



St. Mary's Colgan

Alumni & Friends Newsletter

Volume 1, 2023



St. Mary's



Colgan



St. Mary's Colgan

PANTHER FAMILIES Together WE ARE COLGAN!

Forbes Era

St. Mary's Colgan High School was under the watchful eye of Principal Pat Forbes from 1973-2005. Alumni of the Forbes Era can recall the quiet, very effective discipline wielded by Mr. Forbes which often involved a steely blue-eyed stare and a conversation that left you needing to find a dictionary. If you were in trouble, you knew it and if there was punishment you knew he would follow through. A trip to his office could also mean a gentle conversation as he would help diffuse whatever caused you to be sent there. Mr. Forbes' expectations were high, but attainable, and his attention to his students was fatherly.

Pat and Carolyn Forbes' five children all graduated while their dad was principal: Lisa Paterni ('82), Julie Story ('84), PJ ('86), Kathy Cooper ('88) Stephanie ('96). Did you ever wonder what it was like being the son or daughter of the principal? The Forbes kids graciously answered some questions of what it was like growing up as the principal's kids.

What was the best part of having your Dad as your high school principal?

Lisa: *Having him there so if I needed money or forgot something he could get it for me. All kidding aside, it was the little experiences that we had along the way and watching how hard he worked and how much he cared. He inspired a strong work ethic in all five of us.*

Julie: *I would say one of the best things about having Dad as our principal is that he was able to be at all my events. I'll always remember him standing in the doorway of the old gym watching games. You always knew where to look for him and if I was playing he was usually shaking his head at something I did on the court!*

SEE FORBES PG2



inside

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Thank you

Thank you to our school secretaries for all you do to keep our schools functioning and who know every student and parent! Debbie Smith has been the first face you see in the high school since 2001 and will begin her 22nd year in the fall. Beth (Wachter) Smith ('74) has been the elementary school secretary since 1998 and will start her 25th year in the fall. Both have seen many changes in administration and facilities over the years.



FORBES CONTINUED

PJ: I got to go to work with my Dad for 4 years and I don't think I really appreciated it until after I had graduated. He was such a support in all facets of my life, he still is today, but I didn't recognize just how much I leaned on him for advice until I was in college. I also got to know most of the teachers way before I was in high school which took away some of the anxiety of moving across the street. The other perks that were more superficial, but much appreciated... I had the keys to the gym anytime I wanted to use it. If I forgot a book or notes I could always go get them. If I forgot my lunch money I just went to the office and he gave me a ticket or money.

Kathy: I need to preface my part with the fact that I was the 4th child, so every complaint, every perk, every high and low had pretty much been acknowledged. All scenarios were taken, and every card had been played. I knew what was expected of me, decent grades (although I did not know what a GPA was until I was applying to college, another hazard of being the 4th child). I would participate in sports, practice my faith and be involved. Nothing felt forced, I felt like the expectations would have been the same just because my parents were my parents. I knew the "mistakes" that my older siblings had made. I knew I did not want to keep my parents up all night while I searched for the Joplin Spook light. I knew I was expected to respect my teachers, be kind and try not to attract negative attention. I admit I failed at times, but I also like to feel like I also rose to the occasion. I enjoyed having him as a teacher and loved having him as a track coach. I liked having him near (to run and get things I forgot), I always had a ride or a place to hang out while I waited for a ride after school.

Steffanie: Access to the gym. Built in ATM when lunch money was forgotten. Early access to snow day information.

Did you feel like there was a spotlight on you?

Lisa: Not really. For the most part I didn't feel like I was different or treated differently.

Julie: I always felt like there was but looking back I think it was more of my perception more than there really being a spotlight.

PJ: Mom reminded me quite frequently that I was representing my father and the school when I was out in public. I'm not quite sure I represented as well as my sisters, but every family has that one or two (Julie) that brings some turmoil to the family name.

Kathy: I feel like my Dad went out of the way to keep his distance at school, to not put me in a situation that would draw attention, I am sure he also learned a few lessons as each of the siblings walked the hallways of Colgan, Colgan St. Mary's and St Mary's Colgan. I feel I genuinely had the right friends. Their parents held us all to the same expectations, and I knew those parents were also invested in our success. I imagine there were some parties I was not invited to because I was the principal's daughter, but I never felt left out. Between schoolwork, sports, cheerleading and waitressing there never seemed to be a down time. I do not ever remember wishing I had anyone else's life. I never felt I had a spotlight on me, negative or positive. My parents did not inflate my ego, my Dad would stand at the doorway of the gym and a simple yes or no nod of the head indicated if I was doing well or if I needed a little more focus. In addition, I had phenomenally intelligent classmates...Sarah McGrath, Eric Huerter, Brigid Farrell, Dave Swearingen, Steve Stockard, Susan Clark and many more that kept me humble. The teachers were amazing. I felt I was treated like every other student.

