

December 2020

**SACRED HEART SCHOOL**

# *From The Heart*



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### From the President's Desk

Well, this has certainly been an interesting few months, hasn't it? While we are living in unprecedented times, Sacred Heart School has continued to move forward valiantly. I am so proud of our faculty, staff, parents, and especially our students!

With only one day's warning last spring, Sacred Heart School pivoted from a traditional educational instruction model to virtual learning via distance education. I am firmly convinced that this was only possible because we were open to where the Holy Spirit was guiding us as a community of faith.

To fully grasp the monumental challenge and success, here are a few statistics:

- March 17 was the last day of traditional classroom learning. Ms. McMullin taught her classes effectively in a remote format on March 18. The rest of the faculty was quick to follow.
- SHS maintained a 97.5% student attendance rate during distance learning in the fourth quarter.
- Well over 300 academic zoom sessions were held weekly. Even our specials classes continued through the distance learning process.
- Students in grades 6-12 averaged 20 hours a week of direct faculty instruction. Students in grades K-5 averaged approximately 10 hours a week of faculty instruction accompanied by intricate daily lesson plans, recorded lessons, and zoom tutoring sessions.
- Best of all, for the most part, core courses at each grade level ended the year on schedule from a curriculum standpoint.

As of this writing we are still offering in-person education, and we continue to pray each day that this will continue. Our enrollment is up by 7% over last year, and we added two sections of both kindergarten and first grade.

While we will never be free of financial challenges, we are very happy to report that we ended the 2019-2020 school year in the black, and we are on pace to make this year's Sacred Heart Foundation Annual Fund Drive our most successful ever.

We have so much to be thankful for, and I can honestly say that, through everything we have experienced in the past few months, I have never been more proud to be a Gremlin! Again, we give praise and thanksgiving to our triune God for the willingness of this school community to do whatever is deemed necessary to ensure an Extraordinary Catholic Education, through Christ, For All continues to be a reality in West Central Missouri.

In His Service,

Dr. Mark Register  
President  
Sacred Heart School Class of 1975



Who would have guessed that God's plan for 2020 would involve our navigating through a global pandemic? Parish life certainly has had its adjustments, but rest assured, Jesus is very much awake and present, getting us through this time of uncertainty. Satan loves division and chaos. We refuse to allow this to happen! We celebrate our team of students, parents, faculty, staff, administration, and parishioners who continue to pull and push together through this storm. In the end, God wins; Satan loses. Let's continue to allow the Holy Spirit to work through us to carry out His mission within our parish and school. We encourage you to stay in touch and involved in parish life by visiting us online at [svdpparish.diojeffcity.org](http://svdpparish.diojeffcity.org) or on Facebook at [facebook.com/StVincentdePaulCatholicParish](https://facebook.com/StVincentdePaulCatholicParish).

Please review the timeline and celebrate some key milestones we have accomplished together this past year. And, as we look confidently toward the future, we continue to keep our sights set on God ... and our Strategic Growth Plan! Check out the latest updates on the pages to follow.

As always, thank you for your continued support and prayers and know of our prayers for you.

In Christ,

Fr. Joe Corel and Fr. Dave Veit



### Sacred Heart School and Sacred Heart Foundation

Contact us:  
416 W. 3rd St.  
Sedalia, MO 65301  
(660) 827-3800  
[www.gogremlins.com](http://www.gogremlins.com)

### Sacred Heart School Administration

Fr. Joseph Corel  
Pastor in Solidum

Fr. David Veit  
Pastor in Solidum

Abby Martin  
Principal

Dr. Mark Register  
President

Sam Jones  
Dean of Students

### Sacred Heart School Foundation Members

Kyle Herrick '82, President  
Paul Beykirch '73, Vice President

Steve Ellebracht  
Joe Fischer  
Jorge Guevara '03

Virgil McDonald  
Dr. Mark Register '75  
Stephani Marshall-Rice

Beverly Rollings  
Susie Thompson  
Bill Turner

### Development Director

Liz Suter-Van Leer

### Contributors

Beverly Rollings  
Marcia Turner  
John Herring '62

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Sacred Heart School  
Yearbook Committee  
Photography

### Special Thanks to



Marlo (Boots) Siron '91  
Photography

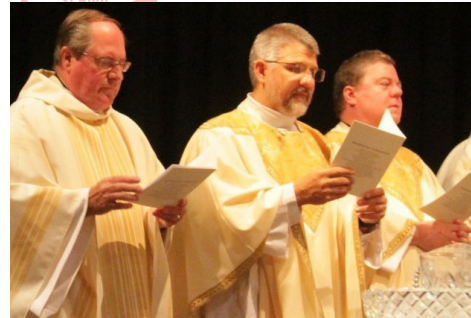


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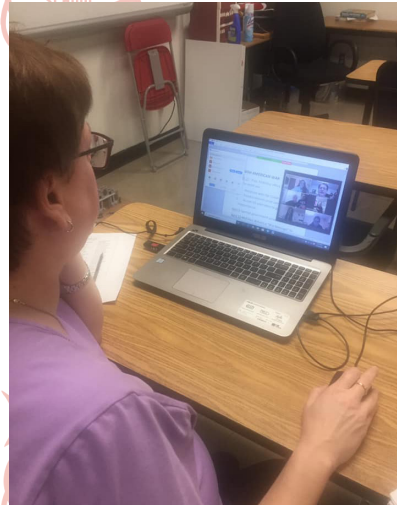
# St. Vincent de Paul Updates

Dr. Register and the two pastors go to Wichita to visit associate superintendent, and two high schools to learn more about the tithing and steward's way of life model.



Pettis County Ministerial Alliance, including St. Vincent de Paul begins a mental health and addictions affinity group for United Way.

Due to COVID-19, the last day of in-person classes at Sacred Heart School. Online remote learning begins March 17 and continues for the rest of the academic year.



Masses are offered as RCIA, and RCIC members join the church.



Parishioners receive three letters from the pastors explaining the financial reality of the parish and offering a paradigm shift from transactional giving (paying for goods and services rendered) to stewardship's way of life.



Pastors roll out "Armor of Discipleship." SHS students in grade 1-12 receive a religious article to help strengthen their spiritual life.

SVPD hosts NET retreat.

Confirmation and PSR classes begin. Incorporate group service work at Open Door Kitchen.

Launch of new user-friendly parish website.

December 2019      January 2020      February 2020      March 2020      April 2020      May 2020      June 2020      July 2020      August 2020      September 2020      October 2020

December Fr. Chris Aubuchon preaches on vocations. St. Vincent de Paul hosts Vocation Awareness week December 10-13.

In-service training held for lectors, ushers, greeters, and sacristans.



Sister Mary Ruth Wand, SSND, joins SVDP to organize and oversee visits to the homebound, nursing home residents, and those in the hospital. Renovations were made to the St. Patrick rectory for her residency.

SVDP hosts "Called by Name." Parishioners are invited to discern and submit names of parishioners they'd recommend for consideration to religious life.



Parish property located on the corner of Third and Moniteau is converted into the SVDP Business Office, which serves as the offices for the parish's Director of Finance, Database Secretary, and Sacred Heart School and Foundation Development Director.







### 10th Annual Sacred Heart Golf Classic sponsored by Bryant Motors

Sunshine and cooler temperatures welcomed 29 teams out to the Sedalia Country Club for the 10th Annual SHS Golf Classic. Gremlin alumni and fans traveling from as far away as Pensacola Beach, Florida, and Scottsdale, Arizona, turned up to be a part of the fun.

Thank you to Charles Tippie '88, Angela McMullin (husband, Matt '01), and our many volunteers, players and sponsors for helping us raise over \$20,000 -- our most successful yet!

### Congratulations to this year's winners!

#### "A" Flight

Kent Burkholder / Cliff Callis / Jim Van Horn	59	Tie 1st
Kyle Herrick '82 / Dennis Paul / John Swearingen	59	Tie 1st
Chuck Kempton / Sean Paul '04 / Jaron Lucchesi '08	60	3rd

#### "B" Flight

Todd Hudson / Candi Hudson / Travis Hagedorn	68	Tie 1st
John Kelley / Lisa Kelley '80 / Tom Jennewein	68	Tie 1st
Ben Catlett / Caleb Sousley / Logan Kirchoff	69	3rd

#### "C" Flight

JR Volcko / Chris Martin '93 / Mark Koechner	73	Tie 1st
Mike Ashford / Todd Holman / Darrin Goodson	73	Tie 1st
David Fall '78 / Davey Fall '05 / David Lamb '78	75	3rd

### 2020 Sacred Heart Golf Classic Sponsors

#### Lead Sponsors

Bryant Motors - Tournament Title Sponsor  
 Wes-MO Auto  
 McDonald's  
 County Distributing  
 Winchester Storage  
 GRAM Engineering & Design  
 Dugan's Paint & Flooring Center  
 McColester Construction  
 Robert Taylor Crop Insurance  
 IBT Industrial Solutions  
 Guesa USA (AFC/Steak n' Shake/Dairy Queen)  
 Tyson Foods Inc

#### Hole and Cart Path Sponsors

Kehde's Barbeque / Chelsea's Antiques  
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 Jackson Relocation Services  
 Central Bank of MO  
 Colton's Restaurant  
 Little Box Signs  
 Rick Ball Ford Lincoln Sedalia  
 Avalon Renewables Group  
 S&S Pipeline  
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 Culligan of West Central MO  
 WK Chevrolet Buick GMC Cadillac  
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 Advance Building Supply  
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 Stanley Black & Decker  
 Landmann Title  
 RAC-JAC Properties / 10th & Thompson Car Wash

Sedalia Aesthetics  
 The Missouri Bank  
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 Paul & Amanda Blackburn  
 Emery Sapp & Sons  
 ReSolutions Custom Technical Services  
 Gabe Hesse  
 State Fair Moving & Storage  
 Riki Harding, Feet for Life  
 Jim & Mary Ellen Davis  
 Kathy Emory  
 Tom Van Leer, Edward Jones Financial  
 Virgil McDonald, Edward Jones Financial  
 Premier Realty Group  
 Dick's Honda Kawasaki  
 Jim's Tire Service  
 Billie Barnes, Remax of Sedalia



Photo Credits - Carla Lucchesi



Photo Credits - City Images



Please save the date for next year's event. We hope to bring back the Family Fun portion of the event in 2021. Plan on **MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2021** at the beautiful Sedalia Country Club course. We look forward to seeing you there!



# SHS Enhances Fine Arts with the Barbara Lamy Cooney Piano Lab

Sacred Heart is continuing its advancements in music arts and education with the installation of the Barbara Lamy Cooney Piano Lab. This innovative piano lab, made possible by a grant from the Cooney Family Foundation, allows students the opportunity to practice and improve their piano skills at their own pace while still being in a group setting.

The piano lab, which debuted in September 2020, features 17 digital pianos, each equipped with speakers, bench seating, and interactive headphones. Instructions, which are integrated into the K-12 music curriculum, are led by Mr. Darrin Hartman, SHS music director. Using a modern master control unit, Hartman is able to monitor a student's progress and communicate with the student without leaving their desk. Audio routing can also be adjusted from individual learning to group lessons. Since nearly every sound is routed through the headphones, a virtually silent classroom is created with no soundproofing required for the room.

"Studies show that music and the arts strengthen cognitive learning," said Hartman. "The addition of the piano lab presents the arts to our scholars through a different and novel approach."

Hartman added that learning the basics of the piano helps in the progression of all other forms of music such as vocals and band. While a piano lab has been a dream of his for several years, Hartman says its importance couldn't be more timely and relevant given recent health and safety recommendations concerning singing and face coverings.

"We can assure our scholars another avenue to enjoy music in the middle of a pandemic thanks to the generosity of the Cooney Family Foundation," said Hartman.

The Cooney Family Foundation was established in 2016 by Jim and Barbara Cooney, who are longtime leaders in the Sedalia community, lifelong members of St. Vincent de Paul Parish, and graduates of Sacred Heart School -- Jim in 1946 and Barbara in 1954. The mission of the Cooney Family Foundation is to support and promote quality education, arts, and community programming. Reflecting on the Cooney family's Catholic faith and passion for lifelong learning and the arts, special consideration is given to charitable and educational organizations that help individuals become the best versions of themselves.

"I attended Sacred Heart School from the beginning (grade 1-12)," said Jim. "Those years enabled me to receive excellent classic education and form strong spiritual values. I wouldn't trade those opportunities. Catholic school was a strong formation for me."

Jim said he's excited to bring to life a program that can be used by scholars throughout all grades. The piano lab is named in honor of Barbara, a champion for arts education in the community, who passed away in 2019. "Giving back to Sacred Heart is important to Barbara and me," said Jim. "She would be happy."

"Jim and Barbara are the examples of stewards we strive to be: giving of their own gifts and talents so that others may grow in the gifts and talents the Lord has given to them," said Fr. Joe Corel, pastor, St. Vincent De Paul. "God has given many the gift of music. Now, we can

continue to foster those gifts thanks to the gift of the piano lab from the Cooneys. We are most grateful."

