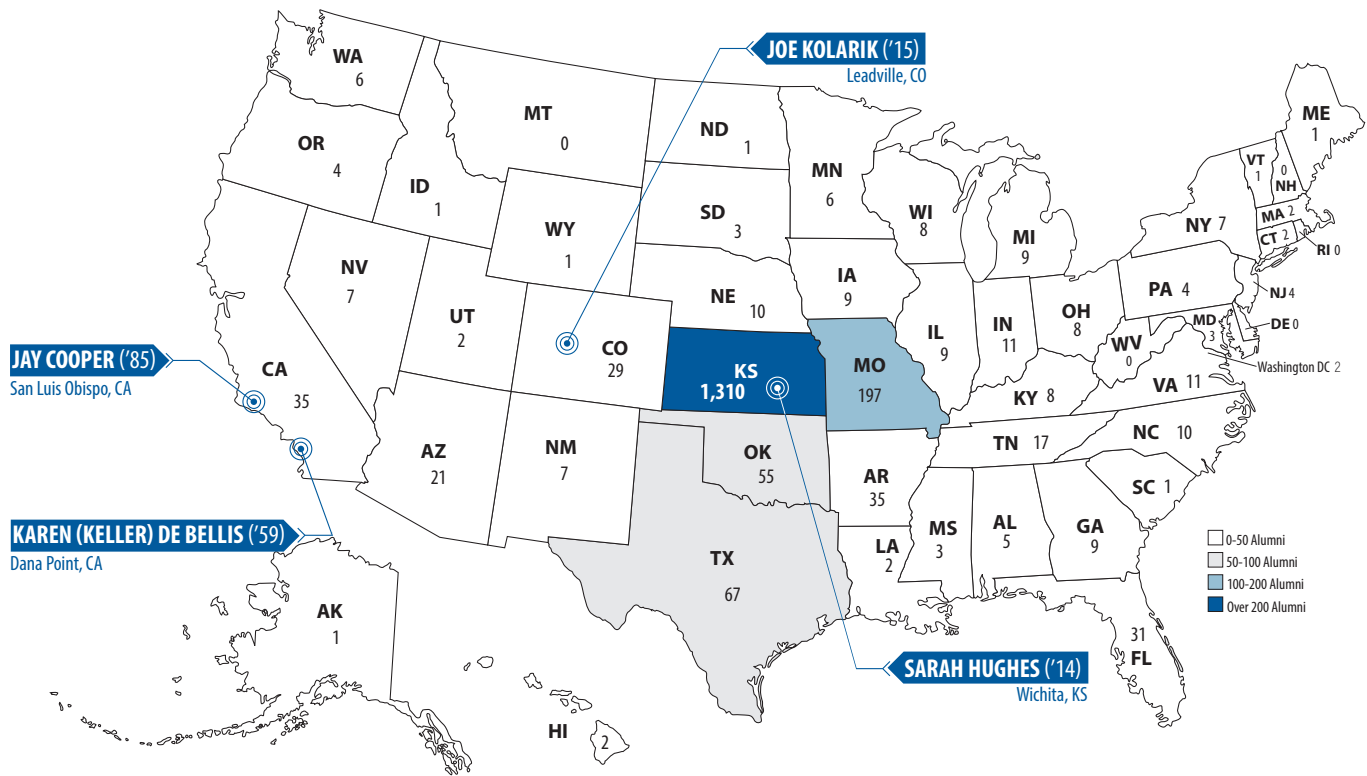
asked us to pray about it. At the time we had three kids aged six and under, and our fourth was on the way. So, our season in life was a main focus of our discernment, whether we were being called to this vocation with such a young and growing family. After much prayer and discernment, John started the six-year formation program which was like a Master's in Theology with



SEE A DEACON'S WIFE – PG25

One of the treasured traditions at St Mary's Colgan is ringing the church bells after a football victory. The impact of our little school can be felt and heard throughout the country as the bells of our graduates' life victories continue to reverberate. To celebrate our alumni, we continue to "Ring the Bells!" in our newsletter. The numbers on the map represent the number of alumni that we have listed as living in each state.

Ring the Bells!



JOE KOLARIK class of 2015

Joe Kolarik lives in Leadville, Colorado, and works for the Lake County Sheriff's Office where he is a Sheriff Deputy. He has been with the Sheriff's Office for two years. Joe also helps coach girls basketball at the local high school, Lake County High School. He is an assistant for the high school girls program and head coach for the JV. Joe anticipates that he will be taking over the high school program within the next 2 years. Joe has been living in Leadville for just over 2 years. "I love every second of life in Leadville and wouldn't change it for anything."

JAY COOPER class of 1985

Jay Cooper is a hospitalist at three hospitals in the Central Coast of California. A hospitalist is a physician who takes care of hospitalized patients. Jay has been doing that as well as emergency physician work for 23 years. Jay, and his wife Maggie of 27 years, live in San Luis Obispo, California. He and Maggie have three daughters.



SARAH HUGHES class of 2014

Sarah Hughes currently works for Ryan Lawn and Tree in Derby, Kansas. Being a landscaper was not Sarah’s original plan. She had pursued a degree in Theology and Youth Ministry from Benedictine College and taught for three years after graduation. In 2021, she was looking for a change and moved to Wichita to be closer to family and friends. Sarah wanted to pursue a job in landscaping and landed her current job. Sarah wrote, “Although this is not what I went to college for, I have fallen in love with this industry. What began as a love for being outside has flourished into a career taking care of customers’ landscapes so they too can love spending time outside with their family and friends.” Larry Ryan, founder of the company, is a faithful Catholic. He and his company are passionate about service to God and others through beautifying landscapes. Sarah currently is a Crew Leader for Landscape Maintenance in the Outdoor Living Department. Sarah wrote, “ I feel valued and appreciated and I know this is largely due to a positive work environment in a company founded by a fellow Catholic. Service

to God doesn’t have to be some drastic display of heroism. For me, serving God and others is pulling weeds, shaping shrubs, and taking care of someone’s property like it’s my own. If any SMC alumni are in the Wichita area and would like to grab a cup of coffee or your landscape needs attention, give me a holler!”

KAREN (KELLER) DE BELLIS class of 1959

Karen (Keller) De Bellis is a 1959 graduate of St. Mary’s High School. After high school, Karen graduated from Pittsburg State University with her elementary teaching degree. She got her first teaching job in California and stayed there. She taught in several different school districts in California and currently lives in Dana Point. Karen has been married to her husband Michael for 59 years. They have three children, Anthony, Thomas, and Diana, and nine grandchildren. Karen said that although she only spent three high school years at St. Mary’s, she is forever grateful for the welcome and acceptance that she received. She feels like the experience “made her a Catholic” and she has remained actively involved in her Church, St. Edwards in Dana Point and Mission San Juan Capistrano where she has been a Docent for 18 years.



In January of 2023, coaching great, Coach Frank Crespino, was inducted into the Kansas Association of Baseball Coaches Hall of Fame.

