



THE SHAMROCK

ST. PATRICK PARISH & ALUMNI NEWS

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My American Idol Experience

by Shelby Ann Marie Miller, St. Patrick High School Junior

Since I was little, I knew that I wanted to be a singer. I was in second grade when my family first realized that I was passionate about music, and I have continued to pursue my musical dreams from that point on. Music is a way for me to get my point across; it is my escape, my encouragement and my hope. When I turned fifteen, I knew that I wanted to try out for American Idol. Last summer that dream came true.

On registration day my mom and I sat in the line of Idol hopefuls for over eight hours. I had already experienced the nerves and excitement of being in Atlanta,

and was praying that God would use me for His plan, no matter what that plan might be.

Later that same day we had a great conversation with Micah, a previous Idol contestant, about our faith and its role in our lives. Back at the hotel, I was running through my songs, contemplating changing my first song to *Jesus Take the Wheel* by Carrie Underwood, when my mom told me to come look at something. On the cover page of Micah's Facebook page were the words **Jesus Take the Wheel**. My mom looked at me, and we

knew that this would be the song that I would do for my first audition.

The following month I made it through the second and third rounds of executive auditions in Atlanta. Then it was time for the celebrity round of auditions. So it was back on the road to Atlanta for me, my sister, and mom. With



the Bible in our suitcase, holy water and holy oil in my mom's purse—you could say that we were well-prepared! As I was directed into the small Idol chamber to wait for my audition, I continued to pray. I walked into the audition room and saw judges Keith Urban, Jen-

nifer Lopez, and Harry Connick Jr. sitting in front of me. They joked that I was finally a fifteen-year old who looked like a fifteen-year old. I started out with the Carrie Underwood song "Wasted" and they all loved it. They wanted to hear more, so without any planning, I said, "I can sing something in Spanish." They laughed and asked if I spoke Spanish to which I replied, "I take it in high school..." By the time I was done with the song, Jennifer Lopez was singing

Shamrocks Make a Difference in the World!

Two years ago a reader of The Shamrock suggested that we add a column to the newsletter that focused on how St. Patrick alumni are making a difference in the world.

The idea was excellent, and though the new column never materialized, looking back over the past issues, it is evident that Shamrocks are making a difference, a very nice difference, in the world!

This issue features more of those stories. You'll read about a father and son who felt called to serve their country. You'll read about a grad who became a successful businessman and was able to financially support a fledgling program that has since grown beyond anyone's dreams. You'll read about a mom who discovered that helping others was the best way to heal her own broken heart.

These stories don't even scratch the surface. There are hundreds more that could be told.

If you know of alumni who should be recognized, please let us know. It is a pleasure and an honor to talk to them about their accomplishments. Their stories also serve as inspiration to the students who are currently enrolled at St. Patrick School. Hopefully, we are telling our young people about those alumni, who walked the same hallways, studied in the same classrooms, and knelt in the same pews that they do. If today's students carry on the tradition, Shamrocks will continue to make a difference in the world!

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Boys' Choir Contest

AMERICAN IDOL
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This photo ran in the last issue of *The Shamrock*, along with a contest to see who could identify the most people.

Mary Fran (Schaefer, 1970) VanOstran was the only person to send in an entry. She wrote, "I'm not sure why I entered this contest. I couldn't remember a lot of the older 'choir boys' names. But, it was a lot of fun reminiscing!" Mary Fran managed to correctly identify 36 of the choir members. The people in the picture, beginning with the back row and working forward are as follows:

Row one: Herman Russman, Leo Russman, John Russman, John Schneider, Sam Marvin, James Moses, Jim Thompson, unknown, Elgin Smith. Row two: Bill Coster, Dick Schneider, Harold Schneider, Dick Schrauben, unknown, unknown. Jim Russman. Row three: Roger Cook, Marv Schrauben, Doug Smith, Steve Spitzley, Ron Cook, Tom Hartwig, Mike Moran, Fritz Russman, Frank Goff, Steve Smith, Nick Pline, Dave Pohl. Row four: Terry Piggott, Donnie Ham, Gary Fedewa, Jim Moses, Tom Schneider, Fred Denny, Fred Schrauben, Denny Schneider, Mike Chamberlain. Row five: Terry Gilbert, Jim Schneider, Keith Huhn, Dan Bengal, Tim Chartrand, Mike Smith, Neil Bauer, Jim Simon, Charlie Schrauben.

Mary Fran won a \$50 gas card, donated by ESI Heating. *(By the way, there are still three people in the photo that we can't identify (See the three circled faces in the photo). Do any of our readers know who they are?)*

Reminders

We hear frequently from "younger" alumni that their birth announcement/engagement/wedding/graduation was never sent in to the newsletter because, "I figured my mom would do it." Just a reminder—Don't rely on your parents to send us YOUR news. The *Shamrock* contact info is on page 19. Send a quick email from your smart phone when something happens in your life!

And, parents, once your adult child has established his/her own address, please let us know. If that child's newsletter is still being delivered to your house—even though the kid is 30 or older—it's time to make an update! Again, use the contact info on page 19.

along and the room was filled with smiles. I will never forget the moment that Keith Urban stopped me and said, "Okay, now I am just being selfish; I could listen to you all day." They handed me the Hollywood Ticket! My family was crying and screaming with excitement.

As that long day was ending, my grandpa pulled me aside and asked, "Have you prayed yet?" I replied that I had and he said, "I mean have you really thanked God yet? We need to remember to thank God for our blessings as well as ask Him for what we need." This really struck me and has stayed with me every day since.

The next step of my Idol journey, Hollywood Week, would test my faith the most. This week was filled with drama and exhaustion, and without my faith, I don't know how I would have made it through. I made it through the first two rounds of Hollywood Week; then it was time for the Group Round. I had made friends with some other contestants who were close to my age and also strong in their faith, and fortunately, we were able to choose our own groups, so we stayed together. We were all under 17, we got along well, and we had supportive moms. This meant that there were no conflicts and no drama, so it meant no "televised air time." We all advanced to the next round, praying together the whole time. The fourth round would be a solo performance with the band. I performed *Wide Open Spaces* by the Dixie Chicks. This was yet another challenge for my faith. I had only thirty songs to choose from, and I wanted to be sure that each song I performed was a true representation of who I am.

As Hollywood Week drew to an end, the final 75 contestants were separated into three groups and placed into separate rooms. My room was let go that night, but it was not the end of my journey.

The next morning I woke up and opened the daily scripture verse from that Little Black Book we get in church. In that moment, I truly felt God's presence as I read the message, "Our plan is not always God's plan; His plan for us may take longer than we think." It explained that every challenge we face in life brings us closer to the path that God has for us. He spoke and I listened.

I came back home, surrounded by support and love from my family, school, and community. I continue to speak to others about my journey and sing for my parish. It's crazy to hear someone say that I am an inspiration to them, and those moments mean the most to me. I did not compete in American Idol for fame or money; I wanted to make a difference. We are all called to be God's hands and feet in the world; and I wanted to show others that when you have God on your side, anything is possible. I believe that God is working in my life every single day. Although my Idol journey came to an end, my mission continues.

In The Spotlight

Dan Trierweiler (1954)

In May of 1992 the guest speaker at St. Patrick School's graduation ceremony spoke about his mother and her belief in the value of education. He told the graduates that his mother rebelled against her own husband by insisting that their only son stay in school past the eighth grade instead of dropping out to work on the family farm.



That speaker was Dan Trierweiler, a 1954 graduate of St. Patrick School. Dan's father grudgingly allowed him to attend high school, but he still expected Dan to do all of his chores before he left for school. "Thus, I often walked into school with manure on my shoes," says Dan today. "But, I never let those smelly shoes be an excuse not to go. Instead they gave me an incentive to work hard enough to get off the farm."

Dan worked hard at everything he did. From his stint in the United States Army to factory jobs at Barley Earhart, Mitchell Bentley, and General Motors to finally attending college, Dan Trierweiler always worked hard.

In 1967, Dan had the opportunity to obtain a franchise for Burger King, an up-and-coming hamburger chain that had 272 restaurants nationwide. Dan's restaurant, located in Grand Rapids, was #273. By 1989 he owned 38 Burger Kings and ten Outback Steakhouses. Dan and two other Burger King entrepreneurs were responsible for the restaurant's motto, "Have it your way."

In 1989, something else was happening in America. As the result of legislation passed in 1975, students with disabilities were being mainstreamed into regular classrooms at an unprecedented rate. The laws guaranteed a free and appropriate public education to all students with disabilities. Twenty of those students attended Grand Rapids Forest Hills High School. Four of them worked for Dan at Burger King.

It was while conversing with those special education students that Dan learned of a great need. After months

of fighting with administrators and a year of battling with politicians, their class had been given approval to attend the prestigious Space Camp in Huntsville, Alabama. But, in addition to the grueling curriculum it required, their teacher was also struggling to raise the \$50,000 cost of the trip.

Dan met with the teacher, Mike Kersjes, was impressed with the endeavor, and offered to cover the entire cost.

The group became the first special education students in the world to attend Space Camp, where, due to their hard work and preparation they took home trophies in every category of competition.