Steffanie: I would say yes in the ways you would expect, if the principal's kid is doing it then.....so decisions and choices had a little different vibe to them then if he were

just a parent with a kid going to Colgan. The expectation was higher, which I appreciate now as an adult but when you're that age you just want to be a kid. The bonus is it does help those soft skills we find so important, problem solving, critical thinking, being creative and innovative.

Are there any stories about your high school days that you would be willing to share?

Lisa: *My freshman year I was running track for my dad. We were at regionals, and I was supposed to run a leg of the 4 x 200 relay. An upperclassman was upset that I was going to run, so he let her run in my place. She pulled a muscle in her back during that race (so they finished last) and to make matters worse she was supposed to run a leg of the 4 x 400. She tried but we finished last. Mom was furious with him for taking me out of the race.*

Julie: *So many good memories walking the halls with my friends, playing volleyball, basketball and running track. We always had fun on the bus rides with Dad driving. (Julie has many stories but is afraid she would STILL get in trouble for them.)*

PJ: . . .

Kathy: *When Dad told me that they wanted him to oversee the Elementary as well as the High School in his last few years, I thought it was going to be too much. I tried to dissuade him with how much more staff and parents he would be dealing with. He calmly said, "Kathleen, when I walk down the halls at the high school, the kids look away and avoid eye contact, when I go over to the elementary, the kids run to give me hugs, they have competitions to get to eat lunch with me, that is why I want to do this, it is about the kids". He then jokingly noted how the elementary teachers love to have meetings LOL. He taught us all where the priorities should be.*

Steffanie: *I am not sure why, but this experience has always stuck with me. I think it was my Junior year of volleyball and it was the first time we had been awarded Substate. It was when we were playing in the OG gym, and it needed to be cleaned. I remember how excited we were to get to host since we had won it the year before and gone to State. This was back before we had cleaning crews and every single parent and player who was suiting up showed and cleaned the gym from top to bottom. When I say clean I mean buckets and rags, hands and knees scrubbing kind of cleaning. I think that is something that has always made Colgan super special to me is that kind of culture and just showing up for each other.*

What piece of advice would you give a student whose parent is a high school teacher?

Lisa: *The advice Dad always gave us. When someone is bad mouthing their parents, never defend them. Just say if you think they are bad here, try living with them.*

Julie: *Just be yourself.*

PJ: *Enjoy it while you are there; it goes by way too fast.*

Kathy: *Well, I basically married a man like my Dad, a teacher, coach and then school administrator. If my life as a principal's daughter had been a miserable life I most likely would not have subjected my kids to the same fate and I hope that I was able to impart some words of wisdom as they navigated their journeys.*

Steffanie: *Have fun, just don't get caught.*

A few extra thoughts:

Lisa: *Just a comment: I don't think I realized the lives that Dad has impacted until I was older. The number of people that remember, admire, and appreciate him, and let him know how much he meant to them and the positive impact he had on their lives. Hearing their stories are so heartwarming. He may be small in stature, but he could strike fear in SMC students (maybe some parents), but once they matured most appreciated the discipline and high expectations that he set. Watching his reaction when former students share stories and reminisce is truly priceless.*

PJ: *I'm not sure people realize the amount of pride Dad had in the school and most importantly the kids. Leaving SMC with the foundation of a Catholic Education, he expected students to be pillars of the community and grow in their faith. A couple of his most challenging students are now high school teachers, coaches, and administrators which I know he is very proud of. He took it personally when a former student left the Church or made negative headlines. I'm thankful everyday that he and Mom chose to raise us in Pittsburg and that SMC was such an integral part of our life.*

A few words from Mr. Forbes:

"In regards to my kids' information all I can say is they were the beneficiaries of their Mom's good nature and value system and the influence I received from Sister Cecelia Bush (German) and Sister Mary Patrick O'Connor (Irish). Their leadership qualities were my background. The children were given the advantage of a great faith, school and a quality home, so we hope they received the skills to perform at the next tier, where they will visit their Mom, you know where."

