

ALUMNI ARROW

NEWSLETTER

FALL 2020

GATHERING GOD'S BOUNTY

School Garden Teaches Stewardship, Provides Food for Those in Need

This year, the St. Sebastian School Garden (a.k.a. Sebastian's Garden) has yielded an amazing 2,000+ pounds of fresh produce, all of which was donated to the Good Samaritan Hunger Center. The school garden, which is located behind Byrider Hall (a.k.a. the gymnasium), is a wonderful outdoor classroom where students and teachers come together for lessons and experiments on gardening, nutrition and science. But at the center of it all is the school's larger mission to teach students to be good stewards of God's creation.



This focus is evident in the recent redesign of the garden. The students designed several options for the garden layout and voted on a final design that placed a bed in the shape of a cross in the center of the garden to reflect how Jesus is the center of our lives. The redesign started with the Class of 2019, who as 6th-graders measured the garden plot and used their math skills to create a design that would include the most raised beds in that space. Before they graduated, this class worked with their teachers and schoolmates to help refine the design, plan which crops would be planted, prepare the plot, and build the new raised beds.

Annual Alumni Mass

Saturday, November 28, 2020
4:30 p.m. Mass

All alumni and alumni families are invited to celebrate Mass with the St. Sebastian community on the Saturday after Thanksgiving. No RSVP required.

Questions? Please contact Kathy Holaday at 330-836-2233 x113 or HoladayK@stsebastian.org.

The school garden was created in 2011, thanks to funding from the school's largest annual fundraiser, the St. Sebastian Spectacular. Special thanks to the many teachers, staff, students, school families, parishioners, Good Samaritan employees, and other volunteers – far too many to mention each of them by name – who have worked innumerable hours to maintain the garden over the years, giving of their time for everything from planning and construction to countless hours of weeding, harvesting and even more weeding!

This year, the bountiful harvest has included zucchini, squash, peas, lettuce, cabbage, peppers, tomatoes, cucumbers, radishes, green beans and strawberries. In early fall, watermelons and pumpkins will be ready to harvest. Students in 2nd, 4th, 6th, and 8th grade have been harvesting since classes began. In the spring, students in 1st, 3rd, 5th, and 7th grade will be planting new crops.

The school's partnership with Good Samaritan was formed soon after the school garden was created and has continued to strengthen

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ALUMNI UPDATES

CLASS OF 1952

Stephanie Schmida Dumstorf dropped us a line to say, “It is so good to have the opportunity to check in with fellow St. Sebastian grads! What fine set of memories we can share – uniforms, candy arrows on the feast day of St. Sebastian, and most of all, such good people we grew up with! Prayers and best wishes to all – especially our own Class of 1952!”

CLASSES OF 1953, 1955

Mary Loftus '53 and Ann Loftus '55, who made many life-long friends during their days at St. Sebastian School, shared these memories:

- Choir practice on Friday afternoon for children’s Mass on Sunday.
- If you did not sing “well” on Sunday, you had to write a “penance” the next day. This was done at lunch time, sitting on a rock. Not fun!!
- Cleaning hardwood floors with steel wool on Friday afternoon before you went home.
- Nuns greeting you at the door every morning. If it looked like rain or snow – best you have your rubbers, or no outside play time for you.
- Marching out of school every night with music from the “Victrola.”
- The famous St. Sebastian uniform worn by the girls from the first of October to the 1st of May (pictured at right). A brief description: A navy, wool long-sleeve dress with a detachable white collar and cuffs, navy tie at the neck, a slit pocket for your “hankie” and lastly your SSS badge on the sleeve. It was a real treat to wear your Brownie or Girl



Scout uniform on meeting day!

- When the principal rang the hand bell that recess was over, you stopped in your tracks, then walked silently to your assigned rock, then proceeded into the building.
- Staying for lunch was interesting. Sr. Cleophas, the principal, had a square, thick yardstick that she would swing back and forth on her finger. You spent more time watching that than eating your lunch.
- Each class put on a play for the school. Tickets were sold for the evening performance for parents and friends.
- Playing “jacks” on the concrete strip dividing the boys and girls playground.
- Peppermint candy arrows were given to each student on the feast of St. Sebastian and 3 Musketeer candy bars were passed out on the feast of the epiphany.
- The habits and other articles of clothing worn by the nuns, such as Sr. Benedicta (pictured at left).