In 2002, Mike Kersjes, wrote a book entitled *A Smile As Big As the Moon*, chronicling the adventure and crediting "Big Dan" for making it all possible. In 2011 the Hallmark Station purchased the rights to the story, and in January 2012, *A Smile as Big as the Moon*, starring John Corbett aired on national television to a viewing audience of 6.9 million. On May 9, 2013, Dan travelled to California where producers Dan Paulson



and Brent Shields received Emmy Awards for their Hallmark Hall of Fame Production. Dan received an honorary Emmy for his involvement.

For reasons unknown, Burger King would not permit their business name to be used in the movie, so the restaurant was portrayed as Big Dan's Burger Shed, as seen in the photo above.

The moral of this story is that one person CAN make a difference in the world. Mike Kersjes had the idea; his stu-

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What's Happening?

BIRTHS

To Zach (2005) and Julie (Schafer, 2005) Wight a daughter, Elizabeth Jude, on September 21, 2013.

To David (2001) and Shelby (Henry's) Logel a daughter, Abigail Jo, on June 26, 2013. She joins sister, Katherine Ann.

To Douglas (1996) and Amy Logel a daughter, Leah Kay, on September 10, 2013. She joins sister, Allyson Jane and brother, James Douglas.

To Ryan and Kayla (Hengesbach, 2005) Snellenberger a daughter, Ava Rae, on July 24, 2013.

To Ben (1998) and Laura (Goodman, 1999) Pung of Lebanon, Indiana a son, Brayden David, on June 28, 2013. He joins sister, Brooklin, 2.

To Brett (2005) and Tara (Thelen, 2006) Klein of Wyoming, Michigan a daughter, Ava Elizabeth, on August 23, 2013.

To Ross (2002) and Lacy Schneider a son, Oliver Earl, on December 6, 2013. He joins brother, Noah, 18 months.

To Amy (Keusch, 1996) and Jameel Abdo of Grand Ledge a daughter, Modelly Jean, on December 30, 2013. She joins two brothers, Eben, 6, and Vance, 4.

To Jaci (Hamberg, 1993) and Michael McCracken of Grand Rapids a son, Joshua Bradley, on January 6, 2014.

To Paula (Hamberg, 1994) and Ryan Eklund a daughter, Alyssa Ryan, on March 1, 2013. She joins sisters Renell and Tara.

To Craig (1995) and Becca Fedewa a son, Connor Robert, on September 2, 2013.

To Chad (2000) and Tana Fedewa a daughter, Violet Leona, on November 6, 2013. She joins sister, Evelyn.

To Jim (1994) and Debbie Lansdell a son, Evan James, on February 13, 2014. He joins triplet sisters, Amelia, Jordyn, and Olivia age 3.

To Jack and Nicole (Mosser, 1996) Hoedman of Lowell a son, Isaac James, on October 16, 2013. He joins sisters, Rebekah, 18 months and Chloe, 13.

To Jason (1991) and Jennifer (Thelen, 1993) Chamberlain a son, Ethan Thomas, on Oc-

tober 21, 2013. He joins siblings, TJ, 6, Reese, 3, and Bree, 2.

To Lee and Tanya (Stiffler, 1997) Schneider a son, Caleb Philip, on February 9, 2014. He joins siblings, Austin, 14, Madelyn, 10, Autumn, 7, and Brooke, 6.

WEDDINGS

Brad Logel (2007) married Sarah Bonfigli on June 22, 2013 in Carnegie, Pennsylvania. The couple resides in Bridgeville, Pennsylvania.

Mick Hamberg (1999) and Anastasia Nienaltowski were married on November 23, 2013 at Blessed Trinity Church in Frankenmuth, Michigan.

ENGAGEMENTS

Ross Klein (2008) and Camille LeFevre of St. Charles, Michigan will be married on July 26, 2014.

Jacob Gross (2008) and Abby Nurenborg of Westphalia will be married on September 20, 2014 at St Mary's Catholic Church in Westphalia.

ANNIVERSARIES

Dan and Kathy Spitzley celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on October 26, 2013. They were guests of honor at a party held in their party barn on October 27. The couple has five children and 16 grandchildren.

Joyce (Schrauben, 1957) and Joe LaFleur of Lansing celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on January 4, 2014. The couple has three daughters and ten grandchildren.

Roger and Carolyn Manning celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with an open house on December 29, 2013. The couple were married on January 4, 1964 at St. Mary's Church in Westphalia.

Raymond and Helen Krzeminski celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on October 3, 2013. The couple has five children, five grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

OTHER HAPPENINGS

Amy (Keusch, 1996) Abdo completed her Masters Degree in Human Resources and Labor Relations from Michigan State University in December, 2013.

Debbie Majinska of Eagle along with Deanna Talcott Pyle of Mason wrote a Christmas story which was picked up by the Hallmark Channel. The movie, *Hats Off to Christmas*, debuted on December 13, 2013 and was re-run five more times.

Film maker Aaron Russman (2000) has released another film, *Fear of the Crooked Corpse*. The film debuted at the Ionia Theater on February 1, 2014.

Joseph Simon (2004) received a Degree of Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine from the MSU College of Osteopathic Medicine in May 2013. He is currently doing his residency at the Detroit Medical Center, Huron Valley Hospital in Commerce Michigan. Joseph did his undergraduate at the University of Michigan, and received his Bachelor of Science Degree from College of Literature, Science and the Arts in 2009

IN MEMORY OF

Clarabelle Nurenborg was born on Nov 13, 1924 to Willard & Beulah (Doty) Durkee. She attended Coon and Loomis Schools and graduated from eighth grade from the Benedict School in Ionia. She attended Ionia High School graduating in 1942. She worked at the Ionia High School Office and then worked for W.C. Cribbs and A.A. Griffith in the Ionia County Extension Office at the Court House where she assisted with 4-H work. She graduated from Michigan State College (now MSU) in Home Economics. She was Secretary of the Home & School Association of St Patrick's Church in Portland and Ionia County Extension President of Groups. She was President of the American Legion Auxiliary Dale E. Hyland post #129 of Portland for many years. She was on the Portland Federal Credit Union Board of Directors for 40 years retiring in 2007. She served as secretary, treasurer, vice president and president on that board. She worked at Valley City Milling Company in Portland and then retired from Barley Earhart Company of Portland after 32years. She married Robert Densmore Sr. of Portland on September 22, 1945. He preceded her in death on Nov 7, 1971. She then married Elmer Nurenborg on Aug 22, 1974 and he preceded her in death on Aug 30, 1996. Also preceding her was daughter Kayla, daughter-in-law, Marian Densmore, step sons, Larry and Leon Nurenborg. She is survived by her children, Bobby Densmore, Toni (Larry) Blundy of Portland and Karen (Roger) Keefer of Sunfield. She is survived by nine grand children; 13 great grandchildren; two sisters Wilna Perry of Flint and Mary Ann Keast of Hastings and Texas; and many nieces and

nephews; step-children, Bruce (Lucy) Nurenberg, Alan (Mary) Nurenberg of Westphalia, Ken (Marlene) Nurenberg of Sunfield, Joyce Kennedy (Ken Shumnuick); step daughters-in-law: Gladys Heckman of Westphalia and Sara Nurenberg of St Johns. 12 step-grandchildren and many step-great grandchildren.

Alice Marie Spitzley, age 78, of Sunfield was taken home to the Lord on September 10, 2013. Alice was born on January 15, 1935 in Westphalia, MI the daughter of William and Esther (Wirth) Schafer. She was a graduate of Pewamo High School and began her career at Farm Bureau. Later became a stay-at-home mom to care for her seven children. Alice eventually went to work for Meijer's in Ionia and retired after 20 years of service. She loved to follow her children sporting events and later her grandchildren. Alice was a devoted wife, mother and grandmother. Alice married Peter Simon on August 11, 1956, and together they had seven loving and devoted children. She married Roy Spitzley on August 21, 1987, and they shared 26 years of wonderful memories. She was preceded in death by her parents, several aunts and uncles, Peter Simon, and her grandson, Adam Miller. Surviving are her husband, Roy Spitzley; children, Ron (Carol) Simon, Barb (Ben) Wesley, Bruce (Kristine) Simon, Scott (Lorri) Simon, Therese (Jeff) Hudak, Beth (Dennis) Hagan, and Dawn (Ross) Feldpausch; step children, Tim (Jodi) Spitzley, Bryan (Sue) Spitzley, Cindy (Phil) Ritter, Brenda (Dan) Armbruster, and Mark (Katie) Spitzley; 28 grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; siblings, Cornelia (Jim) Keilen, Julie Atkins, Julianne (Joe) Lenneman, Paul (Ruth) Schafer, Al (Doreen) Schafer, Mike (Jan) Schafer, and Charlie (Sue) Schafer; several sisters and brothers-in-law and many nieces and nephews. Memorial contributions may be made to Ionia Area Hospice or Green Acres Assisted Living, in memory of Alice.

