

Saint Mary School Newsletter

Spring 2011

for Alumni, Parents and Friends
from the Advancement Office

From B & E* to Ph.D. ... How St. Mary's Became My Foundation For Life ...

Mark Sullivan '68



It was a cold, late February afternoon in 1962. Strangely, as a second grader in Sister Marie Saint Thomas's class, I was standing alone on top of a huge, icy snow mound. It was up against the first grade classroom facing the Saint Mary's parking lot. My younger sister

Martha, seemed nervous yet relieved, as I was jumping up and off the top of the snow mound toward the window sill of a slightly ajar window in the first grade classroom.

An hour before, Martha was in tears as she realized she had forgotten one of her school books for a critical homework assignment due the next morning. At the time, Martha was in Sister Mary Bernadette's first grade class. It was a big deal for her, so it became one for me.

It was dusk, quietly eerie and no responses to the pounding on all the locked front, side and back school doors. So with not a moment to spare, I slipped through the open first grade classroom window after dangling a bit from the window sill.

While scooping up Martha's books from her class, I could hear a hallway door slam from a far. Panic struck as I lunged toward a side door to break out of the school before being caught by the janitor. Martha and I ran home like jack-rabbits.

She was well prepared the next morning. To this day, Martha doesn't seem to leave books behind...thanks to Saint Mary's and perhaps because of a brother who got lucky on a certain winter afternoon.

Upon reflecting back to some 50 years

ago, the start of many rich and memorable moments began, at what was then a small, three-classroom neighborhood school. There were recess lines quieted by bells and wooden clickers; daily mid-morning milk breaks ...ugh; brown bag lunches; hours-and-hours of homework; ties worn by the boys, dresses for the girls; nuns in full black and white habits with formal dress robes and beaded rosaries; and daily French language instruction, in all grades, by a French teaching order, no-less.

At the time, I didn't realize I was getting an awesome education. I just knew that my teachers were demanding, devoted and disciplined with piercing moments of deep, heart-felt kindness. To this day, after many years of schooling from some outstanding educators (at Harvard and from a challenging Ph.D. program), one of my all time favorite teachers, bar none, was Sister Marie Saint Thomas from second grade.

Sister Marie, in partnership with my speech therapist and a never-say-die mother, took a

... Saint Mary School where I first *learned* the value of friendship ...

scared little boy with a speech defect and helped transform him into a confident, curious, compassionate, life-long learner. Sister Marie taught me how to bring God into my everyday life; to celebrate one's divine gifts by developing them into talent (through focused, sustained effort); and to be joyful and full of spirit regardless of the challenges that life throws us. Sister Marie taught mostly by example. Something I keep in mind today as a husband, father of three boys, boss, brother, and son of an 88 year old mother (at the Willow's Retirement Center in Westborough).

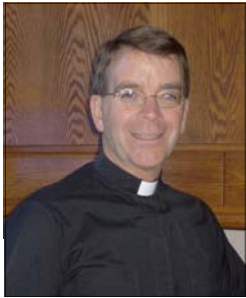
Since Saint Mary School, I went on to complete my schooling at Shrewsbury High School, Fitchburg State University, Harvard

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From Our Pastor



Fifty years is quite a milestone for any person or institution, and surely an occasion worthy of a grand celebration. This coming September will mark the 50th anniversary of the day when the doors of St. Mary School opened and the first students welcomed. The 1960's was a time of great growth and expansion for St. Mary Parish and the small town of Shrewsbury. As families grew in size and moved into their first homes in the suburbs, it became more evident that the time had arrived for the building of a new church.

When St. Mary pastor, Fr. Edward Lynch, approached Bishop John Wright for permission to build a new church, he was also encouraged to build an elementary school. These were the years when many new parish schools were being built. A simple, but solid,

structure with eight classrooms was built along side the new church to serve not only students during the day, but also the growing parish religious education program in the late afternoons and week-ends.

Fr. Lynch invited the Sisters of Notre Dame to staff the new school. He had come to know the SND's through his many years of ministry at St. Agnes Guild on Vernon Hill in Worcester. The first teachers would travel each day from their convent at Ascension Parish until St. Mary's began construction of its own convent in 1962. The new school quickly earned its fine reputation for solid academics and faith formation. Graduates from St. Mary's were well prepared to begin the more challenging course of studies in local high schools.

While much has changed in the Church and in education throughout the years, some things have remained

constant for St. Mary School. The school has enjoyed a nearly full enrollment throughout the years and has been commended by the New England Association of Schools in their accreditation reports. Graduates have gone on to high schools and colleges and have found successful and meaningful work in their adulthood. They learned the first and sometimes most important lessons here at St. Mary's and were given a strong foundation on which they could build their lives. We are proud of our parish school and the hundreds of graduates of St. Mary School.

Let us join together then in the coming months as parish and school, faculty, students and alumni to celebrate our 50 years. Let us share the memories and renew the friendships that have been forged through these years.

Monsignor Rose

From Our Principal

Dear St. Mary School Alumni, This is a very exciting and enriching time for the St. Mary School community. We have begun planning for our 50th Anniversary and this Spring Newsletter is full of information about our celebration and reconnection with our many graduates. I do hope each of you reading this newsletter will include one of our celebrations in your schedule this fall.

It has been interesting to learn of the many families who sent their children here in the sixties as the school began to grow and provide an education for their children rich in academics and Catholic Faith. They have become successful in the fields of education, law, medicine, social services, and business. Many are in professions that give back to society in in-

teresting and challenging ways. Matt Beaton visiting our school during Catholic Schools' Week reminded us that all three State Representatives for Shrewsbury were St Mary School alumni. The faculty over the years has given of their time and talent guiding their students to learn and think as responsible and giving citizens. No matter where we travel we meet people who know of St Mary's and hold it in high regard and speak of the spiritual and educational development that St Mary School is known for.

Again, I encourage you to read carefully the upcoming events planned for our yearlong celebration and put as many as possible in your calendar. I look forward to meeting with you as you return to St Mary's in the coming

months. I also encourage you to become involved and be a Class Agent or reconnect for the 50th Anniversary Gala October 29, 2011 and put a table together of your classmates.

