

THE GOOD NEWS

FROM ALUMS & FRIENDS & FAMILIES

Providing tuition assistance for Community of Saints Regional Catholic School

JOIN US FOR REUNION SUNDAY!

Sunday, May 15, 2016

St. Michael's Church
10:30 a.m. Mass
Followed by a brunch
for alums and their families.

See page 6 for details.

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"I Knew I Was Supposed to Be Here" Marge Milner, Teacher & Mentor, Plays Unique Role at COS

As the fifth grade teacher at Community of Saints, **Marge (Withuski) Milner ('66)** has a unique role among COS faculty. With almost 30 years of teaching under her belt, she is one of the most experienced staff members and is a generous mentor to her colleagues. She also has deep roots in the community: she was born on the West Side, baptized at St. Matthew's, is an alum of both St. John Vianney's grade school and Archbishop Brady High School, and later went on to teach at SJV for 22 years. When she joined the staff at Community of Saints, she felt like she was closing a circle. "I knew I was supposed to be here," Marge said.

Principal Bridget Kramer agrees that Marge belongs at COS. "She shows unconditional love and compassion for her students, while also holding high expectations for them."

Wanted to Teach Since Third Grade

Marge credits her childhood experience at SJV as first sparking her interest in a teaching career. "I knew I wanted to be a teacher when I was in third grade," Marge recalled. "It was Sr. Denise, she was such a wonderful person." SJV had one class per grade and in the 1960s, classes were big, about 30 to 40 students each. With such large groups, teachers turned to other students to assist classmates who needed extra help. Sr. Denise recognized Marge's talent early on. "When I helped someone understand something new, she praised me for it," Marge said. "It made me want to teach."

But a teaching career didn't happen right away. After high school, Marge married and

had three children. They went to church at SJV and her children attended her old grade school. But by the time her youngest started preschool, Marge was ready. She enrolled at The College of St. Catherine and began a five-year journey to earn her teaching degree. "I volunteered at SJV's school but I wanted to do more," Marge explained. "I had ideas all the time about how I would do things. But it wasn't my class — I was just helping."

With the support of her family, Marge graduated in 1988, taught at a public school in Eagan for two years, and then was hired as a teacher at SJV's school. She spent the next 22 years teaching fourth grade. "It was like coming home," she said. "What were the odds that I'd get to teach in the same room where I'd been a student?"

As a longtime member of St. John Vianney, Marge knew the families of most of

Continued on page 12



COS Students think Pope Francis is #1. For more school news, see p. 14.



MESSAGE FROM **father steve**

Dear Community of Saints Alums, Friends and Families,

In the past four years so much has been accomplished in bringing three parish schools together to form a regional Catholic school. Today we have a fine, stable, effective Catholic elementary school.



You have been essential in the success story that is Community of Saints. Your continued financial investment in the education of our young students has made it possible for many children from low income families to receive a strong Catholic education.

Establishing a Permanent Board of Directors for COS

I received approval from the corporate board to begin a process to put in place a new governance structure for Community of Saints. The current board structure was to oversee the beginning and early development of our school.

It is now time to put in place a permanent board for Community of Saints, the membership of which reflects all the different groups and diverse communities associated with the work of our school.

I have begun to seek help from Catholic school leaders from the Twin Cities in developing the board structure.

The success of our school depends on a strong administrator, committed teaching staff, engaged parents and families, an active development office, a hands-on development committee able to direct both annual and deferred giving, and a strong, representative and competent corporate board.

This is the recipe for success and Community of Saints has many of those pieces in place.

Thank you for your commitment to making Catholic education affordable for all.

Yours truly,

Father Steve Adrian
Chair, COS board

Former St. Michael's Parishioner Makes Estate Gift to COS

Community of Saints recently received a legacy gift from the estate of Alice Bobick, who passed away last summer at the age of 88.

Alice grew up in Winner, South Dakota, but moved to St. Paul in 1946 when she took a job at Farmers Union Central Exchange. She worked there for 24 years, rising in the ranks to the position of Director of Marketing.

In 1972, she married her husband, Jack Bobick, who was a graduate of St. Michael's School. Alice and Jack enjoyed a very happy marriage for 27 years until Jack's death in 1999. Shortly before his passing, the couple joined St. Michael's parish. Although new to the community, Alice became an active member of St. Mike's for the next decade, until her own health declined and she returned to South Dakota to be near family.

