

# Saint Mary School Newsletter

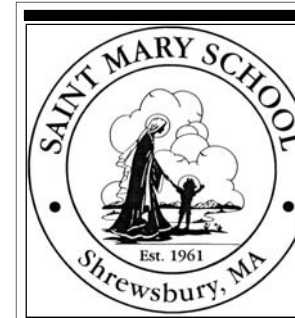
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# Saint Mary School Newsletter Fall 2010

Page 1

## From the Principal

Dear Alumni,

The fall newsletter is filled with great information regarding St. Mary School Alumni. In just the last few weeks I had the opportunity to meet Kathleen O'Connor '70 in town from Maine for a reunion of her classmates and Mike Birbiglia '92 who came to St. Mary

sense of self and personal success. I frequently share with our current students the varied success of our graduates. We are also fortunate to have a few on staff as well as children of former students currently in our school.

expectation of service and good citizenship that is a corner stone of this school's Catholic traditions.

We are planning the school's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and look to our alumni to be active participants in this celebration. Also,

we will begin the new year with the St. Mary's Winter School to film a short clip for his appearance on Chronicle October 12<sup>th</sup>. I continue to be impressed with the accomplishments of the men and women who attended St. Mary School. Your years here and the teachers who instructed you have helped you to develop a strong

Sira Naras continues to do a great job reconnecting with our alumni and reporting on what they are doing. As I meet and talk with former students I continue to enjoy the stories and memories of St. Mary School that are shared. You have built on the education and

Ball. I encourage you to reconnect with St. Mary's this year and join in the many activities.

Happy Thanksgiving.

Warm regards,

*Joan T. Barry*

Dear Parents, if your child has moved from your home, please notify the alumni office at 508-842-1601 or [advancement@stmarysparish.org](mailto:advancement@stmarysparish.org) with their current address so that we can invite them to upcoming Alumni events.

Find Us On Facebook! Join the official St. Mary School Alumni group on Facebook.

## 'Author of the Month' Makes it to Broadway and Returns to St. Mary School

Mike Birbiglia '92 visited St. Mary School earlier this month with the TV crew of WCVB's Chronicle. Mike who was named "Author of the Month" in 1987 as a third grader just published his first book [Sleepwalk with Me: and Other Painfully True Stories.](#)



While on campus, Mike took gym with Mrs. MacDonough's 3<sup>rd</sup> grade class much to the amusement of the children. He struggled a bit with the calisthenics but did a great job with the parachute. Later, Mike sat in on 4<sup>th</sup> grade where the students suggested to Mrs. Bigda that he receive an 'ooops slip' for not paying attention. Giggles and smiles abounded.

The Chronicle story featured Mike's journey from growing up in Shrewsbury to a career which

includes national headlining comedy tours, an Off-Broadway show, television appearances on David Letterman, Jimmy Fallon, Jimmy Kimmel, and Conan O'Brien, and now his new book.

Nathan Lane who presented Mike's Off-Broadway show *Sleepwalk With Me* praises Mike as "a great storyteller, just as funny on the page as on the stage. These comic gems strung together create a hilarious and touching memoir of growing up awkwardly and finding his way in the cruel world of stand-up. An original wit who raises self-deprecation to an art form, and always leaves you thinking and laughing."

Since the St. Mary School Alumni Office opened in 2006 and began to reach out to alumni, Mike has been a generous supporter of the school,

St. Mary School shows support for *Mike Birbiglia* '92 at this year's **Montreal Comedy Festival**, the largest comedy festival in North America. Mike who earned rave reviews at the "Just for Laughs" festival in July is pictured here with St. Mary School Advancement Director Sira Naras, who caught up with Mike after the show.

