

ALUMNI ARROW

NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2020

CLASS OF 2020 CREATES SPECIAL MEMORIES DESPITE PANDEMIC

The St. Sebastian Parish School Alumni Association welcomed 33 new members this spring as the Class of 2020 graduated in the midst of the global pandemic. While Confirmation Mass took place as planned on March 6, school closed down a week later on March 13. Since all St. Sebastian students in grades 6-8 are provided with Chromebook laptops, our eighth-grade students were able to switch to online learning with relative ease.

But it was not easy for the class to learn of the many activities that were cancelled, from spring sports and the “Annie, Junior” musical, to the Father-Daughter Dance and the eighth-grade trip to Washington, DC. The school’s annual Walkathon was cancelled, as was Grandparents Day, Science Olympiad, band and choir concerts, and the 3-on-3 basketball tournament.

Despite the circumstances, the school worked hard to provide the Class of 2020 with special memories. The principal and junior high teachers personally delivered Class of 2020 yard signs (pictured top, right) to all the students’ homes. Several events were able to take place, with modifications, and were filmed and shared online, including the May Crowning ceremony (May 14) and the Pass-It-On Mass (May 27). Pictured below, the Class of 2020 gather for a photo – while standing apart – after the Pass it On Mass. The annual “clap out” (May 28)

traditionally features the entire school clapping for the eighth-graders as they leave school for the last time, but this year, it featured a festive drive-by parade.

Other activities that moved online included the annual scholarship presentation (this class earned over \$390,000 toward their high school educations!), the art show, and even science fairs, with two students, Anne Rea and Anysia Reimund, scoring a “superior” on their project at the online State Science Day. The eighth-graders put together some special projects on their own, including a video for their kindergarten buddies and a slide show with pictures from their years at St. Sebastian.

Fortunately, the parish was able to hold a traditional graduation Mass on June 4, with a few adjustments. Only immediate family members were permitted to attend, masks were required, and families were spread out, but it was live-streamed for all to view, even out-of-town friends and relatives.

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ALUMNI UPDATES

CLASS OF 1941

Kathleen Beringer Buehrle writes, "A long-ago, but not forgotten, memory of my grade school days: It was 1937-38 and Monsignor Zwisler's beloved mother had died. We fifth-graders entered the rectory single-file, and it was silent and solemn as we passed by her coffin."

CLASS OF 1942

Ellen Henaughan Martucci, long-time parish organist, has many memories of her time at St. Sebastian, both as a student and parishioner. Among her favorites are starting piano lessons with Sr. Maria Cecilia, learning to play the organ from Mrs. McDonald in 1944, and playing at the first Masses of "my choir boys," newly-ordained priests Fr. Kraker, Fr. Karg, and Fr. McCafferty, as well as at the ordination of Fr. Phil Cover. She married John Martucci at St. Sebastian in 1953, and all six of their children graduated from the parish school: Michalene (1972), John (1974), Caroline Garritano (1976), Mary Foley (1976), Paul (1977), and Brian (1981). After 50 years, Ellen retired as the parish organist in 1994. She continued to play the organ at the church part-time for an additional 20 years, playing for every one of our pastors (Msgr. Zwisler, Fr. Byrider, Fr. McDonough, Fr. Karg and Fr. Valencheck).

CLASS OF 1944

John Trippe shared a few memories with Kathy Holaday when they spoke in March, 2020. John said Sr. Dorothea, his 2nd-grade teacher, was his favorite teacher. He even visited her once in New York City. He still remembers her motto from 1937, "If you live a right and moral life, you will go to heaven." John also reports that he once hid Principal Sr. Francesca's handbell, which she sometimes used to bang loudly on the table. According to John, the bell "did not turn up" for many months.

CLASS OF 1950

Parishioner Judy Ley, wife of Ted Ley Class of 1950 (deceased, 1998), wrote in to say Ted and his sister Anne Ley Halamay Class of 1944 attended St. Sebastian in the times of Msgr. Zwisler, and apparently it made a strong impression on him. Judy says when she and Ted had their second child, it was time to move from an apartment in Cuyahoga Falls to a home somewhere. "Of course it had to be St. Sebastian Parish," writes Judy, "so our children could attend the school, per my husband, no discussion!" Both of their children are indeed St. Sebastian graduates: Susan Ley Considine (Class of 1974) and Ted Ley, Jr. (Class of 1976).



