WE PRAY! WE LEARN! WE ACHIEVE!
SINCE 1906

THE SHAMROCK

ST. PATRICK PARISH & ALUMNI NEWS FALL 2018

Father Mike Alber
Installed as Pastor

On Sunday, September 9. 2018, at the 11:30 Mass, Father Michael Alber was formally installed as the 17th pastor of St. Patrick Parish. Bishop David J. Walkowiak officiated at the Mass before a congregation that packed the church.

It was Holy Week of 2017 when Father Mike Alber, Pastor of Wyoming St. John Vianney, drove to Detroit to visit the Solanus Casey Center. Father Mike didn't know much about Father Casey, but he had a curiosity about the simple man who was scheduled to be beatified later in the year. He went to confession at the center, prayed the rosary, and enjoyed the peaceful atmosphere that he found there.

Father Mike recites the vows during his installation Mass.

As he drove back home after the visit, Father Mike noticed Portland. "Seems like a nice little town," he thought.

Several weeks later, Father Mike heard that Father Larry King would be retiring to Senior Priest status, leaving Portland St. Pat's without a pastor, so he let the board know that he would be interested in an assignment there.

In February 2018, Father Mike became the pastor at St. Pat's. Because Father Larry's retirement didn't align with the normal cycle of assignment changes, Father Mike also remained the pastor at St. John Vianney until the end of June, spreading himself thin as he managed two parishes located 40 miles apart.

Father Mike grew up on the west side of Grand Rapids. He attended St. James Elementary School and West Catholic High School. He is the youngest of seven children, with 20 years separating him from his oldest sibling.

During his junior year of high, school he began working for his uncle's electrical business, and by age

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Celebrating 30 Years

Can you believe that *The Shamrock* newsletter is beginning its thirtieth year of publication? It's been an amazing 30 years! Here's a little trivia from that first year:

- Deacon Dale Hollern and Barb Tichvon were the principal and assistant principal at St. Pat's. Father Richard Van Lente was the pastor.
- The Father Flohe Foundation was just getting off the ground and had assets of only $296,000.
- Randy Hodge was barely out of high school; Al Schrauben had just one runner-up title under his belt; and Bryan Scheurer was playing Little League.

The first issue of *The Shamrock* was only four pages long and contained a total of five articles. We were still typing everything on a typewriter and doing "cut and paste" sessions with scissors and a glue stick to prepare it for the print shop.

But, as technology changed, so did we.

In February 1994, the parish office got its first fax machine. We published the fax number and made it into a contest to see who would send the first newsletter-related fax. On February 11, 1994, Steve Schrauben barely edged out Doug Willemin and Denise Weeks to win the contest.

Four years later, on May 30, 1998, we announced our first email address and, once again, made

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Student Spotlight

Veronica White

Class of 2020

The journey that brought the White family, including their oldest daughter Veronica, to Portland is most certainly one that clearly illustrates how when one door is closed, God opens up another door of opportunity.

After a visit to St. Patrick School, which was over an hour away from their home, Bob and Jessica White began to ponder the possibility of moving their seven children to St. Pat's.

An unexpected setback, that could have been viewed as traumatic, instead opened up this new door and the decision was made to move to a new town and enroll all their sons and daughters St. Patrick Catholic School.

Another opportunity would present itself only two years later. Veronica would become one of the founding members of the Student Ambassador Team and Students for Life chapter at Portland St. Patrick High School. Veronica was already leading the singing at parish and school Masses.

Though just beginning her sophomore year, it was clear that Veronica possessed a vision and the decisive leadership skills that would propel the Ambassador team to many successes in that first year.

Veronica has a unique ability to set challenging goals and then map out a clear plan to achieve those goals.

Even more important in terms of leadership development, Veronica is willing to listen and learn, all the while intent on building up the people around her and adding more leaders to our combined teams.

Veronica describes her view of leadership in this way. "Being a leader involves working with and learning from those you are leading. And sometimes, you need to step back and let them lead you. That's hard for everyone, especially me.

I've always been a leader, but I never realized it and stepped up to fill the role until I was asked to be one of the leaders of the Ambassador Team."

As school begins this fall, the Student Ambassador Team has taken on a new name and will be known as Campus Ministry. Veronica will continue to use her God-given strengths and talents to be actively involved with projects taken on by the group. St. Patrick High School gained a great leader in Veronica White. She is a driving force in our effort to "Unite the school behind Christ-centered values and actions, take it to the parish, and extend it to the area."

Mail Call

To the editors:

I want to say thanks to Paul Pung for calling me "Coach." *(See article in the Fall 2017 issue.)* Frankly, I was hired by Fr. Flohe to only coach basketball. Sister Walter added a full day of teaching along with coaching baseball and being the Athletic Director. When Fr. Malewitz was at St. Pat's we added golf to the program. The cross country and golf were primarily the jobs of the AD for scheduling and transportation.

Great job on The Shamrock. At age 86 I read *"In Memory of"* first!!

Best to Paul and all the young and old Rocks.

Ken Johnson
5105 Keyes Lake Drive
Florence, WI 54121

Portland St. Patrick

Fall Festival

Buffet-Style Roast Beef Dinner
Huge Arts & Crafts Show
Kidfest Activities for the Kids
Half Marathon/5K Race
Euchre Tournament/Raffle
9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

October 14, 2018

122 West Street, Portland
Always the 2nd Sunday in October!
www.stpatsfallfestival.webs.com

In the Spotlight

Ruth (Platte) Ritzema

Ruth Platte graduated from St. Patrick School in 1987 and received her degree in elementary education from MSU. She began her teaching career in Lowell where she met Evan Ritzema, who became her husband in 1993. Little did she know that a life-changing experience would lead her down a different path and to a very rewarding career away from the classroom.

In 1998, Ruth and Evan were overjoyed to find out they were expecting twins. Katrin and Rebecca were born at 23 weeks gestation, with a 25% chance of surviving and a grim outlook if they did. Katrin lived for 12 days. Rebecca was in the NICU for 104 days, endured many surgeries, and nearly lost her battle three times. But, the little girl was a fighter, and she survived. While she has cerebral palsy, is legally blind, and has lower than average IQ, she has graduated from high school and lives on her own. Most importantly, when she looks at herself in the mirror, she sees herself as a confident young woman and not a premie-baby.

Ruth and Evan Ritzema leave the hospital with Rebecca in 1999 after a 104-day stay.

From the get-go, Rebecca saw an alphabet soup of specialists and therapists. She became involved in nearly every therapy that was available, including downhill skiing and horseback riding for strength and coordination. Many of these activities are available at little or no cost to families to help their children become the best they can be.

Mama Ruth learned along the way and has used her own experience to help other families. "No one chooses the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) as their birth plan," she said. "Families in the NICU go through intense trials and jubilations daily and sometimes hourly."

Ruth's current work provides programming and support for those NICU families at Bronson hospital in Kalamazoo:

- She coordinates a good quality dinner twice a month for the NICU families.
- She also assists with a scrapbooking program to help document the family's NICU journey.
- *Pictures of Hope* is a collage of pictures that show then-and-now photos of former NICU patients. These photos are on display on the unit. Rebecca is featured with pictures of both her and Katrin. (*https://www.bronsonhealth.com/bronson-health-foundation/news-and-events/nicu-pictures-of-hope/*)
- Kangaroo Care promotes the benefits of skin-to-skin contact with the little ones. As part of this program, Rebecca and one of the doctors hopped around the unit in kangaroo costumes handing out kangaroo-themed books.
- Ruth is organizing a walk/run to raise funds to support the unit combined with a reunion of families.
- Ruth and Rebecca will be speaking at the Vermont Oxford Network (VON) Conference in Chicago. VON helps hospitals throughout the world with quality improvement projects. The conference they are attending is specifically for NICU professionals.

"The cool thing about my position is that while it seemed that I set aside my career in teaching to be Rebecca's mom, it has come full circle to using everything I have learned along the way to help these families during their time in the NICU. The more that I help people, the more that they help me heal and grow."

Ruth and Evan are also parents of two sons Richie, age 13 and Ryan, age 9.

They recently celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary.

The Ritzema family, surrounds Rebecca at her high school graduation in 2017.

What's Happening?