"She was a sweetheart of a lady," recalled Linda Rivera, parish secretary. "She was so generous, she would donate the most beautiful things for the Fall Festival — artwork, glassware — really exquisite items."

Parishioner Mary Ellen Gutzmann ('44) agreed. "She helped out in so many ways with the Rosary Society, bake sales and volunteering at the parish office," Mary Ellen said. "She was a really classy lady."

"I remember Alice talked about her husband Jack, all the time," added Linda. "He was the love of her life."

Alice and Jack didn't have children of their own, but her generous gift to Community of Saints will benefit many children in the years to come.

For information about including Community of Saints in your legacy planning, call Doug Lieser at 651-457-2510 x119.

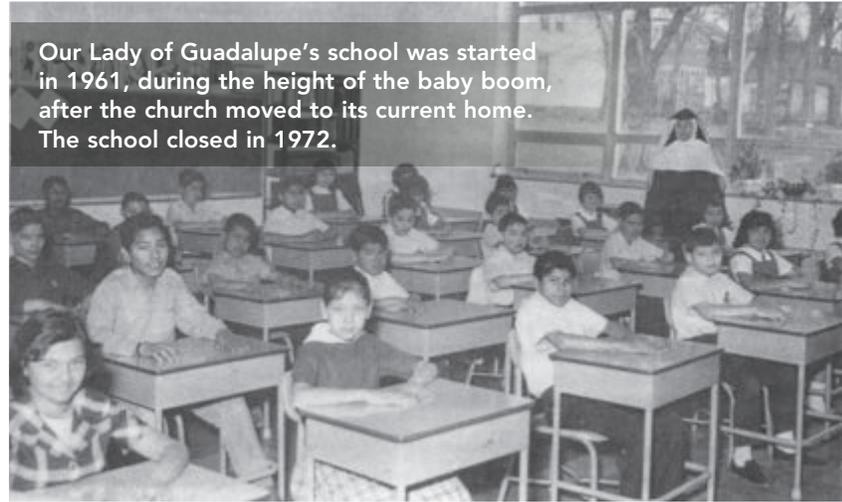


Alice Bobick

Our Lady of Guadalupe Celebrates 85th Anniversary

In 1931, members of a small but growing community of Mexican families renovated a vacant storefront at Wabasha and Fillmore in order to form a Mission Church. Fr. Joseph Guillimette celebrated Mass there each Sunday at 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. The rent was \$25 per month. From that humble beginning, Our Lady of Guadalupe Church has grown into a thriving parish and a pillar of the West Side community.

Members of OLG recently celebrated with a Mass and banquet. The photos here provide a taste of the parish's history, one we look forward to sharing more of in coming issues. For now, we just want to say: ¡Felicitaciones por su aniversario 85!



Our Lady of Guadalupe's school was started in 1961, during the height of the baby boom, after the church moved to its current home. The school closed in 1972.

