

THE GOOD NEWS

FROM ALUMS & FRIENDS & FAMILIES

Providing tuition assistance to students at Community of Saints Regional Catholic School

End of Year Challenge!

Every donation to A&F&F Tuition Assistance Fund will be matched dollar-for-dollar through December 31, 2018.

This Christmas give a gift to honor someone who values Catholic education.

See page 7 for details.

INSIDE

- » Celebrate Fr. Steve's 50th Anniversary
Pages 2-3
- » Annual Report
Pages 4-9
- » COS Student Speaks at Aim Higher Foundation Event
Page 9
- » Meet the New Board of Directors
Page 11



The Community of Saints student choir performed at the Night of Light Gala for an audience of over 500 people at the Mall of America Marriott Hotel. The event is the Aim Higher Foundation's premiere fundraising opportunity for the scholarships it provides to students enrolled in the 83 Catholic schools within the Archdiocese. This year's featured Aim Higher Scholar was COS seventh grade student Isaac Garcia. *See page 9 for the story.*

Photo courtesy of Aim Higher Foundation / Jeremy McCole

COS Starts Year with 10% More Students and a New Board of Directors

Community of Saints is on a roll. Student enrollment is up 10% this year, the third consecutive year it's risen. Contributions for A&F&F's tuition assistance increased by a phenomenal 28% in 2017-18 (see page 4 for annual report). Capping off these gains is the installment of a new Board of Directors (BOD) whose 12 members bring a wealth of expertise and community leadership to govern the school.

The new Board is part of an initiative supported by the Healey Foundation, a national foundation based in New Jersey, which is dedicated to ensuring the future of Catholic schools. COS was one of a handful of schools in the Archdiocese singled out to receive funding and professional support from Healey with the goal of implementing best practices, achieving sustainable growth, and laying the groundwork for long-term success. "COS had everything we were looking for," said Lisa Anderson with the Healey Foundation. "They have strong leadership, drive, enthusiasm, and the willingness to truly make changes that will help them keep moving forward."

Continued on page 10



MESSAGE FROM **father steve**

Dear Alums, Friends and Families of Community of Saints,

Once again this year COS has an enrollment increase of 10%; new families have come to choose COS as a partner in the education of their children. You are what makes it possible for low and moderate income families to choose a high-quality Catholic education for their children. Your generosity makes tuition manageable for these families.

COS has a great faculty and a strong administration. They are committed to students, they get to know students as “family,” they see their work, not as a job, but as a vocation.

For the past 50 years I have had the privilege of being a parish priest living and serving in inner urban Twin Cities Catholic communities. In each of those years I was blessed to be integrally involved in the life of a Catholic school.

I chose to become a priest because I wanted to do something that would make a difference in the life of a community and in the lives of families. What I learned was that Catholic schools are anchors of neighborhood communities and they are “institutes of evangelization” — places where young people are educated to live the love of God in their daily lives. I learned that Catholic schools do make a difference. I learned that Catholic schools save and change lives. I found how to spend some of my energy in a way that would make a difference in the life of a community and the lives of families.

I am deeply grateful to God for the gift of being able to use my talents and energy in support of Catholic education. I am very grateful to you. You make the work of Catholic education possible because of your generosity — without you COS would not be.

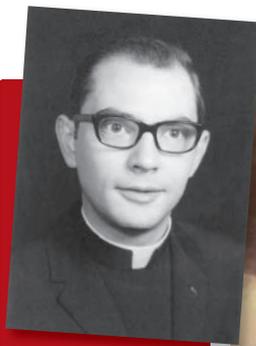
In gratitude,

Father Steve Adrian
Pastor, Community of Saints



Let's Celebrate a Life of Service

Fr. Steve Adrian's 50th Anniversary of Ordination to the Priesthood



Everyone is Invited!

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2018

Church of St. Matthew

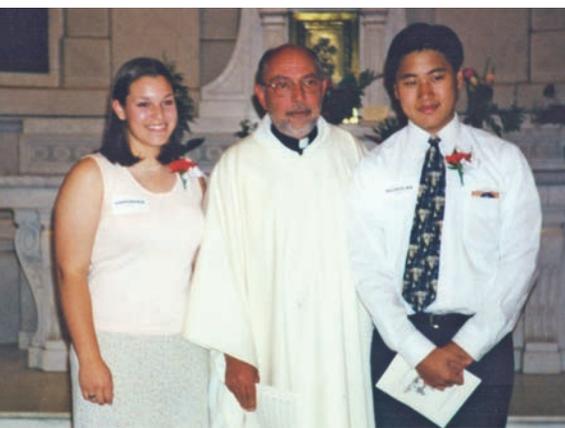
4:00 pm — Mass

Reception to follow

50th ANNIVERSARY

You Can Honor Fr. Steve by Supporting Catholic Education

Fr. Steve's commitment to Catholic education began with his first assignment in 1968 at Incarnation Parish in Minneapolis where he was also associated with Regina High School. During his 34 years at St. Matthew's he not only directed the education programs on campus but was also involved with Archbishop Brady High School. His commitment and devotion to Catholic education fueled his participation in the formation of Community of Saints Regional Catholic School in 2012 and continues today as he serves as its pastor. The Stephen J. Adrian Education Fund in support of Community of Saints Regional Catholic School is a fitting tribute to this grand tradition.