**PROJECT GOAL: \$100,000,
\$71,181 RAISED AS OF JUNE 30**

Thank you to everyone who has generously supported Project Spruce Up, a campaign to refurbish the school's hallways and stairwells. Phase 1 included the installation of polymer epoxy coating on all 7,150 square feet of flooring in the school. Phase 2 included repairs and upgrades to the stairwells and painted portions of the walls. **As of June 30, 2020 we have raised almost three-fourths of the \$100,000 goal for funding this project!**

Donations are still being gratefully accepted. Please visit our website: stsebastian.org/foundation/current-needs to donate online, to learn more about the project, and/or to see a list of our generous donors. If you have any questions, please contact Kathy Holaday at holadayk@stsebastian.org or 330-836-2233 ext. 113.

CLASS OF 1964

Evelyn Olson Lamden and her husband Bill live in San Diego, CA. They have raised two children, Leah (29) and Chaz (26). Evelyn is a self-employed marketing executive who is active in her local community arts organizations, including the San Diego State University Campanile Foundation, the San Diego Symphony, The Old Globe Theatre, and Malashock Dance Company.

CLASS OF 1973

Dan Rimmel's painting of a scene of the Dolomites mountain range in northern Italy was featured in the April/May 2020 issue of International Artist magazine. Dan lives in South Florida, where he has worked as an illustrator and muralist for over 30 years. In addition to appearing in International Artist for the second time, he has won two national juried awards this year for his abstract paintings.



CLASS OF 1974

Margaret Vogt is a veterinarian who owns a practice in Valley City, Ohio, where she lives with her husband Tony Pimm. She has four children: Lauren (24), August (20), Katherine (16), and Arthur (14). Margaret and her family are looking forward to celebrating her oldest daughter's wedding on September 19, 2020.

CLASS OF 1977

Joe Walsh writes "I was blessed to spend hours in that beautiful church as a student and altar server. I also spent many an hour there, as my first job (if it can be called that) was in fifth grade and Father Byrider "hired" me to align all the missalettes in the pews. Four at each end except for the short pews which took three at each end. And they all had to be turned the same way in the stack. He also wanted every kneeler returned to the up position, and Father Byrider wanted this done every day. It was a great experience!"

CLASS OF 1995

Melissa Johnson Tober was featured in the Akron Beacon Journal in March because her plans to run her first marathon in DC in March of 2020 were sidelined by the Coronavirus pandemic. She ran her own customized race in Akron instead on March 28, with the support of her husband, Tim, three children (who attend St. Sebastian Parish School) and many family members and neighbors cheering her along. Melissa even created a route that went past St. Sebastian at mile 19 for what Tim called "a little bit of calming spirit in the late stages of her run." Way to go, Melissa!



CLASS OF 1999

Patrick Vassel received the 2020 Rev. Anthony J. Lauck, C.S.C, Award for fine arts and visual arts from Notre Dame University. The award recognizes an alumni for their outstanding accomplishments or achievements as practicing artists. He was presented with the award in recognition of his superior work as a Broadway director, writer, and teacher as well as his leadership in crafting "Sorin: A Notre Dame Story."

Thank You For Sending in Your Memories!

During the 90th anniversary celebrations for the church and school, the Foundation asked parishioners and alumni to send in memories. Thanks to everyone who sent in your great stories and fond recollections. The Foundation has been sharing these memories in the Alumni Arrow and still has more to share in upcoming issues. But it's not too late to send in your memories! Please email alumni@stsebastian.org or contact Kathy Holaday at 330-836-2233 ext. 113.

CLASS OF 2016

Natalie Tobin was named Valedictorian of the St. Vincent-St. Mary High School Class of 2020. Natalie and her fellow St. Sebastian alumnus Jimmy Thomas earned STVM's highest student athlete awards (the Chionchio and Cistone Awards) presented to exceptional athletes who best exemplify leadership, sportsmanship, dependability, and character in their sports as well as dedication and achievement in the classroom and a true commitment to St. Vincent-St. Mary High School. Natalie was a member of the varsity cross country and track & field teams, and Jimmy was a member of the soccer and baseball teams. In addition, Natalie and fellow St. Sebastian alumnus Jake Pentasuglio earned the OHSAA Scholar Athlete Award given to seniors with the highest scholastic average and a minimum of four varsity letters in high school sports.



CLASS OF 2017

Several alumni were chosen to serve as Captains or Chaplains at St. Vincent-St. Mary High School for 2020-21. These are the leadership positions for the school's new "house system." Captains include seniors Mary Jewell, Abby Minear, and Andrew McSteen. Chaplains include Jimmy Gupta, Carter Caputo, and Luke Dobson.

CLASS OF 2018

Sawyer Huckabee was elected as student council president for the junior class at Archbishop Hoban High School for the 2020-2021 school year. Xavier Vesco, a student at St. Vincent-St. Mary High School, earned the highest rating of "superior" at 2020 Virtual State Science Day Competition.