Warm regards,

Joan T. Barry

As we approach the school's 50th Anniversary I am not surprised at all by the longevity and successes of St. Mary School. It was a combination of the first dedicated sisters, the skilled lay teachers that followed, and the many great school families that have made St. Mary School the success that it is today.

*Reverend
Bernard E. Gilgun*

Alumni Give the Gift of Music



Paul Gannon, Sam Palermo '11, Tim Evans '07, Jack Palermo '07

Was that Jimi Hendrix??? I love the music at the Sunday 5:30pm mass and I'm pretty sure last week I heard the Contemporary Ensemble play a Jimi Hendrix rif. Yes, it's the music I enjoy at that particular mass, but mostly it's the talent I'm continually impressed by. The Contemporary Ensemble is made up of skilled and dedicated St. Mary's community musicians and vocalists. Five members

... It's the energy that the kids bring to the music, and the way that they share that energy with the congregation ...

of this year's ensemble are part of the St. Mary School family. Alumni David Jefferson '98, Tim Evans '07 and Jack Palermo '07 along with St. Mary School music teacher Paul Gannon and 8th grader Sam Palermo give back to their school community every week with the gift of music.

When I asked the musicians why they play at mass, here is what they said: David Jefferson '98 first embraced the guitar following a St. Mary's retreat. He and a fellow SMS alumnus were so impressed with the music during the retreat that they came home and started guitar lessons. (Yes, Bill O'Hara '98 – we're

talking about you). David has been playing in the Contemporary Ensemble for five year. "I feel like I get so much out of mass when I participate while playing music. It's really exciting to see the congregation react to us and it seems like the music adds to our connection as a community during prayer" said David.

Tim Evans '07 who has been playing acoustic guitar for seven years and has been playing at St. Mary's for three years says "I play at mass because it gives me an opportunity to practice and to play music with my friends. An added bonus is that playing at church has motivated me to become more involved in the St. Mary's community. This year I was a member of the God Squad; a group of high school students from St. Mary's who help with St. Mary's retreats. During this year's Confirmation Retreat, my friends and I preformed a variety of music that went along with the various retreat themes." "It was great."

Jack Palermo '07 has been playing bass guitar for seven years. "I play at

mass because I love to perform. This is my second year as a member of the ensemble and I was flattered when Paul Gannon asked me to be a part of such a talented group. Also, I went to St. Mary School for eight years and this is a great way for me to give back."

Sam Palermo '11 has played percussion since he was three years old. He joined the ensemble last year and when asked why he does it, he offered "I play at mass because I enjoy using my musical talents while taking part in mass. I feel it is an important commitment in my life and it really means a lot to me."

St. Mary School Music teacher Paul Gannon has been playing music at St. Mary's for eight years, six of which have included directing this Sunday 5:30pm mass Contemporary Ensemble. "I love doing it, I just love doing it" says Paul. "I look forward to playing every Sunday. It's the energy that the kids bring to the music, and the way that they share that energy with the congregation during worship. We use our music to help us stay connected to God in the context of an exciting but prayerful environment."

If you haven't already had the pleasure of this mass, we invite you to join us.

As we start to celebrate the School's **50th Anniversary** we take a moment to remember and recognize the school's principals. **With deep recognition for providing quality education in an atmosphere permeated in rich Catholic tradition and strong Christian integrity.**

We remember:

Sr. St. Francis Sullivan	1961-1967
Sr. Mary Doyle	1968-1973
Sr. Ann Francis Rhilinger	1974-1978
Sr. Julie Cecelia Lyver	1979-1984
Sr. Margaret McCurdy	1985-1991
Sr. Ranah Phelan	1992-1993
Ms. Jean Marie Gocha	1994-1998
Mrs. Joanne Gannon	1999-2008
Ms. Joan Barry	2009-present

50th Anniversary Gala



You are cordially invited
**50th Anniversary of
St. Mary School**



to join in the celebration.

Sunday, September 18, 2011

11:00am

with Bishop McManus

50th Anniversary Mass

Reception to follow
under the big tent!

St. Mary's Family Festival weekend.

Saturday,

October 29, 2011

50th Anniversary Gala

The stunningly beautiful Charter Oak Country Club Hudson, MA
Delicious dinner followed by St. Mary School fellowship
and dancing to an 18 piece orchestra!

Opening of the St. Mary School - 25 year-old Time Capsule!

Sunday, October 30, 2011

11:00am

Alumni Mass

11:00 am mass ministered by
St. Mary School alumni

Alumni Reception to follow in the new
Gathering Space!

Be a part of the 50th Anniversary Celebrations while supporting St. Mary School.

Dear Alumni and Friends of St. Mary School,

At this time, tickets are on sale for the 50th Anniversary Gala, and we are offering advertising space in our 8.5"x11" color Gala Sponsorship Program Book. The Program Book will be a beautiful keepsake remembrance of the 50th Anniversary. We hope we can count on your support!

Advertising space:

If you are interested in placing an advertisement in the Gala Sponsorship Program Book, please contact Jen Colombo for an advertising form and pricing information.

Here are some ad space message ideas. Purchase Ad space:

As a family to
thank or
congratulate St.
Mary School.

As a class to thank
or congratulate St.
Mary School.

*In honor of or in
Memory of a loved
one.*

To thank, remember,
or recognize a
favorite teacher.

To share a favorite
St. Mary School
memory.

Gala tickets:

If you would like to purchase tickets, please complete and return the form below. Ticket cost is \$75.00 per person, which includes a dinner celebration and fabulous live entertainment at Charter Oak Country Club. For those who are recent graduates of St. Mary School (Class of 1995 or younger), we are offering a *young alumni* price of \$50 per ticket. Payments are payable to St. Mary School – Return order form to:

**St. Mary School
50th Anniversary Gala
16 Summer Street
Shrewsbury, MA 01545**

On behalf of the many members on the 50th Anniversary Committee, I thank you for your support, and ask that you keep St. Mary School in your prayers as we celebrate and give thanks.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Colombo
50th Anniversary Gala Committee
(508)845-6076
Jen@PowerEngineersLLC.com

50th Anniversary Gala Reservation Form



Yes, I would like to purchase 50th Anniversary Gala tickets.

