



St. Mary's Colgan

Alumni & Friends Newsletter

Volume 2, 2023



PANTHER FAMILIES WELCOME TO THE FAMILY!



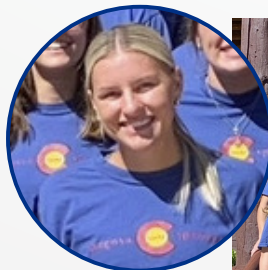
Welcoming the Next Generation

Three grandbabies, the children of three of Bryan ('89) and Brenda Main's daughters, were recently baptized at Our Lady of Lourdes. Merrick Owen, son of Brittney (Main '07) and Ryan Wydick, Lane Michael, son of Brandee (Main '12) and Ryan Wydick and Lennyn Rae, daughter of Brooke (Main '14) and Kaleb Hamilton ('15).

PANTHER CATHOLIC MISSIONARY

By: **Samantha Beykirch**

Hello! My name is Samantha Beykirch and I am an alumnus of St. Mary's Colgan, having graduated in 2019. This past August I began a new chapter in my life serving as a Catholic Missionary with a college ministry called Saint Paul's Outreach. SMC had a huge impact on my Catholic faith while growing up. I attended St. Mary's from kindergarten to senior year of high school and was constantly surrounded by so many incredible teachers and mentors who witnessed the faith so intentionally during my years at school. I was so privileged to be able to attend a Catholic school that deeply cared about their students' growth in their spiritual life. SMC had countless opportunities for students to go deeper in their relationship with the Lord which I am eternally thankful for. After graduating from Colgan, I attended Arizona State University, and became connected with an on-campus outreach organization called Saint Paul's



Outreach (SPO). This largely happened through a mission trip I went on my freshman year which sparked a turning point in my faith journey. During the mission trip, we did door-to-door evangelization in Mexico, and I served with 20 other students and three full-time missionaries who had a really solid faith foundation in their life. I couldn't help but be attracted to the joy that I experienced from this community during the trip. Throughout the rest of college, I learned more about my Catholic faith and what it means to be on mission. There are so many people on a college campus who don't know about the abundance of life that God has for them (John 10:10). I experienced

SEE PANTHER MISSIONARY PG 3

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TRACK & FIELD RECORDS

GIRLS		BOYS	
NAME	EVENT	NAME	EVENT
Domena Hubbard	100m	Austin Riggs	100m
Lily Brown	200m	Austin Riggs	200m
Maggie Fleming	400m	Austin Riggs	400m
Maggie Fleming	800m	Vince Alvarez	800m
Maggie Fleming	1600m	Sullivan Lauderdale	1600m
Melissa Itri	3200m	Jonathan Adamson	3200m
Lily Brown	110m Hurdles	Kash Marietta	110m Hurdles
Lily Brown	300 IMH	Kash Marietta	300 IMH
Lily Brown	Long Jump	Tucker Harrell	Long Jump
Lily Brown	Triple Jump	Tucker Harrell	Triple Jump
Lily Brown	High Jump	Greg Clawson	High Jump
Natalie Stahl	Shot Put	Domenica Brevicqua	Shot Put
Joy Dobracac	Discus	John Seglie	Discus
Emmalie White	Pole Vault	Darrick Perry	Pole Vault
Natalie Stahl	Javelin	Max Heter	Javelin
Paloma Kalan	Steeplechase	Alex Evans, Austin Riggs, Gerrit Kryn, Chris Smith	4x100m Relay
Carla Caputo, Kelly Marrett, Jenny Hubbard, Karan Wilhoit	4x200m Relay	Kyle Harmon, Alex Evans, Austin Riggs, Corbin Marshall	4x400m Relay
Kristen Farrah, Taylor Calas, Johanna Pesavento, Maggie Fleming	4x800m Relay	Cappy McNally, Max Heter, Brandon Crespinio, Charlie Gilmore	4x100m Relay
Taylor Calas, Megan McNally, Johanna Pesavento, Maggie Fleming	4x1600m Relay	AJ Cadeno, Daniel Bianchi, Shawn Willey, Jesse Hodson	4x3000m Relay
Chelsea Duncan, Hillary Dickey, Faith Miller, Grace Miller	4x400m Relay		

