

## Parish Welcomes New Principal, Parochial Vicar

St. Sebastian Parish is pleased to welcome Mr. Anthony Rohr as the parish school's new principal and Fr. Anthony Simone as the parish's new parochial vicar.

Mr. Rohr has been a sixth grade teacher at the parish school since 2005, where his focus was on math, religion, reading, technology in the classroom and school discipline. He received his bachelor's degree from The University of Akron in Middle Childhood Education and his master's degree from The University of Cincinnati in Educational Leadership. More recently, he earned his certification as a



*Mr. Anthony Rohr*

Google Certified Educator, Level 1. After serving as a teacher for 13 years, Mr. Rohr says he is excited to take on the role of principal.

"I am looking forward to a year full of new initiatives, service learning, and continuing traditions," said Mr. Rohr. "I want every student to live and breathe the school's mission while advancing their education."

St. Sebastian Parish welcomed Fr. Anthony Simone as our parish's parochial vicar in June of 2017.



*Fr. Anthony Simone*

Fr. Simone, whose home parish is St. Mary's in Hudson, was ordained on May 19 at a Mass celebrated by Bishop Daniel

Thomas at the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist in Cleveland. Just one month later, Fr. Simone reported to St. Sebastian for his first assignment, and the parish is so thankful and blessed by his presence. Fr. Leonard, the parish's previous parochial vicar, is now at St. Columbkille Parish in Parma.

## Focus on Forest Lodge

Did you know that St. Sebastian Parish occupies the Forest Lodge building across the street from the church? The City of Akron still owns and maintains the surrounding park, but the parish took control of the building in 2010. After major renovations completed with the help of our Knights of Columbus Council #14255, the lodge now houses the parish business office and the St. Sebastian Parish Foundation offices on the upper floor. The lower floor remains a large meeting room that retains some features of the old lodge such as large fireplaces on either end. Foundation Director of

Development Kathy Holaday is always ready to give tours of Forest Lodge to our alumni!

In August, Jim Fenwick '52 took Kathy up on the offer, and as they toured the building, he shared many wonderful memories. Jim, like many who grew up in West Akron, remembers ice skating at Forest Lodge. He said the "bowl," the sunken center of the park that was filled with water to create the rink, was often very crowded. Jim added that the winters were so cold that the bowl would stay frozen from November through March most years!



The Forest Lodge building was built to serve as a shelter for ice skaters with the upstairs serving as living quarters for the park's caretaker. The solid structure with its impressive stone façade was constructed as one of the Works Progress Administration (WPA) projects in Akron in the 1930s.

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# We Will Remember

The Alumni Association extends our sincerest sympathy to the families and friends of our deceased alumni. If you learn of the passing of a St. Sebastian alumnus, please contact us by phone at 330.836.2233 x119 or by email at [alumni@stsebastian.org](mailto:alumni@stsebastian.org).

(July 1, 2017 through September 30, 2017)

✠ Please keep these friends in your prayers ✠

Edward E. Aylward '38, July 8, 2017

Edward J. Gemind, Sr. '39, July 7, 2017

Irene Schumacher Haus '45, August 22, 2017

Arthur E. Vogel '46, November 20, 2014

Thomas J. Buss '52, April 1, 2017

Carolyn Hurt Haas '54, August 27, 2017

William F. Ballway '66, August 13, 2017

## Forest Lodge *continued from page 1*

While generations of families ice skated at Forest Lodge over the years, eventually the building came to be used by the City of Akron primarily to house programs for children, including everything from dance and preschool classes, to art classes and after school and holiday programming. When the city built the Northwest Family Recreation Center on Shatto Avenue in 2002, most of the programs transferred there, and the Forest Lodge building fell largely out of use.

According to St. Sebastian Business Manager Kevin Audin, the city was considering demolishing the building, but it just so happened that St. Sebastian was in need of additional office space. So an agreement was worked out that was a win-win for the city and the parish: the historic building remains, and St. Sebastian Parish not only gained office space, but also a large meeting space on the lower level.

The parish and school have used the meeting room to host a wide array of events such as new family welcome dinners, board meetings, Knights of Columbus meetings, school socials, RCIA meetings, a coffee house series, and CYO team parties. The parish also leases the

meeting room to city residents much in the way that the city rents park shelters.