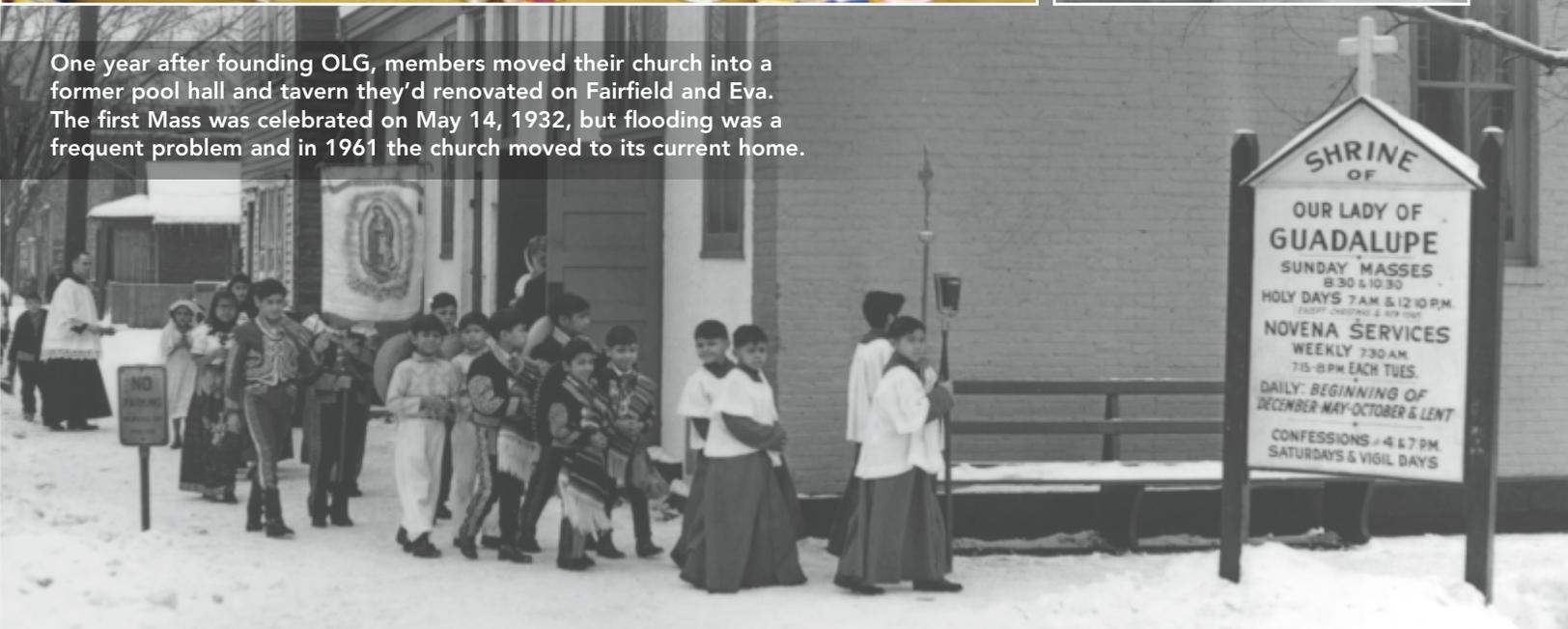


Los Alegres Bailadores, a folkloric dance program at OLG, performed a colorful and authentic Mexican dance as part of the evening's entertainment.



Frank and Lena Lopez were married in 1931 at the original mission church on Wabasha. It was OLG's first wedding.

One year after founding OLG, members moved their church into a former pool hall and tavern they'd renovated on Fairfield and Eva. The first Mass was celebrated on May 14, 1932, but flooding was a frequent problem and in 1961 the church moved to its current home.



SHRINE OF
 OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE
 SUNDAY MASSES
 8:30 & 10:30
 HOLY DAYS 7 AM & 12:10 PM
EXCEPT CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR
 NOVENA SERVICES
 WEEKLY 7:30 AM
 7:15-8 PM EACH TUES.
 DAILY: BEGINNING OF
 DECEMBER-MAY-OCTOBER & LENT
 CONFESSIONS 4-7 PM
 SATURDAYS & VIGIL DAYS

Service and Leadership Go Hand in Hand at COS

One of Principal Bridget Kramer's priorities this year has been to expand student involvement in community service. To achieve that goal, the school has formed a Student Leadership Team that is spearheading the effort. Students on the team are developing the skills necessary to plan and execute some of the school's service projects, along with organizing other activities that take place during the school year.

The Leadership Team is made up of middle school students who meet twice a month to discuss school needs and help strengthen the school community. One of the teacher-advisors, Katie Hartz, explained that the team shares some characteristics of a student council, but with

WE Day — Learning How to Change the World

The Leadership Team kicked off the year by taking part in an event called *WE Day* held at the Xcel Energy Center in November. The event is designed to challenge young people to act with intention, lead with compassion and work to transform lives locally and globally. Speakers included Chelsea Clinton, astronaut Dr. Mae Jemison, Grammy Award-winning singer and producer Ciara, along with many others. "We learned how people are changing the world," said Mari. "It got us motivated about how we can change the world."

One idea they've been working on is how to increase the school's recycling efforts. "We want to have more bins



Leadership Team members kicked off the year by attending WE Day at the Xcel Center.



Leadership Team organized a school-wide winter clothing drive that included coats, boots and snow pants.

some key differences. Instead of holding elections, students apply to be on the team. "Kids write an essay describing where their leadership skills lie," explained Katie. "It can be in the classroom, the community or in sports."

Another difference is that there are no ranked positions within the Leadership Team, such as president or vice president. "That helps the dynamic because everybody has an equal voice," added Hartz. "Everyone's opinion matters."

