

# THE GOOD NEWS

FROM ALUMS & FRIENDS & FAMILIES

Providing tuition assistance for Community of Saints Regional Catholic School



## Let's Meet the Challenge

**DEADLINE:**  
August 30

**GOAL:**  
Raise \$50,000 to  
Receive Additional  
\$50,000

See page 3  
for details.

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## Schulze Foundation Offers \$50,000 Challenge Grant

Community of Saints Regional Catholic School has been given the chance to receive a \$50,000 matching grant from the Schulze Family Foundation. To get the funds, the school must raise \$50,000 on its own, from either increased gifts or new donors by the end of August.

Not easy, but doable is the assessment of COS principal Bridget Kramer. "Anyone who is a first-time contributor to the school, their full gift will count towards the challenge," she explained. "And if a current giver raises the amount of their gift, the increase counts towards the challenge as well."

The money raised will go towards the school's generous tuition assistance program which welcomes all families seeking a Catholic education for their child. All families with children attending COS are expected to pay something, but no one is turned away for lack of funds. That unusual promise has made it possible for Catholic education to remain accessible to many families who could not have afforded tuition on their own.

### COS — One of Few Chosen by Schulze Foundation

The Schulze Foundation, launched by Best Buy Founder, Richard M. Schulze, supports schools that have demonstrated high-performance in reading, writing, math and science. After individual meetings with all 84 Catholic schools in the Archdiocese, COS was one of a handful to receive the matching grant.

One of the factors that impressed the Foundation was the success of recent graduates. Starting at St. Matthew's School and continuing at COS, school officials have tracked recent

graduates and found that 98% graduated from high school (one student could not be found) and 92% went on to post-secondary education or military service. Those numbers are significantly higher than students from similar demographic groups attending nearby public schools.

### Making Catholic Education Accessible and Sustainable

The grant comes at a time when all Catholic schools are thinking about how to achieve sustainability. "At COS, we want to stick with our commitment that no family is turned away," explained Kramer. "We also need to have a viable and successful school. The challenge grant from the Schulze Foundation helps with both goals."

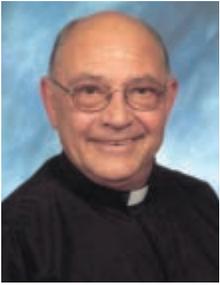
The school had already decided not to raise tuition this year. "That's always a difficult decision because costs keep rising," explained Kramer. "But it's our way of telling families, we're committed to you."

Doug Lieser, former principal and current development officer, thinks meeting the \$50,000 goal is just a matter of getting the word out. "When people learn about the school, meet our students and teachers and see what we're doing, they always come away impressed," Lieser said. "People want to support what's happening here."

"It was a big deal for COS to be chosen for this grant," added Kramer. "Our school was one of just a few selected and it really shows that we're hitting our stride. It's great to have that confirmed by an outside group like the Schulze Foundation."



## MESSAGE FROM **father steve**



### Dear Alums & Friends & Families,

In the last seven years, you and I have invested more than \$1,000,000 in tuition assistance for students and families from the West Side, South St. Paul and West Saint Paul. This investment has made Catholic education possible for hundreds of students who otherwise would not have been able to reap the benefits of a Catholic education.

**We do this because we believe that family finances should never stand in the way of a student getting a Catholic education.**

Recently, four large Twin Cities foundations have undertaken the same mission. After serious thought and discussions, they have brought their considerable resources to ensure that a Catholic education is available to all who desire it.

The Rauenhorst Family Foundation, the Schulze Family Foundation, the Catholic Community Foundation and the Aim Higher Foundation have come together to form Catholic Schools Center of Excellence (CSCOE).

They embrace the advantages of Catholic education and seek to expand access to and promote excellence within Catholic schools in

the 12-county Twin Cities metro area through grant making and cooperative partnerships.

In short, they have made the decision to invest significantly in Catholic education. It's an investment they believe will produce great success for the students of Catholic schools. In doing so, these four foundations have the capacity to make a fundamental difference in Catholic education in the Twin Cities.

Alums & Friends & Families is proud and happy to participate with CSCOE in our common and shared vision.