TRACK & FIELD STATE CHAMPIONS

Charlie Gilmore 100m, 200m 1992
 Charlie Gilmore 100m, 200m, 400m, 4x400 1993
 Team 1993
 Cappy McNally, Brandon Crespinio, Kyle Yartz, Tyler Nelson, Darrick Perry, Mick Marietta, Matt McNally, Keith Cronister, Brian Wilson, James Zimmerman, Max Heter, Charlie Gilmore, Steve Adamson, Craig Evans, John Curran, Mike Yaghmour, Coach Smith, Father Joe Gile
 Maggie Fleming 800m, 1600m 1996
 Greg Clawson High Jump 2004
 Greg Clawson High Jump 2005
 Chelsea Duncan, Hillary Dickey, Faith Miller, Grace Miller 4x800 2008
 Austin Riggs 100m, 200m, 400m 2010
 Max Wilson, Billy Dickey, Josh Hayes, Corey Hollis 4x100 2016
 Max Wilson, Billy Dickey, Josh Hayes, Corey Hollis 4x 400 2016
 Doug Brown Long Jump 2021
 Lily Brown Triple Jump 2022
 Lily Brown 100m Hurdles, High Jump, Triple Jump 2023



Check out our new Track & Field record boards in the SMC Fieldhouse Lobby!

LAST LETTER FROM MR. BURKE

Dear Alumni and Friends of SMC:

As I type out these last words to you a mix of emotions-gratitude, great memories, and a profound sense of pride flood my thoughts. Writing this letter is my way of saying thank you and goodbye to this amazing Catholic school community.

I have felt humbled and privileged to have gotten to know many of you personally. And for those I did not, your contributions to the life of our school were no less valuable. The sense of pride I felt from you at our various alumni events was evident from the beginning of my time here. Your sense of loyalty and conviction for the continued success of our school is what has made this more than a job to me.

All alumni are proud of their school. But nowhere I have been have I seen school pride mean so much more. You were infused with the teaching of the faith as well as the academic preparation that has made so many of you successful. But this success isn't measured only by financial support. Many of you have seen generations of your own families carry on the traditions that have made this school unique, not just in Pittsburg, but throughout the state as well.

As I move on to the next chapter in my life, I will count my time at SMC as one of my most cherished memories. I will continue to pray for the success of SMC and all of its students, past, present, and future. I can truly say that because of you and your continued support, the motto FAITH, EXCELLENCE, and TRADITION is more than just words, it's a commitment to a way of life. God bless.

In Christ,
Dennis Burke





IT IS GOOD TO BE HOME!

Fr. Mike Simone

It is good to be home. These words resonate with me as I begin my journey with our alumnae and parishioners at Our Lady of Lourdes and St. Mary's Colgan.

Moreover, I am learning more about the ways we prepare our next generation of Christians (and Panthers) to go out into the world and to be Christ to others.

I am so grateful to see our parish and schools alive and on fire with the faith! One of the sweetest sounds I hear each week is our school children at Mass who are one of the best singing congregations I have encountered. If you haven't heard them, or it's been a while, please drop in some day at Mass - it is a little slice of heaven!

Over the next few months and years, I look forward to getting to know you, our current and former Panther families near and far, so that I can learn even more about the ways our schools and parish have prepared you, your children and grandchildren to be Christ's disciples in the world!

A little about me... I grew up in Weir, Kansas before spending the past 26 years in seminary and priesthood, mostly in Wichita, Ks. During my 20 years of priesthood, I spent most of my time helping to form the next generation of priests thru my role as the Director of Vocations and the first Director of the St. Joseph House of Formation, a newly created program in 2017 for our college seminarians.

Being a native to the area, I am now learning, in person, more about some of the great traditions in our schools - like those home football games, singing Good Night Irene, and giving thanks to God in the church after victorious hard-fought battles.



PANTHER MISSIONARY continued

the richness of a missional community through living in one of SPO's Catholic Household Programs my senior year of college. We met people from all different walks of life and would have them over for dinners, women's nights, worship nights, and more. Not only did I see the impact this work had on other individuals, but I encountered the Gospel message in a new way through this organization. This year I am serving as a full-time SPO Missionary at the University of Cincinnati. I am helping to lead our women's household program where we have a few students living with the women SPO missionaries. We all do campus outreach together where we meet students where they are at and invite them to different events to encounter the Lord. It has been such a blessing to have been called to serve God in this way. His unwavering love has brought me to this point and growing up attending St. Mary's had a pivotal role in my faith to this point. Please pray for me and my team in Cincinnati and all of the students that they may have a deeper encounter with God. I will continue to keep St. Mary's Colgan in my prayers.