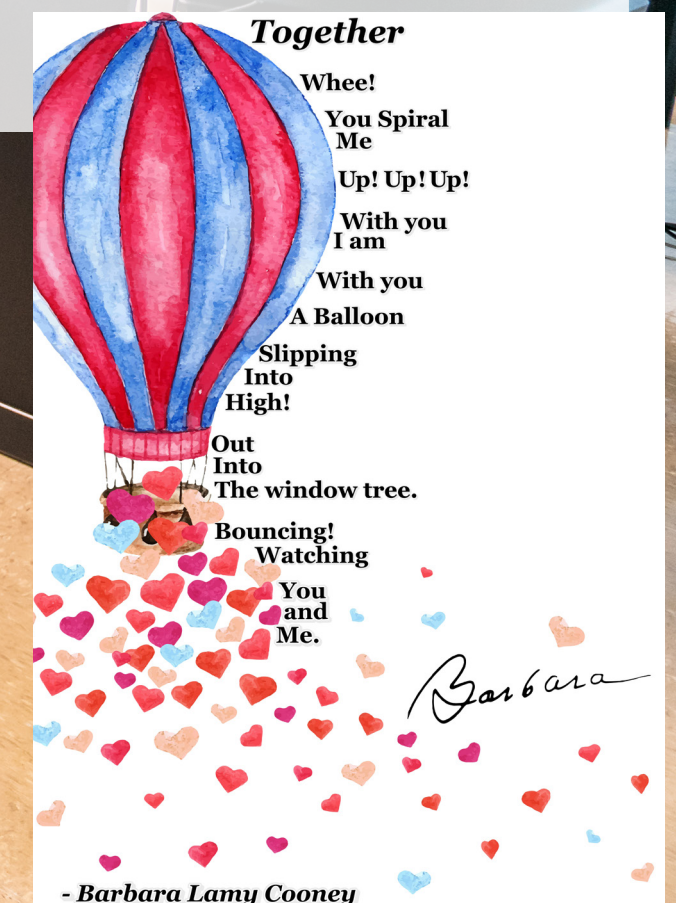
By establishing the Cooney Endowment for the Arts, Barbara helped fund multiple art enrichment projects at Sacred Heart School, including the mural of art tiles featured on the first floor of the school, performance risers, and the Visiting Author program. She and Jim were among the first to champion church development campaigns and the Sacred Heart Foundation Annual Fund Drive and other programs that embraced the concept of working together to build a legacy that benefits future generations.

"Grandpa Jim is very happy to be able to make this meaningful gift, and Barbara would undoubtedly be delighted," said Jenny Rinella, vice-president of the Cooney Family Foundation. "I spent many hours playing the piano in their West Broadway home, and she joyfully shared her old sheet music and encouraged me. It's great to think that their generosity will help a new generation to benefit from enhanced music education and opportunities to develop and share their talents in this way."

Dr. Mark Register, SHS president, said that The Barbara Lamy Cooney Piano Lab is another in a long line of gifts from the Cooneys that has immeasurably enhanced the product Sacred Heart offers its school families. "Sacred Heart School treasures its partnership with the Cooney Family," said Dr. Register. "Mrs. Cooney and her legacy inspire young people to find their creative voice. We are humble and grateful."



The Cooney Family Foundation was established by Jim and Barbara Cooney in 2016. The couple is known for dedicating their lives to working on projects to help improve the quality of life for fellow residents and to inspire others to find their creative voices.



*\*Editor's note: James Cooney '46, passed away Nov. 10, 2020. We are grateful for the many ways Jim and Barbara gifted our parish, school, and community with their kindness, talents, generosity, and faithfulness. Our thoughts and prayers are with them and their family. This article was written prior to his passing.*





**Lenny Freund '78** was named by State Fair Community College as its 2020 Distinguished Alumni. Following graduation from SHS, Lenny earned an associate's degree from SFCC in 1980. He transferred to Central Missouri State University (now UCM), and while there he accepted an offer to be a food service operations manager at the 1982 World's Fair in Knoxville, Tennessee. That decision set the course for Freund to become a successful and respected entrepreneur with 40 years of experience in the food and beverage industry. In 2007, he and his wife, Susan, founded Freund Family Foods, a successful traveling food concession business that operates across the country. In 2008, Freund started the consulting firm North Star Food & Beverage Associates with colleague, Ken Whiting. They provide services, aligned with their mission to "build relationships," that have helped dozens of food and beverage clients improve operations at various venues. For the past 15 years, Freund has been invited to speak at the International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions convention. He is a frequent speaker at the annual Theme Park Food Directors Conference. "Throughout my career I have been very blessed to have the opportunity to reach for the stars," said Freund. "Those stars are a little closer because of the foundation that I stand on. That foundation was provided by an amazing group of educators and administrators at Sacred Heart School." Lenny and his wife, Sue, have been married 29 years and reside in Newnan, Georgia, with their seven children.



**Amanda (Price) Morgan '97** recently authored *Lake Bear*, an adorable story beautifully illustrated by her aunt, Linda Sickman, and inspired by her family's true lake bear encounter. (You have to check out the video! <https://thelakebear.com/about-us>.) The book is available at a Reader's World in Sedalia, several bookshops near Lake of the Ozarks, and online at Amazon and Barnes & Noble. Amanda is a graduate of the University of Missouri-Columbia. She and her husband live in Lake Ozark with their three children. She is currently working on another children's book planned for release next summer. "It's exciting to think that someone may walk into a store with a lot of options and choose something you created," said Amanda.

# ALUMNI NEWS

**Wesley Register '11** joined the SHS faculty to teach AP Calculus and Physics. Wes received his degree in mechanical engineering from the University of Missouri. After four years in the engineering field, he felt a call to a career in education. In addition to his classroom duties, Wes is coaching high school and junior high girls basketball.



**Brenden Volcko '16** earned his bachelor's degree in personal financial planning, along with a business minor and certificate of risk management and insurance, from the University of Missouri-Columbia in May 2020. Brenden is a financial advisor for ProPartners Wealth in Columbia, Missouri. Before becoming an associate advisor, he was an intern for the company for two years.



**Becky Johnson '82** is director of production and senior manager with Honda Performance Development (HPD) in Valencia, California. She has been with the company serving in various management positions since 2006. HPD is the technical operations center for Honda's high-performance racing engines, including the engine utilized in the NTT IndyCar Series competition. For six consecutive years, from 2006-11, Honda powered the entire 33-car starting field at the Indianapolis 500. And for six years in a row – and the first six times in Indy 500 history – there was not a single engine-related retirement in the event. Additionally, in a challenging 2020 season, HPD won its third consecutive Manufacturers' Championship, Indy 500 pole, Indy 500 victory with Takuma Sato, and Individual Driver's Championship with Scott Dixon. Prior to joining HPD, Becky spent 15 years with Hayes Lemmerz International in Sedalia. She earned a degree in business management from William Woods University.



**Jessica (Kindle) Himes '06**, owns a home decor business with her parents, Brad and Mary Kindle. Little Box Signs ([www.littleboxsigns.com](http://www.littleboxsigns.com)) began in 2016 as a hobby and a way for Jessica and her mom to spend more time together enjoying their shared passion for creativity and home decor. It quickly evolved into a full-time career. In the beginning, Little Box sold hand-painted signs at local craft shows and to friends and family. Soon, their home décor signs were being shipped all over the country. Today, Little Box Signs (LBS) has weekly sales, ships hundreds of monthly subscription boxes, and can be found in the homes of thousands. Jessica has also managed to create a powerful and passionate community on social media of women from all over the country who feel like family. "My favorite part of LBS is learning so many fun, unique, and creative strategies from my mom and showing my children that anything is possible when you have the love and support of an amazing family," said Jessica. Jessica and her husband, Adam reside in Sedalia with their children, Kindle, Cooper, and Hayes. Kindle and Cooper are currently students at Sacred Heart School.

**David and Beth (Rundlett) Gerke '06** welcomed Kinsley Rose, on September 15, 2020. The family lives in the Kansas City area. Beth currently works at Mosaic Life Care at St. Joseph – Medical center as a RN/BSN and David is the manager of a Kohl's store. The proud grandma is **Rosemary (Behen) Rundlett '78**.

**Erika (Beykirch) Kelly '12** and her husband, Dylan, welcomed their first child, Halston, on October 13, 2020. Erika works in the Medical Intensive Care Unit at the University Hospital in Columbia, Missouri. Dylan is a loan specialist for Veterans United Home Loans. During the

pandemic, they are getting extra newborn snuggles and enjoying time with each other as a new family of three.







**Abigail Smeltzer '18** was appointed as the Student Representative to the Truman State University Board of Governors for a term ending Jan. 1, 2022. In this role, she will serve on Truman State's highest governing board as the sole student voice. She was selected by her peers and university administration through a series of interviews before finally being selected by Governor Mike Parson to serve on the board in June 2020. Abigail is a

junior majoring in communications with an emphasis in journalism and a minor in history. She is currently the President of Delta Zeta sorority and Vice President of Omicron Delta Kappa national leadership honor society. "I'm grateful for the many opportunities given to me at SHS that allowed me to grow, whether it was through extracurriculars or classes," said Abby. "My teachers believed in me and prepared me for life after graduation by always pushing me to be the best that I could be."

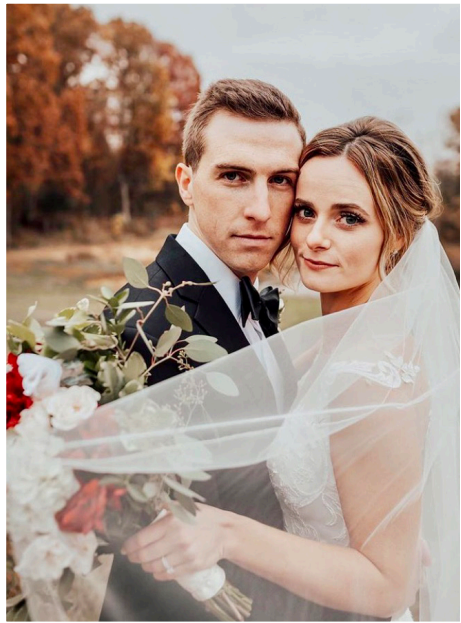


We're very thankful to have Gremlins from the Class of '73 putting their artistic touches to the SHS entryway doors so that Gremlins are welcomed, in style, through the doors to a solid Catholic Christian education! Thanks, **Paul Beykirch, Wayne Simon** and **Rick Mergen!**

**Miranda Meyer '13** and **Nikolas Langston '13** were married June 6, 2020, at Sacred Heart Church in Sedalia. Miranda graduated from Truman State University with a bachelor's degree



in mathematics and then went on to the University of Central Missouri where she received her master's of arts degree in teaching. She works in the Holden school district as a high school math teacher. Nik graduated from the University of Central Missouri with a bachelor's degree in economics. He now works for MPower in Sedalia as a service coordinator. The couple lives in Warrensburg, Missouri.



**Mason Kelchner '15** and Jenna Williams were married Oct. 23, 2020, at Redemption Ranch in Winfield, Missouri. Mason graduated in 2019 from the University of Missouri-Columbia

with a bachelor's degree in mechanical and aerospace engineering. He is a mechanical and structural engineer at Boeing Defense and Space in St. Louis. Jenna is a branch team trainer at Edward Jones. They live in Chesterfield, and they enjoy cooking and camping.



**Garrett Kelchner '11** recently completed Boeing's prestigious Engineering Career Foundation Program (ECFP) that afforded him the opportunity to work on cutting-edge projects across the Boeing enterprise. Throughout the program, Garrett was encouraged to seek out these opportunities on his own to develop a career roadmap of his choosing. Upon completion of ECFP, he has taken on a new and permanent role as Product Manager supporting manufacturing operations for 13 defense and space programs across the country. He and his wife, Lacy, live in Manhattan Beach, California.



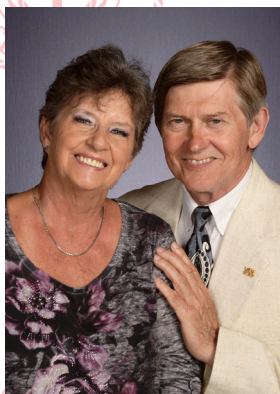
**Erin Holt '14** earned a bachelor's degree in management and international marketing in 2017 from Missouri State University. She currently works for a Christian non-profit called Pioneers, which is headquartered in Orlando, Florida. She is in the first year of her two-year commitment serving in N'Djamena, Chad (located in North Central Africa). "I love my job because it's all about people," said Erin. "Because of that, each day looks different for me. I spend my days teaching English classes, drinking tea or coffee with local friends, going to countless weddings and baby naming ceremonies, or answering people's many questions about our faith and who Jesus is to us. Chad is a Muslim country, and oftentimes I am the first and only Christian they have spoken with. This always leads to interesting discussions! I have to work primarily in the local Arabic as well, so I also spend a lot of time with an Arabic tutor or studying. I definitely have not taken a normal career path, but I love what I do!"