To learn more, I met with three Leadership Team members: Will Estlie, in eighth grade, along with sixth graders Bella Ramos and Mari Tressell. I asked them why they wanted to be student leaders. "It's a lot of fun," said Will. "Everyone listens to everyone else's ideas and we all have good ideas about what to do for our school." "We want our school to be welcoming to new kids," Mari said. "We want kids here to be leaders." "I'm really proud that our school has a leadership team," added Bella. "Not every school does."

placed around the school to make it easier to recycle," explained Bella. "And we're looking at ways to compost food that's not eaten at lunch."

The team has been calling businesses to ask for bin donations, and they've been doing research about how to properly compost. They're also working to build awareness around the issue by putting up posters around the school and visiting the younger classrooms to talk with students about recycling. "We talked about how going green can save the world," said Will. "We want to motivate younger kids to take action."

Building a Strong School Community

While their primary focus is service, the leadership team has also organized a variety of activities to build the school community. Their favorite project so far has been something they call "Mix It Up Day."

The idea is to shake things up at lunchtime by getting kids to sit with someone different. "On Mix It Up Day, when kids went to lunch, they each were given a

2015-2016 Leadership Team Members (in alphabetical order):

Margaret Allie, Brianna Bolly, Amaya Charles, Will Estlie, Max Karas, Connor Nicolay, Bella Ramos, Natalia Rodriguez, Saul Rodriguez, Mari Tressell

sucker with a picture of something like a spider or scarecrow on it," said Bella. "Then they had to find the table with the same picture and sit there for lunch."

"Usually people sit at the same place, with the same people, every day," explained Will. "This was a fun way to encourage people to get to know everyone in the school."

"It's a small school so most kids know each other already," pointed out Mari, "But this was a way to make people change who they always sit with and get to know someone else a little better." The feedback from students was positive and the Leadership Team plans to do it again.

"By loving and helping the poor, we love and serve Christ"

— Pope Francis

This year, COS students have participated in a steady stream of service projects to help fellow members of the community. "Student service is an integral part of their education," explained Fr. Steve. "It's tied very strongly to their Catholic identity. You can't be Catholic and not have faith expressed in service."

At COS, service is as much a part of students' faith formation as religion classes and going to Mass. Students have taken part in a number of service projects this year:

Winter Clothing Drive – Students collected a dozen bags of coats, boots, snow pants and mittens, and made them available to the community.

Food Drive – Students brought in 289 items that were donated to Neighborhood House's food shelf.

Feed My Starving Children – Eighth grade students volunteered to bag and package food for distribution around the world.

Operation Gratitude – Students wrote 63 letters and sent 49 pieces of art to soldiers stationed overseas.

Cerenity Nursing Home – Fourth grade class sang Christmas carols and visited with residents and later sent Valentine cards to them.

"Some of our families don't have much, but for these children to learn the joy of giving to others, is very important to their development," said Principal Bridget Kramer, who has made community service a top priority. "As Catholics, our job is to help others in need. That's what our students are learning."

SOUPER BOWL FOOD DRIVE RESULTS



COS's Souper Bowl food drive for Catholic Schools Week collected 289 items. All food items were donated to Neighborhood House and will benefit local community members.

The fourth grade class visited Cerenity Nursing Home at Christmas where they sang carols and visited with residents.

Another event they're excited about is the spring talent show which the Leadership Team will be responsible for organizing. "We want kids to share the talents God gave them," said Bella. "We don't know if we'll have prizes or anything like that, we just want to make it fun."

What It Takes to Be a Leader

Leadership Team members are clearly excited about the potential impact they can make within the school and surrounding community, and they take their responsibilities very seriously, as Bella pointed out. "It's important to be good role models for the younger kids," she said. "We want them to know they can be leaders, too. Being a good role model, no matter how old you are, can change how people think."

When asked what they've learned so far? Will answers first, "Being a leader takes patience and a lot of hard work." They all nodded in agreement, but they also agreed that it's worth it.

Saint John Vianney's Class of 1966



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Row 1 | Susan Marschinke, Judy Widmer, Brenda Berg, Joanne Kohlman, Father Whittet, Colleen Cashman, Sharon Stewart, Mary Sue Sexton, Sherry Smolik

Row 2 | Christine Smith, Margie Withuski, Lynn Mikutowski, Paul Branchaud, ?, Scott Taterka, ?, Kent Johnson, Ann Gillen, Terry Cashman, Nanette Cole, Sister Cyril

Row 3 | Marty Linduski, Leroy Warzecha, Mary White, Kathy Lynam, ?, Carol Gruber, Mary Benjamin, Sue Powers, Greg Stelzner, Greg Klinkhammer

Row 4 (Top) | Greg Bauer, Mike Brenna, Thomas K., Tom Fahey, Billy Motzko, Jerry Campbell, Joe Kustritz



**Please Join Us for
Reunion Sunday on May 15**
Connect with Old Friends and
Share Good Memories

Everyone is invited to an All School Reunion, including alums from the schools at St. Matthew's, St. Michael's, St. John Vianney and Our Lady of Guadalupe.