Shirley (Schuchard) Marks, age 83, died September 27, 2013 in her Haslett home, surrounded by her loved ones. She was born on October 7, 1929 to Wilburt and Margaret in Detroit. Shirley was the sixth of nine children and despite losing her mother at age ten, she managed to pay her way through college earning her nursing degree in 1950. After the premature death of her husband in 1973, she resumed her career and worked at Sparrow Hospital for over 30 years. Shirley loved sports, gardening, reading, and was a devoted mother and grandmother. She is preceded in death by her husband, Walter Marks and sons Timothy and Joseph. She is survived by six children, Gregory (Linda) Marks, Peg (Kent Tisdale) Marks, James Marks, Jerry (Denise) Marks, Patricia (John) Rock, and Linda (Steve) Trierweiler; 22 grandchildren; 17 great-grandchildren and a special dog, Sophie. Memorial contributions may be

made to Sparrow Hospice or the Ingham Co. Animal Shelter in memory of Shirley.

Lawrence Joseph Klein, age 71, loving husband, dad, and grandpa passed away on Sunday, September 29, 2013 after a long hard-fought battle with cancer. He was born on March 28, 1942 in Lansing, the son of Norman and Marie (Werner) Klein. Larry was a member of St. Patrick Catholic Church and the K of C #2168 in Portland. He loved his family and loved being a grandpa. He was an avid fan of the Detroit Tigers, enjoyed English walnuts, going to casinos, traveling, sprint car racing and just sitting on his patio listening to the wind chimes. On April 25, 1964 he married Rita Smith. Larry is preceded in death by his parents; in-laws Edwin and Regina Smith; sister and brothers-in-law Geannie (Bob) Shattuck, Bill Stajos, Christie Goodman, Wayne Gray, Donald and Richard Smith. Surviving are his wife of 49 years, Rita; children Dennis (Victoria) Klein, Sandra (Randy Helmer) Klein, Kenneth (Kim Johnson) Klein; three grandchildren; siblings James (Jean) Klein, Jan Stajos, Thomas (Cathy) Klein, Colleen (Ron) Gladding; in-laws Jerome (Jewel) Smith, Jim (Linda) Smith, Patricia Goodman, Evelyn Smith, Marilyn Smith and Liz Gray; many nieces and nephews. For those wishing, memorial contributions may be made to St. Patrick School in memory of Larry.

Patricia Hoppes, age 86, passed away on Tuesday, October 8, 2013. She was born on November 24, 1926 in Chicago, IL the daughter of Merton and Irma (LaTour) Putnam. Mrs. Hoppes was a member of St. Patrick Catholic Church, the Resurrection Choir, and the V.F.W. Post #4090 Ladies Auxiliary. Pat loved following her grandchildren' activities, quilting, baking, her flower garden, and traveling to Florida as well as the Holy Land. Preceding her in death were her husband, Merlin Hoppes; daughters, Barbara Schrauben and Michele Hoppes; brother, Merton "Bud" Putnam; sister, Anne Rosterfor; son-in-law, Pat Seal; grandchildren, Jody Seal, Jill Wilcox and Brandon Schrauben. Surviving are her children, Sue Seal, Janet (Mike) Hyland, Patty (Gary) Bogard, Carol (Paul) Martin, Roxie Wilkins, Sherri (Dean) Fedewa, Terri (Jack) Schrauben, and Laurie (Jeff) Cathcart; 18 grandchildren; 33 great-grandchildren. For those desiring, memorial contributions may be made to St. Patrick School, in memory of Pat.

Linda L. Aseltine, lost her long battle with cancer peacefully at her home surrounded by friends and family at the age of 61 years old. She was born on September 12, 1952 in Lansing, MI the daughter of Donald and Lorraine (Hoppes) Ham, Sr. Linda began her career at TRW at the age of 26 in 1978 and she remained there until retirement on October 1, 2007 after 29 years of service. Linda enjoyed sewing, crafts, cooking, playing cards

with Aunt Martie, taking trips with her aunts and sister, and was an animal lover, spoiling her three dogs. She loved spending time with her grandkids and daughter. She will be greatly missed and loved by all who met her. Preceding her in death were her son, Bobby Aseltine; mother, Lorraine Putnam (Hoppes); step-dad, Bud Putnam; step-brother, David Putnam; step-sister, Leanne Putnam; step-mother, Linda Ham; father-in-law, Kenneth Aseltine; special friend, Kenny Trierweiler. Surviving are her daughter, Tisa Meyers; son-in-law, Scott Meyers; sister, Annie Ham; special friend, Mike Meyers; brother, Donnie (Kris) Ham; step sister, Kathy Fabor; father, Donald G. Ham; step brothers, Duane (Jenny) Ham and Dan (Sandee) Ham; step sister, Melinda (Roy) Morais; two grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews.

Our beautiful son, Gabriel James Ebaugh came into our life on October 23, 2013, and then was called to heaven too soon on November 12, 2013. We will greatly miss him, but will cherish the short time we had. Gabriel is survived by his parents, Jason and Jodi Ebaugh of Grand Ledge; brother Caelum and sister Kendahl; grandparents: Chris (Sheryl) Ebaugh, Linda Jones, and Cliff (Brenda Hull) Jones; great grandparents, Catherine Ebaugh and Lawrence (Sharon) Hamm; 4 uncles: Jereme (Alyssa), Justin (Sarah), Jacob (Amanda) and Dan Jones. For those desiring, memorial contributions can be given to the Ronald MacDonald House or C.S. Mott Hospital.

Douglas Raymond Gensterblum, of Gaylord, MI, formerly of Portland, passed away unexpectedly on Sunday, November 17, 2013 at the age of 45. He was born on December 16, 1967 in Ionia, MI the son of Lloyd and Sharon (Fletcher) Gensterblum. Douglas was a member of St. Mary's Catholic Church in Gaylord, was an avid Notre Dame and Detroit Tigers fan, enjoyed watching NASCAR (especially Mark Martin), and enjoyed golfing and fishing. Doug worked for Bimbo Corporation for 27 years. Preceding him in death were his father, Lloyd, and his grandparents. Surviving are his mother and step-father, Sharon (Lewis) Hagle of Eagle; brother, Rick (Sherri) Gensterblum of Portland; niece, Amber Gensterblum; nephews, Randy (his godson), Colin and Cory Gensterblum; step siblings, Cindy (Scott) Evans, and their children Katelyn, Lacey and Cameron Evans, and Steve (Monica) Hagle, and their daughter, Francesca Hagle.

Patricia Ann (Moses) Winegar, was born in Muir, MI, on September 27, 1930, the fourth child of Russell Alger Joseph and Ellen Margaret (Kelley) Quigley. She died on Wednesday, November 20, 2013 at Sparrow Hospital. She lived almost her entire life in Ionia

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Bishop Walkowiak Visits School

by Principal Randy Hodge

Tuesday, March 4 was a special day here at St. Patrick School. It was special because it was the day before Lent and much preparation was taking place to ready our staff and students for this important time in the church. However, there was also much excitement because we had a very special guest in our school. Bishop Walkowiak came from Grand Rapids to visit our students in their classrooms.

The Bishop was escorted through the school by Fr. Larry. It was a relaxed tour, and the Bishop took time to stop and visit with all of our students. He questioned them about what they were studying and offered thoughts and comments on the various subjects and topics.

Before leaving each classroom, he allowed students to ask him questions. The questions were varied and touched upon many topics. One student asked, "What is the worst or hardest thing about being the Bishop?"



Bishop Walkowiak visits the 6th-grade class.

Bishop Walkowiak responded that while he enjoys meeting new people, he rarely gets a chance to develop relationships. When he was a parish priest, he had the chance to get to know his parishioners very well. But, as Bishop, his visits to parishes in the diocese usually last only one day.

Several students asked him how he became the Bishop of Grand Rapids. He explained that last year he received a call from Bishop Viano from Washington D.C. on the Tuesday of Holy Week letting him know that Pope Francis was asking him to serve as the Bishop of Grand Rapids. He went into some detail, explaining the process, making sure that students were aware that one is not allowed to campaign or to try to promote themselves for a position within the Church.

He also talked about making the move from Cleveland to Michigan. He explained that he was familiar with the state as he had visited as a tourist on a number of occasions. He also commented, "Michigan is a lot like Cleveland in that both are really cold in the winter and receive a lot of snow."



Bishop Walkowiak and Father Larry talk to the kindergarten and 1st-grade students.

When asked about his goals as Bishop of Grand Rapids, he stated that one of his goals is to become fluent in conversational Spanish. While he can say Mass in Spanish, he is unable to have a conversation in Spanish. He is going to work on that goal this summer. Another goal is to try to find a way to make Catholic Education more affordable. He mentioned on several occasions that he supports Catholic Education but is concerned about the costs. He does not want the price to prevent families from receiving this opportunity. Another goal the Bishop mentioned is the need for more priests and he spoke about promoting vocations in our diocese.

Finally, Bishop Walkowiak said that he is impressed with St. Patrick High School, the only parish-supported high school in the Diocese. He told the students that in the past there were lots of parish-supported high schools and he likes the historical significance of our school.

