

# ALUMNI ARROW

## NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2021

### IN MEMORIAM: REV. WILLIAM KARG, CLASS OF 1952, FOURTH PASTOR OF ST. SEBASTIAN PARISH

The Reverend William Karg, who served as the fourth pastor of St. Sebastian Parish from 1995-2008, passed away April 18, 2021. Fr. Karg grew up in our parish, attending St. Sebastian Parish School (Class of 1952) along with his friends Francis LaRocca, Joseph Kraker, and David McCafferty, all of whom would grow up to be ordained priests on the same day: May 23, 1964. Fr. Kraker would eventually become pastor of St. Vincent de Paul Parish, and Fr. Karg, after serving in several Cleveland parishes, ended up right down the street at St. Sebastian Parish, where he was installed as our pastor by Bishop Pilla on May 20, 1995.

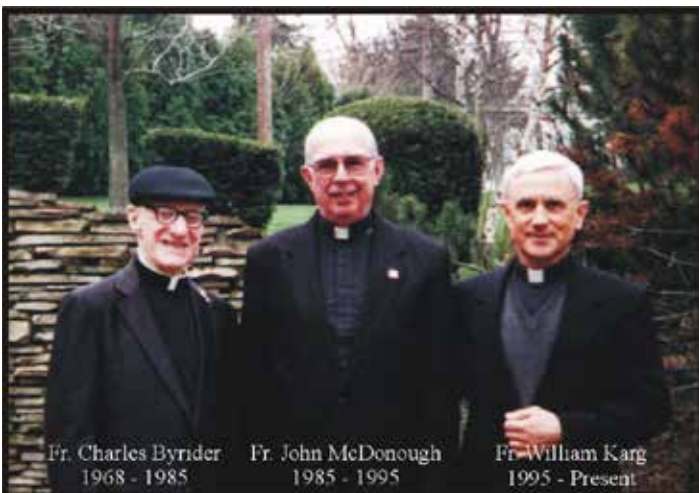
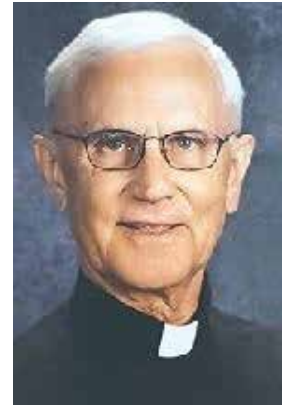
Fr. Karg was known as a person who worked for racial harmony, inclusivity and diversity. With other local pastors, Fr. Karg helped establish and support organizations such as the Peter Maurin Center (an

outreach ministry in south Akron) and Nazareth Housing (a non-profit focused on affordable housing). He was also a life-long learner who studied at Case Western University; St. Mary Seminary, Cleveland; the University of St. Thomas, Rome, Italy; the Jesuit School of Theology, Berkley, CA; Creighton University, Omaha; and the Ignatian Spirituality Institute at John Carroll University.

During his time as pastor of St. Sebastian Parish, Fr. Karg oversaw several major capital improvements, including the renovation and expansion of Monsignor Zwisler Hall, updates to the main school building, the transformation of the convent into the Beringer Center for Early Learning that now houses our preschool and kindergarten classes, and the installation of both the playground and the beautiful fence that wraps around the western end of the campus.

After retiring in 2008, Fr. Karg remained active in the Akron/Cleveland area, directing numerous retreats and providing liturgical services in many parishes, churches and institutions. He also volunteered at the Peter Maurin Center and was a driving force in bringing the Ignatian Spirituality Project to Akron, providing retreats to addicted and homeless people.

Fr. Karg was preceded in death by his parents, Germaine and Frank Karg, and his three siblings, all of whom also graduated from St. Sebastian Parish School: James '43, Thomas '48 and Marie Graham '44. Fr. Karg, who remained active well into his eighties, will be remembered as a welcoming and compassionate person and as a minister to all who had a deep love for this parish and the people of St. Sebastian.