**10:30 a.m. Mass at St. Michael's, followed
by a brunch for alums and their families**

While you're here, you are welcome to tour the campus of Community of Saints School.

Please RSVP so we know how many to expect.
Call Doug Lieser at 651-457-2510 X119 or email
alums@commuityofsaints.org.



Special recognition this year goes to classes that graduated in a year ending in a "6" or "1".
Over the next few pages, we've included photos of classes celebrating their 50th and 80th anniversary.

St. Michael's Class of 19~~66~~ – Make that 1967



Editor's Note:

When we found this picture in the collection at St. Michael's Parish Center, we were thrilled because it's not easy to track down some of these old class photos. It was clearly labeled St. Michael's Class of 1966 on the back. So we took it to Dorothy Hale ('66), who graduated that year, and asked her if she'd list the names for us. Instead, she told us it was the wrong picture. "This is the class of 1967."

That sent us on a treasure hunt, with Dorothy trying to contact former classmates, and St. Mike's volunteer archivist Mary Ellen Gutzmann ('49) thumbing through a stack of old photos to see if the right one might turn up.

We ran out of time for this issue, but we haven't given up. We think somebody out there who graduated from St. Mike's in 1966 has their eighth grade class picture and we want to talk to you.

Help Us Tell Your Stories

We'd like to appeal to alums from all the schools. St. Mike's school opened in 1884, St. Matt's in 1893 and St. John Vianney's Providence School in 1956. A lot of people spent their childhoods in those hallways. That's a lot of stories to tell — and we want to tell some of them here. If you're interested in helping us do that, give us a call, **we'd like to hear from you.**

— **Maggie Lee, editor of *The Good News***
612-964-1677
alums@communityofsaints.org



Row 1 | Wendy Bachel, Margaret Maher, Julianne Fretschel, Mary Jo Fibuch, Marianne Benoe, Shirley Patton, Msgr. Cecka, Diane Prokop, Rita Kosel, Mary Ann Rascher, Jo Ann Denmeier, Pamela Thul, Kathleen Ferber

Row 2 | Craig David, Anthony Palumbo, Michael Leahy, Thomas Cruz, Paul Triviski, Richard Bandholz, Gregory Weigenant, Patrick Leahy, Robert Bukowski, Thomas Schmidt, Michael Moszer, Mark Troje, David Robinette, Jeffrey Kelzer, Dennis Robinette

Row 3 | Gerald Dalzell, Amelia Joseph, Mary Ann Hinze, Julie Stefaniak, Annamarie Peter, Susan Mishler, Sharon Gonsoir, Denise Brown, Elizabeth Argo, Joyce Wilmes, Carol Augst, Mary Joan Haas, Sharon Gebhardt, Hope Heinger, Diane Kisch, Carol Westbrook, Daniel Lancette

Class of 1966



Row 4 | **Michael Regan, John Millan, Charles Villaume, Thomas Fischer, Raymond Gangl, Richard Schadegg, Daniel Patton, Douglas Blomgren, Richard Schletty, Gregory Dalton, Steve Schreiber, Robert Behan, John Kukacka, James Whebbe, Thomas Gurrola, David Wanger**

Row 5 | **Kathleen Lothenbach, Claudia Paquette, Patricia Schwab, Catherine Clancy, Wanda Keil, Anne Ernst, Patricia Bredehoft, Dorothy Kolb, Janet Heutmaker, Catherine Pavlak, Claudia Landsberger, Doris Barnes, Deborah Genin, Deborah Duerscherl, Mary Ann Weir**

Row 6 (Top) | **Thomas Del Vecchio, Richard Adams, Mark Stoven, Steve Tackaberry, Thomas Schmahl, Steve Schmitt, Robert Heuter, John Brunzel, John Schaefer, Frank Jack, John Aguirre, Charles Chaike, Michael Stein, Larry Nehring, John Skradski**

St. Matthew's Class of 1936

Class of 1936 Celebrates 80th Anniversary



"We were just youngsters then, but I have fond memories. I give high marks to my early school days. The teachers were good. Sr. Catherine, she was a real stem-winder. Sr. Fluorine was very good. My friend, Dick Schmidt, who just passed away this year — we went to grade school, high school and college together."
 — **Eugene Sitzmann ('36)**

Eugene Sitzmann and Bob Kaschke are sitting next to one another — as highlighted in the center of Photo A.



