SACRED HEART ALUMNI

THE ALUMNI

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P.O. Box 97 Muenster, Texas 76252

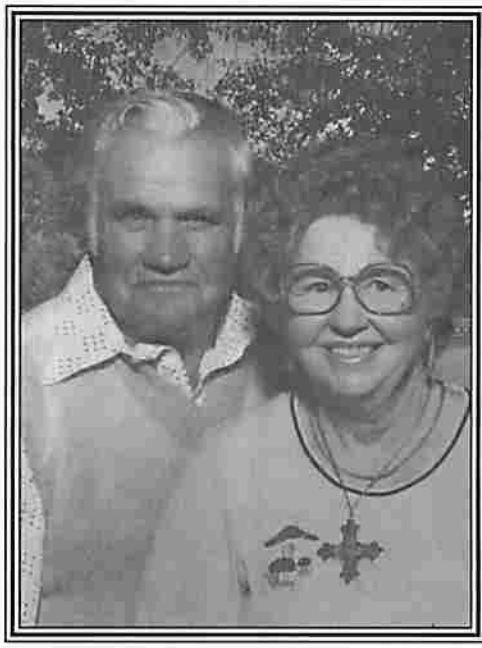
Alumni Meeting - 3rd Wednesday of each month, 7:30 p.m. *Muenster Jaycee Meeting Room*

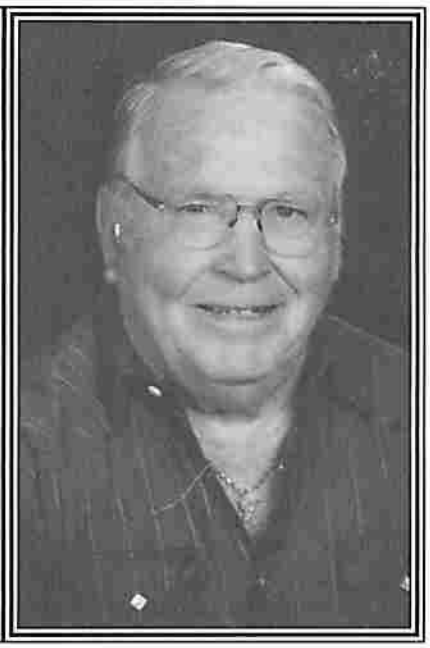
A QUARTERLY MAGAZINE FOR ALUMNI, PARENTS, GRANDPARENTS AND FRIENDS OF THE MUENSTER CATHOLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM

14 Nov. 2016 - VETERANS DAY CONCERT - 14 Nov. 2016

New Endowed Scholarship Fund Named for Andy & Tillie Schoech

The Alumni & Supporters is most gratified to announce the establishment of the Andy & Tillie Schoech Endowed Scholarship Fund. Established in October as a sub-account under the Alumni & Supporters Endowed Scholarship Fund, the fund benefits children with financial need wishing to attend Sacred Heart Catholic School.





Andy & Tillie SCHOECH **Melvin SCHOECH**

Melvin A. Schoech, '56, the oldest son of the late couple, established the scholarship fund with a generous donation of $25,000. "I did it in memory of my parents," he notes. "The School meant a lot to them, as they sent all six of their children to Sacred Heart. All have been successful in life. We all had a good Christian education in the School."

Regarding his decision to make the donation, he remarks, "I have been very fortunate business wise. The Lord has blessed me financially. So I figured I would give some back. I thought it was time to pass it around. My wife passed away about a year ago, and I did the same thing for her school, Our Lady of the Lake in San Antonio."

The father of six children and grandfather of 18, Melvin resides in Kingsville. After graduating from Sacred Heart, he attended St. Mary's University in San Antonio, earning a Bachelor

President's Memo . . . Stephanie Schilling

On behalf of the Alumni & Supporters, I would like to say *THANK YOU!* To ALL who support our School and legacy, we thank you! Your generous support is more important than ever as we come together for the benefit of our School! For starters, volunteering can have a very powerful impact on everyone involved!

So what exactly is a volunteer, and what value does it bestow upon us here at Sacred Heart? Volunteering is about giving, contributing, and helping other individuals and the community at large. It is working with others to make a meaningful contribution, creating the greater good for our School and community.

Whether your kids are just starting Pre-K or entering the final year of high school, there are many good reasons for parents and family to volunteer. It's a great way to show your kids that you take an interest in their education, and it sends a positive message that you consider our School a worthwhile cause. Parent volunteers offer a huge resource and support base for our School, while also showing our kids the importance of participating in the larger community. Not only will the School reap the benefits of your involvement—you will too!

Sacred Heart wouldn't be the thriving institution it is without continued support like yours. Fundraising is the primary way that the Alumni contributes to Sacred Heart. We do this to keep our Catholic school affordable and accessible to everyone who wishes to attend. There are many fundraising efforts that go on throughout the year. The bulk of our volunteer time and effort are spent toward five major events: The Wurst Race and Rally, Crawfish Boil, Ranch Rodeo, Germanfest Bicycle Rally, and the Community Garage Sale.

Great things are happening at SHCS. Join us and see the progress for yourself.

***"Let the children come to me, and do not prevent them; for the kingdom belongs to such as these."* (Mt 19:14)**

Dear Sacred Heart Family and Friends,

"Be who God meant you to be and you will start the world on fire." — St. Catherine of Sienna

After reflecting on this quote from St. Catherine of Sienna, I can see how our students, their parents, our faculty, and our Sacred Heart community are great examples of this thought. If you will, think about the many students who have passed through the halls of Sacred Heart Catholic School and have begun their own families, and of their children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, who have blessed us with their attendance here at this faith-filled institution.

Take this time to remember the many inspirational and motivational teachers who had a profound effect on your lives, or the effect you had on them. It goes both ways, as we have all encouraged or been encouraged to "start the world on fire" in our own ways, especially in sharing our Faith with one another and keeping our Catholic tradition alive and strong for whatever lies ahead of us.

The many positive memories that each of us carries can be shared with one another and can have an impact in strengthening our Faith. The Homecoming game and festivities gave us all an opportunity to see the many Sacred Heart graduates, future graduates and supporters all in one place. While taking it all in, the heart swells with love and pride for what our School and Catholic Faith have done for our Sacred Heart Family and community.

My belief is that our School family is growing and stronger than ever because you are who God meant you to be.

My prayers for you all continue. God bless you, and thank you for your continued prayers and support.

In Christ,

Beth Bartush

Principal

of Science in Physics in 1960. He later attended Texas A&I University in Kingsville, where in 1968 he received a Master of Science in Math. His career, he relates, "has been in teaching and the oil industry. We all know how the oil industry fluctuates. I was in the oil industry when it was up, and I taught when it was down."

Older alumni fondly remember Melvin's parents, Andy and Tilly. Andy was in the building trade, helping construct buildings on the parish campus and many other buildings in town. Always singing and ready with a joke, he was a delightful person with whom to work. Some may even remember him as being Santa Claus at school when they were children. An accomplished homemaker and gracious hostess, Tillie took great joy in serving as a room mother, in their children having friends over to play, taking their whole class to the parish picnic grounds for a birthday party, and getting Christmas trees with the nuns for the church and school.

In this warm and happy home, each child's leaving home to go off to school was sure to bring a flood of tears. First to depart was the couple's second son, **Gene.** After finishing eighth grade at Sacred Heart in 1954, he left to attend Subiaco Academy. The sadness they felt at his leaving home, however, led to the highlight of Andy and Tillie's life: seeing him ordained **Father Frowin** in 1966, with his vestments an ordination gift made by his mother. Before his sudden death on February 10, 1999, Muenster was blessed to have this wonderful, warm, and loving Benedictine priest serve as associate pastor and high school teacher in his home parish from July 1993 to September 1997.

Melvin, '56, would depart for St. Mary's University, and in 1960, the couple's son Dickie completed eighth grade at Sacred Heart before leaving that fall to attend Subiaco Academy. He went on to graduate from the University of Texas and later receive both his master's in Social Work and doctorate in Administration from the University of Texas at Arlington. The next year, daughter **Marjorie Wall, '61,** would go out into the world, earning a bachelor's in Education from the University of North Texas and a master's in Liberal Arts from Southern Methodist University. Andy and Tillie's youngest son, **Glen, '69,** went to East Texas State University, where he received a degree in Construction Management. Their youngest child, daughter **Karolyn "Peachie" Cooley, '71,** attended Cooke County Junior College before graduating from Texas Woman's University as a Registered Nurse.

Andy and Tillie Schoech gifted their children and the community with a legacy of love, Faith, generosity, and appreciation for education. The Andy & Tillie Schoech Endowed Scholarship Fund, established by their son Melvin, is assuredly a most fitting tribute to their memory.

Commenting on the donation, **Director of Development Lydia Walterscheid Springer, '86,** expresses the gratitude of the entire Sacred Heart School Family: "The amazing generosity shown by Mr. Melvin Schoech in making this gift is a real testament to the mission of this School and what everyone works so hard to accomplish here. As a 1956 Sacred Heart graduate, he had countless choices and charities to whom he could have given this money, but he chose to give it to the scholarship fund for our students, a fund designed to exist for generations to come, as only the interest will be used. I cannot think of any better way to strengthen our students, our School, and the legacy of our Faith. Thank you, Mr. Schoech!" ■

CENTENARIAN

Edward Swirczynski of Fort Worth celebrated his 100th birthday on August 26. Growing up in Muenster, Edward attended Sacred Heart School until he was in the eighth grade. That year he had to leave school to work the family farm. He would later work in the oilfield, which is where he lost part of his thumb, and in the Muenster cheese plant. Called into service, Edward served overseas in the European Theater of War in World War II. While in New Caledonia he suffered a bleeding ulcer. He was rushed to a MASH unit where his stomach and intestine were repaired, and was then shipped home to recover. He went on to attend several trade schools, learning electrical, plumbing, and auto repair work.

On June 5, 1946, at Sacred Heart Church, Edward married his beloved wife, Hazel, who became Catholic in order to marry him. The couple opened the Poly Ice Cream Shop. Years later he got a job with Bell Helicopter, where he worked for 30 years before retiring. After his retirement he enjoyed taking the many senior classes offered at Tarrant County College, which included swimming, woodcarving, glassmaking, leather crafting, computer, and botany. Through the years he has enjoyed reading any books about animals and any history books that cover the years prior to 1970.