*This photo, which was taken circa 2002, shows three of the five pastors who have served at St. Sebastian Parish. Fr. Karg served as the parish's fourth pastor from 1995-2008, when he retired and our current pastor, Fr. John Valencheck, was appointed. St. Sebastian's first pastor, Msgr. Hilary Zwisler, served from the establishment of the parish in 1928 through 1968.*

# ALUMNI UPDATES

## Class of 1937

**Sarah Jane Witt Kelley** enjoyed a visit this spring from Kathy Zehenni Holaday (Director of Development for the St. Sebastian Parish Foundation) and Fr. John Valencheck (Pastor). Sarah Jane recounted how St. Sebastian Parish was the place of many life occurrences for her. She celebrated many sacraments here, including baptism, First Holy Communion, confirmation, and marriage. Sarah Jane and her late brother, **Ralph Witt '39**, lived on Delia Avenue and walked to school. She attended all eight grades at St. Sebastian and married a fellow alumnus, **John F. Kelley '36**, who happened to be a neighbor and close family friend. Sarah Jane and John were blessed with eight children (including three St. Sebastian alumni: **Sarah Jane Kelley '63**, **Barbara Vitale '64**, and **Paul Kelley '65**) and 10 grandchildren. Among the many memories Sarah Jane shared are:



- Yearly class plays, garden parties, beautiful processions, visits from bishops Schrembs and McFadden
- Favorite Teachers: Sr. Fabian, Sr. Charlotte for 8th grade and Sr. Muriel
- Starting 1st grade at the old Knights of Columbus building on West Market Street
- 45-50 students in each class; walking to the beat of the drum when dismissed from class
- Nicknames weren't used – students were known by their full baptismal names: For example, Francis Joseph Waickman (a 1937 classmate)
- Sr. Marie gave piano lessons in the convent on the 2nd floor
- Carrying chrysanthemums and Elizabeth "Betty" Dies Falb '37 crowning the Blessed Mother Mary in 8th grade



## Class of 1944

When **Jimmy McLane**, an Olympic medalist who got his start in Akron with Firestone Swimming Club, passed away in December of 2020, he was lauded by the International Swimming Hall of Fame as perhaps the greatest swimming tactician in the world during his time. Jimmy won his first Olympic medals while he was in high school: a silver and two gold medals at the 1948 London games. He won a gold medal at the Helsinki Olympics in 1952 as captain of a relay team. He was also captain of the U.S. team that won three medals in 1955 at the Pan American Games in Mexico City. Jimmy was a local and national sensation who broke records as a 13-year-old. As the International Swimming Hall of Fame notes in his biography ([www.ishof.org/jimmy-mclane-\(usa\).html](http://www.ishof.org/jimmy-mclane-(usa).html)): "McLane's greatest contribution to swimming was as a high school boy wonder. He was the forerunner of a youth movement that has put U.S. swimming back on top. In those years (1945-1948), he completely dominated U.S. Outdoor Middle Distance swimming with 13 national and 2 Olympic championships." Jimmy inspired many newspaper and magazine articles and even a comic book feature. He was inducted to the International Swimming Hall of Fame in 1970 and the Summit County Sports Hall of Fame in 1958. Jimmy was living in Ipswich, MA with his wife Carol at the time of his death. He is survived by his siblings Timothy and **Noel '42**, four children, seven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

**BEACON JOURNAL**  
**SPORTS**  
SECTION C  
AKRON, OHIO,  
JULY 30, 1944

**13-Year-Old Jimmy McLane Wins National Swim Honors**

Special To The Beacon Journal

CLEMENTON, N. J.—Jimmy McLane, 13-year-old half-pint sized boy from Akron, representing the Firestone Swimming Club, won the National Junior A.A.U. long-distance swimming championship for men here Saturday.

His time of 1 hour, 16 minutes and 33.4 seconds was almost 10 full seconds to the good over Ray Mullane of the United States navy, representing the New York Athletic Club. Mullane's time for the three miles was 1:26:03.

Following in order were Harry Jagers, Philadelphia Turner club in 1:29:46, Lewis Piroos, Grand Central Railroad Y.M.C.A., 1:31:25; Lewis Cassidy, U. S. coast guard, Curtis Bay, Md., 1:37:35; Otto Wulff, Grand Central Railroad Y.M.C.A., 1:48:37; and J. E. Wylie, Grand Central Railroad Y.M.C.A., New York City, 2:1:29.

McLane's time set a new national record. He clipped almost four minutes off the old mark of 1:30:4 held by Donald De Forest of Chester, Pa., Y.M.C.A., set in 1942.

The diminutive Akronite was 700 yards in the lead at the finish. He drew No. 4 position at the start, was 10 feet in front after 25 yards, and from there on until the finish line he was in a race against time alone.

He did the quarter in 5:26 and led by 30 yards. He did the half mile in 11:25 and led by 100 yards. His mile time was 23:39 and his lead was at least 200 yards. At the end he had lapped his competitors for fifth, sixth and seventh positions, swimming over a quarter-mile course.

Jimmy McLane weighs 112 pounds, graduated from St. Sebastian's school in June. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. James McLane, at 42 Paige av.