We really enjoyed hosting Bishop Walkowiak at our school. The students appreciated meeting him and having the opportunity to ask him questions. Many of our students said that they were impressed with his knowledge of so many far-ranging topics. We wish the Bishop well and hope he is able to make it out to visit again in the near future.

School Board Report

by Jen Meredith, Chair

'Taking care of our house' has been the rally cry of the St. Patrick Parish Restore and Renew Campaign, and it could also be considered the current purpose of the School Board. This school year, the board has decided to focus on identifying and addressing the needs of the staff and of the parents who send their children to SPS. The board values the honest and constructive feedback it receives through the annual spring survey and strongly encourages all parents to fill out the survey.

Last year three major themes were identified: accountability, more differentiated student learning, and increased use of technology in classrooms. The School Board is actively working with the administration to address these issues, which will ultimately strengthen and add to the value of an SPS education. Standing committees and some of their accomplishments are as follows:

- Strategic Planning Committee, co-led by Keelie Honsowitz and Mike Russman, is working with other parish committees to update the short- and long-term strategic plan for the school, and completing a technology needs assessment for the SPS staff. One very positive outcome from the board was the recommendation to create the Director of Student Life position at St. Patrick's which led to the hiring of Sarah Townsend.

- Policy Committee, co-led by Dr. Bruce Beachnau and Lisa Bartlett, is meeting with Mr. Hodge and Mrs. Townsend to revise the discipline rubrics, as well as to update the student policy handbook.

- Marketing Committee, co-led by Nikki Brown and Sue VanLente, under the direction of the diocese, is refining the marketing and communications plans to attract new students from the surrounding parishes and cities. Plans include the use of the new signage in the main windows of the school facing Grand River.

- Finance Committee, co-led by Tammy Bengel and Shayla Schneider, is consulting with the parish finance committee in development of the school budget and long-range financial planning.

- Mission Effectiveness Committee, co-led by Jennifer Davlin and Mike Cook, has successfully instituted additional school adoration days and invited The Trinitarian Sisters of Mary to come and visit with the children.

For additional information about the School Board, please visit our webpage on the St. Patrick School website. We value any ideas, comments, or suggestions you would like to share. We appreciate the commitment you have made to Catholic education and we are committed to making this a very successful year at St. Patrick's.



Bruce Bennett Inducted into Hall of Honor

Congratulations to Mr. Bruce Bennett, who was inducted into the Basketball Coaches Association of Michigan Hall of Fame as a "Friend of Basketball."

Bruce's career began in 1958 when he served two years as the student manager of the JV and Varsity boys basketball teams. But he didn't stop there. Since 1978, Bruce has run the clock and scoreboard for all levels of girls and boys basketball at St. Pat's—for a total of more than 2000 games! He has also driven the bus for numerous sporting events and was involved for many years with the St. Patrick Athletic Association, serving as president for two years.

In 2010, he was awarded the Father Flohe Education Bell Award, an honor presented annually to an alumnus who exemplifies the high goals that St. Patrick alumni can attain.

Al Schrauben nominated Bruce for the BCAM Hall of Honor. "If anything in the gym needs repair or an upgrade, Bruce is involved, often heading the project. He has given countless hours to the basketball programs, taking no compensation."

Bruce received his award at the 29th Annual Hall of Fame and Hall of Honors Awards Banquet on October 5, 2013, in Lansing.



Bruce and Noel, at the surprise reception at the Wagon Wheel on February 15.

Locally, he was presented with a certificate of honor at half-time of the February 15 girls basketball game. Bruce was the Guest of Honor at a surprise reception at the Wagon Wheel following that game. A standing-room-only crowd of Shamrocks were there to congratulate him on his award.

Bruce is married to Noel and they have two children, Anne and Mark (married to Nancy). They are grandparents to Sloane and Shoshana Bennett.



Father and Son Follow Similar Paths of Service

Peace Corps by James Moses

John F. Kennedy committed our country to a new ambassadorship through two actions early in his presidency. First, during his inauguration, he uttered one of his most famous quotes in the 'ask what you can do for your country' portion of the speech. Less than two months later, on March 1, 1961, he signed Executive Order 10924, establishing the Peace Corps. Although I was only an eleven-year-old sixth-grader at St. Patrick at the time, those actions had a profound effect on me. I turned to my parents after hearing the news on television and told them I wanted to join the Peace Corps when I was old enough.

Years passed, and when I was a senior at Western Michigan University, a Peace Corps recruiter visited campus. I saw my chance and talked with him. One of my roommates, Al Smith, went with me, and we both liked what we heard. There was a fairly long process of application, pre-invitational staging, staging, and training. I spent ten weeks in Hawaii learning the program I would be teaching in Micronesia, as well as the culture of the islands and the language (called Chamorro) before I actually went 'in country' to start my volunteer work in 1971. Al had a similar experience, but his training was in his host country of Ethiopia.

I started on Tinian, a small island with about 700 people. It was famous in World War II because the atomic bombs dropped on Japan were loaded into B-29 bombers on Tinian for their 1,500 mile flight into history.

I spent two years on Tinian, with no telephone or television (PCs and the internet hadn't been invented yet, either) and then went to the next island north, called Saipan, for the other six years. Both places are very tropical and have temperatures over 90 every day, with high humidity. It took a while to get used to the climate, but soon, having endless summer was great; hunting in caves, working as an archaeologist, swimming (with an occasional shark) in the clearest water you have ever seen, and many other things remain fresh in my memory. I took over 10,000 pictures and have several slide shows about



Jim and Mirla's engagement photo. July 4, 1976.

Americorps by JJ Moses

How do I explain the importance and impact of serving your country? It seems almost impossible to do. What I am left with is a meditation on its hardships and triumphs, but also a limited description of my experience with AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps. I hope to provide the correct questions for readers to think critically about serving their country in some aspect.

My motivation comes from my faith and family. I would be nowhere without either of them. They have taught me right and wrong, and the necessity to help those in need.

In the rolling hills of Pennsylvania, where I currently employed as an intern, I continue to lucubrate the inadequacies of language



JJ Moses, doing Americorps work.

when explaining concepts or experiences. The complexities of a team-based, year-long, 1,700-hour volunteer commitment one experiences while serving with AmeriCorps NCCC are boundless and have immense meaning for graduates of the program, yet cease to have importance without the proper understanding or communication of that meaning.

This is where AmeriCorps becomes difficult—after the program, when one's moral obligations require him to recruit future volunteers to improve their country through service.

How does one explain the impact of serving with the marginalized people of the Lakota Native Americans on the Pine Ridge Reservation, or in revitalizing sixteen poverty-struck homes in Des Moines with Habitat for Humanity? Does clarity come with stating that a team of nine, calling themselves Maple Four, cleared and blazed an eighty mile mountain bike trail while constructing a 422-foot boardwalk in eleven days for the Northern Michigan Mountain Bike Association in Vanderbilt? Does expounding on the

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1964 - Fifty Years Ago at Saint Patrick's

By Ron Cook

This is mostly an account of my memories from 1964 as a student at Saint Patrick's School. My facts may be a little off, but that's how I remember things at that time. Join me as we look back on a year that was quite remarkable for sports at Saint Patrick's, events at the school, events in the country, and events in the world.

The history of Saint Patrick's parish and school is unique and still stands quite alone in its traditions and educational accomplishments. I attended school there from the mid 1950's through graduation in 1967 (with a short stint at Saint Joseph's Seminary in Grand Rapids during my junior and part of my senior years).

The history of the school will show how strict Saint Pat's still was in the 1950's. Corporal punishment was the status quo; classrooms might have as many as 60 students in them; and the nuns "ruled" the school with an iron hand. My contemporaries will testify to all this.

When the young Father Flohe came along in 1945, he found a faithful parish and a thriving school that was quite overcrowded. He loved both and set out to correct each.

In 1951, he built the gym which was so large that it was called "Father Flohe's Folly." Of course we now call it "the Pit," where you can nearly smack into the wall or the stage and still be in-bounds. In 1961 he added the south part of the school which was a tremendous event.

In 1963 a terrible event happened in the nation, the world, and our Catholic community: John Fitzgerald Kennedy was shot and killed. This threw the entire nation, and much of the world, into a deep grieving. I believe that there were a few national events as well as local Saint Patrick experiences that helped us all pull out of that great grief.

