



THE SHAMROCK

ST. PATRICK PARISH & ALUMNI NEWS

VOL. 28 No. 1 FALL 2014

Class of 1964 Celebrates 50 Years



Front row: Patty Ann Stump, Mary Walliczek, Gloria Hensley, Mary Beckhold, Patty Pohl, Jeanne Green, Jeanie Utter, Marlene Schrauben, Elaine Riley. Middle row: Jim Pung, Gary Gross, Rose Mosser, Diane Zimmerman, Bev Benbow, Lynn Bailey, Noreen Karasinski, Diane Peiffer, Larry Schrauben, Don Chamberlain. Back row: Gene Goodman, Mike Huhn, Denny Goff, Jerry Brown, Ted Miller, Bill Weller, Bill Fedewa, Don Thelen, Don Leik, Mike Doherty.

Each fall since 2003, the Father Flohe Foundation has hosted a 50-year reunion for St. Patrick graduating classes that have reached that special milestone. On Saturday, September 20, 2014 the largest group yet attended the annual event.

There were 56 members of the Class of 1964 when they graduated. Twenty nine returned for the reunion, which began at 3:00 p.m., with appetizers in the Parish Hall. Principal Randy Hodge, assisted by seniors Madison Schrauben and Eli Hoppes, gave the guests a tour of the school. The group then attended the 4:30 Mass, offered in memory of 13 deceased classmates. Mass was followed by a prime rib dinner at the Wagon Wheel Oak Room.

The Class of 1964 was unique in a few ways. They were a large class—in the history of the school only one class was larger. They were the last class to attend St. Pat's without paying tuition, and the Shamrock football program began during their senior year. They also had three sets of twins in the class.

Jim Pung came the farthest for the reunion, traveling from Albuquerque.

Next year, the Class of 1965 will be honored. The date will be September 12, 2015.

What Was Happening in 1964?

- The Dow Jones closed at 874 for the year
- Movie tickets cost \$1.25
- Ford introduced the Mustang with a ticket price of \$2368
- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. won the Nobel Peace Prize
- The U.S. Surgeon General reported that smoking might lead to lung cancer
- Hasbro's GI Joe dolls debuted
- Cassius Clay beat Sonny Liston for the World Heavyweight Championship, and shortly thereafter, changed his name to Mohammad Ali
- President Johnson declared a War on Poverty which included the introduction of food stamps
- New products on the market included bubble wrap, Diet Pepsi and Lucky Charms

Locally:

- Hoover's Restaurant offered a complete dinner, including a drink for 90 cents
- The St. Patrick Homecoming Court was Queen Kathy Meyers, Cathleen Fedewa, Jane Russman, Erma Velasquez, Billie Bandfield, and Linda Zimmerman

Mail Call

A Hero in Our Midst

The picture of the choir that ran last fall is still eliciting interest. Mary Fran (Schaefer) VanOstran correctly identified most of the members, leaving only three without names. Readers have identified two of the three, leaving just one man without a name. If anyone can remember him, it's not too late to send us a letter!



Dear Editors,

I recognize two of the three unknown choir members. In the first row in the rear between Jim Thompson and Elgin Smith, I believe is George Lehman. In the second row, next to Jim Russman, is Paul Thompson. I have no idea who the other unknown is.

Thanks for publishing 'The Shamrock'. You do a fabulous job!!!

Ed Schneider, Class of 1971

Dear Editors,

Congratulations to Mary Fran on her identification skills! Dang, I did not enter because that one guy was outside my memory - he was the only one I missed though (kinda).

The fellow to Jim Thompson's left is Fred or Harold Lehman and the slight man directly in front of Jim Thompson is Paul B. Thompson. Portland has a ball field on land he donated, I think.

The man in the second row from the top center just to the left in front of Sam Marvin evades my best efforts to identify. He was in the choir for only a short time. I hope we can hang a name on him sometime.

Well there, I think I have solved one and a half of the remaining mysteries. Please let me know who the guy in the center is. Someone is bound to know....right?

Jim Schneider, Class of 1969

Delta Township resident Donald Spohn (1978) was honored by the Delta Township Fire Department on August 18 for saving the life of his neighbor, Richard Lienhart on May 9, 2014.

On that Friday in May, Don and his wife Karen and their daughter Angie Nyquist were eating dinner at the Spohns' home on Amberina Drive when they smelled smoke. Within seconds, they noticed that Leinhart's house, which was located just two houses away from their own, had smoke pouring out of the second story windows.

The trio called 911 immediately and then ran to the burning house. All three of them were calling out as they approached the house, not knowing for sure if anyone was inside. As they got closer, Don noticed the front door was wide open, which indicated to him that someone probably was in there. Without hesitation, he entered the house and found his neighbor attempting to pull a garden hose up the stairs. Don grabbed the man, Richard Lienhart, and pulled him outside to safety.



It was only later that they learned that Mr. Leinhart was in shock when Don found him, as he had been hit with the backdraft of the fire and had already been burned on his face and in his lungs. According to Delta Fire Inspector Mike Roberts, without Don's intervention, the man probably would have died in the fire.

Mr. Leinhart was transported by ambulance to the University of Michigan Burn Unit, where he spent several weeks. He is now out of the hospital and back to work.

When Don learned that he was going to receive an award, he stated that what he did was "no big deal." "Anyone would have done it," he said.

Don's family and his neighbor, Mr. Lienhart, disagree.

If you see Don Spohn, give him a pat on the back and thank him for his actions. Tell him that what he did was a very big deal---and remind him that a man is alive today because of his actions.

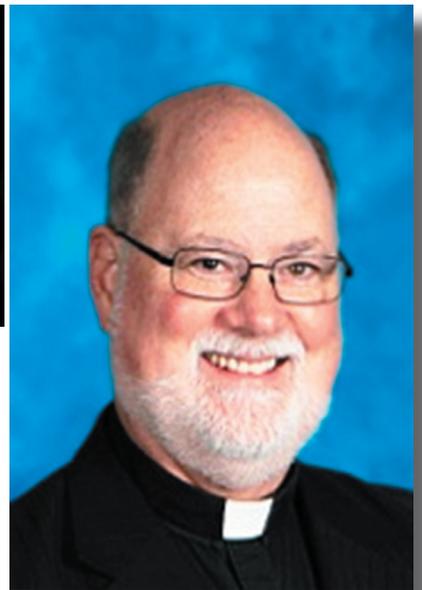
In The **Spotlight**

Father Larry King

On July 8, 2014, Father Larry King celebrated his Silver Jubilee, saluting 25 years of priesthood. St. Patrick Parish honored Father Larry with a reception at the Parish Hall.

We asked him to send us a few details so that we could do a short article about his faith journey. He obliged with a story that we decided to use as written.

Congratulations, Father Larry! And thank you for this article!



I grew up in Grand Rapids, Michigan, the second of four kids. I am five minutes older than my twin brother who claims we got into a fight in the womb and he kicked me out first. The way I see it is that I was smarter than he was; I found my way out first and he followed my lead. My family attended St. Joseph the Worker Parish and I went through eight years of school in the four-room school building there. I also attended Catholic Central High School in Grand Rapids.

As a child I always wanted to be a priest. I even used to play-act at being a priest, bribing my two brothers and sister to come to my Mass by using Necco candies or Ritz crackers for communion. When I entered high school, that desire faded because I began to discover girls. Oh, to be sure, I had noticed them before, but as a high school freshman, I noticed them in a different way.

Five years after high school, I was dating, but nothing serious, and I felt the Lord calling me to enter the seminary. I had worked for a few years after high school before going to college, so I didn't have a degree. I went to Christopher House near Aquinas College in Grand Rapids for three years to complete my Bachelor's degree, graduating in 1973. I then attended St. John's Provincial Seminary in Plymouth for Graduate Studies in Theology.

However, my journey to the priesthood would take another long detour.

After two years of studying theology, I decided that ordained priesthood was not for me. I spent the next seven

years working with abused children in Grand Rapids and Detroit. Working in Detroit made me realize that I wanted to return closer to home, so I returned to Grand Rapids, where I worked in a residential treatment program with mentally ill adults. In a short time I became the supervisor of the house for which I was working and two years later I became a treatment coordinator for four of the homes.

It was during this time that I felt the Lord calling me back to the seminary and to the ordained priesthood since in my dating experiences I didn't feel a strong call to be married.

I returned to the seminary in 1984 and was sent to Regis College and St. Basil Seminary in Toronto, Canada. Because there had been a ten-year hiatus from my theology studies, I chose to begin those studies over again. During that time I completed my Master of Divinity degree program and did 15 months of Internship at St. Jean's Parish in Muskegon. I was ordained a Deacon in May of 1989, and six weeks later I was ordained a priest.

My first assignment was St. Mary Magdalen Parish in Kentwood, where I served as Associate Pastor for three years. Next came a three-year assignment right here at

Portland St. Patrick, where I served as Associate Pastor for another three years. Following those two assignments I became the Pastor at St. John Vianney Parish in Wyoming, MI, for nine years. Then the good Lord saw fit to have me to return as Pastor of St. Patrick Parish in Portland.