**MONTREAL** – "When his show, *My Girlfriend's Boyfriend* ended last night at the Gesu Theatre, Mike Birbiglia received a standing ovation — *because that's what happens when a theater audience appreciates an amazing performance.* *Punchline Magazine.*



You can see Mike in **Drew Barrymore's** new movie - *Going the Distance.*

Check out Mike at [www.birbig.com](http://www.birbig.com)

for Alumni, Parents and Friends  
from the Advancement Office

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**Judy Tonelli Brown '70 and Dennis Gorman '70** threw an alumni bash! On October 2<sup>nd</sup> alumni from the class of 1970 came together for what Dennis called a "huge success" and Judy called "a night of

## Class of 1970 Reunion

memories... a party filled with riotous stories of pranks, and re-calls of various teachers, classmates, and teaching practices." The party which took place at the beautiful Gorman residence had great food, great drink and was a wonderful time for alumni and their guests. Kathleen O'Connor '70 who traveled from Brunswick, Maine for the event said she was thrilled to receive the invitation. "I've thought for a number of years while attending college reunions that it would be great to attend a reunion for the school I attended for eight years. Finally, I got a chance to do that and it was wonderful!" If you've thought the same thing, it might be time to reconnect with your classmates. Contact the Advancement Office for more information.

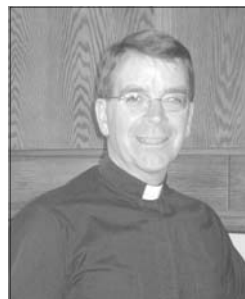
**Pictured in attendance (with maiden names) are:** Back row, l-r: Ellen Murray, Mary Ann Hinson, James Corey, John Govoni, Michael Maloney, Dennis Gorman, Robert Reidy, Patricia Kelleher.  
Front row, l-r: Stephanie Cullen, Marie Cadigan, Judith Tonelli, Patricia Sweeney, Kathleen O'Connor, Susanne Utzschneider, Carla Iaccarino, Rosemary McCarthy.  
**Kneeling, l-r:** Francis Ursoleo, Joseph Iaccarino  
In attendance but missing from photo, Patricia Nelligan

**From the Pastor**

Dear St. Mary Alumni & Friends,

On Sunday, September 12<sup>th</sup> hundreds of enthusiastic St. Mary Parish and School Families gathered for the Dedication Celebration of our new parish addition. Bishop Robert McManus presided at the 11:00 am Mass as we also celebrated the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the building of our church and school. Anniversaries and Dedications always give us the opportunity to look back, remember and give thanks as we look ahead with hope and a renewed vision. While the hallways and classrooms of St. Mary School have not changed much through the years, there has been tremendous growth and expansion in our educational efforts. Over time our school has added a librarian, physical education, art and music teachers, band, technology specialists, and an advancement office. We now enjoy the presence of a full day Kindergarten and preschool program for nearly 50 three and four year olds. The new space provided by the parish building project will afford our students even more opportunities for growth and learning. We look forward to next September when we will begin a year long celebration of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the opening of St. Mary School. Alumni and parishioners will join together to visit the school and celebrate its great accomplishments throughout its history.

God's blessings to you and your family in this season of bounty and harvest.



*Monsignor Michael F. Rose*

**Honors**

***Ann Marie Hines Blute***

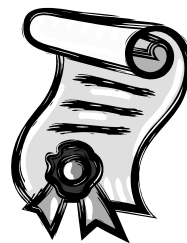
Ann Marie Hines Blute, resident of Shrewsbury for 55 years, beloved wife of Robert D. Blute, Sr. M.D. and loving and devoted mother of 11 children, Grandmother of twenty-three and Great Grandmother of four, touched the lives of countless citizens of Shrewsbury through her many years of community service in the town as well as many other charities and hospitals throughout Central Massachusetts. The Shrewsbury Post Office was recently named in her honor as a tribute to her tireless work on behalf of others. A Dame of Malta since 1994, Mrs. Blute was devoted to humanitarian causes, especially those which sought to help the sick and the poor. Her generosity included opening her home to a Vietnamese refugee and several unwed teenage mothers; serving as a Trustee of the Shrewsbury Library, a member of the Shrewsbury Garden Club, a member of the St. John's High School Parent Association, a den

mother for Shrewsbury Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts, a staunch supporter of the Shrewsbury Public School Music Department and St. Mary School. A member of St. Mary's Parish since 1954, she served her parish community as a CCD Teacher, a Eucharistic Minister and member of the Women's Guild. Mrs. Blute also volunteered for many charities throughout Worcester County including Prospect House, Nazareth Home for Boys in Leicester, The Mustard Seed, Marillac Manor, the Pernet Family Health Center, Dames and Knights of Malta, St. Vincent Hospital, Notre Dame Academy, the Diocese of Worcester, Mass Citizens for Life and the Society for the Propagation of the Faith. The 'Ann Marie Blute Post Office' is in memory of a woman whose lifetime was devoted to charitable causes, the town of Shrewsbury and the country she loved so deeply.