This past year has brought Edward the joy of he and Hazel celebrating 70 years of marriage on June 5, the accomplishment of his reaching 100 on August 26, and the sorrow of Hazel's passing on August 28. This alert centenarian still reads his prayer books and enjoys watching some western shows on TV. Frequent opportunities for napping, of course, are also enjoyed. Blessed in his marriage with one daughter and two sons, including Father Gary Swirczynski, who will observe his 30th anniversary as a Franciscan priest on March 7, 2017, Edward also delights in his three granddaughters. With pride and gratitude, his family notes how their dad, with an eighth grade education, still managed to send all three of his children to a Catholic school and college.

JUBILARIAN

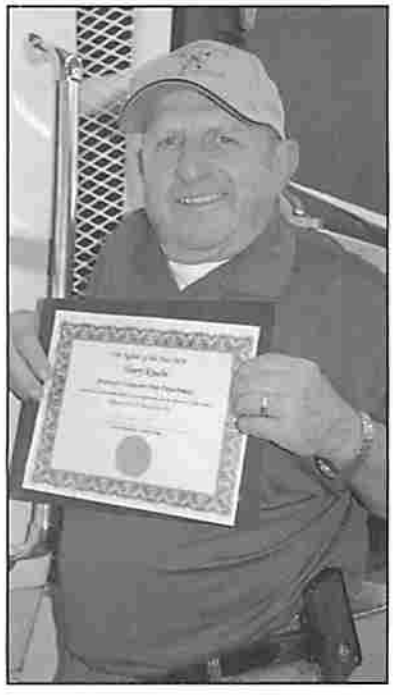
Sister Francesca Walterscheid, '46, celebrated her 70th Jubilee as a Sister of St. Mary of Namur on Saturday, August 13, at the 2:00 p.m. Mass at St. Andrew's Church in Fort Worth, with Bishop Michael Olson as celebrant. After enjoying her teenage years in Muenster, Helen Walterscheid entered Our Lady of Victory Convent in Fort Worth on September 8, 1946. Sr. Francesca taught primary grades for 23 years, serving in that capacity in Catholic schools in Dickinson, Wichita Falls, Fort Worth, Hollister, California, where she also served as the coordinator of the community and as principal, and Arlington.

Returning to Our Lady of Victory, she was the local coordinator for six years. She was then at St. Cecilia in Dallas for five years before returning to OLV. In 1978, she worked in geriatrics at OLV Infirmary, and in 1988, when the OLV community moved into its new building on West Shaw Street, Sr. Francesca served as maintenance coordinator of OLV Retirement Center and supervisor of the kitchen.

She now volunteers each Monday at Cook's Children's Hospital as a "Baby Bunny," rocking infirm babies whose healing is hastened by loving attention. Throughout the years, Sr. Francesca has embraced the motto of the Sisters of St. Mary, "In simplicity and joy, I have offered all to God." Her life has been filled with numerous opportunities and challenges, but the joys remain. It is her hope that other young women will answer the call and have the blessings she has had.

FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR

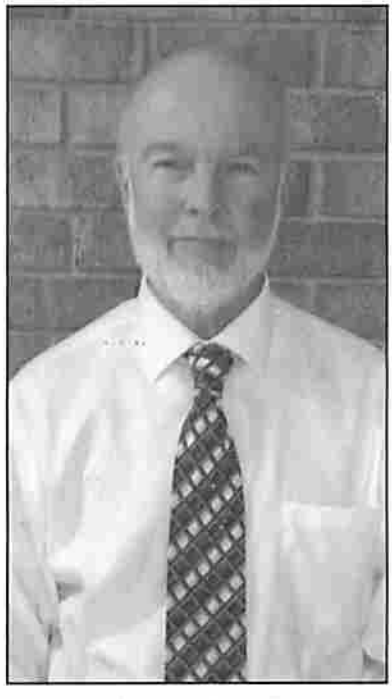
Henry Knabe, '71, was chosen to receive the first Muenster Volunteer Fire Department Firefighter of the Year award. As the award's recipient, Henry was presented with a Cooke County Firefighter of the Year certificate, along with a cap as a token of appreciation, from County Judge Jason Brinkley at the Commissioners Court meeting on July 27. Noting Henry's selection for the honor, the Muenster VFD stated, "Henry has served the department for 44 years, starting in January 1972. He has averaged over 90% of the calls his entire career. He serves as an officer, holding the Safety Officer's position. Henry is one of the most respected and under-appreciated firemen on our Department. He is one of the first firemen to the station when the pager goes off. Henry lives to be a firefighter and his passion is second to none. In his later years on the department, he has moved from an attack truck to his own current 'unofficial' tank truck driver. Nobody dares hop in his seat and usually nobody will beat him to that seat. The Muenster VFD is truly blessed to have a dedicated and knowledgeable fireman such as Henry."



Henry is general manager of Hess Meat Market, where he has been employed for 44 years. He enjoys working there alongside his son, **John, '02.** Come evening, he looks forward to passing on to his wife, Babe, John's updates on their little grandson's latest accomplishments.

DEACON CANDIDATE

Gary Endres, '73, was one of 32 men, aspiring to become permanent deacons in the Diocese of Fort Worth, admitted to candidacy during an August 6 Mass celebrated by Bishop Michael Olson in St. Patrick Cathedral. The Order of Deacon is a ministry of service to the Word of God, the sacraments of the Church, and works of heroic charity. Gary's admittance to candidacy for the order followed an intense year of prayerful discernment and study involving monthly meetings, prayer, days of recollection, small group reflection, and general study, which involved loads of reading and papers to write. "I could never have done it all without the help of my wife, **Mary [Hess Endres, '75],** and our kids," notes Gary.



Still at the beginning of a journey, he now begins four years of intellectual, pastoral, and spiritual formation before being ordained as a deacon. During this time he will undertake the intense study of theology and liturgical principles, perform parish duties, and hone his skills as a minister of charity. Gary would be most appreciative of prayers as he continues on his road to the diaconate. He relates, "It was through God's grace that I reached this point, and I know it will only be through God's grace that I will reach ordination."

WEST TO HAWAII

Laneta and **Ernie Martin, '73**, observed their 40th Wedding Anniversary on Sunday, August 21. Attending the 10:30 a.m. Mass, with both sides of their family present, they were all invited up for a special blessing given by Father Ken. The couple's parents were remembered with their favorite color roses—pink, yellow, and red—in the bouquets adorning the sanctuary. After Mass, the family gathered for a festive dinner at the Neu Ranch House. Last November, upon Laneta's 60th birthday, Ernie surprised her with plans and reservations for a trip to Hawaii in celebration of her birthday and their anniversary. The celebrants made the trip this past June, feeling they went with the blessing of Ernie's late mother, **Nelly Pels Martin.** Nelly had once won a trip to Hawaii, and had always wanted them to go. "It was most beautiful. The most wonderful experience I've ever had!" exclaims Laneta, for whom it was also her first time to fly.

Parents of two children, son **Joey, '96,** and daughter **Yvonne Sandmann, '98,** the couple has been further blessed with two grandchildren. Ernie has served as Facilities Manager for Sacred Heart Parish for 17 years, while Laneta has been a teacher aide, primarily for grades one and two, at Sacred Heart School for 31 years—over half her life! "It's been a wonderful experience to be working here, a very rewarding one," she remarks. Everyone has been so good to our family. The kids, everyone, are just like my family."

Ernie & Laneta MARTIN

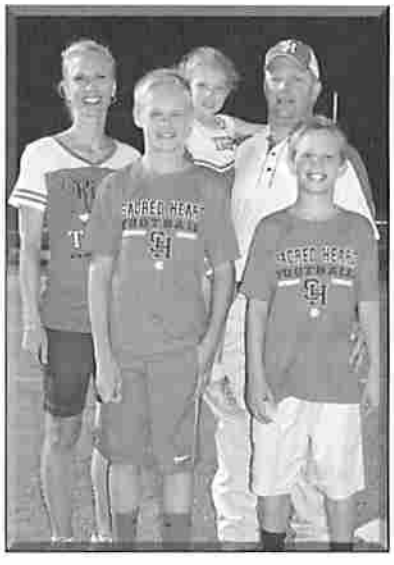
Arnold & Kathy YOSTEN

NORTH TO ALASKA

Arnold Yosten, '76, and his wife, Kathy, marked their 35th Wedding Anniversary on August 8.They celebrated the joyous occasion with a cruise/land trip to Alaska August 3-13. Flying from DFW to Vancouver, B.C., the couple boarded the Island Princess to sail Alaska's Inside Passage. With visits made to Ketchikan, Juneau, Skagway, Glacier Bay, College Fiord, and Whittier, their ten-day trip was filled with highlights. They flew in a helicopter to the top of Mendenhall Glacier, walked in a rain forest, went whale watching, and rode a train into the Yukon Territory. They also took a train train up to Denali National Park and saw Mt. Denali, went to Fairbanks for a riverboat tour, saw the Alaska pipeline, and panned for gold. Arnold relates, "It was a wonderful experience and unforgettable trip!" Blessed with two married daughters, Kathy and Arnold are looking forward to the arrival of their first grandchild in March. They reside in Weatherford, where Arnold is a registered pharmacist.

A RETURN TO MUENSTER

Glenn, '89, and **Amy Walterscheid Swirczynski, '90**, enjoy being back in their hometown. Living in Celina the past ten years, the couple moved to Muenster with their children, **Seth, '22, Ryan, '24,** and **Claire, '28,** at the end of May. A number of factors contributed to their decision to make the move. Glenn notes, "There's been a tremendous amount of growth and development in the area we were living and working in. We wanted to get away from all the hustle and bustle it's brought with it. Celina was great, but it was becoming more and more like a city. Moving here also gave us the chance to be close to our parents and the kids to their grandparents. Then too, while the kids liked their school there, coming here provided the opportunity for them to go to Sacred Heart."