If you have information that you would like included in the next issue of The Shamrock, please send it to shamrockeditors@gmail.com.

BIRTHS

To **Hannah (Wight**, 2007) and **Andrew Montpetit** their first child, Maria Jude, on March 28, 2018.

To **Zach and Julie (Schafer,** 2005) **Wight** (2005) a son, Theodore Stanley, on April 12, 2018. He joins sisters, Elizabeth (5) and Cecilia (3).

To **Josh and Gina (Solgat,** 2001) **Huhn** their fifth son on February 7, 2018. Christopher Anthony joins siblings, Bradley (11), William (9), Zachary (6), Nicholas (4).

To **Renee (Lansdell**, 2000) and **Terry Peterson** of Lansing, a son, Tyler James, on July 11, 2018. He joins siblings, Abby (3) and Max (2)

To **Correy** (1995) and **Melissa Selden** of Salt Lake City, UT, a son, Forrest Reed, on April 18, 2018.

To **Scott and Stacy (Stiffler,** 2002) **Greenman** of Dunwoody, GA, a daughter, Isla Jean, on March 26, 2018.

To **Mark and Mandy (Fox,** 2000) **Spitzley**, a daughter, Ayla Rhyan, on March 14, 2018. She joins sisters, Bella (10) and Selia (8).

To **Dave and Danielle (Stegenga**, 2007) **Rush** of Ada, a daughter, Sloane Marie, on April 8, 2018.

ENGAGEMENTS

Steven Vashaw (1987) and **Abigail Hart** are engaged to be married October 20, 2018, at St. Gerard in Lansing.

Holly Wieber (2012) and **Jerrid Smith** (2012) will be married on May 11, 2019, at St. Patrick Church.

WEDDINGS

Emilee Fox (2011) and **Jerrod Harrison** were married on June 30, 2018. The couple reside in Muskegon, MI.

Kyle Lay (2007) and **Amanda Malmquist** were married on September 1, 2018, at Portland St. Patrick Church.

Nick Simon (2008) and **Nicole Eggleston** were married on August 4, 2018, in Battle Creek, MI.

Tyler Smith (2010) and **Aubrey Schafer** were married at Westphalia St. Mary's Church on June 23, 2018.

ANNIVERSARIES

Dick and Mary Lue (Schneider 1964) **Brown** celebrated 50 years of marriage on July 13, 2018, with a family/wedding party dinner. The couple also took a trip to Alaska. They were married at St. Patrick Church.

Ruth (Platte 1987) and **Evan Ritzema** recently celebrated their 25th anniversary.

Joseph and Bonnie Wieber will celebrate their 65th wedding anniversary on January 4, 2019.

IN MEMORY OF

Richard "Dick," "Red," "Coach" Dornbos, age 87, of Granger, IN, departed this life peacefully at St. Joseph Regional Medical Center on Friday, September 1, 2017. His belief and commitment was to faith, family, friends, and food. God was first in his life. As a servant of Jesus, Dick is now with his best friend. Dick was born in Muskegon, MI, as the only child of Seymour J. "Duke" and Vivian V. "The Duchess" Dornbos on February 28, 1930. Dick is survived by his beloved wife, Margie; five children, David of LaGrange, IL, Mary Ann of South Bend, IN, Mark (Kerry) of Lincoln, NE, Gary of Park Ridge, IL, and Michele (Robert) Nettesheim of Libertyville, IL; six grandchildren; and one great grandson. Dick was the first coach at Portland St. Patrick High School when it opened in 1951. (See related article on page 11.) His complete obituary can be found at www.kaniewski.com/notices/Richard-Dornbos. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the St. Joseph County Right to Life, or the St. Pius X Education Fund.

Evelyn M. "Evie" Sias, 69, of Muskegon, MI, passed peacefully on January 14, 2018, at the Poppen Hospice Residence, surrounded by her loving family. Evelyn was born to George and Odelia Chamberlain of Portland, Michigan, on July 13, 1948. She attended Portland St. Patrick School. She worked as a cashier at Meijer Thrifty Acres from the age of 18 until she grew tired of it at the age of 63, when she retired in order to spend more time with Farmville. She wore her heart on her sleeve, she said what she thought, and she loved everyone unless they were a politician or an actress. She donated her time and money to charity, even when she didn't have much of either. She never let ringing up her customers get in the way of chatting with them. She loved gardening, but was terrified of worms. And she hated how television shows always interrupted her favorite commercials. Evie is survived by two children, Heather (Stacy) and, Aaron (Andrea); three grandchildren; and five siblings, Patricia, Francis, Thomas, Donald, and Michael. Donations may be made to www.smiletrain.org or www.stjude.org

The Sisters of St. Joseph request your prayers for **Sister Mary Schwartz, CSJ**, who entered into eternal life on March 24, 2018. Mary Elaine Schwartz was born in Detroit, Michigan, on May 11, 1929, the daughter of Frank Schwartz and Elizabeth (Saar) Schwartz. She received the name Sister Mary Cecilia when she took her first vows, but later returned to her baptismal name. Sister Mary enrolled at Nazareth College where she earned a Bachelor Degree in Music. She continued her education and in 1969 she received her Master's Degree from Catholic University of America with a major in Religious Education. She taught piano for nine years and then became a pioneer in pastoral ministry and developed a course for those preparing to become pastoral ministers. After this degree was developed, she received an honorary degree herself. She taught at many schools, including Portland St. Patrick.

Catherine C. Fedewa, age 97, passed away on Tuesday, April 10, 2018.

Frederick J. Schafer, age 86, of Portland, passed away Thursday, April 19, 2018. He was born December 21, 1931, in Westphalia, the son of Alfred and Cecilia (Schneider) Schafer. Frederick was a member of St. Patrick Catholic Church. He was a soft-spoken, kind, gentle, and very hard-working man. Frederick proudly served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, and going to auctions. Preceding Frederick in death are his daughter Sharon Schafer and several brothers and sisters. He is survived by his beloved wife of 59 years, Catherine Schafer; children, Michael (Ronda) Schafer, Deborah (Richard) Kuieck, Jane (Daniel) Russ, Gregory (Cindy) Schafer, and Joseph Schafer; six grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; and several brothers, sisters, and in-laws.

Thomas Langdon Snyder, 73, of Ludington, passed away unexpectedly Wednesday, May 16, 2018, at home. He was born March 17, 1945, in Lansing, the son of Timothy and Phyllis (Southwell) Snyder. Tom graduated from Portland High School in 1963, and then Ferris State College in 1968, with a marketing degree. He started his working years in Portland at St. Patrick Catholic School as a math and science teacher for two years. He became the school principal for another two years. The next chapter in his career started in 1973 when he took over a third-generation family business, Snyder's Insurance Agency. Tom met the love of his life, Sharon, during this time and they were married in 1980. Tom and Sharon sold the insurance agency in 1985. He then had a brief career at Tri-County Electric Company in Portland, as the customer relations manager. This brought him to the most rewarding chapter of his life as Tom and Sharon moved to Ludington, to purchase Snyder's Shoreline Inn in 1986. The next 27 years were full of hard work, long hours, and fun as he and Sharon built a successful business that they truly loved due to the loyal employees, guests and local business owners. During this time, they also engaged in business ventures with Snyder's Pier House (ten years) and Snyder's Storage. Tom is survived by his wife, Sharon; children, Robert J. (Deena) Mayhew of Grand Rapids, Laura (Doug) Pung of Portland, Michelle (Paul) Snyder Ardern of Dundalk, Maryland, and Angie (Mike) Snyder Kuhn of Ludington; five grandchildren; his sister, Janice (Bob) Switzer of Mesa, Arizona; and his brother-in-law, Monty (Margaret) Ashton of Ludington. Tom was preceded in death by his parents; and his infant sister, Jacqueline. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Lakeshore Food Club or Help Ministries.

Susan Marie Sanders, age 63, passed away on May 17, 2018. She was born on March 20, 1955, the daughter of Ernest and Betty (Davidson) Thelen. Susan graduated from St. Patrick High School in 1973. She loved watching sports, playing cards, traveling, and going to the movies. Susan deeply loved her family especially her children and grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents; brother, David Thelen; and her husband, Art Sanders. Surviving are her sons, Mitchell (Pam) Jones, Jr. and Tory (Casey Miller) Jones; four grandchildren; sister and best friend, Mary Ann (Gary) Gardner; brothers, Charles "Lucky" (Sandee) Thelen and Richard Thelen; special friend, Stan Walker; several nieces, nephews, and cousins. For those wishing, memorial contributions may be made to the Fr. Flohe Foundation in memory of Susan.