At 86 years old, Mr. Forbes still lives in his Pittsburg home. Mrs. Forbes passed away in 2018. Mr. Forbes is always willing to travel to our Panther Pride Gatherings in Kansas City and Wichita where he is regularly greeted by alumni who enjoy sharing stories of their glory days, but more importantly are grateful to him for the example he set as their principal.

For your dedication to SMC we all say Thank You to Pat and Carolyn and the Forbes Family!

SEE FORBES FAMILY PICTURES PG 11

Looking Back... compiled by Chris Flood

...10 Years

DAVID MISASI

David wrote: "After graduating from St. Mary's Colgan in 2013, I moved to Lawrence, KS, to attend KU. In my time at KU, I was involved at the St. Lawrence Center and capitalized on my Catholic formation and education that I had received while at Colgan. I also found out just how exceptional the Catholic education I received at Colgan really was, when hearing about others experiences of Catholic education. This is where I think I made the faith "my own".

In my time at KU, I started by studying Nursing, but eventually switched to study Business and Supply Chain Management. This switch of education paths earned me a "super-senior" 5th year at KU, which was fortunate, because that 5th year was when I began dating Sarah Stratman, a FOCUS Missionary serving on KU's campus, who eventually became my bride.

After graduating from KU in 2018, I moved to Kansas City to work in implementation consulting, where I was fortunate enough to work with and travel to clients all over the USA and Canada.

In December 2019, I married Sarah (now Sarah Misasi) and we have 2 children, Zoe (Born Dec. 28, 2020) and John Paul (Born Dec. 24, 2020). My wife is a licensed marriage and family therapist, but uses her many skills as a full-time mom, currently. We now reside in our home in Olathe, Kansas and are members of John Paul II parish.

For the past 3.5 years, I have been working as a sales executive in the startup space, focused on supply chain and logistics.

When I look back on my time at Colgan, certainly the extra-curricular activities (Football, Golf, Knights of Our Lady, etc.) all hold a special place in my heart, but when I think back to one thing that I routinely think of with fondness, I think of singing in the church following football games. The sense of community and oneness, in laying down our win or loss before Jesus is not one that I will forget. In being a father and a husband, so many wins and losses happen in a given day, and taking them to Jesus in thanksgiving (and sometimes sorrow), just as we did after football games, is something that I'll always do, and hope to teach my children to do." David is the son of Roger ('72) and Heidi Misasi.

...20 Years

KENNY HALLACY

Kenny Hallacy graduated from SMC in 2003. After graduating Pittsburg State as a football and ROTC alum, Kenny moved around working for Kiewit Construction. Kenny has an MBA from Georgia Southern University and spent 8 years as an officer in the Kansas National Guard. Kenny moved to Wichita to be closer to his in-laws, seven years ago when he began working for IMA, one of the largest insurance brokers in the country. Kenny continues to live in Wichita, with his wife, Kara, and three children, Kaylee (9), Brynlee (5) and KJ (2). He is a Vice President at IMA and now leads their national renewable energy practice. Kara is a school counselor for her alma mater Bishop Carroll High School. The Hallacy's are parishioners at St. Catherine of Sienna. They enjoy their free time on their lake and farm. Kenny has also learned the art of dance through attending many dance competitions and recitals while also starring in the daddy/

daughter dance once a year. Although it is tough to stay in contact with past classmates and teachers, Kenny is more grateful every year for his parents decision to send him to St. Mary's Colgan. Sports were his passion and account for some of his best memories, but he continually reflects on the faith, family and values instilled in him while at SMC. Kenny will forever be in debt for his lessons learned (usually in the form of "volunteering" community service and running) from Coach Smith, Coach Watt, Mr. Forbes and all of the extraordinary staff K-12. He also claims to hold the record for most poles ever run as a sophomore for Coach Watt. Kenny's dad and Colgan alum, Dan Hallacy, passed away two years ago. Kenny hopes to continue the family tradition of his children growing up inside this fantastic Wichita diocese. He will forever be a Panther at heart and couldn't be more proud to be an alum.