CLASS OF 2020 *(continued)*

Clare Rothkopf '20 offered this reflection: "Back in March, everyone was giddy that we would get three weeks off of school ... If I knew that Friday would be my last day at St. Sebastian, I would have done things differently by saying goodbyes, telling stories, thanking my teachers ... Soon we were doing online school. Zoom meetings, Khan Academy and Google classroom became the new normal. I missed out on the state Power of the Pen competition, playing Ms. Hannigan in the musical, the DC trip, and the students vs. teachers volleyball game. Even so, my teachers were amazing at making sure that we all felt connected. Even though we missed a lot of things in our 8th grade year, we got to do modified versions that I will never forget. Clap out and graduation were so much fun and made me feel like I was still part of the community. St. Sebastian has provided me with so many friendships and memories to last a lifetime."



The Class of 2020: Carrie Baker, Leo Bates, Brooklyn Benton, James Bordenkircher, Sydney Borges, Madaleyna Burgoyne, Zoie Burnette, Dominick Calleri, Charles Caputo, Brennan Chivers, Victoria DeKatch, Jack Doucet, Ryder Gisentaner, Nicholas Grizer, Andrew Hagey, Logan Hill, Jasper Liggins, Arabelle Loyed, Jonathan Matthews, Lillian Mendenhall, Abigail Monaghan, Maria Petit, Emily Pinzon, Kofi Powers, Anne Rea, Anysia Reimund, Mason Reiss, Mia Ross, Clare Rothkopf, Jack Stahl, Raymond Thompson, Michael Walter, and Emily Wentz. Their high school choices included St. Vincent-St. Mary (18), Archbishop Hoban (6), Walsh Jesuit (6), and Firestone (3).

CLASS OF 2020 FAMILY LEGACIES

The Class of 2020 included five children/grandchildren of alumni:

Jimmy Bordenkircher,
son of Steve Bordenkircher '87

Arabelle Loyed,
daughter of Matt Loyed '90

Abbey Monaghan,
daughter of Bill Monaghan '73

Clare Rothkopf, daughter of
Tricia Bedell Rothkopf '95

Michael Walter, son of
Theresa Seikel Walter '84
and grandson of
Kathy McDonald Seikel '52
and Lewis Seikel '49

BEST WISHES TO OUR RETIRING EDUCATORS!

The entire St. Sebastian Parish community extends our thanks to Pat Strausser, Carolyn Schmidlin, and Margaret Myers (pictured at right), who retired in 2020 after many years of service educating our young people.

Margaret Myers retired after a 38-year teaching career, with her last 20 years as a kindergarten teacher at St. Sebastian, a position she held for 20 years. Margaret says she loved helping students learn to read and seeing their amazing learning progress from September to May. She said she will miss taking the children to school Masses and teaching religion. Margaret and her husband Mark's three children all attended St. Sebastian: Mark '04, Margaret '02, and Bridget '10. Margaret says she was extremely blessed to have been able to work at the school where her children attended, and she said St. Sebastian School was a blessing in particular because of the great parents, principals and classroom aides. While she says she will miss teaching, she is looking forward to spending time with her family, including her four young grandchildren.



Carolyn Schmidlin retired after 34 years at St. Sebastian, including 23 years of teaching kindergarten. Carolyn started in 1986 as a kindergarten aide, a job she held for 11 years while earning her teaching license (she already had a degree in Spanish). Among her favorite memories are Halloween parades, talent shows, teaching students to read and seeing how proud they were to be reading on their own at the end of the year, and graduations. Carolyn said she was very fortunate to work with good principals and great aides, and she enjoyed being able to work where her three children went to school: Bryan '91, Eric '94, and Mary '94. Carolyn praised the St. Sebastian community for being active and welcoming, "The new families are so welcomed, they become part of the St. Sebastian family. It's just a great community and a great school." Carolyn looks forward to spending time with family, including her four grandchildren, although she says she plans to stay involved with her "second family" at St. Sebastian.

Pat Strausser began as an office volunteer in the 1980's. In 1988, she became a classroom aide, working most of her 31 years at St. Sebastian with the second grade classes. Pat tutored students, graded papers, monitored tests and restroom breaks, decorated stages and bulletin boards, and served as the "Copier Queen" of the school, according to second-grade teacher and long-time friend Sue Vernon. Pat also served as a preschool religion teacher for 10 years and worked with the school band for 5 years with Mr. Mikan. She has been a past president of Sanctuary Society and remains an active member. Pat and her husband Jim (who will celebrate their 50th anniversary this year) have two sons who are St. Sebastian graduates: Stephen '90 and Bobby '92. She leaves to spend more time with her family, especially her three grandchildren.