Leola Ann Ferguson, age 79, of Portland passed away on Monday, June 4, 2018. She was born on August 16, 1938, in Detroit, the daughter of Felix and Viola Kubinski. Leola enjoyed cooking, going to the casino, and spending time with her family. She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Arthur Ferguson; grandson, John Michael Thayer; brothers, Leo and John May; and sister, Jean. Surviving are her children, Rick (Rhonda) Ferguson, Brenda (Timothy) Schneider, Julie (Robert) Welch, Laura (Dean) Stanton, Rose (Chris) Thayer, John (Paula) Ferguson, and James (Amanda) Ferguson; foster son, Stanley Haigh; 31 grandchildren; 54 great-grandchildren; one great-great-granddaughter; and sisters, Kathy (Douglas) Staines and Elizabeth Bigford.

If you have announcements for What's Happening (births, weddings, engagements, anniversaries, graduations, etc.) send them to The Shamrock. See page 19 for email and address information.

Bernice Mary Schneider, age 87, of Portland, went to be with the Lord peacefully on Sunday, June 17, 2018, surrounded by her family. She was born August 13, 1930, in Westphalia, the daughter of Edwin and Verena (Rademacher) Arens. She married John Schneider on June 14, 1958, and he preceded her in death on September 3, 1987. Bernice was a devout Catholic, a member of St. Patrick Catholic Church, and part of the Ministry of Caring for several years. She worked in the nursery at St. Lawrence Hospital before starting her own family. She always had homemade cookies in her freezer and was famous for her twirly cookies. Bernice never hesitated to provide a home-cooked meal and baked goods to anyone in need. Her selfless acts and nurturing personality were far reaching and touched many lives. Surviving Bernice are her children, Deb (Gary) Hattis, Diane (Jeff) Harger, Denise (Jerry) O'Brien, Dawn (Dan) Arwood, John (Tammy) Schneider, and Darcy Schneider; 11 grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; brothers, Francis, Anthony (Sandy), and Joseph (Eunice) Arens; sisters, Arlene Taylor and Rosemary Arens; and several cousins, nieces and nephews. A special thank you to her caregivers, Mary Huhn, the staff of Portland Assisted Living and Memory Care, and Great Lakes Hospice.

Gary J. Huhn, 78, formerly of Portland, Michigan, passed away June 26, 2018, in Fort Wayne, Indiana, where he was a resident for over 50 years. He was born March 28, 1940, in Lansing, Michigan, to Leonard and Rose Marie (Thelen) Huhn. He is survived by brother, David G. Huhn of Grand Rapids, Michigan; and sisters, Marcia (Roger) Roty of Jackson, Michigan, Linda Lou Egan of Golden, Colorado, Noreen Karasinksi of Grand Rapids, Michigan, Denice (Tom) Hansen of Cheboygan, Michigan; and several nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents; brothers-in-law, Dick Egan and Fred Karasinski; and sister-in-law, Kitty Huhn. Gary has asked that memorials go to St. Mary's Soup Kitchen, Portland St. Patrick School, or United Negro College Fund.

Marvin Andrew Schafer, age 95, of Portland, passed away peacefully on his farm on Saturday, July 7, 2018. He was born on December 4, 1922, the son of Alfred and Cecilia (Schneider) Schafer. Marvin was a member of St. Patrick Catholic Church in Portland and the K of C Council #2168. He was a veteran of the U.S. Army serving during WWII in Korea and was a lifetime member of the American Legion. Marvin was a lifelong farmer and retired from T.R.W. in Portland after 30 years of service. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, playing cards, camping, and was an avid reader. He was preceded in death by his parents; sons, Ronald, Larry, and Patrick (infant); daughter, Marlene Schafer-Walser; brothers, Clarence, Alvin, Stephen, and Frederick; sisters, Esther Schafer and Marie (infant). Surviving are his wife of 69 years, Mary; children, Janice Glassmire, Julie (Thomas, Jr.) Brennan, Yvonne (Gary) Watkins, Marie (Nelson) Monroe, Steven (Marie) Schafer and Deanna (Tad Drake) Hodge; several loving grandchildren and great-grandchildren; siblings, Irene Lischkge, Bertha Roggenbuck, Mildred (Art) Schafer, Dorothy Trierweiler, Rita Bashore, Justin (Frieda) Schafer, and Donald (Pauline) Schafer; in-laws, Lucille Fedewa, Marilyn Smith, and Jerome (Carlene) Smith; and many nieces and nephews. For those wishing,

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What's New for 2018-19?

by Principal Randy Hodge

There are a lot of changes to the curriculum at St. Patrick School this year across all grade levels.

Starting with our youngest Shamrocks, a new STEAM program is being taught by Mrs. Judy Fleischer. STEAM stands for science, technology, engineering, art, and math. These topics are vitally important tools for all of our graduates who will be going to college and entering the workforce.

Students in Mrs. Fleischer's STEAM class, Jerred Russman, Siena Schafer, and Olivia Martin work on an engineering project.

Students in grades 2-5 participate in the STEAM special two days a week and our 8th graders have a STEAM elective course which is being taught by Mrs. Jan Simon.

"This 8th Grade STEAM course is structured to prepare students for success in the real world by providing challenging, student-centered, inquiry-based experiences," said Mrs. Simon. "Students are able to problem-solve, think creatively, collaborate with others to find solutions, and effectively communicate with one another."

For our high schoolers, there are also some curriculum changes.

Our theology program has been revitalized. Mr. Dan Rockey has been hired to teach high school theology and will lead the department, helping to implement theology more completely into all subject areas. We continue to use the curriculum outlined by the Diocese of Grand Rapids and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB).

In addition to classwork, our high schoolers are reading and focusing on one of the Gospels throughout each year of high school. They will also be assigned a faith-based book to read each semester throughout their high school career.

Latin has been added to our high school curriculum. Mrs. Laura Huggler is teaching Latin to our freshmen students. Mr. Nicolas Weber, a student teacher from Germany, is working with Mr. Holman teaching high school English and German.

We are expanding our dual enrollment options with Aquinas College. Last year was the first school year in which an Aquinas College professor came to St. Patrick to teach dual enrollment classes to our juniors and seniors.

Along with the two courses offered last year (Introduction to Public Speaking and Introduction to Communication), we have added an Introduction to Psychology course and a sociology course titled Cultural Anthropology. These courses are open to the public. Students from other schools as well as adults can enroll. Contact me if you are interested.

The Big Rocks/Little Rocks program continues, but with a few changes this year. We are having separate Masses for the elementary and high school students, so the BRs/LRs will no longer attend weekly Mass together. Instead, we will have several special all-school Masses and will also continue with monthly service projects that they can work on together.

Kara Shaw and her Little Rock Danica Ginther attended Mass together on the first day of school.

St. Pat's School Group Travels to Costa Rica

by Jessica Dorsky

In June 2018, ten of us from St. Patrick School took an educational trip to Costa Rica. Travellers included Leah Cook, Ally Florian, Nate Leahy, Mollie Leahy, Brandon Scheurer, Jill Scheurer, John Schneider, Shayla Schneider, Joe Timmer, and myself. It was a ten-day trip through an organization called EF Tours. It was an opportunity for all of us to practice the virtues.

First of all, it was a great opportunity to strengthen the virtue of diligence. Our itinerary was packed with adventurous activities. Some highlights included exploring a waterfall, seeing a coffee plantation, kayaking, hiking in a cloud forest, riding in a crocodile cruise, relaxing in a hot spring, zip lining, and whitewater rafting. These activities were exhilarating.

St. Patrick students visited a rural multi-grade-level school to learn about the educational system of Costa Rica. They donated paper and school supplies to the children and spent time talking and playing with them.

Costa Ricans have a deep respect for nature and take so many measures to help preserve it. It's the most diverse ecosystem in the world. We were privileged to be able to help with reforestation efforts in the EF reserve.