PHOTO A



"We lived on Page Street, a couple miles from school. Every day I walked back and forth, even home for lunch some days. The nuns were pretty strict, I got my hands hit with the ruler many times. But we had good times at St. Matthew's. Everybody got along very well together. We had good baseball teams. I used to set pins in the bowling alley."

— **Bob Kaschke ('36)**



PHOTO B

PHOTO A

Row 1 | D. Wagner, L. Hatfield, A. Habisch, B. J. Kindgren, R. Galvin, R. Jantz, G. Ullrich, M. Schulte, F. Walsh, M. J. McMonigal

Row 2 | E. Uhler, C. Willems, J. Jenny, R. Schmidt, N. Gaughan, D. Mattaini, R. Kaschke, E. Sitzmann, D. Doyle, G. Schaus, R. Hanley, F. Schwartz

Row 3 | C. Wimmer, L. Simon, M. Williams, A. Mercer, C. Rosenberger, S. Scott, M. Schema, C. Wenker, L. Casey

Row 4 (Top) | L. Morin, F. Dostert, F. Coleman, R. Maslow, T. Kenney, G. Riehm, D. Mayer, L. Wildenauer, E. Lee, A. Guertin, L. George

PHOTO B

Row 1 | L. Steckmeyer, D. Seidl, M. Winter, F. Haider, D. Melbye, J. Straus, M. Gaisbauer, J. Olsen, B. Kammerer, E. Curtiss

Row 2 | E.P. Guertin, R. Sweger, J. Knapp, J. Exley, J. Cacek, J. Cotter, R. Schaefer, T. Lothenbach, R. Allie, N. Hannegraf, J. St. Martin

Row 3 | D. Otto, F. Bateman, R. Studeman, C. Roeller, M. Ross, B. Hannegraf, D. Mickelsen

Row 4 | D. Hechtl, E. Loney, J. Luken, R. Mullin, E. Mosso, B. Juran, H. Schletz, C. Peluso, R. Schadegg.

Row 4 (Top) | D. Gfrerer, M. Daugherty, M. Blochinger, L. Meyers, M. Latuff, M. Kuckler, M. A. Kodelka, P. Franke.

St. Michael's Class of 1936



Row 1 | Mary Zita Eler, Benigne Miller, Gloria Babcock, Betty Ann Judd, Gloria Curran, Alice Edmondson, Elizabeth Ann Dierberger, Mary Grundner, Patricia Rist, Betty Jane Capron, Jenny Thomas, Jane O'Donnell, Iona Hanson, Gladys Faltesek

Row 2 | Eugene Masica, Robert Morgan, Raymond Martindell, Thomas Boerboon, William King, Donald McCarthy, Angus Smetana, Herbert Walker, Earl Breault, Donald Cliffod, Joseph Mahoney, Leonard Carlson, Daniel Burdash, Raymond Haffely, Ernest Heining

Row 3 (Top) | Robert Nolde, Gordon Zimmerman, William Smetana, John Curran, Betty Hurley, Roberta McArdell, Mary Ann O'Rourke, Mary Jean Mahood, Adeline Rivet, William Letourneau, Robert Rutherford, Joseph Gobel, George Gubash

TICKETS NOW ON SALE!

An Evening
Under the Stars

2016 Community of Saints Benefit

Join the COS Community to
Celebrate and Support Our School!

For more information:
651-457-2510 or email
news@communityofsaints.org.

Look for updates at Community of Saints



Saturday, April 9, 2016

There will be a sit down dinner,
silent auction, wine lotto, live music
and entertainment.

Where: St. Matt's Social Hall at Robie & Hall

Time: 6:30 – 10 p.m.

Cost: \$35 per ticket



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Marge Milner, continued from page 1

her students and eventually found herself teaching the grandchildren of her former classmates.