I am not able to attend, but please accept the enclosed donation to the St. Mary School Development Fund.



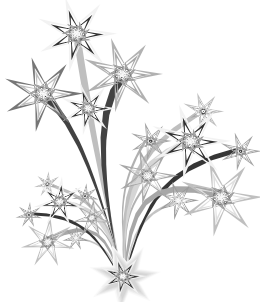
Name: _____ I am an SMS Graduate, Year: _____

Address: _____ I am an SMS Parent

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____



Number of Gala tickets requested: _____ x \$75.00 \$ _____

Number of Young Alumni tickets requested: _____ x \$50.00 \$ _____

Please send me advertising space information.

Included is a donation to the St. Mary School Development Fund: \$ _____

Total amount enclosed: \$ _____

Who would you like to be seated with? *(We will make all attempts to honor requests.)*

Please forward this form to people you know who would like to join us.

St. Mary School Alumni Share their Lives



McNeil sisters to marry Slaughter brothers.

When asked what **Cara '94** and **Lea '00** McNeil have been up to lately, Cara shares a great story: "I live in New York and am a Retirement Plans

Analyst for Saks Fifth Avenue. My sister Lea lives in Miami and works for the W Hotel. Lea first met her fiancée Mark Slaughter '00 in the fourth grade at St. Mary School. Any one of his teachers will tell you he was quite the handful. *They'd be glad to know Mark is presently working on his MBA at the University of Miami!* Lea and Mark reconnected in college and started dating. They have been together for five years and are engaged to be married in the fall of 2012! Lea actually has a picture our mother took of Lea in church and Mark is in the back round staring at her...so cute.

As for me, I'm engaged to Mark Slaughter's brother Kenny. Kenny and I met at my brother Brian's 21st birthday party. Kenny saw me and asked Lea to introduce me to him. I thought he was adorable and he said to Lea "someday I'm going to marry your sister." Kenny is a police officer for the NYPD and we're engaged to be married next February!"

Christina DiPierro '90 *A Life of Lingerie and Latin Dance.*

After I graduated from Fordham University, I moved to NYC and lived there for a few years. Shortly after I decided to fulfill a dream and move to Florence, Italy where I lived for eight years. It was an exciting time and it gave me an excellent background to get my business, Adea, off the ground. Adea, specializes in women's layering tops, camis and lingerie that are 100% *Made in Italy*. As much as I miss living in Italy, I enjoy my work immensely and make up for it a bit by living in the North End of Boston.

A couple of years ago I went with some friends for a salsa dancing class and got hooked. Now I perform with a team of

other dancers in different Massachusetts venues and enjoy going dancing at one of the many places that hosts Latin dancing nights. It has been a fun way to meet a lot of people from all walks of life and I've found that salsa dancing beats going to the gym for a workout any day! For more information on Adea visit: www.MyAdea.com



All is well with the Morris Sisters.

Nicole Morris Olson '88

My husband Eddie and I have four children: Jonathan (17), Joshua (7), Jacob (6), and Madeline (2). I have a degree in Music Education from



Anna Maria College and have taught Preschool since college. I am currently a stay home Mom and work as a cantor/soloist at St. Mary of the Hills Parish in Boylston.

Dianne Morris Connor '89

I have been married for seven years. My husband Chris and I live in Holden with our two dogs and two cats. I am a massage therapist and an aesthetician. About three years ago I opened my own spa called Bee Well in Worcester. The spa is doing great! Other than work, I love being with my two nieces and four nephews. They are awesome! For more information on Bee Well Spa visit: www.beewellspa.com

Michelle Morris Horne '92

I am married and have two children; Ryan (6) and Victoria (4). I graduated from Becker College with a degree in Psychology and Human Services. I



The Morris Sisters

have been working as an adoption social worker since 2002 for Lutheran Social Services. I help families adopt children through our DCF system. My husband Brian and I also own Horne Construction which specializes in building and remodeling homes.

Tara McAdam Kassal '86 *Oh What a Beautiful Baby.*

Tara McAdam Kassal studied Planning and Development at Boston University and is the VP of Marketing at Tishman Realty & Construction. She now lives in New York City with her husband Mark and their beautiful daughter Gabrielle shown here at her recent christening in St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City.



St. Mary School Alumni Share their Lives

Jenell Porreco '97 From the Rocky Mountains to the Nation's Capital.



After graduating from St. Mary School in 1997, I finished high school in California, and moved to Denver for college. I started my

career in Marketing and PR in Denver and have since moved to Washington, DC. I am currently working as the Director of Sales for Flemings. I have two children Jacob (3) and Ella (4), and don't have a minute of down time! Motherhood has turned me into a much more sensitive and caring person and I enjoy every minute of it!

Joe Rintala '85 Anchored Down in Anchorage.

I live about 50 miles north of Anchorage, Alaska in Wasilla (yes, down the road from Sarah Palin). I have a wonderful wife Amy of 14 years and four beautiful children, Levi, Ashley, Jessica, and Cody. I moved to Petersburg, Alaska when I was 21 and lived there until 2002. I work for AT&T Alaska as a Facility Mechanic/Heavy Equipment Operator/Construction Foreman. My hobbies are fishing, hunting, camping, shooting, four wheeling, working, and of course family.



Jen O'Connell Ducasse '87 "Wouldn't Change a Thing"

"Faith is having the power to believe in the things not yet seen and trusting and knowing that God will get us to the right people and the right places to get us through."

I have been married for almost 13 years. I have two beautiful children. Daniel (9) and Sarah (7). Daniel has Severe Hemophilia A - a clotting disorder where he is missing his factor 8 protein - which means that he cannot clot on his own. We found this out 3 days after he was born due to an injury from birth. My husband and I infuse Daniel with clotting medication every other day to help him maintain an ok clotting level - but it does not last in his system for more than 24 hours and this is why we treat every other day. These kids are prone to bleeding in their joints due to an injury or spontaneously. These bleeds are often extremely painful and sometimes he needs to be hospitalized for pain management. BUT that does not mean he is not a regular boy!!! He is a great baseball player and just signed up for his 3rd season and he is in the middle of learning how to play basketball.