**Caleb Tanguay '14**, RN, (left), and **Nicolai Cox '11**, RN, deployed to New York City in April in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Nicolai treated patients at New York Presbyterian Brooklyn Methodist and Caleb at NYU Tisch Hospital in Manhattan. They worked 12-hour shifts and sometimes longer depending on what was happening at the time. Tanguay signed an eight-week contract and Cox a 13-week contract. Before deploying to NYC, Cox was a critical care nurse at Research Medical Center in Kansas City and Tanguay an ICU nurse at St. Luke's Hospital in Kansas City. Both men have previously worked at Bothwell Regional Health Center.



Thank you to our alumni who are currently serving SVPD and SHS in various leadership roles. We appreciate your service. **Katelin (Beykirch) Hladik '02** and **David Dick '80** (Parish Council); **Dave Brown '68** and **Dave Rouchka '61** (Parish Maintenance); **Jennifer (Wilkerson) Walker '92** (Stewardship); **Chris Martin '93** and **Brandon Grose '95** (School Advisory Council); **Ann (Twenter) Dove '76** and **Linda (Belker) Ricker '72** (Social Concerns); and **Judy (Fischer) Jackson '70** (Worship & Spiritual Life).

## Happy Anniversary!



**Jan and Richard Bahner '70** – 45 years of marriage - August 2, 1975  
**Kathy and Paul Beykirch '73** – 40 years of marriage - July 12, 1980  
**Roxanne (Dick)'82 and Kyle Herrick '82** – 35 years - June 19, 1985  
**Cheryl and Dave Brown '68** – 35 years of marriage - June 26, 1985  
**Rita and Chuck Mergen '72** – 25 years of marriage - June 24, 1995



# David Fall

## A Lasting Impact of Service

The Sacred Heart School family sends its prayers, gratitude, and best wishes to **David Fall '78**, who retired from SHS in August, 2020. A lifelong member of Sacred Heart Parish (now SVDP) and graduate of SHS, David joined the staff in 1994 as youth director. He coordinated and chaperoned numerous youth events, including the National Catholic Youth Conference and World Youth Day (St. Louis and Toronto). He expanded the annual March for Life in D.C. to include celebrating Mass at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception and visiting with state representatives. What began as a handful of people from Sacred Heart taking spots on a charter bus quickly grew into two charter buses full of parishioners and students. Life as youth director included lock-ins, canoe trips, haunted houses, volunteering at the Missouri Right to Life booth at the Missouri State Fair, and organizing numerous volunteer and fundraising activities. Every step of the way, David and his wife, Sonia, made it a priority to try to make these activities available to every member of the parish and school.



Eventually, David's work flowed into Sacred Heart School to teach a religion class. In 1997, David took on additional responsibilities, becoming head coach of SHS's volleyball program. At that time, no girls sport had won a championship. That would quickly change. In 2000, the Gremlins claimed the district title, soon followed by back-to-back Class 1 state titles in 2007 and 2008. He's quick to shy away from the praise, but the numbers can't be denied. Under his direction, David led the Gremlins to 492 wins and 28 post-season titles. He is also a two-time recipient of the Missouri State High School Class 1 Coach of the Year.

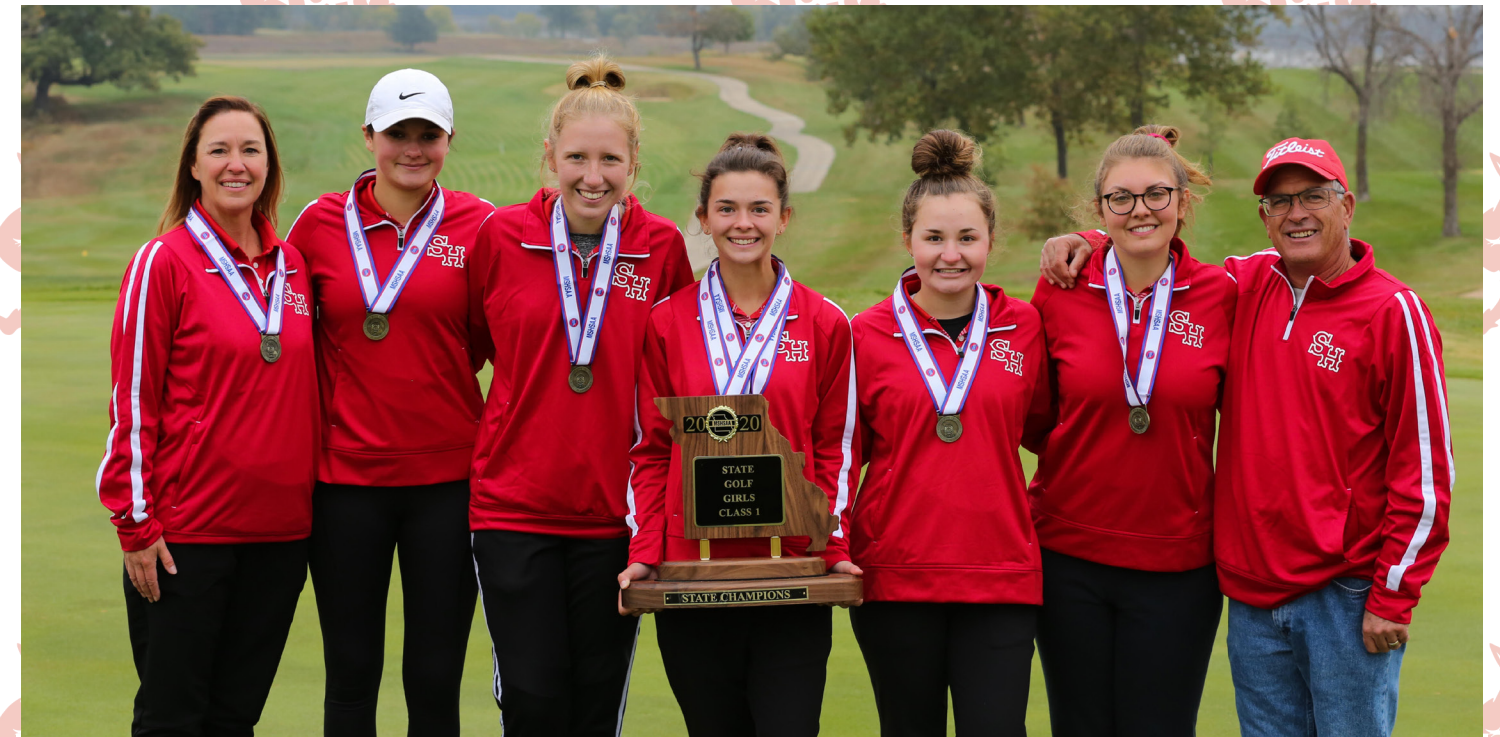
Although his coaching career draws much attention, David's focus has always been on God, faith, family and the overall success of Sacred Heart. Whether it was working as the youth director, teaching, driving the bus, working as athletic director or coaching, he strived to do his job well and with integrity.

David will be enjoying more time with his wife, Sonia, and their children (**Jenn (Fall) '02** and **Randy Denham '02**; and Courtney and **Davey Fall '05**) and grandchildren Willow and Rowan.



2020 Seniors Honor Coach Fall

# SCHOOL NEWS



## MSHSAA Class 1 2020 Girls Golf State Champions!

Congratulations go out to our Gremlin Lady Golfers for bringing home the MSHSAA Class 1 State Golf title in October. The girls shot a two-day total of 810 outdistancing 2nd place, Brookfield, by 100 strokes in cold and windy conditions at Paradise Point Golf Club in Smithville. Senior Caten Lucchesi powered through the tournament, consistently keeping the ball in the fairway and onto the green. Caten finished the tournament with a score of 176, putting her in 2nd place for the state tournament. The team's first team state title complements the 2010, 2011, and 2012 boys golf championships. "They have a lot of bragging rights on the boys team, and we are pleased to represent the girls side," said coach Carla Lucchesi. Pictured: Coach Carla Lucchesi, Kate Carney, Megan Wingerter, Caten Lucchesi, Addy Trammell, Kelsey Hudson, Asst. Coach Jeff Lucchesi.

Sacred Heart School is soaking up the sunshine and real savings from the solar array canopy installed on the campus last year. The 100-kilowatt solar electricity generation array became fully operational in June 2019. Online tracking and measurement of the energy savings began



July 2019. According to these reports in the first year of operation, the array saved SHS \$13,598.12 in utility costs. The array is installed as a canopy structure over part of the parking lot west of the new gymnasium. This location was ideal for maximizing sun exposure while also adding to the aesthetic and the real value of the school. The total cost of the project was funded entirely through grants and a private donation from long-time Catholic education supporters and St. Vincent de Paul parishioners, Steve and Karen Ellebracht. It's the gift that keeps on giving. Shine on!





Dr. Mark Register '75, President, wears the presidential medallion given to him by Bishop W. Shawn McKnight during an all-school Mass on Sept. 4. Dr. Register, the school's longtime principal, was appointed president earlier this year as part of a reconfiguration of the school's administrative structure. With him are Fr. Joe Corel and Fr. David Veit, pastors in solidum of St. Vincent de Paul Parish. Also at the end of Mass, Dr. Erin Vader, Diocesan Superintendent of Catholic schools, installed Abby Martin as principal, presenting her a rosary and a pen. After Mass, Bishop McKnight attended a breakfast reception with benefactors and recipients of scholarships for the school. He then toured the school complex and blessed each hallway and classroom with holy water. "It was very much appreciated that Bishop McKnight was here to recognize Dr. Register as our president and to bless our school as we begin our new year in this time of pandemic," said Fr. Joe. "With a three-person administrative team that includes Sam Jones as our dean of students, we have the right team in place to grow our school and move it in a direction that keeps it thriving for years to come, God willing."

Donnie Dobson, a junior at SHS, was recognized by Hamara Enterprises, owner of the Sedalia Wendy's location, for his bravery, heroism, and quick thinking in the aftermath of a fatal car crash at the restaurant. "I heard a big crash ... I saw a truck was through the Wendy's, and I smelled gas, so I hurdled over some debris to go shut off the truck," Donnie shared with the *Sedalia Democrat* in an interview. "... I checked (the driver) for injuries, he didn't have anything serious so I got him out of the truck with another gentleman and set him down on a booth." As reported by the *Sedalia Democrat*, Dobson then turned his attention to an injured customer and to a child patron. "I saw his kid watching, and I didn't think he should see his dad in pain so I brought him over to the side and started helping with his wounds. Donovan was noted for his help to police officers and for trying to keep everyone calm as officers and firefighters worked the scene. "...To not even think of themselves and to go help those guys, you couldn't ask for better kids," said Donnie's manager. Donnie is the son of **Betsy Gerke '98**.



A charitable heart and a competitive drive to win the spirit stick helped SHS collect its largest food donation in the history of the school's Thanksgiving food drive. "Cases, not cans" was the challenge, and students in grades K-12 responded. SHS student leaders, faculty, and parents delivered 7,272 pounds of food to Open Door Ministries in November. That's 72% more than was raised in 2019. All food stays local to support our neighbors in need. **Chris Martin '93** hauled a truck full of food and helpers to Open Door. Pictured with him are his two sons (from left) Dylan and Lucas, and Lucas's fellow senior classmates, John Ulbrich, Dallin Chappell, and Jeffrey Hollabaugh.



SHS welcomed the 2020-2021 school year with the appointment of Mrs. Abby Martin as Principal. In this role, Martin will work as a full-time member of the administrative team in the direction, supervision, and evaluation of the school's K-12 instructional program. Martin has been an educator for over ten years, eight of which have been at Catholic schools. She earned her early childhood certificate from SFCC and UCM (2011) and her master's in administration from William Woods University (2014). Martin holds certifications in Initial Missouri Early Childhood Education (Birth-Grade 3) and in Administration (K-8). Prior to joining SHS, Martin served as principal at St. Andrew Catholic School in Tipton (2016 – 2020). In addition to Martin, Sacred Heart's three-person leadership team includes the promotion of Dr. Mark Register from school administrator to President with Mr. Sam Jones continuing in his

role as Dean of Students. Under this new leadership structure, Dr. Register's key priorities will include spiritual leadership, operations, development, and buildings and grounds. Martin and Jones will focus on developing and implementing an effective educational agenda for continued faculty and student developmental success.



Sacred Heart School leadership, parents, students, and members of the community gathered in October to officially celebrate the completion of the school's playground resurfacing from pea gravel to interlocking surface tiles made from 100% recycled tire. Funding was made possible through private donations and grants from the Missouri Department of Natural Resources and West Central Missouri Solid Waste Management District. Ryane City, Office Manager and

playground committee member (pictured with scissors), said the project would use over 70,000 pounds of Missouri scrap rubber, keeping over 3,500 tires out of landfills. The ceremony included a blessing from Fr. David Veit, and celebratory remarks from Mardy Hostetler, SHS parent and project foreman.