**Alumni Honored**

Five St. Mary School Alumni from the Class of 2006 were recently named Advanced Placement (AP) Scholars at St. John's High School!

Congratulations to James Armbruster, Aaron Caola, Jonathan Gilbert, Jared Giordano, and Nicholas McCarthy. St. Mary School is extremely proud to have five AP Scholars from one graduating class.



***Way to go guys!***

**Saint Mary Alumni and Friends at the 2010 Family Festival**

Fun was had by all at the 2010 St. Mary's Family Festival



Parents of future St. Mary School Alumni volunteer countless hours each year to make sure the Family Festival is a total success.



Principal Joan Barry smiles for the 'photo cookie camera' with her great niece Katie Dennis, daughter of **Siobhan McKenna Dennis '91.**

**A Special Thank You!**

Thank you to **Ralph Masiello '75, Peter Agbay '89, and Michael Agbay '92** for their generous donations to the St. Mary School Alumni Reception raffle table. All proceeds went directly to the SMS Development Fund!

SMS Pre-School teacher **Mary Cote '00** visits with her students the Camerer twins as their mom **Sarah Cole Camerer '87** looks on.



SMS Kindergarten Teacher Susan Zybert enjoys the festival with her grandson Benjamin Zybert, son of **Jason Zbyert '95.**



**Mary Teresa Egan '10, Georgia Eisenmann '10, and Elena Perkins '10** celebrate Georgia's win of the Alumni Reception's Wicked Good Cookie gift box.



**Mary Pat Daly Calderwood '84** helps the children with their 'catch' at the Faith Fishing Game.



Saint Mary School Alumni



Jenny '08, Luke '05, and Nikki Sex '09



Gina Cravedi '97  
Figure Competition



Sarah Cole Camerer '87  
her husband Ernest and  
their 3½ year old twins.



Andrew Cote '03 on SMS Community Reading Day

**Rowing Runs in the Family**

**Jenny Sex '08 and Nikki Sex '09** followed big brother **Luke Sex '05** into the crew shell. Luke rows for the University of Connecticut, while Jenny and Nikki row for Shrewsbury High. Way to go Sex Alumni!!!

**Gina Cravedi '97** works hard with both mind and body. During the day Gina is the Marketing Manager for Harbar LLC a manufacturer and marketer of tortillas and specialty flatbread, headquartered in Canton, MA. But on her off hours Gina can be found competing in *Figure* competitions. Although *Figure* is in the realm of bodybuilding, *Figure* competition is a new type of fitness contest. These competitions aren't so much about muscle size as they are about muscular symmetry and tone. Gina is currently training for her first Strongman/woman competition scheduled for this December. Good luck Gina!

**Sarah Cole Camerer '87**, M.Ed., LMHC - Mediator holds a B.A. in Psychology from Boston University and an M.Ed. in Mental Health Counseling from The University of Massachusetts at Boston. She is a Licensed Mental Health Counselor, a Notary Public and a Certified Conflict Mediator. Sarah grew up in Shrewsbury and then worked in the city of Boston, for over 10 years, with the disabled, the homeless veterans and with

those suffering from mental illness. In 2005, she and her husband, Ernest moved back to Shrewsbury to raise a family, start a private counseling practice and become reactivated within the St. Mary's community. Her 3 1/2 year old twins recently began St. Mary's Pre-K program and are loving it! Sarah can be reached at shrewsburycounseling.com

"It was great! I had such a good time with it" said **Andrew Cote '03** of the St. Mary School Community Reading Day last spring. Andrew came back to St. Mary School to read to the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade class. He said it was "sweet" having his 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teacher Sr. Rose Marie in the room while he read to the children. Alumni, if you'd like to come back as a Community Reading Day guest, we'd love to have you. Please contact SMS Media Specialist **Cecile Cote** at cotec@stmarysparish.org for more information.