Thank You For Sending in Your Memories!

During the 90th anniversary celebrations for the church and school, the Foundation asked parishioners and alumni to send in memories. Thanks to everyone who sent in your great stories and fond recollections. The Foundation has been sharing these memories in the Alumni Arrow and still has more to share in upcoming issues. But it’s not too late to send in your memories! Please email alumni@stsebastian.org or contact Kathy Holaday at 330-836-2233 ext. 113.

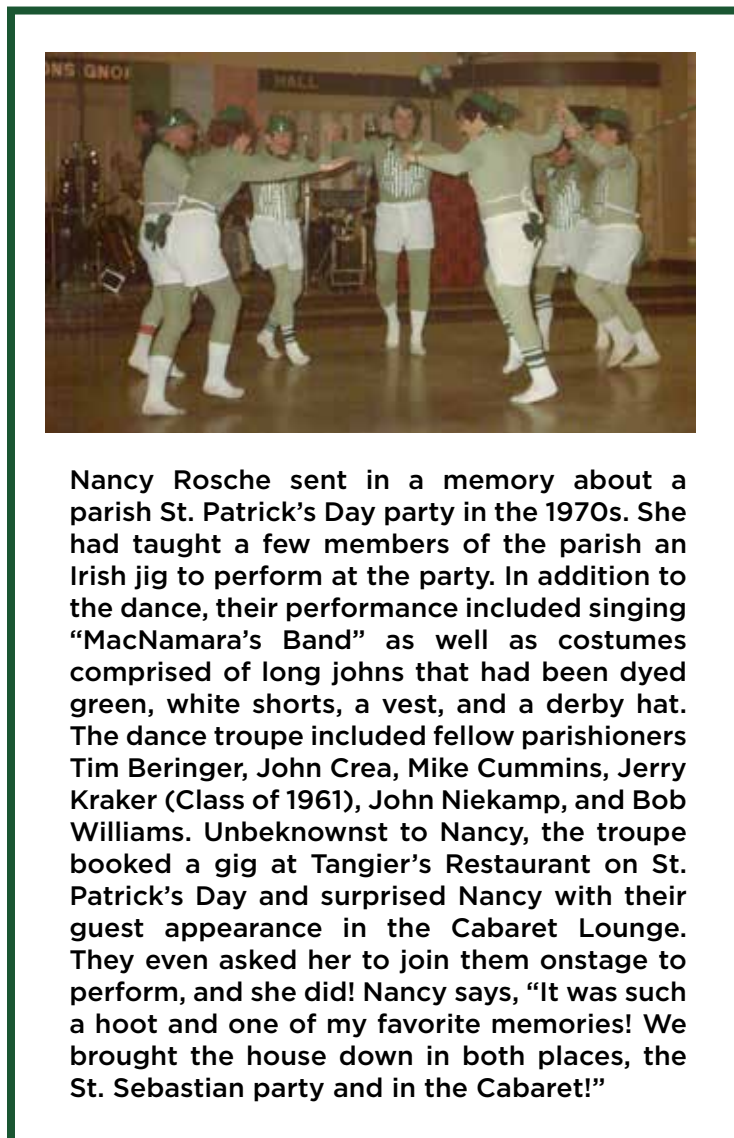
CLASS OF 1960

Mary Hummel Bowman sent in a wonderful list of memories from her school days, including playing on the brick lot with the girls (the boys played on the sand lot), wearing dark blue uniforms with long sleeves and detachable white collars and cuffs, getting giant candy canes with cardboard arrows attached on St. Sebastian's feast day, and staying after school to clean the erasers outside on the school building's walls. She remembers Sr. Agneta, her first grade teacher, and other teachers such as Sr. Mary Richard, Mrs. Mehok, Sr. Eligia, Sr. Pancratia, Sr. Mary Evangelist, and Sr. Bernice (principal). Here are a few more of Mary's memories:



"We basically had the same meals each week if we ate at school ... I think spaghetti was on Tuesdays. Hot dogs were Thursdays. Fridays always had to be non-meat. We had to eat all the food on our trays to keep from wasting ... I hated butter beans so I always had my sister Frances eat them for me. If she was not around, I stuffed them into my milk carton!"