Amy, Seth, Claire, Glenn, and Ryan SWIRCZYNSKI

Enabling the family to make the move was an opening in the Farm Bureau Insurance office in Gainesville. A Farm Bureau agent for 13 years, Glenn had Collin County as his area, with an office first in McKinney and later in Frisco. He relates, "Presented with the opportunity to work in Gainesville, where the work is better, and with a rent house here becoming available at exactly the time we needed one, everything fell into place for us to come. I think God had a lot to do with it." The move also facilitated Amy in her work. A CPR instructor, she works at several hospitals, at NCTC, and has her own business.

In addition to his insurance work, Glenn volunteers his time as an assistant football coach at Sacred Heart. It's a role for which he's well qualified, having taught and coached for eight years before he began working for Farm Bureau. Other considerations also prompted him to take on the role. As he points out, "I love football, and **[Coach] Dale [Schilling, '80]** is my cousin. When he asked me if I could give him some help, I was excited about it. And as our own boys are getting to the age where they can play, how could I not be willing to help? I like doing it. The boys are great, and things are going well. Being able to do it all just means I have to manage my time."

With the family glad to be here, Amy remarks, "Having come from Muenster, Glenn and I already knew so many people here, and that's been wonderful. It was more of an adjustment for the kids. They had a bit of anxiety about going to a new school, but they're all doing fine. Everybody's really welcomed us. Being here has brought a welcomed, much needed, slower pace. I realize what I've missed, things like being able to ride our bikes in town, walking the kids to school, the opportunity to go to weekday Mass with them and to adoration." Glenn adds, "Amy was really involved with our church there, but it's even easier to get involved in things here." And, he observes, "It's nice to be able to see the stars again."

Check Us Out!

UPDATED

- The Alumni & Supporters is on **Facebook.** Search for **Sacred Heart Alumni & Supporters** and "like" the page today.
- **Download "Team App"** from the App Store and search for **"Sacred Heart Catholic School."** You can get news updates, roster information, live score updates, event information, schedules for sporting events, photos, and other important info.
- Wish to be on the Alumni & Supporters' text info distribution list? Text **Debbie Schmitt Neu, '90,** at **940-768-9072.**
- To contact the Alumni & Supporters, send an email to **shalumni@ntin.net.**

PROFESSION OF SOLEMN VOWS

Sister Elizabeth Mary Fuhrmann, O.C.D., '98, made her Solemn Vows as a Discalced Carmelite Nun on Saturday, September 24, 2016, at the Monastery of the Most Holy Trinity in Arlington. Serving as principal celebrant was Bishop Michael Olson, joined by seven priests as concelebrants, including Rev. Ken Robinson and **Rev. Kyle Walterscheid, '85.** The Profession of Vows was situated at the Offertory of the Eucharistic Sacrifice in the special Profession Mass, highlighting the ecclesial character of the Religious Life and its unique prominence at the very heart of the Church. As noted in the program for the liturgy, "By Solemn Vows, the most binding possible for a Religious, the Carmelite nun offers all that she is and has to be spent in love and sacrifice, in prayer and penance in the cloister of Carmel for the world and for the good of all mankind, in union with the Redeeming Christ, whose bride she has become. She proclaims the joyful and willing submission of all creation to its Creator, through her consecrated life of faith, hope and love. She participates in Mary's personification of the Church in the Mystery of Calvary and in her role of Mother of Grace." Elizabeth Fuhrmann entered the convent on September 15, 2007, the 67th birthday of her father, **Leon Fuhrmann, '59.** She went on to make her First Profession of Vow on September 25, 2010, taking the name Sister Elizabeth Mary of the Heart of Jesus.

ANOTHER RETURN TO MUENSTER

Paul T. Bartush, Jr., '05, and his family relocated from Victoria to Muenster this past July. He and his wife, Tiffani, made the move to afford their son, **Paul T., '31,** the opportunity to attend Sacred Heart School. Paul is employed as a facility services supervisor at WinStar World Casino and Resort, and Tiffani as a nurse at North Texas Medical Center.

What's Happening?

Graduation? New job? Just got married? New baby? Award? Promotion? Send in your news for our next issue. Contact Editor Leslie Hess Eddleman, '86, at theeddlemans@ntin.net, 940-634-7559, or Editor, *THE ALUMNI,* P.O. Box 97, Muenster, TX 76252. Be sure to include a photo. If requested, hard copies will be returned.

Just Married

Kalyssa Pollard, '09, and and Kristopher Creed on July 23 at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, residing in Fort Worth

New Bundles of Joy

To Jared and **Becka Stalling Moczygemba, '05,** of Navasota, Texas, daughter Cassie Josephine on April 25, welcomed by her sister, Olivia Alice, born May 22, 2015

To Amanda and **Dylan Flusche, '09,** daughter Hazel Claire on July 31

To **Hayley Hess Evans, '11, and Greyson Evans, '11,** daughter Aubrey Lee on July 16

To Shane and **Shauna Endres Huchton, '98,** son Skyler Edward on September 1

To Maggie and **Clint Fuhrmann, '03,** son Nathan Ray on September 27

To **Dana Miller Fuhrmann, '01, and Chris Fuhrmann, '03,** daughter Brooke Elaine on October 13

In Memoriam

Ann Bartush Matt, '72
Feb. 4, 1954–Dec. 17, 2015

Quintin "Chic" Lehnertz
Jan. 26, 1929–June 3, 2016

Anton "Tony" Hess
(father of **Sam, '81, Nick, '84, Dana, '92,** and **Jenni Kelley, '00**)
July 4, 1927–July 22, 2016

Charles "Charlie" Knabe, '62
Mar. 21, 1943–Aug. 2, 2016

Leon Fuhrmann, '59
Sept. 15, 1940–Aug. 6, 2016

Mary Ann Reiter Arendt, '44
Dec. 6, 1926–Aug.20, 2016

Douglas Reiter
(husband of **Chubby Mages Reiter, '58**)
Oct. 27, 1936–Aug. 27, 2016

Hazel Swirczynski
(wife of **Edward Swirczynski**)
Sept. 27, 1924–Aug. 28, 2016

Russell Kulle
(father of **Kevin Kulle, '10**)
Dec. 9, 1953–Sept. 3, 2016

Julie Marie Becker
(infant daughter of Kristie & **Joe Becker, '99**)
Sept. 15, 2016–Oct. 6, 2016

David Hess, '65
Aug. 31, 1946–Oct. 12, 2016

Ervin "Red" Henscheid, '56
Apr. 13, 1938–Oct. 13, 2016

GIRL SCOUT GOLD AWARD HONOREE

Senior **Katy Bezner** is a recipient of the Girl Scout Gold Award, the most prestigious award a Senior Scout can earn. She was presented with the award at the Gold Award Recognition Ceremony held at the Cacharel Grand Ballroom in Arlington on May 6.

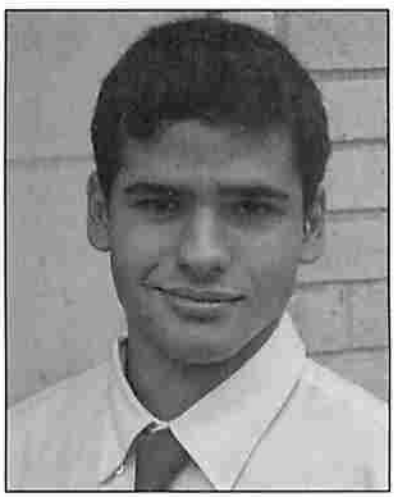
The Gold Award requires 80 hours of service work, including identifying an issue, thoroughly investigating it, getting help and building a team, creating and presenting a plan, gathering feedback, taking action, and educating and inspiring others. In earning her award, Katy, a member of Sacred Heart's High School Choir, undertook a project dear to her heart. The record rains in the spring of 2015 caused flooding in the Elementary School's basement, which is where the Music Room is located, and she decided to help. Getting permission for her idea and enlisting the help of others to tackle the project, she went to work.

Dan, Katy, and Christy BEZNER

With many instruments and much of the music damaged, "The room was a mess!" Katy exclaims. "Due to the flooding, everything in the room had to be moved to the stage in order to repair the floors. To address this, I went through and reorganized the room back to good condition." Complicating things was the fact that before the project could be completed, the basement flooded a second time! Thankfully, pumps were installed to help prevent a future reoccurrence. Also, having done fundraising for the project, Katy used the money to purchase instruments for elementary education. With the restoration of the Music Room, it is Katy's belief that students for many years to come will expand their knowledge of and deepen their love for music. Her hope is that the project will spread the awareness of music and the arts.

Grateful for the opportunity to develop her leadership skills through coordinating volunteers and working with other student and adult volunteers, Katy notes: "Like many things in Girls Scouts, this project has taught me leadership skills by allowing me to step up and take action. The skills I have learned throughout my years in Girl Scouts will continue to assist me my whole life. I've learned many things that will guide me through anything I may encounter."

In the words of Katy's Girl Scout leader, **Angela Endres Hennigan, '90,** "By earning the Girl Scout Gold Award, Katy has learned to develop herself as a leader, has achieved the Girl Scout Leadership Outcomes, and has made a mark on her community that creates a lasting impact on the lives of others."



30 CLUB ADDS NEW MEMBER

Senior **Michael Richter** is the latest member of Sacred Heart's "30 Club." Not only did Michael qualify for club membership this past June by earning a composite score of 30 or higher on the ACT college entrance exam, he received a perfect score of 36 on the Reading portion of the test!

NEW ALUMNI VP

The July meeting of the Alumni & Supporters brought the election of **Malony Bartush** to succeed outgoing vice president **Jo Schilling.** Malony and her husband, **John D. Bartush, '97,** have been blessed with three children, **John Gary, '27, Mary Jane, '29,** and **George, '31,** and are excitedly looking forward to the arrival of their fourth child in April. In charge of Human Resources at Cooke County Electric Cooperative Association, Malony completed her bachelor's degree in Business Administration from the University of North Texas last May.

John, Mary Jane, George, Malony, and John Gary BARTUSH

Despite her full schedule, this energetic young woman has managed to play a very active role in Alumni fundraisers, be it helping with the Bike Rally at Germanfest, creating PowerPoints for various events, or co-chairing both the Crawfish Boil and the Wurst Race and Rally. Explaining her motivation in taking on the additional duties of vice president, she says, "I like staying busy. Once I graduated, I knew I would have some extra time. Above that, I love Sacred Heart! It's the most worthy cause I could spend my time on." The School Family extends a big "Thank You!" to Malony for her dedication and generous spirit in graciously assuming the duties of vice president, and to Jo for the outstanding job she did during her tenure in office.