*To alumni and parents of alumni,  
For every one of these stories I am sure there are ten more stories out there just waiting to be told. Please forward your news to the St. Mary School Advancement Office so that we may share it with the St. Mary School community.  
advanceent@stmarysparish.org*

A Daughter's Perspective of a Mother's Wish for St. Mary School

**Submitted by Mary E. Blute '69**

Longtime parishioner of St. Mary's since 1954, my mother Ann Marie Blute, wife of Dr. Robert D. Blute, Sr. and mother to 10 siblings and me, was very much a strong believer in her faith and the Catholic Church. One of her greatest wishes was that she wanted all of her children to receive a Catholic education, one she was never able to experience herself. In 1960, when St. Mary School opened, her wishes came true for her youngest six children. Of the eleven children, six of her children were educated at St. Mary School and then continued their education with all of her sons attending St. John's High School and all of her daughters attending Notre Dame Academy. My mother's desire for her children was that they would receive a wonderful academic foundation, but more importantly, they would be educated about the Catholic faith. A relationship of faith we would carry with us throughout our childhood and into our adult lives.

My mother especially loved the fact that the Sisters of Notre Dame would teach in this new school because her aunt was a member of the order and she knew that they would be great role models as well as mentors to us. The school opened and the journey began with my sister Carol '69 and me. My brothers Peter '70 and Joseph '71, my sisters Ann Marie '72, Kathleen '74 and Paula '80 soon followed. I believe we hold the record for the largest number of siblings to ever graduate from this wonderful school. My sister Carol and I were part of the original student body, the legacy which

has lasted for over 50 years.

As I look back on those years, for me personally, it brings back many special moments, ones that in retrospect demonstrated why our mother was so interested in our attending St. Mary's School. Our days began with us playing in the parking lot until our principal, Sr. St. Francis



grade 2 and finally, grade 3. We would then be led into the classrooms for the day in silence by our classroom teacher. Since Carol and I were in grade 2, we had Sister Marie St. Thomas. A very kind and gentle soul who always had a smile on her face; one that made you feel welcomed and assured your day was going to be filled with exciting new endeavors. The one memory that still stays with me today is the fact that each day was filled with prayer. A bell would ring every half hour and we would stop our lessons and we all would recite the same prayer all day long. This happened each and every day of my years at St. Mary's. Even after 50 plus years, I remember the prayer: "Oh my God, I will continue to perform all my actions for the love of thee, Amen." Looking back, I remember at times thinking why was it so important to pray so much. Now as an adult, I realize that the sisters were trying to instill in us that, even though our lives get busy, we need to take time out of our day and pray to

known then as only Sister Superior, clad in her vintage black and white habit adorned with a long strand of rosary beads, stood at the patio and rang her hand held bell to announce the start of

... "Oh my **God**, I will continue to perform all my actions **for the love of thee, Amen**"...

school day. In those days, the one thing you quickly learned was that the sisters believed in consistency and protocol. When the bell was rung we all lined up by grade in single file, grade 1, then

God. I often think of another experience that demonstrated why prayer was so important in our lives. I remember during that first year, the school convent which is now the O'Connell Pastoral Center had not been built as yet. The sisters had to travel from Our Lady of The Angels Convent in Worcester each day; all crowded into a black sedan. On that particular day it was a snowy day, yet school was still in

(Continued on page 4)

Meet Our Alumni

(Continued from page 3)

session. When it came time for the school bell to ring, the sisters had not arrived! I remember wondering whether or not we would be stuck outside all day, but to our amazement, out of the building walked Father Gilgun, the young associate pastor at the time, in his black cassock, tri-pointed black hat, and the bell in hand. He rang the bell and had us all go into the building, assuring us that the sisters would soon arrive, and he then lead us in a prayer for their safe arrival. Soon afterward, they arrived safe and sound and ready to proceed with our lessons. I remember thinking what a calming feeling it was to pray together during that moment of uncertainty. So began my many experiences, where through example and practice, we all witnessed how our faith in God and prayer could carry us through. This was an example of what my mother wanted for us all because she knew that St. Mary's was an environment where these types of situations would forever be etched in our souls. She knew that, we would continually witness, by the sisters' example, the way in which we should live our lives.