...30 Years

AUBRI (MARTIN) CANNON

Aubri (Martin) Cannon graduated from Colgan High School in 1993. After graduation, Aubri attended Kansas State University, graduating in 1996 with a degree in accounting. After getting her CPA and spending a few years at Deloitte in public accounting, she moved into corporate audit and later corporate accounting for Seaboard Corporation in Merriam, Kansas from 1999-2008. From 2008 to the present,

Aubri has been working in Finance and Accounting for an Australian company, BlueScope Steel, with US headquarters in Kansas City. Aubri married Toby Cannon in 2000 and they have two daughters, Reese, a junior in high school at Lee's Summit West, and Delaney, a 7th grader. The Cannons live in Lake Winnebago, south of KC and happily spend much of their free time at various soccer fields in the KC area. Aubri

has very fond memories of her time at St. Mary's and Colgan from kindergarten through graduation and finds it difficult to relate to her daughters' experiences attending schools with 600-700 students in one grade level. She gets very nostalgic thinking about her time at Colgan; quick stops in the empty church before every sporting event, bus trips with prayer before games followed by songs sung at the top of lungs on the way home, the enormous bonfire pep rally during football season, and even running in the street to get ready for the next track meet. She also has a deep appreciation for all her classmates, who she rarely sees, but when she does,

they fall in step like no time has passed. They are family, as are the teachers and administration that worked tirelessly to make the school what it was and is today. She'd like to give a special shout out to one teacher that may or may not know to this very day what an impact she had on so many young people in the 7th and 8th grade, circa 1988, and the life skills she gave them. They weren't aware at the time what a gift they had in that teacher, Mrs. Fleming. Aubri is proud to have attended St. Mary's and Colgan and feels lucky to have been part of the tradition, faith-centered and family-oriented environment that the church and school still represent.

...40 Years

MARK HAWORTH

Mark Haworth said that graduating from Colgan in 1983 "with the greatest class of scholars, educators and industry leaders was amazing. Even more amazing is how this class is still close 40 years later." Mark came to St. Mary's in the 3rd grade, with one of the best teachers, Mrs. Simoncic. "High school at Colgan, is like no other experience," Mark wrote. "It was one of the steps in my life that taught me determination and work ethic. Sports is where I excelled, but once again having great teachers and coaches was key to my future. One of my most memorable high school events was shop class with Coach Crespino. Playing football and baseball were also memorable for me. I earned all-state honors and had many colleges offers." After high school, Mark went to college at Pittsburg State University. In 1986, he married Carol Martinous ('82) while finishing school and working. In 1989, their first son, Kyle, was born and they moved to Lawrence, KS. Mark became the Director of Facilities for a large manufacturer, Aamar Garage Doors, and in 1990, their son Kevin was born, joined by their daughter Kelli, in 1997. After ten years in Lawrence, in 2000, they moved to

Edmond, Oklahoma, where Mark took on the role as General Manager at Central Expanded Metal which is a metals manufacturer, and their kids began their education at Bishop McGuinness. In 2006, Mark took his most challenging career steps as North American President of a global manufacturing company, Blastrac NA. During his 14 years in that role, Mark traveled across 24 countries, many times with Carol at his side. Currently, Mark and Carol own their own manufacturing and distribution business, Temco Ind & Circle H2 Investments Inc., headquartered in Oklahoma City. "We are blessed with 3 grandsons and most recently celebrated our 37th anniversary. A few amazing facts are that a member of my family has either attended or taught at St Mary's for at least the last 75 years, so the school is in our blood. St Mary's Colgan was the foundation to my journey which was based on faith, work ethic, honesty (rare in today's business) and family. In reflection, as a nine-year-old stepping into that school for the first time or even as an 18-year-old stepping out, I could have never imagined the journey I would take, the people I would meet or the places I would see."

...50 Years

SUSIE (PEAK) PORTZ

Susie (Peak) Portz graduated from Colgan High School with the class of 1973. "I'm pretty certain that when it is the 50th anniversary of your high school graduation, most people are in disbelief—just like I am right now! However, it's been a great adventure and I am happy to be here to recap it! It was an absolute 'given' that my five siblings and I would attend St. Mary's and Colgan just as my mom, Hazel Monsour Peak ('44), and her entire family did. My mom and dad (Charlie Peak, Sr.) were the most faith-filled people you could ever imagine. For as long as I can remember, they attended daily mass, and our family prayed the rosary every evening. Additionally, we kids all knew that if we got in trouble at school, we'd be in double trouble at home; so I'd say we were generally pretty good! Looking back, attending St. Mary's/Colgan was honestly like being a part of a much larger family. The friendships I made are still a part of my life today, and the foundation that was laid for me is something I learned to value and appreciate. Traditions, like singing Goodnight Irene in front of the convent after winning football games and then heading out to Pizza Hut or marching in parades with Sr. Linda as our moderator, or all the buzz and excitement around homecoming will ALWAYS stir a fondness in me that I never want to forget." Susie got her Bachelor's degree from Pittsburg State University, where she was not only homecoming queen, but also Outstanding