BACK TO TERRA—ABOVE AND BELOW

Sacred Heart Fourth Grade Teacher Michele Knauf had a busy and exciting summer, enjoying two very interesting professional learning experiences. As the recipient of the Texas Farm Bureau's 2015 Agriculture in the Classroom Outstanding Teacher award, Mrs. Knauf was honored with an all-expenses-paid trip to the National Agriculture in the Classroom Conference, held June 20-24 in Litchfield Park, Arizona. She received a scholarship for the conference from CHS Foundation, a farmer-owned cooperative working to help America's farmers be more successful, and was told it was the first time a Texas Farm Bureau State winner had received such an honor. Michele enjoyed the opportunity to attend pre-conference tours of the Grand Canyon and the Theodore Roosevelt Dam. She was presented with an array of informative tours and workshops from which to choose at the conference, and she selected the Arizona Water tour. Learning how Arizona gets its water, she and her group toured the Salt River Project, Central Arizona Project, and Lake Pleasant. The multiple workshops she chose to attend also provided her a wealth of information she is excited to share with her students. Topics included international agriculture, Ag in the classroom resources, the Mississippi River, science and soil activities, insects, gardens, poultry, and fruits, nuts, and veggies.

DID YOU KNOW?

In July, Michele was afforded the opportunity to enhance her understanding of the coal mining industry. Selected by the Texas Mining & Reclamation Association to attend one of its all-expense paid workshops for teachers, she participated in the coal workshop held July 10-15 at Three Oaks Mine near Elgin, Texas. There she visited a coal mine and learned about the process and the equipment used in the operation. The week-long session also included visiting a power plant to learn how electricity is made, learning about the relationship various factors such as soil and water play in coal mining, and seeing how the land on which the coal mining was done was reclaimed and restored to be useful for other purposes. As a teacher who consistently incorporates fun learning experiences into her classroom teaching, Mrs. Knauf is glad for the science-based information she gained at the workshop and how she can use it to better educate her students about the availability, importance, development, and use of natural resources.

SHCS STUDENTS AT WORLD YOUTH DAY

This past July, Sacred Heart sophomores **Gracie Green** and **Braden Geis** were thrilled to have the opportunity to attend World Youth Day in Kraków, Poland. Recalling her experience, Gracie exclaims, "It was amazing! There were crowds everywhere singing random songs and chanting their country's name and love for Christ. It made me so happy to see people my own age so on fire for the Lord! And don't even get me started on the food!" Of the many highlights of her trip, the one that most stands out for her is attending the events held in Mercy Center in Kraków. There, she says, "We spent a few days listening to talks from bishops and Catholic speakers and doing workshops. One night we had XLT with [contemporary Catholic worship leaders] Matt Maher and Audrey Assad, and as a music geek, it was like heaven! I loved it!" She adds, "The trip was most definitely worth it. I really haven't stopped talking about it since I got home, and I would go back in a heartbeat!"

For Braden, "The actual World Youth Day itself was a great experience; however, the days leading up to the Papal Mass were very powerful and moving. My favorite highlight would have to be the Days in the Diocese. This was when the group split up for about a week and went with our host families. They were very kind and took us in as one of their own. They showed us the different Polish customs and some of the holiest parts of the city. It is definitely worthwhile to go, because you get to see a different part of the world you've never seen before. It was cool to see the world unify under one faith."

Gracie GREEN

Braden GEIS, standing, beside Gracie GREEN

Gracie and her father, Scott GREEN

Gracie and Braden and their fathers were among a group of 28 parishioners of Immaculate Conception Parish in Denton making the pilgrimage to World Youth Day. Living in Muenster a number of years ago, the Greens now reside in Sanger. The Geis family, who currently live in Pilot Point, are happy to have located a beautifully renovated home for sale on Main Street and will be moving to Muenster.

MASCOTS LOOKING GRRREEEAT!

The three Cooke County Knights of Columbus Councils blessed Sacred Heart School with a greatly appreciated donation. Each contributing $500, the Muenster, Lindsay, and Gainesville councils got together to sponsor the purchase of a new Cub mascot costume for the junior high cheer squad and a Tiger costume for the senior high squad. If you've gotten to attend a home game, you've had the opportunity to see the Tiger or Cub mascot in action. You may have even noticed the KC emblem on the costume. When you see a Knight, be sure to join in expressing your thanks for their generosity, without which the purchase of these costumes would not have been possible.

L-R: Andrew PLOEGER, Past Grand Knight Gainesville Council 1167, Emma BAYER "Carly the Cub," Geordan SPAETH "Taylor the Tiger," and Chris FUHRMANN, Grand Knight Muenster Council 1459. Not pictured, Tic BLOCK, Grand Knight Lindsay Council 11905

A SHINING EXAMPLE OF TEAMWORK

Jackson and Cameron KNABE

Thanks to four individuals' generous use of time, talents, and equipment on behalf of Sacred Heart Catholic School, a metal picnic table that sat rusty behind the high school is now a thing of beauty. The transformation process involved **Phil Reiter** first sandblasting the table, after which **Steven Knabe, '87,** primed and painted it, with **Jackson Knabe, '23,** and **Kameron Knabe, '25,** smoothing it after the priming. You'll now find the table proudly sitting next to the flag pole on the football field.

Cameron and Jackson KNABE

IT'S A SMALL WORLD AFTER ALL

It's a small world, indeed. Assuredly attesting to that is **Samantha Palmer, '16,** this fall attending the Universidad del Sagrado Corazón (University of the Sacred Heart) in Puerto Rico, her mother's homeland. As it happened, one of the first students Samantha met upon arriving at the university was a fellow Texan, from Arlington. And not only did this young man know where Muenster is, he's actually been here! On top of that, there's even a Sacred Heart connection: His dad participates in the Sacred Heart Alumni & Supporters' Metric Century Germanfest Bicycle Rally.

Samantha PALMER with fellow Texan

TREASURES FIND NEW HOMES

Michelle SCHILLING and Jayna WALTERSCHEID

The Sacred Heart Alumni Garage Sale, held annually in conjunction with the Muenster Chamber of Commerce Citywide Garage Sale, posted record earnings this year! With a huge number of items coming in all week long, customers enjoyed being able to shop early, and, finding the merchandise so well organized and attractively displayed, easily locate the treasures they were looking for. A massive undertaking for co-chairs **Michelle Schilling** and **Jayna Biffle Walterscheid, '04**, and their dedicated helpers, a huge round of thanks goes out to them and to all who donated or purchased items.

Michelle SCHILLING and Jayna WALTERSCHEID

KNIGHTS' BENEFIT

Heartfelt thanks to the Muenster Knights of Columbus for generously holding the Dr. Rafael Rondon Memorial Knights of Columbus Fish Fry on Saturday evening, October 15. Benefitting Sacred Heart Catholic School, the event honored the memory of their beloved fellow Knight and Sacred Heart principal, who passed on to eternal life on November 16, 2015. The large crowd on hand enjoyed a mouth-watering meal, great camaraderie, and a wonderful opportunity to share memories of Dr. Rondon. Homecoming weekend was indeed made all the more special. The entire Sacred Heart School Family wishes to express its gratitude to the Knights for their generous support of Catholic education.

NEW TEACHER

Sacred Heart's Montessori Pre-K teacher this year is **Teresa Richter.** Receiving a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education with Bilingual endorsement from St. Edward's University in Austin, Mrs. Richter taught in the Austin ISD for 17 years. She served for three years as a resource teacher in reading and math for ESL students in grades 1–5. Going back to school to earn Kindergarten endorsement, she next taught Kindergarten for seven years, and then Pre-K for another seven years.

In December 2014, Teresa and her husband, **Joseph,** and their children, **Rebecca, '16, Michael, '17, Rachel, '22, Mary, '24,** and **Gabriel, '25,** moved to Sunset, Texas, from Illinois, where they had resided for 14 years. Teresa had homeschooled all their children there. With their arrival at Sacred Heart in March 2015 came the children's first learning experience in a school setting. Dr. Rondon immediately "roped" in Mrs. Richter as well, and she spent her days at Sacred Heart working as an aide for a special needs student. Last year she served as an aide for the Montessori Pre-K class. This past summer saw her in Dallas attending Montessori training classes. In addition to her professional experience, Teresa taught Kindergarten in the religious education program at her Austin parish, and second grade at her Illinois parish.

Describing her experience here, she exclaims, "It's wonderful! I love it! Muenster is a very welcoming place. We are still 40 minutes away, but are hoping to move in closer. It's not easy to find a place in Muenster. We are waiting on God's will. It will come."

Teresa Richter

- **Childhood ambition:** I always wanted to be a teacher, from my very first experiences in first grade.
- **Fondest memory:** the birth of each of my children
- **Favorite song:** "I Will Always Love You," Whitney Houston
- **Retreat:** Miles Christi silent retreats
- **Wildest Dream:** going off to do missionary work in the farthest reaches of the world
- **Proudest moment:** my daughter's graduation
- **Biggest challenge:** my children, and foster parenting
- **Perfect day:** a stormy day spent at home with a cup of hot tea and a good book
- **First job:** library clerk
- **Indulgence:** cheesecake, yum!
- **Last purchase:** groceries!
- **Favorite movie:** *The Lord of the Rings,* all of them
- **Inspiration:** St. Therese of Lisieux
- **Favorite meal:** grilled meat and sides
- **I'm comfortable wearing:** skirts
- **People who know me well would describe me as:** joyful
- **I admire:** St. John Paul II
- **My parents always told me:** Family is the greatest gift.
- **The most important things is:** Keep your sense of humor.
- **I wish I knew how to:** sew!
- **In my professional life, I enjoy:** pre-k children
- **I am happiest when:** going out with my husband
- **I laugh:** at the oddest things
- **As I get older:** I look forward to seeing the achievements of my children.
- **The book on my bedside table is:** *Every Day Is a Gift*
- **I came to Sacred Heart:** because this is where God led me

WORLD YOUTH DAY 2016:

Sara Sepanski, '02, *attended World Youth Day in Kraków, Poland, as a volunteer from the Archdiocese of Washington. Sara did her undergraduate and graduate work in Architecture at The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., and is employed as an architect in the Washington office of HKS, Inc.*

The origin of this pilgrimage was an unassuming mustard seed of sorts. After reading the book *Saint John Paul the Great* by Jason Evert in the fall of 2014, I not only had an even greater respect for Pope Saint John Paul II, but I felt a deep desire to visit Poland, which is JPII's homeland and also the Sepanski family's country of origin. My great-great-grandparents are from Kraków. In the spring of 2015, I heard that World Youth Day (WYD) would take place in Kraków, Poland, and I got goosebumps. Our God is a God of details—the fact that WYD would take place during the Holy Year of Mercy and be a return to the origins of the event, along with its founder, JPII, the first Polish pope, having brought Saint Faustina's message of Divine Mercy to the world, was not lost on me. It would be a homecoming on many levels.

