



THE GOOD NEWS

FROM ST. MATTHEW

The community of St. Matthew exists in the world as a visible expression of God's love



ST. MATT'S CLASS OF 2009
100% Graduate High School
100% Enroll in Post-Secondary Education

» See page 5 for details and to find out which St. Matt's alum was named Valedictorian for Humboldt's class of 2013.

St. Matt's 2009 alums celebrated high school graduation last spring. L-R: Daniel Goldenstein, Reynoldo Hernandez, Elina Silva-Fuentes, Anthony "Scrap" Sontoya, Joey Garibay

» MARIE FERBER MEMORIAL raises money for tuition assistance. *Page 3*

» Learn how Class of '72 alum stays connected to West Side and supports tuition assistance from California. *Page 7*

Keeping Catholic Education Strong on the West Side

St. Matt's Principal Takes the Reins at COS — Goal is Student-Centered Education

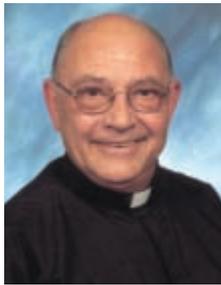
Editor's Note: Maintaining a strong and viable Catholic school option in our community is the reason St. Matt's joined forces with Our Lady of Guadalupe, St. Mike's and St. John Vianney to establish Community of Saints Regional Catholic School (COS). The need for families in our community to have a choice is demonstrated by the success of St. Matt's 2009 alums who graduated from high school this year. Turn to page 5 to learn more.

St. Matthew's former principal, Doug Lieser, will head up COS administration as principal. As he prepares for the coming school year, Doug reflected on the challenges of COS's first year, and how he plans to incorporate St. Matt's student-centered, family-friendly approach at COS.



Continued on page 4

MESSAGE FROM **father steve**



Dear Saint Matthew School Alums and Friends:

As summer vacation draws to a close the administration and staff of Community of Saints Regional Catholic School prepare for the beginning of a new school year.

This will be the second year that Saint Matthew's School joins in a collaborative with Saint Michael and Saint John Vianney schools and the Church of Our Lady of Guadalupe in providing Catholic education for the families of our communities.

This collaboration allows four parishes to strengthen Catholic education by using resources in a more efficient manner and allows us to place significantly more financial resources in classroom education and less in maintaining facilities.

Your continued support of our students makes Catholic education possible for West Side and Saint Matthew families. As has always been the case, our students come from low and moderate income families. Fully 72% of our families are in need of some financial assistance if their students are to receive a Catholic education.

Thanks to you, we are able to prepare our students for success. All of Saint Matt's 2009 graduates completed high school this past year and 100% of these 2009 Saint Matt's graduates will enter post secondary education — four year college, two year community college or trade school in September.

Your generous support of our students produces rich results. Your investment in our students pays remarkable dividends.

I come to you as this school year begins and ask you to be generous in your gifts to support the continued education of West Side students. I am happy to announce that a generous alum of Saint Matthew's School is willing to match any gift you make between now and the end of September! The gift you send in now will be doubled.

Please use the enclosed envelope today. Make checks payable to Alums & Friends Tuition Assistance Program or go online to <http://st-matts.org/donations>. All contributions received by September 30 will be matched, doubling your contribution. Many Saint Matt's/West Side students are depending on your generosity.

God bless you for your gracious and generous spirit.

Stephen Adrian
Pastor emeritus, Church of Saint Matthew

All gifts for Tuition Assistance Will be Doubled Until September 30!

An anonymous donor has pledged to double EVERY gift given to A&F's tuition assistance from now until September 30. Every dollar you give is doubled which means this is a great time to give. Help us ensure West Side families have access to an affordable, high-quality Catholic education.



When sending a check, please note that your donation is for Tuition Assistance.

COS Celebrates Mass in Spanish

Fr. Kevin Kenney, pastor of our Lady of Guadalupe, presided at a school Mass where students sang songs, recited prayers and listened to the Liturgy in Spanish. As pastor of one of the sponsoring parishes, Fr. Kenney presides at school Mass once a month, although typically in English. The Mass was organized by Community of Saints Spanish teacher, Ms. O'Keefe, who hopes to do it again this year.

Students gave the readings and prayers of the faithful in Spanish: (L to R) Gabriela Everett, Sarah Garcia, Fr. Kevin Kenney, Aliah Lopez, Clara Dubuc.





FERBER FAMILY
LEFT: (L to R, front row) Kathleen, Patti, Denise, Mary Jane. (Back row) Peggy, Jack, Marie, Roy, Sharon, Bernard.