Please consider supporting Fr. Steve's mission of Catholic education by making a special donation in his honor. Your tax deductible gift will be matched dollar-for-dollar by a group of generous, long-time friends of Fr. Steve. Make checks payable to: The Stephen J. Adrian Education Fund. Send to: Community of Saints Regional Catholic School, 335 Hurley St. E., West St. Paul, MN 55118. Donations online are welcome at <http://www.communityofsaints.org/aff>.

Alums & Friends & Families 2018 Annual Report

Record Breaking \$275,827 Raised from 524 Donors

As COS enrollment has risen, so has your support for tuition assistance. Your generosity resulted in a 28% increase in giving this year. Since 90% of COS families rely on tuition assistance from A&F&F, your contributions are more important than ever. As one of our committee members said recently, "This money isn't icing on the cake. We still need money to make the cake."

We do want to stop and acknowledge the always impressive philanthropy of our contributors. Your largesse on behalf of COS students is inspiring. Simply put, the school would not exist without it.

Since 2007, you've helped keep a promise that tuition will not be a barrier to any family seeking a Catholic education for their child. At Community of Saints, every family pays something, but no one is ever turned away.

Thank you for your continued support.

2017-2018 Donors

PILLAR (\$15,000+)

Roy and JoAnn Ferber
Tom McKeown and
Mary Cullen McKeown
Josette Salah / St. Anthony of
Padua's Friends

PACESETTER

(\$10,000-\$14,999)

Carlo and Virginia LaManna
Larry McGough

LEADER (\$5,000-\$9,999)

Anonymous
Susan and Tony Alleva
Boss Foundation
John Curran
Janeice and David Hodgson
De Lisle
William and Bonita Frels
Kent Family Charitable Trust
Phil Paquette
John Riehle
Allen and Diane Volkenant

EDUCATOR

(\$2,500-\$4,999)

Fr. Steve Adrian
Richard Cates
Jacqueline Cosgrove
Joseph and Doreen Cullen
Herregan Distributors
David Koenen
James and Jan Kunz
Thomas and Mary O'Neill
Daniel Schadegg
Deborah Sundquist

SUSTAINER

(\$1,000-\$2,499)

Anonymous (3)
Frank Brewer
Audrey Brucker
Fred Commers
Norbert and
Mary Ellen Conzemius

Norbert and Mary Ellen
Conzemius Fund of the
Catholic Community
Foundation
Mary Kay and Michael Cooney
Hugh and Melissa Cullen
Thomas J. Doyle
Carol and Lawrence Engelmann
John B. (Jack) Ferber
Elizabeth French
Jean Froehle
John and Shirley Haney
Francis J. Jacobs
Steve Karbon and
Eileen McMahon
Tom and Cynthia Klecatsky
George Kronschnabel
Krissey and Doug Lieser
Mary Ellen Malone
Fr. John Malone
Mark Miller and
Anne Cullen Miller
Marjorie Mountain
John and Jane Perkovich
Thomas and Sandra Reding
Patricia Rolewicz
Tom Rolewicz Jr.
Leonard Schmidt
Jerry and Marilyn Sexton
Eugene Sitzmann
Michael Smeby
Bill Szlaius
James Wicker
Yvonne Wilhelm

BUILDER (\$500-\$999)

Angeline Abbott
Gerald and Shirley Bergum
James and Catherine Blaha
James and Denise Bohrer
Clement and Molly Commers
Duane and Brenda DeBlicek
Richard DeBlicek
Sr. Patricia DeBlicek, CSJ
Shawn and Kim Doyle
Mary Jane Ferber
Kathryn Grayson
Mary Ellen Gutzmann
James J. Hebert

Debra and Dennis Hendrickson
Ken and Mary Herriges
David and Mary Hottinger
Eugene and Patricia Karels
Jeff and Erika Lemke
Joseph Mansur
Edward and Gloria McEllistrem
Steve and Anita McKeown
Joseph Nasseff
David and Cathy Pavlak
John Posel
Kyle and Emily Reckinger
Donna Schneider
Brittany and Andrew Schou
Carol Schreiner
Linda Sellars
Michael Shanley
Sheila Steiner
Mary Pat Topritzhofer
Julie A. Treinen
Dick Votel

BENEFACTOR (\$250-\$499)

Roberta Barger
James and Arlene Barnhart
Jeffrey Barthe
Roger Beaubien
Theresa Bock
Mary Sue Brass
Peter Butler
Stephen and Ellen Casey
Cerenity Care Center
CliftonLarsonAllen LLP
Judith and Dale DeBlicek
Mark Del Vecchio
Richard Dunn and Margaret Lee
Gail Einhorn
Daniel Gangl
Catherine and Steve Garvey
Jim and Tedi Gesell
Gary and Kathy Groettum
Elizabeth Grundner
William and Joyce Herzog
Patricia Holmes
Thomas Kabesh
Sharon Koran
Mary Ann Kosel
Betty L. Kunik
Christine L'Allier

John P. Lang
George C. and Carol Lang
Ernie Maier
Chuck McBeain
Donna and Peter McCarthy
Roger Newmaster
Mary Ann Ogden
Mary K. Orme
Steve and Vicky Orme
John and Ann Piepel
Barbara Rau
Mary Rogers
J. Michael and Carol Schneider
Tony Sitzmann
Thomas Smith
Russ Sudeith
Robert and Barbara Verstraete
Terrance Votel
Mary Walsh
Toni Wilburn
Peter Willems