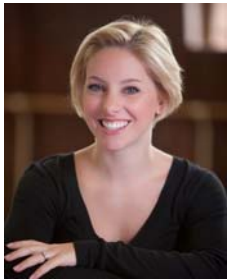
He does not bleed any more than you or I would - it just means that sometimes he might need extra help to clot. My daughter is a carrier of the gene as well as myself. I did not know this before having Daniel and there is no family history. Wouldn't change a thing though - God blessed us with him and Sarah and trusted that we would know what to do!!

We are active members of New England Hemophilia Association (NEHA - <http://www.newenglandhemophilia.org/>) and I am one of the founders of an online hemophilia support group for New England based families. After having my son, I went back to school and am now a Clinical Medical Assistant and Phlebotomist. I currently work as a Lab Technician at Milford Regional Hospital and absolutely love my job!

My husband Ken was diagnosed with male breast cancer this past September. He has had surgery to remove it and just finished chemotherapy treatments. So far all testing has had positive results and he is on the mend!!!

My hobbies are baseball/basketball, Mom to Daniel and dancer Mom to Sarah. I love to quilt when I have time and just to be with my family and friends.

Meet Our Alumni



Marlana Walsh-Doyle '93 grew up in Shrewsbury, MA and attended St. Mary School for 8 years. She attended Holy Name High School and was crowned Miss Dance of New England in 1996. Dancing since the age of three, Marlana received a BA in Dance from Point Park University, Pittsburgh, PA in 2001 and is currently the Managing Director of the Houston Metropolitan Dance Company in Houston, TX. Marlana has been dancing with HMDC, for the past ten years. She has worked with many talented choreographers and is a member of Dance USA and attends the Annual Conference as an Emerging Leader every year. She has also served on many grant and organizational panels for the Houston Arts Alliance. While directing the Professional company is

her main focus, Marlana also fills in her time choreographing, teaching and judging in Houston and throughout the United States. Marlana enjoys teaching the determination, focus and passion she has for dance.

Marlana is married to Benjamin Howard, a Video Production Manager for BMC Software and owner of his own Photography and Videographer company.

"I attended St. Mary School following my older sister Lidia Walsh-Morrissey '90. Lidia is now married, lives in Cromwell, CT and has a beautiful two year old daughter named Mia.

We both loved going to school at St. Mary's and consider Shrewsbury, MA

our home. We took the bus everyday and I remember Sister Margaret coming into classes frequently. I remember

... I still **stay in touch** with many of my **St. Mary School classmates...**

delivering letters or mail to the Rectory, loving recess outside and inside, and always enjoying the different activities and assemblies we had. I still stay in touch with many of my St. Mary School classmates. If I didn't attend school there I am not sure how I would be as an adult

now. St. Mary School instilled so many wonderful things in me, like being fair and treating all persons equally. The "golden rule" Do to others as you would want to be done to you-- I always remembered that."

For more information on Marlana and the Houston Met Dance Company visit www.houstonmetdance.org



Alumni give back at St. Mary School Science Fair



The St. Mary School Science Fair took place earlier this month.

This year two alumni shared their knowledge and talents as judges at the Fair.

Alumnus Dr. John Scheffel '81 with a BS in Psychology/minor in Biology from Northeastern University and an MD from the California College of Podiatric Medicine is a board certified surgeon with his own practice in Worcester.

Alumnus Matthew Beaton '92 with a BS from WPI in Biotechnology and

Environmental Studies and an MS from Boston University in Energy and Environmental studies owns Beaton Construction, a 'Green' building and construction company.

St. Mary School is blessed to have these accomplished professionals as part of their Science Fair Panel.

If you're in the math, science, or engineering field and would like to be a future Science Fair judge, please contact science teacher Michael Moakley at: moakleym@stmarysparish.org

St. Mary School Mission Statement

Saint Mary School, Grades Preschool – 8, provides a QUALITY EDUCATION in an atmosphere permeated in RICH CATHOLIC TRADITION and STRONG CHRISTIAN INTEGRITY.

Our students develop their UNIQUE GIFTS, work through challenges by using CRITICAL THINKING SKILLS, and seek answers through PRUDENT DECISION-MAKING.

We send forth graduates to function as INTELLIGENT, MORAL LEADERS in a constantly CHANGING GLOBAL COMMUNITY.

Meet Our Teacher

Mrs. Sandy Hudson in her 19th year teaching at St. Mary School

I'll never forget that September morning eight years ago

in the first grade. As an Art Class volunteer mom I entered the classroom to find a sad first grader in the lap of Mrs. Hudson. He had welled up eyes and a crinkled family photograph in his fist – *he was missing home*. With an expert's ease Mrs. Hudson soothed and

cheered that child. It took a while and I could tell Mrs. Hudson wasn't rushing; she gave that little boy exactly what he needed and at the pace he needed it. As a new school mom, Mrs. Hudson's actions that day completely comforted and reassured me in my decision to enroll my children in St. Mary School.



Sandy Hudson started teaching at St.

Mary School in 1992. I recently asked her what it is that has kept her here for the past 19 years. I assumed she was going to need some time to think about her answer, but that was not the case. Mrs. Hudson answered immediately; she answered with complete conviction and she answered with a glow of joy and pride. "I continue to teach at St. Mary School because I get to share everything that is most important to me in my life. We teach faith here, we teach a love of learning here, and we teach 'love thy neighbor' here. St. Mary School is as close to a perfect learning environment as I've ever seen. The school's aca-

ademic culture is progressive, the faculty are entirely dedicated professionals, and the parent involvement is extraordinary." Mrs. Hudson commented that the intimate size of the school and the fact that we go from pre-school to eighth grade has always been important to her. "It's wonderful to be able to follow the children over the years; to watch them learn, and grow, and change. ... and although I've shed my fair share of joyful tears at the eighth grade graduations, I haven't missed one yet." Lastly, the added bonus Mrs. Hudson describes of St. Mary School is that her children Sarah '97 and Jeffrey '00 had a wonderful learning experience here and have come away with many fond memories.