"When I went to St. Vincent High School, I sold some raffle tickets to raise money for the band. I asked Msgr. Zwisler to buy some from me. (I always liked him. I would go visit him sometimes at the rectory.) He told me that if his ticket won, I could have the prize ... He did! He won \$75, and he gave it to me to use to go on our band trip to NYC that year. What a guy! ... The best part of the day was the END of the day. Announcements would be made over the PA system. Then someone would play 'Stars and Stripes Forever' on the Victrola as we all marched out of school ... Sometimes Msgr. Zwisler was outside to bid us farewell for the day."



Nancy Rosche sent in a memory about a parish St. Patrick's Day party in the 1970s. She had taught a few members of the parish an Irish jig to perform at the party. In addition to the dance, their performance included singing "MacNamara's Band" as well as costumes comprised of long johns that had been dyed green, white shorts, a vest, and a derby hat. The dance troupe included fellow parishioners Tim Beringer, John Crea, Mike Cummins, Jerry Kraker (Class of 1961), John Niekamp, and Bob Williams. Unbeknownst to Nancy, the troupe booked a gig at Tangier's Restaurant on St. Patrick's Day and surprised Nancy with their guest appearance in the Cabaret Lounge. They even asked her to join them onstage to perform, and she did! Nancy says, "It was such a hoot and one of my favorite memories! We brought the house down in both places, the St. Sebastian party and in the Cabaret!"

CLASS OF 1964

Sue Dessecker Korosa taught English and history for 30 years at Copley High School, retiring in 2003. After her retirement, she continued to coach the quiz bowl (Academic Challenge) teams at the high school and middle school, which combined have won nine state championships over the years. Sue is also a commercial hot air balloon pilot and has flown in national competitions. She sold her balloon a few years ago to a former Copley student who she helped train. Sue shared the following about her school days, "Some of my favorite memories, aside from the wonderful H.M. nuns who taught us are: 'bad' students having to stand by the angel behind the 'old' church during recess or lunch (we would walk by on our way out of the cafeteria and giggle at them), boots and rubbers neatly lined up heels to the wall outside the classroom doors, [if you forgot your] boots or rubbers and the playground was wet, no recess for you! (this was strictly enforced by Msgr. Zwisler), hot dogs every Thursday for cafeteria lunch, getting the cardboard arrows and a large peppermint stick every St. Sebastian feast day, Sister Roseanne keeping the 8th-grade girls in from lunch recess to sing for Easter, playing kickball on the brick parking lot. Note there was a line between the boys' playground and the girls' playground. The girls had the west side. Only the 7th- and 8th-grade boys were allowed in the grassy area to the north."

CLASS OF 1966

Julianne Green Orr and her husband Robert have two children: Robert Benjamin Orr (36) and Clare Alison Collins (38). Julianne is a Manager of Research & Permissions for Savvas Learning (formerly Pearson Education K-12). She reports that she used her Covid furlough time to get their house ready to sell. She and her husband are moving to be closer to their daughter, who is now pregnant.

CLASS OF 1967

Molly Gallagher Judge sent in this memory:

“I remember being in the choir under Sr. Shamus and singing at Summit Mall. We were attired in our uniforms but wore red bow ties. We sang six part harmony. It is where I learned to sing.”

CLASS OF 1980

Andréa Richardson Verni is retired and lives with her husband, Tom, in Beavercreek, Ohio. She has one daughter, Stephanie Van Doren (32).



CLASS OF 2006

Ben Musci was featured in a June, 2020 article published by Phys.org, an internet news portal focused on science news including physics, space science, earth science, health and medicine. The article, “This supernova ‘pizza’ in a lab mimics the cosmic blast’s splendid aftermath,” describes Ben’s work on a supernova machine he built for a study at the Georgia Institute of Technology, where he is a graduate research assistant. The machine, which is six feet tall and four feet wide at the top, is oddly shaped like a piece of pizza standing on its tip. The machine is designed to replicate how a supernova, the explosion of a giant star, creates astronomical swirls of cosmic gas. To read more, visit phys.org/news/2020-06-supernova-pizza-lab-mimics-cosmic.html#comments.

Send us your Alumni Updates!

We love to hear from our alumni! Please drop us a line and let us know what you are doing. Newly married? New baby? Get together with fellow alums? Email Anne Morgan Dennée '85 at alumni@stsebastian.org or fill out the online form at alumni.stsebastian.org/contact.html.