The students also had various opportunities to grow in the virtues of kindness, charity, patience, and humility. "Pura vida" is a common phrase in Costa Rica. It literally translates to "pure life" and the idea is to cherish and appreciate every moment. Costa Ricans are known for being very humble and joyful. We had the opportunity to donate supplies to a rural elementary school. Our students learned about the Costa Rican school system and got a chance to interact with the students during recess. We also heard various testimonies of how people are living a sincere life of gratitude. It was very refreshing.

It is challenging to find life refreshing with the current events. However, Jeremiah 29:11 talks about God giving us a future of hope. More than ever, we need to be intentional disciples and rest in the Lord.

Forthelongest time, I prayed to be content with living in Portland. While in Costa Rica, I walked into a Catholic Church where I met a sister. She asked me to follow her to the grotto where she prayed over me in Spanish. At that very moment I knew God was calling me back! This January I will be moving to Costa Rica.

St. Patrick students helped with reforestation efforts in the Costa Rican rainforest.

Some people have the misconception that being Catholic is just about following rules, but when we truly surrender, God can fulfill the desires of our hearts in ways we may have never imagined.

Jessica Dorsky is the former Spanish teacher at St. Patrick School.

Marc Nichols presents a check for $5,000 to Randy Hodge and Mike Coyne at the 2018 Shamrock Auction in April 2018. Marc Nichols Insurance Agency offered to match up to $5,000 in donations for the purchase of Chromebooks for the middle school students at St. Pat's School. The attendees at the auction quickly surprassed that amount. Thank you to Marc Nichols and all other donees!

Class of 1968 50-Year Reunion

Back row: Darlene Luce McPhee, Patty Hoppes Bogard, Tani Haynor Ellis, (Terry Morrison is hidden behind Tani), Denny Schneider, Hilary Fedewa, Don Ham, Dick Pohl, Neal Hoffman, Bill Brown, Steve Wilcox, Susan Schrauben Beech, Charlie Schrauben, Mickey Johnson, Art Baker, Janet Klein Stajos. Front row: Germaine Schrauben Hinds, Kathy Sochor Cooper, Linda Wight Bower, Annette Gensterblum Weiser, Cheryl Densmore, Julie Smith Leonard, Tanya Fedewa, Nancy Cook Costello, Janice Trierweiler Beech.

Twenty five members of St. Patrick Class of 1968 were guests of honor at a 50-year reunion hosted by the Father Flohe Foundation on Saturday, September 8, 2018. Classmates were given a tour of the school, followed by the 4:30 Mass, and then a prime rib dinner at the Wagon Wheel Oak Room.

Art Baker drove from Lander, Wyoming, to earn the destinction as the classmate who travelled the farthest. Several classmates brought along pictures from their younger years which led to hours of reminiscing about the days gone by.

Classmates also enjoyed videos from the fall of 1967, that were taken at the PW and Laingsburg football games. The football field was covered with snow and had to be shoveled off in order to play the game against Laingsburg.

Memory books, put together by the Father Flohe Foundation, were given to the attendees. In the books, classmates had been asked to name their favorite teacher. Though many were named, Mother Joyce and Lou LaScala received the most mention. "Mother Joyce was stern on the outside, but soft on the inside," was one of the comments.

"Mr. LaScala was a great coach and cared about all of us. He could make any subject interesting."

The Class of 1968 during Father Louis Anderson's senior religion class.

Many of the remarks in the book rang with humor, like the one from Charlie Schrauben whose favorite teacher was the nun he had in first grade. Though he couldn't remember her name, he did remember that "he would have married her if he could."

Art Baker remembered the infamous 1967 football game against Dewitt where the Shamrocks pounded their opponents and won the game by a score of 60-0. "Terry Morrison scored touchdowns the first five times he touched the ball," remembered Art.

Bill Brown remembered that night, too. He scored the first and only touchdown of his football career during that game.

Many of the grads also remembered with fondness their

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FATHER FLOHE FOUNDATION

Established 1988

Father Flohe Foundation Turns 30 —An Appeal to Help it Grow

It's 1988. The box office features *Die Hard, The Land Before Time, and BeetleJuice*. Rod Stewart's *Forever Young*, UB40's *Red Red Wine*, and Guns N' Roses' *Welcome to the Jungle* monopolize the FM airways. In Portland, Michigan, members of the St. Patrick community established the Father Flohe Foundation. The foundation's simple mission was, and still is, to ensure the stability of St. Patrick School as a DK-12 school for future generations.

Since its humble beginnings, the Father Flohe Foundation has been able to contribute more than $1,560,000 to support the operating needs of St. Patrick School. As I write this, the foundation balance sits just north of $2,500,000.

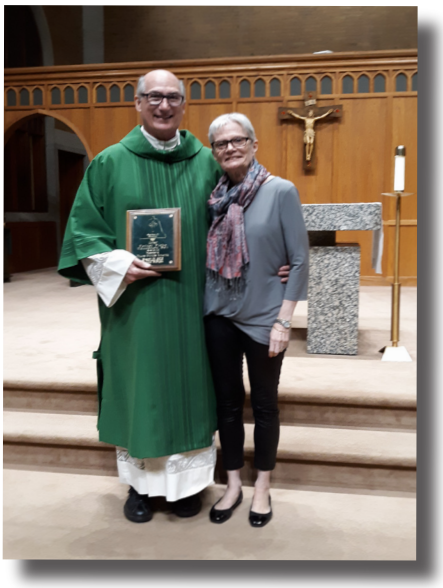
Please take a moment to look through *The Shamrock* at all of the great things that have happened in the past and all of the great things that are still going on at St. Patrick School. In November you will receive an appeal in the mail. I humbly ask all *The Shamrock* readers to join my family and prayerfully consider making a tax-deductible contribution to the Father Flohe Foundation. Through your financial donations and prayers, you can help us ensure that Catholic education will be available for future generations, and with your help, the foundation and the school will continue to prosper and grow.

The Father Flohe Foundation has come a long way from its humble beginnings in 1988. I eagerly look forward to the day when the current balance of $2,500,000 is viewed as humble.

As always, please feel free to reach out to me, or any of the foundation members, with any questions, ideas, or random musings. We are here to help. Thank-you everyone for making the St. Patrick community truly special.

Zach Wight, Class of 2005
Father Flohe Foundation President

Education Bell Award Presented to Deacon Stephen Schaffer



Zach Wight, president of the Father Flohe Foundation, presented the 2017 Education Bell Award to Deacon Stephen Schaffer on August 12, 2018, after the 11:30 Mass.

Because Deacon Stephen and his wife, Debby, live in Florida, the presentation was delayed until they could make the trip to Michigan.

The Education Bell Award originated in 1992 and is given annually to an alumnus who has lived his/her life in such a way that he/she can be held as a model for our students.

If you would like to nominate someone for the award, a printable form can be found on the school website (www.portlandstpats.com) under the Father Flohe Foundation tab.

Father Flohe Foundation at a Glance

Since 1988 the Father Flohe Foundation has:

- **Contributed in excess of $1,560,000 to the school**
- **Received gifts from donors of approximately $2,400,000**
- **Awarded the Fr. Flohe Education Bell Award to 26 distinguished alumni**
- **Annually awarded the Marie-Leik Slowinski Scholarship, the Monsignor Zerfas Scholarship, and the Pung-LaJoy Scholarship to graduating St Patrick's seniors**
- **Provided funding for The Shamrock Newsletter**
- **Coordinated and provided a celebration for each of the graduating high school classes in honor of their 50-year Class Reunion**
- **Provided annual grants to the teachers of St. Patrick School to support the development of new programs at the school and enhance the learning environment**

Love Quiets the Storm of Life

Pat Heckman is the Maintenance Supervisor at Portland St. Patrick Parish. In 2009, Pat lost his wife Donna (Boos, 1988) to cancer, leaving him alone to raise his son, Grady. Though he always hoped that he would find love in his life again, after so many years alone, he had begun to doubt that it would ever happen. Last April, Pat married Carolyn Kwiecinski, who moved to Portland in 2015 and serves as the Director of Adult Faith Formation and Evangelization at St. Pats. Here, in Pat's own words is the story of how it happened.

by Pat Heckman

When God raises his hand and quiets the storm of life, beautiful graces and blessings occur. This is what I know has happened. Carolyn was such a unexpected blessing in my life.