If you would like to take a tour of Forest Lodge or the school, please contact Kathy Holaday at 330-836-2233 ext. 113 or [holadayk@stsebastian.org](mailto:holadayk@stsebastian.org). We are always happy to have visits from our alumni! If you would like to share your own memories of Forest Lodge or your time at St. Sebastian School, please email us at: [alumni@stsebastian.org](mailto:alumni@stsebastian.org).

*Jim Fenwick '52 stands outside the entrance to Forest Lodge, where he used to go to warm up after ice skating at the park.*



## School Memories from Jim Fenwick '52

Jim remembers how quickly West Akron grew with houses and households – it had a direct impact on his paper route, which covered the neighborhood where he grew up north of the railroad tracks on Hawkins Ave. His route started off with 54 customers but grew to 116 households in just three years. Jim and all four of his siblings (Jane Urbanski '53, John '57, Judith Fenwick '63, and Joan McDonald '65) attended St. Sebastian Parish School, as did all four of his own children: Tim '78, James Kevin '77, Mike '76 (passed away in 2009), and Laurie Mellion '73. Jim coached basketball at the grade school for 19 years!

Jim's favorite teachers included Miss Lahey in 4th grade and Sr. Dominica in 7th-8th grade. He fondly remembers many of his friends and classmates, especially Bill Maloy, who passed away in 2015. Jim also shared this wonderful fact: four of his classmates became priests: Fr. William Karg, Fr. Joseph Kraker, Fr. Francis LaRocca (who passed away in 1991), and Fr. David McCafferty.

# Alumni Updates

## Class of 1949

**Marie Therese Klocker White** remembers her school days at St. Sebastian fondly. She recently shared some wonderful memories: her favorite teachers included Sr. Mary Roch (1st grade) and Sr. Laetitia (3rd grade). In 7th grade, Sr. Mary Blanche taught Marie how to make earrings from dress



buttons and sequins, and Marie sold earrings throughout high school! Pictured here is Marie's First Communion Rosary, which was a gift from her parents. Her name and the date (5-17-43) is engraved on the back. Marie remembers the monthly plays performed on the stage in the cafeteria, which is the current day library. She was Gretel in *Hansel & Gretel* when she was in 1st grade. Marie said she had her tonsils removed and missed quite a bit of school that year, but with the help of Sr. Mary Roch, who sent the book home, Marie memorized and learned all of her lines and was able to perform her role in the play!

## Send Us Your Alumni Updates

We love to hear from our alumni! Please drop us a line and let us know what you are doing. Newly married? New baby? Get together with fellow alums? Email Anne Morgan Dennée '85 at [alumni@stsebastian.org](mailto:alumni@stsebastian.org) or fill out the online form at <http://alumni.stsebastian.org/contact.html>.

## Class of 1952

**Jim Fenwick** has served for the past 25 years as the President of Summit Senior Golf of Akron, the largest senior (50+) golfing organization nationwide with more than 500 members. Jim is an avid golfer who works part time at Summit Toyota, and he enjoys attending the Class of 1952 gatherings (when he is not golfing!). Jim has many fond memories of his days at St. Sebastian (see the *Forest Lodge* cover story).

## Class of 1953

**Scott Kidder** visited with his grandchildren on Grandparents Day at St. Sebastian Parish School. Two of his 11 grandchildren attend St. Sebastian, marking three generations of Terriers! Scott is pictured here with Payton Kidder, son of Jennifer and Mike Kidder '90.



## Class of 1956

Fr. Fred Tillotson O. Carm. emailed to say "hello" and shared this photo from when he said his first Mass, which was at St. Sebastian Church with Msgr. Zwisler and Fr. Byrider in attendance in 1969. Fr. Fred attended Hoban High School before becoming a Carmelite priest. Most of his ministry has been in Arizona and California, but he is currently the pastor of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish in Osprey, Florida. Fr. Fred notes that his mother has been a member of St. Sebastian Parish since 1955 and at 101 years old is still living in the parish. Fr. Fred says he only gets home every now and then but he has kept in touch with some of his friends from St. Sebastian. He also shared that once in a while he happily meets parishioners from St. Sebastian who are visiting or wintering in Florida. So if you are in the area, stop in and say "hello" to Fr. Fred!



Guests enjoy dinner in Zwisler Hall following the first Mass of Carmelite priest Fr. Fred Tillotson '56. From left: Kathleen Tillotson Phillips (Fred's sister), Father Byrider, Msgr. Zwisler, Mary Tillotson (Fred's mother), Fr. Frederick Tillotson O. Carm., Kenneth Tillotson (Fred's father), Fr. Robert Flaherty O. Carm. (Homilist), Mrs. May Capple (Fred's grandmother) and Ellen Tillotson Phares (Fred's sister).