Senior Woman. After receiving her Master's degree in Administration, Susie taught both kindergarten and second grade prior to having their children. "My husband, Steve, and I have been married for 42 years now, and our four children (Nick, C.J., Carli, and Stevi) all received a Catholic education through high school here in Las Vegas where we have lived for 35 years. I see that our own children have formed similar bonds to their classmates that I did." After spending many years at home raising their children, Susie returned to work at Bishop Gorman High School, where she was the service hour coordinator. The students were required to complete a minimum of 100 hours of direct service to the poor in order to graduate. "About 6 years ago, I reconnected with Meg (Wachter) Evans, Roxie (Peak) Loewenstein, Theresa (Keller) Swink, Judy (Yoakam) Coltharp, and Janet (Chiappetti) Hogard; and we now do a yearly trip together. It is the most wonderful thing to be with people who have known you for such a long time...the hilarious memories and stories fill so much of our time together and I am so very thankful to have these special and completely comfortable relationships. When you are living it, you often can't appreciate your experiences, but I can tell you that I am tremendously thankful that my parents made sure we all received our Catholic education. Go, Panthers!"

SEE 60 & 70 YEARS PG10

PANTHER GENERATIONS

Introducing the newest SMC Alumni – the Class of 2023. They are grouped by how many generations of their family have graduated from SMC beginning with the first class of 1940. Congratulations to all of our graduates, especially those who are the first generation of their family. We hope to see more of your family in the future.



1ST GENERATION *standing back three rows*
Front: Addison Gardner, Ava Glover, Jane Kerr, Olivia Brill, Jasmin Lara-Lucas, Meg Normand, Haylee Caskey, Crissie Flynn
Middle: Lauren Torrance, Kinley Crossland, Audrey Goetting, Ali Scripsick, Lily Graham, Mariajose Carmona Garcia, Samantha Rodriguez Gutierrez, Leyna Ortega, Chasi Williams
Back: Cory Dickman, Alex Brake, Carter Jacquinot, Colin Hite, Gavin Carson, Byron Lopez, Kenny Fontaine, Enrique Musio-Piedra, Jace Dungan

2ND GENERATION *seated at left*
 Anna Perry (Darrick Perry '95)

3RD GENERATION *kneeling*
 Zoey Smith (Mike Smith '85, Sam Smith '49)*
 Anna Westhoff (Alicia [Peaster] Westhoff '89, Freda [Wettstein] Peaster '59)*
 Sydney Kannarr (Amy [Askins] Kannarr '89, Mary [Keagan] Askins '60)
 Brody Kannarr (Amy [Askins] Kannarr '89, Mary [Keagan] Askins '60)
 *Great grandparents attended St. Mary's prior to the high school being established.

4TH GENERATION *seated on bench*
 Keagan Fleming (Kyle Fleming '91, Bob Fleming '60, Phyllis [Fields] Fry '46)
 Margaret Gill (Sarah [McLean] Gill '91 & Tim Gill '85, Christie [Dellasega] Gill '66, Betty [Clements] Dellasega '41 & Phyllis [Fields] Fry '46)

ALUMNI ANNOUNCEMENTS



Alumni Wedding Announcements

And Two Shall Become One

Maranda Russell ('13) and Aaron Jenkins January 7, 2023
Connor Wilbert ('17) and Aspen Lloyd March 4, 2023
Katelyn Flood ('13) and Matthew Ebberwein April 15, 2023
Katie Compton ('17) and Jace McCracken May 6, 2023
Kristen Oehme ('03) and Brandon Randall April 15, 2023

Alumni Birth Announcements: *Welcome to the Baby Panthers*

VJ ('03) and Brooke (Beasley '03) VanBecelaere
 Announce the birth of a son, **Beckham Jerome**, on July 11, 2022

Nate ('15) and Alivia Brown
 Announce the birth of a son, **Bear Michael**, on September 7, 2022

Evan ('08) and Emily VanBecelaere
 Announce the birth of a son, **Landon Joseph**, on September 7, 2022

Jeff and Randi (Piccini) Krier ('09)
 Announce the birth of a daughter, **Jordan Josephine**, on December 13, 2022



+

Recently Deceased Alumni
*May their souls and the souls of
 all the faithfully departed rest in peace.*

Barbara (Monsour) Bateman ('56) April 8, 2023
Mary Kathryn "Mimi" (Krusich) Laswell ('61) April 18, 2023

Adam ('10) and Hannah Barnes
 Announce the birth of a son, **Beau James**, on February 24, 2023