“ WE ARE PROUD OF YOU ”



Looking Back

Compiled by Chris Flood

... 10 Year **VJ Piccini**

VJ Piccini graduated from St. Mary's Colgan in the class of 2013. He remained in Pittsburg for the next few years, attending Pittsburg State University and earning his Bachelor of Business Administration degree in accounting and finance from PSU's Kelce College of Business. While attending PSU, his love of sports that developed at Colgan persisted, as he and fellow 2013 grad Nate Grimaldi founded the club baseball team at the university. Shortly after graduating from PSU, VJ moved to Wichita to work in the oil and refinery sector at Flint Hills Resources, a division of Koch Industries. He remained in Wichita for a little over a year before moving to the Kansas City area to work in the accounting department for Huhtamaki, a food packaging company located in De Soto. He has since taken a job with TransPak, a west coast-based crating and logistics company, where he works remotely in the cost accounting group.

While in Kansas City, VJ married his wife Amy, who he met while attending PSU. They enjoy coming back to Pittsburg to visit family and friends, and to see all the continuous improvements that are being made to the town. They have recently brought their daughter, Lucia Rose, into the world and are very much in love with everything about her. They currently reside in Olathe, KS with their two cats.

VJ found it difficult to pinpoint just one favorite memory from his time at Colgan. He always appreciated all of the tradition around football games, from the pregame meal, praying the rosary, and walking hand-in-hand towards Hutchinson Field with his teammates, to singing to the Sisters and praying afterwards, win or lose. He also looks back fondly on his last memory as a student, winning the state championship in baseball in Manhattan following graduation in May. VJ acknowledges his teachers and coaches for helping him grow as an individual during his time at SMC. He also credits the culture of the school and community for instilling in him the desire to work hard and treat others with the love and respect that we all deserve to receive. VJ is the son of Randy ('83) and Wendi (Wilbert '85) Piccini.

... 20 Year **Kimmy (Norris) Dent**

Kimmy (Norris) Dent graduated from St. Mary's Colgan in 2003. Her education was far from over as she has since completed multiple degrees from Pittsburg State University. She first received her bachelor's in biology and chemistry in 2007. This was followed by her nursing degree in 2009. She soon took a job in a Cardiovascular Intensive Care Unit (CVICU). Also in 2009, Kimmy married Andy Dent. While working as a bedside nurse, she pursued another degree and earned her master's degree becoming a nurse practitioner in 2013. Since becoming a nurse practitioner she has worked at Mercy in Joplin, Missouri, in Pulmonary and Sleep Medicine. Kimmy and Andy live in Pittsburg with their three children who all attend St. Mary's Elementary – Dayton is in 5th grade, Case is in 3rd grade and Blakely is in 4-year-old preschool. "My most memorable time in high school was our retreat to the monk monastery our senior year. It was great to have a day with just our classmates and have the monks teach us and show us their way of living. While I only got to spend my junior and senior year at SMC it still impacted me greatly with the faculty, learning experience, and spiritually. I knew I would want to send my own children to SMC."

... 30 Year Steve Adamson

Steve Adamson graduated from Colgan High School with the class of 1993. He went on to Pittsburg State after graduation and received a BSET in Electronics Engineering Technology in 1998. From 1998 to 2016 Steve worked at Ward-Kraft in Fort Scott as a Controls Engineer. In 2016, Steve became co-owner of Thomas Manufacturing in Girard. In 2021, Steve became the majority owner when the original owner retired. Thomas Manufacturing builds automated material handling equipment and conveyor systems for the wood and steel industry. In 2005, Steve married Abby Mesplay. They have two children, Amy, a junior at St. Mary's Colgan and Klayton who is a freshman. Steve also has a stepson, Kooper Grant, who graduated from Frontenac. "St. Mary's Colgan holds a very special place in my heart. Some of the best times in my life were spent at Colgan with great friends and great traditions. Colgan provides an environment that allows faith and good Christian values to develop in all students. Values that shape the rest of our lives. I truly appreciate the sacrifices that my parents made to send me to such a great school. I can remember sitting in the old grade school during the hottest part of the year praying for a breeze to find its way through the window. With all the fans on high and sweat dripping I would look across the street and see the first class in high school to have a window air conditioner. I remember thinking how great it will be when I finally get over there. Oh how times have changed." Steve wrote. "I often reminisce about all the good times I had during high school." Steve did have one unpleasant incident when he accidentally ran through the west glass door in high school trying to make it to gym class on time. "I still remember how worried Pat Forbes looked rushing me to the hospital for stitches." Steve said the list is too long to mention all the teachers that he enjoyed over the years. "I will say that the ones that stand out the most would be Ms. Tener, Coach Smith, Mr. Compton, Pat Forbes and Sister Charlotte. I will always remember how much I loved Sister Charlotte. I had her for math class when I was little and always felt a special connection to her. She gave me a little toy nativity scene during class as a prize and I still have that to remember her by."

Steve's dad, Larry, graduated from St. Mary's in 1958 and his brother in 1990. "I always said that I wanted to continue the Colgan tradition through my kids and now I am able to do so with Amy and Klayton. Only time will tell if I can get a grandchild to keep the tradition alive."

SEE **LOOKING BACK** – PG18-19



“ WE ARE PROUD OF YOU ”



Congratulations to SMC Senior Lauren Torrance and SMC Junior Lily Brown for joining the 1,000 points club this basketball season.

Looking Back

CONTINUED FROM PG 16-17

... 40 Year Leo Brown

After graduating from Colgan High School in 1983, Leo attended Pittsburg State University, graduating in 1987 with a degree in communications and history. He joined the Air Force in 1988, serving as a journalist at Plattsburgh AFB, NY, until his discharge in 1992. During this time, he volunteered to do religious education classes for the Catholic chaplain at Clinton Correctional Facility (New York's largest state prison) in Dannemora.

Leo resurrected his military career in 2001 when he joined the Air Force Reserve. Based at Whiteman AFB, Mo, he's a senior master sergeant with 26 years of service. Highlights include deployments to Afghanistan and Kuwait and being named the Air Force Journalist of the Year in 2007.

Back to the past. Leo traded in his military uniform for civilian clothes in 1992 and, in 1993, began a five-year stretch of formation for the priesthood. While he never was ordained, he wouldn't trade the education, friendship and travels he had in formation, as his stops included New Jersey, Washington DC, and Chicago. In 1998, he was hired at St Thomas Aquinas High School in Overland Park, KS, where he still teaches theology courses. Currently, he's forming young minds and souls in his "Faith and Reason" apologetics course and in his "Philosophy of Death" course, which is rooted in his favorite course from his Colgan days, Marcel Normand's "Death and Dying" course. Forty years after having Marcel as a teacher, Leo still holds dear in his mind and heart Marcel's work ethic, concern for students and good humor.