On a personal note, the Archbishop has appointed me Moderator and Administrator of Community of Saints Regional Catholic School. I will be chaplain to students and faculty as well as oversee the continued development and growth of Community of Saints. I am excited and delighted to play this role.

I encourage you to visit our school. I ask you to continue to join with me, and so many others, to make the investment so that Catholic education at Community of Saints is available to all who seek a Catholic education.

God bless you,

Stephen Adrian, Saint Matthew Pastor Retired

## Changing of the Guard — New Priests at Sponsoring Parishes

Community of Saints is sponsored by the four surrounding parishes of Our Lady of Guadalupe, St. John Vianney, St. Matthew and St. Michael. All four parishes have been assigned new pastors recently which means there will be new faces at next year's school Masses.

Our Lady of Guadalupe's pastor, Fr. Kevin Kenney has been reassigned to Divine Mercy Catholic Church in Faribault. The new pastor at OLG is Fr. James Adams who is returning to the U.S. after spending the last several years in Venezuela. Fr. Michael Rudolph, moderator of the school and pastor of St. Michael's and St. Matthew's will move to St. Raphael in Crystal. His replacement has not yet been named. And during the school year, Fr. Antony Skaria took over as pastor of St. John Vianney after Fr. Beeson was transferred.

### New Moderator for COS

Among the changes, Fr. Steve Adrian has been named the Moderator/Canonical Administrator for COS, a role he filled for 35 years at St. Matthew's School.

The school has also received a statement from Bishop Cuzzens and written assurances from the Archbishop that none of the changes taking place within the parishes will affect the school which has the strong support of the Archdiocese.



« After 11 years as the pastor of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Fr. Kevin Kenney has been reassigned to Faribault.



⤴ Fr. Rudolph, who served as COS moderator for three years, with COS student Rosalyn Tressell at her First Communion.



## Let's Meet the Challenge

COS must raise \$50,000 in "New Donations" to receive additional \$50,000 from Schulze Foundation.

**Deadline: August 30**

### What's a New Donation?

If you've never given to COS your entire gift is matched dollar for dollar.

E.g. Give \$100 — \$100 counts towards challenge.

If you've given to COS any increase in your gift counts.

E.g. If you gave \$75 before and give \$100 now — \$25 counts as new.

### Not sure?

Contact Doug Lieser at [dliester@communityofsaints.org](mailto:dliester@communityofsaints.org) or 651-485-1914.

### SEND CHECKS TO:

A&F&F or Community of Saints  
P.O. Box 7005, St. Paul, MN 55107-0005

## A&F&F Raises Over \$1 Million in Tuition Assistance

*National Catholic Reporter* Features Success

Thanks to you, A&F&F has raised over \$1 million since 2007. That's \$1 million that's helped students in our community receive a Catholic education at St. Matthew's School and Community of Saints.

No other Catholic elementary school in the country has even come close to that kind of fundraising success.

It was a big enough deal that the *National Catholic Reporter* showcased the achievement in its April issue. To read the entire story, go to go to: <http://www.communityofsaints.org/alums.aspx>



## Jerry Sexton ('44) Hopes for Good Things — Then Makes Them Happen

Helped Launch Effort that's Raised Over \$1M for Tuition Assistance

"That's a helluva lot of money," was Jerry Sexton's first response to learning that Alums & Friends & Families had raised over \$1 million in tuition assistance since he helped found the group eight years ago. "You hope for things but you don't expect them," he added in a more temperate tone.

Jerry was a leader in the effort to form the committee to raise funds for St. Matthew's, the school he graduated from in 1944. Back in 2007, few if any Catholic elementary schools had developed an organized approach to seeking alumni support. But Jerry saw the need and recognized an opportunity.

### Inspired by Cousin's Commitment to Students

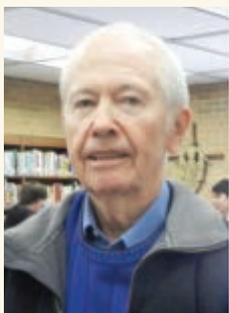
Jerry recalled that he was motivated in part by a cousin, a Franciscan nun who was principal of an inner-city Catholic School in Washington, D.C. "She talked about how she followed up with her kids to make sure they graduated

from high school and went on to college." Attending a Catholic elementary school was a huge factor in these students' later success. Jerry believed the same was true for kids in his old neighborhood.