Sacred Heart students (grades 1-12) are receiving additional "armor" to assist them along their journey as young disciples and to help them grow in their relationship with Jesus Christ. Each class is gifted a specific piece of armor from the pastors during a special prayer service. The armor is specific to age or to a particular lesson taught in the classroom. Armor includes religious items such as a crucifix, rosary, bible story book, scapular, Divine Mercy Chaplet prayer, holy card, and Benedictine bracelet (to make good decisions

with cell phone usage). "We, as Catholics, are starving – actually suffocating – because our devotional life, our other lung, is not getting enough oxygen," said Fr. Joe. "We aim to change that for our young people and hope that students, as well as their families, make faith formation a priority by actively participating in Mass, going to confession, and praying together." Pictured: Fr. Dave and Fr. Joe present Jaxon Twenter (son of **Josh Twenter '03**) and his 5th-grade classmates each with a rosary.



Volleyball concluded the season with a second-place finish in the District 13 Volleyball tournament. Their overall record was 20-7-1. They were 9-0 in Kaysinger Conference play and won the conference tournament. The team is coached by **Marlo (Boots) Siron '91** and **Honor (Kehde) Villalobos '14**.



Soccer wrapped up the Kaysinger Conference regular season title with a thrilling shootout victory over the Smithton Tigers. The Gremlins were 12-5 overall with a 5-0 record in conference play. In addition to the conference crown, they won the conference tournament and took second in the MSHSAA Class 3 District 8 tournament.



Junior High soccer won its third consecutive Kaysinger Conference Tournament title. The Gremlins finished with a 10-3-1 record overall and a 6-0 record in the conference.



The future looks bright for Sacred Heart/Northwest 8-man football. Coming off a 2019 1-9 record, the team battled to a 5-2 record this season, reaching the quarterfinal game.



**Post-Season Awards**

**All-State**  
Emma Siron, Volleyball

**All-District**  
Emma Siron, 1st Team, Volleyball  
Kiley Beykirch, 1st Team, Volleyball  
Maria Mergen, 2nd Team, Volleyball  
Hayden Altena, 2nd Team, Volleyball  
Dallin Chappell, 1st Team, Soccer  
Lucas Martin, 1st Team, Soccer  
Kobey Hill, Runner Up Selection, Soccer  
Ian Viscarra Mendez, 1st Team Soccer  
John Ulbrich, 1st Team, Soccer  
Osvaldo Garcia, 2nd Team, Soccer  
George Bain IV, 2nd Team, Soccer  
Tanner Damlo, 1st Team, Football  
Caden Crooker, 1st Team, Football  
Donovan Dobson, 1st Team, Football

**All-Conference**  
Emma Siron, Volleyball  
Kiley Beykirch, Volleyball  
Maria Mergen, Volleyball  
Hayden Altena, Honorable Mention, Volleyball  
Dallin Chappell, Soccer  
Lucas Martin, Soccer  
John Ulbrich, Soccer  
George Bain IV, Soccer  
Kobey Hill, Soccer  
Osvaldo Garcia, Soccer  
Caden Crooker, Football  
Ian Smith, Football  
Donovan Dobson, Football  
Tanner Damlo, 2nd Team, Football

**HALL OF FAME COACHES**

MISSOURI SPORTS

**PALMER NICHOLS**  
1990

MISSOURI STATE HIGH SCHOOL SOCCER COACHES ASSOCIATION

**RICHARD BAHNER**  
2012

MISSOURI BASKETBALL COACHES ASSOCIATION

**STEVEN GOODWIN**  
2019

On February 11, 2020, the SHS Athletic Department recognized the three Hall of Fame coaches from Sacred Heart School. The coaches were recognized with a new banner which hangs on the north wall of the gym.

**Palmer Ray Nichols** - Nick, as he was known throughout his life, is remembered as a player, coach and official. He played for two years at Smith-Cotton High School. During that time they were 55-5 and won the state basketball championship in 1923. His coaching career started in 1926 as a player/coach for the Missouri Pacific Railroad Dynamos. He went on to coach this team until 1931. In 1927, he formed Nichols's 5 Pennies, a basketball team that would travel the Midwest. Nichols's 5 Pennies won over 500 games in this barnstorming era. In 1949, Nick joined SHS. Over the next 12 years he compiled a record of 138-112. Sacred Heart won the Pettis-Benton County Championship twice. It is significant that Palmer worked full-time for the Missouri Pacific Lines during the day and conducted practice at night and on weekends. His overall coaching record was 859 – 368. He passed away in 1973. Nick was inducted into the Missouri Sports Hall of Fame in 1990.

**Richard J. Bahner '70** - As a Gremlin, Richard played soccer and basketball. For 46 sports seasons, Richard served as head coach for the SHS boys soccer, girls soccer, golf, and softball programs, and as assistant baseball coach. Richard drove the bus to athletic events of all kinds for over 40 years. With Richard as head coach of boys soccer for 26 years, the Gremlins amassed a record of 359-211-37. His teams won a series of 50 consecutive conference wins, 13 conference championships, 4 district championships, and 4 quarterfinal appearances (when there were fewer size divisions). Richard was inducted into the inaugural class of the Missouri State High School Soccer Coaches Association Hall of Fame in 2012.

**Steven Goodwin** - Steve graduated from Polo High School in 1989. While there, he was an all-conference basketball player and an all-state linebacker for the Panthers football team. In 1995 he graduated from Central Missouri State University. His first stop as a head coach was at Linn High School where he led the Wildcats to the 1997 boys basketball Class 2 Final Four. For the past 22 seasons, he has been the boys basketball head coach at Sacred Heart. While at Sacred Heart, his teams have won 9 conference tournament championships, 12 conference championships, 13 district championships, went to two Final Fours, and his 2014 team finished 31-0, winning the Class 2 state title. He has received conference/area coach of the year honors 12 times. In 2006, he also won the state championship in baseball, making him one of the few coaches to win state championships in two sports. Steve was inducted into the Missouri Basketball Coaches Association in 2019.





Fr. Dave and the Holy Rollers provided musical entertainment

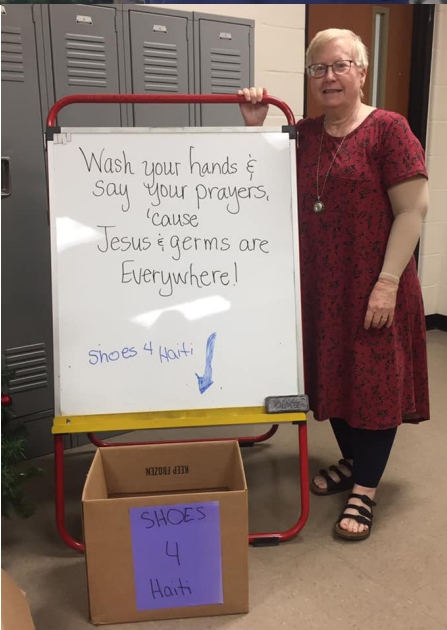


The Sacred Heart and St Vincent de Paul community stepped up to make the 2020 Bazaar Dinner Auction a huge success! Even though we could not meet together in the McGremlin Gym this year, we had a huge turnout for our virtual event! **Katelin (Beykirch) '02** and Bob Hladik were our fabulous co-hosts for the event. Table of 5 and St. Vincent de Paul parishioners provided amazing dinners to-go, and thanks to the generosity of our BidPal Mobile Bidding System sponsors, we had friends participate from across the nation. This year, we raised \$75,000 for the parish and school. Additionally, our new Teacher Request category allowed us to fulfill many classroom needs. A huge THANK YOU to everyone who helped make this event a success!

## Technology Grant

Sacred Heart School is thrilled to be awarded \$137,102 in support of technology through a grant from the Diocese of Jefferson City. This remarkable gift, made known mid-November 2020, was made possible through Diocesan support from Bishop McKnight and Jake Seifert, Director of Development, through an anonymous donor. Funding will fulfill specific technology needs outlined in the grant application that was submitted to the Diocese by Mrs. Marlo (Boots) Siron '91, SHS Director of Technology.

The grant request identified numerous forward-looking areas to keep SHS functional and competitive. This includes installing every classroom with Interactive Smart Panels. The grant will also fund iMacs for the yearbook class, laptops for teachers to make virtual learning easier, additional security cameras, new wireless routers, and mobile projectors. Ordering and installation is already underway. Sacred Heart School is thankful to Mrs. Siron, Bishop Shawn McKnight, the Jefferson City Diocese Office Staff, and to everyone who cares for us and for our schools, even in the midst of this pandemic.



## Leaving A Legacy

The SHS Foundation is honored by the legacy gift from the Hayden Freedom Foundation of \$25,000 annually in perpetuity. "Sacred Heart is an outstanding educational resource for the youth in our community; we are so blessed to have such an amazing school and amazing staff," said Barbara Hayden, who co-founded the Foundation with her husband, Robert. The Haydens are the grandparents of Camren '17, Dylan '18, and Madison '20 Hayden, and Hayden '21 and Samantha '24 Altena.

**Have you already planned a legacy gift to Sacred Heart?  
Share your story with us to inspire others to give.**

There are creative ways to support Sacred Heart School while also benefitting you and your family. Such giving techniques are called "planned gifts." You can make a difference at Sacred Heart with planned gifts, which don't impact the way you live. A gift through your will, trust or retirement plan will make a meaningful and lasting difference in the life of Sacred Heart students!

### Benefits

A gift that costs you nothing during your lifetime.

A gift that leaves your cash flow and current financial planning unchanged.

You don't have to use cash to make your gift; rather, make your gift with appreciated stock securities or other property.

You can give an asset you no longer need or want.

### Popular Giving Arrangements

Will or Trust

Retirement Plan

Donor-Advised Funds

Gifts of Stock and Appreciated Assets

Life Insurance

Real Estate

Personal Property



**We are grateful to the O'Connor Moseley Foundation for the generous gift to Sacred Heart School in memory of Lorraine O'Connor and Bradley O'Connor '12.**



### Learn More

Planned giving isn't just for the wealthy or for older people. Everyone can do it. For more information, including help in locating professional resources, please contact Liz Van Leer at [shfoundation@gogremlins.com](mailto:shfoundation@gogremlins.com) or (620) 827-3800.

**Please contact us if you've named Sacred Heart in your estate plans. We'd like to recognize you for your generosity, and acknowledge your support and commitment.**



# Sacred Heart 2020 Seniors

## Class of 2020 Highlights:

- 100% graduation rate
- 100% enrolled at a college or university
- Six seniors (nearly a third) have signed Letters of Intent to compete in athletics or esports at the collegiate level
- 76% posted a cumulative GPA of 3.25 or higher on a 4-point scale over their four years of high school
- 62% posted a GPA of 3.7 or higher
- 290 hours of college credit (collectively) received by SHS graduates
- \$695,975 offered in scholarships; \$517,075 will be utilized

Sacred Heart High School's 76th commencement ceremony, held July 28, 2020, celebrated the 21 seniors of the Class of 2020. Jane McMullin, who was chosen by the class as the commencement speaker, noted she has seen "exceptional characteristics in these young people, countless acts of kindness and camaraderie, integrity, loyalty and character beyond their years." Congratulations, Class of 2020!

"If achieving success were easy, then everyone would have it, but hard work is the price you pay for what you want to achieve. Hard work helps you build discipline, and it helps you to become the person who is ready to accept the new responsibilities that come with the achievement. The harder you work to achieve your goal, the more confidence and self-esteem you build into your character."

– Joseph Henke, Class of 2020 Valedictorian

Joseph Henke  
Attending Missouri Science and Technology  
Majoring in Mechanical Engineering

Jacob Gonzales  
Attending State Fair Community College  
Majoring in Law

Hunter Deresinski  
Attending Central Methodist University  
Majoring in Computer Science

Zaine Dover  
Attending Columbia College  
Majoring in History

Aaron Kennon  
Attending State Fair Community College  
Majoring in Business Agriculture

Jude Rollings  
Attending Kansas State University  
Majoring in Architecture

Noah Marshall  
Attending State Fair Community College  
Majoring in Finance or Marketing

Drew Smith  
Attending State Fair Community College  
Majoring in Aerospace Engineering

Evan Spilker  
Attending State Fair Community College  
Majoring in Mechanical Engineering

Rio Suzuki  
Attending College in Japan  
Majoring in International Studies

Juan Fernandez  
Attending State Fair Community College  
Majoring in Physical Therapy

Juan Suarez  
Attending Mineral Area Community College  
Majoring in Physical Therapy



Cody Damlo  
Attending College of the Ozarks  
Majoring in Criminal Justice

Madison Hayden  
Attending University of California, Davis  
Majoring in Veterinary Medicine

Blaise Wilt  
Attending Colorado State University  
Majoring in Healthcare or Zoology

Summer Caton  
Attending Missouri State  
Majoring in Agriculture

Grace Ulbrich  
Attending University of Central Missouri  
Majoring in Elementary Education

Martha Angel  
Attending State Fair Community College  
Majoring in Criminal Justice

Hannah McDonald  
Attending Missouri State  
Majoring in Finance

Grace Goodwin  
Attending State Fair Community College  
Majoring in Pharmacy

Maia Smith  
Attending Kansas State University  
Majoring in Architecture



## Sacred Heart School Wish List

We have some important needs that fall outside of our current operating budget. As part of your year-end giving, a contribution of any amount toward any one of these items is appreciated.