I have enjoyed all my assignments, including the chal-

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Father Larry was honored at a reception at the Parish Hall in July, in honor of his Silver Jubilee.

What's Happening?

BIRTHS

To Bill and Beth (Makowski, 1999) Shell a son, John (Jack) Richard, on August 1, 2014. The family resides in Kalamazoo where Bill and Beth work at Bronson Hospital.

To Nick and Jenny (Fox, 1993) Sandborn a son, Jackson Christopher, on August 19, 2014. He joins sisters Tori, 8, and Lily, 6. Baby Jackson was in a hurry to arrive, and didn't wait for the hospital. He was delivered by his Daddy in the car.

To Michelle (Hitchcock, 2001) and Tony Smith of Portland a daughter, Avery Kathryn, on January 23, 2014. She joins sister Macie age 4.

To Josh and Gina (Solgat, 2001) Huhn of Pewamo a son, Nicholas Gerard, on July 1, 2014. He joins brothers Bradley, 7, Will, 5, and Zachary, 2.

To Derek (2001) and Jessica Finkbeiner a son, Axton Michael, on September 8, 2013. He joins brother Andrew, 12, and sisters Alyssa, 10, and Ava, 4.

To Nick (1994) and Tabatha Spedoske a son, Dominic Randall, on August 10, 2014. He joins siblings Noah, 14, Sophia, 10, and Evan, 9.

To Mike (1987) and Ann Kissane a daughter, Cora Elizabeth, on August 22, 2014. She joins siblings, Michelle, 26, Alex, 12, Riley, 12, Leah, 12, and Isabelle, 8.

To Vicki (Vashaw, 1994) and Ryan Krueger of Spring, TX a son, Eli Ryan, on July 17, 2014. He joins brother, Cameron, 3.

To Paul and Trina (Simon, 1989) Anderson of Westphalia a daughter, Mia Isabelle, on August 24, 2014. She joins siblings, Seth, 14, Caden, 10, and Lily, 6.

To Jerrod (2005) and Chelsey (Peake, 2007) Pung of Eagle a daughter, Gracelyn Marie, on April 9, 2014.

Tim and Laura (Bower, 1995) Krisov will welcome their second child the latter part of October. They have one daughter, MaKayla, 5.

WEDDINGS

Ross Klein (2008) married Camille LeFevre (St. Charles, MI) on July 26, 2014 in Bay City, MI. They reside in Northville, MI

ENGAGEMENTS

Annie Lawless and Ben Schneider, both graduates from St. Patrick School Class of 2008, will be getting married November 8, 2014 at St. Patrick Catholic Church in Portland, MI.

Tyler Kramer (2011) and Kaitlyn Pung (2011) are planning a wedding in the summer of 2015.

ANNIVERSARIES

Tom and Sandy Meitler celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary July 18, 2014. The couple were married in 1964 in St Patrick Church. They have four children Tommy, Lee, Heather and Jackie and nine grandchildren.

Dick and Shirley Lawless celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on August 16, 2014 with a family dinner at Morrison Lake. Dick and Shirley were married on July 24, 1954 at St. Patrick Church. They have four children, 12 grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

Marvin and Mary Schafer celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary on June 29, 2014 with a Mass and special blessing for the families by Fr. Larry King followed by a dinner and party. The couple have ten children, 12 grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.

OTHER HAPPENINGS

Cory Russman, son of Ken (1981) and Tricia Russman, has entered the seminary of St. John Paul II in Washington D.C. He will attend classes at the Catholic University of America. Cory is the grandson of John (1958) and Mary (Huhn, 1961) Russman.

Ed Theis was honored by the American Legion for 60 years of continuous membership with the organization. Ed received a certificate of honor from the Portland American Legion Post 129.

Corie Pung (2001) made history on June 26, 2014 when she became the first female player to take part in Let's Go to Bat for Kids at Fifth Third Ballpark in Comstock Park, Michigan. The event is sponsored annually by Catholic Charities West Michigan. Priests from around the diocese compete in a softball game. Corie is employed by Grandville St. Pius X Parish. She played in place of the pastor, Father Chris Rouech.

St. Patrick High School senior, Shelby Miller, who had an amazing American Idol experience last summer, performed at Fifth Third Ballpark on August 26, 2014. Shelby was the opening act for Craig Morgan. Tom Brown and the Royal Ramblers were on stage with her, as her back up band.

IN MEMORY OF

Geraldine E. Hodge, age 92, passed away on Saturday, March 8, 2014. She was born on February 13, 1922 in Portland the daughter of Peter and Helen (Fernholz) Gensterblum. Geraldine was a member of St. Patrick Catholic Church and the V.F.W. Post #4090 Ladies Auxiliary. She loved tending to her flowers and embroidery. Geraldine enjoyed baking pies and was known for her cookies. She retired from Meijers in Lansing as well as Candlewick in Portland. She was preceded in death by her husband, Albert; parents; son, Robert; granddaughter, Kelly Jo Pline; son-in-law, James Miller; daughter-in-law, Sharon Hodge; great grandson, Jack Miller; several brothers and sisters. Surviving are her children: Gary (Barbara) Hodge, Irene Miller, William (Barbara) Hodge, Connie (Chuck) Carr, Ronald (Susan) Hodge, Linda (Douglas) Brown, Jane (Keith) Pline and Michael (Sherry) Hodge; 25 grandchildren; 43 great grandchildren; 2 great great grandchildren; siblings Elizabeth Huhn, SSJ Bernita Gensterblum, Mary Louise (William) Hanses, Eleanor (Bud) Peake, Robert (Mary) Gensterblum, Delores Hauser, Barbara (Leon) Densmore and James (Louise) Gensterblum; many nieces and nephews. Memorial contributions may be made to the St. Patrick School or St. Patrick Athletic Association in memory of Geraldine.

Joyce T. Lenneman, age 58, passed away on Friday, March 21, 2014 with her family at her side. She was born on February 22, 1956 in Portland the daughter of Elgin and Marie Fox. Joyce enjoyed weekend trips and an occasional stop at the casino. She enjoyed playing cards, watching sports especially M.S.U., Detroit Tigers and the Lions. Joyce touched the lives of many children over the years, being a daycare provider. She was dedicated to her family and children always putting others in front of herself. She was preceded in death by her father, Elgin Fox, Sr.; brother-in-law, Ronald Meyers. Surviving are her husband of 37 years, Dave; children Brad (Jade) Lenneman, Marsha (Ben) Harmon and Brian (Brenda) Lenneman; granddaughter, Kinsley; mother, Marie Fox; siblings Linda Meyers, Bonnie (John) Jenks, Elgin Fox, Jr., Jane

(Cliff) Sharp, Nancy (Clay) Sharp; father and mother-in-law, Joe and Julianne Lenneman; in laws Dan (Patty) Lenneman, Ruth (Fred) Proctor, Kevin (Julie) Lenneman, Mary Lou (Paul) Simon and Shirley (Bob) Smith; many nieces, nephews and special friends.

Frances Helen Fedewa, age 101, beloved mother, grandmother and great grandmother, went to be with her Lord on Tuesday, April 1, 2014. She was born on September 12, 1912 in Springfield, MO the daughter of Dr. James and Edith Potts. As a young girl, the family moved to Texas, where she later met her husband, Elmer while he was stationed in the U.S. Army. Mrs. Fedewa was a member of St. Patrick Catholic Church, and a Life Member of the American Legion Ladies Auxiliary. Faith and family were very important to Frances. Preceding her in death were her parents; husband of 48 years, Elmer; daughter, Mary Frances; several brothers and sisters. Surviving are her children, Carolyn Evans (Bill Lovell), Rosemary (Harry) Roundtree, James (Cathy) Fedewa, and Elmer (fiancee Vickie) Fedewa; 14 grandchildren; 22 great grandchildren; 3 great great grandchildren; many nieces and nephews.

Leon "Buddy" Louis Pung, age 74, went to be with the Lord on Friday, April 18, 2014. He was born on November 23, 1939 in Portland, MI the son of Leon P. and Pauline (Gross) Pung. Mr. Pung was a member of St. Patrick Catholic Church, was a life long farmer, and worked for the Lansing School District for 47 years. Leon enjoyed fishing, hunting, traveling, polka music, and taking walks on his property. He especially loved spending time with his grandchildren. Preceding him in death were his daughter, Brenda; parents, Leon and Pauline Pung; in-laws, Leon and Mary Spitzley; brother, Donald; brother-in-law, Eugene Gross. Surviving are his wife of 48 years, Dorothy Pung; children, Angela (Michael) Schrauben, and Jason (Rachel) Pung; six grandchildren; siblings, Thomas (Rosemary) Pung, Robert (Bernie) Pung, Ann (Gerald) Kloeckner, Joan (Anthony) Hradecky, Richard (Ann) Pung, John (Kathy) Pung, and Ken (Carrie) Pung; sister-in-law, Barb (Richard) Trierweiler; many sisters and brothers-in-law. For those desiring, memorial contributions may be made to Divine Word Missionaries, in memory of Leon.