Looking Back... compiled by Chris Flood

...10 Years

RACHEL FARMER

Rachel Farmer is a 2013 graduate from St. Mary's Colgan, who went on to attend college at Missouri State University. There, she earned her bachelor's in nursing and started her nursing career as an inpatient oncology RN in Springfield, MO, but her heart always belonged to Kansas. She soon moved to the Kansas City area and currently lives in Overland Park where she works as an RN at the Advent Health Cancer Center. Rachel enjoys having the opportunity to work closely with her patients and truly getting to know them throughout their journeys and battles against cancer. She feels it is a special gift to be able to share the faith with many patients who come to know themselves and their spirituality better after such a life-altering diagnosis. God works in incredible ways. Rachel has decided to further her knowledge in the medical field by pursuing a Doctorate of Nursing Practice in order to be a Nurse Practitioner and will graduate with this next degree in 2026. Rachel also enjoys spending time with her family, most of whom have ended up in the Kansas City area, and participating in events at her

home parish, St. Joseph's in Shawnee. She has found that no matter what city you travel to, a Catholic community or an adoration chapel always seem to feel like home. Rachel's favorite memories at Colgan include homecoming festivities, GRACE meetings, and youth group retreats and activities. There were so many opportunities to be involved and to make the faith your own. She especially remembers her class's Senior Retreat at Prairie Star Ranch where they were able to bond as a class and grow together as leaders before entering their last year at St. Mary's. Rachel remembers her classmates, youth group leaders, and chaplains all with such fond memories and is grateful she is still able to keep up with many of them through different avenues. The support she received from her community at Colgan left such an impact, and she hopes to now share the same support with her community in Kansas City. Our Lady of Lourdes, pray for us! St. Joseph, pray for us! Rachel is the daughter of Tom & Lisa (Normand '82) Farmer.

...20 Years

NICK DELLASEGA

Nick Dellasega was a third-generation student at St. Mary's, graduating in the SMC class of 2003. He then went on to attend Pittsburg State University where he majored in finance and accounting and was a member of the football team. After graduating, Nick lived in Kansas City, Wichita, and Atlanta, working for KPMG and Koch Industries. In 2018, Nick felt the nudge to return home to Pittsburg to be close to family and work at US Awards, a company founded by his grandfather. Nick got married to Ruthie Greenhalgh in 2021 and they welcomed their son Joseph Michael in March 2023. Joseph will be in the SMC class of 2041, 100 years after the

first graduating class of St. Mary's and 99 years after Joseph's great-grandma, Betty Clements Dellasega, graduated with the class of 1942. Nick loves being a member of the SMC community, and watching his nieces and nephew partake in the same traditions that he loved so much growing up. Nick is a member of the Colgan football staff and helps with Knights, a group that holds a special place in his heart since he was able to participate in its inception here at Colgan in 2005. He looks forward to his family making many more memories here at Colgan. Nick is the son of Joe ('77) and Janice (Wilbert '79) Dellasega.

...30 Years

KEVIN CUMISKEY

Kevin Cumiskey graduated from St. Mary's Colgan in 1993 and then attended the University of Kansas. Following his freshman year, Kevin transferred to Pittsburg State University where he played on the men's golf team and joined Sigma Chi Fraternity. While in school, he worked at Crestwood Country Club and for John Ison in the local Edward Jones office. Kevin graduated from Pitt State in 1998 with degrees in Business Management and Economics. Upon graduation, he attended Kansas State University and graduated in 2000 with a Master of Business Administration degree. During his time in Manhattan, Kevin was employed as a Graduate Assistant by the Department of Marketing in the College of Business and took classes through CIMBA in Asolo, Italy. Kevin worked in the oil & gas industry in