## Class of 1960

David Showers, who was recently featured in our alumni newsletter, and his wife Martha received the "Crown Jewel Award" from the Leave a Legacy program of the Northern Ohio Planned Giving Council. David and Martha were honored at the Voices of Giving Honor Awards ceremony held at Portage Country Club on June 15, 2017. They were recognized for inspiring generosity in others through their landmark donation to Akron Children's Hospital to establish the Showers Family Center for Childhood Cancer and Blood Disorders.





## Alumni Updates (continued)

### Class of 1968

**Patti Large Cleary** retired on July 31, 2017 from the position of Superintendent of Barberton City Schools. Patti worked in the banking industry early in her career before switching over to teaching and then administration at Woodridge Local Schools. In 2005, she moved to the Barberton district where she took on the roles of curriculum specialist, director of curriculum and assistant superintendent before becoming superintendent in 2012. Patti is looking forward to spending time with her new grandchildren: her daughter, Erin Cleary Herbst '96, an attorney in Columbus, gave birth to twin girls on June 19, 2017.

### Class of 1970

**Frank LaRose** recently invited Fr. Valencheck and Kathy Holaday to tour the warehouse of House of LaRose, the beverage distribution business founded by members of the LaRose family. The warehouse, which was built in Brecksville in 2004, is a distribution facility with over 300,000 square feet of office and warehouse space. When asked to share memories from his school days, Frank said he remembers taking dance class every Friday after school in Byrider Hall, and he remembers Sr. Mary Peter opening the sliding window in her office to check on the students while they were attending Mass in what is now Zwisler Hall. His favorite teachers were Mrs. Mary McFee (grades 6-8), and Mr. Mike Lobalzo. He said the toughest teachers were Sr. Shamus (for choir practices on Fridays for the 7th and 8th grades) and Mrs. Mehok. Frank grew up on Mull Avenue and remembers riding his bike on the path through Schneider Park, walking to school and walking home for lunch. He remembers friendships with Tim DelMedico, Dave Vassel, Helen Botzum Burrell, Mark Wernig, Greg Sheeks and Pete Carlson. He also remembers being at school when he heard about two big news events: when the KSU shooting occurred (1970) and when President Kennedy was assassinated (1963) and Sr. Florentine made the announcement – he was in 2nd grade.



### Class of 1985

**Kerry Fenn McKeen** recently moved from Kent to Perry, Ohio. Kerry is an RN who works at the Cleveland Clinic as a Nurse Case Manager. She has two children, Mariah (19) and Emily (16), and her fiancé Patrick Korth has four children: Jared (18), Justin and Josh (15), and Emily (13).

### Class of 1999

**Robert "R.B." Brownfield** was named principal of St. Vincent-St. Mary High School in June, 2016. After graduating from St. Vincent-St. Mary in 2003 (he was the valedictorian!), R.B. attended Wright State University, where he earned a bachelor's degree in middle childhood education as well as a master's degree in classroom teaching. He also earned a master's degree in educational administration from Ursuline College. Before becoming principal, R.B. was a classroom teacher for eight years at St. Vincent-St. Mary.



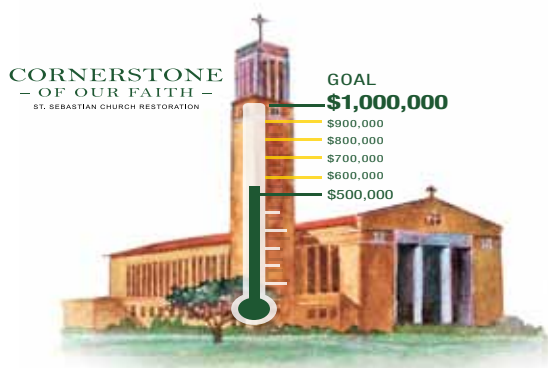
**Patrick Vassel** is the associate and supervising director of the smash hit *Hamilton*, on Broadway, in Chicago, and for the upcoming national tour of the musical, which is coming to Cleveland this summer. After graduating from The University of Notre Dame where he was involved in theatre, Patrick moved to New York City and worked as a teacher in Brooklyn through the Teach for America program. At the same time he pursued work in theatre with part-time jobs directing and promoting plays. His big break came in 2014 when he was asked to participate in a workshop for *Hamilton*. Congratulations, Patrick, and continued good luck!