... 50 Year Steve Medved

Steve Medved graduated from Colgan High School in 1973. After high school Steve went to Pittsburg State University with the plan to major in chemistry, like his dad, Thomas, who was a chemist at Dickey Clay for many years. "I took a class called Intro to Computer Science and knew that was what I wanted to do. This was during the time when the Apple 1 had just come out." Steve wrote. While in college, Steve joined the Army Reserve and was at the 1010th Supply and Service unit in Pittsburg. He was sent to cook school in California. This training helped him pay his way through college as a cook at Ken's Pizza on North Broadway, followed by assistant cook at Crestwood Country Club and the head chef at the Boardwalk Supper Club. During college Steve met his wife Joyce. Steve and Joyce have been married for 44 years. After college graduation, Steve took a job as a programmer at Western Insurance in Fort Scott. He continued to live in Pittsburg and for several years served as the Scoutmaster of Boy Scout troop 81 sponsored by the Knights of Columbus. After Steve earned his MBA from Pitt State in 1985, he moved to Wichita to work as IT analyst for Pizza Hut headquarters. Steve's service to Boy Scouts continued as he was the Roundtable Chair and District Training Chair, earning the Silver Beaver award. He also completed ten years in the Army Reserve at the 89th ARCOM as a Staff Sergeant. Steve was asked to move to Louisville in 2003, where he finished his career as an IT Project Manager with YUM! Brands, the owner of Pizza Hut, Taco Bell, and KFC. Steve has had his real estate license for over 30 years and in his retirement teaches real estate license and broker classes. Steve still plays golf regularly and walks 18 holes as well as shooting sporting clays. Steve and Joyce have two daughters, and five grandchildren who also live in Louisville. "One of the best memories of Colgan High School was also attending with two of my brothers, Richard ('74) and David ('76)." Steve wrote. "It was great to play doubles on the tennis team with David, who is left-handed."

... 60 Year Marshall Lenne

Marshall Lenne attended St. Mary's High School, now SMC, from kindergarten through high school, graduating in 1963. His memories of St. Mary's are of the opportunities to know Jesus as Lord and Savior as well as someone he could rely on. He recalls fondly the many Sisters of St. Joseph who helped form his love for our Lord and who prepared him academically for the challenges ahead. His classmates and he shared many hours of time together and they all influenced his life. Marshall's father died when he was thirteen. Besides his family, St. Mary's provided the shelter to grow up in a loving and caring environment. Marshall played football, basketball and baseball for coaches Lon Farrell and Frank Crespino. Sports, CYO, and part-time jobs during the year left just enough time for study. Many fond memories come to mind about coaching 7-8 grade basketball, ball games, dances, an Optimist Club oratorical contest where he went blank and Sister Eustasia telling him he did just fine. He learned to survive the difficult as well as the not so difficult times. During Marshall's senior year, Coach Frank Crespino opened the door for him to seek an appointment to the United States Air Force Academy (USAFA), which Marshall received from Senator Frank Carlson. Marshall graduated from USAFA in 1967 with a BS in Mathematics. He met his wife of 55+ years, Victoria, while at the Academy and they were married in the Catholic Cadet Chapel upon graduation. He became a pilot in the USAF and was selected to be an instructor in single seat jet aircraft. After leaving the Air Force, Marshall returned to the classroom to obtain a BS in Business/Economics and then an MBA. He worked for thirty-plus years in the industrial environment in management positions. He credits his father and mother, the discipline of his education at St. Mary's, his fellow classmates and certainly those who educated and supported him throughout with blessing his life. Marshall and Victoria have two children, three grandchildren, and three great grandchildren. They currently live in Green Cove Springs, Florida.

... 70 Year Barbara (Meyer) Greer

Barbara (Meyer) Greer graduated with the St. Mary's High School class of 1953. After getting married in 1955, the young family moved around (Wichita, Pittsburg, Joplin, and Wichita again) because of Mr. Greer's jobs. They moved to Oklahoma City in 1968 where Mr. Greer attended OCU Law School. He received his law degree and graduated in May of 1972. Barbara led a busy life as a mom of six children, all born from 1956-1964. She found time to serve as a cub scout leader and volunteered at the grade school library where her children attended. Mr. Greer started working in Delaware and Ottawa Counties in 1973. Barbara and the children stayed in OKC until September of 1976. During that time Barbara worked in a bank as a commercial loan clerk. The family eventually settled in Miami, OK, where she has lived for the past 46 years. Barbara worked in customer service for Oklahoma Natural Gas for 14 years before she retired on January 31, 2002. Barbara was blessed with her six children. Her youngest son and oldest daughter have passed away. Her four living children are Barbara, an artist in Memphis, TN; Melissa, who lives in Birmingham, AL and is a retired homeschool teacher of her six children; Cheryl, a nurse at St. Anthony's in Oklahoma City, and Barry, a retired Air Force Colonel who lives in San Antonio, TX and is a Radiologist working at the VA hospital. Barbara has 11 grandchildren, including two SMC graduates who are both priests, Fr. Derek Hooper ('00) and Fr. Gabe Greer ('08). She also has 11 great-grandchildren with 2 more on the way. Until recently, in her retirement Barbara enjoyed sewing clothes for her grandchildren, just as she had done for her own children, as well as working in the yard and taking care of her flowers. She also helped with the Gabriel Project at Sacred Heart and is an Auxiliary Member of the Legion of Mary. Their Gabriel Project was active for over 10 years. Barbara grew up on a farm about 15 miles south of Pittsburg, just a couple of miles from the KOAM tv station. She was one of 10 children, including a sister who died in infancy. Barbara said, "I will always be thankful to my parents for the sacrifices they made to send me to St. Mary's."

We would like to thank all those who made donations to the 2021-2022 (July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022) SMC Annual Appeal.

A

Anderson, Mel & Joyce
Askins, Mary ('60) & Jim

B

Bacon, Matthew & Stacey
Badart, Karen ('70)
Baker, Matt & Julie
Baldwin, Rev. Michael
Balthazor, Jo Anne
Barley, Midge
Barone, Jim & Donita
Barone, Sharon ('56) & Patrick
Bartelli, Mary Ann ('46)
Bartelli, Debra ('72) & John Kaltner
Beasley, Robert ('74) & Rebecca
Beauchamp, Joe
Becker, Charles & Janis
Berry, Sheryl ('78) & Keith
Bertone, John ('65)
Bettega, Van & Betty
Bezner, Catherine ('68)
Biggs, Todd & Lita
Bishop, Margaret
Blick, Susan ('59) & Larry
Boman, Joe ('98) & Christy ('98)
Boone, Mike ('60) & Judith
Bourlard, Louis ('60) & Susie
Bradbury, Kristen
Braden, Daniel ('73) & Kristi
Brake, Lindsey ('03)
Broadway Chiropractic
Brown, Leo ('83)
Brown, Donald & Joanne
Bryant, Tom & Koeta
Buche, Dan ('63) & Janice
Buche, Don ('62)
Buche, Douglas ('64)
Buche, Steve ('77) & Michele
Burke, Dennis & Mary
Burns, Jim ('65) & Joanne

C

Caldwell, Norm & Mary Kay
Carson, Mike
Caskey, Joseph & Miranda
Castagno, Harvey ('48)
Castagno, Nick & Paulette
Chiellini, Audra ('91) & Joe
Cizerle, Sharon ('54)
Clawson, Stan & Debbie
Clugston, Charles ('60) & Margaret ('62)
Cocotis, Agnes ('51)
Colgan, Thomas
Collar, Tim ('75) & Linda ('79)
Collar, John ('64) & Dona
Combs, Lucy

Community Foundation of
Southeast Kansas

Compton, Thomas ('70) & Sharon
Compton, Zachary ('07) & Megan
Cook, Lori ('97) & Patrick
Coomes, Dale & Bernadette
Cooper, Kent & Leona
Correll, Tom & Jan
Corsini, Ken ('57) & Christine
Craig, Norma ('53)
Crandon, Tom ('57)
Crespino, Frank ('51) & Jo Ann ('56)
Cukjati, Frank ('62) & Roberta ('62)
Cumiskey, Kelly ('97)