While initially feeling my extended family and I should make the trip together, I soon realized that wouldn't be feasible and began to understand that I was being called to make this trip on behalf of my family. Fast forward a year later, and I'm at the John Paul II International Airport in Kraków, waiting to board my plane home after a crazy and phenomenal two weeks serving at WYD. Who do I see in front of me boarding an earlier flight to the U.S.? Jason Evert! God loves us and is working with us and for us. That reality became crystal clear in so many ways throughout my pilgrimage.

Because of my travel itinerary, I missed a trip to Kalwaria and the experience of outdoor Stations of the Cross, where JPII would go with his father growing up. Although volunteers arrived a week early for training, we had at least three full days and a morning or afternoon to fill as we wished. Another day trip, this one to Auschwitz, was afforded to volunteers during the week leading up to WYD, but I decided to forego the trip because I had had the very emotional trip of visiting the remains of concentration camps there during a trip to Germany in college. Instead, I set out to visit JPII's home and hometown of Wadowice. I also caught a bus to see the incredible Wieliczka Salt Mines. In Kraków, one of the oldest and most well preserved medieval cities in Europe, I walked through Old Town, visited St. Mary's Church, which is breathtakingly beautiful inside, took in Jagiellonian University, the Franciscan church, and the Archbishop's Palace. I learned that Kraków is often thought of as a second Rome because there is a church at almost every turn–around 100 total. I felt fortunate to experience the city before the

Volunteer Training Session

Sleeping Quarters for 400+

AN ALUMNA'S PERSPECTIVE

by Sara R. Sepanski, '02

millions of pilgrims arrived. Kraków has a very relaxed atmosphere, and its people are warm and engaging—I could see myself coming back again and again.

I was assigned to the "logistics" volunteer group, which meant that essentially we would be given a basic understanding of all the moving pieces of WYD—information, registration, transportation, and security—in addition to our general training for first aid, event security and on the role of a volunteer, and then we would be sent, in as large of groups as needed, to help smooth out any wrinkles or jams in those areas. I ended up joining a group of 80 others to help supplement security at all of the main events with the pope.

After agreeing to volunteer at a couple of secondary events on our one day off supplied during WYD week, a group of us gained the attention and heightened respect of the head of security, a devout Catholic with 15 years' experience in event security who was doing his WYD work as a volunteer, as well (reminded me of the dedication of parents and alumni at Sacred Heart!)—and surviving on just a few hours of sleep a night. Once he knew we weren't just posing as volunteers but had the true spirit of volunteers, he made sure our group was always positioned along the route the pope would travel during the main events. He also recognized my name as Polish, and, though I didn't speak Polish, which was a requirement of being a group leader, I guess he knew I'd get by with help from my Polish friends in the group, and I received a couple of promotions during the weeklong event—I ate humble pie every day and was grateful everyone was so gracious! At the end of a long day we'd get a call on our radio saying that we did a great job and were free to go, but, if any of us could stay, there was one more thing we could help with. About half of the group would always go home to sleep, but the rest of us would report for duty, only to find that there was no assignment for us and, instead, an opportunity to go behind-the-scenes or receive VIP access to a tower view, the relics of St. Faustina or the main event's stage and papal chair, for instance. We were known as a very hardworking, close-knit group by the end of the event and all had developed a great respect for each other and genuinely enjoyed working together.

As volunteers we were given voucher tickets for our meals. You could go outside our residence hall (in my case a sports arena outfitted with bunk beds) in a pinch and get a freshly grilled steak or Kielbasa Polaka (Polish Sausage) for a simple but satisfying meal. The tickets were also good in many of the local restaurants and inns. The larger restaurants would have huge buffets that would include a wide variety of Pierogi (stuffed dough pockets) stuffed with cheese, onion, potatoes, various meats, and even fruit; Gołąbyi (stuffed cabbage rolls); various potato dishes;

Grilling Sausage and Steaks

Popemobile

fresh vegetables; and varieties of coleslaw. Soups were also a staple in every restaurant and a nice complement to the heartier menu options.

I was not only impressed by the food and Old World charm of the architecture, but especially by how smoothly, safely and joyfully the millions of pilgrims filled the main venues for the events with the pope. I will never forget the sea of flags from over 180 countries and the sound of millions of voices raised together in a song of praise to God.

God's palpable love provided a spiritual warmth to the city and its environs. I couldn't have dreamed of the faith experience I had, and I would encourage everyone to consider making at least one pilgrimage, near or far, in one's lifetime. Don't ignore those mustard seeds! ■

Sanctuary of Devine Mercy

Sara SEPANSKI (right) and friend from the Republic of California

JPII's favorite dessert, kremowka

Lydia Springer Academic Advisor

Excited to be serving the Sacred Heart Catholic School community as Academic Advisor is **Lydia Walterscheid Springer, '86.** A 1991 *cum laude* graduate of the University of Dallas, earning a Bachelor of Arts in Political Philosophy, she went on to earn a Juris Doctor degree from Southern Methodist University School of Law in 1994. Mrs. Springer practiced law in federal court for eight years before happily returning to Muenster in 2003. Maintaining her own law practice since 2004, she continues to practice on a limited basis. Lydia and her husband, **Drew,** are the parents of **Austin, '12, Grant, '16,** and **Kate, '18.**

Commenting on her new role, she says, "I am thrilled to be working directly with the students. We are so very blessed as a school community, parish, and town to have the opportunity to send our kids to Sacred Heart Catholic School. I am impressed daily by the achievements, awards, or even the kind actions by and between our students, and can easily see why so many parents make the sacrifice and commitment to be a part of this School. It's amazing really, as numerous families commute an hour each way to attend, and they are enthusiastic about it. It reminds me that returning home to Sacred Heart in 2003 was the best decision we could have ever made for our family." ■

Knights of Columbus Council 1459 Good Neighbor Award 2016

Jaime Taylor

Grand Knight Chris FUHRMANN and Jaime TAYLOR

The Muenster Knights of Columbus Council 1459 honored Sacred Heart math teacher **Jaime Taylor** on Sunday, October 9, bestowing on her its 2016 Good Neighbor Award. Presented at the Knights' Good Neighbor & Awards Breakfast, held each year in observance of Columbus Day, the award honors someone of another faith in the ecumenical spirit of encouraging greater harmony among creeds. The award is presented to someone whose pursuit of excellence is exemplified by his or her love of God and love of his or her fellow men, whose generous contributions and extensive services to the community are performed in a gentle, quiet manner, shunning all publicity.

Introducing the honoree was **Sacred Heart Principal Beth Bartush.** Her words, which appeared in the breakfast program, describe a life that beautifully exemplifies a Good Neighbor:

LOVE THY NEIGHBOR

"Jaime Taylor grew up in a truly ecumenical household. Jaime's mother was raised in the Church of Christ while her father was and still is a Deacon in the Baptist Church. While growing up, Jaime's parents always placed a priority on their faith and the practice of their faith in day to day life. Jaime was a regular church attendee at First Baptist Church of Celina. During her high school years, Jaime started making service to others a way of life by joining the Fellowship of Christian Athletes at Celina High School.

"Jaime was part of mission trips to various places, including Oklahoma and Mississippi, where she assisted in the refurbishing of a church, conducted a sports camp, and assisted with a Vacation Bible School.

"Jaime was also rounding out her development and living her faith by serving others with active participation in the church choir. After high school and college, Jaime continued with a profession of service, working as an educator in the Celina Independent School District for nine years. While teaching in Celina, Jaime sponsored extracurricular activities with the students, doing such things as serving as a dance team sponsor. Her membership on the team was open to all, regardless of talent. Jaime led by example, and instilled teamwork, confidence and leadership skills with all the students involved.

"Jaime also sponsored the Celina Junior High Chapter of the National Beta Club. This service-oriented honor society became more than just a spot on the student's resume when Jaime noted that the local chapter did not have community service requirements and thus failed to live up to the organization's motto of 'Let us lead by serving others.' Jaime's implementation of a requirement of community service hours started innumerable students on the way to realizing and ultimately living the ideal that service to humanity is truly one of the greatest works of life and becoming one for others, we truly are following our Lord's command to 'love thy neighbor.'

"Jaime moved to Muenster just over a year ago and began teaching math at Sacred Heart Catholic School, earning the respect of not only the students but the parents and all of her other colleagues at Sacred Heart. Jaime serves others and exemplifies the faith-filled life by playing piano at weddings and even at Mass at Sacred Heart. All of this is done being a new mother and wife. The wonderful example one gives in serving others while still being a mother taking of her children and husband is strong witness of a faith-filled life."