Texas before moving back to Pittsburg, where he worked as an Investment Representative with Edward Jones. In 2004, Kevin made a career change and began teaching marketing at Oklahoma State University and taking classes in the PhD program in Marketing. Finishing in 2010, Kevin accepted a position at Eastern Kentucky University, where he became Director of the ECU Center for Sales (now the Berman Center for Professional Sales) and coached the university's Sales Team. While at ECU, Kevin was named the Distinguished Educational Leader by SGA and nominated by ECU Athletics as Faculty Member of the Year for the Colonels' Choice Awards. For the past four years, Kevin has been the Business Development Manager for Amteck, a top 50 electrical contractor based in Lexington, Kentucky. He

currently serves on the Business Development Committee for Associated General Contractors (AGC) and has served on the Membership Committee for Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC) of Indiana/Kentucky. "I often reflect on my time at St. Mary's-Colgan and have very fond memories. The extracurricular activities such as football, basketball, and golf, Scholar's Bowl, and student government are all very memorable, and singing to the nuns after a victory was

extremely special, but it is the friends, teachers, priests, nuns, and coaches that make SMC a special place. The stability and longevity of the teachers and coaches create a unique culture that isn't easily replicated, and all have strong, faith-based lives which directly influence the student body. Living in various places has given me a deeper appreciation for the experience I had at SMC, and I am very proud and thankful to be a Panther."

...40 Years

RANDY PICCINI

Randy Piccini graduated with the Colgan High School class of 1983. After high school, Randy attended Pittsburg State University and graduated with a major in Accounting and minor in Mathematics. Following college graduation, Randy moved to the Kansas City area and went to work as a Controller for Benso, Inc. and Lexington Plumbing Companies. In 1990, Randy married 1985 SMC graduate Wendi Wilbert. After attending the 1999 state football game in Hays, they made the decision to return to Pittsburg in order to send their children to SMC. Upon returning to Pittsburg, Randy went to work at Pitt Plastics, Inc. as their Financial Controller and later as the Director of Human Resources. In 2013, Randy joined CDL Electric in Pittsburg as the VP of Accounting and continues to work there today. Randy's favorite memories from high school include

playing Thursday night varsity football games and enjoying discussing the game with his friends at school the following day. The traditions surrounding the football games such as the game day Mass, Church after the game, and singing to the nuns are other great memories. Today, Randy remains close with many of his classmates as evidenced by a daily text thread with a group of them, and he also looks forward to their class reunions every five years. He credits his SMC education and experience for being prepared for both college classwork and for life after college. Randy and Wendi have 4 children who are all graduates of SMC - Randi Krier (2009), VJ Piccini (2013), Dominic Piccini (2017), and Aubri Dellasega (2019). In addition to their children, Randy and Wendi have 4 grandchildren, Leighton, Hudson, Lucia, and Jordan, ages 4 and under.

...50 Years

CINDY (JONES) DAVENPORT

Cindy (Jones) Davenport graduated from Colgan High School with the class of 1973. After graduation she attended Pittsburg State University and received an associate degree in Secretarial Science. Cindy married Terry Davenport in September of 1976. They moved to Fort Scott, where they continue to reside. Cindy went to work for Extrusions where she was employed for three years before the birth of their son. She was a stay-at-home mom for seven years before returning to the workforce. Putting her degree to use, she was the secretary at St. Mary's School in Fort Scott for 10 years before joining her husband at Ruddick's Furniture. The Davenports purchased Ruddick's Furniture in 2000 and continue to work there together, where Cindy runs the

office while Terry manages the sales department, which includes their son. Cindy and Terry have two children, Josh who lives in Fort Scott and Julie who lives in Topeka. Their oldest grandchild, Connor, will turn 18 on Christmas day - the absolute best Christmas gift they ever received. They have two more grandchildren, Brynn, who is 11 years old, and Ryker, who is 8 years old. Cindy says her main joy is spoiling her grandchildren. "I am grateful for my Catholic education and the traditions of attending Colgan. The class of 1973 recently had our class reunion at the home of John and Sara Keller." Cindy said. "Reminiscing about all the memories and activities, it would be hard to choose a favorite."