Kids Are Kids

In 2011, as Marge prepared to teach at COS for the first time, she wasn't sure what to expect from her students. "I was scared to death," Marge recalled. "I didn't know if I'd be able to meet the needs of all the kids." In some ways she felt like she was starting all over again. "But after that first day, I was fine," she said. "Kids are kids."

Now as COS prepares to graduate the students she taught that first year, Marge thinks the school is doing great. "All of the teachers here want the kids to reach their potential," she said. "We work so hard with all the different abilities the kids have so they can be successful wherever they're at."

Valued by Students and Colleagues

Ask a former student about Ms. Milner and the answers are strikingly similar. "I love her," said one sixth grade student. "She explains things really thoroughly and she doesn't get mad at you for missing work. She's a really awesome teacher."

"She likes everyone in the class no matter what," stated a seventh grader. "She has patience with everyone."

"She has a big influence on her students," reported another student. "She asks nicely for you to stop talking and just the way she talks makes you want to do what she says."

Marge is just as valued by her colleagues. "Her door is always open for other staff members," said fourth grade teacher Katie Monahan. "She's been a great mentor to me."

"Marge is a seasoned teacher and she's happy to share that experience with other teachers," Principal Kramer observed. "At the same time, she's open to trying new things — so she's always trying to learn from her colleagues, as well."

Marge agrees. "I work as a team with our third and fourth grade teachers," Marge said. "They're recent graduates and they bring so many fun new ideas and help me so much with technology. I help them in other ways."

Helping Students Succeed

Looking ahead, Marge is excited about what the school has to offer. "I think people don't realize what a wonderful school this is," Marge said. "How much teachers care about each and every child."

More than anything, it's Marge's commitment to her students' success that defines her as a teacher. "I'll do whatever I can to help these kids," Marge said. "Some of



The first class of fifth graders that Ms. Milner taught at COS will be graduating this year. Here she is standing with her former students who will be heading to high school next year.



A tradition Marge has kept alive from her school days is the All Saints Day Parade. "We'd all dress as a Saint and march around the school," Marge explained. This year, her fifth grade class (pictured above with Fr. Steve) played a starring role in the All Saints Day Mass while dressed as their favorite Saint. "The kids have so much fun," Marge said. "Looking back, those are the things they will remember."

our students have problems at home and when they come here, they know it's a safe place. They know that we'll pray for them and support them."

Marge's passion for teaching is evident as she describes what she loves most about her work. "The most exciting thing is when you reach a kid and you see that light bulb go on," she said enthusiastically. "I want these kids to understand what education can do for them and how it can change their lives."

Remembering the May Crowning

A big tradition at St. John Vianney's Providence School was the May Crowning, to honor the Blessed Virgin Mary.

The stars of the May Crowning were members of the eighth grade class, mostly the girls. In 1966, when Marge was in eighth grade, she was chosen by her classmates to be the May Queen.

The event began with a procession of eighth grade girls wearing their in Sunday dresses, white gloves and chapel veils. Each girl carried a flower with a ribbon to present during the ceremony. The rest of the school wore their uniforms and stood at attention as a small group of second grade girls came next, looking like little ladies-in-waiting in their First Communion outfits. The procession culminated with the May Queen, carrying a bouquet of red roses, which she laid before the statue of Mary. Eighth grade boys played a supporting role by dressing in their Sunday suits and chipping in to pay for the flowers.



Marge Withuski (upper right) was chosen by her classmates to be the May Queen in 1966.



This photo from the 1967 May Crowning shows the procession of second grade girls leading the May Queen.

COS Receives Accreditation With High Praise

Except from Report for Community of Saints Regional Catholic School:

- *The school has a very diverse student population which is celebrated and enriches the whole of the community.*
- *There is a strong commitment of the faculty and staff to provide support to every student. It is evident that students feel cared for at the school.*
- *The team commends the effort and commitment of Community of Saints to be present within the four supporting parishes.*
- *Community of Saints is to be commended in their diligent effort to seek grants and foster community relationships so that tuition remains affordable for as many families as possible.*

Those were a few of the findings delivered in a report by a team of Catholic school administrators responsible for accrediting COS this year. Catholic schools undergo an accreditation process every seven years. It's a major undertaking that requires two years to prepare for.

"It's evident that the children are happy, safe and that good learning is taking place. This is a busy, productive, happy place."

— LYNN VOLKENANT

Lynn Volkenant, principal of St. Thomas More in St. Paul, was part of the accreditation team. "You need to have documentation to show you meet criteria in seven categories," Vokenant explained. "It's an especially difficult process if you're a new school, or, as in the case of COS, a combined school that has to draw information from many different sources."