++ *We Will Remember ...* ++

The Alumni Association extends our sincerest sympathy to the families and friends of our deceased alumni (Jan., 2020-June, 2020). 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.

Elizabeth Ulrich Burkley '38, June 6, 2020
Harry W. Schwab, Jr. '41, April 21, 2020
Thomas E. Dannemiller, Sr. '44, March 10, 2020
Mary Patricia Kirk Haas '44, March 3, 2020
Marjorie Wozniak Burkley '48, May 31, 2020
Patricia Snyder Stiller '48, June 27, 2020
J. Don Wood '48, March 20, 2020
William L. Salber '49, January 16, 2020
Genie Bachmann Richardson '54, May 26, 2020

Michael R. Baughman '58, January 30, 2020
Sarah "Sally" Welsh Stein '61, March 25, 2020
Ruth A. Vassel '65, February 19, 2020
David V. Mariani '66, February 15, 2020
Julia K. Hummel '67, February 22, 2020
Robert P. Greathouse '70, February 19, 2020
Timothy A. Mesek '73, March 4, 2020
Mark J. Whitehurst '80, June 8, 2020

CONGRATULATIONS 2020-21 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Congratulations to our scholarship winners for the 2020-21 school year! These students earned 26 awards worth \$11,500. While the annual Foundation Scholarship Mass was cancelled, these students received special recognition during virtual ceremonies. This photo collage features some of these outstanding students.



Scholarships Funded Through the Parish Foundation:

The Mary Ley Burke Scholarship: Suzana Borges, Luca Hall, Frances Knauer, Phoebe Marshall

The Dayspring Opportunity Scholarship: Amara Avalos, Chloe Gary

The Denise Maroon Finley Memorial Scholarship: Maddy Burgoyne

The Gerstenmaier Family Scholarship: Sydney Borges, Dominick Calleri, Logan Hill, Jack Stahl, Ray Thompson

GOAL Scholarship (Graves O'Neill Academic Leaders): Claire Kinkelaar, Julia Rea, Elena Salisbury, Ryan Senko

Frances L. Sharp Scholarship: Isabella Incorvia, Isabelle Mastromatteo

The John A. Trecaso Scholarship: Mia Ross

Scholarships Funded Through St. Sebastian Parish School/Parish Groups:

HASA Youth Christian Service Scholarship: Jimmy Bordenkircher, Anne Rea

The Knights of Columbus Council #14255 Reverend Terry Peacock Scholarship: Maddy Burgoyne, Kofi Powers

The Sanctuary Society Service Scholarship: Tori DeKatch

The St. Irene Principal's Scholarship: Lydia Chivers, Jimmy Bordenkircher

FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES FOUR NEW FUNDS

The St. Sebastian Parish Foundation is pleased to announce the creation of four new funds to benefit our church and school. Thank you to all the generous people who have donated to these special funds. If you would like to contribute to these or any funds held by the Foundation, please visit stsebastian.org/foundation/funds-and-endowments, or contact Kathy Holaday at holadayk@stsebastian.org or 330-836-2233 ext. 113.

The Mary Ley Burke Scholarship Endowment: This fund was established in 2019 by Tom Burke '44 in honor of his mother. Tom and his wife Laurie created the scholarship in the belief that teaching children to have faith in God is the greatest gift we can give them – and our best hope for today's divided world. Tom is especially proud to honor his mom by helping families obtain a St. Sebastian education steeped in God's love.

The Denise Maroon Finley Memorial Scholarship Fund: This fund was created in 2019 in memory of Denise Maroon Finley '65, who taught at St. Sebastian Parish School for 23 years. The scholarship will be awarded to an eighth-grade student from St. Sebastian Parish School who will be attending Archbishop Hoban High School. Denise's family is proud to carry

on her love of Catholic education and St. Sebastian Parish School with this scholarship.

St. Sebastian School Employee Spectacular Fund: Parishioners Tracie and Jerry D'Antonio established this fund in 2019 to provide a steady source of funding for our school's teachers and staff to attend the St. Sebastian Spectacular free of charge. Tracie and Jerry are proud to support both the Spectacular as the school's largest annual fundraiser and our dedicated teachers and staff as the people who shape the future leaders of our parish and community.

The St. Gabriel Fund: Initiated in 2020 during the pandemic, the St. Gabriel Fund was established to support the live-streaming as well as the recording and broadcasting efforts of St. Sebastian Parish, including the purchase of equipment (cameras, controllers, cables, software, etc.) and licensing fees. The fund was named after St. Gabriel, the Archangel, who serves as a messenger for God and is the patron saint of messengers, telecommunication workers, and postal workers. It was St. Gabriel who "broadcasted" to Mary that she would become the mother of the Son of God.