PATRON (\$100-\$249)

Eric Abraham
Francine Anderson
Elizabeth and William Arend
Marilyn Bach
Elaine Bache
Steven and Nancy Bade
Monica Bahls
Bank Cherokee
Bob Bejblik
Beth and Tim Bellon
Edward and Kathleen Benoe



Timothy Bianchi
 JoLynn Blaeser
 Patricia Blaskie
 Jerome and Dianne Blatzheim
 James Brengman
 Jim and Mary Ann Brewer
 Nancy Burke
 Richard and Rosalie Bush
 James Casey
 Mary Lou Casper
 Terri Cismowski
 Kenneth and Mary Clausen
 Janis M. Clay
 Joann Clemens
 Billie D. Conlon
 Betty Cook
 Frances Cook
 Gerald Crane
 Timothy Dalzell
 JoAnn Danmeier
 Carol DeBlieck
 Douglas DeBlieck
 Mary DeBlieck
 Gina Deveney
 Jerald Dosch and Dixie Shafer
 Joanne Dufour
 Jack Ehrenberg
 Timothy Flynn
 Frank French
 Francis Fried
 Christa and Steven Gangl
 Donald Geng
 John George
 Kathleen Gobeli
 Robert and Joan Goggins
 Mary Grady
 James Guldan
 Richard Halvorson
 Patricia Hara
 Tom Heinen and Tami Phillippi
 Donavon and Teresa Hess
 Andrea Hinding and David Holst
 George and Anita Hottinger
 Mick Huntress
 Anthony and Nancy Inserra
 Lila and Charles Jachim
 Randall Jenniges
 Fr. Bradley Jenniges, OSB
 Susan Jensen
 Craig and Bernice Johnson
 Lynne Johnson
 Greg Jones
 Charlotte Josephson
 Walter Jost and Ellie Brenny
 Larry and Sharon Joswiak
 Karen Kachel
 Patricia Karels
 Jack and Deb Katzmark
 Gerald Kegler
 Leo and Marcelline Kegler
 Fr. Kevin Kenney
 William Kenney
 Thomas and Ruth King
 Andrew and Aileen Koenen
 Jim Korman
 Michael A. Kosel
 Richard Kouri

Bridget Kramer
 Janet Lackner
 Bernie and Colleen Lancette
 Patricia Leseman
 Stella Lundquist
 LVM Capital Management
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 Joan Mandel
 Donald Marthaler
 Bill and Mary Martin
 Stephen and Teresa McCurdy
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 Erin McGuire
 John McGuire
 K.C. and Shelly McMonigal
 Mark and Irene Mikkalson
 Patricia Mitshulis
 Joseph Monsour
 Ray Monsour
 Michelle Mooney
 Joel and Meghan Moore
 Jessica Morales
 Darlene Moynagh
 James and Barbara Mulrooney
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 Beverly Murray
 Barbara A. Neff
 Timothy and Elizabeth Nowak
 Beatrice M. and John O'Neill
 Frances O'Neill
 Janet Odalen
 Christine Ortega
 Joe Osendorf
 Anthony Palumbo
 Bill and Annette Patient
 Robert and Rebecca Patient
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 Susan Pavlak
 Sheila Pedersen
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 Shannon and William Rantz
 Paul and Jeanne Ravich
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 Eric and Kathy Schneeman
 Leticia Silva
 Robert E. Smith
 Suzanne J. Snyder
 Georgene M. Sorenson
 Janice Spear
 Justice and Peace Committee
 of the St. Paul's Monastery
 Robert Stickler

Continued on page 6

Gifts Given to Honor Frederick Commers (1936–2018)

**“People Never Knew How Generous
 He Was”**

Fred Commers was the quintessential St. Paul Catholic. He attended St. Mark's grade school, went on to Saint Thomas Academy, and then earned a degree from St. Thomas College. Afterwards, he went into the family business, Commers Interior, which he combined with a successful career in commercial real estate.



Despite his achievements, Fred's family and friends describe a man whose modesty masked a big-hearted approach to giving. “People never knew how generous he was towards so many different causes,” reported his sister Annette (Commers) Patient.

For years Annette served as the volunteer librarian at St. Matthew's, a role she currently fills at COS. Fred also loved books, and Annette remembers when he learned about her work at St. Matt's, he told her to go to The Red Balloon Bookstore and buy whatever she needed; he would pick up the tab. “Fred believed that reading was the basis for everything,” Annette explained. “He knew the school operated on a shoestring, and this was just one way he chose to help.”

Fred was also a generous contributor to A&F&F's tuition assistance fund from the earliest days. In its first year, when the fledgling committee was just beginning to raise money for what seemed like an impossible goal, Fred and his wife Molly made one of the largest contributions, giving the group real momentum.

Friend and A&F&F committee member, Tom McKeown, wasn't surprised. “When Fred gave that money, it was his way of advocating for the school,” Tom said. “He didn't give a big speech, he just did it.”

Fred died peacefully on May 30, surrounded by his three sons, Chris, Tim, and Steven.