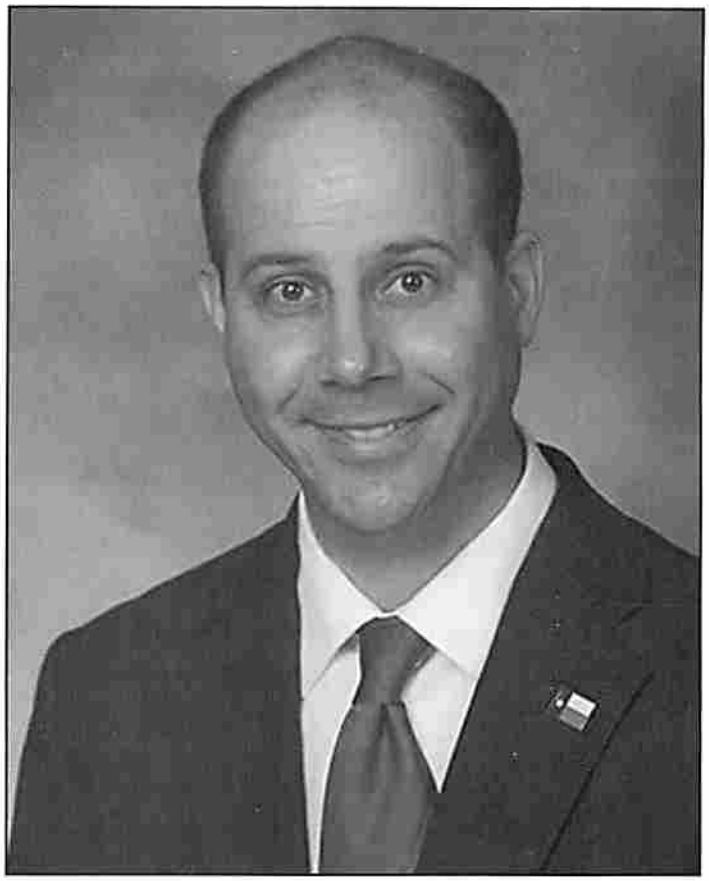
Jaime, the wife of fellow Sacred Heart teacher **Nicholas Taylor, '01,** and mother of their one-year old son, **Joseph, '33,** shares the following words: "I am very honored to have been chosen as this year's Knights of Columbus Good Neighbor Award recipient. I am so blessed to be a part of this community and I hope to be able to continue serving my neighbors in the years to come. Thank you to our Knights of Columbus for this honor and for all the amazing things you do in our school and community." ■

Please Be In Touch So We Can Stay In Touch

Please help keep *THE ALUMNI* mailing list current and complete. If you will be having a change of address, or if you have family or friends to place on the mailing list, please send that information to Lydia Walterscheid Springer, '86, who maintains the mailing list database. Contact Lydia at springer@ntin.net or 940-736-3357. Email addresses are also requested. Thank you!

NEW TEACHER

Delighted for the opportunity to be a faculty member at his alma mater this school year is **Nicholas Taylor, '01.** Homeroom teacher for Sixth Grade, Mr. Taylor teaches middle school Social Studies. You will also find him in high school teaching World Geography and U.S. History, along with serving as Dual Credit sponsor. Holding a bachelor's degree in Political Science, earned from Texas A&M University in 2005, Nicholas received a Master of Art in History from the University of North Texas in 2015. For the past ten years he taught history in the Celina ISD. In the summer of 2015, he and his wife, **Jaime Taylor,** and their infant **son, Joseph, '33,** relocated to Muenster from Denton. Mrs. Taylor had been teaching in the Celina ISD. Moving to Muenster enabled her to accept a position as math teacher at Sacred Heart last year, and the couple to both teach here this year.



Nicholas Taylor

- **Fondest memory:** my time in the Corps of Cadets at Texas A&M
- **Favorite soundtrack/album:** My musical taste varies. Sometimes I will listen to '90s Alternative Rock (Nirvana/Blink 182). Other times I will listen to Outlaw Country (Willie Nelson/Johnny Cash). I also like Texas Country (Randy Rogers/Chris Knight). When I really want to mix things up, I will listen to some Frank Sinatra or Michael Jackson.
- **Retreat:** riding my lawn tractor
- **Proudest moment:** successfully defending my master's thesis
- **Biggest challenge:** my "fish" year in the Corps of Cadets at Texas A&M
- **First job:** Bayer's Kolonialwaren
- **Last purchase:** My latest item on Amazon was diapers.
- **Favorite movie:** Some of my favorites include *Anchorman, Hotel Rwanda, The Last King of Scotland, Thirteen Days, A Beautiful Mind,* the *Matrix* trilogy, and the *Batman* trilogy.
- **Favorite meal:** I'm very partial to beef jerky. However, when that isn't available, pizza is always welcome.
- **When I was in high school:** I was a musical theatre star.
- **I wish I knew how to:** fluently speak a foreign language
- **In my professional life, I enjoy:** when I make History (considered by most to be boring) an exciting subject for students
- **As I get older:** I look forward to seeing the achievements of my children.
- **There is no such thing as:** a free lunch
- **The book on my bedside table is:** typically a history book
- **If I had to have another career, it would be:** tenured professor of History at a major university
- **I came to Sacred Heart:** Sacred Heart is part of the fabric of who I am. The teachers and education I received are the underpinnings that formed the person I am today. As the grandson of **Lorena (Fisher) Taylor,** a member of Sacred Heart's first graduating class in 1939, the school is a part of my family history. I am proud to be back and be a part of Sacred Heart Catholic School.

WELCOME BACK!

The school year gets off to a wonderful start with the Welcome Back Social and Lunch held on Sunday, August 14, in the Community Center. Approximately 500 people are on hand for the festivities, all enjoying sharing a meal with one another, meeting and greeting new teachers and families, viewing an informative and entertaining slide show, and hearing words from **Father Ken** and **Principal Beth Bartush.**

A celebration of who we are as a Christian family, the event is sponsored by Sacred Heart Parish, Sacred Heart Sustentation Fund, Sacred Heart Alumni& Supporters, the Knights of Columbus, and the Catholic Daughters. With everyone looking forward to attending the event again next year, many thanks go to all who contributed to making it such a special occasion.

YAY! THE BISHOP IS HERE

August 26 brings the first football game of the season, at home against the Collinsville Pirates, and the **Tigers** and their fans are graced to have as their guest **Bishop Michael Olson.** The evening takes on a special air, with Bishop Olson graciously giving the pregame prayer and doing the honor of performing the coin toss. As the game ensues, the young Tiger team controls the air attack while the Pirates keep their battle on the ground. Fans find themselves at the edge of their seats, as what starts as a low-scoring game ends with an exciting fourth quarter.

With the Pirates up 20-13, the clock winding down, and the Tigers facing a 4th and 18, a **Sam Hesse** to **Markus Shaw** completion moves the ball to the 5-yard line. The clock down to 27 seconds, Sam connects with **Wyatt West** for a touchdown! The Tigers go for two, with Sam weaving across the field, evading Pirates in hot pursuit. Before he's brought down, he fires off a pass to **Roy Endres** in the end zone. It's a clutch catch, and the Tigers appear to snare a thrilling 21-20 victory! Discussion among the officials, however, eventually leads to the Tigers being tagged with a holding charge. Although the second conversion attempt fails, leaving the Tigers one point short, the evening provides a load of excitement and a great show of heart by the 2016 Tigers.

MOTHER TERESA ARTFULLY DONE

In honor of the canonization of Mother Teresa of Calcutta on September 4, **Martha Sicking's Sixth Grade Art Class** creates a portrait of the Church's newest saint. Each student is given a different one-inch square and tasked with using a black Sharpie to recreate the lines and spaces as accurately as possible onto a seven-inch square. The class does not know who or what the entire work is about until all the squares are put together, creating the portrait. **Mrs. Sicking's Studio Art Class** undertakes a similar project. Theirs is a more complex black and white photo of Mother Teresa, with the high school students using graphite pencils for their work.

Sixth Grade Art Glass

Studio Art Class

LEARNING IS FUN!

Laine Wolf's Fifth Graders have fun learning. In September they use the scientific method to determine which diaper brand holds the most liquid. Testing Pampers, Huggies, and Luvs, each group has a student tester sit under the diaper as eight ounces of liquid are poured into it. The students find Pampers to be the clear winner, holding nine-to-ten eight-ounce cups of liquid. "Talk about a saggy diaper!" exclaims Mrs. Wolf. "I heard a couple of the kids say, 'When I'm a parent, I'm buying Pampers!' I had to advise them to not let the diaper ever get to that point!"

Later in the month the students learn outside the classroom. After Mass the class takes a quick walk to City Hall, where they meet with the mayor of Muenster and other city officials. The students have an interesting session learning about how Muenster is run and how it compares to the way they run their own class town, Wolf City. The young class town officials are most appreciative for the opportunity to meet with their real-life counterparts. After the meeting, the class heads over for a tour of the Muenster Library. There the students learn how to search for books and information and then locate it. They also enjoy getting to spend some time reading.

SUBIACO RETREATANTS

Eighth Grade boys attend a Vocation Retreat at the Coury House Retreat Center in Subiaco, Arkansas, the weekend of September 23–26. The boys join the monks in attending daily Mass and prayer, including the Office of Readings, morning and noon prayer, and Vespers in the evening. They also enjoy learning the history of how Subiaco Abbey came to be located in Arkansas and hearing Brother Francis and novice Zachary tell their vocation stories. Another highlight of the weekend is a tour of the Abbey. The boys get to see the sawmill, a hay barn dating back to 1904, the garden, Abbey museum, weight room, art room, wood working shop, and the cemetery and columbarium. They also enjoy the opportunity to climb up to Saint Peter's Chair, affording them a miles-long view of the beautiful Arkansas scenery, and to visit the Abbey Gift Shop, where they purchase the popular red habanero and green habanero Monk Sauce and famous Abbey Brittle. After Monday Morning Prayer at 5:45, Mass, and breakfast, the boys bid a fond farewell to Subiaco Abbey and to Brother Francis, thankful to him and all the monks who made the weekend so memorable

SOROPTIMIST GIRL

Brooke Devers is one of four area high school seniors honored for their excellence at the September meeting of the Soroptimist Club of Gainesville. Selected by their schools for the Soroptimist Girl of the Month Award, Brooke and the other three young women are now eligible to receive a scholarship provided by the club at the end of the school year.

Brooke DEVERS (far right) with fellow Soroptimist Girls

PARTNERING WITH CATHOLIC CHARITIES

Debi Bolton of Catholic Charites visits Sacred Heart School, the organization embarking with the School in a partnership to end poverty one family at a time. During her visit with the **Montessori Pre-K and Kindergarten classes,** the students hear a story about a young refugee girl, her family forced by persecution for their faith and ethnicity to flee their home. After a scary journey, they wind up in Texas. Arriving with nothing, Catholic Charities is able to welcome the family to a new and safe home in the Diocese and provide them with basic necessities.