In the final analysis, when asked why my mother wanted us to go to St. Mary's School so much, I would answer that it was simply her desire for us to learn how to live a life of prayer. A life of giving and performing all of our actions each and every day for the love of God; she believed this wholeheartedly. Having instilled this in us when we were young children, it would continue to be a part of us as we reached adulthood. Her fervent hope was always that we would all turn to God in prayer for both support and thanks throughout our daily lives.



My name is **Peter Agbay** and I am a member of the 1989 graduating class of St. Mary School. I am happily married to the girl of my dreams and we have 2 beautiful children. Our 6 year old is named Andrew and he is truly one of the sweetest little boys that you will ever meet. I think back at my childhood and I can only wish that I was half as sweet and sincere as he is today. Our 4 year old is named Marin and not only is she incredibly sweet like her big brother, she is also quite a character and is not to be messed with.

I have a lot of fond memories of my childhood and especially of my time spent at St. Mary School. I remember breaking my leg while I was in the first grade and having to miss almost 3 months of school. Most of all, I remember receiving get well cards from not only my class, but from the entire school! Granted, it is a small school, but it is still quite remarkable to think that even 7th and 8th graders, who had never met me, took the time to make me a card.

There was a great sense of community amongst the school and the values that were taught to me there are values that I try to teach my children today.

I often joke that I consider myself a "townie" as I proudly still call Shrewsbury my home. It is a wonderful community and I cannot think of a better place to raise my family. I am part of a local family business as I work alongside my brother Michael '92 and father at Wicked Good Cookies creating some of the most deliciously cool cookies you will ever taste!

Our business started out of my mother's kitchen 12 years ago and I truly believe that the foundations of learning, caring, respect, and teamwork that I learned while at St. Mary School have played an integral role in growing our business to the point it is today.

You can find Peter at **wickedgoodcookies.com.**

*Peter Agbay '89*

Saint Mary School Alumni

**Amy Guilino Kayne '92** and her husband Kevin Kayne are the proud parents of 28 month old Jackson Joseph and his new baby brother, four month old Nolan Christopher. And if that doesn't keep Amy busy enough, she is also Sales Manager for Wallcalendar.us a start-up unmounted dry-erase wall calendar company. Find out more at [www.wallcalendar.us](http://www.wallcalendar.us) Congratulations Amy!

Following a Public Relations position for fashion designer Vera Wang, **Emily Parr '97** turned her interest in health and fitness into a career. Emily recently joined Equinox Fitness Clubs (voted one of the best gyms in America), where she handles the PR for Equinox and Pure Yoga at their corporate headquarters in New York City. The Bates College graduate says "I couldn't be happier representing a brand that embodies wellness, luxury and innovation." You can find Emily at [emilyparr@gmail.com](mailto:emilyparr@gmail.com).

**Dr. Matthew Lahair '93** has opened a new Pediatric Dental office with his former pediatric dentist, good friend, and partner, Dr. Ted Gallagher. As specialists in the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry, their focus ranges from the newborn child to the young adult.

Following a degree from St.

Anselm's College Matthew graduated from the Goldman School of Dental Medicine at Boston University. He completed his Internship and Residency in Pediatric Dentistry at Indiana University in Indianapolis and is the recipient of the Ralph E. McDonald Scholar Award. He is a Diplomat of the American Board of Pediatric Dentistry and is a staff member at several hospitals including Children's Hospital of Boston, St. Vincent Hospital, and UMass Memorial. Matthew has been in private practice in Natick for the past three years. He and his wife Melissa are delighted to be back in the Worcester area with their 15 month old daughter, Anna. You can find Matthew at [www.fightingdecay.com](http://www.fightingdecay.com)

SMS alumnae are shining stars at Marianapolis Preparatory School. **Katherine Kelly '07 and Kathleen Egan '07** were inducted into the National Honor Society for their sophomore and junior years. **Carolyn Egan '08** was inducted sophomore year. Katherine Kelly '07 also won the academic Harvard Book Award and the Gettysburg College History Award at the Marianapolis Preparatory School, Prizes and Awards Ceremony in June. Well done ladies!



Amy Guilino Kayne '92 with her two sons Jackson Joseph (28 months) and Nolan Christopher (4 months).