"I always liked a challenge," he said. He helped recruit people for the committee and spear headed the creation of *The Good News*, covering all publishing costs for the first six years. "You just need to get a few movers and shakers to get committed," he explained. "There's so much talent in the parish to draw on, people who really want these kids to succeed."

### Retired but Still Calling Friends for COS

Although officially retired from the committee, Jerry is calling his friends and family to ask for their help to meet the Schulze Challenge grant. He credits the committees success to that kind of effort. "You just got to be willing to make the calls."



**Jerry Sexton '44**

## St. Matthew's



Row 1 | Kathleen Seidl, Susan Meyer, Barbara Miller, Mary Ann Nasseff, Jane David, Kathleen Taylor, Msgr. James Cecka, Kathleen Ward, Mary Frank, Linda Allie, Susan Maher, Beverly Bachel, Sylvia Aguirre

Row 2 | Joseph Cardenas, Donald Boehmer, Cavan Lasch, Robert Cruz, Larry Adams, James Wilmes, Michael Shanley, Lenny Lingofelt, Gregory Ewald, Gregory Guldberg, Gregory Lothenbach, Mark Roeller, John Becker, Stephen Del Vecchio

Row 3 | Judy Duesterman, Cynthia Aydt, Sandra Rieland, Nancy Poechmann, Elaine Kraker, Christine L'Allier, Virginia Greene, Mary Bitterman, Jane Pirkel, Beverly Hueffmeier, Deborah Kaminski, Barbara Bellows, Denise Wessel, Deborah Shepherd, Barbara Burns, Janice Mrozinski, Jane Wazlawik

# Class of 1965

## EDITOR'S NOTE

We are interested in gathering the 50 year class photos from Our Lady of Guadalupe, St. John Vianney and St. Michael. If you have a photo to share from the class of 1965 or 1966, please contact Doug Lieser at [dliesser@communityofsaints.org](mailto:dliesser@communityofsaints.org) or 651-485-1914.



Row 4 | Samuel Achman, James Plantenberg, Stephen Duerscherl, Steven Schueller, Stephen Petersen, Thomas Mitchell, Gary Hinze, Donald Bossart, Gerald Stahnke, Patrick Berg, Patrick Schmidt, Steven Alfveby, Jeffrey Heutmaker, Michael Santori

Row 5 | Jeanne Zimmerman, Patricia Scott, Eleanor Handwerk, Petra Zarate, Theresa Miller, Renee Germain, Judy Engen, Carol Kuhns, Mary Wanger, Mary Ehrenberg, Shanna McCann, Linda Haas, Donna Thelen, Sheila Haas, Joan Michalski, Linda Frame, Gail Gutzmer

Row 6 | Alfred Einberger, Daniel Triviski, Richard Potzman, James Bukowski, Gary Brown, Robert Anglo, Jeffrey Gephardt, Dennis Ring, Kevin McMonigal, James Diederich, David Gross, John Wenker Not pictured: Dorothy Schletty



## Students Serving & Learning

COS students held a food drive for Neighborhood House, volunteered at Feed My Starving Children, and 8th graders took their Kindergarten buddies for a day of discovery at the Children's Museum.

**FOOD DRIVE for Neighborhood House**



**FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN**



**KINDERGARTEN BUDDIES at the Children's Museum**



"It's essential that we provide our students with opportunities to live out their faith in service to others. There are many needs in the community that students can help fill, and we look forward to providing more opportunities for them to help others and make a difference in the world. That's what Catholic education is all about."

**BRIDGET KRAMER, PRINCIPAL OF COS**

## Back to Back Championships

COS parent and girls basketball coach, Santino Franco, was chosen to be this year's Grand Marshal for the Cinco de Mayo parade in recognition of his leadership and many years working with young people on the West Side.



**ABOVE** In addition to winning the 8th grade City, Twin Cities & Suburban Catholic School Championships (see inset photo of COS basketball team), the girls West Side traveling team won their state tournament and got to show their West Side pride for the parade.



