



St. Sebastian Parish School



# Newsletter



Fall 2013



## Welcome...

to the first issue of our alumni newsletter!

I am grateful to have the opportunity to reach out to all of you and to reaffirm to you the tenets of our parish and school:

Our mission within our St. Sebastian community – and especially in our school – is to be authentically Catholic without apology.

It is incumbent upon us to imbue our students with an above-average understanding of – and respect for – our Catholic faith, hand in hand with Catholic culture and practice.

Opportunities to put our Catholic beliefs into practice must be a part of the St. Sebastian experience. Our discipline and formation must be positive, fair, and clearly articulated so that our young people fully appreciate their uniquely Catholic education. Our physical building and programs, as well, must reflect that heritage.

This is not to the exclusion of educating our students to pursue a lifetime of learning, nor does it exclude a deep understanding of the greater world culture. Rather, a Catholic education must include all of these character-building imperatives, integrating that knowledge into our Catholic culture: Catholic culture comes first, and it is the lens from which we see. The aperture must be optimal, and the education provided to our students must be focused; it must be a fixed understanding of faith, family, friends, and – greatest of all – fortitude in all of these.

Though academic standards may be considered secondly, they are equally important! Opportunities for excellence in studies for each student is of paramount importance, and exemplary teaching is vital and expected.

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# Welcome

(con't)

Developing the best staff possible – a staff that incorporates faith into academic curricula -- must be our greatest legacy, or we cease to have a reason to exist. Our children come first, for they are the future of our faith and our world. We must tirelessly strive to improve, and we must continue to pursue our mission of being well-recognized by our local high schools – as well by the broader community – as solidly preparing our students for their futures, and molding them into the best they can be.

Though this mission is heady, still it is not enough. We must also form the students entrusted to us into young ladies, young gentlemen, and good citizens. This, too, is what it means to be Catholic. Professional and refined behavior is to be a hallmark of our students, teachers, and staff. This imperative is reflected in our school discipline, our dress, our manners, and the physical appearance of our building and grounds.

Our school is not a public school. It is not a private school. It is a parochial school that offers to our young people special opportunities to form their minds, bodies, and souls. Not all students achieve the highest of academic goals, yet all students -- without exception -- bring to our school and to our community unique, outstanding talents, and we treasure them all.

Our reason for existing – above all – is to facilitate faith, education, and character-building. This must be our life's mission, for it is through these endeavors that we strengthen our faith and glorify our Lord.

The Rev. John A. Valencheck, Pastor  
valencheckj@stsebastian.org

Support our future  
leaders and bring hope,  
faith and stability to  
our world.

You can make a real difference. Help those students who desire a Catholic education, but cannot afford it, by making a gift to the Alumni Scholarship Fund. No gift is too big or too small. Your support of the Alumni Scholarship Fund will help ensure any child can learn here at St. Sebastian Parish School and start their path of excellence in the Catholic tradition. Contact Jennifer Knapp Ciarlariello, Director of Development, with any needs or questions you may have. Thank you for your support. 330.836.2233 x113 or jenniferkc@stsebastian.org

# Hello, my name is Sandie Isabella



and I am the new principal of St. Sebastian Parish School. I'm so pleased to be a part of the St. Sebastian community and delighted to reach out to our incredible Alumni who have followed the path of excellence for over 80 years.

As a new member of the St. Sebastian family, I would like to take this opportunity to tell you a little bit about myself. By way of background, I received my Masters of Educational Administration degree from Cleveland State University and most recently I served for five years as principal of St. Mary of the Falls School in Olmsted Falls. Previously, I taught sixth-grade Social Studies, Language Arts and Religion for eight years at St. Albert the Great School in North Royalton. I was also involved in many administrative activities including serving as chairperson of our school reaccreditation and crisis committees.

I am inspired by my students every day and am humbled to see them live and celebrate their faith. My goal has always been to facilitate student learning and help them reach their full potential as members of God's community. I am also inspired by great teachers. A good teacher plans and undertakes the curriculum. A great teacher is passionate about their students and leads them to success. I want teachers who are catalysts; educators who take that extra step in their classroom to ensure that every student learns and reaches their full potential. I set very high expectations for myself and for all members of the school community.

My home away from St. Sebastian is in Brunswick, Ohio and I am an active member of St. Joseph Parish in Strongsville, where I have been a Eucharistic Minister and have served on Parish Council. My passion for Catholic education is also celebrated at home as my three children attended Catholic schools. In my spare time, I like to golf, work out and travel. Never hesitate to contact me and share your wonderful memories of your time here at St. Sebastian Parish School and I hope to meet each of you soon.