### 2013

**Benjamin Stiller** was commissioned into the United States Marine Corps on June 19, 2017 and graduated from boot-camp (Parris Island, S.C.) on September 15, 2017.

## Cornerstone of Our Faith: Church Restoration Project Update



Director of Development for the St. Sebastian Parish Foundation Kathy Holaday is happy to report that the parish has raised over \$575,000 toward Cornerstone of Our Faith, a campaign for the restoration of St. Sebastian Church. The Cornerstone Campaign was officially introduced to our parish in May of 2017, and the generosity and support from our alumni, family and friends has been wonderful!

The campaign is focused on the restoration of the original pews, terrazzo floors, glass doors, and the brass and woodwork. In addition, campaign funds

will be used to upgrade the church's accessibility by improving the entrance ramps and automatic doors as well as installing sound loop technology.

**CALLING ALL ALUMNI** – are you interested in starting a **class challenge**? It is easy! Simply let us know you are interested, make a donation to the Cornerstone Campaign, and we will send a note to your St. Sebastian classmates to see if they want to join you in making a donation!

It is not too late to donate or to start a class challenge! To learn more, please contact Kathy Holaday (330-803-0667 or holadayk@stsebastian.org) or visit our webpage for more details: [www.stsebastian.org/restoration/index.html](http://www.stsebastian.org/restoration/index.html)

### Save the Date for these Cornerstone of Our Faith Campaign Events:

November 4, 2017 – Trivia & Tacos benefit

January 20, 2018 – Spaghetti Dinner benefit

February 4, 2018 – Doughnut Sunday

November 10, 2018 – 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

## Congratulations 2017 Parish School Scholarship Winners!

St. Sebastian Parish Foundation hosted a scholarship Mass in the spring during which students were recognized for earning scholarships offered by several parish entities for the 2017-18 school year. Congratulations to these students, many of whom are pictured here, for representing St. Sebastian Parish School with distinction!

### St. Sebastian Parish Foundation Scholarships

BSA Troop 96 Scholarship: George Berger  
Dayspring Opportunity Scholarship: Suzana Borges,  
Taylor Foster

GOAL Scholarship: Brennan Chivers, Xavier Vesco,  
Megan Williams

Frances L. Sharp Scholarship: George Berger,  
Nicholas Grizer

Gerstenmaier Family Scholarship: Anthony Calleri,  
Nicholas Zografakis

John A. Trecaso Scholarship: James Gupta

### St. Sebastian Parish School Scholarship

St. Irene Scholarship: Tariq Montgomery, Alex Raita



**St. Sebastian Parish Sanctuary Society Scholarship**  
Sanctuary Society Service Scholarship: Brennan Chivers

**Home and School Association (HASA) Scholarship**  
HASA Youth Christian Service Scholarship: Samuel  
Haslinger, Virginia Hunt

**Knights of Columbus Council #14255 Scholarship**  
Deacon Terry Peacock Youth Scholarship: Michael  
Johnson, Grace Wyszynski



## Class of 1972 Enjoys 45th Reunion Weekend

The Class of 1972 held a full weekend of reunion fun August 11-12. On Friday, classmates met up at Barley House in downtown Akron. On Saturday, the group attended Mass at St. Sebastian followed by dinner on campus in Zwisler Hall and an after-party hosted by Kathy Beringer Reed and her husband Orville. Before dinner, the group was treated to a school tour by St. Sebastian Parish Foundation Director of Development Kathy Holaday. These alumni loved checking out their old classrooms, the school office, and the old convent, which now houses preschool and kindergarten classes. They even enjoyed a visit from Jean Marie Latham, their fourth-grade teacher! Anne Najeway Vainer, one of the reunion organizers commented, "Having the reunion

on campus is fun. Most of us have parents who were married in Zwisler Hall, and almost all of us were baptized there and attended weekly mass there as well. When the new church was built, we ate lunch in the hall." Anne said being in the hall brought up several stories. "A couple of the boys had been in the tunnel under the hall," she said, "and many of us remember the sliding window from the principal's office ... We are already talking and thinking about our 50th reunion!" Thank you to the reunion committee of Tom Beiter, Lori Boles Harper, Margaret Payerle Hoffner, Debbe Tuhela Long, Alice Maher Luse, and Anne Najeway Vainer.