I was truly to a point in life of expecting to live alone. I think in a strange way God was saying, "First be happy with what you have in your life as it is." Although this was not what I wanted, I thought perhaps this is what was being asked of me.

I remember the day Carolyn and her family came to town and visited the school. I unexpectedly served as their tour guide. God really had to be laughing at this point! Through a chain of events only God could have made happen, it seemed like we continued to bump into one another quite often. There was the first Easter they were part of our parish family and the adjustment that I remember being a little more difficult for the kids. Claire was recently diagnosed with Type 1 Diabetes, so Grady and I researched what snacks people with diabetes could have, and we went to Meijer and made an Easter basket for Carolyn and her family. I found a prayer book to put in it as well.

I thought, sometimes being new to a community and finding your place and reestablishing friends can be hard. I told Grady, "Imagine if we had moved and you didn't know anyone."

One of the most memorable things was Carolyn hosting the Chalice of St. Padre Pio for our Parish the first time. What an experience that was!

It was shortly after this that several of us started hanging out at the Kwiecinski place for weekend bonfires. It was fun because it was so family oriented. Little did I know our friends had other ideas. It seemed like at the end of the night they would dismiss themselves and Carolyn and I would sit and talk for hours. After several months, you would have thought I'd have caught on, but us guys are a little slow sometimes!

Pat and Carolyn Heckman and their family. Back row: Claire (13), Kaitlyn (17), Carolyn, Sarah (5), Pat, Grady (14), Brian (15), William (18). Front row: Emma (12), Mary (6), Lily (8)

One night Kaitlyn came out to the bonfire and brought her ukulele, played, and sang a song. I remember it being about an island, how the island was alone. It went over my head and Carolyn just smiled. It was about the island finding happiness. I was the island.

I guess what really started as simply being kind to a new family in our community, school, and church family took a wonderful turn. Carolyn and I would often pray with friends and with each other in the chapel. We started having family bonfires where we would pray the rosary together and share faith experiences. We still love to pray with each other as often as possible.

I remember the first time she looked at me and I caught her glance and thought, "Oh no! I think she likes me." We continued to hang out as friends, although I think it was growing into something special.

As we continued to hang out, and then start dating, I began to get to know the children one by one a little better. What incredible kids they are! As things began to get more serious, I started to question myself. I thought, "Man if this relationship goes where I think it might, can I be a good enough man to be a father to all these children?" After all, it had been Grady and me for a long time. I kept hearing in Church, or reading in a book, or people would say: "Do not be afraid!"

Of course I was afraid! This was, is, and will always be, a huge responsibility

(continued on page 17)

Volunteer Award Presented to St. Patrick Alumna

Article received from the Sparrow Hospice Volunteer Program

With great pride the Sparrow Hospice Volunteer Program has given special recognition to an outstanding caregiver. She has generously given her time to our program since 2008. She is dedicated to our philosophy and her "compassion in action" positively impacts our patients and our caregivers.

Sue Fox usually works at Hospice House during the day and provides extra help by passing trays and feeding those who need assistance. Over the years she has worked many hours providing hands-on care and assists both the aides and the nurses. She has also been a Bingo caller and provides a comfort and reassurance to patients who feel anxious or alone. She is always willing to help others.

Her strength lies in her dedication to our Vigil Companion program. She is a tireless Companion for those patients who are actively dying and alone. She offers presence at the bedside and is always willing to stay overnight so no one dies alone. She offers a gentle presence with hand holding, soft reassurance, and prayers. She has taken a leadership role with our Companions and coordinates the schedules for the Companions and acts as a liaison between them and our staff. It is our great pleasure and privilege to have honored Sue with the 2017 Betty Geller Volunteer Award Celebrating the Spirit of Hospice.

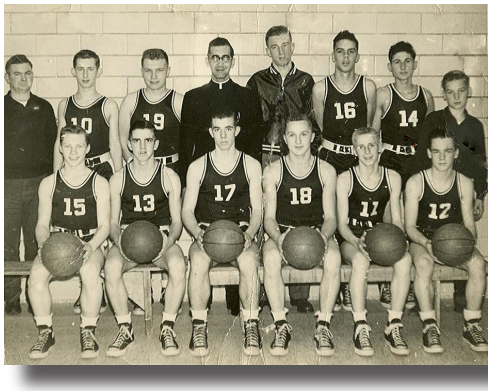
Remembering Coach Dick Dornbos

Coach Dick Dornbos passed away in September 2017 (see obituary on page 4). This article originally appeared in the Reunion of Champs *book that was published in 2006.*

In 1951 there was a lot of activity on the west side of Portland. St. Patrick's Parish was building a new school, and that new school would be home to the biggest and best gymnasium in the whole area. Excitement ran high, even as some naysayers grumbled that they didn't understand why St. Pat's needed such a huge facility.

That summer, a young man from Muskegon was hitchhiking home from Eastern Michigan University along US 16, when he passed through Portland and noticed the construction. He spotted the gym and figured that they might need a coach, but when he stopped in to inquire, he was told, "Thanks, but no thanks. Three weeks later, however, Dick "Red" Dornbos received a call telling him to come back to Portland for an interview, and he was hired to be the coach of Portland St. Patrick's first boys basketball team.

With the first season just around the corner, and the gym under construction, one of the first tasks given to the young man was to pick up the backboards in Ottawa, IL. Coach Dornbos recruited two of his players and headed out. "We put the backboards in my car and, as you can imagine, things were cramped," he remembers. "One of the players had his head inside a basket all the way back to Portland and the other fellow ended up with a crooked neck from dodging one of the backboards."



1951 team. Back row: Ronny Trierweiler (coach's aide), Leon Densmore, Duane Wilcox, Fr. Heyer, Coach Dornbos, John Morse, Jim Miller, and Jim Hoppes. Front row: Jim Wilcox, Denny Martin, Jim Thompson, Charles Trierweiler, Dick Tichvon, and Denny Hilligan

There were no seniors on that team (the new high school did not have a senior class that year). The starting line up was made up of one junior, one sophomore, and three freshmen. Their first game was Sunday, November 12, 1951, and their first varsity opponent was Carson City St. Mary's. The game was played in the new gymnasium where St. Pat's won by an astounding 68-14. The following week, the team faced a zone defense and received a lesson in humility when they played Westphalia St. Mary's. The Shamrocks never scored a basket until the third period and lost by a score of 14-54. The rookie team finished the season with a 5-14 record.

Needless to say, the boys had a lot to learn, but they proved to be fast and committed learners. The following year, they not only improved their season record to 14-6, but they even

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alumni news

Reunion Reports

The **Class of 1983** had a wonderful reunion on June 23, that centered around St. Pat's Summer Fest. The festivities started late Friday afternoon when several classmates met at the Summer Fest tent, followed by dinner at the Wagon Wheel, and then went back to the tent to hear an awesome local band, El Kabong. Classmate Scott Koster is a member of that band. According to reunion organizer, Bob Russman, "It was a lot of fun. Some of us haven't seen one another in a really long time. We're looking forward to our next milestone. Unfortunately, because people showed up at different times, we were not able to get a full group photo." Classmates who want to stay in touch can do so via Facebook (look for the page "Portland St. Patrick's Class of 83"), Twitter (@stpatsclassof1983), or by sending an email to portlandstpatsclassof83@gmail.com .

The **Class of 1993** held their 25-year reunion on September 22, 2018, at Fabiano's in Westphalia. A report and photo will appear in the spring issue of *The Shamrock*.

The **Class of 2008** held their 10-year class reunion on August 11, 2018. They began with a Mass held at St. Patrick's Church performed by their recently ordained classmate, Fr. Michael Steffes. The class then continued the celebration by attending Portland's Beerfest on the Bridge event. It was a beautiful day full of good laughs and catching up.

Hat Contest

In the last issue of *The Shamrock*, we showed you a picture of a hat and asked you to tell us what year the hat was worn by the Shamrock baseball team.

Mike Lehman was the only respondent to know the correct year, which was 1983. Mike's prize was the hat, which, though vintage, had never been worn.

50-Year Reunion Planned for Class of 1969

Members of the Class of 1969 should mark your calendars for the special 50-year reunion, featuring a prime rib dinner, that will be held in your honor next year.