Please use the enclosed envelope to make your year-end contribution to Sacred Heart School. Your gift is 100% tax-deductible. Thank you for your consideration of this request! For more information, please contact Liz Van Leer at [shfoundation@gogremlins.com](mailto:shfoundation@gogremlins.com).

### Sacred Heart School Foundation = No limit!

Your gift supports the long-term and immediate operational needs of Sacred Heart School.

### Sharon Dey Scholarship = No limit!

Contributions support a) tuition assistance to students attending SHS and b) teacher professional development.

### Jan & Richard Bahner Endowment = No limit!

Contributions support tuition assistance to students attending SHS.

### Restroom Renovation = \$75,000

Funding would satisfy a much needed and complete overhaul of the four facilities outside of Hoying Gym. Phase I - Elementary Restrooms (\$50,000) Phase II - Jr. High Restrooms (\$25,000). For more information on this project, please contact Dr. Mark Register [mregister@gogremlins.com](mailto:mregister@gogremlins.com).

In October, John Herring '62 visited his alma mater via Zoom to meet with 4th graders in Ms. Hegger's class. Students peppered him with many questions ranging from student life to the cute dog who kept appearing in the Zoom conference! It was a fun visit, and we look forward to doing it again soon. John is retired military and a retired math teacher. He has fulfilled several wish list items, including microscopes, STEM materials, entrance mats, water fountain and most recently, playground equipment for our Little Gremlins, which will be installed in the summer of 2021! John and his wife, Sandy, live in Alexandria, Va.



### Wishes Become Reality

All charitable contributions to our schools are great blessings, for which we are truly thankful.

The following individuals' generous responses enabled Sacred Heart School to address several important facilities and operational school needs. Thank you!

Allen Wilken  
Anonymous Donors  
Beverly & Richard Pfeiffer '61  
Bryan & Suzann Jenkins  
Catholic Diocese of Jefferson City  
Chicara & Brandon Grose '95  
Chris '93 and Jeanna Martin  
Culligan - Michael & Carrie Smith  
Cynthia Anderson  
David & Ashley Renck  
Diocesan Excellence in Education Fund  
Emma & David Curry '58  
Georgia (Wagner) Hunsaker '67  
Helen Osman  
James & Jacqueline Russell  
James Menefee  
Jamie & Sherri Ulbrich  
Jason & Debbie Parsons

Jeff & Leslie Stone  
Jeffrey Kesterson  
Jennifer & James Cordia  
Jennifer Schaffer  
Joe & Donna Beykirch  
Joe & Lisa Wingerter  
John Herring '62  
Justin & Michelle May  
Kathy Martin  
Liz & Tom Van Leer  
Mark & Jill Bentch  
Mark & Wilma Maddox  
Martha Jo Doogs  
Martin & Linda Faulhaber  
Michael & Rita Williams  
Mike & Jean Boston  
Mike & Joy Simon  
Nancy L Manning

Nikki Howell  
Omar Gutierrez  
Orscheln Industries Foundation  
Papa John's  
Paul & Kathy Beykirch  
Precious Blood Fathers Provincial  
Premier Contracting  
Rhonda Jetmore  
Rodington & Kimberly Perez  
Sedalia Lions Club  
Shoparoo  
Sonja Corcoran  
Stacy Jeffries  
Susan Couhig  
Tisha Sparks  
West Central Missouri Solid Waste District  
Region F

## Sacred Heart School Named Scholarships

We recognize those who have chosen to sponsor a Sacred Heart School student with a named scholarship. By doing so, these donors have chosen to reach out to meet the needs of a deserving student and/or faculty member in a very special and specific way.

Contributors to a named scholarship have the opportunity to meet the individuals they have sponsored and watch them grow throughout that student's education at Sacred Heart School. If you would like to learn more about contributing to an existing scholarship or creating a new scholarship for you or a loved one, please contact Liz Van Leer, at [shfoundation@gogremlins.com](mailto:shfoundation@gogremlins.com).

### Sacred Heart School Tuition Scholarships

Richard & Jan Bahner Endowment  
Jim Dick Memorial Scholarship  
Elizabeth Menefee O'Dowd Scholarship  
Charles Keller Family Scholarship  
Mary Jo McMullin Scholarship  
Ken Mosier Family Scholarship  
Ralph Fall Memorial Scholarship  
Tony Simon Memorial Scholarship  
A.L. & Mary Robinson Scholarship  
John & Vera Riley Memorial Scholarship  
Jane Beaudette Memorial Scholarship

Mike Westermier Memorial Scholarship  
Joel Burks Memorial Scholarship  
Devon Grose Memorial Scholarship  
James & Barbara Cooney Scholarship  
Guesa Scholarship  
Mike & Esther DeGraff Scholarship  
Sharon Dey Scholarship  
A.M.I.C. Scholarship  
Bill & Carol Register Scholarship  
Mike Westermier Memorial Scholarship  
Robbie Withers Memorial Scholarship

### Sacred Heart School Professional Development Scholarships

Sharon Dey Scholarship

### College Scholarships for SHS Graduates

McCarthy Toyota Scholarship  
James & Barbara Cooney Scholarship  
McCarthy Toyota Devon Grose Memorial Scholarship

Thank you to the following donors who supported one or more of our named scholarships.

Almeda & Tony Menefee '55  
Anonymous Donors  
Anonymous - In memory of Marie Wiltz DeChant  
Bernie Bahner '64  
Carolyn & Andrew Wolf '60  
Cindy (Bankovich) Garretson '80  
David Lamb '78  
Dorothy H. Dey  
Elaine & Terry Smith '68  
Elizabeth (Arnold) Spencer '89  
First Catholic Slovic Ladies Association  
Jack Coffey '55  
James & Jeri Twenter '79 - In memory of Marvella Twenter

James E. Weimholt '48  
James Mergen '71  
Janet Proctor  
Jeff Smith '74 - In honor of current and former SHS teachers  
Joanne & Ken Mosier '70  
Knights of Columbus #831  
Kristy (Linsenbardt) '86 & Thad Henderson  
Larry & Judy Laucks  
Margaret & Joseph Ellebracht '66  
Martin & Linda Faulhaber  
Mary Ann (Menefee) Donelson '49  
Mary Anne Reece  
Matthew Fischer

Jim Cooney '46  
Patricia (Huhman) Jordan '81  
Patricia (Smiley) Hubbs '66 - In memory of the 1966 class of SHS  
Paul E. Bahner '57  
Rita (Fischer) Schulte '70  
Ronald Dunham '61  
Rosie (Sedlak) '53 & Bill Hodges '52  
Sandra (Rouchka) '72 & Dennis Cline  
Sandy (Glavin) Nickel '63  
Sue (Keller) Wise-Hoersten '58  
Susan (Marino) '73 & Keith Fischer '73  
Terry Rialti '88  
The Jim Fischer Family  
Tony Beaudette '73

### A grateful message to our anonymous donors

Dear Anonymous Donors - We don't know who you are, but we want you to know that you are our guardian angels! You've covered a significant portion of our school's operational budget. You've supported our Annual Fund Drive and Wish List items. You've kept our technology current and competitive. You've even wiped away lunch balances! You show up in so many surprising and unexpected ways. The least we can do is to respect your wishes to remain anonymous. We send our thanks and prayers up above. He knows who you are! Thank you to everyone who is supporting our mission of Extraordinary Catholic Education. Through Christ. For All.



# Memorials

We are grateful for the gifts given to Sacred Heart School and the Sacred Heart School Foundation in memory of loved ones gone before us.

*(Editor's Note: Our list of honors and memorials reflect gifts received from Nov. 21, 2019 to Nov. 25, 2020. Gifts directed to the 2020 Annual Fund Drive in memory or in honor of a loved one are listed on pg. 28)*

## Remembering our dearly departed

**Amber Scott**  
**Andrew J. Simon**  
**Betty Vodicka**  
**Bradley O'Connor**  
**Carl Gramlich**  
**Carole J. Farkas**  
**Carolyn Fontaine**  
**Charles J. Palmer**  
**Charles LuAllen**  
**Charles M. Riley**  
**Charles T. Curry**  
**Cliff Katemann**  
**Diane Wolf**  
**Ed Mosier**  
**Ed Richard**  
**Fr. Vince Hoying**  
**Fred W. Smith**  
**Freda Toellner**  
**Garrett J. Young**  
**Gregory W. Katzing**

**Jacob P. Howe**  
**James O. Cooney**  
**Jeff Shipley**  
**Justin Horn**  
**Kathryn Sieleman**  
**Kathy Ressel**  
**Ken Carpenter**  
**Kenneth Opfer**  
**Kip Salmon**  
**Larry R. Johnson**  
**Lee Novak**  
**Lola Labus**  
**Lorraine O'Connor**  
**Lyle W. McMullin**  
**Majorie D. Haley**  
**Marvella B. Twenter**  
**Marvin D. Meyer**  
**Mary A. Loftus**  
**Mary L. Behen**  
**Michael D. DeGraff**

**Nevin Almquist**  
**Paul C. Joquel**  
**Paul Wood**  
**Richard Hardy**  
**Richard J. Kraus**  
**Rick Koenig**  
**Robert "Bob" Stone**  
**Robert D. Weller**  
**Robbie Withers**  
**Ronald J. Philips**  
**Rosemary Hall**  
**Sherri P. Osborn**  
**Steven R. Loftus**  
**Susan G. Kirby**  
**Ted Coffelt**  
**Thomas T. Keating**  
**Virginia Howard**  
**Zachary H. Bottom**



Alumni, parishioners, families, and friends of SHS were invited to submit names of deceased loved ones to be displayed in a dedicated space in the Sacred Heart School commons as a reminder for our students to pray for those on the list each day. Special prayers and petitions were also offered up for these individuals during daily Mass at St. Vincent de Paul during the month of November.

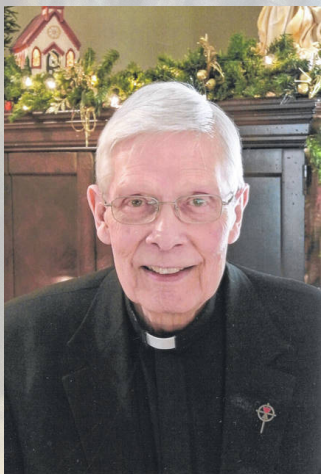
## Names of donors who made one or more gifts in memory of our dearly departed.

Adam & Lacy Judd  
 Adam Jones  
 Alice Fairfax  
 Amanda Tippie  
 Andy & Jessica Pyle  
 Anne Collins Gardner  
 Anonymous  
 Arvol & Janet Bartok  
 Ashlee Withers  
 Ben & Beth Lyles  
 Ben & Jennie Vanderlinden  
 Bernadette Lawson  
 Beverly & Charles Wilkerson  
 Bill & Carol Turner  
 Bill & Rhonda Rissler  
 Bill & Mona Wooten  
 Bob & Karolyn Spears  
 Bob & Katelin Hladik  
 Bob & Shari Farrington  
 Brandon & Chicara Grose  
 Brenda Talamantes  
 Bruce Williams  
 Bryant Motors  
 Carol (Cooney) '70 & John Fischer '68  
 Carol Ash  
 Carol Egan  
 Carole Ancona  
 Carolyn (Ryan) '49 & Normand Fontaine  
 Charles & Beverly Wilkerson  
 Charli (Huhman) '74 & Michael Ackerman  
 Cheri Heeren  
 Chris & Celinda Smothers  
 Chris & Victoria Stratton  
 Cindy Dick  
 CJ & Shawna Davis  
 Clark Holdren  
 Communication Workers of Local 6372  
 Dale & Lisa Brodersen  
 Dan & Mary Lou Farrell  
 Dave & Louise Rouchka  
 David & Beth Gerke  
 David & Rhoda Moore  
 David & Sarah Stubblefield  
 David & Suzie Brodersen  
 David F. Menefee  
 David Harder  
 Deborah (Ekhooff) '71 & Steve Rouchka '67  
 Denise (Buso) Hanlon '84  
 Denise Ross  
 Deyanira Azua & Walter Garcia  
 Dianne (Behen) '87 & David Withers  
 Donna Plummer  
 Doris Mergen  
 Dr. Mark '75 & Julie Register  
 Eileen Coffey '52