D

Dalrymple, Jana ('72) & Roland
Dawson, Ed & Beth
Dayton, Ken ('73)
Deao, Fallyne ('05) & Kevin
DeBellis, Karen ('59)
Dellasega, Daniel ('05) & Sarah
Dellasega, Joe ('79) & Janice ('77)
Dellasega, Mark ('68) & Marjorie ('69)
Dobrowolska Zakaria, Justyna ('02) & Mohammed
Doti, Donna ('44)
Draper, Joyce ('66) & Barry
Dunbar, Brett & Clare
Duncan, John ('94) & Valerie
Duncan, Kirk ('97) & Becky ('96)
Dunlap, James ('52) & Barbara

E

Edwards, Susie ('77)
Eichhorn, Kathleen ('49)
Eichhorn, Margie ('55)
Elder, Michael & Denise
Ellis, Carolyn ('53)
Elmer, Lisa ('09)
Endicott, Adam
Esch, Pete ('47) & Shirley
Esposito, Barbara ('57) & Frank
Evans, David ('04)
Evans, Nancy ('79) & Jim

F

Farrell, Dan & Mary Lou
Flannery, Kathleen & Jeffrey Steinmiller
Fleming, Kyle ('91) & Lori
Fleming, Robert ('60) & Peggy
Flood, Chris ('85) & Tim
Forbes, Pat
Forbes, P.J. ('86) & Stephanie ('91)
Forsyth, Margaret ('53)

G

Galvin, Paula ('84) & Tim
Gariglietti, Don ('66) & Donna
Gartner, Denis ('74)
Gartner, Leona
George, Bill ('66)
Giacometti, Albert ('49)
Gilbert, Larry & Beth
Gill, Christie ('66) & Bill
Gilmore, John & Kathie
Gilmore, Mary ('64) & Mike
Glick, Karl ('71) & Wendy
Golob, Jo Marie ('59)
Gorman, Devin & Misty
Greer, Barbara ('53)
Grimaldi, Gary ('67) & Debbie

H

Habjan, Joe ('65) & Virginia
Hamilton, John ('59) & Claire
Hamilton, Justin ('99) & Emily ('98)
Harper, Jim
Heffernan, David ('64) & Catherine ('64)
Hickman, Herb
Hicks, Nancy ('74) & Steve
Hoagland, Reed & Brandie
Hobson, Eda
Horgan, Mike ('63) & Mary Ann
Hubbard, Theresa ('66)
Huerter, Eric ('88) & Pam
Hunsicker, Mary

I

Imhof, Randy & Sally

J

Jacquinet, Ray & Becky
Janes, Tim ('76) & Maura
Javni, Ivan & Marijana
Jeck, Richard ('56) & Marilyn
Jefferson, Kristen ('03)
Johnson, Andrew ('58) & Annette
Johnson, Carlene
Jones, Ches ('82) & Holly
Jordan, Jim & Debbie

K

Kannarr, Amy ('89) & Shane
Kannarr Eye Care
Karleskint, Matthew & Kati
Karlinger, Jeff ('64) & Katherine ('65)
Kays, Kelly & Connie
Keller, James ('66) & Donna
Keller, John ('73) & Sara
Keller, Robert ('70)
Kemme, Most Rev. Carl
Kerr, Maggie
Kilcher, Mary
Kleiber, Steve ('71) & Kate

Klenke, Andy & Mary
Kratz, Margaret ('61) & Gary
Krusich, James & Sandra

L

Labenz, Rev. Andrew
Lakeman, Michael & Sherry
Lickeig, Roy & Joyce
Little, Mimi ('63)
Lomshek, Doug ('90) & Jamie
Lomshek, Edward ('87) & Amy
Lomshek, Janez ('93) & Ali
Lomshek, Jurij ('97) & Melissa
Long, Ashley ('02) & Nick
Lorimer, Lee
Lundy, Gary & Susan
Lyons, Danny ('70) & Christine

M

Main, David ('80)
Malcolm, Sandra ('70)
Marietta, Jacob ('99) & Aubrey
Marietta, Jason ('93) & Crystal
McCall, Pat ('47) & Linda
McClaskey, Ed ('61) & Janet
McClure, Cary ('70) & Gena
McGeorge, Joan ('61)
McGrath, Gary & Fran
McNeill, Patrick ('60) & Lillian
Merrell, Frances
Mid-America Pipe Fabricating
& Supply Llc
Milburn, Paul & Mary Joan
Miller Family Foundation Inc.
Mills, Judy
Minton, Phil & Shelly
Mitchelson, Kevin ('75) & Frances
Mitchelson, William ('12)
Mobley, Tom ('69) & Shirley
Moore, Carla ('72)
Moorhead, Frances ('59) & Allan
Morris, Robert & Sarah
Murphy, Joseph ('66) & Linda

N

Nassano, Marilyn ('51) & Frank
Naylor, Joe & Sally
Neil, Brent & Robyn
Nelson, Marilyn ('69) & Mike
Newcomb, David & Carol
Newcomb, Terry & Mary Jo
Nicholson, Jess ('01) & Nick
Nixon, Sandy
Normand, Marcel & Helen
Norton, Johnna ('98) & Will

O

O'Brien, Ed & Kristen
O'Connell, Thomas ('41)
Oehme, Dustin ('02) & Erica
Oehme, Leonard & Bobbie

P

Painter, Seth & Katie
Paterni, Lisa ('82) & George
Patterson, Rosemary
Payne, Mike ('66) & Kay ('67)
Perry, Carolyn & Bill
Pesavento, Frank & Joann
Phillips, Sarah Jo ('02) & Shane
Piccini, Paul ('90) & Kathi
Piccini, Rinaldo & Sharon
Pietrzyk, Tina ('78)
Polfer, Mary ('62) & Neil
Pomatto, Robert & Mary Carol
Potusek, Mike & Patricia

R

Radell, Steven ('92) & Angela
Ramsey, Denton & Suzanne
Reda, Barb ('61) & Sam
Renn, Donna
Rhuems, Richard & Tandra
Robertson, Ken & Brenda
Rogers, Susan ('68) & Dennis
Russian, Jim ('52) & Johnna ('55)

S

Schoene, Norberta ('61)
Schoening, Judy ('66) & Fred
Schutz, Paula ('68)
Scripsick, Chris & Kim
Scripsick, Ron & Betty
Sesso, Don ('44) & Mary
Shaw, Dick ('56) & Daffy
Simmons, Megan ('95) & Eric
Simon, Gerald & Rosemary
Simone, Steve & Mary Kay
Sloan, Steve & Becky
Smerchek, Judith
Smith, Beth ('74) & Chuck
Smith, Chas ('09)
Smith, Jeff ('06)
Smith, John ('78)
Smith, Madeline
Smith, Mark ('04) & Lindsay
Smith, Nick ('01) & Niki
Soper, Dave & Janet
Spachek, Jeff & Lori Ann
Spence, Daniel & Marlene
Spicer, Larry & Linda
Starchman, Donald ('61) & Francie
Stockard, Jerry & Cathy
Story, Julie ('84) & Douglas
Strukel, Paul ('75) & Kim
Stuckey, Douglas & Kathy
Sutton, Doris ('68)