...60 Years

CASEY CLUGSTON

After graduating from St. Mary's High School in 1963, Casey attended Kansas State College, now Pittsburg State University, and married his wife Margie of 55 years. Casey went to graduate school at Indiana University. "After one year in the two-year MBA program, Uncle Sam requested my participation in the military." Casey wrote. "Beginning with Basic Training at Ft. Leonard Wood, Missouri, then Advanced Training, Officer Candidate School, and Missile School, all at Ft. Sill, Oklahoma." This was followed by two years in Special Ammunition Command (SASCOM) as an advisor to a Germany Missile Battalion, Wesel, Germany. "As a Captain I was ordered to Vietnam, where I spent six months with the 101st Airborne Division outside of Hue, Vietnam." He served

as a Liaison Officer with an Infantry Battalion, then Brigade Liaison Officer. The 101st Airborne was the last Infantry Division in the country. Casey was then assigned as Asst. Civilian Affairs to the 196th Infantry Brigade, the last Infantry Combat Brigade in Vietnam outside of Da Nang. Following his military service, Casey returned to the United States, and joined his family-owned steel fabrication firm in Tulsa, OK. This was followed by several years in the Defense Industry in Virginia and Michigan, along with entrepreneurial ventures in Florida and North Carolina. Currently, Casey and Margie are enjoying retirement in Lancaster, PA, close to their daughter and son and grandchildren.

SEE 70 YEARS PG10

A PANTHER'S HISTORY

Imagine that it is 1938, 85 years ago. The average annual income in America was \$1,731, a gallon of milk cost 42 cents, a gallon of gas cost a dime, and a loaf of bread was 9 cents. The Great Depression was ending, and WWII was just beginning. Amidst the tumult in the world, St. Mary's School in Pittsburg was expanding and growing. Just two years prior, in 1936, Fr. McCullough inaugurated the high school starting with 26 freshmen. The third floor, the high school, was added to the elementary building. The expansion didn't stop with the brick and mortar, and a bus route was initiated. A young boy in Capaldo, Frank Montemurro ('42), was one of those riders. "It was cold waiting for the bus, and cold on the bus," Frank recalled. "I was born into a Catholic family and when they started sending the bus that made going to the Catholic school available." Riding the bus to and from school each day changed the course of many lives, as an education steeped in the Catholic faith taught by the Sisters of St. Joseph will do. After graduation in 1942, Frank joined the Navy where he became a Radar Man 2nd Class. He served in the South Pacific on the destroyer escort, USS Hilbert 742, with 200 other men. Frank was in the military for two years and eight months. After returning to Pittsburg, he attended Kansas State College (Pittsburg State University) on the GI Bill earning a Business degree. Frank met Shirley Hofer at a Polka dance at Ringo Corner. She was 15 and he was 22. After she graduated from high school, they married on June 3, 1950, at St. Alice Catholic Church in Capaldo. Before they married, Shirley joined the Catholic Church. Frank and

Shirley passed on Catholic education to the next generation as all three of their children graduated from Colgan High School: Marilyn (Nelson '69), Tommie ('71) and Danny ('76). Marilyn's children attended St. Mary's grade school until the family moved and they continued their Catholic education at Kapaun Mt. Carmel. Frank and Shirley were blessed with seven grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. Frank worked for Pittsburg Ready Mix on North Broadway in Pittsburg for over 70 years, working his way up to owner and retiring at age 75. Shirley passed away in July of 2013, shortly after they had celebrated their 63rd wedding anniversary. Tommie passed away suddenly in December of 2013. Marilyn and her husband Mike live in Texas. Frank lives with Danny in the same house on Joplin street that he has lived in for over 70 years, where clocks line every wall; a reminder of a hobby he pursued in his retirement years. At 98 years old, Frank's memory is strong as he still recalls being a young boy playing on a baseball team in Capaldo, a student at St. Mary's High School where Sister Paula was a good teacher of Math and Accounting and that she was a gentle woman, a Sailor in the Navy and 20 years of ship reunions of which he is now the only one still living, and his wonderful 63 years married to Shirley. Frank shared his life stories with joy and a periodic twinkle in his eye when he started a story that was often followed by him or Marilyn saying, "but you probably shouldn't print that."



ALUMNI ANNOUNCEMENTS



Alumni Wedding Announcements

And Two Shall Become One

Brittney Main ('07) and Ryan Wydick	June 19, 2022
Riley Wood ('14) and Kyah Ferguson	May 20, 2023
Bryce Hutchins ('18) and Kate Stahl	June 3, 2023
Marci VanBecelaere ('18) and Clint Heffern	June 10, 2023
Max Wilson ('18) and Maddy Thomas ('18)	June 17, 2023
Olivia Smith ('17) and Alex Arriaga	September 30, 2023
Brandon Ngo ('17) and Taylor Edwards	November 4, 2023
Hayden Compton ('12) and Grace Gibson	November 11, 2023



Recently Deceased Alumni

May their souls and the souls of all the faithfully departed rest in peace.