Despite the challenges, Volkenant said that COS passed with flying colors.

"Parents should know that the faculty and staff are extraordinary," Volkenant reported. "Bridget Kramer is doing such a fine job as principal. She loves the kids and their families. The school is beautiful and well kept. The preschool is awesome. It's evident that the children are happy, safe and that good learning is taking place. This is a busy, productive, happy place."

Playground Update

Recently we talked about how students had raised over \$10,000 for a new playground, a record amount for the annual Marathon fundraiser. But the school needed another \$9,000 before they could get the equipment. Thanks to Give to the Max day, they made that goal.

So, on a chilly Saturday morning last November, before the ground was completely frozen, a group of COS families gathered outside the school to replace the old playground with a new one.

The school still needs to raise money for accessories like monkey bars but Principal Bridget Kramer is confident it can be done. "Kids have been playing on that playground all winter," she reported. "It's a great example of what our community can do when we work together."



AFTER — progress on the new playground



A New Challenge: Raise \$65,000 to Earn Another \$65,000

All Money Raised Will Support Tuition Assistance at COS

Since we cruised past the last \$50,000 challenge by raising \$58,000, the stakes have been raised. The Schulze Foundation, in partnership with Catholic Schools Center of Excellence (CSCOE) and a few A&F&F members, have offered another challenge. The goal this time is \$65,000.

It's big. It's daunting. But we're not afraid because we've seen what this community is capable of doing. We're working out the details but this is what we know so far:

- If you are a new donor this year, your entire contribution counts.
- If you were a new donor last year and give the same amount or more, your entire contribution counts.
- If you've given for more than one year and increase your gift, the increased amount counts.

The challenge is on. Stay tuned for details and thank you for your continued support! **If you have questions call Doug Lieser at 651-457-2510 x119.**

To donate now please make your check payable to A&F&F and mail it to A&F&F, PO Box 7005, Saint Paul, MN 55107. An envelope is enclosed for your convenience. You can donate online by going to www.CommunityofSaints.org.

From the Editor:

The Community Behind Community of Saints

At Community of Saints, every family pays something, but no one is turned away because of tuition costs. Ninety percent of students receive tuition assistance.

How can the school do that? Because of you. A&F&F's mission is to raise money for tuition assistance at COS and your generous contributions make it possible. You are part of a large and growing community whose support guarantees that a high quality, Catholic education remains both available and affordable.

I was curious about our donors so I decided to call some of you and ask what motivates you to give? I left a lot of messages — I understand, people are busy — but I got lucky and reached a few of you and you generously shared your stories. What follows is a brief, unscientific sampling of why people support our students.

Rita Ryan, husband was a St. Michael's graduate. "I've come to the Alums Mass and reception several times and I've been really impressed with the students I met. This is something I can support."

Mary Lou (Allie) Bova ('44), lives in Kansas but grew up on Robie as one of 13 children born to Paul and Vina Allie. "I got a very good education when I went to school at St. Matt's. I've been gone a long time but I feel very connected with the school and the church."

Georgene (Schaps) Sorenson ('60), has lived in Arizona for many years. "I'm very grateful for my

Catholic school education and I believe in paying it forward. I contribute to Alums & Friends and I also tutor at a Catholic school in Tucson that serves many underprivileged students."

Mike Schneider ('55), divides his time between Arizona and Wisconsin. "When you find something to contribute to where they're doing good and you know where the money's going, you get enthused. I'm very impressed with the fact that we're so successful graduating kids who then go on to college. That will make them contributors in the future."

Thank you to ALL of our contributors. I hope to get to talk with more of you soon. If you're willing to share, we'd love to hear your reasons for giving. **Email us at alums@communityofsaints.org.**

"When you find something to contribute to where they're doing good and you know where the money's going, you get enthused."

— MIKE SCHNEIDER ('55)



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**LEFT TO RIGHT:
Fr. Kevin Kenney,
Fr. James Adams
(current pastor),
Fr. Lorenzo Hubbard
and Fr. Raymond
Monsour.**

These men in black include past and present pastors of Our Lady of Guadalupe Church (OLG) which recently celebrated its 85th anniversary. Festivities included a Mass, banquet and dancing. The priests here are shown preparing to take part in a traditional Mexican Hat Dance. For more photos and a taste of OLG's history, see page 3.