Mark Thomas Lehman, age 49, died peacefully surrounded by his family on Monday, April 21, 2014. He was born on July 18, 1964 the son of Thomas and Linda (Rogers) Lehman. Mark was an avid hunter, Notre Dame fan and loved following his girls sporting events. He worked for Demmer Corporation for over 30 years. Surviving are his daughters Keegan and Jenna; wife of 19 years, Julie (Hermes); parents Thomas and Linda; siblings Rhonda (Anthony) Goodrich, Michael (Lisa) Lehman and Shannon (Christopher) Bowers; four

nieces and one nephew; many aunts and uncles, and good friends.

Former Portland resident, George (Skip) Frye, 66, died at his home in Elephant Butte, NM on April 28, 2014. He fought a heroic battle with pancreatic cancer for two years. George was born September 5, 1947 to George and Pearle Frye in Detroit. He graduated from Portland High School in 1965, and married Sharon (Hughes) in 1969. During his successful careers with Meijer, Target, Rent-a-Center, Aarons and ReBath, George was an inspiring role model and leader. He always had time to teach and mentor. George dearly loved his family, friends and his life. He was so grateful to all who loved and supported him during his fight with cancer. George is survived by his wife, Sharon; a daughter and son-in law, Emily and Brian Petersen of Trufant, MI, son and daughter-in-law Eric and Betty Frye of Parker, CO; five grandchildren; his mother, Pearle Frye of Spring Arbor, MI; sisters Alice Hatcher and Joan Fitzpatrick of Spring Arbor, MI and brother John Frye of Springfield, IL; also: nieces, nephews, cousins, family and friends. Preceding George in death were his father, George Frye, sister, Fran Huhn and sister, Denise Bandfield.

Virginia D. Sanborn, age 92, passed away on Saturday, May 3, 2014. She was born on December 30, 1921 in Eagle, MI the daughter of John and Mary (Miller) Keusch. Mrs. Sanborn graduated from and was married at Resurrection Catholic Church in Lansing, and was a member of St. Patrick Catholic Church in Portland. Virginia was a wonderful baker, including cinnamon rolls and homemade bread. She enjoyed reading, and spending time with her grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents; infant son, Joel; infant daughter, Joyce; husband, Kenneth Albert Sanborn; brothers, William, Clement, Robert and Julius Keusch. Surviving are her children, Judy (Gale) Stevens of Lansing, James Sanborn of Bath, Robert (Chris) Sanborn of Royal Oak, Lawrence (Mary) Sanborn of St. Johns, and Sandra Hornby of Portland; 18 grandchildren; 27 great grandchildren; 3 great great grandchildren; sister-in-law, Gertrude Keusch of Mt. Pleasant. For those desiring, memorial contributions may be made to Lansing Catholic High School-St. John Paul the Great Chapel Building Fund, in memory of Virginia.

Harold A. Werner, age 86, passed away on Monday, May 5, 2014. He was born on July 8, 1927 in Pewamo, MI the son of Bernard and Elizabeth (Simon) Werner. Mr. Werner was a veteran, serving in the U.S. Navy. Harold worked at TRW Automotive for 33 years, and also farmed. He was an avid hunter, enjoying his trips out west, and also spent many years camping with family and friends. Preceding him in death were his parents; infant son, John; grandson, Cody Joseph; son-in-law,

Rowland Martin; brothers, Irvine, Edgar and Frederick Werner; sisters, Rita Gregersen and Lillian Richardson. Surviving are his wife of 67 years, Theola Werner; children, Susan (Rod) Hayes, Daniel (Jean) Werner, Catherine (Carl) Pratt, Bernard Werner, Patricia Ten Brink, Barbara Werner, Stephen Werner, Joseph (Sonda) Werner, John (Joyce) Werner, and Janine Martin; 20 grandchildren; 13 great grandchildren; sister, Alma Hilley.

Mary "Pat" Patricia Jarvis, age 93, passed away on Thursday, May 8, 2014. She was born on November 22, 1920 in Ionia County, MI the daughter of Fred and Nancy (Reed) Jarvis. Pat worked for Dr. Elsie Chiropractic, Jean's Restaurant, and also worked many years at the Portland Country Club, where a golf event was even named in her honor. After retirement, she spent many winters in Florida. In her later years, she especially enjoyed the companionship at the Portland Senior Center, playing cards and socializing. Pat was definitely a one-of-a-kind character. Preceding her in death were her parents. Surviving are her cousins, Hazel (Ron) Simons of Mulliken, Charles (Shirley) Reed of Lansing, Bonnie McDiarmid of Knoxville, TN, Nancy Harmon, Ed Green and Paul Green, all of Portland, as well as all of their extended families. Memorial contributions may be made to St. Patricks Catholic Church, or to the Portland Senior Center, in memory of Pat.

Arlis Nadine Quinn, age 90, passed away Monday, May 12, 2014. She was born August 28, 1923, in Three Rivers, Michigan, the daughter of George and Anna (Fulhart) Fairman. She grew up in Buchanan, Michigan, graduated from Buchanan High School and attended Western Michigan University. Arlis met her future husband, Jack "Doc" Quinn, a local veterinarian who was fresh out of MSU's School of Veterinary Medicine, when he made a house call at her parents' home to treat the family dog. She and Jack were married in 1944 and had 6 children. He preceded her in death in 2002. Arlis was a loving and attentive mother and wonderful homemaker. She will be remembered by family and friends for her kind nature, quick smile and sense of humor. She was a member of St. Patricks Catholic Church and was a regular organist at Mass for many years. She was a lifetime member of the VFW Ladies' Auxiliary. Arlis enjoyed music and playing the organ, playing cards, watching MSU sports, the Tigers and tennis, traveling and wintering in Florida, and, most especially, her grandchildren and great grandchildren. She was also preceded in death by her daughter, Eileen, her parents, and her brother, Robert. Surviving are children Mary (Dave) Roderick of Westphalia, Riley (Fran) Quinn of Westphalia, Betsy (Gale) Rogers of Portland, Tim

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Another School Year Under Way!

by Principal Randy Hodge

St. Patrick School kicked off its new school year on August 26. A lot of planning and hard work took place over the summer to ensure the school was ready when the staff and students returned.

There were several staffing changes that took place over the summer including the following:

- Mr. Aaron Thelen replaced Mrs. Laura Davis as an administrative assistant. We wish Mrs. Davis the best in her retirement.
- Miss Jessica Dorsky moved from Daycare Director to 1st grade teacher.
- Deacon Don is teaching 8th grade religion as well as 11th and 12th grade Theology.
- We welcome Mrs. Martha VanHaren as our new Spanish teacher.

The following improvements were made to the exterior of our parish property:

- The parking lots were refinished and relined.
- The areas around the school windows have been repainted.
- The outside trim on the church received a fresh coat of paint.

Many improvements inside the school included:

- The center portion of the building had new drop ceilings installed along with new lighting. The entire building now has energy efficient lighting installed.
- Both the upstairs and downstairs computer labs received new desktop computers.
- The Preschool Program moved into the main school building and now occupies the former Multi Purpose

Room.

- The Youth Ministry program has been moved to the "Annex" building across the street. Music classes have moved into the former Youth Ministry room.
- The conference/meeting room on the first floor is now a classroom. Room 208 is the new meeting room.
- Finally, the security doors between the main office foyer and the school were moved to the end of the hall, opening up the foyer area outside the office.

One other exciting development is that our elementary and middle school enrollment has grown to its largest size in recent years. For the first time in almost ten years, all classrooms on the lower level are filled with students. We hope and pray that our school enrollment continues to grow.

We are very excited to have the new school year underway. If any of our readers would like a tour of the school building, I would love to show it to you. Past graduates will be surprised and delighted to see how the school has changed since you left. Contact me if you'd like a tour or if you have any questions or comments. I'm always available. My phone number is (517) 647-7551; my email address is randyhodge@portlandstpats.com.

Please keep our students and staff in your prayers throughout the school year.



The lobby area inside the main office entrance received a makeover during the summer. The security doors were moved further down the hallway, making the lobby more spacious. The class composites, which have always been in the second floor hallway, are now located in this area. Memorial plaques and the IED are also located here.

We Pray! We Learn! We Achieve!



Shamrocks Travel to Spain

Several students from St. Patrick School, accompanied by chaperones and Spanish teacher, Mrs. Jennifer Leon, traveled to Spain and Italy in June for an educational, yet exciting and rewarding, experience.

The group arrived in Madrid, tired from their overnight flight. Many of the first-time flyers learned that planes are not conducive to good sleeping! However, they set their exhaustion aside and quickly began their trip with a visit



While on the bus trip between Madrid and Barcelona, the group stopped in Zaragoza, Spain.

to a buffet restaurant where they were able to taste a great variety of Spanish foods. The students delighted in using their Spanish-language skills when they met a group of boys from a Catholic boys' school. They also learned how to say a traditional goodbye--with a kiss to each cheek.