Kathleen (Stahl) Eichhorn ('49)	May 5, 2023
Millard Cronister ('57)	May 26, 2023
Dolores (Mingori) Towner ('49)	June 12, 2023
Clarence "Allen" Sullivan ('64)	June 14, 2023
Eileen (Theys) Whetzell ('53)	June 18, 2023
Raymond Wingeback ('44)	June 18, 2023
Donna "Dianne" (Reilly) Creel ('66)	July 16, 2023
Tim Mangan ('66)	July 26, 2023
Leo Peak ('52)	August 2, 2023
Rosajune (Castagno) King ('62)	August 31, 2023
Charles Meyer ('60)	September 15, 2023
Pam (Hamilton) Musick ('64)	September 28, 2023
Sally (Patterson) Hart ('54)	October 7, 2023
Rita (Menghini) Jurcyk ('51)	October 14, 2023

Alumni Birth Announcements: *Welcome to the Baby Panthers*

Brittney (Main '07) and Ryan Wydick
Announce the birth of a son, **Merrick Owen**, on February 24, 2023

Caleb ('11) and Lainy Dellasega
Announce the birth of a daughter, **Genna Lucia**, on April 30, 2023

Trevor ('18) and Mary Graham
Announce the birth of son, **Jude Joseph**, on May 5, 2023

Nicole ('10) and Paul Rieke
Announce the birth of son, **Mack Douglas**, on May 18, 2023

Ryan ('15) and Jessica Higginbotham
Announce the birth of a daughter, **Rae Michele** on May 25, 2023

Aaron ('10) and Morgan Snow
Announce the birth of a son, **Trace Aaron**, on June 14, 2023

Christian ('14) and Paige Cedeno
Announce the birth of a son, **Mac Patrick**, on June 18, 2023

Andrew ('16) and Brandee (Main '12) Stewart
Announce the birth of a son, **Lane Michael**, on June 24, 2023



Kaleb ('15) and Brook (Main '14) Hamilton
Announce the birth of daughter, **Lennyn Rae**, on June 24, 2023

Aaron ('10) and Emily Flood
Announce the birth of a son, **Kolbe Robert**, and daughter, **Josephine Christine** on July 6, 2023

Jason ('02) and Cassie Rhuems
Announce the birth of daughter, **Camryn Margaret**, on July 17, 2023

Taylor (Bolinger '13) and Dominic Cavitt
Announce the birth of daughter, **Mylah Clarice**, on July 18, 2023

Kolter ('11) and Katilin Krumsick
Announce the birth of a son, **Henry Michael**, on August 10, 2023

Nichole (Kolarik '13) and Jerrik Sigg
Announce the birth of a son, **Baker Mitchell**, on August 23, 2023

Connor ('16) and Haydn (Dawson '16) O'Brien
Announce the birth of son, **Dawson James**, on August 29, 2023

Paul ('02) and Meagan (Bolinger '03) Gill
Announce the birth of daughter, **Delores Rae**, on September 13, 2023

Do you LOVE your job?

DO YOU WISH MORE PEOPLE WOULD ENTER YOUR CHOSEN CAREER PATH?

SMC's 7th - 12th grade School Counselor is starting a new learning series called "Curious about Careers." The students at St. Mary's Colgan Junior High and High School need someone like you to spark their curiosity in the career that you love. Contact Alisha Krusich at krusicha@OLLsmc.com or call SMC's office at 620-231-4690 if you are interested. Our students are waiting to hear about your job!



PANTHERS PRESENT: *JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT*

1983



2003



2023



SMC FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCES

By: Janet Holden, Teacher

The SMC Family & Consumer Sciences classroom is undergoing a transformation! New courses offered this year include: Career & Life Planning, Lifespan Development, Foods & Nutrition, Culinary Arts, Personal Finance, and Family Studies.

The 1960 high school building featured a Home Economics classroom lab (see photo below), initially taught under the direction of Sister M. Sara. This room has since been transitioned during the 1990's and used as a Pitsco Synergistics Lab and Technology/Multimedia Classroom over the years. The traditional "Home Ec" classroom no longer existed.