Thank you to Fred Commers' family and friends for their generous contribution of \$4,530 in his memory. In honoring Fred, you've shared the gift of Catholic education.

PATRON (\$100-\$249), continued

Steven and Julie Stremski
Anita Sweeney
Marion Theis
Michael Thomas
Barbara J. Tinucci
Dwayne E. Troje
David Ubl
Anthony and Diane Vasquez
Michael Vasterling
Susan Vento
James D. Vogel
Lynn A. Volkenant
Patrick Waldera
James Wenker
Daniel and Kelly Wicker
Kenneth Wilhelm
Judy Wilson
Diane Wineman
Jim and Carol Yannarely
Michael Youness
Barbara Zimmer
Jeanne Zimmer

SUPPORTER (UP TO \$100)

Rita Adam
Gloria Alt
Marilyn Andert
Theresa Ashmore
Joyce Athmann
Victoria Baker
Dennis and Jerrice Barrett
Ervin and Beverly Barrett
Mary Becker

Wayne Belisle
Roberta M. Bengston
James and Maureen Benoe
Eileen Bergman
Patricia Bjork
Patricia and Daniel Blaskowski
Karen and Dan Boden
Marjorie Boyd
Corinne and William Brengman
Joan A. Brock
Marvin and Jeanette Brown
Frances Bryniarski
Muriel Budziszewski
Mark and Mary Kay Capecchi
John Capistrant
Barb Carlier
J. L. Carlson
Martin Casalenda
Michael Casserly, Jr.
Marion Christner
Maxine Chupurdia
Nicha Coates
John and Sandra Cosgrove
Sharon Cosgrove
Frank and Julia Cruz
James and Judith Cunningham
Lorrie DeTomaso
Gerald and Mary Lou DeZelar
Brigid Diaz
Robert and Jean Dooley
Miles Dunn
Wayne Eddy
Evelyn Ehret
Claudia Engstran
Colleen Erickson

Dorothy Farnham
Mary Margaret Finnegan
Mary Helen Fitzharris
Edward Flahavan
JoEllen Flak
William F. Fretschel
Jerome and Patricia Friedmann
John J. Furlong
Julie and Thomas Garcia
Joan Gennaro
Delbert Gerdes
James Gerlach
Donald and Esther Giesel
John and Donna Mae Gieske
Mary Gillespie
Sr. Betty Ann Gits, CSJ
James and Rochelle Glowaski
Kathleen and Kenneth Goers
Gary and Elisa Gorman
Nancy Grausam
Peter and Amy Grayson
Nancy Halvorson
Mary Ann and Robert Hanson
Carol Harding
Dorothy Hawkins
Celia U. Hiland
Joseph Hinze
Fred and Doris Hohmeister
Suzette Houle
Thomas House
Marilu Husman-Woodford
Ignatian Associates
Molly and Pete Iversen
Mike and Jean Jack
Steve Jenkins

Gerard and Leona Jenniges
Charles and Bonnie Lee Johnson
Donald and Mary Jolly
Mary Kaliszewski
Charles and Rose Karas
Thomas Kegler
Margaret (Peggy) Kelsch
Janine Kerr
Dave and Georgia A. Kessel
Emily Kessel
Barbara Kieffer
John and Karis Kilbride
Ann and Richard Klein
Bernard and Mary Klein
Kristin M. Klein
Judith Knabe
Julie Knight
Barbara Kopp
Tom and Jeanne Lacy
James Lardani
Scott L. Larsen
Nicholas and Mary Lasovich
Thomas J. Leary
Angie Lopez
Susan Lund
Jo Ann Lundblad
Thomas and Mary Lundsten
John Mauerer
Carmella Maher
William Mahoney
Nancy Maloney
Joann Matsumoto
Margaret McKane
Terry and Bebe McTeague
Marge and Wayne Milner

Gifts Given to Honor Sr. Patricia DeBlieck, CSJ (1938–2018)

“The School Had a Special Place in Her Heart”

Sr. Pat DeBlieck grew up on a small farm in southwestern Minnesota and expected to become a wife and mother. That changed during her freshman year at the College of St. Catherine, when after hearing a sermon, she decided to dedicate her life to God. She joined the Sisters of St. Joseph, became a nurse and midwife, and spent decades providing health care to indigent women and children along the U.S.–Mexico border in Texas. In one of the poorest areas in the country, she routinely treated up to 80 pregnant women a day and delivered as many as 100 babies in a single day.

After she’d been diagnosed with terminal cancer, Sr. Pat’s family wanted to honor her in some way. When her cousin, Dale DeBlieck asked, Sr. Pat requested that contributions be made in her memory to support tuition assistance for students at Community of Saints.

Dale enlisted the help of his sister-in-law, Brenda DeBlieck, who got busy sending out letters. “We gathered names from an earlier family reunion and invited everyone to honor Sr. Pat by making a donation to the school,” Brenda explained. They also reached out to Sr. Pat’s former classmates, neighbors, and friends. “People stuck a little cash or a generous check in an envelope and sent it in, sometimes with a nice note,” Brenda said. “It was really heartwarming.”

Family members remember Sr. Pat as cheerful and humble. “She had a wonderful spirit,” Brenda recalled. “Even at the end, she would ask about others, never thinking of herself.”