Nick ('03) and Ruthie Dellasega
 Announce the birth of a son, **Joseph Michael**, on March 19, 2023

Alex ('17) and Cheyanne Brown
 Announce the birth of a daughter, **Aiyla Catherine**, on March 22, 2023

Benjamin and Rebecca (Polack) Stephens ('15)
 Announce the birth of a daughter, **Clare Theresa**, on April 2, 2023

Willie ('08) and Jeanice Watt
 Announce the birth of a daughter, **Leni Jo**, on May 10, 2023

Pat McCall graduated from St. Mary's High School in 1947, after skipping his junior year. He spent two years at Pittsburg State University then transferred to Colorado School of Mines and graduated in 1952. Pat had a long career with ExxonMobil. He and his wife Linda have lived in New Jersey for more than 70 years and celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary in October of 2022. They raised seven children, one is deceased, and the rest scattered around the country, two are in New Jersey, two in Virginia, one in Ohio and one in Arizona. They have thirteen grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.



Ray Geldhof turned 100 years old, April 2, 2023. He is a 1941 graduate of St. Mary's High School. Ray proudly served our country from 1943-1946 and was with Patton's 3rd Army and the 9th Army, fighting in the Rhineland campaign and throughout battles in Germany. Two years ago, Ray was interviewed by Patriot Features. Listen to Ray tell his story with great clarity of his time in the military and WWII. <https://www.patriotfeatures.org/portfolio/ray-geldhof/>

Ray married Thelma Detrie on July 29, 1946, at Sacred Heart Church in Frontenac. He worked for Nationwide paper. Upon his retirement, they moved to Grand Lake where Ray fished every day. After 20 years, they moved back to Frontenac. In 2008, Thelma passed away and Ray moved to Spring Hill, Kansas to live with his daughter Marcia and her husband. Ray and Thelma also have two sons, Ron and Gordon, as well as six grandchildren and 10 great grandchildren. Marcia said they had a big party for his 100th birthday and that her Dad is healthy and doing well. He has no need for a walker or wheelchair and has a great outlook on life and loves football and the Kansas City Royals.

Happy 100th birthday Ray and thank you for your service!!



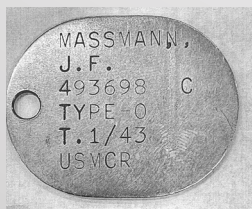
PANTHER PRIEST: FR. MASSMANN

In just the second graduating class of St. Mary's High School, 1941, was the young man who would become the first alumni priest of the school, Jack Massmann. After high school, Jack joined the U.S. Marine Corps serving during World War II from 1942-1946. According to Fr. Abbot Theodore of Mt Michael Abbey, "He was always very proud of his service as part of the Marine Corps. During the war he spent time in the Pacific Theater as an 'aerial celestial navigator'; this role made him responsible for the accuracy of aerial bombardment. He loved to talk about WWII and tell of his experiences in the Pacific." As a navigator, Massmann sat behind the pilot and co-pilot using a sextant and the stars to navigate. It was while resting up after a particularly difficult mission that Jack first entertained the idea of monastic life and the priesthood. Immediately after his discharge in 1946, he went to the seminary in Conception, Missouri, operated by the Benedictine monks of Conception Abby. He professed his first vows as a monk on September 12, 1950, and took the name Albert. On May 20, 1954, the Reverend Albert Massmann, O.S.B., was ordained to the priesthood in the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception in Conception, MO. Fr. Albert celebrated his first Mass at Our Lady of Lourdes Church on May 30 that same year. Fr. Albert is considered one of the "founding monks" of Mount Michael Benedictine Abby and School. The school, located in Elkhorn, Nebraska, began as a high school and junior college for men preparing for the priesthood and was called St. John Vianney Seminary. In

1970, the monks decided their resources would best be utilized by the creation of Mount Michael Benedictine School, a Catholic residential high school. Fr. Albert earned his M.A. in mathematics from Creighton University and taught math at St. John's Seminary and then Mount Michael High School from 1957-1975. In the mid-seventies, Fr. Albert's health took a turn for the worse and for a time he required regular dialysis. His sister, Joan, proved to be a suitable kidney donor, and after the transplant was performed, Fr. Albert made a full recovery. The doctors recommended that Fr. Albert slow down while he recovered, so he was sent to St. Gerald's parish in Ralston, Nebraska from 1976-1989. Following his recovery, he returned to service at Mount Michael. His homilies often began with his trademark, "Ladies and gentlemen, boys and girls," as he set the stage for homilies that were known to keep everyone's attention. Fr. Albert passed away on July 13, 2003, at the age of 80. Fr. Albert was remembered by the parishioners for his kindness and compassion. Those accolades were repeated by his niece Susie (Witt) Wachter ('63), who said Fr. Albert was a wonderful uncle. Susie and her brothers are rightfully proud of their uncle. At his passing, Fr. Abbot Theodore wrote that "Fr. Albert will be remembered by his brother monks not only for his storytelling, his jokes and his general penchant for entertaining at monastic parties; but most importantly, he will be remembered for his openness and willingness to accept all his confreres as brothers."