The date will be Saturday, September 14, 2019. Someone from the Father Flohe Foundation will contact you next summer, asking you to send information for a class reunion book.

You will also receive an invitation and complete information about the reunion in the summer. There is no cost to you! We want you to be the guests of honor, have a good time, and not have to do any of the work. Mark your calendars now!

CLASS OF 1968

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8)

classmate, Eileen Byrne, who was killed in an automobile accident shortly before graduation.

The Father Flohe Foundation expresses gratitude to all of the members of the Class of 1968 who returned for the reunion and sent in their memory sheets.

A reminder to the Class of 1969: Next year it's your turn! Your 50-year reunion will be held on Saturday, September 14, 2019. Mark your calendars now and save the date! You will receive mailed invitations and memory sheets next summer.

CELEBRATING 30 YEARS

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

it a contest.

Unfortunately, the same day we made the announcement, the Portland area was hit by a storm with gale-force winds which knocked out the internet server for the next twelve days. When we were finally able to get back online, we discovered that all of the email which had been sent to us during that inaugaural period had been rejected by the server. We were never able to determine a contest winner.

Much has changed in the past thirty years, but one thing that hasn't changed is the committment that this parish and our alumni have to St. Patrick School. Shamrock Pride still runs strong!

Keep the news and ideas coming, and please use our webpage and Facebook page to stay in contact with the school.

Here's to the next 30 years!

Class of 2018 Leaves Gift to School

The members of the Class of 2018 donated a hand-painted picture of the school logo to St. Patrick School when they graduated in May.

Kylee Schrauben and Katie Coyne (shown at left) painted the piece during the second semester of the 2017-18 school year, and each member of the class contributed a fingerprint. The fingerprints surround the Shamrock in the center of the cross.

The painting is hanging at the top of the center stairs, on the wall between the teacher's lounge and Room 206.

WHAT WAS HAPPENING IN 1968?

- The average annual wage was $7850
- Minimum wage was $1.60
- Cost for one year of college, including tuition, room and board, and books was $1117
- Top song of the year was *Hey Jude*
- According to Nielsen, he top three TV shows were *Laugh In, Gomer Pyle,* and *Bonanza*
- The most popular Christmas gifts were *Don't Break the Ice, Hot Wheels, Battling Tops,* **and** *Silly Putty*
- The Beatles released the famous, untitled, double album without a name, that came to be known as the *White Album*
- North Korea captured the *USS Pueblo*
- The film adaptation of *Romeo and Juliet* was released
- The *Harlem Globetrotters* were formed in Chicago
- On October 10, the Detroit Tigers won the World Series. High school students from St. Pat's were allowed to watch part of the game in the gym, where three or four TV's were wheeled in on carts.
- On April 4, Martin Luther King, Jr. was assassinated by James Earl Ray
- On June 4, Robert F. Kennedy was assassinated by Sirhan Sirhan

TK III Golf Outing Celebrates 20 Years

Tony Kolarik III was born in Memphis, Tennessee, and moved to Portland with his family when he was in elementary school.

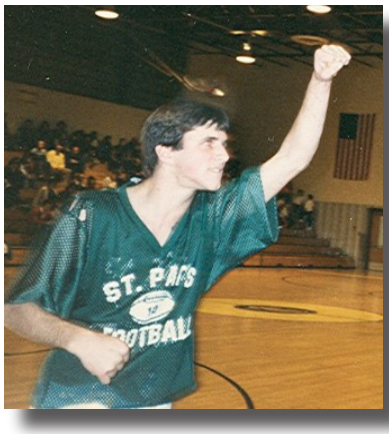
Tony was an outstanding athlete during his years at St. Patrick School. He graduated from St. Pat's in 1989 and graduated from Central Michigan University with a teaching degree.

In June of 1998, Tony had just finished a year of teaching at P-W High School, where he also coached basketball and baseball, when his young life was cut short due to a tragic automobile accident.

Two months after his death, Tony's friends held a golf outing called the TK III Open in his memory. That golf outing has been held every August since 1998; this year it celebrated its 20th anniversary.

Because it was the 20th year, Tony's family and some other friends decided to get more involved. They took over the planning and also ran the event. The response was phenomenal with plenty of sponsors and 32 teams participating, including many of Tony's former classmates and students whom he had taught.

A special guest was Tony's brother Paul Kolarik who travelled from Florida to be with his family during the special day honoring Tony.



Tony Kolarik III leads the fans in a cheer at the 1988 girls basketball state final game.

The TK III Open isn't a St. Patrick School fundraiser. The money raised this year went to three specific causes:

- A $2000 scholarship will be given to a 2019 St. Patrick graduate who is going into the field of education (Tony loved being a teacher).
- The Shamrock Football team
- The St. Patrick Athlectic Assosiation—the money is earmarked to go to the new weight room which will be located in the building that is slated to be built on Father Flohe Field.

Neil Hufnagel (Tony's brother-in-law), Anne Hufnagel (sister), Paul Kolarik (brother) and Tony Kolarik II (father) with the Kolarik family hole flag at the 2018 TK III Open.

St. Pat's Alum Assumes Role of Principal in Ionia

Jenny (Dutcher, 2004) Leik has been appointed as the new principal at Ionia Ss. Peter and Paul Catholic School.

Jenny attended St. Patrick school from kindergarten through graduation, during which time she says that she had many great teachers who inspired her decision to become a teacher. After graduation, she returned to St. Patrick's on several occasions to volunteer in classrooms.

Following high school, she received her bachelor's degree from CMU with an Integrated Science major and a Reading minor. Three months after graduation, she found a teaching job at Ss. Peter and Paul in Ionia and taught kindergarten for ten years, during which time she receive her masters degree from CMU in Educational Technology. Last spring she was asked to become the principal of Saints Peter and Paul and is now pursuing her second masters degree in Catholic school administration from Creighton University.

In 2009, Jenny married Dave Leik, whom she met while teaching religious education at St. Pat's in 2005/2006. The couple still reside in Portland with their two boys, Owen and Wyatt, and their two dogs. Owen is currently a third-generation kindergarten student at St. Pat's.

Jenny and David enjoy camping, home renovation projects and spending time with family and friends.

FATHER MIKE

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

20, he was a journeyman electrician. He continued in that field for 15 years.

As he worked with wires and electricity, God was working on him.

His first thoughts about becoming a priest had come when he was in second grade. A neighbor boy told everyone that he was going to be a priest, and little Mike thought, "If he can do it, so can I."

Other little nudges from God came through people that he met along the way. He met Deacon Charlie Hall when he was in seventh grade; he went to a confirmation retreat at St. James when he was 17, where the teenage girl who was the "love of his life" gave a talk that made him crave an encounter with the living God.

Father Michael Alber and Bishop David J. Walkowiak wait together in the vestibule of the church before Mass.

At age 19, Mike Alber signed up for a one-year stint with NET Ministries. He developed friendships with Father Dick Host and other priests. He hung out with Todd Nevins, brother of Father Troy Nevins. It seemed like God was surrounding him with role models who were leading him towards the priesthood.

In 1993, he took the big step and began two years of study at Christopher House at Aquinas followed by studies at Seton Hall University, and Mundelein University, in Illinois. He was on his way to a vocation as a Catholic priest.

And then something happened that nearly derailed his plans. Mike had completed two-thirds of his studies and had just 3 1/2 years to go when he met a young lady while he was doing ministry at Our Lady of Sorrows in Grand Rapids. They became friends and hit it off quite well, and before he knew it, he was head over heels in love! He was ready to leave the priesthood behind. But, once again, God had other plans for him.

One night the couple went to a movie and afterwards were talking about their lives. "What do you see in your future?" she asked him. His immediate reply was, "I know that I'll never get married."

What? Had those words come out of his mouth? He had no idea where the words had come from, but he knew that they were true. His path, the right path, the path that God wanted him on, led to the priesthood.

The couple parted ways and Mike returned to the seminary where he would be ordained in 2002.

"Being a priest is more than I ever thought it would be," he says.

What is the hardest part about being a priest? "Knowing that half of the people will disagree with my decisions," he says. "and, dealing with the politics of the institutional church."