A bus trip to Barcelona allowed them to visit Sagrada Familia, a large Catholic church designed by Gaudi. Construction on the church began

in March of 1882, and it is scheduled to be completed sometime in the next ten years.

A small cruise ship took the group across the Mediterranean Sea to Italy, where they visited the Vatican, the Colosseum, the Roman Forum,, the Spanish Steps, Trevi Fountain, the catacombs, an open market, and many shops.

Because the entourage from St. Pat's was small, they traveled with two other schools and enjoyed many hours visiting and getting to know each other. They all enjoyed Oscar, their charming Portuguese tour director, who was helpful with directions, but who also provided them with the proper cautions, such as, "Be careful of pickpockets."

Everyone agrees that it was an awesome trip. Logan Cook summed it up by saying, "The whole experience was absolutely amazing! Not only were we able to explore Spain and Italy with fellow classmates, but we also had the opportunity to make new friends from other schools who traveled with us. The culture is so much different than what we experience in America and we are so blessed to have been able to witness it first hand. "



Everyone Counts

by Carol Gunderman

"Individual commitment to a group effort--that is what makes a team work, a company work, a society work, a civilization work." --Vince Lombardi

Since 1954, the Athletic Association has funded the athletic department for St. Patrick School. We do this by holding fundraisers, by volunteering to run the gate and concessions, and by doing many tasks around the school and parish that would otherwise be hired out. In other words, while we work hard to raise money, we also work hard to keep costs down.

One of our major fundraisers is the Fall Festival, which is just around the corner—October 12, 2014. The Fall Festival typically brings in about \$23,000 for our budget, and the largest portion of that profit comes from the sale of the raffle tickets. The raffle nets around \$12,000. Did you know that, if everyone sold their package of tickets, that number would grow to \$91,000? It's unbelievable, but it's true.

Each and every packet of tickets is important! If you sell your tickets, you will have purchased two regulation game balls for the volleyball team. If your brother sells his tickets, he will have purchased one box of medical tape. If eleven of your neighbors/friends sell their tickets, they will have paid the annual CMAC league dues.

We work very hard to honor your donations by keeping our budget in check. We're constantly reviewing every line item, looking for savings. Unfortunately, our costs continue to increase. Surely, you are noticing the same thing when you pay your household expenses.

Here are some examples of expenses that are paid through the sale of the Fall Festival raffle tickets:

Two packs of tickets will pay for:

- One Cross Country/Track entry fee.
- Two regulation game footballs.
- Five bowling uniform shirts.
- Three basketballs.
- Two dozen baseballs/softballs.

Three packs of tickets will pay the Quiz Bowl League Fee.

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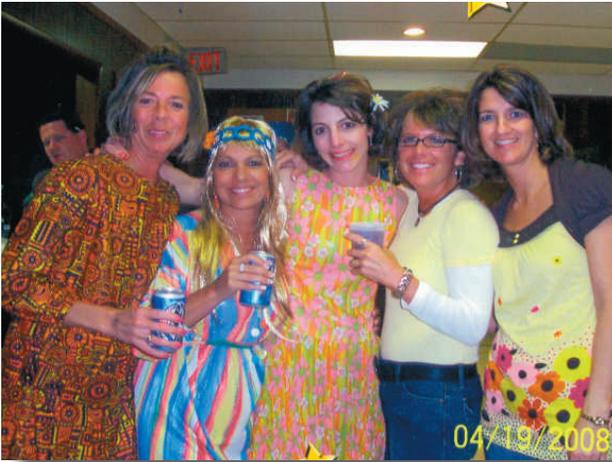
Shamrock Auction: A Story of Success

When then-Principal Mary Foy and her husband Tom invited Doug and Brenda Smith to go with them to a school auction in Beal City in 2002, none of the travelers could have foreseen what this trip would lead to.

Mary had heard about the successful auction at Beal City St. Michael Catholic School, and she thought that it might be something that could be implemented at St. Patrick School to help provide things for the school that the always-tight school budget didn't allow for.

The Smiths and Foys attended the auction in Beal City that spring and were astounded by how much money the auctioned items sold for. They had unique raffles, classroom projects, and above all, faithful followers who were willing to dig deep into their pocketbooks. The Beal City event typically raised \$18,000.

WOW! Their minds were reeling with the potential that this type of event could have at St. Pat's.



The auction committee members always dress to fit the theme. In 2008 they came in psychedelic wear to fit the 60's theme.

Bill Vallier came on board and along with Brenda and Mary attended a meeting with the people from Beal City to gather more information about logistics and promotion. While initially overwhelmed at the prospect of taking on such a monumental event, all of them knew that they owed it to the school and parish families to move forward and give it their best shot.

At that point in time, one of the largest annual fundraisers for the school was the Athletic Association's Las Vegas Night. That event typically brought in about \$7,000 for the athletic budget, but it had become obvious that the event had run its course. The income no longer

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Volunteers Are the Reason the Auction Thrives

It goes without saying that the success of the Shamrock Auction has been almost totally dependent on the loyalty and hard work of the volunteers. The operation has evolved over the years into a well-oiled machine—with a great mixture of old and new committee members.

Some of the original committee members are still involved (Lisa Lehman, Tony Thelen, Ken and Mary Cook); some of the originals just retired this year (Connie Vallier, Diane Simon, and Jim Fandel). Brenda Smith was the first chairperson, Lisa Kemmis took over for several years, and now Victoria Klein is in her third year as chair. She'll be training a new chairperson next spring. Donna Schrauben is a tireless volunteer who never stops. Donna spends winters in Florida, but she almost always flies home to help with the auction. The school and parish staff are a huge part of the auction's success, and the Athletic Association always makes sure that the food is great, the checkout runs smoothly, and the bar provides service with a smile.

The teachers and parents also play a huge role by making sure that there is a great and varied list of items to be auctioned. And the alumni even get involved by teaming up and donating large items from their own graduating classes.

The Shamrock Auction is the biggest money maker for the school and the Athletic Association. The profits are used to buy things that are outside of the normal budget: laptops for teachers, portable computer carts, Smart Boards for the classrooms, scoreboards for the gym/athletic fields, new fences for the softball/baseball fields, etc. Because of the auction, Shamrock athletes do not have to "pay-to-play."

Unique Projects Create Bidding Wars

Unique class projects are the most popular items at the Shamrock Auction, and there seems to be no end to the imaginative projects that show up each year. Often, classroom teachers and their students decide on themes and put together gift baskets that reflect those themes. Other times, the project is a piece of furniture—a picnic table, a playhouse, a set of barstools—that has been personalized by the students.

Through the years there have been quilts and books that were as unique as the classes that put them together.

At the 2014 auction, the highest-bid item was a photo created by Matt and Corrine Wendling, with the assistance of Mrs. Joanne Goodman and all of the second graders. Using a special photography technique and Photoshop software, Corrine designed a photo of the students at the Last Supper table with Jesus. The students are gazing at Jesus,

have hands folded in prayer, or are proclaiming praise to God. Each of the students has also signed the tablecloth in the picture. The finished product was printed and matted by RCP Studio in Portland.

The photo was one of the last items to be auctioned on April 28, and it elicited a bidding war between second-grade parents, with Jen and Dave Meredith coming out on top. The photo now occupies a place of honor in their home.



The 12" X 36" photo of the second grade students with Jesus at the Last Supper was auctioned at the 2014 Shamrock Auction. Dave and Jen Meredith now display it proudly in their home.

We've Got a Great Thing Going!

My family has lived all over the place. My husband grew up in Portland, so we finally moved "back home" a few years ago and we became involved with St. Patrick School in 2010. As a newcomer, I think that I see this town and this school from a vantage point that the natives don't always notice.

There is such an overall sense of ownership here. Everyone takes an interest, a role, and pride in doing SOMETHING to contribute.

Portland community and St. Patrick's "take care of their own." That is not the norm in many places that we've lived. The sense of family is very deep in this community. No matter what the circumstances, people seem to genuinely care about what is going on with their neighbors, friends, family, and the town as a whole. It is a unique trait and not just a small town characteristic. A lot of small towns don't have this unity.

Everyone at St. Patrick School takes pride in what we have and what our children are doing. Everyone

strives to be a presence in the lives of the students, even the ones who are not in your own child's class.

Every child in the school knows one other---from DK to the seniors. The Big Rock/Little Rock program is a primary reason for this. Once a child goes into the 6th grade, they are assigned a grade school child. They continue to "mentor" that child until they graduate. Then the cycle continues. This creates a deep sense of family and responsibility. The values are instilled into our children from an early age, which makes it such an easy transition into their adult lives. They value others as a whole.

That doesn't mean there aren't occasional disagreements or problems. Disagreements and problems are part of life. There are always going to be people you know or work with whom you might not like so much. But, I think St. Patrick School teaches how to handle this by having faith in God, in people, and in life.