Susie (Witt) Wachter and her brothers Mike and Mark on the day of Fr. Albert's ordination.



Ordained Priest
May 29, 1954
Canonization Day of Pius X
Within the Marian Year

✠

Albert Massmann
Monk of Conception

✠

Pray for Priests



PANTHER FAMILIES: WE ARE COLGAN!

St. Mary's Colgan is a big family. That is even more true when you are the youngest child of a large family at SMC, when one generation wraps into the next. That is when aunts and uncles and their nieces and nephews are students at the same time, and parents are also grandparents of students.

WE ARE FAMILY! AUNTS AND UNCLES, NIECES AND NEPHEWS



Jakayla and Janessa Davis ('26) and Aunt Faith (VanBecelaere) Hall ('16)



Jess (Russell) Nicholson ('01) and Aunt Mary Orender ('90)



Tim Gill ('85) and Aunt Lisa (Dellasega) Russell ('82)



Auggie Flood ('35) and Aunt Lauren Flood ('24)



Jalen VanBecelaere ('22) and Aunt Faith (VanBecelaere) Hall ('16) with Mom/Grandma Annette VanBecelaere



Brady VanBecelaere ('25) and Aunt Grace VanBecelaere ('17)

...60 Years

ANGÉ (MOOREHOUSE) PETERSON

Angé (Moorehouse) Peterson graduated in 1963 from St. Mary's High School after transferring in her junior year from Mount St. Scholastica. The move was difficult, however, Sister Eustacia guided her daily on her journey and she will forever be grateful for the wisdom Sister shared with her. There are many memories, however, the highlight of attending SMS was the state championship basketball game and a wonderful senior trip under the guidance of Father O'Shea AND all the "blonde" senior boys who came back from Galveston to graduate! Thank goodness, they had their mortar boards on. Angé met and married John Peterson, D.D.S., while attending, then, Kansas State College (now Pittsburg State University). After teaching and coaching in K-12 and dental school in Kansas City, they moved back to Pittsburg to raise their family. Angé served in her favorite professional position as Director of Enrollment Services at Pittsburg State University, her alma mater. She was at PSU for 24 years and still bleeds crimson and gold...some blue and white too. In 2006 Angé moved to Florida where

she served as Associate Vice President at the University of Central Florida Regional Campuses where she supervised transfer enrollment services, marketing, and partnership outreach for the 10 regional campuses and locations in the central Florida region. She has consulted within the field of higher education colleges and universities for ten years and currently is an AACRAO (American Assoc of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers) senior consultant. Angé is most proud of being a parent to Audra (Peterson) Chiellini ('91), and LCL John Andrew Peterson ('99). "Audra is a super star working mom and John is a true leader and they are raising wonderful youngsters. All are very involved in Church and that says much about the education their parents had... SMC!!" She states frequently, her five grandchildren Genevieve, Vinny and Geno Chiellini, Johnny Cole and Taylor Peterson are "God's way of compensating us for growing old", they are the joy of her life. Besides working with universities after her retirement, Angé enjoys ballroom dancing and competition plus sailing in Tampa Bay.

...70 Years

ALMA (ZIGMUND) EVANS

Alma (Zigmund) Evans, graduated from St. Mary's High School in 1953. Alma wrote, "My journey at St. Mary's Colgan began at the age of four. Those were different times, post-depression, and the beginning of WW2. The Sisters of St. Joseph became second mothers to all of us., spending the next 13 years being nurtured by the nuns who instilled in us how to live by our Catholic faith. So, this is not so much about what we may or may not have accomplished and more about the sacrifices our parents and others around us who made it possible. After graduating from Mt. Carmel School of Nursing in 1956, I married and had three children. We moved to Eugene, Oregon, in 1960 and knew I was home. The next 37 years were at a successful career in Obstetrical nursing

and then Ophthalmology Surgery nursing, raising children, grandsons and horses and enjoying all the outdoor activities this area of the United States offers. Retiring in 2000. My husband Joe passed away in 2015 and the last horse died in 2018. Living in a semi-rural forested area south of Eugene, surrounded by wildlife, and all that God created is my little piece of heaven on earth. As I think back at this age of 87, of all that happens in life, if I could choose one thing, it would be the feeling of pure joy and peace singing in the choir loft of Our Lady of Lourdes Church and especially at Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve with my good friend Margaret Ann (Shaw '53) Forsythe playing the organ. I still get chills thinking about it. God bless us all!"