Sr. Patricia DeBlieck died peacefully on July 30 at the Carondelet Center on the St. Catherine University campus where she first discovered her vocation.



Sr. Pat’s generous spirit was matched by her friends and family who contributed over \$4,270 in her memory.

Thanks to all!





Dennis P. and Tamara Mitchell
Michael and Mary Ann Monahan
James T. Mooney
Rosemary Mossberg
Frances Mudek
Julie Mulligan
Robert and

Margaret Mary Murnane
John L. and Carol A. Murphy
William and Michelle Muske
Ann Myran
Mary Jo Nairn
Karen M. Nelson
Eileen Norton
Lisa Norton
Gerald Nutzman
Mary Beth O'Brien
Michael W. O'Connor
Brigid O'Malley
Theresa O'Neal
Thomas and Mary Ann Orfei
Rafael Ortega
3M Company Partners in
Education Fund
Marguerite Pedersen
Margaret Perron-Deeb
Elaine Pesek
Marcella Peterson
Sheryl Peterson
Theresa Pham
Jennifer Picha
Renita Picotte
Joyce Poechmann
Nancy Poechmann
Timothy Potter
Tom Quinlan
Anna Quinn
Virginia and Daniel Radant
Carol A. Redding
Brian and Brenda Rembish
George M. Rhode
James Ridgeway
Joseph Riehle
John and Marilyn Ringold
Duane Rivard
James and Mary Roeller
Julie Rollheiser
Barbara Ruberto
Garry and Barb Ruhlmann
Kathleen and Jim Russell
Marguerite Sandbeck
Sylvia Santos
Georgianna Saumweber
Edward and Helen Schild
Alice Schletty
Corinne Schuster

Sr. Thomasin Sergot, SSND
Jim Sexton
Sandra Shandorf
Mary Louise Shields
Bernice Shipley
Joan Smith
Joanne M. Smith
Steve St. Martin
Patricia Standing
John Steadman
Philip A. Stefaniak
Thomas Stehr
Janice Steinbrenner
Bob Stevens
John Stevens
Robert Straus
Barbara Strom
Margaret Sullivan
Elizabeth Swanson
Anita Taterka
John F. Tracy
Dorothy Turcotte-Tait
Judith Valerius
Richard Verstraete
Lillian Waldera
James and Anne Wallner
Marcella Wartman
Andrea Wenker
Milt and Darlys Westlund
William Wiblishauser
Richard and Tomi Willems
Karen Winter
Marian E. Wolters
Brenda Wright
Nick Yannarely
Jack and Dee Zensen
Mary K. Zorn
John and Debra Zyla

Tributes In Honor Of/ In Memory Of

IN HONOR OF

Fr. Steve Adrian
Sr. Anne Becker
Gerald Bergum
Brenngman family
Kaylin Clausen
Sr. St. Luke Copeland
Sr. Pat DeBlicke
Jose Garcia
Goin family
Phyllis Grundtner
Katie Hartz
Emily and Diana Kessel
Bridget Kramer
Abby Lundsten Mallory and
the St. John Vianney
class of 1997
Fr. John M. Malone on his
retirement
David McDonald
Tom and Mary Cullen McKeown
Bernard Muske
Joyce Poechmann
Bella Ramos
Children and grandchildren of
Sandy and Tom Reding
Joe Riehle
School Sisters of Notre Dame
Sisters of St. Joseph
St. Matthew's classmates of 1950
Teachers at St. Matthew's
Fr. Thaddeus
Karen (Robinette) Thompson
Robert C. Tinucci
Mary and Peter Vogel
Diane and Allen Volkenant

Diane Volkenant's 89th birthday
and Allen Volkenant
Father's Day
Fr. William Whittier
Jim Wicker

IN MEMORY OF

Wallace Abbott
Roman Adam
Hildegard Armstrong
Mrs. Ball, St. Matthew's 4th
grade teacher in 1957
Jack Bandholz
George Becker
Larry Bewley
Ben and Gladys Blaeser
George L. Bohrer
Frances and Sylvester Brown
Arnold and Susan Brucker
Gloria Burgy
Louis J. Chapdelaine
Donald A. Christner
Fred Commers
Dr. Tom and Tommy Conlon
Herbert and Irene Cook
Francis and Gertrude Cosgrove
Hugh J. Cosgrove
Timothy Cosgrove
Denise David
Deceased members of St. Matt's
class of 1949
Mr. and Mrs. Harry DeBlicke
Ed DeFoe
Edward and Virginia Deziel
Sue Doyle
Thomas N. Doyle
Darcy and Virginia Duffy
Brian Dufour
Richard E. Ehret
Bernard and Marie Ferber

Continued on page 8

Honor a Loved One With a Gift in Their Name

This Christmas, give a gift in honor or in memory of someone in your life to celebrate their commitment to Catholic education. One hundred percent of your donation goes to support tuition assistance for students at Community of Saints.

Use the enclosed envelope or mail your gift to
Community of Saints
335 Hurley St. E.
West St. Paul, MN 55118

Make checks payable to Community of Saints.