Emma & David Curry '58  
 Esther DeGraff  
 Ethel M. Esser  
 Gerald & Joyce Wiltz  
 Geraldine Summers  
 Grace Sockness  
 Ray & Jonetta Haley  
 Harry & Sara Antibus  
 Heather Ziegerer  
 Henry & Rosann Saddler  
 Jack & Judith Robinson  
 Jack & Marilyn (Fischer) Arnold '68  
 Jack Coffey '55  
 Jacob & Autumn Smothers  
 Jan & Michael Duffy  
 Jane McMullin '87  
 Jane Stuart  
 Janet Proctor  
 Jason & Karen Jones  
 Jean & Robert Simon '77  
 Jeanette Utlaut  
 Jim & Linda Piatt  
 Jim Cooney '46  
 Jimmy & Leslie Fairfax  
 Joe & Jeannine Dove  
 John & Lori Swearingen  
 John & Marge Hanlon  
 John & Sheri Smeltzer  
 John Handley  
 Joyce (Cook) '73 & Ken Woolery  
 Julie (Grott) '70 & Roger Cook '69  
 Justin Withers  
 Karen Diefenderfer  
 Karen Ellis  
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 Kathy & Paul Beykirch '73  
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 Lois & Donald Welliver '58  
 Loretta (Grinstead) Kendrick '55  
 Maggie Borchers  
 Majorie Terhaar  
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 Mariela Messina  
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 Roseann (Mergen) Moore '58  
 Rosemary Rundlett  
 Roxanne (Dick) '82 & Kyle Herrick '82  
 Rozanne Coble  
 Ruth Ann (Bahner) Chmelir '58  
 Ruth Casdorph  
 Ruth Mather  
 S. Mitchell Callis  
 Sally (Fechtel) '69 & Tim Alley  
 Sally Keating  
 Sandra Parkhurst  
 Sharon Burns  
 Sharon Dey  
 Shawn Grose  
 Sherry (Shanahan) Walker '65  
 Sherry Harris-McCall  
 Sidney Hager  
 Sister Carol Gerke '72

Sonja Corcoran  
 Stafford & Gena Swearingen  
 Steve & Debbie Rouchka  
 Sue (Keller) Wise-Hoersten '58  
 Susan Callis  
 Susan Godfrey  
 Suzie Brodersen  
 Tammy Creten  
 Ted & Liz Kehl  
 The Hoffmann Family  
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### In Memorial

Fr. Vincent Andrew Hoying, C.P.P.S.  
 February 21, 1930 – November 17, 2020

Fr. Vince was appointed pastor of Sacred Heart Church, where he served for nine years (1971 – 1980). In 2004, Fr. Vince volunteered to return to the Sacred Heart community, where he served until his official retirement in 2008. His personality and approachability quickly endeared him to parishioners, students, faculty, staff, and alumni. In 2008, a special ceremony was held to name Sacred Heart's east gymnasium the Fr. Vincent Hoying Gymnasium in his honor. Fr. Vince was always proud of his hook shot! He is a member of the SHS Hall of Fame class of 2018.



# SHS Foundation Annual Fund Drive

**2020 Annual Fund Drive Results: \$276,241.26**

**Drive ends December 31, 2020**

We are deeply grateful to the many parishioners, parents, alumni, staff, and business and community leaders who helped our 2020 Annual Fund Drive reach historic levels. The Foundation Annual Fund Drive is critical to our school's financial health because tuition dollars do not fully support the cost of educating a Sacred Heart School student.

The following list includes donors who gave to the Annual Fund Drive. (From Nov. 23, 2019 to Nov. 25, 2020.) Gifts received after this date will be recognized in a future publication of *From the Heart*.

## Thank you, 2020 Annual Fund Drive Donors!

Al Letourneau  
Alecia Herrick '09  
Allison & Brandon Martin '07  
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Fr. Joesph Corel  
Fr. Mark Miller C.P.P.S.  
Frank Rouchka '73  
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Janice L. (Williams) Brandt '82  
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Jean & Robert Simon '77  
Jeff Smith '74 - In honor of current &  
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Jenny & Desmon Carl  
Jenny & Eric Rouchka '90  
Jill (Arnold) '95 & Matt Jones  
Jim '53 & Patsy (Ryan) Fall '53  
Jim Gladbach  
Joan (Simon) '76 & Jack Anderson  
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Mark & Peggy Entrup  
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Martha (Martin) Wininger '60  
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Marvin & Kathleen Brownfield  
Mary (Hoffmann) '73 & Roy Kehl  
Mary (Makarewicz) Slater '82  
Mary (Walje) Wiseman '63 - In memory of  
John & Mary Jeanne Walje  
Mary Ellen (Bishop) '72 & Jim Davis  
Mary Jean Suter - In memory of  
John T. Suter  
Mary Jo (Westermier) Ballenger '73  
Mary Lou & James Grose  
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Ronald Schuster '68  
Rosann (Behrens) '48 & Hank Saddler  
Roxanne (Dick) '82 & Kyle Herrick '82  
Ruth Ann (Bahner) Chmelir '58  
Ruth Mather  
Sally (Fechtel) '69 & Tim Alley  
Sally Keating - In Memory of  
Thomas T. Keating '49  
Sandy (Glavin) Nickel '63  
Sandy & Bill Mayfield '59

Sharon & Larry Price  
Shelly Register '81  
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Sue (Keller) Wise-Hoersten '58  
Susan Rouchka '93  
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Suzanne (Rayl) Kacinski '76  
Suzie (Chmelir) Brodersen '87  
Teresa Simon - In memory of Tony Simon  
Terri (Dick) '66 & Mike Maple '66  
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Christopher '11 & Patrick '13 - In memory  
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### A note to our donors:

Publishing a list of donors is a small way we can recognize and publicly thank those who have made a gift to our Annual Fund Drive. We make every effort to acknowledge all gifts. If there is an omission of your name or an error in naming recognition, please contact Liz Van Leer at [shfoundation@gogremlins.com](mailto:shfoundation@gogremlins.com) or (660) 827-2311. Thank you for your support and understanding.

## Strategic Growth Plan Update

Almost four years ago, hundreds of parishioners, alumni, faculty, and other friends gathered with the Institute of Parish Development (ISPD) to plot a course toward operational vitality for the next 137 years. SHS is a mission of St. Vincent de Paul, which is why next steps will focus on flowing Catholic identity into what we do to support operational vitality.

We continue to put our faith and trust in God and in all of us working together to implement our Strategic Growth Plan. Wonderful developments continue to take place. Please take a moment to review our Strategic Growth Plan update. We are more than happy to discuss this plan in more detail should you have questions. Your input and involvement is most welcome as we advance our vision of Extraordinary Catholic Education. Through Christ. For All.



## #1 Structure school leadership for optimal success

- Adopted President / Principal model for 2020-2021 school year
- Hired Athletic Director with addition of Assistant Athletic Director
- Finance Director oversees all school and parish finances
- Annual training of School Advisory Council led by Fr. Joe Corel

## #2 Achieve sustainable sources of revenue

- Continuing with cost-based, needs-based (CBNB) tuition model while exploring stewardship model
- Expanding upon "State of the Parish" to provide greater transparency on activities, budgets, and future plans
- Rolled out fundraiser calendar and request form to maximize collaboration and resources and minimize giving and volunteer fatigue
- Exploring options to expand current daycare offering
- Reigniting a more active and involved alumni base
- Stretching SHS Foundation to achieve unprecedented goal for Annual Fund Drive
- Continuing joint effort between SVDP, SHS, and SHS Foundation to coordinate a planning and funding process for financing Sacred Heart School (the School) operations

## #3 Make Catholic education available and affordable

- Explore stewardship as a sustainable alternative to CBNB
- Expand availability of SCRIP sales after Mass. Revenue expanded to make SCRIP self-sustaining. Revenue will support school budget and tuition assistance
- Modify adopt-a-student program
- Modify Time and Talent form to include needs specific to SHS
- Appointed Volunteer Coordinator to connect volunteers with opportunities

## #4 Build unity among all three parish families and SHS

- SVDP established parish commissions and is working to establish active committees under each commission
- Unified calendar for June 2020– December 2020 complete. January – May 2021 in development
- Improving cross promotion of school/parish activities
- Planning to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month in 2021
- Consolidating school and parish Time and Talent form for 2020-2021 school year
- Centralized donor and parish database form

## #5 Build stronger relationships with Sedalia and surrounding communities.

- Offered service for those who worked at the warming shelter hosted at St. Patrick chapel
- Students and pastor belong to the United Way Mental Health and Substance Abuse coalition within the

county

- Development Director, Dean of Students and President belong to and attend many civic meetings throughout the year publicizing our school activities
- Host 8th grade regional retreat and regional faculty retreat
- Confirmation preparation for entire parish hosted at SHS

## # 6 Project and communicate positive image

- Integrating Catholic Identity into our way of life
- New parish website promotes school activities
- New database and database secretary enhances communication capabilities
- Communication team comprised of school and parish staff meets weekly to plan and prepares communication shared with school, parish and community
- Increasing presence in local media outlets

## # 7 Communicate progress of the Strategic Growth Plan

- Share update in "State of the Parish" communication and through *From the Heart*
- Utilize website, bulletins, e-mail distribution to share ongoing progress

## #8 Retain and attract quality teachers

- Benefits package offered to full time employees/ teachers was increased substantially in 2019
- Faculty salaries moved to 82% of public school colleagues based on previous year's salaries. This equalized the salaries and bumped everyone up from 81%

## #9 Retain and attract students

- Continuation of mentoring program
- Expand SHS Visiting Days to area Catholic schools
- Implement weekly marketing and admissions meetings
- Grow International Exchange program
- Renewed efforts on involving and engaging Hispanic community
- Create bilingual ambassador's group to increase student enrollment
- Prioritize enrollment strategies on "Little Gremlins" program
- Establish baptismal and birthday outreach program for families with children ages birth to five. Rollout Jan 2021

## #10 Increase family involvement

- Preach and teach that a Catholic School is a six day a week school. Sundays are a shorter day of the week
- Increase family participation in the life of the church. School involvement will naturally follow
- Educate and inspire families into a Steward's Way of Life
- Change mindset from "I pay for those services to be done" to "we work together to do what needs to be done to form our children together in our faith"

# 2020 Hall of Fame Inductees



The Hall of Fame Selection committee is honored to recognize the Sacred Heart School Hall of Fame Class of 2020. Members are publicly announced each year in Sacred Heart Church at the conclusion of Catholic Schools Week. The official ceremony, previously scheduled for April, 2020, has been moved to April 17, 2021. The event will be held at Sacred Heart School or virtually. All are welcome to participate. More info will be shared in the *From the Heart* monthly e-mail.

The 2020 Hall of Fame class includes the following: Jack and Marilyn (Fischer) Arnold '68, Fr. Andrew Brunswick (posthumously), Bonnie Diefendorf, Leo and Cecilia Gerke (posthumously), Will Kraus '92, Sue (Keller) Wise-Hoersten '58, Jane McMullin '87 and Fr. Mark Miller.

The mission of the Sacred Heart School Hall of Fame is to recognize and honor the extraordinary accomplishments of the members of the Sacred Heart School family and celebrate those who can be looked upon as legitimate role models by current and future Gremlins.

Candidates for strong consideration include alumni who have made a positive impact on the world in which they live during their Sacred Heart years and/or after leaving Sacred Heart. Candidates also can include groups (such as teams) and non-alumni (SHS faculty, staff, parents, and volunteers) who have in some way made a positive, meaningful and lasting contribution to Sacred Heart School.

For more information about the Sacred Heart School Hall of Fame, or about the nomination process, visit the alumni page at [www.gogremlins.com](http://www.gogremlins.com), or email [shfoundation@gogremlins.com](mailto:shfoundation@gogremlins.com).



## Marilyn (Fischer) '68 and Jack Arnold

"I can't think of anyone quite like Marilyn Arnold, who exemplifies Christian values, loyalty, and service ... who works so tirelessly for others," said Cindy (Felten) Dick '73. Gremlin pride was instilled into Marilyn as a child. She'd eventually bring her husband, Jack, along for the ride, and together they have lent decades of their time, knowledge, and generous steward hearts to champion Sacred Heart School.

Marilyn was born in Jefferson City to Maurice and Theresa Fischer. She is the second oldest of six siblings, all of whom graduated from Sacred Heart School. Marilyn recalls her first few months of first-grade were taught by Sister Agnesita on the gymnasium stage because everyone was eagerly awaiting the completion of the 1956 school addition. Elementary days were full of Baltimore Catechism, sweet rolls and milk after first Friday Mass, times tables (and moving to the back of the room if you talked too much) with Mrs. Ilmberger, story time with Mrs. Kennedy, and spontaneous outbursts of singing in 8th grade to *It's My Party*, *Soldier Boy*, and *Breaking Up is Hard to Do*.