The support in our community is very much evident in many ways, but one of the biggest I've noticed is in the sports arena. St. Pat's ALWAYS has the biggest group of traveling

parents and fans I have ever witnessed. It's not only the parents who attend the games but the elementary students, the middle school students, the high school students, the grandparents, the booster fans from the parish and from the community. It is an awesome sight to see when the visitor section at away events has a bigger crowd than the home team's side. We support our own!

And it doesn't end with our own school---we support all of the kids in the community, even if our child is not directly involved. Think back to the PHS State Football Championship game at Ford Field. Everyone in town was there, witnessing that event live. And the town was filled with banners, signs, and posters.

Take a good look around our school, our parish, and our town. Set aside everything that you think you know about them and view them as an outsider would. I think that you'll be amazed at what you see. And, I think you'll agree with me---we've got a great thing going here!

Victoria Klein,
Shamrock Auction Chair

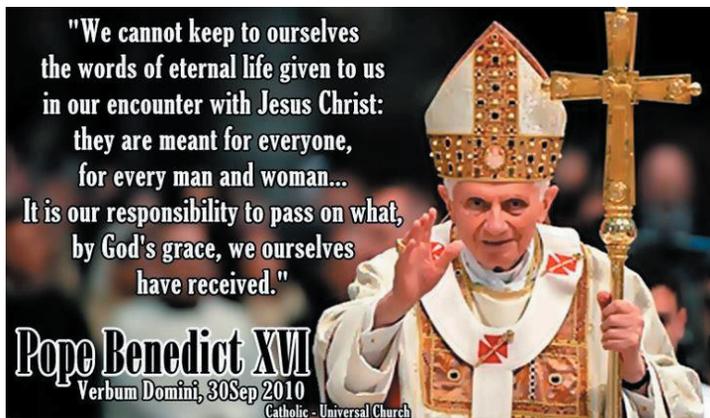
The Geometry of Evangelization

by Mike Cook

So what's this New Evangelization stuff all about? I always thought you had to be an "evangelist" to evangelize. But I changed my mind when I was helping a friend cut and place bathroom tiles.

My buddy asked me if I knew the mathematical formula for figuring out correct angles to cut the tiles. Having been a shaky, C-average guy in math and geometry, I said, "Yeah, you divide the obtuse angle into the aggregate of your isosceles triangle, invert the hypotenuse and add it to your high school geometry teacher's IQ." He said his teacher didn't have an IQ, so we decided to just wing it.

Sometimes that's true with evangelization too. The fact is that most of us are C-average or maybe D-average Catholics. We often don't know the principles and teachings of our Catholic faith very well, so we can't be very effective in applying them and showing the great benefits to others. We may be only as helpful to those around us as I was to my friend cutting the tiles.



Learning and understanding our faith better is really the key to affecting others in an informed, positive way. We only act as we know and believe. When someone notices us really being different from the rest of the world, they often inquire as to why. "Ummmmm," doesn't work, and if nobody asks why I act or speak differently than the rest

of the world, there may be a simple reason. Maybe I'm not that much different. Ouch!

Is seeking to know Jesus indispensable, too? Oh yeah. He's the source of truth that the Church teaches. He's also the source of every person's deepest need—unconditional love. Can't do it without Him. Our Catholic faith is a profound treasure, but there is no app to download it into our mind and spirit. It requires some effort to learn what all the saints of the last 2000 years have been talking about. Allow the Church and saints to evangelize YOU! You may find that discovering treasure is fun—and it's free.

Don't like reading from your musty smelling Catechism book? No problem. There are tons of good media resources to learn from. Holy Family Radio, 1140 AM, 91.5 FM, is a great one. EWTN television, channel 261 on DISH-TV or channel 370 on DIRECT TV, is another. Or you can go wild on the internet. A couple of good websites are www.catholic.org and www.catholic.com. Do a little surfing. You will learn amazing things about your faith. Then if you're willing to step outside your comfort zone just a little, the Holy Spirit will offer small opportunities in your daily life to affect others. That's easy evangelization, and you don't need a hypotenuse to do it.

George Rutherford Accepts Position as Coordinator of Youth Ministry

Congratulations to George Rutherford, who was hired to be the Coordinator of Youth Ministry at Portland St. Patrick.

George has worked with the program as a volunteer for over twelve years.

Watch the spring issue of The Shamrock for a story about him and what his visions are for the program.



Gensterblum Family Prepares to Celebrate Special Anniversary



The year was 1914. It was an important year in world history. On June 28, 1914, the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand triggered World War I. Two weeks later,

and canned everything that they didn't eat fresh. They baked their own bread and made their own noodles. The older children worked on local farms to help support the family. They weren't poor--they were self-sufficient.

Tragically, in 1943, when his youngest child was only two years old, Peter Gensterblum was accidentally killed while hunting. World War II was going on at that time, and two of the older sons, Marvin and Leon, were in the service. Both boys were called home from

a young baseball player named Babe Ruth debuted with the Boston Red Sox.

In August, the Panama Canal opened; and in September Benedict XV became the 258th pope of the Roman Catholic Church.

While all of those events were occurring around the world, romance was blooming in Westphalia, Michigan. Twenty-six-year-old Peter Gensterblum, son of German immigrants Jacob and Mary Ann Gensterblum, was courting nineteen-year-old Helen Fernholz. Helen's grandparents were also German immigrants.

On October 13, 1914, Peter and Helen were married at St. Mary's Church in Westphalia.

Little did they know, as they began raising their family, just how large that family would grow to be. Eventually they would have 18 children.

The Gensterblums moved to Portland, purchasing a farm on McCrumb Road in Danby Township. The family raised almost everything that they needed. They had milking cows and chickens. They raised a huge garden



The photo from the 1948 Lansing State Journal story. Back row: Elizabeth Huhn, Paul, Leon, Alvin, Marvin, Richard, Bobby and Eleanor. Second row: Lucille, Geraldine Hodge, Genevieve, Dolores, Mrs. Helen Gensterblum, Barbara, Mary Louise, and Virginia Schimp. Seated in front: Jimmy and Larry.

the army to help their mother with the younger members of the family.

Helen became both mother and father, furnishing both love and discipline to her family.

In May of 1948, the Lansing State Journal learned of the Gensterblum family and wrote a story, complete with pictures, that was published just in time for Mother's Day. The story noted that

a visit to their home was "awe-inspiring and confusing."

Twelve of the children were still living at home; five were married and three of those five had begun families of their own. Six of the children were still in school; four were out working and contributing to the family finances; two stayed at home to help run the household.

A typical meal consisted of five chickens, an eight-quart kettle of potatoes, salad from the garden, dozens of hot rolls, and three pies.

The day the reporter visited, the entire family was gathered together to honor their mother, though from the sounds

of the story, Mom did most of the cooking!

The family of Peter and Helen Gensterblum will gather on October 18, 2014, to celebrate what would have been their parents' 100th wedding anniversary. Though it's hard to get an exact count, the best guess is that there are 431 direct descendants.

Most of the Gensterblum children attended St. Patrick School. Most of them stayed in the mid-Michigan area after their marriages, many of which took place at St. Patrick Church.

Daughter, Genevieve, who became a Sister of St. Joseph, and took the name Sister Bernita Marie taught at St. Patrick School in the 1970's.

Today, the parish and school are still home to many of Peter and Helen's descendants. Principal Randy Hodge is a great grandson.

(See additional information about the Gensterblums on page 17.)



KING'S KOLUMN

by Father Larry King



Every day 14,500 children under the age of twelve die from hunger related diseases. You're probably thinking that this tragedy takes place in third-world countries, and there is a lot of truth to that. But it's also true that many children go to bed hungry and some are starving here in our own affluent nation; even in west Michigan.

The Portland Area Ministerial Association (PAMA) has decided to do something about this problem and is joining a program called Kids Against Hunger Coalition (KAHC).

KAHC is a non-profit, 501c3, humanitarian food aid organization whose mission is to significantly reduce the number of undernourished children locally, nationally, and around the world with fully nutritious meals packaged by volunteers.

According to the KAHC website, the meal ingredients were formulated by food scientists to provide a rich source of easily digestible protein, carbohydrates, and vitamins needed by an undernourished child's body and mind. The food is also acceptable to the broad diversity of ethnic tastes and religious differences around the world. The food consists of high-quality white rice, crushed soy (52% protein), a blend of six dehydrated vegetables, 21 vitamins & minerals. Each meal package only needs six cups of boiling water to be added and can feed eight children or six adults.

We pastors of PAMA have sampled the meal and found it to taste quite good. The cost for each meal is \$1.68 a packet, or .28 cents per meal.

Later this fall we will begin efforts to raise funds to assemble 10,000 meals. The total cost will be \$2800 with \$500 of it being donated by TRIVENT who co-sponsors this effort all across the United States.

Once we have enough funds collected, we will begin looking for volunteers to put these meals together. KAHC

brings in all the necessary ingredients, trains the volunteers, and does the set up and clean up. We will need about 100 volunteers from the community and churches for this project. With all those volunteers, putting 10,000 meals together will take only about two hours. Portland High School has already volunteered the space for this venture.