As the nation grieved, the Beatles came on the scene to bring fresh messages of love, innocence, and music back into our lives. I remember the Beatles were so popular that Mother Joyce even let us listen to the album, *Meet the Bea-*

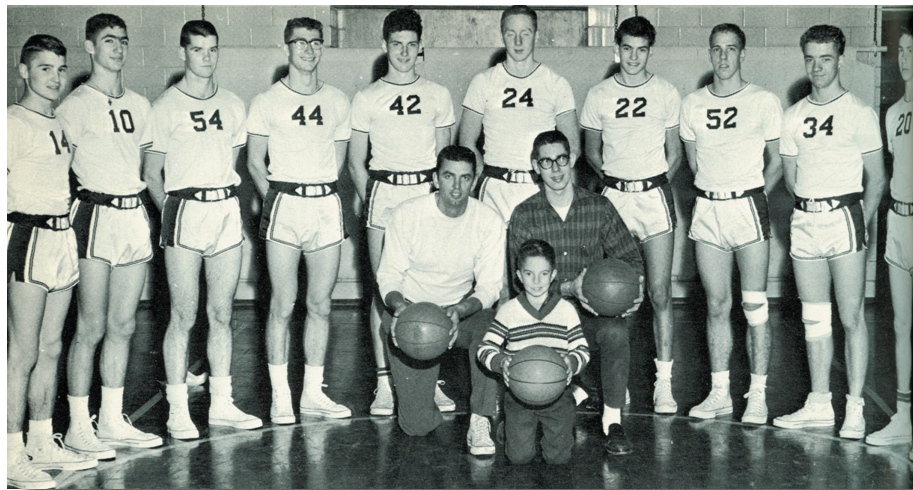
ties, during lunch in our new cafeteria that year. What a cool thing that was! (Remember when hot lunch was once a week on Wednesdays and it was Sloppy Joes? Adam Sandler and Chris Farley must have gone to a Catholic school, you think?)

The second local Saint Patrick event that changed our world at school that year was the state basketball tournament. That was incredible! I would like to say that this experience was one of legend. That year we won the districts, and I think the regionals going on to the quarterfinals where we eventually lost. I could be wrong about the details, but the memories are vivid regarding the excitement of that season. This was during the tenure of Coach Ken Johnson, one of the great basketball coaches of Saint Patrick's many-storied coach history. I believe the senior ball players that year included Jim Schaefer, Rick Beard, Ken Smith, and Mike Doherty. Mike was a transfer student who really boosted our "middle" that year. I believe Mike Schrauben was on that team. Of course, the incredible Steve Schaefer was the set-shooting guard that lead scoring at times and a fast break/pressing defense that was awesome to watch. During the tournament I believe Coach Johnson brought

up Steve Smith, Joe Honsowitz, Mike Moriarity, and perhaps Steve Spitzley and Doug Smith. We were freshmen at that time. I remember the season as one thrilling game after another. The tournament games were unbelievable, and Mother Joyce permitted a "fan bus" to support the players. I cannot

remember the opponents or the scores. I do remember the excitement and the Rock Pride: Jim Schaefer's straight-up jump shot off tippy-toes, Ken Smith's falling away-side-standing jump shots from the corners, Rick Beard's graceful play, and Mike Doherty's power in the center. Our bench was strong, and our press was prolific.

These were maybe the "mid-years" of Saint Patrick athletic prowess. I know that future years would bring more honor to Shamrock athletic teams. But 1964 stands in my memory as the year we came out of the doldrums, enjoyed the Beatles, and went far into the State Tournament in basketball.



Players: Mike Schrauben, Steve Schaefer, Mike Moriarity, Jim Schaefer, Gary Wight, Mike Doherty, Rick Beard, Ken Smith, Brian Piggot, and Joe Honsowitz. Front: Coach Ken Johnson, Manager Jim Wieber, Manager Tim Beard



Children's Faith Formation

by Lori Thelen

The Children's Faith Formation program has had a busy year (when classes weren't canceled for weather!). The overall number of students in the program is 220, which includes the students that are home-schooled. There are about 60 students preparing for First Communion and another 60 in the Confirmation group.

New this year, Father Larry has graciously given up his day off to offer Reconciliation for students in grades three through eight on Monday evenings. Many students expressed delight and commented on their awesome experiences. For some, it had been a while since they last received the sacrament. What a great opportunity for the children of our parish!

Also new this year, the students had the opportunity to participate in two Masses with the rest of the parishioners. The first Mass was on December 9, 2013, when we celebrated the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The students offered up flowers to Mary on the altar and presented the offertory gifts. The second Mass was February 3, 2014, the Feast of St. Blaise. All the students, DK through 8th grade, participated in the blessing of the throats, another awesome experience for them.

For Lent the students in the faith formation program took charge of one of the Friday evening Stations of the Cross. The eighth grade students, along with their parents and sponsors, led the Stations; the other grades helped lead the music. I am so impressed with the talent that we have in this parish! The faith formation families sponsored the Soup Supper on March 21, as well.

For the next two months, the second graders of the Parish and school will be preparing for their First Communion. Please pray for them as they prepare for this Sacrament. If you happen to attend a Mass during their celebration, be sure to make it a point to congratulate them and show your support.

Also this spring, the eighth graders of the parish and school will join each other for a retreat put on by NET Ministries from St. Paul, Minnesota. The NET team comes to our Confirmation candidates each year for a powerful and engaging retreat. Students who have attended in the past have had many positive comments about the team and how the retreat

has changed/reflected their lives. Again, if you know or see any of these Confirmation candidates, pray for them and make a point to reach out to them to show you are supporting them through this journey.

The Faith Formation Ministry is always looking for people willing to share their faith stories with the children of our parish. If you have any questions about the program, I would be happy to tell you all about it. We meet on Monday nights and welcome anyone interested in seeing what it is we do, stop in sometimes and see for yourself.

New Youth Minister

A warm welcome to Youth Minister Todd Nolan, who took charge of the program in September, 2013.

The Nolan family is from the Valley Forge area of Pennsylvania, moving to Michigan a year ago, when his wife, Lindsay, took a new job with Meijer Corporation. Todd was a Theology teacher at Villa Maria Academy, an all-girls school in Malvern, Pennsylvania, for 6 1/2 years. He is currently working on his master's degree in Theology and Ecclesial Studies through Catholic Distance University, based in Hamilton, Virginia. He will finish in the spring of 2015.

Last summer, the Nolan family was still quite new to the Grand Rapids area, and they made a practice of attending Sunday Mass in different parishes. Todd had heard about the opening for a Youth Minister at St. Patrick, so they drove to Portland one Sunday, intending to go to Mass and look around.

It happened that the Sunday they came was the day of the



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Toys for 5000 Kids!

After working at the Lansing Toys for Tots the past seven years, Diane Huhn knows full well how Santa feels by the end of December.

Diane began helping out with the Marine-led program in 2007, two years after her son, Lance Corporal David Huhn, was killed in Iraq. Working with the young marines helped ease the pain in her heart, and giving to others was therapeutic.

Three years ago, she became the civilian coordinator for the Lansing program, which distributes toys for over 5000 children in a five-day span the week before Christmas.



Captain William Heinzelmann, Diane Huhn, Julie Calley, Lt. Governor Brian Calley, Staff Sergeant Brandon Hassell. The Calleys worked in the warehouse and helped with toy distribution at the 2013 Toys For Tots Drive in Lansing.

Last fall Diane's work began the week before Thanksgiving, when she and Marine Coordinator Staff Sergeant Brandon Hassell began assessing what was left over from the previous year and cleaning up the Salvation Army warehouse on South Pennsylvania Avenue in preparation for the new toys that would be coming in. Diane, assisted by Barb Wills, another Marine-mom from Portland, spent nearly every day from Thanksgiving until Christmas at the warehouse, counting and sorting toys that had been dropped in the Toys For Tots boxes at area locations. In addition, they helped out with money collections at local businesses and toy-buying sprees.

Staff Sergeant Hassell is quick to give praise to Diane and the crews of workers that she recruits to help with the program. "There's no way that we could do this without her," he said, on the final day of distribution. "Over 30,000 toys moved through here in the past five days. It was a madhouse! But knowing that we helped make Christmas happy for so many families makes it all worthwhile."

Santa probably feels the same way.

SPOTLIGHT ON DAN TRIERWEILER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

dents worked hard to do what they set out to do. But, if not for one other person, Dan Trierweiler, their goals would not have been accomplished. Dan Trierweiler made a difference in the lives of those 20 students, and ultimately in the lives of thousands of additional special education students who have been privileged to attend Space Camp since 1989. According to Jason Lanier, Director of Operations, Planning, and Logistics, approximately 600,000 students have attended Space Camp since it was founded in 1982. Of that total, approximately 250,000 are students who are classified as having special needs. Space Camp is no longer a program for the elite; it is a program for everyone.

Dan, who lives in Rockford, Michigan and winters in Naples, Florida, says that he'll never retire. "I guess you could say that I enjoy a certain degree of insanity in my life," he says. He continues to work in real estate development.

The book and DVD of *A Smile as Big as the Moon* are available from Amazon.com. The book is also available at the Portland District Library and St. Patrick School Library.

A film clip of the movie can be seen at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MNkRoVBya3I>.

YOUTH MINISTER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

Parish Picnic, planned for Alton Park but moved inside the Parish Hall because of rain. Todd, Lindsay, and the two kids decided to join in.

"People were so nice," he said. "It was obvious that we were strangers because all heads turned when we walked in, but we were greeted warmly and made to feel right at home."

Ironically, a few weeks later, Todd was hired as the new Youth Minister.

Todd's approach to Youth Ministry is an extension of what is already in place accompanied by a three-fold, monthly program that asks the students to work on their spiritual lives, their social lives, and their service lives. "I guess you'd describe it as a holistic approach," he says. "We attended the March for Life in January, and we'll be participating in a spring-break mission trip to Baldwin, the Steubenville Conference, the diocesan film festival, and Dymo Camp. But we're also working on projects right here in Portland."