Sandie Isabella, Principal  
isabellas@stsebastian.org

# Help us find our Missing Alums

## 1930

Mary J Flynn  
Daniel J Starne

## 1932

Martha T Callinan  
Margaret J Moss  
Margaret J Putt  
Mary J (Leiby) Steckel

## 1933

Melvin G King  
Mary M (Moore) Long  
Katherine R (Leffler) Quinn  
Robert W Ryan

## 1934

Marie T (Conlin) Jimenez

## 1935

Robert J Arnold  
Robert L Lawson  
Jean E Lube  
Helen M (Bredhold) Ryback  
Cecile M Saurer  
William R Walters

## 1936

Marilyn DeLeone  
William P Leffler

## 1937

Martina C Bonner

## 1938

Eleanor J Brady  
Norman H Justice  
Frank D Schmahl

## 1940

Mary J Dent  
James P Sullivan  
Phillip S Ulrich

## 1941

Raymond G Horning  
Mary A Murphy  
Robert G Newman  
Gertrude H (Mack) Wheeler

## 1942

Thomas F Bridges  
Noel McLane

## 1943

Margaret A Dillon  
Charles J Maurer  
Martha J Rauh

## 1944

Bernadine E (Golub) Bell  
Edward F Flynn  
Mary Ellen Murphy

William Schock

John R Spinelli

## 1946

Anna M Beck  
Isabelle M (Parker) Church  
James J Hamman  
Marlene M McGinnis  
Mary C (Derwort) Rankin  
David Waters

## 1947

Helen C Conlin  
Rose M D'Angelo  
Beverly A Vinez

## 1949

Robert G Monaci  
William L Salber

## 1950

Carol A Kaufman  
Julia Liggett

Judith E (Haley) Lowe

Mary A Regan

## 1951

John W Costello

## 1952

Robert Draper

## 1954

Roseanne E (Dick) Coon

John I Fox

Sandra J (Charley) Henderson

William Mitchell

Barbara Raderstorf

Marie C Sutler

## 1955

Rosemary Bascetta  
Nancy L (Sawan) Bradley

Francis A Duffy

Donna Edich

Richard Karan

## 1956

Aldena B Dembosky

Fred C Edich

Kenneth Mack

## 1957

Kathleen M Collins

Robert Garry

John H Hager

Patrick A Humphrey

Paul J Humphrey

Teresa M Jacobs

Marjorie J Klein

Christine L (Floyd)

Lyons-Holzwarth

Rose Y McClure

Dennis M McDonald

John M Murray

Joseph F O'Connor

Thomas B Orr

Richard E Rodgers

Mary S Scanlon

Charles K Statler

Rosemarie (Henry) Thomas

Valerie M (Blake) Thompson

## 1958

Theodore Foley

Robert Jordan

Joel H Parish

Thomas M Ryan

Louis D Sullivan

John C Thomas

## 1959

Thomas A Amshey

Patricia K Doyle

Kathryn A Gaskill

Kathleen A Hager

Kenneth P Lesniak

Thomas R Lewis

Thomas L Mitchell

Carolyn Nowak

Pamela S Sullivan

Barbara D (Gillespie)

Weinsheimer

## 1960

Susan G Adamson

Pamela J Frese

Myra J (Powe) Garrett

Gail E Gordinier

Louise M Hynes

Cynthia R (Kriston)

Kriston-Smith

Margaret A (Peter) McCarthy

Willard L Ochs

Marianne (Martin) Samels

John W Spalding

Dianne L Strum

Andrew R Toth

*More missing alumni will  
be in the next newsletter!*

If you know any of the alumni  
above, please give us their  
contact information by email  
at [alumni@stsebastian.org](mailto:alumni@stsebastian.org) or  
330.836.2233 x119.

## From the kitchen

### PIMENTO CHEESE SPREAD

Cook over very low heat or in double boiler until thickened.

1 Tsp dry mustard

1 Tbsp butter

3 Tbsp sugar

1 Lg. Phil. Cream Cheese

Salt and pepper to taste

1 small can Pimentos (cut fine)

2 Eggs

1-2 Tbsp Vinegar

1 Tbsp cornstarch or 2 Tbsp flour

Mayonnaise to make it creamy (or Durkee dressing)

Add all ingredients and cook over very low heat.