BELOW: Marie Ferber at her job in the counseling office at Humboldt gets a visit from her daughter, Denise.



Marie Ferber



Marie Ferber Memorial Raises Over \$3,000 for Tuition Assistance

When Marie (Haas) Ferber '33 passed away last April at the age of 96, her family asked that memorials go towards Alums & Friends Tuition Assistance Fund. As a result, \$3,000 was raised to help families in the community provide a Catholic education for their children.

The memorial was consistent with Marie's lifelong commitment to St. Matthew's. "She just loved the West Side and she loved St. Matt's. It was her passion," explained her daughter, Mary Jane Ferber. "Anything she could do for St. Matt's, she did."

Born in 1916 to Bridget and John Haas, Marie grew up in a house on Humboldt Avenue and went to St. Matthew's School in the 1920's where she distinguished herself by becoming the first girl to serve as a member of the police patrol. Marie attended St. Matthew's through 10th grade, graduating in 1933.

Later, Marie married Bernard Ferber and together they had eight children, all of whom attended St. Matt's School. The family moved several times, starting out in a house on Stevens, then moving to another on Winifred, and finally settling into a home on Sidney. No matter where they lived, the family was always within walking distance of St. Matt's.

After her youngest daughters were in high school, Marie went to work at Humboldt, first as a teacher's aide and then as a secretary in the counselor's office,



ABOVE: (L to R, front row) Peggy, Kathleen, Marie, Sharon. (Back row) Denise, Mary Jane, Patti, Roy, Jack.

until retiring in 1983. Later, she cared for her husband, Bernard, who passed away in 2002.

Mary Jane Ferber said tuition assistance was an obvious choice for the memorials because it was consistent with her mother's priorities. "My mom valued the Catholic education we all received," Mary Jane explained. "Back then, the more children in your family that went to school, the less tuition cost. She really appreciated that. Otherwise, I don't know if she could have sent all of us kids there."

Mary Jane reflected on the many volunteer hours her mother gave to the parish, particularly her work with the Rosary Society where she served on the board, participated in all of the bake sales and helped to organize the annual Fall Festival.

"The coolest thing about my mom," observed Mary Jane, "is that while she was a quiet person, she was steady. She led by example."

We'd like to thank Marie's children and everyone who contributed to St. Matt's Tuition Assistance in her memory.



Keeping Catholic Education Strong on the West Side, *continued from page 1*
 Q&A with Doug Lieser, Principal of Community of Saints Regional Catholic School

Q: How would you evaluate the school's first year?

"We want to strengthen our connections to families and sponsoring parishes."

Last year was challenging — just as we knew it would be. We were bringing together three totally different cultures with different traditions. We had a new building, new staff — everything was new. To some extent, that will continue, but we can see the benefits of regionalization. We do have better resources as a group. The technology, the facility, the classroom material is all better now at COS than it was at any of the individual schools.

There are things we'd like to improve. We need to do a better job with our communication and we want to strengthen our connections to families and our sponsoring parishes.

Q: What are your plans for the coming year?

"Putting the needs of children first."

This year, what we need to do is build our school community. St. Matt's nurtured an exceptionally strong connection to families. If families were facing challenges or had some concerns, they knew they could come to us and they'd be listened to, respected and taken seriously.

I think we can create a community that's just as strong and dynamic as the one we had at St. Matt's because our purpose and philosophy is virtually the same. We're making a quality, Catholic education available to all children in our communities. And we're committed to putting the needs of children first.

That's what we did at St. Matt's and that's what we intend to do here.

Q: What are your academic goals for the year?

"Ensuring we meet the needs of every student in the classroom."

This year we will implement a method of teaching called Differentiated Instruction in every grade. It's an approach designed to ensure we meet all the needs of every student in the classroom. So whether a student is below, at, or above grade level, Differentiated Instruction makes sure that each student is constantly challenged

and moving to the next level.

Our new Assistant Principal, Molly Whinnery, has a strong background in Differentiated Instruction. In her last administrative position, she worked with national leaders to implement the program at her school and was trained as a leader who could go out and coach other teachers. She brings a lot of skills for implementing this.

This year, we'll also begin our two year accreditation process. First we'll conduct a self-study, meant to identify our strengths and weaknesses, which will reflect input from both teachers and parents. Then we'll use that information next year to create a school strategic plan that outlines our strategies for improving academics, building community and creating a strong Catholic identity.

This is a great time to go through this process because these are all things we want to do anyway.

Q: What is your vision for COS?

Creating "bright, articulate and confident leaders."