We are grateful that the Nolan's visited St. Pat's on that rainy Sunday last summer. Todd's presence and contribution to our parish is already felt strongly.



KING'S KOLUMN

by Father Larry King

Recently I was asked if I would like to help shape and form a seminarian who was in his second year of graduate school, studying Theology. He would—God willing—be ordained to the priesthood two years after he completed his six-month internship here at St. Patrick Parish.

I gladly accepted the invitation to be his supervisor for six months, February through July. It's a privilege and honor to help shape a future priest and the privilege and honor is not just mine, but also that of the whole parish of St. Patrick, since we will all have an opportunity to have a profound impact on his priesthood as he ministers to us and we minister to him.

His name is Dan Schumaker, and he hails from St. Michael's Parish in Coopersville. He is studying to be a priest for the Diocese of Grand Rapids—and who knows, maybe he might even be the pastor here at St. Patrick at some point down the road.



Dan is a product of Catholic and public school education. He attended St. Michael's Catholic School in Coopersville through the 6th grade and Coopersville Public Schools for his junior high and high school years. He attended Aquinas College for one year and during that time felt God's call to explore a vocation to the priesthood. Our Diocese sent him to the University of St. Thomas/St. John Vianney College Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota, for seminary formation and to complete his last three years of college. During that time he spent one semester studying in Rome, as part of the seminary program. Upon graduation he was sent to Mundelein Seminary which is about 50 minutes north of Chicago to complete his seminary education studying Theology.

[On a side note: The University of St. Thomas/St. John Vianney Seminary College in St. Paul, Minnesota is the seminary where Mike Steffes, Jr. from our parish is currently studying for the priesthood. Mike will graduate this spring, and in the fall will join Dan at Mundelein Seminary.]

Dan is 23 years old and is the oldest of four children. He is a 4th Degree member of the Knights of Columbus; and he enjoys playing tennis, Ultimate Frisbee, drawing and painting (he's a very good artist), camping, spending time with friends, and enjoying the great outdoors—although I think he's had his fill of snow and cold weather for this year, just like most of us.

Dan's responsibilities and involvement during his internship here at St. Patrick Parish will be wide and varied. I've been told that I'm supposed to keep him as busy as a priest, so that he gets a good taste of what his future holds, and to give him as much practical experience as is possible. You can bet that won't be a difficult task because there's always something to do and to learn.

Because Dan is not yet ordained, he is not able to preach at Masses, but he can offer "Reflections" at Communion Services and Scripture Services, as well as participate and lead Vigil Services at the funeral home, and conduct the "Comittal Rite" at the cemetery. He is also teaching the 7th Grade Religious Education class each Monday night, and he will also be involved in many of the classes at St. Patrick School. And this is just the beginning. Dan will be reporting in the parish bulletin in the weeks ahead all the areas he's been involved in and also be relating any of his thoughts and feelings about seminary, priesthood, and ministry.

If you happen to see Dan, please welcome him and feel free to ask him some challenging questions. One of the things Dan is learning is how to take the Theology he's studying and put it in terms that the average lay person will be able to understand. Also, please keep him and all the seminarians in our diocese in your prayers. There are currently 20 young men in various stages of seminary formation and discernment studying and preparing for priesthood for our diocese.

Corrections



Corrections from the Fall 2013 issue of *The Shamrock*:

- Marcelene May graduated from high school in 1940, not 1946.
- The co-chairs of the Restore & Renew Campaign were Mark and Dawn Thelen, not Mark and Diane Simon.

FATHER FLOHE FOUNDATION



From the President's Desk by Tony Thelen (1980)

Thank You!

On behalf of the Father Flohe Foundation, I would like to extend our sincere thank you to those who contributed to the Foundation over the past year, and to those who remembered the Foundation as part of their memorial services and in their estate planning. Because of your generosity, the Foundation was able to provide approximately \$250 toward the tuition of every student attending St. Patrick School for the 2013/2014 school year. Your continued support is greatly appreciated and goes a long way to ensure the continuation of Catholic education at St. Patrick.

Education Bell Award

The Father Flohe Foundation presented the 2014 Fr. Flohe Education Bell Award to Bill and Connie Vallier at the Catholic Schools Week mass on Jan 26, 2014. The award is given annually to an alumnus of St. Patrick School, who has exemplified the high goals and accomplishments that a graduate of St. Patrick can achieve.

Bill and Connie both graduated from St. Patrick High School in the mid 1980's. They were married in 1988 and their three children, Kelly, Beth, and Richelle graduated from St. Patrick as well. One of the key themes of St. Patrick School is the virtue of *SERVICE TO OTHERS*. No one demonstrates this more completely than Bill and Connie. They have been involved in every conceivable parish, school, community, and family project in the last 25



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The Father Flohe Foundation at a Glance (Data through June 30, 2013)

- Since 1988, we have received donor gifts of approximately \$1,826,224
- Since 1989, we have donated over \$1,097,600 to the school.
- In the last 4 years alone, we have donated over \$325,000 to the school.

In addition, the Father Flohe Foundation:

- Awards the annual Fr. Flohe Education Bell Award (1992 - present)
- Awards the annual Marie Leik Slowinski Scholarship to a student who demonstrates good study habits, steady improvement, and hard work to achieve (1990 - present)
- Awards the annual Msgr. Zerfas Scholarship to a student who will be attending a Catholic college or university (2012 - present)
- Provides funding for the Shamrock Newsletter (1989 - present)
- Coordinates and hosts the 50-year reunion for each of our graduating classes (2003 - present)

The Foundation is a 501(c)(3) organization (contributions are tax deductible).

Class of 1964: You Are Invited!

**A celebration is being planned
in honor of your 50th reunion.**

The date is Saturday, September 20.

**Graduates who have attended previous celebrations
will tell you what a great time it is.**

**Members of the FFF will continue to stay in touch to
keep you updated about the specific plans.**

Hope to see all of the 1964 classmates there.

Reunion News

Reunion Report

The *Class of 1958* celebrated their 55th year with a gathering at the Wagon Wheel on Sunday, September 15, 2013. Guest singer, Rob Pearson, performed lots of 50s music. Also, slides were shown of the class senior play, which brought back many memories. There was even some karaoke singing and a large cake spelling out ST PATRICKS CLASS OF 1958. Participants came from as far as Billings, Montana. The picture includes all spouses and widows of the class; sadly 15 class members have passed.



The *Class of 1988* had their best-attended class reunion ever. The class celebrated their 25-year reunion on December 7, 2013, beginning with Mass with classmate Fr. Karl Pung presiding. The group then gathered at the Wagon Wheel for a meal, slideshow that took them down memory lane, socializing, and viewing of the MSU football game. Deceased classmate Donna (Boos) Heckman was honored with a slideshow; Donna's husband Pat joined the reunion celebration. The classmates are using Facebook to stay in touch and agree that they are brothers and sisters who want to stay connected. It was a great time all around.



The *Class of 1993* held their 20-year reunion on Saturday, September 14, 2013, at Droste Park in Westphalia. Nineteen out of 37 classmates were in attendance, the farthest traveler being Lisa Huhtala from Wisconsin. Andy Beech and Ryan Channel were the chefs, and they prepared an awesome picnic/BBQ meal consisting of chicken, pork, baked beans, potatoes, coleslaw, Andy's famous spicy pickles, and rolls. Michele Pelc made Shamrock cupcakes. Some played cornhole, but most spent their time laughing and reminiscing.



The *Class of 1998* met on Saturday night, November 16, at the Oak Room in the Wagon Wheel for their 15-year class reunion. The evening started at 6:00 with drinks and plenty of "catching up" for an hour before having dinner around 7:00. After dinner, many migrated out of the Oak Room to the bowling area where several classmates and their spouses rocked the lanes. More than one person noted the visual similarities between the bowling shoes at the Wagon Wheel and Jake's old Ford Fairmont, which was appropriately nicknamed the "Bowling Shoe" in high school. This, of course, opened the door to more conversation about the awesome cars that the class of '98 drove—Al's Mercury Zephyr, Chrissy's Ford Granada, Gordy's Thunderbird, and of course Pete's seemingly endless supply of Ford Escorts. Many stories were told and laughs were had by all! Eighteen of the 26 graduates attended the reunion.



The *Class of 2003* held their 10-year class reunion on November 30, 2013, at the home of Teresa (Weller) Knoop. Classmates gathered together in a nicely-heated garage for a nice taco bar dinner and drinks, plus tons of laughter and catching up. A total of 15 classmates attended the reunion along with some significant others as well.



The *Class of 2008* celebrated their 5-year class reunion by canoeing on the Looking Glass River on what turned out to be a perfect hot summer day for it. After the canoe trip, the class met out at Droste Park in Westphalia for a cookout, and enjoyed playing games and reuniting with one another.



Memories

from Gary Huhn (1958)

Even though I didn't make this last reunion of the Class of '58, I have several fond memories, and I'd like to share this one.

It centers on the nascent days of Rock 'n Roll—the birth days of that music when Rhythm and Blues became known as Rock 'n Roll—all thanks to a Cleveland DJ named Alan Freed.