The students learn how Mary and Joseph had to flee with Jesus for his safety when he was a baby, and were reminded how God wants us to love and care for others in need. To help Catholic Charities provide staples for refuge families and other families whose dire circumstances have caused them to fall into poverty, the students bring to school bags of beans and rice wrapped in swaddling clothes, in the amount they weighed at birth.

John FISHER with "Rice Baby"

Kindergartners with "Rice Babies"

MASS COLLECTIONS

Friday morning Mass Mission Collections during August and September total $1,602.30 for Sacred Heart Parish Outreach. First Friday Food Collections replenish the Outreach Food Pantry.

HOLY ANGELS RETREATANTS

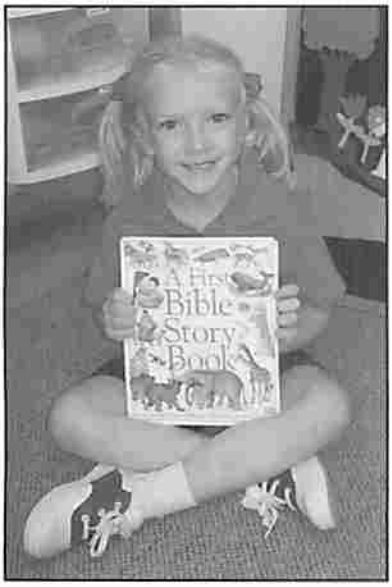
Eighth Grade girls attend the annual Come and See Discernment Retreat at Holy Angels Convent in Jonesboro, Arkansas. Spending the weekend in daily prayers with the Sisters, the girls join with them for morning prayer, evening prayer, and night prayer, in addition to daily Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Mass, recitation of the rosary while hiking the grounds, and the opportunity for the sacrament of Reconciliation. The Olivetan Benedictine Sisters also share with the girls the inspiring stories of their call to religious life. Sunday finds the group playing croquet with the Sisters in the afternoon and helping to prepare sandwiches for supper. The evening ends with s'mores over the fire pit and listening to Catholic/Christian music around the fire. The weekend also includes touring the convent, hiking its beautiful grounds aglow with the warm colors of autumn, shopping the convent gift shop under the direction of **Sister Roman Rohmer, O.S.B., '48,** and enjoying evenings with the Sisters in the recreation room.

DUKE TIP QUALIFIERS

Having taken the Iowa Test for Basic Skills in September, 41 percent of the seventh grade class qualifies to participate in the 2016-17 Duke University Talent Identification Program (TIP) 7th Grade Talent Search. **Emma Bayer, Ruth Eddleman, Emily Flusche, Max Ganzon, Teresa Jolly, Joie Kintz,** and **Ryenne Reiter** each qualify by scoring at or above the 95th percentile on an accepted subtest or the total battery/composite of the nationally standardized achievement test. Qualifiers choosing to participate in the TIP Talent Search will take the ACT or SAT college entrance exam between December and the middle of February. Those who receive an outstanding score on the exam will be honored as Duke Scholars at a special state recognition ceremony next spring. The Duke TIP helps academically talented students reach their full potential by providing an above-level testing experience, access to advanced educational programs, educational guidance, resources, and special recognition of their accomplishments.

TIP Qualifiers, front: Max GANZON, Ryenne REITER, Ruth EDDLEMAN, Teresa JOLLY; back: Emma BAYER, Joie KINTZ, and Emily FLUSCHE

GOD'S BEAUTIFUL WORLD



RUTH HESSE

Montessori Kindergarteners join with Kindergarteners from MISD for the Keep Muenster Beautiful (KMB) Wildflower Stomp. Scattering Bluebonnet and Indian Paint Brush seeds and "stomping" them into the ground, the students help KMB plant wildflowers in a plot in the walking trails addition to the Muenster City Park.

Before making the field trip, the Montessori Kindergarteners are presented the Creation Story. The children learn that God created everything from nothing. They understand that God put us in charge of taking care of all He created, and He gave us seeds so we could help in continuing to make our world beautiful. Happy to know they will be making our City Park more beautiful, they look forward to spring, when, they learned, the Bluebonnets and Paint Brush will bloom.

FIRE STATION VISIT

Montessori Pre-K and Kindergarten students observe Fire Prevention Week with a trip to the Muenster Fire Station. They learn how our friendly firefighters look in full gear and that they should be trusted in an emergency. And of course, as every year, each one loves getting to spray the firehose and bring home a red fire hat.

HOMECOMING WEEK

The week leading up to Homecoming is filled with fun activities. With "Superheroes" the theme of the high school hallway decorations, Monday is celebrated with College/Sorority/Frat Day and a Cornhole Tournament. Tuesday is Superhero Day and Crazy Hat Day. On Wednesday comes Western & Farmer Day and Crazy Sock Day, followed by the exciting Blackout Pep Rally in the gym that night. Thursday, featuring dress attire and the Queen's Court luncheon, **Bishop Michael Olson** celebrates morning Mass and visits the School. Friday finds everyone dressed for Extreme Spirit Day, looking forward to the exciting night ahead.

Queen's Court, L-R: Princess Angela VILLA, Hunter HENNIGAN, Princess Stephanie KOESLER, Braden GEIS, Princess Sophia JONES, Julian HESSE, candidate Alane BARTUSH, Markus SHAW, candidate Leah KNABE, Tyler WALERSCHEID, candidate Katy BEZNER, Mark DAVIS, candidate Rylee REITER, and Wyatt WEST

Devin SICKING, Tyler WALTER-SCHEID, Bishop Michael OLSON, Wyatt WEST, and Mark DAVIS

NEW TEACHER

Sacred Heart's Sixth Grade teacher from 1996–2001, **Bernadette Moritz** returns this year to serve as Seventh Grade Homeroom teacher, teaching middle school English and Science. As many may recall, this Denison native is the sister of former Sacred Heart teacher and youth minster **Eric Grey.** Residing in Gainesville, she and her husband, **Ken,** are the parents of **Zachary, '10,** and **Anna, '20.**

A graduate of the University of Dallas, she holds a B.A. in Elementary Education, with a specialization in History, and teaching certification in all subjects, 1–8. In her 24 years of teaching, Mrs. Moritz has taught at St. Mary's in Sherman, St. Mary's in Gainesville, Walnut Bend, Sacred Heart, and for the last ten years in Ponder. In returning here, she says, "There were a whole lot of things that came into play, "but the deciding factor was that I wanted Anna here for high school. My coming here this year meant it would be easier to do that."

Glad that everything worked out, she shares, "It's been good! I like our being able to drop everything and pray when something calls for it. I like that we can go to church and that we collect money to help local people in need, whether we know who they are or not—it might even be one of their classmates. It's an excellent example of what community is and how community is supposed to work."

Bernadette Moritz

- **Childhood ambition:** be a lawyer
- **Favorite soundtrack/album:** *Nutcracker Suite*
- **Retreat:** silent one
- **Wildest dream:** visit Egypt
- **Biggest challenge:** being a mom
- **Perfect day:** spent on the beach
- **First job:** delivering newspapers
- **Indulgence:** chocolate/red wine
- **Last purchase:** gasoline
- **Inspiration:** the saints
- **Favorite meal:** anything someone else plans, cooks, and cleans up
- **I'm comfortable wearing:** jeans
- **I admire:** Mother Teresa and mothers
- **The most important thing is:** Let God make the decisions.
- **I wish I knew how to:** sail a boat; shoot a gun
- **In my professional life, I enjoy:** my students
- **I would advise my students:** learn how to learn, rely on God first, listen
- **As I get older:** I *am* older.
- **Most people:** are awesome
- **There is no such thing as:** too late
- **If I had to have another career, it would be:** a missionary
- **I came to Sacred Heart:** God told me to.

NEW TEACHER

God is full of surprises. **John Nasche, '86,** back at Sacred Heart, now teaching middle school Math, sixth grade Computer Science, and driving the bus, will most certainly attest to that. "I've always wanted to come back," he says. "I've prayed for this School every day of my life, just as I have for the other Catholic schools I've been involved with. My prayer is 'Dear God, please help Sacred Heart grow and prosper academically, economically, athletically, and enrollment wise, and the town, staff, students, and administrators attitude wise. Amen.'" The surprise for John was God's timing, as he fully expected to be teaching and coaching in San Antonio this year, where his wife, Veronica, had accepted a terrific job offer. With an impressive resumé, he had every reason to assume his expectation would be met.

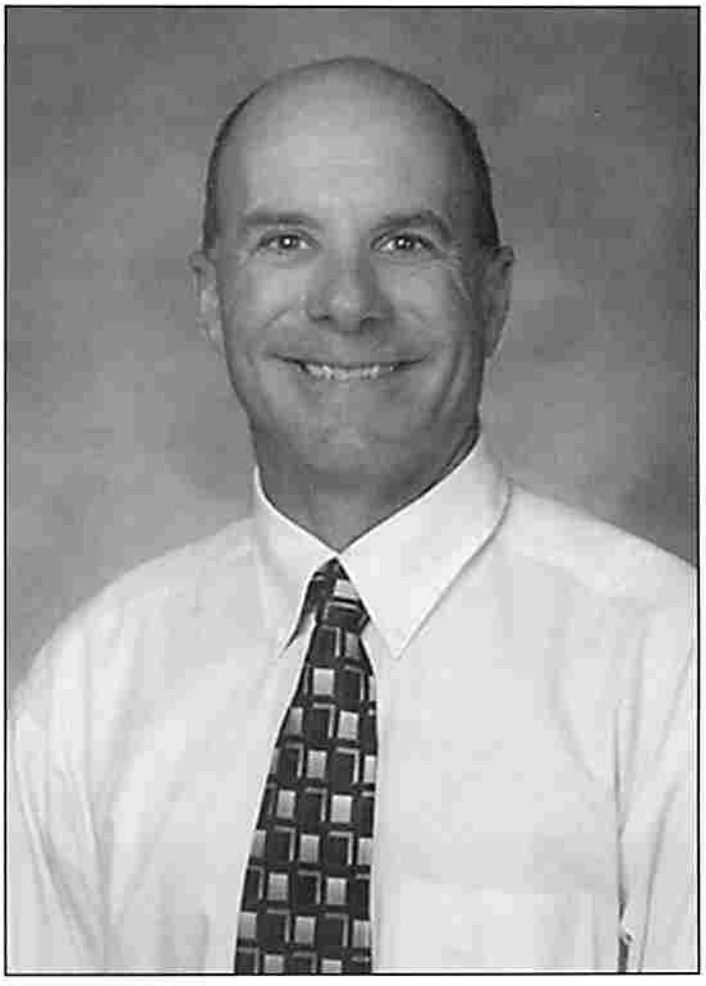
Earning a bachelor's degree in Health, Physical Education & Recreation, with a minor in Computer Science, from Benedictine College in Atchison, Kansas, in 1990, John returned to his alma mater that fall as head coach of all boys' sports, and served here for eight years. His career track next took him to Bishop Thomas K. Gorman Catholic School in Tyler. During his tenure there he served as dean of discipline, head football and track coach, coached middle school basketball, taught junior theology, health, sixth grade PE, taught freshman theology one year, was head powerlifting coach, and helped with middle school track.