But those hard parts are dull in comparison to the richness that he finds in the priesthood. "To think that He would choose someone as sinful as I am," Father Mike says. "The best part is the Eucharist, knowing that I am taking bread and wine and making them into the body and blood of Jesus Christ."

"Confessions are very special, too," he says. "They are a restoration, returning the sinners back to the faith."

Father Mike Alber has a special devotion now to Blessed Solanus Casey, and he has no doubt that it was Blessed Solanus who brought him here.

The Pastors of St. Patrick

Father Charles Bolte
1878-1899

Father Mathias Auer
1899-1908

Father John Koelzer
1908-1920

Father John Griffin
1920-1922

Father William O'Rourke
1922-1934

Father Joseph Rochford
1934-1938

Father Joseph Kohler
1938-1945

Monsignor Louis Flohe
1945-1962

Father Julius Amman
1962-1964

Father Stephen Kolenic
1964-1970

Father Joseph Malewitz
1970-1974

Father Donald Weber
1974-1983

Father Richard Van Lente
1983-1990

Father Julian Reginato
1990-1997

Father Charlie Hall
1997-2004

Father Larry King
2004-2018

WHAT'S HAPPENING

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5)

memorial contributions may be made to the St. Patrick Athletic Association or Hospice of Lansing in memory of Marvin.

Alan John "Al" Lazette, 63, of Portland, MI, took his final curtain call on July 24, 2018. We suspect that two weeks in Ann Arbor, surrounded by so much maize and blue was too much for his Spartan heart to handle. He is survived by his wife of 40 years, Charlene; his children Christie Lazette (Chris), Allison Lazette-Magnan (Anthony); and one granddaughter. Al's sudden departure will leave his friends and family wondering why he was taken so soon and who they will be able to call for bail money. Most of the time he was extremely animated, and his jokes could be wildly inappropriate, but he was a person who could make friends anywhere and from all walks of life. Al was a published author and spent countless hours on the stage with the Portland Civic Players. It is always these kinds of people that leave us too soon and it seems hardest to say goodbye. Al would have wanted us to remember him at his very best, which he would have argued was all the time. For those wishing, memorial contributions may be made to the Capital Area Humane Society in honor of Al.

Anne Eddy, age 82, of Portland, passed away Tuesday, July 24, 2018, after a short illness. She was born August 15, 1935, in Belfast, Northern Ireland, the daughter of William John and Mary (Hickey) Conlon. Anne was a proud and devoted member of St. Patrick Catholic Church and was the church choir director for over 30 years. She loved traveling with her husband Bill to Ireland to visit her family and friends, and they also enjoyed traveling to various baseball stadiums across the country. Anne was one of the founding members of the Portland Civic Players, and she took great pride and delight in directing various plays and musicals, especially at Portland St. Patrick High School. Anne is preceded in death by her beloved husband of 58 years, William; and several siblings. Surviving Anne are her son, Sean Eddy; daughter, Maureen Devota; two grandchildren; siblings, Rosemary Leik and Charlie Conlon; and special, lifelong friend Richard Leik. In honor of Anne, memorial contributions may be made to St. Patrick Catholic Parish.

Robert (Bob) Charles Beard, age 70, of Ionia, passed away July 24, 2018, in Ionia. He was born August 13, 1947, in Lansing, MI, the son of Robert and Doris (Hoppes) Beard. Bob married Cathy Handlon May 27, 1972. He worked over 30 years for TRW. He loved to fish and enjoyed watching sports, MSU, Detroit Lions, Detroit Tigers, and NASCAR. He also enjoyed camping and bird watching. Bob is survived by his loving wife of 46 years, Cathy; children, Carrie (Scott) Maynard of Portland, Chris (Shannon) Beard of Lake Odessa, and Casey (Josh) Rinckey of Saranac; sisters, Mary Beard of Portland and Faith (Ronald) Kissane of Portland; brother-in-law Ronald Smith of Portland; and seven grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents; and sisters, Barb Smith and Diana Hill. Contributions may be made to the Congregational Church Food Pantry.

Anita M. Fitzpatrick, age 97, of Ionia, passed away on Wednesday, August 1, 2018, at home with her family. She was born January 2, 1921, the daughter of Joseph and Mary Ann (Fedewa) Keilen. Anita was a member of Ss. Peter and Paul Catholic Church, was a master quilt maker, and made the best cookies ever. She was preceded in death by her parents; all of her 10 siblings; her husband Gerald in 1996; a son-in-law, Dennis McClung; and a daughter-in-law, Tammy Fitzpatrick. Surviving are her children: Judith Ann (Dr. Wilford) Haslett of Las Vegas, NV, Jean McClung of Eagle, Charles (Ellen) Fitzpatrick of Ionia, David (Lisa) Fitzpatrick of Ionia, Mary Jo (Dr. Bruce) Weny of Comstock Park, Sue Ellen (Bill) Bayer of Lake City, Richard Fitzpatrick of Longmont, CO, Ronald Fitzpatrick of Wheaton, IL, and Michael (Amy) Fitzpatrick of Anchorage, AK; and many grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews. Memorial contributions may be made to Ss. Peter and Paul Catholic Church or Ionia Area Hospice.

Sandra Lee Bayne, age 80, of Portland, passed away Monday, August 6, 2018. She was born March 5, 1938, in Jackson, Michigan, the daughter of Leo F. and Margaret M. (Burnett) Zimmer. Sandra belonged to the VFW Auxiliary Portland #4090, Disabled American Veterans Florida, and Beta Sigma Phi at Large. She was also a loving foster care mother to many children. Preceding Sandra in death are her parents; husband, Vernon L. Bayne; brothers, Leo F. Zimmer, Jr., David Peets, and Thomas Peets; and sisters, Barbara Jean Zimmer, Judy Blood, and Lynne Chaney. Sandra is survived by her children, Dixie (Doug) Lefke and Albert (Diane) Novotny; 3 grandchildren; 5 great-grandchildren; 1 great-great-grandchild; and siblings, Nita Hughes, Patricia Amato, and Michael (Pricilla) Nearing.

Rosemary F. Baker, age 86, of Portland, passed away Friday, August 17, 2018. She was born February 10, 1932, the daughter of Edmund and Lucille Naseman. Rosemary enjoyed playing bingo and cards. She loved her bird, Blue and her dog, Lucky. Surviving Rosemary are her children, Bonnie Lueder and Thomas (Michelle) Baker; eight grandchildren; and sister, Pauline Wireman. She is preceded in death by her husband, Melvin; son, Melvin Baker, Jr.; sister, Mary McPherson; brother, Edward Naseman; great-granddaughter, Isabella Rose; and brother-in-law, Roy Wireman.

Mary Ellen Schrauben, age 78, of Portland, passed away Friday, August 17, 2018. She was born February 2, 1940, the daughter of George J. and Iola K. Lehman. Our beautiful mother has gone to be with dad. She was the pillar of our family. She showed us how to love, laugh, gamble, and play cards. Mom was the truest sports fan ever. GO BLUE. The world is a better place because of her. We will miss you. Preceding Mary Ellen in death are her parents; husband LaVern in 1998; daughter Ann in 2000; sister, Beverly Mellstead; and many in-laws. Surviving are her children, Ben Schrauben, Mary Schrauben, Connie (Dart) Parsons, Lisa (Robert) Reimbold, Julie (Thomas) Moyer, Paul (Sara) Schrauben, LaVern (Cynthia) Schrauben, Jr., and Lori (Daniel) May; 21 grandchildren; many great-grandchildren; siblings, George (Georgia) Lehman, Thomas (Linda) Lehman, Barb (Ronald) Foote, and Larry (Noura) Lehman; and sisters-in-law, Gertrude Dilley, Marie Schrauben, and Lorie Schrauben.

Albert Lawrence (Larry) Barley passed away on August 31, 2018, as the result of Alzheimer's disease. Larry was born in Detroit, MI, on August 13, 1942, to Albert C. and Elizabeth G. Barley. He graduated from St. Patrick High School in 1960, and Georgetown University in 1964. After serving four years in the U.S. Navy as a Russian interpreter, he returned to Portland. He worked with his father at Barley Earhart Company, and when his father retired he took over as CEO. For many years, Larry was active in the Ionia County Republican Party and also served on the Portland City Council and Portland School Board. He is survived by his wife of 49 years, Mary Sue; son, Tim Barley of Hermosa Beach, CA, and daughter, Ann (Mike) Kissane of Portland. He is also survived by six grandchildren; and two great-grandsons. Also surviving are his sisters, Mary Lou Martin and Gail (John) Nowak, his brothers-in-law, Jim Owen and Tim (Mary) Owen; and many nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his parents and sisters, Betsey and Joan Barley. Contributions can be made to the Father Flohe Foundation.