During 1956 through '58 when the weather was warm – whether fall or spring – we often had a sort of mini-record hop outside on the tarmac during our lunch hour. I was honored to be the “DJ” for those sessions and would bring our family's record player from home for that purpose. The records were

some I brought from home or others loaned by other Shamrock students.

My DJ Station was located in the room known then as “Coaches Office” near the gymnasium; you know the room with the curved wall. (*Editor's note: This room, across from the current school office, is now used for storage.*) The record player was set up by one of the open windows facing the parking lot and the music was cranked up enough that our dancers could all enjoy and get down with their latest Rock 'n Roll dance moves.

Those were the glory days of Rock 'n Roll with music from Bill Haley & His Comets, Elvis Presley, The Platters, Chuck Berry, Pat Boone, and many, many more. One thing that has always stuck in my mind about those times was the fact that after I played Elvis Presley's “I Want You, I Need You, I Love You,” for the first time, I was told that I couldn't play that song again. No reason was given, but suggestive lyrics might have been the cause.

Anyway, the music and dancing provided an outlet for our Shamrock High Schoolers during the “long” days of study.

Dinner With a Teacher

from Casie (Wilcox, 1992) Bayless

On a cold winter's night in January, a handful of classmates from the Class of '92, met up with their Sophomore English Teacher, Mr. Brown, at Duke's in Portland. Those in attendance (from left to right) were Amy (Russman) Weems, Casie (Wilcox) Bayless, Mr. Brown, Jim Leik, Joe Cook, Rachel (Weller) Gross and Amy (Kissane) Gorham.



Upcoming Reunions

The Class of 1974 will hold their 40-year reunion on Saturday, September 27, at the Wagon Wheel. Classmates are invited to attend the 4:30 Mass at St. Patrick Church, followed by cocktail hour from 6 to 7 pm and dinner at 7 pm. Contact Sharon (Lenneman) Page at pageeboy@yahoo.com for more information.

AMERICORPS

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physical attributes of a project, such as widening an equestrian trail for Roy Lake State Park in South Dakota by felling over 600 trees with three sawyers in two and a half weeks provide the correct connotation to conceive the essence of service?

Knowing the quantifiable aspects of a project assists in the understanding of an experience, however, it falls short of an adequate explanation when portraying meaning.

What about the hardships, conflicts, or triumphs of a team? Possibly it would help to provide an emotional attachment when recruiting people, not to mislead, but to produce something to attain and work towards, something to grasp.

Inevitably, there will come a time in an AmeriCorps NCCC experience when working, sleeping, and eating with the same eight to ten people will become exhausting. That packing livelihoods into a bag and riding in a fifteen passenger van across the country with no space will be difficult.

However, after the first two months, it will be necessary to embrace. There will be no other choice but to connect with one's new family, and without anticipation, the projects lacking in entertainment, although fruitful for the team, like harvesting seeds for the Nature Conservancy, or grading trails with the Milwaukee County Parks and Rec, will be more tolerable. By that time, what is left is no one but the team to hold onto and to keep themselves accountable.

Who were once the origin of insanity are now the cure.

Then, the team's appreciation of their contributions to the country can begin. The contributions like building a small barn for Nigerian Dwarf goats with the purpose of providing animal therapy for children, or painting an 11,000 square foot facility for the Northeast Iowa Food Bank, assisting in their efforts in more effectively reaching a greater number of people that truly need help.

Finally, after acknowledging the accomplishments, it may be common to realize that service is not just about what someone gives, but what they receive. Constructing a barn for goats contributes to a team's triumph, but the meaning comes when the team visualizes the fruits of their labor.

It arrives when a child of eight, who has been without a place to call home for as long as he can remember, who has been surrounded by violence all his life and reflects that behavior upon others, suddenly feels peace, smiles, shows respect to, and cares for the animal.

It comes from being able to provide a safe environment for members of the LGBTQA community while being camp counselors in Minnesota, knowing that this may very well be the only week in a teenager's year where they can genuinely be themselves.

But mostly, meaning comes from doing, for to sincerely understand an experience, a person must have the experience themselves. It is in giving that we receive, and I have received volumes.



PEACE CORPS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

Micronesia.

My job as a Peace Corps Volunteer was to teach science in the elementary and junior high environments. I also ended up teaching math, typing, agriculture, English, and especially social studies. The social studies classes were the best. People there had a very limited experience of the world, so we learned about the islands and how they were formed. We studied local history and the prehistoric people who lived there about 4,000 years ago. The islands have a rich culture, so we collected legends and other stories of the past and present. We looked at native medicine plants and how to use them, among many other things. Peace Corps, to me, was exactly what the slogan says—the toughest job I ever loved.

Peace Corps service is usually two years, but I enjoyed it so much, I stayed another year, and then I left Peace Corps to work at the Department of Education for another five years before returning home. A little over a year after leaving Peace Corps, I met a young lady from the Philippines at church. Mirla Gamboa was also working on Saipan. Later that year, we were married (August, 1976), and our family was started with the birth of our first child, Cecilia, in November of 1977. When we came home in 1979, our little family was growing. Jenny was born three weeks after we arrived, and Sarah came along in 1980. JJ completed our family several years later. All four of them attended St. Patrick.

Peace Corps is one of the most productive government programs I can think of. We were paid almost nothing, and we learned much more than we taught, but we were all ambassadors of good will, showing another side of America that a lot of people in other countries never get a chance to see. For those of you still in school, it is something to consider, but age doesn't matter—we had one Volunteer in her 80s. I would never trade the experience I had in the Peace Corps. It changed my life in so many ways.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5)

County, graduating from Lyons High School in 1946. On August 21, 1948 she married James Luther Moses. After a few years in Muskegon and Grand Ledge, they moved to Lyons, and eventually to Portland. During those years they had three children: James R. (Mirla) Moses, Kathryn E. (Steve) Hurl and Margaret M. (Tony) Droste. James L. died on February 13, 1998 after over 49 years of marriage. She later married Paul Ray Winger on October 25, 2002. He passed away on January 25, 2010. Mom loved to bake, play bridge, do crossword puzzles (in ink!), and was an avid reader. In her later years Alzheimer's Disease stole all this from her. She had worked for the telephone company, a local doctor, and at the Lyons post office. Her parents and siblings also preceded her in death, as well as son-in-law Steve Hurl. Surviving are her three children, their spouses Mirla and Tony, eight grandchildren, several great grandchildren, and nieces and nephews. For those desiring, memorial contributions may be made to the Father Flohe Foundation, in memory of Patricia.

Alfred T. Goodrich, Jr., age 85, passed away on Saturday, December 7, 2013. He was born on November 30, 1928 in Roxand Township, MI the son of Alfred and Oma (Holbrook) Goodrich, Sr. Preceding him in death were his daughter, Susan Csepregi; sisters, Mary Sandborn and Loretta Peabody; brother, Byron Goodrich. Surviving are his wife of 64 years, V.A. Goodrich; children, Roxanne Estell, Ted (Vicki) Goodrich, Jerry (Janice) Goodrich, David J. (Cherie) Goodrich, Tim (Karen) Goodrich, Mary Pline, Tony (Rhonda) Goodrich, and Krista (Tom) Fox; many grandchildren and great grandchildren. Memorial contributions may be made to the Father Flohe Foundation, in memory of Alfred.

Monica L. Bengel, age 89, passed away on Wednesday, December 11, 2013. She was born on January 26, 1924 in Pewamo, MI the daughter of Conrad and Mary (Ott) Werner, the youngest of 11 children. Mrs. Bengel was a member of St. Patrick Catholic Church, the Resurrection Choir and was a Eucharistic minister. She was a volunteer at the American Red Cross. Monica married Edward Bengel on October 30, 1946 and they were married for 49 years. Preceding her in death were her parents; husband, Edward Bengel; grandson, Joshua Bengel; great grandson, Caleb Bengel; 10 siblings. Surviving are her children, Mary Jean (Michael) Frye, Diane Bengel, Daniel (Joann) Bengel, John (Cheri) Bengel, Steve Bengel, and Doug (Joni) Bengel; 13 grandchildren; three great grandchildren. Memorial contributions may be made to the Fr. Flohe Foundation or the charity of one's choice.

Duane A. Huhn, age 63, passed away on Wednesday, December 11, 2013. He was born on May 28, 1950 in Portland, MI the son of Herman and Mathilda (Kowatch) Huhn. Mr. Huhn was a member of St. Patrick Catholic Church, a member of the Knights of Columbus Council #2168, and retired from General Motors after 30 years of service. Duane enjoyed fishing, bowling, camping, and being outdoors. Preceding him in death were his parents; brothers, Jon and Ronald; infant sisters, Debbie and Diane; sister-in-law, Rita Huhn; brother-in-law, Robert LaRose; in-laws, Leon and Geraldine Hoppes. Surviving are his wife of 41 years, Judy Huhn; son, Marc (Kim) Huhn; grandchildren, Malory and Max Huhn; brothers, Robert Huhn, James (Penny) Huhn, Kenneth (Vicki) Huhn, and Steven (Linda) Huhn; sisters, Mary Ellen LaRose, Marleah (Jim) Quimby, and Sharon Goodman. A special thanks to Ionia DeVita Dialysis Group for their prolonged care for 4 1/2 years. Please consider being an organ donor, in memory of Duane.