Dr. Matthew Lahair '93



Emily Parr '97



Katherine Kelly '07, Kathleen Egan '07, and Carolyn Egan '08

Saint Mary School Alumni



Chris DeSantis '97 with his parents Dona and Louis DeSantis.



Jared '08, Jackie '03, and Kelsey '09 Giordano



Pictured: Patrick Downey, Andrew Simmarano, Matt Vaccaro, Chris DeSantis, Jon McFarland, Joe Golgian, Nick Dujnic, Brian McNeil

“Do what is right, because it is right” – It’s been four years since I began work in the St. Mary School Advancement Office and I’ve lost count of the times I have heard Sister Margaret McCurdy’s words quoted. Alumni of all ages remember vividly what Sister Margaret taught them so I’m no longer surprised when I hear the quote recalled, but this time it was a little different. This time it was the mother of two alumni. It was Dona DeSantis, mother to Louis ‘92 and Chris ‘97; we were chatting and there it was - “Do what is right, because it is right.” Dona shared that her boys never forgot those words and have strived to live by them always. What a legacy...

I spoke to **Chris DeSantis '97** shortly thereafter and he confirmed that, yes indeed he still hears Sister Margaret’s words in his head. With a degree from Eastern Connecticut University, Chris works hard as a Business Development Manager for his family’s business - Diamond Staffing. Chris is also First Assistant Coach for the Assumption College Baseball team, but what he gets most excited about however is his community service with Shrewsbury’s youth. Chris, along with Frank Vaccaro and Frankie Vaccaro '01, coach the

Shrewsbury Legion Post 397 Youth Baseball Team. “We Coach this team because we love the game of baseball and because there isn’t anything more satisfying than watching a 16 or 17 year old child turn into a young adult. We also do it because the players are really good kids who are very respectful to their coaches and their teammates.” So, for Chris as a professional and as a community service volunteer – he does what is right, because it is right. You can find Chris at [cdesantis@diamondstaffing.com](mailto:cdesantis@diamondstaffing.com).

The **Giordano** siblings are keeping busy... Jackie '03 is in her last year at Endicott College and loving her internship in the non-profit North Shore Community Development Coalition for Regional Affordable Housing. She is traveling to Costa Rica this winter to live and volunteer with the native community there. Jared '08 is attending Georgetown University as a Biochemistry major and has just joined Drumline, and Kelsey '09 is busy with AP and honors classes at Shrewsbury High School, as well as being in this season’s production of Camelot at St. John’s High School, and singing with the St. Mary’s Church, Sunday 5:30pm mass ensemble. Keep up the good work Giordano alumni!

Alumna Kristina Lukach 2000



I write this from my office at Our Lady Help of Christians Parish in Newton, MA – certainly a place I never thought I’d be at. I recently finished six years of study at Boston College: four studying theology as an undergraduate and two to earn my Master’s Degree in Pastoral Ministry. Although I always loved my coursework, I really did wonder – and quite frequently – how I would ever put my passion and education to work. It seems too sweet, that I am doing exactly what I had dreamed of: I am the Youth Minister and Junior/Senior High School Religious Education Coordinator at a vibrant and welcoming parish. I joined the staff at this parish of nearly 3,000 families in July and have learned a great deal about parish. My days are filled with planning religious education lessons for Grades 6-8, securing speakers for the Confirmation program (Grades 9 and 10), and brainstorming field trips for our youth group. In June, I had the honor of speaking at

the St. Mary School graduation ceremony. Principal Barry asked me to offer some reflections on what St. Mary School has meant to me. This invitation offered me an invaluable opportunity to reflect on life since St. Mary School. I chose to speak about the ways that my life has changed in ten years and the ways that it hasn’t. What follows is taken directly from what I shared with the 2010 graduates.