Sira Naras
School Parent

Currently, I attend high school at the Massachusetts Academy of Math and Science where, as a senior, I am enrolled in freshman level college courses at Worcester Polytechnic Institute. As I apply to colleges and universities and recognize the importance of my education in the process, I understand the role St. Mary School still plays in my life.

Without the foundation of academia and morality provided by St. Mary School, I would not be the person I am today.

Alyssa Tsiros '07

Shrewsbury Public Library Bookmobile Happy 100th Birthday Bea!

Beatrice Nelson celebrated her 100th birthday this January. When asked to reflect on her life here in town, it was her years with the Shrewsbury Public Library Bookmobile that lit up her face. "I liked the little kids so much and it was very important to me that I was helping them gain a life long love for reading. I'd keep up to date on book reviews and make recommendations to the children; they were always so eager for the books."

Bea, as her friends call her remembers distinctly her time at St. Mary School. The boys and girls were

split into groups for visiting the Bookmobile. Usually the girls went first, followed by the boys. "Those St. Mary's children were so well behaved; the nuns had them right in line" recalls Bea as she offered that the nuns were "firm but fair."



The Shrewsbury Bookmobile ran from 1960 to 2000. Bea worked with the Bookmobile from 1962 to 1975 and remembers that job as one of the most enjoyable times in her life. "I loved that job...and you know, even if they couldn't have paid me to do it, I would have done it anyway" said Bea.

Alumni Serving our Country

Research proves what we've long known - The United States Service Academies only accept 'cream of the crop' candidates. St. Mary School has a very proud history of alumni attending United States service academies. In fact we have three at the United States Naval Academy at Annapolis right now; *Annapolis which boasts an acceptance rate of only 8%!*

It is with great pride that we share with you how these young SMS alumni are serving the United States of America. Their stories:

John O'Neil '99

After graduating St. Mary School in 1999 I spent the next four years at St. John's High School with the majority of my old classmates from Summer Street. I graduated from there in 2003 with honors and went on to the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD. I spent

those years both attending class and training on most every type of platform and weapons system the Navy has. Those years flew by and I graduated Annapolis in 2007 with a Bachelor of Science and Commission as an officer in the U.S. Navy. From there I went on to Navy flight school flying the T-34C Turbomenter, T-44A Pegasus, and T-45C Goshawk, with the most significant part of the training being trained to land the T-45C, a \$24 million jet aircraft, on a moving aircraft carrier completely alone. I received my wings of gold in January of 2010 and was officially designated a Naval Aviator. I am about to complete training flying the E-2C Hawkeye,

which is the aircraft I will fly on and off the aircraft carrier operationally for the Navy. Upon completion of training in March I will be assigned my fleet squadron and could be deployed as early as April flying missions in southern Afghanistan.

I'm still best friends with a group of guys I graduated St. Mary School with, and still keep in touch with almost the entire class of 1999.

William O'Hara '06

There are probably not many people reading this newsletter that remember Sister Margaret, the principal of St. Mary's some 20 years ago, but I certainly do. I remember her walking

into my 1st grade classroom, prompting the entire class of children to stand up and respectfully chorus "Good afternoon, Sister Margaret." She would then spend a few moments of her time speaking to the class, imbuing snippets of wisdom into our nascent minds. To my eternal embarrassment, I don't remember much from those experiences, but I do recall one indelible phrase. "Do what's right because it is

right", she said. There is a simple beauty and elegance in that phrase; it is basic enough for a seven year old to understand, but also intellectually sturdy enough to be subjected to the rigors of an adult mind, perhaps one that is struggling over a complex moral or ethical dilemma. To me, it implies a certain

accountability often lost in today's world - it tells us not to make excuses. Moral decisions often have many conflicting parts, but Sister Margaret tells us not to rationalize an immoral act or cut ourselves a break. She tells us *not* to take the easy way out. When I first entered the Naval Academy in June of 2002, this was one of the first snippets of information (among many!) that I had to memorize. It's called the Honor Concept:

"Midshipmen are persons of integrity: They stand for that which is right. They tell the truth and ensure that the full truth is known. They do not lie. They embrace fairness in all actions. They ensure that work submitted as their own is their own, and that assistance received from any source is authorized and properly documented. They do not cheat. They respect the property of others and ensure that others are able to benefit from the use of their own property. They do not steal."

I presume that if you are reading this newsletter, these ideas are not foreign to you. Indeed, they were not foreign to me when I applied to the Naval Academy. The Academy does its best to enforce these rules, with severe consequences for violation. That institutional effort is what makes Annapolis and the other service academies so unique. It allows the immortal principles of personal honor and integrity to permeate and prevail.

While at the Naval Academy, I majored in Information Technology. I had the privilege to spend time learning from the security experts at the nearby National Security Agency. After my time at Annapolis, I've been stationed in Washington, D.C. My job is to control and maintain the computers used by influential people in the Department of Defense, like the Secretary of Defense, to make important decisions. Their decisions help the military all over the world protect friendly foreign nations, their families at home, and each other. It's a

... **Sister Margaret** tells us **not to** ... take the **easy way out**...



... I graduated Annapolis in 2007 with a **Bachelor of Science** and Commission as an **officer** in the **U.S. Navy**...

Alumni Serving our Country

serious job, and I treat it as such.

In my spare time I go to law school at night at the George Washington University, and will receive my JD next year. Most of my academic focus is on national security law, including questions about the laws of war and homeland security issues. I've had the opportunity to apply my legal skills at the Federal Communications Commission, where I helped draft their Cybersecurity Roadmap.

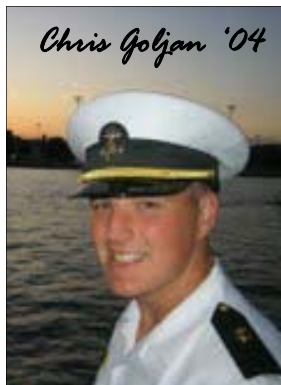
But throughout my time at the Naval Academy, working at the Pentagon, and in law school, I still hear the timeless words of Sister Margaret. They have served as a reliable touchstone as I continue to grapple with dilemmas in diverse and challenging settings.