At this year's 8th grade graduation, several graduates who'd attended St. Matt's made a presentation at the reception. They came across as bright, articulate and confident leaders.

That's what we worked on achieving at St. Matt's and that's what we want to do here. St. Matt's was very student-centered. We worked hard to give kids the best and meet their needs — breakfast in the morning, tutoring, programs for English language learners, after school activities. The adults cared about the kids and the kids knew it. That helped them to be confident.

When kids know that the adults are on their side, that spills over into how they treat each other. It becomes our culture. We want kids to understand that how they treat each other is an important way of expressing their Catholic identity. Towards that end, we want to make service to others and the community a big part of how students express their Catholic identity. We want middle school students to be the leaders in that effort. They need to know that they're role models for the younger students and they need to give back.

For a school to be healthy, it's always going to be evolving. It's never going to be perfect but we should be constantly striving for improvement. We're always trying to get from good to great.

Why Catholic Education Matters to West Side Families

St. Matthew's school provided an important alternative to families on the West Side who wanted their children to experience the academic rigor and values of a Catholic education. The results are demonstrated by St. Matt's Class of 2009 who just graduated from high school this spring. 100% are attending college or other post-secondary educational institutions, significantly higher than comparable students attending public school.

Congratulations to **Carlo Franco, '09**, Chosen to be this year's Valedictorian for Humboldt High School's graduating class of 2013.

- English Excellence Award
- Editor in Chief for School Newspaper, Yearbook, and a magazine sponsored by Eco lab
- Leader of Student Council, Prom Committee, and Senior Class Council
- Constance Currie Scholar
- Boca Chica Scholar
- Presidential Scholar
- U promise Scholar

Carlo will attend the University of Minnesota College of Liberal Arts and is considering attending law school.



Elina Silva-Fuentes

graduated from Cretin Derham Hall H.S. and will be attending the University of North Dakota where she will study chemistry.



Aliya Rivera graduated from DeLaSalle H.S. and plans to attend St. Cloud State University.



Joey Garibay

graduated from Cretin Derham Hall H.S. and plans to attend Dakota County Technical College for two years, and then transfer to the University of Minnesota to study IT.

How Does St. Matt's Record Compare?

Here are the numbers:

- St. Matt's Class of 2009: **100%** graduate from high school; **100%** enrolled Post-Secondary Education
- St. Matt's students who qualified for Free and Reduced Lunch: **62%**
- St. Matt's Diversity: **58%** Latino, **24%** Caucasian, **16%** African American, **4%** other
- St. Paul Public school 4-yr. high school graduation rate for all students: **62%**
- St. Paul Public School 4 yr. high school graduation rate for Latino students: **60%**
- St. Paul high school graduates who go on to post-secondary education: **67%**
- St. Paul Latino high school graduates who go on to college: **51%**

* Information from St. Paul Public Schools Data Center

Where They're Headed — Here's a Partial List

University of Minnesota
 St. John's University
 College of St. Benedict
 Hamline University
 University of St. Thomas
 St. Cloud State University
 University of Wisconsin – Stout
 University of Wisconsin – River Falls
 University of North Dakota
 Augsburg College
 Dakota County Technical College
 Inver Hills Community College
 Minneapolis College of Art & Design

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Student Essay by Amanda Reding, '13

Amanda Reding attended St. Matt's School from K-7 and was part of COS's first graduating class last spring. As an 8th grade student, she wrote the following essay in response to the prompt: Describe an experience that has had a positive impact on your life. For her answer, she chose her years as a student at St. Matt's School. Here's what she had to say.

Eight years. 1,440 days. That's about how long I had been a student at St. Matthew's School in Saint Paul, Minnesota. Have you ever had something impact you so much that you're never going to forget it? For me, that something was St. Matt's. It taught me to be a leader, to have confidence in who I am and to be open to diversity.

Participating in Mass, being a leader in sports, and being able to help others when they need it, are just some of the ways that St. Matt's has taught me to be a leader. Also, since it was a small school, I was able to get more involved because of all the different opportunities they had to offer. Having the leadership opportunities that I listed above will better prepare me for the future while I am in high school, college, and even during my career after college. I feel that I will truly value these experiences as an adult.

St. Matthew's also gave me the confidence I needed. I was able to be myself because it was a small school so everyone knew one another and you were comfortable around them. It also helped that my peers were open and friendly towards one another. Having an encouraging environment was also something that St. Matt's had.