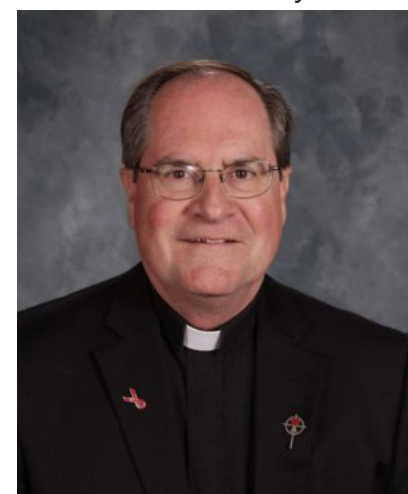
Marilyn said that as freshmen, they had to be initiated by the seniors. "This was way more fun for the seniors than us," she recalls. "We were shocked, bobbed for apples in a tank of water with a touch of formaldehyde and doused with flour."

Thankfully, initiation pranks began to taper off, and lighthearted memories began to blossom. Some of her favorite classes were with Sister Rosella, Sister Marie, Sister Dorothy, Sister Gordian, and Mr. Joe Biter. She was an honor roll student and was involved in many high school activities including yearbook, student council, choir, Mizpah, volleyball and cheerleading. Her senior year, Marilyn was editor of the Spectrum yearbook and a homecoming attendant. She graduated from SHS in 1968. She attended Central Missouri State University (now UCM) for two years. She earned her bachelor's degree in pharmacy from the University of Missouri - Kansas City School of Pharmacy in 1974. That same year Marilyn began a pharmacy career that would span over 30 years (1974 – 2012), many of which were served at WEB & Sons (Bing's Pharmacy) in Sedalia.

Jack was born in Kansas City, Missouri, and attended elementary schools throughout Missouri, Kansas and Iowa. In his 8th-grade year, Jack and his family moved to Sedalia. He graduated from Smith-Cotton High School in 1967 and went on to earn a bachelor's degree in accounting from Central Missouri State University (now UCM). He started his career as an internal auditor for Commerce Bancshares and later as a senior accountant for Ernst & Ernst where he obtained his CPA license. Jack and Marilyn married in 1971 and started their family. In 1975 Jack accepted a job as Controller of W J Menefee Construction Company and relocated the family to their hometown of Sedalia. They enrolled their daughters in Sacred Heart School "confident they would receive a quality education."

Jack and Marilyn quickly stepped into the active parents' roles at Sacred Heart, lending time to various school dinners, programs, classroom projects, alumni reunions, and sports activities. Jack accepted a position with the Sacred Heart School Foundation serving for over 30 years as president and treasurer at various times. As one of the early members of the foundation, Jack laid the groundwork for its long-term success. Marilyn's role at Sacred Heart School and Parish included School Advisory Council (president), Active Parent's Club, SH Bazaar (chairperson), Parish Council (secretary), Worship and Spiritual Life, Eucharistic Minister and Adoration Chapel Member. Marilyn was highly involved with church renovations, as well as renovating the convent into what is now the parish center.

After retiring, Jack and Marilyn moved to Olathe, Kansas, to be near their children (Dr. Elizabeth Spencer '89 and Dr. Jill Jones '95) and four grandchildren. They are members of Holy Spirit Parish where Marilyn serves as Eucharistic Minister and Adoration Chapel Member, and they both volunteer at St. Mary's Food Kitchen in Kansas City, Kansas.



**Father Mark Miller C.P.P.S.**

Fr. Mark Miller has always been the ultimate role model for the students, faculty, parish members, and the community in all areas but especially in the areas of social justice, faith, and positive actions. He was born August 15, 1944 in Trinity, Indiana. He attended Brunnerdale Minor Seminary in Canton, Ohio, and St. Joseph's College in Collegeville, Indiana. He finished his theology studies at the Josephinum Pontifical Seminary in Columbus, Ohio. Fr. Mark was incorporated as a member of the Missionaries of the Precious Blood August 15, 1968, and ordained a Precious Blood priest June 19, 1971.

Following his ordination, Fr. Mark's first assignment was at Sacred Heart School and Parish where he taught at SHS and served as associate pastor at Sacred Heart Church and St. John the Evangelist missionary church in Bahner from 1971-1977.

For the next 30 years, Fr. Mark held assignments that included formation director, vocation coordinator, and provincial director of the Precious Blood Kansas City Province. He was also elected and served as the Fourth General Councilor of the Missionaries of the Precious Blood in Rome. Fr. Mark served at St. James parish in midtown Kansas City and in the parishes on the southside of Odessa, Texas, before being reassigned in August 2011, as pastor for the Catholic Community of Pettis County, serving the parishes of Sacred Heart, St. Patrick and St. John the Evangelist as well as overseeing Sacred Heart School.

A strong supporter of Sacred Heart School, you could find Fr. Mark teaching and mentoring students in the classrooms, participating in pep rallies and parades, attending sports, drama and music events, and actively participating in fundraisers such as the talent shows, bazaars and concerts. During Fr. Mark's last assignment as pastor in Sedalia, he attended many functions, sometimes in locations other than church or school. At one such occasion, when he entered the room, a young toddler recognized him in the unfamiliar setting, and pointing, with a loud voice, exclaimed "That's my Father!" It was very important to Fr. Mark that everyone who so desired could have the opportunity for a Catholic education, and he worked closely with the school, parish, and community to help make it happen.

With his prayerful spirit, contagious laugh, and the support of many in the community, Sacred Heart Parish retired its debt and was able to complete numerous necessary maintenance projects. One of the final and perhaps most important and pivotal moments in his service was bringing the Catholic Community together as one parish, St. Vincent de Paul. After 48 years of dedicated service, Fr. Mark retired from parish assignments in 2019 and is enjoying retirement in Liberty, Missouri. While his life's work took him many places, it is fitting that Fr. Mark's service as a parish priest began and ended in Sedalia. He has said more than once "this is my home."



**Bonnie Diefendorf**

For Bonnie Diefendorf, supporting Catholic education and Sacred Heart School has been her lifelong work. Her service to Sacred Heart spans over four decades in numerous capacities from involved parent, elementary teacher, assistant principal, after school care director, and extracurricular advisor to a beloved retired member of the staff who continues to support the school community as a substitute teacher, volunteer and regarded adviser and mentor.

Bonnie, the daughter of Jean and Mervin Ransdell, was born in Red Lodge, Montana. She attended elementary school at St. Andrew's in Tipton (grades 1-4) and Otterville (grades 5-8). She attended high school at St. Scholastica Academy in Ft. Smith, Arkansas, where she graduated in 1967. She earned her associate's degree from State Fair Community College and her bachelor's in education from Benedictine College in Atchinson, Kansas, in 1972.

Bonnie's teaching career began in January 1972 when she joined the faculty at Sacred Heart School as an educator for a third and fourth grade class. From 1975 to 1979, she left the classroom to focus on her family. She returned to teaching in the fall of 1979 to start the gifted and talented program at Smithton.

In 1981, she rejoined Sacred Heart where she served until her retirement in 2013. She spent 23 years as a full-time elementary teacher (1979-1999) before assuming a role on the administration team as elementary principal (1999-2009) and as full-time teacher and assistant principal (2009-2011). Bonnie served on the Superintendent's Advisory Council for eight years, and served as NHS moderator (1994-2000). She is credited for bringing many new programs to SHS, such as Adopt-an-Artist, Arts Alliance, Afterschool Kids Club, ABC Awards, and the social studies, fine arts and literature fair. Most notably of Bonnie's contributions is the St. Jude Math-a-Thon. Since 1987, students have raised over \$198,000 for the children



at St. Jude Research Hospital battling cancer and other terminal diseases.

By the 1990s, Bonnie’s skills in the classroom were finely honed; however, she felt a calling to do more to help SHS grow and thrive into the future. She found time on the nights and weekends to earn her master’s degree in elementary administation from Central Missouri State University (now UCM). She also is a graduate of the National Catholic Education Association (NCEA) Principals Academy.

Bonnie was among the first educators to receive the Sacred Heart School Educator of the Year. In 2005, she received the Alpha Delta Kappa Excellence in Education Award. She was also was a diocesan nominee for the NCEA Outstanding Educator two times.

Aside from the long days in the classroom, there would be summers when Bonnie would work a second job to make up for her Catholic school salary. Her colleagues and children recall her coming into school over break to help put fresh paint on the hallways, or to prepare for special activities like bread making for her students receiving First Communion. For many years she coordinated and chaperoned students on the March For Life in D.C., and when her own kids were grown, served as a host family for some of Sacred Heart’s high school exchange students, whom she still communicates with.

Bonnie’s parish and community work is also far-reaching. She and her husband, Larry, have been members of St. Vincent de Paul Parish for 48 years. She is a member of the Daughters of Isabella and has held leadership positions on parish groups that include Social Concerns, Worship and Spiritual Life, and Christian Education. She served on the Bishop’s Pastoral Council for six years. Since 1973, Bonnie has been highly engaged with Missouri Right to Life, holding leadership positions on the local, state and regional level. She also served as chaplain and secretary for the Alpha Delta Kappa (ADK), a national educators’ sorority. She volunteers with Community Café, Open Door Thrift Shop, and the Children’s Summer Food Program. She and Larry have two children – Jeanenne (Diefendorf) Tornatore ‘94 and Nathan Diefendorf ‘93 – and five grandchildren.

“As a graduate of Sacred Heart - and the child of one of its teachers - I spent so much of my childhood inside the halls of this special place, and now as an adult with my own three children in a Catholic elementary school, I often find myself comparing my experience to that of my children. And there is just simply no comparison. Sacred Heart is an anomaly among schools. Even among Catholic schools. And the most significant bricks in the walls of Sacred Heart that set it apart are undoubtedly its teachers and staff, including my mom. To see teachers like my mom who have spent their entire professional careers - and personal lives - making this school the place it has become is a testament to their pure dedication and drive to make a difference in the lives of their students and the community,” said Jeanenne (Diefendorf) Tornatore ‘94, daughter of Bonnie Diefendorf.



**Leo and Cecilia Gerke**

The value of “putting God first” wasn’t just a motto for Leo and Cecilia Gerke, it was a way of life. Their strong foundation of faith and family is a legacy that continues to this day. Since February of 1959, one or more direct descendants of Leo and Cecilia have or is still attending Sacred Heart School.

In the early years of their marriage, Leo worked for the Missouri Pacific Railroad in a position where traveling kept him away from home many days out of the week. Wanting to spend more time at home with Cecilia (who was managing the house) and their growing family, Leo left the railroad to pursue his dream of farming. The Gerkes moved to a farm in Cooper County

and attended St. John’s Catholic Church in Clear Creek. Leo and Cecilia also envisioned their young family attending St. John’s Catholic School, where Cecilia had attended and had graduated in her 8th grade year.

Mikel Gerke, the oldest of the Gerke children, recalls transportation to St. John Catholic School being an issue for kids in the rural community. “The members of the parish (my Dad included), along with the pastor, attended a County School Board meeting to discuss the issue. The discussion got quite heated. At one point, an attendee who was not a member of the parish told our parish priest that ‘if he didn’t have that collar on he would take him out behind the building.’ At this point, our pastor removed his collar and laid it on the table. Neither went out behind the building, but the county agreed to transport the Catholic kids to the two Catholic schools in the county.”

With their sixth child on the way, Leo and Cecilia needed to secure guaranteed income, so they moved the family to a smaller farm where Leo farmed part-time in addition to his full-time job digging holes for telephone poles. The family attended St. Joseph’s Catholic Church in Clifton City, and made sure their school-age children were on the bus to attend St. Patrick’s School in Sedalia. Three years later, the family moved to Beaman and became members of Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Sedalia. With transportation again being an issue, the Gerke children attended public school, but Leo and Cecilia did not give up on Catholic education for their children.

It was while working one of his various side jobs (pouring concrete) at Sacred Heart Church that the pastor encouraged Leo to start his own business. In a leap of faith, Leo borrowed a truck from Cecilia’s parents and started Gerke Construction. By 1959, Leo and Cecilia had moved to Sedalia and thus began the legacy of the Gerke’s children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren attending Sacred Heart School.

Support of Sacred Heart Church and School did not end with the enrollment of their children. Leo and Cecilia made many sacrifices to make sure their children took part in extra-curricular activities. Cecilia delighted in attending her children and grandchildren’s many school functions. She was an active member of the Daughters of Isabella for over 40 years, Jolly Elders, and the Sacred Heart Altar Society. Cecilia was the first female Eucharistic Minister at Sacred Heart. Leo made many games for the parish Bazaar, served on school board, and was also a Eucharistic minister. He also was a Grand Knight with the Knights of Columbus.

Even after their passing (Leo on January 4, 2005 and Cecilia on February 14, 2018), their legacy still lives on, not only not only in the third-generation of Gerkes attending SHS but in the brick and mortar of the church and school itself. Leo was highly involved in the creation of the stamped wall in front of the rectory, the flooring under the addition to the Hoying Gym, and sidewalks. Cecilia was instrumental in implementing kindergarten at Sacred Heart School.