Last year, Family & Consumer Sciences classes (formerly called Home Economics) were integrated back into the course schedule but students would walk to Guadalupe Hall on our campus for their foods labs. Thanks to recent grant funding and the generosity of the HOPE Auction Giving Board donors, a few minor renovations have been made and the students are now able to use their in-classroom kitchen within our high school once again!

This work is funded through grants from both the Pritchett Trust and CFSEK (Community Foundation of Southeast Kansas) Women's Health Fund, General Fund, and Future Fund Giving Circle as well as support from the HOPE Auction Giving Board donors.

Some of the new additions include: sewing and embroidery machines, electric ranges, refrigerator and dishwasher, tower garden for year-round indoor growing, infant simulator, and more! The kitchen also boasts an amazing 8' custom island, made and donated by SMC Alumni VJ Van Becelaere ('03) of VJ's Custom Cabinets.

The majority of this work is being led by our SMC Maintenance Department: Eric Wilson, Stephen Herman ('65), and James Johnson.



THEN & NOW...



Courtesy Photo: The Marian 1961



VJ VanBecelaere ('03)
of VJ's Custom Cabinets LLC

Fun fact: While the layout is a bit different, the new FACS Classroom is in the original "Home Economics" Classroom from the 1960 building blueprint.



...70 Years

MARGARET ANN (SHAW) FORSYTH

Margaret Ann (Shaw) Forsyth joined St. Mary's grade school in the second grade. By the 7th grade she was regularly playing the pipe organ for funerals, weddings, Requiem High Mass and Benediction. "I watched mass in the rear-view mirror." She said, explaining that Our Lady of Lourdes had a pipe organ and when playing it, you sat with your back to the altar in the choir loft and watched the priest in the mirror. "I still recall playing for Fr. Stremel and giving him the first note to try and get him on pitch." Sometimes she would play for the 6:30am High Mass with her friends singing and they would walk to Crowell's for breakfast. "We thought we were so grown up." Margaret graduated from St. Mary's High School on a Sunday in May of 1953. "Then I thought, well, I guess, I need to get a job." She laughed. Two days later Margaret applied to KOAM radio, on the top floor of the Commerce building at 4th and Broadway and went to work the following day. Three girls worked there, doing the typing, bookkeeping, answering the phone and everything that needed to be done, except for being the DJ or engineer. After four years, Margaret had an offer at a new radio station in Kansas City, but her friends Carolyn and Jo Ann were moving to Wichita. To Margaret's surprise, her mom encouraged her to join her friends. After less than a year in Wichita working at an Insurance agency, she moved to Kansas City to work for KBKC then moved to KMBC as the traffic manager. A new radio station opening in Indianapolis beckoned her to move east. After about a year, the station began playing only religious programming on tapes, and there wasn't much for Margaret to do so it was time to move on...this time to Chicago. Her colleagues in the radio business encouraged her to talk to the Rep Firm, PGW in Chicago. The firm represented radio stations selling ads, including KMBC where Margaret had worked. She was able to put names and voices from phone conversations to faces. She was, once again, hired immediately. After a few weeks as a "floater" she attained a permanent position serving the stations west of the Mississippi. There were five desks covering the West stations. In 1967, the winds of change blew west, and Margaret was persuaded to drive to Los Angeles, this time to KTLA TV Station, Channel 5. She arrived on a Thursday, went to lunch on Friday with her colleague and was told to report to personnel on Monday to start work. "After my job at KOAM, I never had to apply again." Margaret said. "I always knew someone." Within