**New Champion!**

Courtesy of the Akron Beacon Journal

## Class of 1945

After learning about the recent designation of funds to the school from the Helen Barry Hamlin Library Fund of the St. Sebastian Parish Foundation, **Frances Gillen Yahner** sent in this memory: "I was librarian when Mrs. Hamlin died - I received a huge amount of checks and answered every one of them!"

## Class of 1945, continued

**Sr. Maria Anna Melody '72** shared a charming video from circa 1937 of a May procession, possibly May Crowning, that includes her mother, **Mary Jo Seikel Melody '45** when she was about seven years old. This snapshot of the video shows young girls carrying bouquets during the procession. You can find the video under the "Special Features" playlist on the parish's YouTube channel ([www.YouTube.com/StSebastianParish/playlists](http://www.YouTube.com/StSebastianParish/playlists)).



## Class of 1952

**Bob Meadows** and his wife Skip live in Safety Harbor, Florida. Bob is retired from Akron Public Schools. His three children are all in their 50s. His son Andy and his wife Carrie are parents of his three grandchildren, Alex (25), Chase (23) and Marleigh (2), and they are expecting a fourth child this summer. "We are delighted that they all live close to us," notes Bob.

## Class of 1955

**James Wendelken** and his wife Penelope live in Corpus Christi, Texas. James, who is retired, has two adult children, Susan (48) and James (45). James reports that he turned 80 in February and recently moved from a house in Sun City, Texas, to a condo in Corpus Christi, Texas. During his long career at IBM, he worked in Austin (24 years, PC development), in Houston with NASA (7 years, Space Shuttle), the New York Stock Exchange (1 year), in Washington, DC with NASA (3 years, Apollo). He also worked for two years for the Army as faculty at the Army Adjutant General School.

## Class of 1961

**Larz Pearson** checked in from his home in Alexandria, Virginia. Larz reports that he is retired and surviving COVID and year-long quarantine.

## Class of 1966

Check out this vintage St. Sebastian jacket that was donated to the school by Lynette McMullen, wife of **Tim McMullen '66**. Tim passed away in November of 2020.

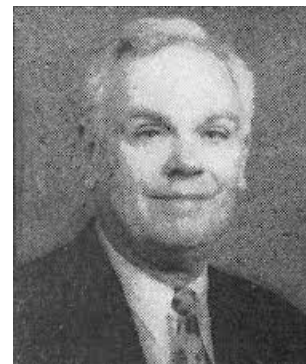
Tim and his sister, **Peggy McMullen Cogar '64**, both felt connected to St. Sebastian even though they didn't graduate with their classes because their family moved to the Cuyahoga Falls/Northampton area in 1963. According to Peggy, they both attended St. Sebastian Parish School for most of their grade school years, and they both received First Communion at St. Sebastian Church. If any alumni know if the jacket was used by sports teams or band members, please send us an email: [alumni@stsebastian.org](mailto:alumni@stsebastian.org).



## Classes of 1973-76

**Dennis O'Connell '75** wrote in about his former teacher, Charles Thomas Cummins: "Reading the newsletter reminded me of the recent passing of one of St. Sebastian's greatest teachers ever, Mr. Tom Cummins. Mr. Cummins taught seventh grade in the mid-70's. He was beloved and feared, admired more than most -- and deservedly so. He was revered and is remembered with affection. Mr. Cummins had a profound impact on me and the path I chose. I'm sure the same can be said by many other fortunate students." Charles "Tom" Cummins passed away January 18, 2021. Several other alumni wrote notes on Mr. Cummins' memorial webpage, including **Timothy Davis '73**, who wrote, "I had the privilege of being one of Mr. Cummins' students at St. Sebastian in Akron. He was an exceptional teacher: he succeeded in getting a bunch of 7th and 8th graders to enjoy reading Shakespeare. His classes were engaging and very lively. He brought out the best in us." In the Winter 2018 Alumni Newsletter, **Lewie Seikel '73** noted that Mr. Cummins "used to stand on his desk and read excerpts

from the book assignments – similar to Robin Williams’ character in the movie Dead Poets Society.” And **Sue Preston ’76** from Denver wrote, “What an amazing experience having him as a teacher at St. Sebastian, also a little frightening. He instilled in me a love of current events and taught me to raise my hand. Such a caring and dedicated teacher. He will be missed.”



## Class of 1981

**Katie Dannemiller** was featured in an article on [baseballamerica.com](http://baseballamerica.com) about how she faced the challenges of starting up a new baseball season after the pandemic canceled the entire 2020 season for minor league baseball. Katie is vice president of baseball operations for the Greensboro Grasshoppers of Greensboro, NC.