During my time at St. Matt's, I was exposed to a very diverse environment. From a very young age, I was taught not to judge someone based on their appearance. It doesn't matter what they look like or where they come from, it's what's on the inside that matters. I was also able to take in others' experiences, compare them to my own and then learn from them. St. Matthew's also helped me get a taste of the real world. It taught me that in the real world, not everything is going to be black and white. That when I'm older, I'm going to need to know how to work with people from all walks of life.

Without St. Matt's in my life, I feel that I would be a very different person compared to who I am today. It has taught me to be a leader, to have confidence in who I am and to be open to diversity. For that alone, I would like to say thank you.

"Snapshots" from Reunion Sunday



ABOVE: Reunion Sunday's Kitchen Crew

RIGHT: Alums Marian Wolters and Lorraine Amadick showed off memorabilia from the school.



ABOVE: (L to R, front row) Margaret Bukowski Sveback '68, Helen Wimmer Bukowski '43, Vicki Baker Petschauer '68, Dave McDonald '68. (Back row) Mike Vasterling, Jim Leahy.

BELOW: Jessica Lackner '09, Hannah Delmont '09, Freddy Dunn '09, Chris Acesor '09



Alum Supports Tuition Assistance to Stay Connected and "Pay It Forward"

Every month, Toni Bloechl Wilburn '72 mails in a check to St. Matt's Alums & Friends for tuition assistance all the way from California, where her family moved after she graduated from St. Matt's 40 years ago. She explains how her desire to stay connected to her classmates fosters such a steady commitment to families in her old neighborhood seeking a Catholic education for their children.

I've always thought that St. Matthew's School offered a great education, but now that I've been away for so many years (40 to be exact) and then reconnected with my schoolmates, I realize just how important my eight year experience at St. Matthew's really was!

I orchestrated a 40 year reunion for the class of 1972 last October. About a third of our class attended. Now, about half of those classmates get together monthly for dinner and to stay connected. I was fortunate to join them last month. In talking with these former classmates, I get a real deep sense of community, friendship, and commitment to the things in life that really matter. Our conversations reflect a certain caliber that I think was definitely strengthened by our parochial education. We have fond memories of everything from Masses to basketball games, to plays, to being allowed up into the attic!

I will continue to support St. Matthew's Alums & Friends from California because I believe in the value of the education as well as the pricelessness of a caring, close-knit community. THAT is what keeps me going back to my roots. My grandpa, Tony Bloechl was involved in St. Matt's right after he arrived from Germany. My dad and all of my siblings and I attended school there. While none of our children continued the legacy due to our move across country, I feel that it's important to pay this education and experience forward in whatever manner I can.

A&F
helps support
72%
of students
receiving tuition
assistance.

40th Reunion for St. Matt's Class of '72

Front row L-R **Anne Budziszewski Peiffer, Arlene Plante Hagland, Mary Hurley, Toni Bloechl Wilburn, Mary Staples Schaffer, Sue Sura Dunfee Brown, Joanna Nasseff Conover, Gail Stellmach Krupa, Sister Anne Becker**

Middle row L-R **Mike Eastman, Pat Koehnen, Julie Plante Miller, Gloria Deeb Reyes, Kathy Vasterling, Dan Duncanson, Barb Raines Schwery, Cheryl Traynor Baldwin, Sheree St. Martin, Mike Hager, Tom Redding**

Back row L-R **Dave Longbehn, Joe Riehle, John Kegler, Tim Schlichte, Mike Gentle, Mike Rogers, Jerry Bandholz, Jim Bohrer, Jim Brengman, Tom Smith**





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» SPONSORSHIP opportunities

Businesses and organizations are invited to help sponsor *The Good News* and support St. Matthew's Alums & Friends efforts to raise funds for tuition assistance. Sponsorship helps us achieve our goal of making a high quality, Catholic education available to all families in our community, regardless of their ability to afford tuition.

If you'd like more information about sponsorship, please contact:

Maggie.lee@comcast.net or call **612-964-1677**.

**THE Good
News**
FROM ST. MATTHEW

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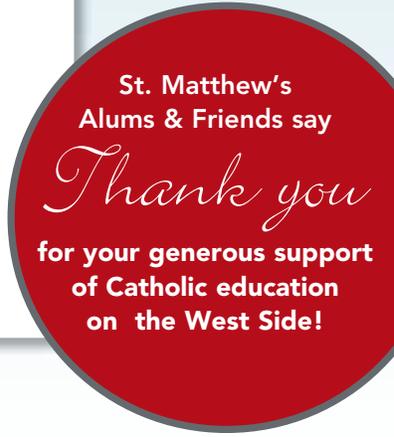
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St. Matthew's
Alums & Friends say
Thank you
for your generous support
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on the West Side!