**Descendants of the Gerke Family at SHS**

- |                            |                         |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| Mikel Gerke ‘63            | Ginger Gerke ‘94        |
| Cecil Gerke ‘64            | Shannon Gerke Haney ‘95 |
| Charles Gerke ‘65          | Betsy Gerke ‘98         |
| Elizabeth Gerke Schopp ‘67 | Carrie Gerke French ‘00 |
| Earl Gerke ‘68             | Tracy Gerke ‘02         |
| Sr. Carol Gerke ‘72        | Eric Gerke, (K-8)       |
| Sharon Gerke Crane ‘73     | Brent Gerke ‘10         |
| Mark Gerke ‘87             | Jaysen Gerke ‘21        |
| John Gerke ‘88             | Donavan Dobson ‘22      |
| Judy Gerke ‘88             | Olivia Dobson ‘24       |
| Carmen Gerke Pekney ‘93    | Harper French ‘33       |





### **Sue (Keller) Wise-Hoersten '58**

"Has demonstrated loyalty and/or service to Sacred Heart School" reads the Hall of Fame nomination form. Sue Keller Wise, Class of '58, is the embodiment and manifestation of that statement. One only need to spend a few minutes with this lively woman to know that she is a Gremlin through and through. "Sacred Heart School is such a part of me, my development as a person, and that of my family, that it is easy and natural to dedicate my own heart to it," said Sue.

Her school days would be previews of her active life of service to come: Mizpah Pep Club president, Spectrum Yearbook editor, Glee Club, choir, volleyball, softball, cheerleader. One of Sue's fondest memories is that she

was sometimes excused from class to drive the nuns to essential appointments about town, and even taught Sister Aimard how to drive!

One doubts that upon her graduation Sue had any inkling that over 35 years later she would become Sacred Heart School's first Development Director, tasked with developing private resources to support the long-term sustainability and growth of her beloved alma mater. She set the bar high for those who would follow in her footsteps. She was instrumental in establishing the Sacred Heart Foundation's Annual Fund Drive, which to date has raised nearly \$2 million, helping to carry the school through challenging times. Even though Sue stepped down upon moving from Sedalia, she continues to mentor her successors and nurture Sedalia friendships.

The nomination form also reads "has distinguished his/herself in chosen field." She did not always choose her "field," but in prayer and faith gave her all to the field she was in, and in doing so became a role model for others. A mother of seven (four of whom are SHS alumni), an active Catholic, a business woman, a civic leader, a loyal friend, she was "all-in" all the time. Whether in service to Rotary Club, the Chamber of Commerce, Booster Club, Daughters of Isabella, hospice, and many others, her late friend Sherri Osborn once said, "Whatever Sue touches is Dynamo!"

Reflecting on her legacy as the first development director, and once again serving as a role model in service to the faith, Sue and her husband Len recently established an endowed scholarship through the Sacred Heart Foundation. The tuition scholarship was named in memory and honor of her late father, Charles Keller, and will be given in perpetuity.

"Sue has always been a great blessing to our school," said Mark Register, long-time school principal and current president, "She brought enthusiasm, energy, and professionalism at a transformational time in our school's history, and was instrumental in carrying Sacred Heart School into a new century."



### **Will Kraus '92**

Will has dedicated a majority of his career in service to his country. Born in Excelsior Springs, Missouri, to Bill and Cathy Kraus, life eventually brought Will to Sedalia where he attended Sacred Heart School. His school activities included soccer, basketball, and National Honor Society. Following graduation in 1992, Will joined the United States Army and was stationed at Fort Hood Texas. Following his tour, he attended Central Missouri State University (now University of Central Missouri). Will graduated Summa Cum Laude in 1997 with a bachelor's degree in business administration, business management, and a minor in military science.

After graduation, Will took a job with Sprint, serving as the West Region Project Manager (1998 – 2004). That same year, Will continued his military career, joining the United States Army Reserve (1998 – 2011). He served as a Maintenance Company Commander. From 2003 to 2004, Will served in Iraq as Platoon Leader and his Company's ground convoy commander. As an aviator, while serving as an Air Mission Commander in charge of missions involving multiple aircraft, his decisions were responsible for hundreds of soldiers' lives. In 2011, Will joined the Missouri National Guard and he presently serves as a UH60 Black Hawk pilot as well as his Company's Safety Officer.

Will's political career began in 2005 when he was elected to serve as a member of the Missouri House of Representatives, a position he held until 2010. From 2011-2017, Will represented Missouri's 8th State Senate district and served as chairman of the Ways and Means Committee. In 2017, Will was appointed to the Missouri State Tax Commission, which he still serves.

Will has received numerous military awards throughout his service including Air Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, and Army Commendation Medal. His legislative awards include the Americans for Prosperity Defender of Prosperity Award, Missouri Association of Veterans Outstanding Service Award and Missouri Chamber Spirit of Enterprise Award. He's also a five-time recipient of the Lock and Smith Foundation Award (Most Constitutional Senator).

Will is a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the American Legion. He and his wife, Carmen live in Lee's Summit, they have two sons, Tylor and Tannor.



### **Jane McMullin '87**

Jane McMullin discovered at a very early age that teaching at Sacred Heart School was where she wanted to be. She has answered that calling to the fullest, which is evident in her devotion to teaching, her dedication to her students, and her love for Sacred Heart School.

Jane has been a fixture at Sacred Heart her entire life. Her parents, Mary Jo (Welliver) '51 and Jesse McMullin, were lifelong members of Sacred Heart Church. Jane received her elementary and high school education at Sacred Heart. Jane was involved in numerous academic and athletic activities including, Student Council (STUCO), National Honor Society (NHS), Science Club, Math Team, Mizpah, basketball, softball, and volleyball. She held

various class officer roles throughout high school and served as STUCO president and NHS vice-president her senior year.

Following graduation in 1987, Jane signed on to play basketball for the East Central College Lady Rebels in Union, Missouri, and graduated with an associate's degree in secondary education. She then went on to earn her bachelor's degree in education and her master's degree in History from UCM.

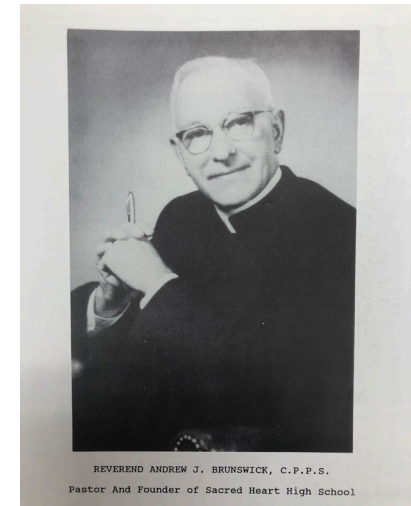
"Jane's enthusiasm in the classroom is unlimited," said Marcia Turner, Jane's former high school teacher and current colleague. "Her creative approach to history is both challenging and interesting to her students. Her demand for excellence from her students creates an atmosphere of learning that gives students an opportunity to reach heights that they might not have attained."

Jane has received numerous accolades, including Outstanding Graduate Student at UCM and two-time recipient of the Sacred Heart School Teacher of the Year. In 2016, the Osage Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution honored Jane as the American History Teacher of the Year. Community activities include 4-H and the Chamber of Commerce Leadership Sedalia program. She has also served on the Sacred Heart Parish Council.



She is a legend in her own time. Underclassmen, who whisper her name with trepidation, become alumni who speak of her with much respect and admiration. One comment heard from everyone who encounters McMullin in the classroom is that she truly enjoys what she does. Ms. McMullin’s “intensity, passion, and love for history and for her students is incredibly rare,” writes Devin Wadley, former student of McMullin’s. “She is loved and highly respected by her students and has inspired so many to love American History as she does.”

Marcia Turner adds: “Is there anyone more magnificent than Ms. McMullin? I have been privileged to have her as a student - then as a colleague - then as a friend - and then, most importantly as a ‘second daughter.’ Her knowledge, compassion, and professionalism is unsurpassed. There is no better reason to send your son or daughter to Sacred Heart than for your student to experience her knowledge and instruction. We are so blessed to have her. In a word, she is fabulous!”



**Father Andrew Brunswick C.P.P.S.**

As pastor and founder of Sedalia Catholic High School (renamed Sacred Heart High School in 1946), Fr. Brunswick quite literally laid the foundation for secondary Catholic education in Sedalia.

Fr. Andy, as many knew him, was born October 30, 1895 in Wendelin, Ohio. He entered the Society of the Precious Blood in 1910, was incorporated in 1918, and was ordained to the priesthood on May 13, 1923. His first assignment was to Sacred Heart Church as assistant pastor (1923-1929). It would be his return in 1940 that would forever change the landscape of Catholic education in Sedalia.

The first makings of a Catholic high school actually started with the Sisters of St. Joseph, who had conducted a private academy for girls at St. Patrick’s from 1890-1905. The author of *A History of Sacred Heart Parish 1882-1968* wrote: “There is a prelude to the origin of our high school. As far back as the early 1920s, the parents were becoming concerned about their children after they left the grade school. After World War I, the Ku Klux Klan became active in Sedalia and a wave of anti-Catholic bigotry reached into the schools. High school students received minimal religious instruction and their lack of contact with a Catholic atmosphere began to tell.”

For the next 20 years, various youth programs were implemented, but the desire for a parish high school did not die out. In 1940, Fr. Brunswick returned to Sacred Heart Church as pastor, knowing of the request from Bishop O’Hara “that the high school should be begun immediately.”

“I don’t know how enthusiastic Fr. Andy was in starting a high school, but because the Bishop asked that he start a regional school, he followed through,” said Fr. Mark Miller C.P.P.S. According to the parish history book, constructing a stand-alone building for the high school under the urgent timeline was out of the question, so the grade school and high school would be combined under one building. The high school became a reality though on a much smaller scale than hoped for. It would be administered by Sacred Heart parish but available to all Catholic students of the area.

On September 22, 1941, Sedalia Catholic High School opened its doors to welcome 27 students as its pioneer freshman class. Each succeeding year another class was added. Accommodating an increase in students and meeting high school accreditation standards was not an easy task. Simply put in the historical records, the author said: “How Fr. Brunswick managed to ready the school each year is hard to see.” Stairs were torn out, restrooms, a gym, and science lab were added. The pioneer class was only weeks away from receiving its high school diplomas when, on May 7, 1945, Sedalia Catholic High School

was recognized by the Committee of Accredited school. An excerpt from the diary of Shirley (Weimholt) Schieberl ‘45 dated May 10, 1945, states: “How happy everyone was to hear on this evening, that Sedalia Catholic High School was recognized. There’s no doubt but that the work had been achieved only through the untiring efforts of Fr. Brunswick. It was he who worked and labored mentally and physically to have a Catholic High School in Sedalia. Every student owes a great debt of gratitude for his interest in the cause of Secondary Education.”

In addition to Fr. Andy’s labor of love, he never lost sight of being a shepherd to his people. He was a traditional German with a rather stern appearance and approach to life. Standing on (back then) an elevated pulpit to deliver “long, fire and brimstone sermons” certainly added to his formidable demeanor. “If you messed up in school, you did not want to see him,” recalls Bill Hodges ‘52. “I remember Fr. Andy training Don Stohr ‘52 and me to be the first master servers of the High Solemn Mass. He tested us and trained us. It had to be right, but he wasn’t really mean. He took care of the people and the parish. He was very involved in the community. He was a true priest.”

Firmin Boul ‘55 remembers being “in awe of Fr. Brunswick. He was a kind person and dedicated to his mission as a priest.” As a young boy, Richard Bahner ‘70 remembers being “frightened” at times during Fr. Brunswick’s sermon, “but the picture that wins out in my mind is of him knowing my name and greeting me with it, sometimes even bending to extend a hand. I have never forgotten that voice that could be so soft, kind and friendly.”

Fr. Andy left Sacred Heart in 1958 and served at St. Peter and St. Paul in Cole Camp (1958-1966) and St. Ann in Warsaw (1966-1972). He retired from active duties in 1972 and passed away May 10, 1974.

When Fr. Andy arrived at Sacred Heart in 1940, enrollment was steady around 200. In his last year as pastor of Sacred Heart in 1958, total enrollment for elementary and high school was at 542. Because of his determination and perseverance, over 1,900 students have graduated from Sacred Heart High School steeped in faith, and prepared to serve.



**Gifts in honor of the 2020 Hall of Fame Inductees**

Jenny & Eric Rouchka ‘90	Bev & Charles Gerke ‘55	Susan & Earl Gerke ‘68
Bernie Bahner ‘64	Carol (Cooney) ‘70 & John Fischer ‘68	Turf & JoAnn Martin
Bill Freund ‘73	Cindy (Felten) Dick ‘73	Ruth Mather
Harriet (Schmitt) Morris ‘55	Jim Cooney ‘46	Beverly & Charles Wilkerson
Bernadette Lawson ‘87	Judy Gerke ‘88	Dominican Sisters of Peace
Marie Dean	Linda & Cecil Gerke ‘64	Society of the Precious Blood
Eric Gerke	Roxanne (Dick) ‘82 & Kyle Herrick ‘82	Anonymous Donors





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