A significant number of these nutritious meals will remain here in Portland at the food pantries and at the local churches. The remainder will be distributed by Kids Against Hunger Coalition nationally and internationally wherever there are starving people. These packets have a long shelf life and would be ideal for use during natural disasters.



Students from suburban Northville and inner-city Detroit join forces to assemble meals for the Kids Against Hunger Coalition. They can pack more than 20,000 in a three-hour period. Since 2005 they have packed over 750,000 meals.

Want to get involved either financially or by volunteering? Put November 22 on your calendar, then watch the bulletin/website for more details. Don't you agree that this is a great way for our Portland churches to work together?!

You can find more information on this program at: kahcoalition.org or you can check out the organization on YouTube.

What is PAMA?

Portland Area Ministerial Association (PAMA) is an alliance of local pastors who meet regularly, for official business and social time. The group strives to promote understanding and cooperation between churches. PAMA also reaches out to help the needy in the Portland area, primarily through the food pantries maintained at the Congregational Church, Epic Church, and the Senior Center. The Festival of Tables, which occurs each winter at the Nazarene Church, is the group's main fundraiser.



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

Fund Balance and School Support

I am very pleased to report that our year-end fund balance was \$2,380,198. Another million dollar milestone achieved!!! We are certainly thrilled, but already focused on \$3,000,000 and beyond. The fund balance is great, but what's really exciting, and what really matters, is the school support that grows along with it. In the past five years alone we were able to provide over \$410,000 of support to the school, including \$91,250 of tuition assistance and scholarships for the school year ending in June of 2014. We believe this level of support is not only sustainable from year to year, but should continue to grow, as we continue to grow the foundation balance. To date the FFF has provided a total support to the school of over \$1,106,750. So, if you're keeping score at home—take another look at these numbers, and you'll agree—the foundation is working, and making a real difference in the school, thanks to all of you.

Total Gifts to the FFF	\$2,123,250
Current FFF Fund Balance	\$2,380,198
Total Support to the School	\$1,106,750
Support to the School Last 5 Yrs only...	\$ 410,000

Bell Award Nominations Needed

The Foundation is looking for nominations for the Education Bell Award that is given annually at the high school graduation ceremony in the spring. Nominees should be past students from St. Patrick (either eighth grade or high school graduates; can be 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 they graduated and submit to the Father Flohe

Foundation, 140 Church Street, Portland MI, 48875, by December 1, 2014. Nomination forms are also available on the school website, on the FFF page. All nominations received are evaluated and considered for the current year award, as well as maintained for future award consideration. Please note that award presentations are now being made during Catholic Schools week in January (instead of at graduation in May), so the timetable for submission and selection has been moved forward.

Contributions Update

As of June 30, 2014, the Foundation has received approximately \$2,123,250 in contributions/donations since its inception. For all those who were able to donate, it was greatly appreciated. Your continued support and donations are important in providing an excellent education for the students of St. Patrick. Please consider making a tax-deductible donation to the Foundation. Such donations can be dropped off at the parish office, put in the offering at mass, or mailed to the Foundation at 140 Church Street, Portland, MI, 48875.

Planned Giving - Tax Advantages

Planned giving not only benefits the school, it also provides substantial tax benefits to the giver. There are many ways to contribute to St. Patrick School through the Father Flohe Foundation including the following:

- Gifts of cash
- Securities and Real Estate
- Life Insurance
- Other Appreciated Assets

For more information on any of these options or additional gift plans, contact your tax advisor, CPA, insurance agent, or legal consultant.

Reunion News

Reunion Alerts

The *Class of 1968* is holding their 46-year reunion at the home of Charlie and Kathy Schrauben, 3715 O'Mara Rd., Muir, on Oct. 18 at 4:00. Smoked pork sandwiches and hot dogs will be available, and everyone will be asked to make a small donation to help to cover the costs. Everyone should bring a dish to pass, their own beverages, and lawn chairs. Weather permitting, there will be a bonfire. Anyone who was a part of this class but didn't graduate with them is welcome also. RSVP to Janice Beech at djbeech@wowway.com so that they can get an idea of how many can attend. If you need a map to Charlie's house, Janice will email it to you. This will be your only invitation to the reunion, so be sure to mark your calendars.

Reunion Reports

On September 20, 2014 the *Class of 1959* celebrated their 55-year class reunion, hosted by Dan and Kathy (Schneider) Spitzley at their Spitzley Party Barn. Eighteen classmates and their spouses attended. Everyone enjoyed a delicious meal followed by a relaxed evening of reminiscing while the juke box played tunes from the 50's in the background. The evening provided ample time for updating each other on what has been happening in their lives and of course there was a lot of bragging about grand children.



The *Class of 1969* held their 45-year reunion at the home of Hank and Doni (Manning) Knoop in Ionia on Saturday, September 13, 2014. Some of the classmates played golf at Willow Wood Golf Course in Portland early in the day. A potluck dinner was held in the evening followed by fireworks and lots of reminiscing. The classmates were entertained with a game of trivia questions based around events

and happenings from 1969. The game proved to be both challenging and funny. Twenty-one of 43 graduates attended the reunion.



Memories

When your class gets together for reunions or other events, you probably bring up memories of your days together at St. Pat's School. Send those memories to us, and we'll share them with our readers! These memories came from the Classes of 1993 and 2003.

Class of 1993

- Remember when Mrs. Smith would make us put our gum in our hair if we were caught chewing it in class? Good thing for big hair and layers of Aqua Net hairspray so we could just rest it atop our big bangs!
- Remember our 5th grade teacher, Mrs. Stein? Remember all the tricks she could do because she was double-jointed in so many places?
- Remember how exciting it was our junior year when our football team went to the State Finals?

Class of 2003

- Remember when Justin Long used to call himself King Justinian. The funny thing is, his wife told us that he has used that name as an adult as well! It is great how some things never change.
- Remember when Tom Gensterblum, Shane Riley, and Tommy Krausz all joined our class? We had a hard time understanding Tom Gensterblum at first, but after a while he started to grow on all of us.
- Remember when we played "Boys Chase Girls" on the playground?

Send your memories to shamrockeditors@gmail.com---or text them to 517-575-8000. If you send a text, please identify yourself and be sure to state your graduation year.

Reminder to Reunion Organizers

If your class is planning a reunion, please send in the details, and we'll help you spread the word. When the party's over, let us know what you did and send us a photo. Everyone loves to see how other classes celebrate—and how young they all look!

Send information to shamrockeditors@gmail.com.

SHAMROCK AUCTION

(CON'T FROM PAGE 8)

kept up with the demands of running the school's very successful athletic program.

The auction committee's vision was to replace Las Vegas Night with the new auction, sharing the duties of the auction between the school and the Athletic Association—and also splitting the proceeds between the two entities.

It was a hard sell. The Athletic Association members were skeptical that any event could bring in \$18,000 in one night, and they were hesitant to give up Las Vegas Night because the \$7,000 it provided was critical to their budget. It took several



Ken Cook was the Ringmaster in 2013's Under the Big Top.

meetings and several presentations before they hesitatingly voted to suspend Las Vegas Night for one year, with the stipulation that the first \$7,000 of proceeds would go to them.

Yay! Brenda and her team were off and running! A core group was quickly established and the work began on the first-ever St. Patrick School Auction. They needed to find an auctioneer, establish a theme, solicit items for the live and

silent auctions and decorate the KC Hall. But most of all, they needed assurance that people would attend.

When the night arrived in April of 2003, the hall was packed—with a standing-room-only crowd. And, not only did they attend, they had a great time and they spent money! The inaugural auction netted \$38,000!

Since that first event, the auction has stayed mostly the same. Things have been tweaked to keep it fresh and appealing, but the basic event still contains those same elements from 2003—live and silent auction prizes, classroom projects, fun raffles, great food and drinks, and best of all, an



Tony Thelen played the bumbling deputy Barney Fife in 2009 when TV Land came to the auction.

enthusiastic crowd who come to have fun and spend money. Each year the profits soar higher than the year before. In its first twelve years the Shamrock Auction has netted a total of almost \$639,000, which is truly phenomenal for a one-night event. The collaboration between the school and the Athletic Association is a true testament to what can be achieved when all parties are working for the common good.

Mark your calendar for the 2015 Shamrock Auction, scheduled for Saturday, April 18, at the KC Hall. Advance tickets will go on sale in March. Watch the school website for complete information.

Alumni Appeal Coming Soon

In 2008, St. Patrick School began a new initiative called the Alumni Scholarship Fund. The goal was to make it a reality for any student who wished to attend or remain at St. Patrick School to be able to do so, regardless of circumstances. Through donations to the Alumni Scholarship Fund in its first six years, an average of 28 students per year were able to attend St. Patrick School who would otherwise have been denied this opportunity.

Most of the families who have received assistance through this program have used it as a "safety net" to help them through a rough spot in their lives—a divorce, death, serious illness, or unexpected job loss. By receiving a helping hand, they were able to get past that rough spot and become self-sufficient once again.