T

Tawil, Elias & Magda
Taylor, William & Catherine
Taylor, Francie ('68) & Blaine
Thomas, Tom ('57)
Thomas, Tom ('82) & Julie
Towner, Terry ('76) & Karen
Towner, Dolores ('49)
Treiber, Sarah ('02) & Dustin
Tyler, Thomas & Nancy

U

Ukena, Mary ('86) & David

V

VanBecelaere, Barbara
VanBecelaere, James ('53) & Wava
Vincent, Jack & Ruth
Vogel, Lothar & Evainda

W

Wachter, A.J. ('61) & Susie ('63)
Wachter, Bill ('77) & Mary Kay ('78)
Wachter, Mike ('62)
Wachter, Joe ('45) & Marianne ('49)
Wachter, John ('66) & Susan
Waltrip, Vickie ('67) & Ken
Warner, Sarah ('98) & Brandon
Weber, Richard & Kim
Wesonig, Michelle ('65)
Westhoff, Alberta
Westhoff, Alicia ('89) & Tom
Westhoff, Julian & Judith
Whiteside, Mary ('70) & Larry
Wilbert, Ashley ('09)
Wilbert, Jeff ('71)
Wilkinson, Wendell & Lynda
Willis, Linda ('66)
Wilson, Ann ('78) & Wallace
Wilson, Theresa
Wolfe, Mary
Wolfe, Steven

X

Xiao, Long ('15)

Y

Yagmour, George ('90) & Dana
Yagmour, Talaat & Mary
Yagmour, Ted ('87) & Lisa
Yartz, Lee Ann ('74) & Ron
Yost, Mary ('47)
Younger, LeRoy & Anna

*Every attempt was made to ensure the accuracy of this list.
We apologize if we have omitted any donors.*



Panther Priests

Compiled by Chris Flood

One goal of St. Mary's Colgan is that our alumni live their Catholic faith authentically and share the Gospel with others. Here we highlight our alumni who have done that as they followed their vocation to the priesthood. Listed is the graduate, his class, his assignments and appointments over the years; demonstrating again the ripple effect of SMC.



Rev. Andrew Dellasega class of 2010

Ordination: 5/25/2019 Diocese of Wichita, KS

Parochial Vicar St. Francis of Assisi, Wichita 2019
 Parochial Vicar St. Thomas Aquinas, Wichita 2021-present

Rev. Gabriel Greer class of 2008

Ordination: 5/28/2016 Diocese of Wichita, KS

Assist. Church of the Magdalen, Wichita 2016-2018
 Chancery Assist. Diocesan Master of Ceremonies, Wichita 2017-2018
 Chancery Diocesan Master of Ceremonies, Wichita 2018-2021
 Chancery Priest Assist to Bishop, Wichita 2018-2021
 Assoc. Chaplain Kapaun Mt. Carmel High School, Wichita 2018-2020
 Chancery Director Office of Worship, Wichita 2019-present
 St. Thomas Aquinas Parishal Vicar, Wichita 2020-2021
 Pastor St. Joseph, Ost 2021-2022
Further Studies Wichita
 License in Sacred Theology 2020-present

Rev. Josh Evans class of 2006

Ordination: 5/23/2015 Diocese of Wichita, KS

Parochial Vicar St. Francis of Assisi, Wichita 2015
 Parochial Vicar St. Thomas Aquinas, Wichita 2017
 Pastor St. Cecilia, Haysville 2019
 Pastor Sacred Heart, Frontenac 2021-present

Rev. Derek Hooper class of 2000

Ordination: 6/5/2021 Diocese of Jefferson City, MO

Parochial Vicar SS Peter and Paul, Boonville 2021
 St. Joseph, Pilot Grove 2021
 Parochial Vicar, St. George, Herman 2022
 Parochial Vicar, Church of the Risen Savior, Rhineland 2022-present
 Parochial Vicar & Admin, St. Alexander, Belle 2022-present
 Parochial Vicar & Admin Immaculate Conception, Owensville 2022-present



Rev. Dan Lorimer class of 1994

Ordination: 5/29/2004 Diocese of Wichita, KS

Assist Church of the Blessed Sacrament, Wichita	2004
Pastor St. Paul, Lyons	2007
Pastor Holy Trinity, Little River	2007
Pastor Holy Name of Jesus, Bushton	2007
Chaplain, US Army	2011
Chaplain Kapaun Mt. Carmel High School, Wichita	2015
Chancery Presbyteral Council Member, Wichita	2015
Pastor Holy Name, Coffeyville	2017
Advanced Studies in Canon Law, University of Maryland	2021-present

Rev. Bob Wachter class of 1968

Ordination: 5/8/1976 Diocese of Wichita, KS

Assist All Saints & Teacher Kapaun, Wichita	1976
Chancery Assist. Chancellor, Wichita	1977
Chaplain for IHM Sisters, Wichita	1977
Chaplain St. Francis Hospital, Wichita	1978
Teacher Kapaun Mt. Carmel High School, Wichita	1978
Teacher Bishop Carroll Catholic High School, Wichita	1980
Pastor Holy Savior, Wichita	1983
Pastor St. Mary, Newton	1988
Educational Sabbatical, Holy Land	1992
Pastor St. Joseph, Conway Springs	1992
Pastor St. Martin of Tours, Caldwell	1992
Pastor Christ the King, Wichita	1997
Pastor St. Patrick, Parsons	2001
Pastor St. John, Iola	2005
Pastor St. Joseph, Yates Center	2005
Pastor St. Martin Oratory, Piqua	2005
Pastor Mary Queen of Angels, Ft. Scott	2012
Chaplain St. Dismas Ministry of Incarcerated, Wichita	2019
Retired, Galena	2021

Rev. Doug Campbell class of 1963

Ordination: 5/8/1976 Diocese of Wichita, KS

Assist St. Francis of Assisi, Wichita	1976
Chancery Diocesan Scouting, Chaplain, Wichita	1980
Tribunal Defender of the Bond, Wichita	1983
Priest/Student St. Paul University, Ottawa, Canada	1984
Tribunal Judge, Wichita	1986-present
Tribunal Defender of the Bond, Wichita	1986-present
Coordinator SEK Pastoral Center, St. Paul	1986
Pastor St. Rose of Lima, Columbus	1986
Pastor Immaculate Conception, West Mineral	1986
Pastor Sacred Heart, Fredonia	1988
Pastor St. Ignatius, Neodesha	1988
Pastor St. Joseph , McPherson	1989
Pastor St. Bridget of Sweden, Lindsborg	1989
Pastor St. Jude, Wichita	1998
Chaplain Via Christi St. Joseph & St. Francis Wichita	2011
Retired, Wichita	2018

Bishop Ron Gilmore class of 1960

Ordination: 6/7/1969 Diocese of Wichita, KS

Parochial Vicar Blessed Sacrament, Wichita	1969
Assist Chancellor Diocese of Wichita	1973
Parochial Vicar & Chaplain Trinity St. Teresa Hutchinson	1975
Administrator St Agnes, Castleton, VA	1981
Pastor St. Elizabeth Ann Seaton, Wichita	1982
Chancellor Diocese of Wichita	1983
Bishop Dodge City	1998
Retired	2011
Retreat Director Grace that Regins	2012-present