## Class of 1984

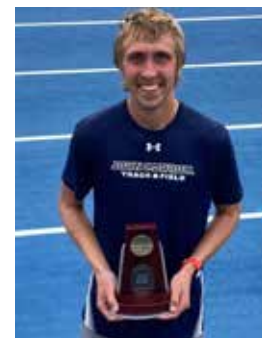
In May, teachers and staff from St. Sebastian Parish School enjoyed a teacher appreciation and team building outing at Thirsty Dog Brewing Co. that included a personal tour by co-owner **John Najeway ’84** highlighting Akron history. Thanks to John and his parents, Stan and **Patricia Long Najeway ’44**, for covering the costs of the event.

## Class of 1998

**Rhea Boyd, MD** is a pediatrician as well as a public health and child health advocate in the San Francisco Bay area who works at the Palo Alto Medical Foundation and the University of California San Francisco Benioff Children’s Hospital Oakland. In March of 2021, she wrote an editorial published in the New York Times about the vaccine access for Black people, and throughout the pandemic, she has appeared as an expert on many national TV shows and podcasts, including a Facebook Live conversation about vaccines with former President Barack Obama, Valerie Jarrett (former advisor to President Obama), and Eva Longoria (actress and producer).

## Class of 2015

**Alex Phillip** earned top honors at the 2021 NCAA Division III Outdoor National Track Finals in Greensboro, NC, May 27-29. Alex, a sophomore at John Carroll University, took second place in the 5000m race with a time of 14:10:28. Alex also took fifth place in the 10,000m race and earned two All-American awards.



## Class of 2017

**Theresa Hagey** was awarded the OHSAA Archie Griffin Sportsmanship Award in recognition of her exemplary accomplishments and sportsmanship. Theresa, who earned an athletic scholarship to Ohio University for cross country and track, helped lead St. Vincent-St. Mary High School’s girls track team to district and regional titles as well as a third place team finish this spring. **Mary Jewell**, a leader of STVM’s Future Medics club and the school blood drives, earned the Red Cross Volunteer Award as well as the Marianist Service Award for completing the most service hours over four years. **Matthew Dennée**, **Jeanie Hunt** and **Andrew McSteen** earned honors as the top ten students in their graduating class at STVM.

## 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. Email us at [alumni@stsebastian.org](mailto:alumni@stsebastian.org) or fill out the on-line form at [alumni.stsebastian.org/contact.html](http://alumni.stsebastian.org/contact.html).

## Classes of 2018-2020

**Sawyer Huckabee ’18** was elected senior class president at Archbishop Hoban High School. **Veronica Savitski ’18** and **Elizabeth Savitski ’19**, sisters, both earned Hoban’s Monsignor Richard A. Dowd School Spirit Award for outstanding contributions to the Hoban community. **Mason Reiss ’20** was accepted into Columbia University’s summer immersion program for high school students to study computer programming.

## CONGRATULATIONS 2021-22 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Congratulations to the following winners of scholarships for the 2021-22 school year! These students earned a total of 30 scholarships worth a combined \$18,500. The winners were recognized on March 25 at the annual Foundation Scholarship Mass, which was watched by the entire student body on a live-stream feed.

### Scholarships Funded Through the St. Sebastian Parish Foundation

The Mary Ley Burke Scholarship: Louisa Dennée, Luca Hall, Frances Knauer, John Finn Rafferty

The Christopher James Consilio Memorial Scholarship: Reid Armstead, Jacob Dennée, Luke Kindbom, Gianna Pillitiere, Angelo Puglia, Jackson Vesco

The Denise Maroon Finley Memorial Scholarship: Luke Saus

The Gerstenmaier Family Scholarship: Lily Hanchin, Isabelle Mastromatteo

GOAL Scholarship (Graves O'Neill Academic Leaders): Sadie Borges, Nevaeh Brunson, Lydia Chivers, Aubrey Coates, Caitlin Horning, Christian Trenor, Jude Rothkopf

Frances L. Sharp Scholarship: Isabella Incorvia

The John A. Trecaso Scholarship: Claire Kinkelaar, Matthew Large

### Scholarships Funded Through St. Sebastian Parish School/Parish Related Groups

HASA Youth Christian Service Scholarship: Isabelle Mastromatteo, Niklas Reeder

Knights of Columbus Council #14255 Deacon Terry Peacock Memorial Scholarship: Claire Kinkelaar, Niklas Reeder

The Sanctuary Society Service Scholarship: Luke Kindbom

The St. Irene Principal's Scholarship: Lily Hanchin, Isabella Incorvia



## ✠✠ *We Will Remember ...* ✠✠

The Alumni Association extends our sincerest sympathy to the families and friends of our deceased alumni (Feb. 2021 to mid-June 2021). 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).