You can also give online by visiting
www.communityofsaints.org/supportourschool

***Your contribution is tax deductible and all gifts made by
December 31, 2018, will be matched 100% up to \$7,500.***

TRIBUTES IN MEMORY OF, continued

Janice Ferber
 Leona and Kevin Fretschel
 Joe and Carol Gabriel
 John Gabriel
 George and Yvonne Gangl
 Thomas W. Geng
 Deceased members of the George family
 John, Sadie, Theresa and Gerard George
 Russell M. Gesell
 Vern W. Glowaski
 Goin family
 Erlinda (Campa) Gustafson
 Gerard Gutzmann
 Greg Haller
 Carolyn Anderson Hamblin
 Bernice O'Connor Hambrick
 John and Elvira Hanson
 Louise Heinrich
 Robert Holmes
 Catherine Jacobs
 Gregory Jenniges
 Audley and Lucy Jones
 Fay Jones
 Tom Kaliszewski
 Rolly Karels
 Elaine Marie Kegler
 Hank Koenen
 Mary and Ed L'Allier
 Harry and Kay Lauen family
 Bernard and Genevieve Lotzer
 Jerome M. Mandel
 Joseph and Theresa Marthaler
 Mr. and Mrs. Thomas McKane

Gerald Mikkalson
 Joanne Miller
 Jane Murphy
 Deacon John Murphy
 John Nafus
 John Neff family
 Margaret, Harry and Marlene Newmaster
 Fr. John O'Neill
 Vangelina Ortega
 Marian Osendorf
 Ann Palumbo
 Anthony and Ann Palumbo
 Robert and Edel Ruth Pavlak
 Carl and Delima Petschauer
 Jerome Pietruszewski
 Lynne Pietruszewski
 Sr. Edwina Raymond, CSJ
 Bill J. and Cel Rindfleisch
 Rob Romero
 Larry Ryan
 Josette Salah
 School Sisters of Notre Dame
 Richard Shields
 Louis and Inez Sitzmann
 Theodore Snyder
 Teresa Sports
 Bob and Jeanne Stadt
 Agnes Stefaniak
 Pamela, Robert Sr., and Lucille Stickler
 Randy and Steve Straus
 Steve Stremski
 James Super
 Charles and Vicky Thomas
 Eileen Trei
 Alvin and Dorothy Valerius

Joseph P. Van Guilder
 Ann Marie Walker
 Leonard and Catherine Weegman
 Don Weigenant
 Amanda Weyer
 Christopher and Lena Willems
 Herman Wolters
 Yoda and Tonka
 James Abraham Youness



2017 Give to the Max Day

We raised \$12,850 on Give to the Max Day in 2017. Donations support our Student Experience Fund which focused on health and wellness in 2017-18.

Anonymous (4)
 Elizabeth and William Arend
 Karen and Dan Boden
 Andrew and Jean Clausen
 Gregory and Cheryl Cosgrove
 Jon and Joan DeLuney
 Robert White and Argerie Diaz-White
 Richard Dunn and Margaret Lee
 JoEllen Flak
 Cathy Goaley
 Mary Grady
 Emily Gulbranson
 Mary Ellen Gutzmann
 Michael Johnson

Fr. Kevin Kenney
 Thomas and Ruth King
 Jim Korman
 Christopher and Annmarie Kraker
 Bridget Kramer
 Mike Kramer
 Julie Kuzj
 Jackie Lackner
 Krissy and Doug Lieser
 Mary Clare Luckjohn
 Stephen and Teresa McCurdy
 Terry and Bebe McTeague
 Nikki Miller
 Marge and Wayne Milner
 Katie Miskowic
 Lynn Miskowic
 Barb and Jeffrey Moore
 Joel and Meghan Moore
 Jessica Morales
 Denise Muske
 Janet Odalen

Loyalty Circle

Our Loyalty Circle honors individuals and families who make a lasting impact on our students and school. Their generosity is critical to our mission of educating all families who desire a Catholic education for their children in this region. Membership in our Loyalty Circle is based on a history of consecutive giving, significant financial support, or inclusion of Community of Saints in estate plans.

Susan and Tony Alleva
 Victoria Baker
 Patricia Blaskie
 Alice Bobick
 Mary Sue Brass
 Corinne and William Brengman
 Vivian Byers
 Clement and Molly Commers
 Hugh and Melissa Cullen
 Joseph and Doreen Cullen
 John Curran
 Timothy Dalzell
 Mark Del Vecchio
 Carol and Lawrence Engelmann
 Mary Jane Ferber
 Roy and JoAnn Ferber

William and Bonita Frels
 Elizabeth French
 Jean Froehle
 Robert Hinze
 Patricia Holmes
 David and Mary Hottinger
 Fr. Bradley Jenniges, OSB
 Thomas Kabesh
 Steve Karbon and Eileen McMahon
 Mary Ann Kosel
 James and Jan Kunz
 Joseph Mansur
 Tom and Mary Cullen McKeown
 Thomas and Mary O'Neill
 Pat Palmer
 Margarita Probst

John Riehle
 Mary Ann Roscoe
 Josette Salah / St. Anthony of Padua Friends
 Christopher Schletty
 Carol Schreiner
 Corinne Schuster
 Jerry and Marilyn Sexton
 Eugene Sitzmann
 Tony Sitzmann
 Georgene M. Sorenson
 Dorothy Turcotte-Tait
 Michael Vasterling
 Terrance Votel
 Peter Willems

Dollar-for-Dollar Match through December 31

All gifts will be matched
100% — up to \$7,500.