When Coach Nasche resigned in 2007 to be a stay-at-home dad after the birth of his son, **John Louis, '25,** and later worked as ranch manager for his brother's ranch, his coaching career boasted seven state championships, five state runner-up titles, and 15 state championships as assistant coach. Sacred Heart fans, of course, excitedly recall the School's 1994 state football title, along with the string of state track titles, during his tenure here.

Oddly, even with his strong résumé, Coach Nasche was not called in for a single interview in the greater San Antonio area. Sacred Heart, however, was most blessed to have him arrive as the providential answer to a pressing need. Although Coach Nasche and John Louis living in Muenster and Veronica in San Antonio is not an ideal situation for the family, they are grateful for the regular visits their schedules will allow.

About being back at his alma mater, Coach Nasche remarks, "It's great! And challenging because of bus driving. Thank heavens I have family here. I'm thrilled to be back. The kids are awesome! They say thank you all the time. This is a great place!"

John Nasche



- **Childhood ambition:** to play athletics
- **Fondest memory:** My mother, who helped me when I had a severe asthma attack as a freshman in high school. She really saved my life. I was in so much pain and couldn't breathe and my back ached from leaning over, and she massaged my back in the hospital and it literally saved my life. The doctors told us I would only have 60 –70% lung efficiency for the rest of my life. God knows I fully recovered.
- **Favorite soundtrack/album:** I love so many different types of music it is too hard to single one out.

- **Retreat:** Antioch retreat as a high school student, ACTS retreat as an adult
- **Wildest dream:** to work for Donald Trump; be a professional power lifter
- **Proudest moment:** marrying my loving wife, Veronica, and the birth of our son, John Louis
- **Biggest challenge:** as of now, living here without my wife and driving the bus route 180 miles daily
- **Perfect day:** spending time with the family
- **First job:** besides working on the farm or ranch as a child, would be the Dairy Inn
- **My parents always told me:** Do your best, never quit, stop complaining.
- **When I was in high school:** I wish I could return and play sports all over again because I am more mentally tough now than I was when I was in high school.
- **The most important thing is:** to love, get right with God, accept Jesus, and do everything we can to make things better here on Earth
- **I wish I knew how to:** speak another language fluently
- **My worst habit is:** tobacco use
- **In my professional life, I enjoy:** seeing students excel, win, or learn something new
- **I am happiest when:** I am with my family.
- **I would advise my students:** to work hard, believe in themselves, pray daily, and have a positive attitude, especially in times of loss or failure
- **Indulgence:** staying fit
- **Last purchase:** groceries
- **Favorite movie:** *It's a Wonderful Life!*
- **Inspiration:** Padre Pio, Chad Hennings, Rudy, my dad
- **Favorite meal:** anything my loving wife cooks
- **I'm comfortable wearing:** pink, believe it or not
- **People who know me well would describe me as:** a healthy hard worker who is fair
- **I admire:** all things Catholic
- **I laugh when:** I try to laugh a lot. It's healthy, you know.
- **As I get older:** I have learned to be wiser in how I deal with people or the media.
- **Most people:** like me
- **There is no such thing as:** a perfect person, except for Jesus
- **The book on my bedside table is:** changes at times—the Bible, *Sports Illustrated, Men's Health*
- **If I had to have another career, it would be:** as a Catholic priest
- **I came to Sacred Heart:** I always wanted to come back to Sacred Heart. Didn't sell our house, couldn't get a teaching and coaching job in San Antonio. Things went bad for me for a while, only to open the door to come back to Sacred Heart. It's obvious now that God wanted this to work out.

2016 - MISSION STATEMENT - 2016

SACRED HEART CATHOLIC SCHOOL IS A COMMUNITY IN WHICH ALL MEMBERS, (PARENTS, TEACHERS, STUDENTS AND CLERGY) ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY FOR LIVING AND IMPARTING A LIFE OF FAITH, SERVICE AND INTEGRITY. OUR MISSION IS TO CREATE FAITHFUL SERVANTS OF THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS WHO WILL SERVE AS SPIRITUAL, MORAL AND INTELLECTUAL LEADERS IN OUR COMMUNITY AND THE WIDER WORLD.

Notice of Resignation

As Ecclesiastes 3:1 counsels, "There is an appointed time for everything, and a time for every affair under the heavens." And so it is. It was at the beginning of the 2003–2004 school year that then principal Jon LeBrasseur asked Bob and me to take over production of THE ALUMNI. Being able to carry out this ministry the past 13+ years has certainly presented challenges, but in every instance they have been opportunities God has used to say "Trust in me" and to be glorified. Over and over He has shown that if He wants you to do something, through His grace you will get it done.

Another real blessing has been the opportunity to talk with and witness so many good people generously and selflessly doing so many good things. Year after year, it has been a true joy to share the good news about our alumni, supporters, teachers, and students. So often I am called to give praise and thanks to God for our forefathers and all the dear people who continue to do so much to keep alive the mission of Sacred Heart Catholic School.

As Bob and I felt God call us to undertake this endeavor, we now find He has opened the door for us to move on to other matters, some that have long been waiting. With the Fall issue of *THE ALUMNI* now out the door, **Leslie Hess Eddleman, '86,** having graciously and enthusiastically volunteered, takes over production of the magazine.

Thank you for all the good news you've shared over the years. We ask that everyone continue to do so, assisting Leslie by readily sending in your news. You will find her contact information under the heading "What's Happening?" on page 8.

With kindest regards,

Linda Rohmer Sepanski, '68

Then: Circa 2003 Now: Circa 2016
Bob & Linda Sepanski

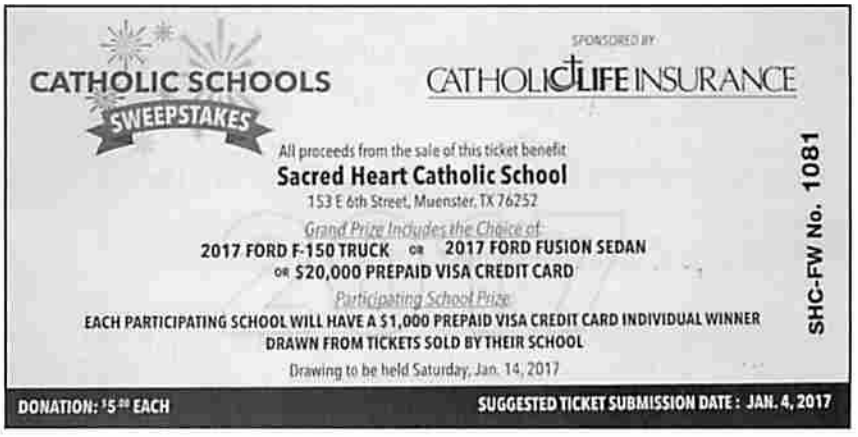
GET YOUR TICKETS NOW!

Don't miss the chance to enter the **Catholic Life Insurance Sweepstakes.** You could be the **Grand Prize winner,** choosing between **a 2017 Ford F-150,** a **2017 Ford Fusion,** or a **$20,000 Prepaid VISA Credit Card.**

In addition, **each of the 60 participating Catholic schools will have a $1,000 Prepaid VISA Credit Card winner** drawn from tickets sold by their school. Sacred Heart's $1,000 winner could be you!

This year's contest marks the fifth year Sacred Heart is participating in the program, which over the past eight years has helped participating Catholic schools in the state of Texas raise more than $6.1 million benefitting Catholic education. With Catholic Life getting no money from the program, 100% of the funds raised go directly and immediately to the schools.

Winners will be drawn on Saturday, **January 14, 2017,** at the Catholic Life Insurance Home Office in San Antonio. Tickets are **$5.00** each and can be purchased until **December 30** from **any Sacred Heart student.** They can also be obtained from **Cindy Schilling Koesler, '92,** at Muenster State Bank, or by calling her at **940-736-5730,** or by calling the **School** at **940-759-2511.** Remember, **every penny we raise benefits Sacred Heart Catholic School.**



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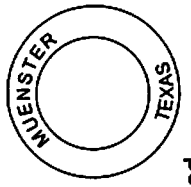

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Mark Your Calendar!

Friday, **November 4 – Tigers host Fort Worth Calvary** – 7:30 p.m.

Monday, **November 14 – Elementary School Veterans Day Program** – VFW Hall – 7:00 p.m. Come enjoy this beautiful and moving tribute to our veterans.

Wednesday, **November 16 – Alumni & Supporters Meeting** – Jaycees Meeting Room – 7:30 p.m. Stay involved!

Saturday, **December 3 – TAPPS Division III Football State Championship** – Panther Stadium, Hewitt, TX – 12:00 Noon. Go, Tigers!

Thursday, **December 8 – Feast Day of the Immaculate Conception** – 127th Anniversary of Muenster's founding and celebration of its first Mass.

Saturday, **December 10 – Texas BEST Regional Robotics Championship** – Dr Pepper Arena, Frisco – 8:45 a.m. All the way, Machinators!

Thursday, **December 15 – SHCS Christmas Concert** – Sacred Heart Church – 6:30 p.m. Be filled with the true joy of Christmas!

Wednesday, **December 21 – Alumni & Supporters Meeting** – Jaycees Meeting Room – 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday–Friday, **December 28-30 – NCTC Holiday Classic.** Go, Red!

Wednesday, **January 18 – Alumni & Supporters Meeting** – Jaycees Meeting Room – 7:30 p.m.

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