"Do what's right because it is right." They are simple words, but powerful enough to have helped shape my life.

Chris Goljan '04

I graduated St. Mary School in 2004 and went on to join the proud ranks of the Pioneers at Saint John's High School. At SJ, I wrestled all four years, leading the team as one of the captains

and earning 6th in the State in my senior year. During my sophomore year, I also achieved the prestigious rank of Eagle Scout as the culmination of a 12 year scouting career. I graduated with Honors in 2008 and soon after was indoctrinated into the brave class of 2012 at the United States Naval Academy. During my freshmen and sophomore year, the Academy thoroughly instructed me



... appropriate posture to the proper running of a Nuclear Powered SSN 688i Los Angeles Class Nuclear Powered Submarine...

in all manners military, ranging from appropriate posture to the proper running of a Nuclear Powered SSN 688i Los Angeles Class Nuclear Powered Submarine. Now as a 2nd Class Midshipman, I am in charge of instructing the freshmen in those same military manners while studying for a Bachelor of Science. I am also currently taking the prerequisites for attending Medical School upon graduation in 2012 and hope to join the Medical Corps.

Extend Your Prayers to the McGinnis Family

Our prayers are with Jack McGinnis and his family as they mourn the great loss of Mary C. McGinnis, their beloved wife, devoted mother, and loving grandmother.



Mother to:

John A. McGinnis Jr. '72
William C. McGinnis '72
Catherine M. Casey '73
Paul E. McGinnis, '75
Elizabeth A. McGinnis '76
Michael R. McGinnis '79
Mary A. McGinnis '81
Patricia A. McGinnis Firlotte '82
Ann C. McGinnis '83
Daniel J. McGinnis '85

And grandmother to:

Christine McGinnis '98
Phillip McGinnis '95
Ryan McGinnis '04
Shaina McGinnis '07

As we begin to celebrate the school's 50th Anniversary, of great importance to us is remembering those who have passed away. Members of the St. Mary School family whom we have lost will be remembered at the 50th Anniversary Gala and in the Gala booklet. Please help us ensure that all are remembered. We ask that you forward Mary Pat Daly Calderwood '94 the names of those we have lost.

mpcalderwood@townisp.com

Unearthing the St. Mary School Time Capsule.

"How Good is the Good God?" said Sister Margaret McCurdy when I told her we would be unearthing the Time Capsule she and the St. Mary School community buried in 1986.

"I remember all of the excitement we had at that time and I'm sure it will be a thrill for any of our former students that come back to revisit what we buried on that very exciting day."

The St. Mary School 1986 Time Capsule was unearthed earlier this month. In its place the SMS student body buried the 2011 Time Capsule! Brian Beaton '89 and Erin McLoughlin '89 (1986 - fifth grade Student Council Representatives) were on hand to say a few words. The unearthed Time Capsule will be opened at the St. Mary School 50th Anniversary Gala on October 29, 2011. The contents will be on display at the Gala, as well as following the October 30, 2011 Alumni Mass, and finally, in the school's front office.

Alumni Families

The Beauchemin Family

I had the recent pleasure of visiting with Mr. and Mrs. Norman Beauchemin. Parishioners since 1957 the Beauchemins are proud parents to eight St. Mary School alumni. Starting with Paul '67, and followed by Richard '68, Mark '70, David '73, Michael '74, John '80, Julie '80, and Robert '87, each walked the halls of St. Mary School on their way to

successful careers in accounting, engineering and business. Mrs.

Beauchemin recalls how thrilled she was when Fr. Bernard Lynch first accepted their children into the brand new St. Mary School. "It was a pretty big deal back then to be accepted into St. Mary School," She said. When I asked about the financial commitment needed to put eight kids through St. Mary

... "It was a pretty **big deal** back then to be **accepted into St. Mary School.**" ...

School, I learned about paper routes and part time jobs at the Calvary Retreat Center where Mrs. Beauchemin worked. "As the children got older they all worked to help with tuition bills and it wasn't just the boys, Julie had a paper route too," Mrs. Beauchemin said with pride. The Beauchemins hoped for a "strong Catholic education as well as a safe and secure place for their children." Looking back Mr. Beauchemin feels that

his children turned out to be "people of character" and credits St. Mary School in part for that. He shares that his children tried hard and that they as parents "stayed on them," but thinks it was "the combination of the school and the parenting that served their children well for high school, college and adulthood." "St. Mary's did a very good job for our children" added Mrs. Beauchemin. All of the Beauchemin

children went on to advanced degrees, with five of them graduating from Northeastern University.

Editor's note: The Beauchemin family lost their beloved son and brother Mark when he passed away in 2001.

In preparation for the school's 50th anniversary, along with the Beauchemins, I have recently met with Dr. Peter Blute, Mrs. Patricia Utzshneider, Mrs. Ann O'Connor, Mrs. Viola Jefferson and Mr. and Mrs. Paul Tivnan. As I continue to visit with these wonderful parents from St. Mary School's early history, I am moved by their stories and inspired by all that they and their children have accomplished. I've come to understand that the purest and truest successes of St. Mary School come from the marriage of the student, the parents, and the school.

Sira Naras

Did you know that three St. Mary School alumni have served as Massachusetts State Representatives?

Peter Blute '70 with a B.A. from Boston College in Political Science was elected to the Massachusetts House of Representatives in 1986 and served until 1993.

Karyn Polito '80 with a BS from Boston College and a JD from the New England School of Law was elected to the Massachusetts House of Representatives in 2000 and served until 2010.

Mathew Beaton '92 with a BS from WPI and an MS from Boston University is serving his first term with the Massachusetts House of Representatives following his election in 2010.



Peter Blute visits SMS

Editor's note: Peter Blute and Major General Artemas Ward share the honor of being the only two Shrewsbury natives to serve in the United States Congress. Ward in the 1st Congress in 1790 and Blute in the 100th congress in 1994.

Time is Running Out! Annual Fund campaign

The 2010-2011 Annual Fund Campaign ends August 31, 2011. Your participation ensures that a new generation of students will have the benefit of a St. Mary School education.