Mary Lou Elwood Mamas '40 March 30, 2021  
Richard M. Hamlin, Sr. '41, February 24, 2021  
Richard S. Bader '42, May 1, 2021  
Mary Ann Howes Peters '42, March 31, 2020  
James P. McLane '44, December 13, 2020  
John C. Beringer, Sr. '45, February 5, 2021  
Richard A. Keeney '46, November 28, 2020  
James E. Meadows, Sr. '48, May 8, 2021

Rev. William D. Karg '52, April 18, 2021  
Linda Maglione Schafer '54, May 5, 2021  
Tricia Osborne Phillips '55, May 3, 2021  
Margaret Pacentia Miller '63, April 26, 2021  
Timothy G. McMullen '66, November 10, 2020  
Gary M. Schutzbach '72, December, 2020  
Michael A. Riccardi '96, June 7, 2021  
Patrick Humston '07, March 26, 2021

## JOIN US TO CELEBRATE THE FOUNDATION'S 50TH!

St. Sebastian Parish Foundation  
50th Anniversary Celebration  
Thursday, September 16, 2021  
6:30-9:00 p.m. - Zwisler Hall



All are invited! Please join the St. Sebastian Parish Foundation in celebrating its 50th anniversary on September 16. For 50 years, the Foundation has been dedicated to providing financial support for the spiritual, educational, recreational and physical needs of our church and school. The event will celebrate our parishioners, alumni, school families, staff, faculty and friends whose generosity has helped the Foundation to provide over \$11.5 million in support of our parish since it was established in 1971.

To R.S.V.P. or if you have questions, please contact Kathy Holaday, Foundation Director of Development (330-836-2233 x113, [holadayk@stsebastian.org](mailto:holadayk@stsebastian.org)).

## SUMMER EVENTS TO BENEFIT THE CONSILIO MEMORIAL FUND

FRIDAY, AUGUST 20, 8AM

**Christopher Consilio Memorial Golf Outing**  
Paradise Lake Country Club  
1900 Randolph Road, Mogadore



- \$100 per golfer/\$400 foursome, 4 player scramble
- Includes breakfast, snack at turn, lunch, 2 beer tickets.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 21, 4-9 PM

**The Christopher Consilio Memorial Party**  
Zwisler Hall, St. Sebastian Parish

- \$10/person, \$300 for 8-person party pack
- Featuring a beer/wine garden, Swenson's food truck, live music, and craft brews.



For more details or to register for either event, please go to: [ChristopherJamesMemorialFund.org](http://ChristopherJamesMemorialFund.org). Proceeds will benefit The Christopher James Consilio Memorial Fund of the St. Sebastian Parish Foundation, which provides high school scholarships for St. Sebastian graduates and funds for student enrichment at St. Sebastian and St. Vincent-St. Mary High School.



**ALUMNI ASSOCIATION WELCOMES 33 GRADUATES FROM THE CLASS OF 2021:** Reid Armstead, Xavier Bartilson, Gionni Ciarlariello, Jacob Dennée, Owen Denowski, Cameron Greenwood, Lola Hall, Lily Hanchin, Alex Hayes, Andrew Karhoff, Reese Kelly, Gus Khayyat, Payton Kidder, Luke Kindbom, Claire Kinkelaar, Matthew Langen, Matthew Large, Agatha Llewellyn, Sophia Magee, Isabelle Mastromatteo, Briana McCafferty, Teagan McCafferty, Gianna Pillitiere, Angelo Puglia, Niklas Reeder, Clarice Regan, Alessandra Reyes, Luke Saus, Sebastian Singer, Joshua Skovira, Heidi Vereecken, Jackson Vesco, Benjamin Wisberger. Their high school choices include: St. Vincent-St. Mary (20), Archbishop Hoban (5), Walsh Jesuit (2), Firestone (3) and other local schools (3).

**CLASS OF 2021 FAMILY LEGACIES:** The Class of 2021 included five children/grandchildren of alumni: Jacob Dennée (son of **Anne Morgan Dennée '85**), Payton Kidder (son of **Michael Kidder '90** and grandson of **Scott Kidder '53**), Matthew Large (son of **Brian Large '95** and grandson of **James Large '66**), Joshua Skovira (son of **Alissa Danckaert Skovira '84** and grandson of **Kathleen Krill Danckaert '55**), and Jackson Vesco (son of **Julie Bachmann Vesco '86** and grandson of **John Bachmann '49**).