SEE BISHOP'S DREAM – PG28

In Memoriam

Rev. Albert Massmann class of 1941



From the Archives

Monsignor Patrick J. McCullough

Fr. P.J. McCullough was assigned as the pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes parish in 1928. Recognizing the work he had ahead of him, Fr. McCullough requested an assistant. He was assigned

the newly ordained Fr. Alex Stremel. The list of accomplishments made by the parish, under the direction of Fr. McCullough is long. He cleared the parish of \$60,000 debt, and at the same time bought several lots and a house for the pastor. The transepts were added to the Church, at the cost of \$35,000, and the Church was rededicated on November 27, 1931. It was written of Fr. McCullough, "Difficulties to the ordinary man are not difficulties to the genius." A pipe organ was added and dedicated on October 12, 1933. In 1935, he was elevated to be Monsignor McCullough. In 1936, Msgr. McCullough changed the lives for so many in the future, when he inaugurated St. Mary's High School, with the addition of 9th grade. The same year, kindergarten was added. To better accommodate the growing student body, in 1937 the third story was added to the school. In 1940, the first class graduated from St. Mary's High School. In 1944, Msgr McCullough, began fundraising for a new gymnasium, but, other school and parish needs

delayed the project. In 1947, Msgr McCullough added his last touch to the Church with the addition of a steeple peal of bells. The bells were named Frank, Domicela and Joseph, after the donors of the \$8,000 to purchase and install the bells. Msgr. McCullough passed away on November 24, 1948.

Monsignor Alex G. Stremel

Fr. Stremel first served Our Lady of Lourdes parish as an assistant to Fr. McCullough from 1928-1929. He was later reassigned as pastor in 1949. Shortly after arriving in Pittsburg, Fr. Stremel proposed the building of three new buildings, the Three Tabernacles, as he called them, a rectory, gym and convent. In a very short amount of time, by September of 1952, all three buildings were built and occupied and by the end of 1955, Fr. Stremel sent a check to the Most Reverend Bishop Mark K. Carroll in the amount of \$8,150.68 clearing all debt of the parish. Fr. Stremel not only built new buildings but he built community and spirituality at the parish. Fr. Stremel had previously written a Passion Play that he entitled Calvary Hill. From 1952 through 1957, Calvary Hill was performed each year by parishioners of Our Lady of Lourdes. At the parish Diamond Jubilee celebration on September 22, 1956, he was elevated to be Monsignor Alex Stremel. The last of the campus additions under the supervision of Msgr. Stremel, was the addition of the new high school building in 1960. Msgr. Stremel was pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes until 1963. He passed away on July 22, 1981.

Pictured are the busses and students who ride them. St. Mary's is indeed proud of its bus students who travel great distances each day to obtain the benefits of a Catholic education. The enrollment of bus students has produced some of the finest students of the school and we feel sure that the merits derived from their special efforts will prove vital instruments of their success in future life. - 1942 Yearbook



St. Mary's Gets a New Bus in 1941

A newspaper article written in 1941 recently surfaced with this picture of the St. Mary's bus students. Msgr. McCullough worked to build St. Mary's in both faith and numbers, and these busses allowed more students to receive a Catholic education that would have been otherwise not been available. The article recounted that there were two busses serving the students of St. Mary's grade and high school. The article says, "For the past four years a bus route has been operated to bring students from Chicopee, Capaldo, Radley and Fleming. It covers a route of 58 miles a day and carries 30 pupils. Eight of the graduation class (1942) are pioneer bus riders, having come all four of their high school career on the bus to St. Mary's. They are Mary Machetta, Sylvia Jones, Frank Montemurro, Frank Tisot, Carl Wettstein, Edward Craney, John Chiapetti and Margaret Peak. This year another bus brings students to St. Mary's. It starts in Columbus, travels through Stippeville, Turk, Mackie, Scammon and Weir. It covers 62 miles and carries 26 students."



A Deacon's Wife

CONTINUED FROM PG 13

additional pastoral and spiritual formation. He, along with about 20 other men in our Archdiocese spent one weekend a month being trained by Theology professors and spiritual directors from all over the United States. John was a full-time practicing attorney during formation and continues his full-time practice today. He, like many other deacons, do ministry work in the evenings and on the weekends. John's cohort was the first ordained in our Archdiocese in April 2011. Since the diaconate program was new to the Archdiocese, most Catholics in the area didn't realize the impact the deacons would have on their parishes (assisting priests, forming souls, teaching the faith, administering to the sick, etc).

What does John's ministry work look like? John serves at daily Mass and two to three Sunday Masses, occasionally he gives the homily, however deacons do not preside at Mass like priests. Deacons can be ministers for Baptism and also can witness Marriage vows, so John assists the parish with those sacraments. He often gets called to lead a Holy Hour for Eucharistic Adoration or a Prayer Service. John and I together lead a marriage enrichment program

at the parish for newlywed couples. He also is an Overland Park Police Department Chaplain. Most deacons, like John, do not get paid for their ministry unless they are serving a specific full-time position within the Archdiocese (for example, the director of Religious Education or Parish Administrator).

What's John being a deacon mean for our family? Well first off, John is always serving at Mass, up in the Sanctuary, assisting Father and has for the last almost 12 years. So parishioners, especially in the beginning, that didn't know our family - would see me with our kids especially when they were little - Logan (24), Michaela (23), Landon (19) and Aviana (17) - in the pew and think I was a single parent. I do miss sitting with John at Mass, as do the kids, so sometimes he'll come to an "extra" Mass, where another deacon is serving, so he can sit with us. Our family, every once in a while, slips into John's homily and we're all now used to it... so honestly, I think it keeps our kids on their best behavior. In all seriousness, I think one of the best things that has come from John's diaconate ministry is the spiritual growth of our little domestic church and its impact on the universal church.

Meet Our IHM Sisters



Sr. Maria Jacinta, IHM JH/HS Religion Teacher

Sr. Maria Jacinta, IHM grew up in Arkansas City with her parents and two brothers. Her family attended Sacred Heart Parish. Upon graduating high school, she attended Emporia State University for two years, then she took a break from school to volunteer with the National Evangelization Team Ministries and St. Paul's Outreach. During that year, meditating on Scripture every day and praying the Rosary regularly, she grew to experience Our Lord's love for her and a desire grew to love Him back with all her heart. Planning to finish college, she went on a retreat at the Convent after returning from NET Ministries, and was surprised to find that Our Lord was calling her to enter religious life as an IHM Sister, that this is where all her deepest desires would be fulfilled. She canceled her plans for college and entered the Convent six weeks later. In her 25+ years in the Convent, she has found that Our Lord has more than kept His promise to her, and all her deepest desires have been fulfilled. Becoming an IHM Sister remains the best and most grace-filled decision she has ever made. Deo gratias!