Challenge grant comes from
a St. Matt's family with
six alums.

GIVE TO THE MAX DAY, continued

Nancy Poechmann
Kyle and Emily Reckinger
Janelle Rohr
Garry and Barb Ruhlmann
Richard Schletty
Leticia Silva
Elicia Sims
Nancy Smith
Mary Kay Sprangers
Katie Swor
Laura and Josh Tesch
Barbara Tesch
Bradley and Beth Tressell
Patrick Waldera
Bill and Karen Walter
Nick Yannarely
Dan Yentes
Michelle Youness
Michael Youness

Other Contributions

Throughout the year we receive additional contributions in the form of restricted and unrestricted gifts and grants. Thank you to the following individuals and foundations for supporting our students

Aim Higher Foundation
Anonymous
Elizabeth and William Arend
Assumption Parish
Daniel and Sandra Bell
Vivian Byers Education Endowment
The Catholic Community Foundation
Catholic Schools Center of Excellence
CenturyLink Clarke M. Williams Foundation
GHR Foundation
Healey Education Foundation
Lyn Holmes
Carlo J. LaManna Endowed Scholarship Fund
Minnesota Independent School Forum
William and Michelle Muske
Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish
Paul and Tesa Ramos
St. Matthew's Parish
St. Matthew's School Endowment Fund
Eugene Sitzmann
Two Eagles Foundation
WEM Foundation

COS Student Featured at Aim Higher Gala

COS seventh grade student, **Isaac Garcia**, was the Aim Higher Scholar featured at the 6th annual Night of Light. The Aim Higher Foundation was established in 2011 to provide tuition-assistance scholarships to students seeking to attend Catholic schools throughout the Archdiocese. The Night of Light is the organization's primary annual fundraising event.

"The event is the perfect opportunity to show our donors, supporters, and friends the impact a scholarship can have on a child's life," explained Jean Houghton, president of the foundation. "When children can access the life-changing benefits of a school like Community of Saints, their God-given talents flourish."

Every year, the Night of Light highlights schools and students from the 83 Catholic schools in the Archdiocese. Isaac was chosen in recognition for his volunteer work on behalf of the homeless people in his neighborhood. Isaac's story was featured in the Spring 2018 issue of *The Good News*.

The invitation, while an honor, is one that would strike terror into the hearts of many adults, since it involves giving a three-minute speech in front of an audience of 500–600 people. But Isaac handled it like a pro. "Isaac was completely poised. He wowed the crowd not only with his words, but with his maturity," reported Houghton. "He received three standing ovations during his speech. More importantly, however, he made his family and his school proud."

The Foundation made a video about Isaac for the event. You can view it by going to COS's website at <http://www.communityofsaints.org> and clicking on the link.

COS choir joined three other school choirs to perform at the Gala.



COS Starts Year with More Students and a New Board of Directors, continued from page 1

COS's new BOD brings a valuable knowledge base in areas such as marketing, development, finance, and facilities, as well as strong connections to the community. While school advisory councils are common, COS is one of only a few Catholic elementary schools with a Board that has governance authority.

The Board is chaired by Melinda Frias, a St. Michael's alum and school parent, who works for Thomson Reuters in marketing technology. "The role of the Board is to help provide form and focus for the vision of the school," Melinda explained. "We have a very close partnership with the school leadership. Our responsibility is to help crystalize how we live our mission and define how we are accountable."

After the Board began meeting in February, its first action was to take a closer look at the school's mission, vision and values. "We really wanted to hone in on our identity, what we offer and what the school stands for," said Melinda as she described a six-week process of discernment.

“Before you can engage a student academically, they have to feel like they belong. That sense of belonging can make or break the learning experience.”

— MELINDA FRIAS, COS BOARD CHAIR

In the end, the BOD decided what sets COS apart is a unique blend of faith, inclusivity, and love. "We are committed to creating a school where every student knows they are welcome and has a sense of belonging. The education piece is very important," Melinda points out. "But before you can engage a student academically, they have to feel like they belong. That sense of belonging can make or break the learning experience."

Principal Bridget Kramer agrees and welcomes a governance structure which allows her more time to focus on improving education outcomes for COS students. Bridget ticks off a list of areas where the BOD has taken the lead. "Board members with marketing expertise are helping us design a new website. Board members in banking and finance are helping us keep our fiscal house in order. The Board negotiated and signed off on the school's 20-year lease, and when the school needed a new boiler, the Board played a central role in getting it financed, purchased, and installed."

Assembling a BOD with the necessary acumen is central to the Healey Foundation's methodology, which



Melinda Frias, who chairs the COS Board of Directors, is pictured here with daughters Josephina in third grade, and second grader, Maila.

seeks to update the traditional Catholic school model. "We can't expect principals to do everything and be experts in all these areas," Lisa Anderson pointed out. "Under Community of Saint's new governance structure, the Board can formulate and enact policy and assumes financial accountability. They evaluate the principal, but don't get involved with education decisions. As the Canonical Advisor, Fr. Steve has jurisdiction over the school's Catholic identity. The Board provides leadership everywhere else."