Please be reminded that **no gift is too small**. Your generosity in any amount is needed, is welcomed, and is a strong vote of confidence in the traditions of St. Mary School. The alumni stories in this newsletter

alone remind us of the tangible and life long value of a St. Mary School education.

Your donation may be made in *Honor of* or in *Memory of* a loved one. All donations will be recognized in the 2010-2011 Annual Report. Please take a moment today to send your gift.

Mail donation to:
Development Fund
St. Mary School
16 Summer Street

Saint Mary School Alumni in Legislature



“Someday you’re all going to look back and count your blessings and be grateful that you were able to come to St. Mary School.”

Matthew Beaton ‘92

It was clear how heartfelt these words were when State Representative Matthew Beaton ‘92 shared them with the St. Mary School student body. The St. Mary School alumnus spoke to the children in celebration of *Nation Day* during Catholic Schools’ Week this year.

Matt is one of 160 representatives for the Commonwealth. The first piece of legislation Matt officially filed was a proclamation from the Massachusetts House of Representatives for St. Mary School, adopting SMS into State House history. Matt filed the legislation with fellow State Representative Kimberly Ferguson (mother to SMS third grader Brian Ferguson).

Matt owns Beaton Construction which builds with *‘the latest innovations in green building*

products, green building techniques, and green building science theory’.

“Ever since I was at St. Mary School I have had a real understanding of community service. That was a big part of going to school here. I have always been interested in our environment and energy policies so I guess that’s how I ended up where I am today. Actually, in the 5th grade I started the recycling program at St. Mary’s and it’s really great to see the program still thriving after all these years.”

Matt remembers Father Devaney, Father O’Connell, and Sister McCurdy fondly and as I watch him tell his stories, I can see his heart is still here with us. Congratulations Matt! Keep up the good work.

Editor’s note: Matt’s newly built house here in town will soon be the first certified Passive House in Massachusetts.

(Continued from page 1)

University and Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, OH. For multiple decades, I have carried with me the values and principles nurtured from my early days at Saint Mary’s. I credit my achieving Eagle Scout, a Ph.D., publications, key executive and board positions in industry and government, in part, based on life lessons learned at Saint Mary School.

In the process, I have had an array of opportunities around the world starting with a faculty stint with the Outward Bound Survival Schools in the Welsh countryside; United Airlines for ten years in Chicago, Singapore and Tokyo; Accenture for five years in Denver; Honeywell International for eight years in northern, NJ; and recently as VP of Talent Management for Battelle in Columbus, OH.

It was Saint Mary School where I first learned the value of friendship; the pride in sticking to tough projects; the humility of being unfinished in His name; and the uncompromising spirit of reaching for the stars while humbly stooping and serving the less advantaged... often getting far more back in return.

Saint Mary’s, I think it is safe to say, at your 50th year of service...that you have many of us from year one still thinking you’re the best. Happy golden anniversary!

**B&E is an acronym for “Breaking and Entry”*

Attending St. Mary School was like belonging to a large, caring, extended family. Not only did we receive a quality education, but we were taught important values including achievement, compassion, responsibility, and faith. St. Mary School set high standards for each of us and taught us to accept no less than our best. My children are enrolled at St. Mary School because I want the same experience for them.

Mary Pat Calderwood ‘84

Three generations at St. Mary School

“There are only two lasting bequests that we can give our children – one is roots and the other wings.” – Hodding S. Carter

As I look back on my history with St. Mary's, I can't help but think those words couldn't be more poignant.

For three generations, my family has marked their lives by the milestones celebrated within these walls - baptisms, First Communions, confirmations, graduations, and weddings. We've grown and flourished within the arms of this amazing community, and in the process, we've woven a remarkable history that will forever bind us to this place and to the people who count themselves as member

My father - Brian Casey '68- was in one of the first graduating classes this school ever had. His brothers – Michael '67, Kevin '71, and Neil '79 - and sister, Cara '83 were also graduates. And then it was our generation's turn. In 1986, the same year that the time capsule – (which will be opened at the school's 50th Anniversary Gala) - was placed into the ground, I donned the school uniform for the first time. My older brother John '92 was already two years ahead of me and my younger sister Colleen '97 still had three years to wait. But the tradition had been passed.

My parents knew – just as my father's parents did before them - that this school would cultivate everything great inside us and launch us into our future with a far better foundation than we could have ever imagined at the time.

And it was that legacy that my husband and I wanted to pass onto our daughter – Bella – when she was ready to begin her education. The first day that I walked, hand in hand, with her through the hole in the fence to the preschool, I thought she looked so tiny with her oversized book bag; she couldn't possibly be ready for this. And a million different

scenarios began to swirl inside my head wondering what exactly would happen when Mrs. Canfield opened that door? Then in true Bella style, she took off like a freed bird and didn't look back. I should have known.

As I walked back to my car, I found that the memories of my own childhood footsteps still resonated here. The days when I wore the plaid jumpers and ran



around on the playground that still had the old oak trees growing in the center. The days with Mrs. Daly in the library and Sr. Margaret in the office. And especially that ever-important day when I walked into Sr. Ranah's classroom for

the first time and stood in intimidated awe.

Those days held nothing but possibilities for me – moments where we learned that our future was nothing but bright and filled with promise. For eight years within those classrooms, our minds were nurtured and so were our souls, building a stronger relationship with God and a stronger pride within ourselves. We were limitless and the future was ours.

Now it's our children who dream of becoming Astronauts, Ballet Dancers, Artists, Doctors, and Adventurers...and it is here that they will learn that they can do anything, as long as they are willing to work to achieve their goals. These are the days our children will earn their wings – learning and becoming better for it.

And in the end, St. Mary School will always hold a special place in the hearts of its alumni because this is the place where we laid down our roots and earned our wings.

Christina Casey Villani '86

Calling all Alumni to the St. Mary School 50th Anniversary Celebration!

**Our goal is to get at least one person from each
class to help out.**

The St. Mary School 50th 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 for more information.