Last year, the fund surpassed \$100,000 in donations since its inception.

At the end of October, alumni will receive letters and donation information in the mail. As in the past, we are asking you to once again prayerfully consider making a donation to the Alumni Scholarship Fund equal to your graduation year. Example: If you graduated in 1987, consider a gift of \$19.87. If you are blessed with the ability to do more, please consider increasing that gift by five-, or even tenfold.

St. Patrick School is a special and unique place where students love to learn and learn to love. There is no greater gift than giving a child the opportunity to grow and learn in this loving, Christ-centered environment where the goal is to develop each student in mind, body, and spirit. With your commitment and support, SPS will remain as strong and vibrant as ever.

Non-alumni who would like to donate can send your donations to Alumni Appeal, 140 Church Street, Portland, MI, 48875.

2002 Grad Undertakes Trip of a Lifetime

Many people fantasize about taking a year off and traveling the world. This fantasy is coming true for Stacy Stiffler (2002) and her fiancé, Scott Greenman. The couple left on June 2, 2014, and are currently about halfway through a seven-month trip that will take them, literally, around the world.

Scott, who is an accountant, and Stacy, a middle school teacher, live in Atlanta. Through job-related travel, Scott managed to accrue enough Delta Skymiles (560,000) to earn two first-class around-the-world tickets.

According to the terms of the tickets, Stacy and Scott are allowed a total of five “stops” (where they spend more than 24 hours in a location) and 14 connecting flights to arrive at their intended destinations. They’ll also be traveling by train, car, bus, rickshaw, boat, bicycle, and feet.

Their five “stops” are:

- Johannesburg, South Africa
- Mahe Island, Seychelles
- Mumbai, India
- Beijing, China
- Sydney, Australia

Their connecting flights will take them to Amsterdam; Paris; Nairobi, Kenya; Kathmandu, Nepal; Guangzhou, China; and Manila, Philippines.

The less conventional travel methods will allow them to see Tanzania, Maldives, Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, and Fiji.

Stacy and Scott will return in January with memories to last a lifetime and many stories to tell!

EXCERPTS FROM THEIR TRAVEL JOURNAL

June 1, 2014 We are 26 hours away from the beginning of an amazing opportunity. Our bags are stuffed to the brim with everything we think we need without too many extras. It is pretty tough to get seven months of clothes, medicines, etc., into a 60-liter pack, but we are managing.

July 11-12 We’re about to conquer Mount Kilimanjaro, the highest peak in Africa. Our entourage arrived the morning we left ready to carry everything we need up the mountain and back down. We had 14 men in total that would take care of us for the eight-day experience: Two guides, a cook, the toilet porter (who carried and cleaned our toilet), the waiter named Robert (I wanted to put him in my pocket and bring him home with me—until he started stinking around day three. You always knew when Robert was close because you could smell him from ten feet away). We also had a tent guy, and the rest were general porters.

July 25 We have just finished a fabulous safari which took us to four different national parks, including the Serengeti. The entire adventure was like piecing together scenes from the Lion King. It was so cool to see the location that was, no doubt, the inspiration for the film. Our goal was to see the great migration. Unfortunately, we were too late and the animals had already crossed into

Kenya. We camped each night which meant for an entire week we would feel like our little tent was birthing us each time we needed to crawl outside. My legs were still so sore from the Kili adventure that I was crawling out on all fours and looking for a tree to pull myself up. I was moving like one of the old grandma turtles we saw in Zanzibar!

August 3 We are now in Shillong, India, and it’s here that one of our most anticipated events will begin—The Rickshaw Run! Beginning on August 6 we will join nearly 70 other teams from around the world to drive something the size of a golf cart and the power of a lawn mower 1864 miles across India.

That is the equivalent of driving from Atlanta to San Diego! We know that it will break down; the roads will be in bad shape; it will rain a lot; and we will get Delhi belly. Why on earth are we doing something when there are so many risks? Well, just think how cool it will be to see India from the seat of a little three-wheeled vehicle. It’s going to be great!

August 25 Yesterday we moved our amazing journey southeast to the island of Sri Lanka.

Within a short time we found that it is much nicer to drive through these streets than the obnoxiously crowded and loud streets of India. We had a bit of a rough start when we arrived around noon. A late car, empty SIM card, a car company who tried to pull a fast one by switching our car, and oh, there was the moment Scott forgot he was driving a

Toyota and not a rickshaw. We don’t think we’ll be getting our deposit back.

Read the full stories of Stacy and Scott’s Round-the-World Adventure at <http://s2rtw.weebly.com>.



Top photo: Stacy and Scott atop Mt. Kilimanjaro. Center photo: The couple prepare to drive a motorized rickshaw all the way across India. Bottom photo: Inside their tent on the Serengeti safari.

We’re always looking for people to write about in *The Shamrock*. If you have an idea, send it to shamrockeditors@gmail.com.

WHAT'S HAPPENING (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5)

(Libbie) Quinn of Brentwood, Tennessee, Phil (Patti) Quinn of Portland, and son-in-law Ted Kanemoto of Fairfield, California; 14 grandchildren; five great grandchildren; brother Bill (Marilyn) Fairman of Shoreview, Minnesota, sister Jeannine Hess of Bloomingdale, Michigan, and sister-in-law Eileen Ruff of Bloomer, Wisconsin; many nieces and nephews. For those desiring, contributions may be made to St. Patrick's Catholic Church music program or Ionia County Area Hospice.

Marie E. Fox, age 85, passed away on Friday, July 4, 2014. She was born on December 14, 1928 in Westphalia the daughter of Edwin and Theresa (Miller) Zimmer. Marie was a member of St. Patrick Catholic Church. She loved going to the lake in the summer, garage sales with her daughters and watching the Detroit Tigers and various game shows. She loved her family especially all the grandchildren. Marie was preceded in death by her husband, Elgin Fox, Sr.; daughter, Joyce Lenneman; infant children Martha and Christopher; son-in-law, Ronald Meyers. Surviving are her children Linda Meyers of Ionia, Bonnie (John) Jenks of Charlotte, Jane (Clifford) Sharp, Nancy (Clay) Sharp both of Portland and Elgin Fox, Jr. of Ionia; son-in-law, David Lenneman of Portland; 14 grandchildren; 14 great grandchildren; many nieces and nephews.

Ray L. McGraner, age 90, born April 2, 1924 in The Plains, Ohio to Elva and Marie McGraner, died July 5, 2014 in Ann Arbor. Retired Portland Public Schools employee, Ray raised four children as a single parent in the 1960s and welcomed all their friends into the house-hold with warm affection. He was loved beyond words by all his children and is survived by all his children, 11 grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren. Besides his family, he loved the Cincinnati Reds, the Ohio State Buckeyes and terrible puns. At his request, there was no visitation or services.

Doris C Beard born August 1, 1923 passed away July 16 in Jackson. Doris was the daughter of Rose Mary and William M. Hoppes and wife of Robert Carl Beard. Doris was preceded in death by her husband Robert; daughter Diana (Beard) Hill; her parents; five brothers; and four sisters. She is survived by her son Robert (Cathy) Beard; four grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; and sister Marlene Tanner. Doris was a life time member of Portland St. Patrick Church.

*Receive their souls, oh Holy One,
Present them now to God Most High.*

EVERYONE COUNTS (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7)

Four packs of tickets will pay for the winterization and start up of the irrigation system at Father Flohe Field.

Five packs of tickets will pay the CYAC fee so that 5th/6th graders can play volleyball and basketball

We want you to know that we appreciate all the support and encouragement we receive from our team of parishioners, grandparents, parents, relatives, businesses, and alumni. Without you on our team, we would not be able to provide for Shamrock Teams! Teaching a child the lifelong value of teamwork is priceless.

Everyone Counts!

SPOTLIGHT ON FATHER LARRY (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3)

lenges that always come along. Returning to St. Patrick Parish has been a true blessing for me, and I have found much joy and happiness here. Unless our Bishop has other plans for me, I will very likely retire from here. The current retirement age is 70, and I'll be 67 in November.

In reality, most priests never fully retire unless their health demands it. Most priests continue to assist in parishes for weekend Masses and other sacramental duties as the pastor has need.

That is my plan. But we'll see what the Good Lord has in store for me.

Box Tops Provide Funding for School

For the past several years, St. Patrick PTO has participated in the Box Tops for Education program. Special coupons, printed on many favorite food and non-food items, are redeemed for cash through the Box Tops program.

Since they began participating, the PTO has received over \$36,000. Over \$19,000 of it came in the last four years! This is the kind of fundraiser that everyone can appreciate, since no one has to spend extra money. It only requires a small effort to watch for the coupons, clip them, and drop them off at the school. Money raised through the Box Tops program is used to purchase items for the classrooms.

Are you clipping Box Tops? If not, why not start now? When you've accumulated a few, drop them in the cannister located inside the handicap entrance to the church, or mail them to St. Patrick PTO, 122 West Street, Portland, MI, 48875.