COS Plays a Special Role in Educating Students

As a first generation immigrant, Melinda is a strong advocate for the special role COS plays in educating students who are often overlooked and undervalued. "My parents had a lot of jobs before becoming small business owners," she observed. "They worked hard and focused on giving their kids a better life. My appreciation for the obstacles they overcame are part of what drives me to support COS."

Melinda is also motivated by a future she envisions for her young daughters. She recounts an experience she had representing Thompson Reuters at a business leadership conference. "It was a large gathering of leaders and I noticed there wasn't a lot of diversity. I also noticed that the people who looked like me were the service people. That bothered me," she confessed. "Someday when my daughters are in their careers, I don't want them to feel that they are alone in the room. I want them to have a sense of belonging. That's really at the heart of the school's mission of faith-based education. Our students can advance academically with confidence. They'll know they belong. That's what I'm excited about."

Meet the COS Board of Directors

PHIL BOELTER is a financial consultant for the Catholic Finance Corporation. Phil previously worked on the Annual Catholic Appeal for Archbishop Flynn and is also an Episcopal Priest.

ROY FERBER is an alum of St. Matthew's and member of the Alums & Friends & Families committee which raises money for tuition assistance at Community of Saints. He is the retired president of Drop Ship Express.

MELINDA FRIAS is an alum of St. Michael's and a parent of two current students. Melinda is a Web Analytics Platform Manager at Thomson Reuters and has close ties to the West Side business community.

DAVID HOTTINGER is an alum of St. Matthew's and current Director of Institutional Advancement for Saint Thomas Academy. David also played an active role launching Alums & Friends & Families.

MARSHALL MacKAY is the retired president/CEO of the Independent Community Bankers of Minnesota (ICBM). Marshall has spent time as a board member and volunteer at a variety of non-profit organizations.

TOM McKEOWN is a member of the Alums & Friends & Families committee which raises money for tuition assistance at Community of Saints. Tom is a retired executive of St. Paul Companies.



COS Board of Directors with school leaders: FRONT ROW, L-R Principal Bridget Kramer, Board Chair Melinda Frias, School Pastor Fr. Steve Adrian. BACK ROW, L-R Board members, Emily Reckinger, Phil Boelter, COS Advancement Director Doug Lieser, Board members Gary Wilmer, Mike Smeby, and Tom McKeown. NOT PICTURED Fr. Andrew Brinkman, Pastor of OLG, and Board members Roy Ferber, David Hottinger, Marshall MacKay, Dawn Reding, and Leti Silva.

EMILY RECKINGER is a Senior Implementation Project Manager for Express Scripts. Emily also has a lengthy experience volunteering for and working in non-profits, including Special Olympics of Minnesota and the Highland Friendship Club.

DAWN REDING is a St. Matthew's alum and parent of two alums, with her youngest graduating from Community of Saints. She is the Senior Vice President/Manager of Commercial & Private Banking at Alliance Bank in St. Paul.

LETI SILVA is a parent of two current students and three alum, two of whom graduated from COS. She is the Senior Director of Human Resources for the Minnesota Twins.

MIKE SMEBY is a parishioner of St. John Vianney and former loan officer. Mike has extensive experience volunteering at local non-profits and is a former board member for the Labour Society and Hunger Minnesota.

GARY WILMER is a former elementary school principal and Director of Personnel and Planning for the Archdiocese. He was a member of the Community of Saints Board for the past three years.

FR. ANDREW BRINKMANN is the pastor of Our Lady of Guadalupe. A Rotating Pastor position changes annually among pastors of Our Lady of Guadalupe, St. John Vianney, and St. Matthew's.

NEW BOARD TAKES ON PROJECT School Warms Up with a New Boiler

When Community of Saints Board of Directors held their first meeting last February, one of the items on the agenda was the school's failing boiler. Everyone knew it would have to be replaced before the next winter. A committee was formed to address the problem.

One of the Board members involved on the project was Phil Boelter. As a financial consultant with the non-profit Catholic Finance Corporation, Phil has years of experience helping Catholic schools and parishes access necessary resources and reduce the overall costs of financing capital expenditures.

Phil helped COS navigate the process of securing a loan from the Catholic Finance Corporation (CFC). "Community of Saints was well qualified for the loan based on their success in retaining students and raising funds," stated Phil. "We have a 20-year lease so it's a 20-year loan. But the expectation is that we'll pay that off early with some dedicated fundraisers."

Phil brings to the COS Board an uncommon mix of experiences, that blends a career in banking and finance with a Masters of Divinity degree. His accountant-like professionalism masks a deep commitment to the faith communities he serves, especially evident when he talks about his role at COS. "It's such a blessing to be able to work with a community that is so supportive of its students and so fully aware of its Catholic mission."

**COMMUNITY OF SAINTS
REGIONAL CATHOLIC SCHOOL**

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Save the date



REUNION SUNDAY
DETAILS TO FOLLOW

Calling all graduates from St. Michael's, St. Matthew's, St. John Vianney, and Our Lady of Guadalupe. Everyone is welcome on Reunion Sunday! **We have a special call out to members of the class of 1969 who will be celebrating their 50th Anniversary** this Spring. Don't miss the opportunity to reconnect with old friends and former classmates.

For more information, contact Doug Lieser at DLieser@communityofsaints.org or call the school at 651-457-2510.

Pictured above is Sr. Mary Laurence with her 6th grade class in 1948.