Sister John Marie, IHM 1st Grade Teacher

Sister John Marie, IHM grew up traveling with her dad's Air Force career. She lived in various states and countries with her parents, sister, and brother. Growing up she enjoyed hobbies such as gymnastics, the Sunday Mass choir, CYO, concert band, theater, and soccer. She spent three years in college at Fort Hays State University, actively engaged in the Catholic college community and playing in the marching and concert bands. She joined the Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary of Wichita, taking the name "Sr. John Marie" after St. John Vianney, patron saint of priests, because of her devotion to praying for priests. Since professing her vows she has completed a Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education and a Master's degree in Systematic Theology. Sr. John Marie taught first grade for 10 years in Wichita before coming to Pittsburg. At St. Mary's she has spent three years as a CGS catechist and K-1 Music teacher, and two years as a 1st grade teacher. Sister enjoys praying, learning and teaching about Jesus, songwriting, word games, yardwork, and encouraging other people.





Sister Mary Agnes, IHM JH/HS Religion Teacher

Sister Mary Agnes, IHM, was born and raised in Wichita, Kansas. She found her call to a religious vocation just outside her back door. Religious life was not the path that she initially envisioned for herself, since she had hopes of pursuing a career in athletics. Yet, the Lord continued to guide her discernment through her experiences of being taught by the IHM Sisters in high school and through teaching Totus Tuus during the summers. As she attended Benedictine College and was working on her undergraduate degree in theology, she recognized the Lord's invitation to the religious life. After much prayer and discernment, she entered the IHM Sisters during her junior year of college. Following initial formation, she finished earning her teaching degree at Newman University, and later earned a masters in Systematic Theology. She is currently working on a masters in Thomistic Studies through the Dominican House of Studies in D.C.. Sister Mary Agnes has shared in her community's apostolate of education by doing retreat work and by teaching high school religion. She has taught at Bishop Carroll and Kapaun Mt. Carmel in Wichita, Trinity Catholic in Hutchinson, and most recently has been delighted to teach at St. Mary's Colgan in Pittsburg.

Sister Mary Grace, IHM PreK-6th Catechist

Sister Mary Grace, IHM has been forming the minds and hearts of children for almost 15 years in various capacities. She taught first and second grades, as well as seventh and 8th grade. This is her second year at St. Mary's elementary where she is the catechist for the Atrium. So far being in the Atrium has been her favorite work. Sr. Mary Grace grew up in a small rural community 30 minutes west of Wichita. She moved to Wichita, attended Bishop Carroll Catholic High School, and later moved to Conway Springs where she graduated from high school. Upon graduation, she felt called to give her life to Christ and entered the community of The Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary and professed vows in 2003. Shortly after her profession she worked on her education degree from Newman University and completed her Masters degree in Theological Studies in the summer of 2022.



Bishop's Dream

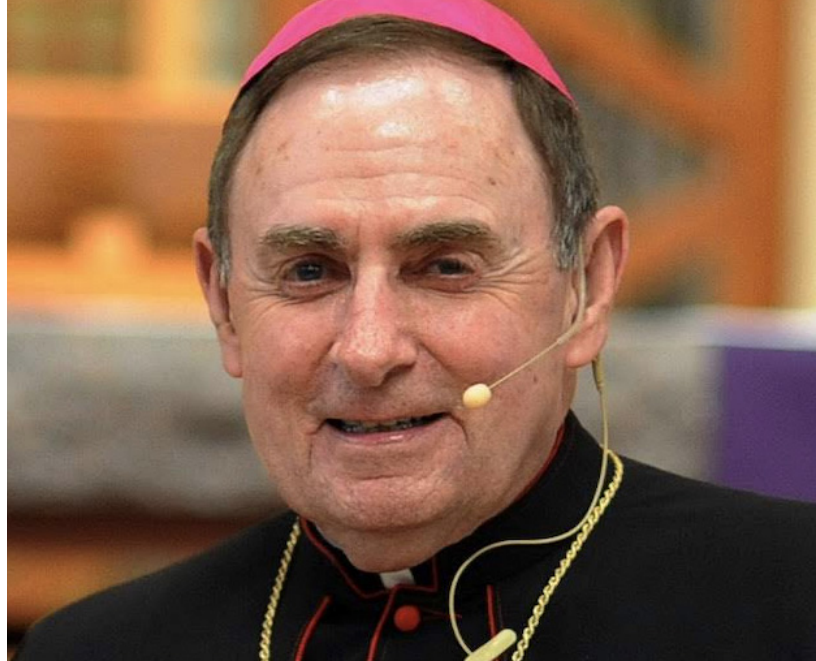
By Bishop Gilmore class of 1960

Back in the late 40s and the early 50s of the old century, I dreamed dreams in the old St. Mary's Church.

They led me to live as a priest (1969), and as a Bishop (1998), and now as a Bishop Emeritus (2011). They led me to a group of women and men in something called GRACE THAT REIGNS.

It was founded by a Malaysian woman who grew up in Canada, Ms. Jacqueline Loh, an architect whose life had been turned upside down by the Lord in 1998. People were drawn through her to the Word of Christ and the Sacraments of his Church. The essential themes of His own preaching became the essential themes of their own lives. Those lives flowered in new and creative forms of the corporal and spiritual works of mercy.

GRACE THAT REIGNS is a way of praying that is mostly attentiveness to the Real God. It is a way of doing retreats, and missions, and days of recollection.



It is also a way of doing spiritual direction, and a way of healing for those wounded by sin and the hard business of living.

We now see a growing number of persons in parishes all over the United States and Canada who are **practicing contemplatives**. You don't need a monastery to be one. You don't need a convent to be one. You don't need an ordination to be one. You need only be lost in wonder at the Real God.

From the Archives

We are Colgan! But do you know why?

On July 24, 1966, Fr. Thomas Colgan died along with three others in an automobile crash at Chicopee, Kansas. In honor of Father Thomas Colgan, the high school was renamed Colgan High School. Fr. Colgan was born in Wichita on July 6, 1930. After attending Xavier University and Kenrick Seminary, he was ordained for the Diocese of Wichita by Bishop Carroll at the Cathedral on March 26, 1955. As an assistant he was assigned to St. Anthony's Parish in Wellington, St. John's Parish in El Dorado, and St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Wichita. He attended Catholic University of America in Washington, DC to earn his degree in administration. Upon completion of studies, in 1964, he was appointed to Our Lady of Lourdes in Pittsburg. His assignments included being administrator of St. Mary's High School, assistant at Our Lady of Lourdes parish and moderator of the Catholic youth in the Pittsburg deanery. Fr. Colgan was one of five children. His twin sister became Sister Martin de Pores, S.M.D., and his brother Jerome also became a priest. Fr. Jerome Colgan was the celebrant of the solemn funeral Mass and Bishop Leo C. Byrnes delivered the eulogy at Our Lady of Lourdes. The remains were taken to Wichita where he laid in state prior to the funeral Mass. Fr. Colgan was buried in Calvary cemetery in Wichita. Fr. Colgan left a lasting impression on those who knew him. He was greatly respected by Our Lady of Lourdes parish and especially the students of St. Mary's High School. In his honor, the school was officially renamed with the class of 1967 receiving the distinct honor of being the first class to graduate from Colgan High School. In the late 90's, the school became known as St. Mary's Colgan High School.

On the next few pages you will find the homily Bishop Byrne offered at Fr. Colgan's funeral.