*In some ways, I would say that I am a totally different person from the one who sat in one of those pews ten years ago. When I left St. Mary’s, I expected that I would eventually study math or science in*

*... the teachers cared for me as an individual, recognized my gifts, and gave me the confidence to bring them out....*

*college and become a doctor or a researcher. Looking back, my fourteen-year-old self would never have expected that I would be working as a parish youth minister outside Boston.*

*Those core values – respect, honesty, love for God, and love for others – were a part of who I was in 2000, are a part of who I am today, and will be a part of who I will be in the future. For example, when facing a difficult decision, I still use the*

*same criteria as I did ten years ago. What is fair, not necessarily easy? How will this decision affect other people? What will bring me true joy?*

*I’ll be honest - I can’t recall too many specifics from classroom lessons at St. Mary School. That’s not because I wasn’t listening (usually), but because the more important lessons weren’t taught from a textbook. What I do still remember after ten years is that St. Mary School is a place where you are loved for who you are and encouraged to be the best you that you can be. I have always felt that the teachers cared for me as an individual, recognized my gifts, and gave me the confidence to bring them out.*

Even though I gave that speech specifically to the 2010 graduates of St. Mary School, I would and do stand by those words for anyone who asks me what St. Mary School has meant to me. Truly, I don’t think I would be the same person today without the faith and integrity that was nurtured by my teachers a decade ago – and that continues to be nurtured by the St. Mary School of today.

*Kristina Lukach '00*

Perfect Attendance at the St. Mary School Scholarship Golf Tournaments!

Bob Donoghue, Rudy Minnucci, Jack Connors and Dr. Frank White pictured here, have attended each Golf Tournament since they began in 1995. When asked why they continue to come back year after year, Dr. White said “we want to see the school continue to thrive. We are long time parishioners of St. Mary’s and this event gives us an opportunity to contribute to the school; to help support it. The tournament is always a delightful gathering and we so enjoy seeing the students at the golf course.” Jack

Connors shares “the school is an integral part of our parish and we as seniors benefit from the school in many ways. When I see the sacredness and reverence the students show; see their fundamental training in their faith, I see that the school has not lost its identity in its mission. Without question, St. Mary School is a good cause to support.” **Rudy Minnucci** is father to four St. Mary School alumni, **Jack Connors** is father to five St. Mary School Alumni, **Bob Donoghue** is father to four St. Mary School Alumni and he and



Dr. White share alumni Christopher White '96 and Jaclyn White '98 as grandchildren.

**Notable Alumnae**

**Niki Desjardin '92 in The Florida Panhandle!**

I work for an environmental consulting company, Ecological Associates, Inc., based in Jensen Beach, Florida. I moved to FL in 2001 and have been working for the company (EAI) for the last five years. We were contracted by BP to assist with sea turtle nest protection and stranding

... **sea turtle nest protection** and stranding response in the Florida Panhandle as a result of the **Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill...**

response (when dead, injured or sick turtles wash up on land) in the Florida Panhandle as a result of the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill. We were working under the supervision of the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

My duties included taking sub-foot accurate GPS coordinates for all nests in the panhandle (Kemp's Ridley, Loggerhead, and Green sea turtle nests), barricading nests to protect them from beach cleaning activities, responding to any dead or stranded turtles (and collecting skin swabs for detection of

oil contamination), transporting live turtles to rehab facilities for cleaning and care, and assisting with the egg relocation effort. Beginning in June, we began

excavating late-term nests (nest about 2/3 of the way through their incubation) and placing the eggs in styrofoam coolers which were then transported by FedEx Critical Care to the east coast of Florida where they completed their incubation, hatched and were released into the Atlantic. This was deemed to be the best strategy to protect the hatchlings from the oil. If the eggs were left to hatch on the Gulf beaches, the hatchlings would have undoubtedly swam directly into the currents where the oil was accumulating and would have had little chance of survival.

This work was exciting for me because I had not visited or worked in the Panhandle before and was amazed at the beauty of the

beaches and native habitats. I was fortunate to be able to explore the whole Florida Gulf coast and saw some amazing islands, state parks, and national wildlife refuges that are pristine. I was based in Panama City for four months (June through September).

*Niki received her BS in Biology from The University of Richmond and her MS in Biology from Florida Atlantic University. Find out more about Niki's work at (www.ecological-associates.com).*

*Niki Desjardins '92*



**Caroline Johnson '10 places 9th Nationwide in the Taylor Harris Insurance National Childrens' Medal!**



Caroline Johnson competed in the 18 and under nationwide riding competition last month which invites the top 40 riders in the country to compete in Washington DC. Caroline was number one in her zone (the northeast) and ranked 16th overall in the country out of almost 600 competitors. In the finals, Caroline rode in 24th position.. After her round, her score put her into 3rd place. By the time all the riders had competed, she finished in 9th place nationwide!