For a complete list of "Clip & Save" items that are used to benefit other school groups, visit the school website and click on Parent Info>PTO>Fundraising Opportunities.



The Gensterblum Kids (from page 11)

Richard Gensterblum* - Fowler
Bernita* - died as a teenager
Leon Gensterblum* - Lansing
Elizabeth Huhn - Portland
Geraldine Hodge* - Portland
Marvin Gensterblum* - Portland
Virginia Shimp* - Urbana, Illinois
Lucille Redman* - Lansing
Alvin Gensterblum* - Lansing

Genevieve - Sister Bernita Marie
Mary Louise Hanses - Westphalia
Eleanor Peake - Portland
Robert Gensterblum - Lansing
Paul Gensterblum* - Grand Ledge
Dolores Houser - St. Johns
Barbara Densmore - Portland
James Gensterblum - Portland
Larry Gensterblum* - Portland

* deceased



The times they were a-changin' in 1964. The Beatles appeared on Ed Sullivan; the Vietnam War occupied our minds and airwaves; and the final group of Baby Boomers were born! All of the words in this puzzle pertain to things that happened in 1964. Find all 31 of the hidden words, and the letters left over will spell out a quote by someone who epitomizes that year. Good luck!

P I N K P A N T H E R C O U E N G
 P O P T A R T S T N Y O F U K R I
 S N I P P O P Y R A M A L C A T L
 G P V I E T N A M V E D I B U S L
 D S A L E D N A M I Y V P E Q E I
 B R G R B Y F S S L I R P W H U G
 E E A O W R R E A L I A E I T Q A
 A M I F G E D N R U N E R T R Y N
 T O U E T O L I N S I Y H C A N E
 L O D S C C G B S D M P E H E N L
 E B N P T H A I B E E A L E N O L
 S U I O T A T R R U G E L D R J E
 M Z Y S E A N R D L B L O S A C V
 L O A U N T Y G O S S U D R G L E
 K C F O O D S T A M P S O I D F H
 T E B Y S M R I A F S D L R O W C
 I I S P E P T E I D L E L S L N O
 L R I G Y N N U F T T E Y A L R S

ENTRY FORM AND RULES

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 November 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.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

ANSWER: _____

BEATLES
 BEWITCHED
 BOOMERS
 BUBBLE WRAP
 CHEVELLE
 CIVIL RIGHTS ACT
 DIET PEPSI
 DRAFT CARDS

DYLAN
 EARTHQUAKE
 ED SULLIVAN
 FLIPPER
 FOOD STAMPS
 FUNNY GIRL
 GEMINI
 GILLIGAN

GO GO GIRLS
 HELLO DOLLY
 JONNY QUEST
 LEAP YEAR
 MANDELA
 MARY POPPINS
 MLK
 MUNSTERS

MUSTANG
 PINK PANTHER
 POP TARTS
 RAGDOLL
 VIETNAM
 WORLDS FAIR
 ZIP CODES



The spring issue of *The Shamrock* was all about making a difference in the world, and the quote had to do with exactly that: ***How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world.*** The winner, drawn randomly from all correct entries was Roni (Lehman) Christmas, who received \$50 for her efforts. Roni graciously donated the prize money to the St. Patrick Alumni Scholarship Fund. Thank you, Roni!

Upcoming Events

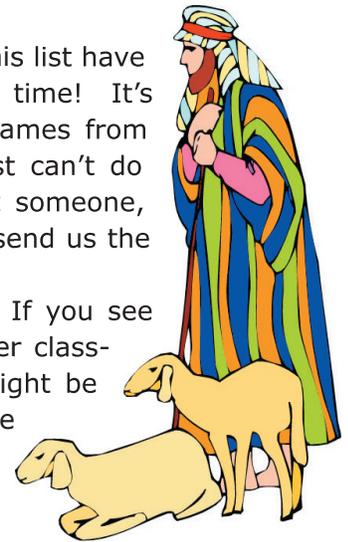
Fall Festival October 12, 2014
 Confirmation October 19, 2014
 Ethnic Dinner November 1, 2014
 Catholic Schools Week Jan 25 - 31, 2015
 Pancake Breakfast January 25, 2015
 Festival of Tables January 31, 2015
 Senior Appreciation Dinner March 14, 2015
 Shamrock Auction April 18, 2015
 First Communion May 3, 2015
 Graduation May 17, 2015
 Parish Festival June 26-27, 2015
 Class of 1965 50-Year Reunion Sept 12, 2015

Spring issue of The Shamrock—Early April

LOST SHEEP

Some of the people on this list have been “lost” for a long, long time! It’s tempting to remove their names from the alumni list—but, we just can’t do that! We keep hoping that someone, somewhere, will eventually send us the information we need.

Take a look at the list. If you see a family member or a former classmate and think that you might be able to locate him/her, please do so, and send us the address when you find it!



1956 Duane Irrer	1980 Angie Young
1968 Carolyn Rowe	1981 Mike Binder
1968 Dave Pohl	1981 Frank Winter
1974 Mark VanderHoff	2000 Carl Gensterblum
1974 Donna Cook Bishop	2001 Julie Chamberlain
1975 Susan Thelen	2007 Marki Stimpson
1979 Michael Hendricks	

Please use this form to let us know of any address changes, or to submit information for the newsletter.

Name: _____

Address _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____

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

News to include in the next issue, information about class reunions, ideas for articles (use separate sheet if necessary):

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.

The Shamrock

140 Church Street, Portland, MI 48875
 Phone (517) 647-6505 Fax (517) 647-7807

E-mail: shamrockeditors@gmail.com

Website: www.portlandstpats.com

(Click on Alumni Information)

The Shamrock is published two times annually and mailed free of charge to all St. Patrick’s alumni, St. Patrick’s parishioners, donors to the Father Flohe Foundation, and upon request. The members of the editorial staff are as follows:

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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, contact any staff member.

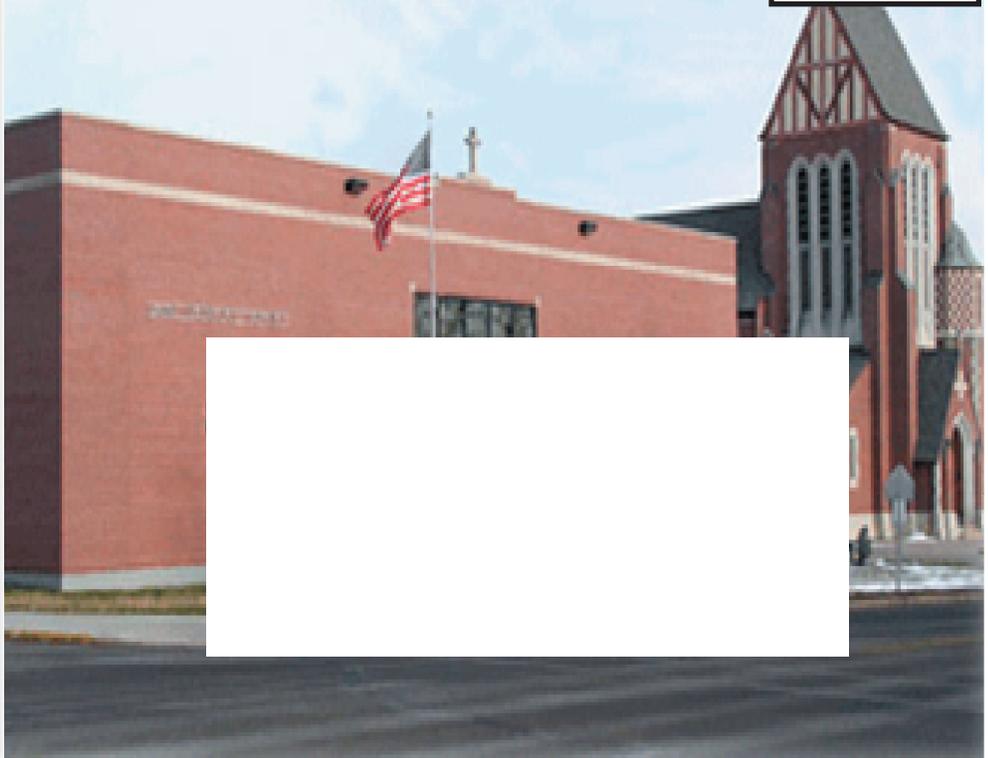
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St. Patrick Parish School
140 Church Street
Portland, MI 48875

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 US Postage
 PAID
 Grand Rapids MI
 Permit 1



Join Us at Portland St. Patrick's

54th ANNUAL
Fall
Festival 

Sunday, October 12



All of your favorites

- Buffet Style Dinner
- Arts & Crafts Show
- 5K Race & Half Marathon
- Kidfest Activities
- Euchre
- Raffle

plus
Special Prizes!

Get a **FREE Pot O'Gold Door Prize Ticket** when you come to the dinner!

www.portlandstpats.com > Fall Festival
 Sponsored by St. Patrick's Athletic Association to Support Shamrock Athletics

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