Tastes great on sandwiches with lettuce and/or tomato

(from the kitchen (circa 1940) of Julie Carter Censky - mother of Julie Censky Randall '52 and Grandmother of Beth Randall-Dodd '77 and Kevin Randall '79)

# Where are they now? Alumni updates...



Tom Mascolo

We recently heard from **Tom Mascolo, '73** who said the nuns and lay teachers were instrumental in his success, and that he looks back fondly on the memories he made at St. Sebastian's. "I loved my time at St. Sebastian from 1965-1973. I remember all the statues in the hallway. When I'd go back and see the little desks and lavatories and gym lockers, I couldn't believe we were ever so small. I loved the camp-

ing trips we went on. I was an altar boy for years and was proud when I was selected to serve Christmas or Holy Week masses. When I arrived in 1965, we were still only allowed to go to 8:30 mass in the old church. The principal had a sliding window in her office where she could spy on us in the pews. It wasn't until First Communion in 1967 that I ever saw the new one."

"I've been reasonably successful in my career and in my life, and I have always felt that St. Sebastian School was the place that put me on the right path. The nuns and lay teachers were instrumental in our success. I think of them often. They and my parents made me who I am today."

This year, Tom is retiring from the U.S. Navy where he has enjoyed a proud 30-year career serving our country and protecting our freedoms. He has lived all over the world, but still considers Akron his home. Tom is married to Heather, and has two children, Bob and Josie.

When I reflect on my experience at St. Sebastian Parish School, I greatly appreciate the educational foundation that it provided for my life. The school has always held high standards for excellence, and it also reinforced important values that I learned from my parents, such as hard work, discipline, and treating others with respect. At St. Sebastian School, I learned the importance of being my best, and using the golden rule as a guiding principle in my life.

- **Sandy Pinalto**, Class of 1968  
President and Chief Executive Officer  
Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland



We also have been in contact with alum **Kris Belman, '94**: "I attribute a lot of what I'm doing professionally and personally to my time at St. Sebastian's, not only on the education side, which I felt did a great job preparing me for the next phase of my academic life, but also the community aspect. To this day, several of my best friends are those I met in grade school, and the bond we share is lifelong. Even though I'm working and living primarily in Los Angeles, I still feel a strong connection to the St. Sebastian community. I'm grateful to have my niece and nephew, Arabelle and Dietrich Loyed, enjoying their experience at St. Sebastian's grade school the way I did. It's amazing to see all the positive changes over the years, and yet I sense that the underlying spirit that

makes the parish special is the same one that helped shape who I am today." Kris Belman is a writer/director living in Los Angeles, California. His first film, *More Than A Game*, earned him NAACP and Independent Spirit Award nominations. His transition into commercial directing has paired him with brands such as Nike, Gatorade, Nissan and Toyota. In 2010, Belman was the 4th highest awarded commercial director in the world, much in part to his work on Gatorade's "Re-play" campaign featuring Peyton and Eli Manning.

Belman is currently in production on a documentary analyzing social media's proliferation in modern society, and is in pre-production on a film for ESPN's critically acclaimed 30 for 30 film series.



# Reunion 2013

A fun evening was had by over 120 of our alumni as they enjoyed great food, happy memories, fun fellowship, and shared historic photos at the 3rd annual All-Class Alumni Reunion! On August 31, 2013, alumni and their guests were able to take tours of our campus including the original school building, the Junior High wing and the Center for Early Learning. Many alum reported their excitement at seeing the inside of the original convent (that is now our Principal's office) and walking into the "new" convent that is now our Center for Early Learning. Fond and funny memories were shared as folks walked around and saw what has changed and what has stayed the same.

The tours were given by our very own 8th grade Student Ambassadors and several current faculty members. Along the way, guests were able to sample Akron's own Krispy Kreme donuts in the newly renovated Hamlin Library, Heavenly Cake Balls at the Alumni Plaza, and partake in a test tube shot in the Buehrle Science Wing.

Aside from the treats, most agreed their favorite tour stop was walking into the old principal's office and seeing the "sliding door" that was the infamous "secret" window overlooking Zwisler Hall. This is where Sr. Cleophas, Sr. Bernice (and other nuns from that era) would keep an eye on student's behavior while attending Mass when what is now called Zwisler Hall was the old Church; the new Church had not yet been built.

Thank you to our visitors who attended from the surrounding Akron area, and a special thank you to our alum who came from quite a distance including Carrolton, GA; Florence, SC; Lynchburg, VA; Leonardtown, MD; Millersville, MD; Safety Harbor, FL; and Summerville, SC.

Would you like to help us plan the next reunion? Would you like to reach out to your classmates and get everyone together for a fun afternoon or evening? Just contact us at [alumni@stsebastian.org](mailto:alumni@stsebastian.org) and we will help you connect! Keep watching the Alumni Newsletter for more details of future exciting events.