Patricia "Patty" Lynn Moss, age 58, passed away Friday, August 31, 2018. Patty was born on May 23, 1960, in Mt. Clemens, Michigan. She was the daughter of Jim and the late Marilyn Moss. Patty was the second oldest of six children; and is survived by her eldest sister, Sue (Tom) Kreiner and her younger siblings, Linda (Carl) Metzger, Jeanne (Craig) Gibson, Tom (Anna) Moss, and Mary (Angelo) Rodriguez. Patty had thirteen nieces and thirteen nephews, all of whom she

adored. Patty had a brave and adventurous spirit and joined the United States Army in her 20's where she became a Private. Patty had a very kind heart and was generous, always wanting to give in any way she could. After moving back home to Michigan in 2016, she remembered her loving childhood and wanted to share the same joy she had with her nieces and nephews. She dressed up as Santa and gave the children a Christmas Eve they will always remember. She played the part so well, her beautiful heart shined brighter than all the lights in town. Patty will always be remembered as the prettiest little, blue-eyed red-head with a smile that lit up the room when she walked in!

Joyce Elaine Dutcher, age 91, of Portland, passed away Saturday, September 1, 2018. She was born September 1, 1927, to Forrest and Gertrude (Sprague) Townsend. Joyce attended the St. Lawrence Nursing School and worked as an RN and Supervisor for St. Lawrence Hospital, eventually retiring from there. She also worked as an RN at local doctor's offices. Preceding Joyce in death are her parents; brother, Larry Townsend; husband of 68 years, William "Bill" Dutcher; and grandson, Nicholas Hoppes. Joyce is survived by her children, Mary Kay (George) Johnson, Patrick Dutcher, Douglas Dutcher, and Nancy (David) Spitzley; grandchildren, Colin Hoppes and Johnathon Johnson; and several nieces and nephews.

DO YOU REMEMBER THIS?

What class is shown in this photo? What was the special occasion that they were celebrating?

If you know the answers, send them to The Shamrock (see info on page 19).

The winner will receive the photo!

ALUM VOLUNTEERS AT SPECIAL OLYMPICS

Last winter, Allison Hodge (2015), a student in the Central Michigan University Communication Sciences and Disorders program, had an opportunity to volunteer with Special Olympics Michigan 2018 Winter Games in Traverse City. Allison worked at the cross-country skiing events at Schuss Mountain, taking on multiple tasks each day.

"The look of excitement, happiness, and accomplishment seen on the athletes' faces when they crossed the finish line was indescribable. It is a memory I will never forget," she said. "The support of the volunteers is so important to the athletes and brings them so much joy and motivation."

Allison encourages other college students, especially those enrolled in fields within the College of Health Professions to consider getting involved in future Special Olympics.

"Without volunteers, the games would not be possible for these athletes, who have put so much time, dedication, and effort into competing. It is an experience that has left a huge impact on my life and is one that I will never forget" she said.

REMEMBERING DICK DORNBOS

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11)

defeated Westphalia St. Mary's, setting the stage for several years of fierce competition between the neighboring schools.

Many things have changed since 1951. Other than St. Pat's, there are no Catholic high schools in the area, and that "state-of-the-art" gym is now called "The Pit." But, the Shamrock spirit that rose from those early days remains strong as does the commitment to learning. And as a result of that spirit and commitment, even now, fifty-four years later, there remains a lot of activity on the west side of Portland.

LOVE QUIETS STORM OF LIFE

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9)

raising these children. Somewhere along the line this fear turned into a wonderful opportunity. I looked at it as a chance for me to be the man of God I was intended to be! It was a chance for Grady to have a mother again and to have brothers and sisters! I remember telling my brother Dan about Carolyn and how I cared for her. I told him, "If you can love one child, then why not two or three? What is the right number? How much love do I have to give these children?" I am finding out the more I give, that each of these children and Carolyn are blessing my life many times over!

Carolyn and I were married on April 7, 2018. We continue to pray together as a family. I hope to have a holy family.

This puzzle is a tribute to 1968, a year of triumphs and tragedies, that led one journalist to describe it as, "a year of upheaval in the U. S. and most of the world." All of the words in this puzzle are related to events from 1968. When you have discovered all of the hidden words, the leftover letters will spell out a quote that is appropriate to that era. Good luck!

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

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 15, 2018. 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 _____

_____

_____

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TENT DRESS
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TIGERS
VIETNAM
ZODIAC

The puzzle in the fall issue of *The Shamrock* was filled with words from that issue. The quote, and the answer to the puzzle was a quote from Pope Francis, ***"Let us thank all who teach in Catholic schools. Educating is an act of love. It is like giving life."*** The winner, drawn randomly from all correct entries, was Linda Huhn, who received $50 for her efforts. Congratulations, Linda. Thank you to everyone who entered the contest.

LOST SHEEP

Keeping our address list up-to-date sometimes seems like a never-ending job. People move and forget to notify the parish office; young adults set up their own households and forget to notify us.

If you have current address information on any of the grads listed below, please contact us. As the list is updated, you can keep track of our Lost Sheep by going to the school website, www.portlandst-pats.com and clicking on the Alumni tab.

You can also use your smartphone and barcode scanner to go directly to that page.

1956 Duane Irrer
1961 John D. Pung
1964 Gary McGraner
1966 Dan Lehman
1966 Tony Blundy
1973 Lillian (O'Neill) Castranova
1975 Susan Thelen
1977 Brian Jenkins
1977 Bob Rensi
1979 John Fedewa
1980 Angie Young
1980 Patrick Ellis
1980 Marie Leik
1981 Mike Binder
1985 Scott Osmar
1990 John Huhtala
1991 Elaine Maurer
1994 Jeremy Pohl
1995 Andy Carr
2000 Jeffrey Pung
2001 Segrid Johnson
2004 Donald Vollman
2004 Cara Monks
2004 Christen Simon

Upcoming EVENTS

Fall Festival ..... October 14, 2018
Confirmation ..... November 18, 2018
Veterans Day Observance..... November 12, 2018
Catholic Schools Week .....Jan 27 - Feb 2, 2019
Shamrock Auction .....April 27, 2019
Group First Communion .....TBD
Graduation.....May 19, 2019
Summer Fest.....June 21-23, 2019
Class of 1968 50-Year Reunion.....Sept. 14, 2019
Spring issue of The Shamrock..... Early April

HOW TO CONTACT US

It isn't necessary to use a special form to submit information for the newsletter. Information can be sent by mail, fax, email, or text. Please see the box below for specific addresses and phone numbers. We prefer that all information be in writing to prevent errors. Be sure to mark it ATTN: SHAMROCK NEWS.

How to Stay in Touch!

It's so easy to stay up-to-date with what's happening at St. Patrick School and Parish. We're working hard to provide access through our websites, social media, and parish app.

School website: www.portlandstpats.com
Parish website: www.stpatrickportland.com
School Facebook: facebook.com/PortlandStPatrick
Alumni Facebook: facebook.com/St-Patrick-Alumni-and-Friends-451159388427010/
Parish Facebook: facebook.com/St.PatsPortland
School Twitter: @PortlandStPats
Mr. Hodge Twitter: @principalhodge

To download our parish app, you'll need a smartphone or tablet. Go to www.myparishapp.com. Click on App Store or Google Play. Follow directions to download the app. Search for St. Pat's by zip code (48875). Now, everything you need to know will be at your fingertips!

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The Shamrock Newsletter

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The Shamrock *is published two times annually and mailed free of charge to all St. Patrick's alumni, St. Patrick's parishioners, and upon request.*

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Anne Bennett .....annebennett67@gmail.com
Anne (Brown) Russman..... 517-647-4094
Connie (Fedewa) Vallier.....

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We Pray! We Learn! We Achieve!