"I press toward the mark to the prize of the supernal vocation of God in Christ Jesus."
(St. Paul's Epistle to the Philippians--III Ch. XIV Verse)

Our first thoughts today at the funeral of Father Thomas Colgan, are those of gratitude. All of us are grateful to God for the years, eleven plus, of his life as a priest of God. Only last year, the modern historian, Arthur M. Schlesinger, Jr. wrote a book A THOUSAND DAYS. It was a book about John F. Kennedy in the White House. Father Thomas had over four thousand days in the service of Christ working in the Diocese of Wichita, and every one of us are grateful to God for the four thousand days (plus) of his Holy Priesthood. Obviously, our hearts today are deeply saddened and I am pleased to speak for all the clergy and religious and laity here in expressing our warmest sympathy to Mrs. Colgan, Father's dear mother, to Father Jerry and the girls, Sister Martin de Porres and to Rita and Margaret, to his dear aunts and all other relatives. We know the depth of your sorrow, but we also believe that you are grateful as are all the rest of us, and I am sure that you cannot find words to express to God your appreciation of the priesthood of Father Tom.

As followers of Christ, we all have a two-fold vocation--a vocation to dedicate our abilities and our energies that God has given to us for useful work among our fellow men. Then we know that this first vocation has as its ultimate purpose, a preparation for the eternal life that God has prepared for us. "I press toward the mark to the prize of the supernal vocation of God in Christ Jesus." This is our Faith, this we know, and yet for me and for you, in fact, for most of us, it is somewhat of a life struggle day by day to keep a grasp of these great significant truths before us. Because in this world there are so many clamoring claims on us every hour of our working day. But basic to our Faith and Hope--and Love too, is that heaven is our goal, the fulfillment of all our efforts.

One of the many reasons why we are grateful today is that Father Tom was one of those chosen souls richly endowed with grace who seemed to be able to walk in the midst of the busy act of life and never lose contact with the great reality of the eternal. He was a real Follower of Christ in work, in delightful laughter and every endeavor. So we are gathered together today to offer the holy Mass for the repose of his soul, to bless his remains, and to pray to God that he will bless him in eternal life.

There is, of course, a real sadness in our hearts this morning and I suppose that if we would analyze it honestly, it is not only a sorrow for Father Thomas Colgan. It is sorrow for ourselves. The thought that keeps coming back to my mind is represented best in the words of the poet who wrote, "No man is an island entire of himself. Every man is a piece of the continent, a part of the main. Any man's death diminishes me, because I am involved in mankind, and therefore never seemed to know for whom the bell tolls. It tolls for thee." Each of us feels today that we have been deprived of something very important and we feel sorry for ourselves.

It is not a custom in the Catholic Church to eulogize on the occasion of a funeral, but it does seem that today that we can emphasize something of a great spiritual strength in this young priest that will give all of us--bishops, priests, religious, and laymen a greater strength and inspiration to seek out God's Will and to generously fulfill it. If I would try to say one word to characterize the splendid personality of Father Thomas, it would probably be to say that he was first and always a priest. His priestliness came through at all times and for us, at least for the Catholics that are here, there is one Priesthood, the eternal Priesthood of Christ. We know that the eternal Priest was one who voluntarily emptied himself of his divinity and who freely came among men in his joy, passion, suffering and death.

It was on March 26, 1955, that the young man, Thomas Colgan, knelt before Bishop Carroll, his Ordinary, and was ordained to the Holy Priesthood. I am sure at that very time he told God that he was going to do his best to imitate with his priestly life Christ Himself. As we look at the relatively short years, four thousand days, we feel that the image of his Priesthood was fulfilled in a remarkable degree.

On the personal side, in the years that I have been Administrator in this diocese I had many, many occasions to admire his fine abilities and his readiness to accept responsibility in the cause and service of God. Almighty God had endowed him with an unusually fine mind, and the record of the Graduate School of the Catholic University bears this out. And the happy thing to recall is that he devoted his abilities of mind and heart to the spiritual good of his people and to the development of the character and the lives of the youth entrusted to his care. As Administrator of St. Mary's High School in Pittsburg, he won the affection of the students in a remarkable way and the esteem of their parents and the genuine respect of the members of the school board. All this was because he seemed willing at all times to give himself, never seeking recognition for work done. In giving of self, he devoted his abilities of mind and heart to the spiritual good of the people he loved so well and to the furthering of the great field of Catholic education.

Father Thomas' death was sudden and violent. All of us were shocked and many of us might wonder and almost shake our heads; and yet dear friends, I am reminded of a thought given to us in the Old Testament in the book of Isaias, 55th chapter: For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor My ways your ways, said the Lord, for as the Heavens are exalted above your ways and My thoughts above the earth, so are My ways exalted above your ways and My thoughts above your thoughts." How many of you are acquainted with the tapestry? If you see the reverse side, it seems to have no design; it is all puzzling, and then turn the tapestry around and we see the beauty of the picture. Indeed it is true that our thoughts and our ways are not as God's, but as the Heavens are exalted above the earth so are His ways exalted above our ways and His thoughts above our thoughts.

Only last Friday, our Vicar General had occasion of a long visit with Father Colgan, and he was truly impressed with the grasp of the task that was before him. Monsignor Glynn mentioned that he was really proud of him. On more than one occasion Msgr. Smith, Father Colgan's pastor, told me how wonderful he was as an assistant-- what a joy to have him in the household and how dedicated he was to his work at the school. The only thing he commented on and this on more than one occasion, was he felt that he was working too hard.. I am sure that priest after priest and layman after layman would have a similar comment about his work-his enthusiasm-his spirit.

Recently, Bishop O'Donnell made the comment that love must fill a priest's life, a strong, free and respectful love that brings other people to life. "He loved me," St. Paul wrote," and gave himself up for me." This will be a good epitaph for Father Colgan who always saw people as the real prize of his apostolate. He knew he was called to the Priesthood not to ve remote from people , not to generate an esoteric mystique for his own satisfactions with them, but to love them for their sake to give his life as a ransom for many, to be poured out like water as he translated God's love by his own life into a message men can easily understand. The Priesthood takes healthy men who are fully mature because only such men can lead the life of Faith that the Priesthood is meant to be. Is is truly the vocation that asks most because it asks for everything that a strong man can give.

So dear friends, we begin our thoughts today expressing gratitude to God for the life and the work of this splendid young priest. It would be well to conclude in the same vein of thanking God for him and all the four thousand days of his Priesthood. We are grateful, dear God, for the life and work of Father Colgan and we ask you, all of us, every single person gathered here this morning, we ask you mercy for his soul; we pray you will bless him, give him light and refreshment and eternal rest, and in the language of Holy Mother the Church, we say: "Eternal rest grant unto Him, O Lord and may the perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace." IN the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

FR. COLGAN PRAY FOR US!





St. Mary's Colgan
CATHOLIC SCHOOLS
Alumni & Friends

PO BOX 214
Pittsburg, KS 66762
Address Service Requested.

Phone:
(620) 231 - 2135

Email
alumni@OLLsmc.com

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Pittsburg, KS
Permit No. 5

Name(s)
Address
City, State Zip



“ WE ARE PROUD OF YOU ”



Kindergarden teacher, Mrs. Robyn Neil, received the 2023 Diocese of Wichita Good Shepherd Award, Distinguished Early Childhood Teacher!



Congratulations to your 2023 Panther basketball homecoming queen, Miss Lauren Torrance, and her court.