**Congratulations Caroline!**

**Alumna Returns as a St. Mary School Intern**

Last spring I worked as an intern with Mrs. Johnson in the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade classroom through the Shrewsbury High School Advanced Career Exploration (ACE) program. The program allows seniors to intern during the fourth quarter of their senior year. I am currently majoring in elementary education at Fitchburg State College and knew I always wanted to become a teacher. I figured going back to St. Mary's would be a fun place to work. Mrs. Johnson was my third

grade teacher and having had her, I was very impressed with the way she taught and cared about her students. I knew if I worked with her that I would get valuable experience. Overall, I had a fantastic time. I had wonderful experiences working with the children in small groups and individually. I got to teach two lessons as well as correct their vocabulary journals, edit their creative writing stories and make copies of papers for class. Finally, I performed recess duty with Mrs. Johnson and escorted the children to recess. I thought coming back was cool.



*Jennifer Genco '06*

**From the Advancement Office**

**That's Pretty Amazing!**

I was really impressed! You'd think after re-connecting with St. Mary School alumni for almost four years I'd get used to how remarkable they are, but that is simply not the case.

I've been researching the colleges and universities our St. Mary School alumni attend and while working with the class of 1997, I found myself thinking - **WOW**, that's pretty amazing!

Georgetown University, two at Harvard University, Loyola University of New Orleans, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, North Eastern University, Boston College, two at the University of Massachusetts, University of Connecticut, Wentworth Institute of Technology, West Virginia Wesleyan College, Eastern Connecticut University, Bates College, two at Syracuse University and the list goes on.....



re-affirms for me what the true legacy of St. Mary School is. We are indeed sending forth intelligent, moral leaders with a quality education and strong Christian integrity.

As the St. Mary School Advancement

... as the **St. Mary School Advancement Office** continues to grow and thrive, I am struck by the **extraordinary achievements** of our alumni...

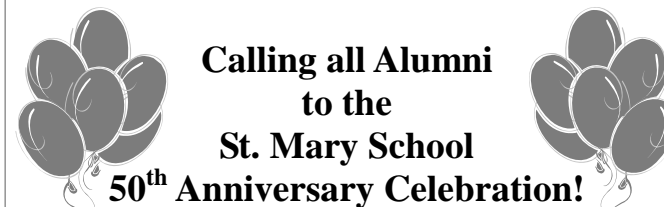
Office continues to grow and thrive I am struck by the extraordinary achievements of our alumni. It's not just about being accepted to the top colleges and

To think that one tiny St. Mary School graduating class was accepted and embraced by the likes of these colleges and universities simply

universities in the country – it's so much more... it's about: successful entrepreneurs and business people, civic minded political representatives, dedicated educators, skilled medical professionals, cutting edge scientists, talented individuals of the Arts, tireless community service volunteers. It's about neighbors who shovel walkways and cook meals when needed. It's about donating time and talents in the midst of busy schedules. It's about sharing gifts, and caring, and loving as our God has asked us to do.

Our alumni set the standards, they model the behavior, they live the Christian lives – **they embody all that the mission of St. Mary School has put forth for them.** They make us proud.

*Sira Naras*  
Advancement Director



**Calling all Alumni to the St. Mary School**

**50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration!**

The **St. Mary School 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration** is right around the corner. We need your help to make it the most wonderful celebration it can be. What talents and gifts do you have to give back to St. Mary School and to your fellow alumni? Please reflect on your St. Mary's experience and consider getting involved with the school again. Contact the Advancement Office at [advancement@stmarysparish.org](mailto:advancement@stmarysparish.org) for more information on how you can be involved.



**Save the Date**

Please join us this year for the annual **St. Mary School Christmas Play** Wednesday, December 15th, 2010 1:00pm & 7:00pm in the church.



**St. Mary's Winter Ball** Saturday, February 5th, 2011 at 6:30 pm Cyprian Keys Golf Club, Boylston, MA



**Alumni, think about getting a table together at the Ball with your former classmates.**

If you don't know where they are—we'll help you find them.