**RIGHT** Coach Santino Franco, interviewed here by a reporter from Fox News, was the girls basketball coach for both school and the West Side traveling team for four years, leading the girls to three Catholic School championships.



## 8th Graders Take a Cultural Tour of the Twin Cities

This year's 8th grade class got all dressed up to go to the Guthrie's presentation of Arthur Miller's play, *The Crucible*. It was part of a three-day cultural tour of the Twin Cities that included a trip to the Minneapolis Institute of Art, lunch at the Midtown Global Market, St. Paul's Gangster Tour and dinner at a Japanese restaurant. The students raised the funds for the trip themselves with significant support from their teacher and COS Assistant Principal Athena Novack.





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Friends &  
Families**

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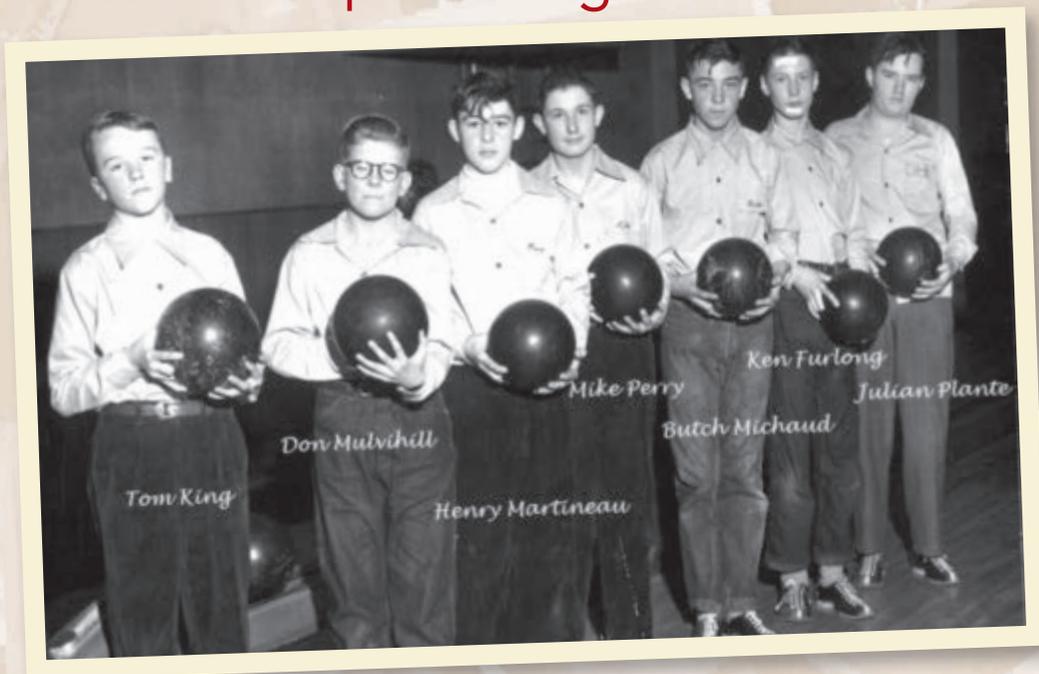
Development: Doug Lieser

E-mail: [Dlieser@communityofsaints.org](mailto:Dlieser@communityofsaints.org)

## If You Like This Photo — Keep Reading

Alums & Friends & Families committee member, Mary Ellen Gutzman, has done a terrific job archiving photos from St. Michael's 125-year history. In doing so, she's come across some great pictures like this one of a championship bowling team from the 1950s.

St. Michael's is just one of the four parishes sponsoring COS. We'd like to share some of the photos we've found from all four of the schools that were a part of the Catholic tradition in this community: Our Lady of Guadalupe, St. John Vianney, St. Matthew and St. Michael.



Interested? Come and visit us on Facebook. If you have photos you'd like to share, we'd love to hear from you. We're especially interested in graduating class photos from 1965 and 1966.

So, what old school photos have you tucked away?

Like us on  [Alums&Friends&Families](https://www.facebook.com/Alums&Friends&Families)