Dorothy Katherine Goodman, age 99, passed away on Thursday, January 9, 2014. She was born on March 9, 1914 in Portland, MI the daughter of Michael and Elizabeth (Simon) Smith. She was a member of St. Patrick Catholic Church and volunteered at the American Red Cross. Dorothy enjoyed cooking, playing cards, gardening, and being with her family, especially her grandchildren. Preceding her in death were her husband, Robert; son, Donald; sons-in-law, Duane Smith and Gerald Schafer; several brothers and sisters. Surviving are her children, Jean Schafer of Fenton, Judy (Jan) Baxter of Charlotte, Tom Goodman, and Charles (Judie) Goodman, both of Portland; 15 grandchildren; 37 great grandchildren; brother-in-law, William Simon. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the St. Patrick Boiler Fund, or Eaton Community Palliative Care, in memory of Dorothy.

Donald Schrauben, age 83, passed away on Wednesday, January 22, 2014. He was born on June 23, 1930 in Riley Township, MI the son of Mathias and Mamie (Trierweiler) Schrauben. Mr. Schrauben was a member of St. Patrick Catholic Church, the Knights of Columbus Council #2168, and was a veteran, serving in the U.S. Air Force. Donald enjoyed playing cards and sports, especially baseball. He was preceded in death by his wife of 43 years, Shirley Schrauben; parents; brothers, Matt, Jim, Bill, Vern, Tom and Dennis; sisters, Marie, Elda and Arlene. Surviving are his children, Chris (Mandy) Schrauben of Portland, Andy (Debbie) Schrauben of Westphalia, Phil (Kathy) Schrauben of Manistee, Kathy (Mark) Stambaugh of Portland, and Mary Schrauben of Portland; eight grandchildren; seven great-granddaughters; special friend, Laura VanDyne; sisters, Betty Dinkel and Gert Dilley. For those desiring, memorial

contributions may be made to the Fr. Flohe Foundation, or the St. Patrick Athletic Association, in memory of Donald.

Harold Trierweiler, age 75, of Las Vegas died on February 19, 2014. He was preceded in death by his first wife, Vicki; sister, Donna; and brother, Tom. He is survived by his wife, Prima; daughters, Claire and Lisa; son, Leonardo Bautista; siblings, Ron (Mary) Trierweiler of Westphalia, Ann Marie Waldron of Florida, and Diane (Harv) Burgoyne of Fenton. Burial was at Veteran's Memorial Cemetery in Boulder City, Nevada.

EDUCATION BELL AWARD

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13)

years. Their involvement was not simply a support or fringe activity—it was serious time commitment and leadership; hands-on leading by example as well as thoughtful planning and organization. They have been integral to the success of the Parish Summerfest, Shamrock Auction, Knights of Columbus, a multitude of St. Patrick Athletic activities, and much, much more. I'm not going to go into a lot of detail as space doesn't permit, but I will say this; if you've worked with Bill and Connie on one of the many, many activities they've been involved in, you're quite likely to have worked hard, had a lot of fun, and experienced a great sense of satisfaction for a job well done. We are all the beneficiaries of their efforts over the years. So, when you see them around town, please congratulate Bill and Connie on this very well-deserved recognition.

Shamrock Claim to Fame!

Craig Stiffler (2004) lives in Monroe, Louisiana, the same town as the Duck Dynasty crew!





This issue of *The Shamrock* is jam-packed with news and articles about St. Patrick alumni. It goes without saying that Shamrocks are making a difference in the world! The hidden words in this puzzle all pertain to articles in this edition. When you've found all 30 words, the letters that are left over will spell out a thought-provoking quote. Good luck!

<p>P M A C E C A P S R E U N I O N S B Y R A N I M E S L M A R I N E S E P G H O W L D L W N W I N N E R A O E O N E R A D E R O F U L M I T H N T N A B S P R O C I R E M A L S E T W T I S T H R A T T N Y E E I R A E O B O D O Y N E G C Z P S B O K E D W A C I T A N T I U E Y T S A N Y D K C U D I O L S N A I A I U N G N M D S K Y E L A E C B C T M M R E R T R S G O F K H E M H Y E O M A N E F N N C T R K C B O E L O W E G O A F I O I A E O R I L R A D R R V E T S S N M N R T R I L U U T E F A A T R T L N P T E L T B O I N N E M G T E L E S S E S O T I M A P A S R O R A D V B E T S H E F W S O R T L N H Y D</p>	<h3 style="text-align: center;">ENTRY FORM AND RULES</h3> <p>Send this entry form by any of the means described on page 19, or drop in the collection basket in an envelope clearly marked SHAMROCK CONTEST. Entries must be received by May 1, 2014. Cash prize of \$50 will be awarded to the winner who will be chosen by random drawing from all correct entries. You must be 18 or older to enter. Limit of one entry per person.</p> <p>NAME _____</p> <p>ADDRESS _____</p> <p>CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____</p> <p>ANSWER: _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>
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AMERICORPS
 AUCTION
 AWARD
 BASKETBALL
 BEATLES
 BELL AWARD
 BISHOP
 BURGER KING

CHOIR
 CHRISTMAS
 DUCK DYNASTY
 EMMY
 EVANGELIZE
 FANATIC FAN
 GENEROSITY
 HALLMARK

INTERN
 KENNEDY
 LENT
 MARINES
 MEMORIES
 PEACE CORPS
 REUNIONS
 ROCK N ROLL

SEMINARY
 SPACE CAMP
 STUDENTS
 SUMMERFEST
 TOYS FOR TOTS
 WINNER



The puzzle in the last issue of *The Shamrock* dealt with popes and bishops. We had a record number of entries, and nearly every one was correct. The phrase that was spelled out was, "Even if you are on the right track, you will get run over if you just sit there," by Will Rogers. The winner, drawn randomly from all entries, was Donna Schrauben. Donna received a cash prize of \$50 for her efforts. Congratulations, Donna!

Upcoming Events

Shamrock Auction..... April 26, 2014
 First Communion May 4, 2014
 Graduationl May ??, 2014
 Parish Festival June 21-22, 2014
 Class of 1964 50-Year Reunion Sept. 20, 2014
 Fall Festival October 12, 2014

Fall issue of *The Shamrock*—Early October

LOST SHEEP

Sometimes readers are surprised to find their own names or the names of their loved ones on the Lost Sheep list. Many times these people aren't lost at all; they have simply moved without letting us know. If we mail a newsletter and it comes back without forwarding information, we put that name on the Lost Sheep list. To prevent this from happening, you can help us out by using the form on this page to let us know when you move.



Please use this form to let us know of any address changes.

Name: _____

Address _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____

If you are a graduate of St. Pat's, please list your maiden name and year of graduation: _____

Send to The Shamrock, 140 Church Street, Portland, MI 48875; fax to (517-647-7807; e-mail to shamrockeditors@gmail.com; or drop in the collection basket in an envelope clearly marked Shamrock Newsletter.

1956 Duane Irrer	1980 Angie Young
1959 Ed Bengel	1981 Mike Binder
1965 Terry Speckin	1981 Frank Winter
1968 Carolyn Rowe	1991 Frank Wright
1968 Dave Pohl	2000 Carl Gensterblum
1974 Mark VanderHoff	2001 Julie Chamberlain
1974 Donna Cook Bishop	2003 Shane Riley
1975 Susan Thelen	2007 Marki Stimpson
1979 Michael Hendricks	

The Shamrock

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(Click on Alumni Information)

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News and/or ideas for articles can be sent to anyone on the staff. If you would like to become part of The Shamrock crew, conact any staff member.

Education Bell Award Nominations Needed

The Father Flohe Foundation is looking for nominations for the annually-presented Education Bell Award. Nominees should be former students from St. Patrick (either eighth-grade or high school graduates, living or deceased), who by their life and achievements exemplify the high goals that our alumni can attain.

Write a brief description about your nominee, including the year he or she graduated, and submit to the Father Flohe Foundation, 140 Church Street, Portland MI, 48875 by July 1, 2014.

Nomination forms are also available on the FFF website that can be accessed through the alumni page of the school website at www.portlandstpats.com. All nominations received are evaluated and considered for the current year award, as well as maintained for future year award consideration.

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Shamrock Auction
presents:



Saturday, April 26
K of C Hall
Doors open at 6 pm
www.freewebs.com/spsauction

Come to Summerfest

Always the Weekend After Father's Day!

June 21-22

Join us for
 Outdoor Mass
 & Sunday Dinner
 Sunday, June 22
 beginning at 10:30 a.m.

- ◇ Food
- ◇ Festivities
- ◇ Family Fun
- ◇ Wine Tasting
- ◇ Refreshment Tent
- ◇ Live Entertainment
- ◇ Sports contests for all ages!



Complete information including entry forms: www.stpatsummerfest.com

We would like to thank Diocesan Publications and their staff for printing this newsletter for us!