From the Advancement Office

I stared at the *facebook* posting for what felt like an hour. Could I hit the send button? *Should* I hit the send button? Was my comment too informal? Did it display too much emotion? Would it be perceived as unprofessional? *"I love my job! St. Mary School has the best alumni ever!"* That is what I wrote, and when all was said and done, that is what I posted on facebook. It started with Chris DeSantis '97 and Jenell Porreco '97 communicating on the St. Mary School *facebook* wall. Their comments were so affectionate and endearing that I couldn't help but join the communication. Why would I say "I love my job" and "St. Mary School has the best alumni ever?" I said it because that's exactly how I feel.

As the Advancement Office and I move into our fourth year at St. Mary School, the biggest achievement we've had is the number of alumni that we have re-connected with. I've had the challenging task of tracking them down,

but I've also had the absolute pleasure of hearing their stories and getting to know them. As you'll see in this newsletter, the St. Mary School alumni are flying jets at Annapolis, they're winning marathons, they're proprietors of their own businesses, they're facing life's battles with courage and dignity, they're involved in the arts, they're living in Alaska, they're raising young families, and they're caring for aging parents. For me - the St. Mary School alumni continue to inspire awe.

I often count my blessings here at St. Mary School. I am blessed to meet our amazing alumni; blessed to be a first hand witness to the legacy of St. Mary School. I am blessed also to work in this building; to be absorbed into the SMS culture of love God, and love thy neighbor. I am blessed to be able to walk these halls and see these beautiful

children each and every day; the 8th graders - now tall and grown - ready to move on, and the little ones - who can't seem to keep from skipping and hopping and smiling and singing on any given occasion. I am blessed with the tireless volunteers of St. Mary School. As the sole person in the Advancement Office, there is no 'true' office without the many hardworking and dedicated volunteers who have been with me from the beginning.

As we approach the 50th Anniversary of St. Mary School my heart is full with love, with trust, with optimism, and with gratitude for St. Mary School and her future.



I wish you peace and good health.

Sira Naras

Advancement Director

Calling Class Agents!

Thank you to Andrea Leahy Wright '88 for stepping up as our first SMS Class Agent. Andrea is currently living in the Washington DC area with her husband Brian, daughter Sophia (4) and son Harrison (3). She's enjoying being the COO of *Chez Wright* and exploring all that our nation's capitol has to offer during her time there. She is the Class Agent for the class of 1988. Please contact her at andrewright11@hotmail.com to update your name, address and email information so you can be included in the 50th Anniversary celebration of St Mary's School.

Now that we have reconnected with so many alumni we are in need of Class Agents. Class Agents are volunteers who act as liaisons between their classmates and St. Mary School. The St. Mary School Advancement Office would like to hear from alumni interested in serving in this capacity. If you are interested in becoming a Class Agent, contact the Advancement Office at advancement@stmarysparish.org or 508-842-1601.

"In the News" Outstanding Alumni Achievements



Jessica Snow '07 signs letter of intent.

Jessica Snow a senior at Notre Dame Academy has signed her letter of intent to attend college and play field hockey at St. Anselm College in Manchester, NH. Jessica received an athletic scholarship from the college. As co-captain and goalie for her team, Jessica is a two-time Central Massachusetts Conference All-Star and a two-time recipient of the Telegram and Gazette Honor Team award. She was a member of the New England Premier Honor Team in 2010.

Jean Claude Joseph '82 - Man of the Year

Congratulations to Jean Claude Joseph '82. Jean Claude has been named Man of the Year - Mattapoisett. Jean Claude has

worked tirelessly on behalf of the earthquake ravaged people of Haiti. The students of St. Mary School helped Jean Claude by donating countless boxes of food, clothing and home goods. "I feel it is an award I am not worthy of" said Jean Claude. "It should go to all of the people who have helped Haiti, especially all of you at St. Mary School. Thank you for everything."

Michael Curran '10 - YMCA Camp Harrington Male Leader Award Nomination

Michael Curran '10 and SMS 8th grader Ben Babbitt '11 were nominated for the 2010 YMCA Camp Harrington Male Leader Award. Michael is a member of the Shrewsbury High School Cross Country and Spring Track teams along with fellow SMS alumnus **Nick Fountaine '10**.

“Preparing Me for a Life in the Real World”



Brian McNeil

It has been nearly fourteen years since I graduated from St. Mary School. Contrary to the renowned cliché, however, it does *not* feel like yesterday. Since venturing onward from the beloved grade-school alma mater I have traveled halfway around the world, witnessed the sale of my childhood home (located down the street from Dean Park), battled through the early departure of friends and loved-ones from this world, won a marathon, lost a marathon, experienced the deteriorating health of my mother, met some of my

closest friends, buried the family dog (rest in peace, Angel) and even found the love of my life. It has certainly been a roller-coaster ride nearly every step of the way. There have been some amazing experiences but, also, some forgettable ones. The only constant has been my faith – the core of which inaugurated at St. Mary’s. It has been a key factor in allowing me to persevere through all the less-than-stellar experiences, while being grateful for the wonderful ones. In fact, I often look back and wonder what my life would be like now had I not attended St. Mary School.

At twenty-seven years old, I am currently pursuing an advanced degree in Philosophy at Boston College and am engaged to a wonderful girl from Rockport, Mass. We live in Boston with our cat, Athena, and are very

much looking forward to our upcoming honeymoon in Barbados... and nuptials, of course. Laura, my fiancée, loves bringing up “the Shrews” every once in a while simply to observe the massive grin that appears on my face while reminiscing about all of the fantastic times. On the rare occasion that I am able to visit the central Massachusetts area, I always make a point to drive down Main Street and say a quick prayer as I pass by the

... I may not have **realized** it fourteen years ago, but **St. Mary’s** was **preparing** me for life in the **real world** ...

[newly renovated] church and school-grounds. I may not have realized it fourteen years ago, but St. Mary School was preparing me for life in the real world; and for that I will forever be indebted.

Brian McNeil '97

Editor’s note: Brian won the Cleveland Marathon in 2007 with a time of 2:31:06!

Dear Parents, if your child has moved from your home, please notify the alumni office at 508-842-1601 or advancement@stmaryspartsh.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.

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