six weeks, Margaret had worked her way up to secretary for the General Manager. One of her many responsibilities was to send flowers or memorials to employees after a death. This small task changed Margaret's life. She was asked to organize the money collected for the Cancer Society for Gene Forsyth in memory of his wife. Margaret counted the wadded-up bills she was handed, and it totaled \$222. She added \$3 to make it an even amount and added her name to the donor list. "Gene asked someone, who is Margaret Ann Shaw and why did she donate?" Margaret laughed. He stopped by Margaret's office to thank her and a few weeks later asked her to dinner. They married in 1969. Margaret's role in life changed as she became a stepmom to Gene's three children, two teenagers and a ten-year-old. Together they raised the children and Gene continued to work for KTLA as a technical director until he retired in 1987. Their son, Michael was tragically killed in a motorcycle accident in 1975. His wife was pregnant with their grandson at the time of the accident. They also have two granddaughters, one from each of their daughters. Their oldest daughter Jessica died in 2014 and youngest daughter Trina lives in Virginia. They also have 5 great-grandchildren. Years earlier when Margaret had worked for KBKC, she was offered a free weekend at Hot Springs, Arkansas, at the Traveler's Boat convention, including access to the boats on Lake Hamilton. Gene owned several boats over the years and the family enjoyed trips to Catalina Island and Lake Havasu on the California-Arizona border. Margaret's experience at Hot Springs piqued Gene's curiosity and they would often make a trip to Hot Springs in conjunction with a trip to Pittsburg to visit Margaret's mom. In 1988, the winds of change moved Margaret one last time, as she and Gene moved to Hot Springs. They became very involved in the local community theater where they shared their radio and tv experience. Margaret once again worked her way up to doing just about everything. "I always said I would do anything except get on the stage." But that changed in August of 2023 when she was persuaded to play "Heart and Soul" on the piano during the performance of "Forever Plaid." After 49 years of marriage, Gene passed away in November of 2018. At age 88, Margaret hasn't slowed down much. She is an active member of St. John's Church, keeps in touch with several of her classmates and still takes care of her house and yard... and shares great memories.



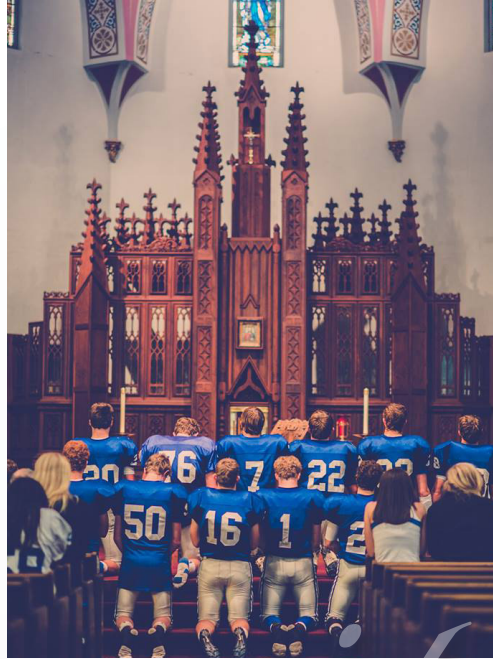
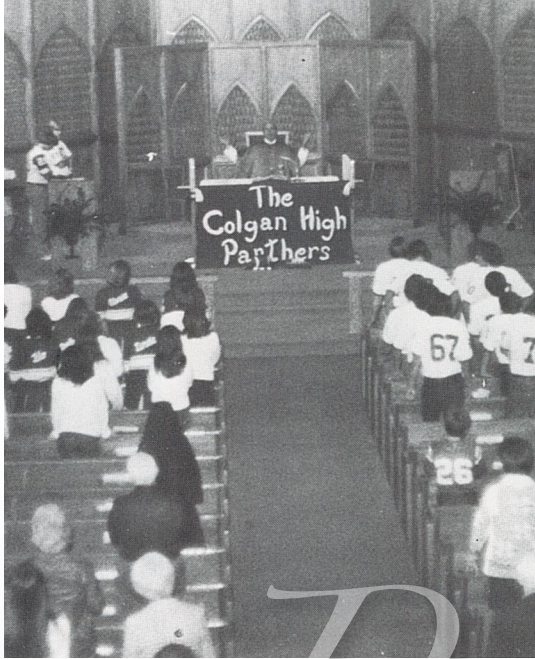
SMC ALUMNI DATES

February 17th

SMC Boys Basketball Alumni Weekend

- Friday - watch Colgan play Frontenac at home
- Saturday morning - 3 v. 3 Alumni Tournament
- Teams can have a max of 4 players
- Teams must have at least 1 former SMC Alumni
- Contact Coach Heff to register your team!

Email heffernc@ollsmc.com



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If you have remembered St. Mary's Colgan Schools or Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in your will or estate, please let us know. You may call Chris Flood or Fr. Mike Simone at 620-231-2135. You may also email the information to alumni@OLLsmc.com or mail in or drop off the following:



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