Rev. Jerome J. Spexarth

PASTORAL CHANGES AT OLL

"You may have already heard, but in case you haven't, after 5 years of being in this blessed parish of Our Lady of Lourdes, the Good Lord has different plans for me. Bishop Kemme has asked me to part ways--once again--with Our Lady of Lourdes (I was here '03-'05). He needs me to take over the parishes of St. Teresa and Holy Cross in Hutchinson KS. I have truly come to dearly love this parish, my brother priests here, our awesome schools, and this wonderful city! I told the Bishop that I did not want to move, but would certainly oblige the needs of the Diocese before my personal preferences.

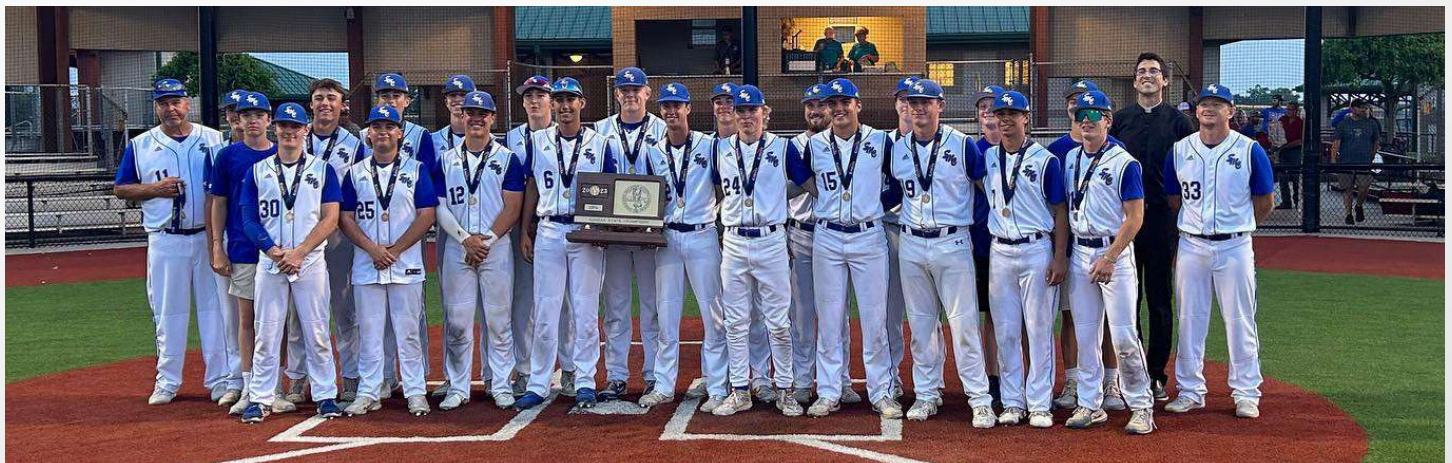
I am sad to have to say goodbye, but there is a silver lining, that I will be 40 minutes from my parents. Our assignment changes are effective on June 27th. Please pray for me and for Fr. Mike Simone, the new pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes, as we make these transitions."

- Fr. Jerome Spexarth



Rev. Michael M. Simone

FORBES FAMILY PICTURES



Congratulations to the St. Mary's Colgan Baseball team - 2A State Champions!! Mike Watt now has 17 state titles as the St. Mary's Colgan head coach, the most all time in state history in Kansas HS. Exactly 30 years ago he won his first title in 1993. SMC has 21 baseball titles as a school.



Congratulations to Lily Brown for her 1st place wins at the Class 2A State Track Meet in triple jump, high jump, and 100m hurdles. She also placed 3rd in the 300m hurdles.

ADDITIONAL STATE TRACK MEDALISTS

Girls Track & Field Team
3rd Place

Ali Scripsick:
Triple jump: 4th place
Long jump: 4th place

Tucker Harrell:
Triple jump: 5th place
Long jump: 3rd place
100m dash: 4th place



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Panther Alumni and Friends gather in KC at an annual Panther Pride gathering.



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