90th ANNIVERSARY
ALUMNI & FRIENDS

PROJECT  **SPRUCE UP!**

PROJECT GOAL: \$100,000,

\$74,531 RAISED AS OF OCT. 1

Project Spruce Up is a fundriaser to refurbish the school’s hallways and stairwells. **As of October 1, 2020 we have raised almost three-fourths of the \$100,000 goal for funding this project!**

Thank you to everyone who has generously supported this effort. Donations are still being gratefully accepted. Please visit our website: stsebastian.org/foundation/current-needs to donate online, to learn more about the project, and/or to see a list of our generous donors. If you have any questions, please contact Kathy Holaday at holadayk@stsebastian.org or 330-836-2233 ext. 113.

SCHOLARSHIP CREATED IN MEMORY OF CHRISTOPHER CONSILIO

After Christopher Consilio '11 passed away unexpectedly September 4, 2020, his family established a scholarship in his memory at the St. Sebastian Parish Foundation. The Christopher James Consilio Memorial Scholarship will provide scholarships to graduates of St. Sebastian Parish School who attend St. Vincent-St. Mary High School.

Christopher was a graduate of both St. Sebastian and St. Vincent-St. Mary. He completed his course work this summer and will graduate from The Ohio State University, Fisher College of Business with a BSBA in Economics and a minor in History this December. Christopher will be lovingly remembered by his parents, Brigid and Ed Hillmuth; his sister, Cathleen Consilio '06; and many loving friends and family who will miss him dearly.



Donations in memory of Christopher can be made payable to:
The St. Sebastian Parish Foundation, 476 Mull Avenue, Akron, OH 44320.

Please include on the memo line: Consilio Memorial Scholarship. A link for making an online donation may be found at: stsebastian.org/foundation/memorial-gifts.

SCHOOL GARDEN, *continued from page 1*



every year. The hunger center is headquartered just steps away from the school garden inside Byrider Hall, where Good Samaritan has an office and space to store food. However, no food is distributed at Byrider Hall. Instead, Good Samaritan heads out into the community to provide meals and groceries for those in need at four distribution sites in Akron.

Good Samaritan was founded in 1982 by Sr. Jordan Haddad. Sr. Jordan was known to be a fierce fighter for love and respect for the poor, with a goal that "one day no man, woman or child would go hungry." Since 2016, the director of Good Samaritan has been St. Sebastian graduate Michele Smith '80, who happens to be Sr. Jordan's cousin.

Thank you to everyone who has had a hand in this fabulous partnership between St. Sebastian Parish School and Good Samaritan Hunger Center. What a fantastic way to care for all of God's creation, from the tiniest plants to our neighbors in need.

✦✦ *We Will Remember ...* ✦✦

The Alumni Association extends our sincerest sympathy to the families and friends of our deceased alumni (July, 2020-Sept., 2020). If you learn of the passing of a St. Sebastian alumnus, please contact us by phone at 330-836-2233 x119 or by email at alumni@stsebastian.org.

James F. Karg '43, August 27, 2020
John P. Delagrange '47, September 26, 2020
Dorothy Scholl '47, July 31, 2020
Patricia Edwards Cheek '61, November 5, 2019
James P. Singleton '63, August 18, 2020

Janis Zupke-Dean '69, July 27, 2020
Christopher G. Bochkor '81, August 16, 2020
Michael Murphy '85, July 20, 2020
Christopher J. Consilio '11, September 4, 2020

HAMLIN LIBRARY FUND PROVIDES HIGH TECH A/V EQUIPMENT

Our parish school students are enjoying significant upgrades to their classroom audio-visual equipment, thanks to support from the Helen Barry Hamlin Library Fund of the St. Sebastian Parish Foundation. Money from the Hamlin Fund was used to purchase BEAM audio devices, which are small, portable sound bars enabled with Bluetooth® technology. The BEAM devices link with new audio enhancement XD microphones that teachers wear on a lanyard. This allows students to clearly hear their teachers' voices in both the classroom and the online learning setting. Since the new microphones are wearable, teachers can easily take them into any classroom, and the microphone will automatically pair with the BEAM audio device in that classroom.

The Hamlin Library Fund is also funding the purchase of new HoverCam document cameras for each classroom. As a lesson recorder, the HoverCams can record hundreds of hours of video, and they include picture-in-picture capability so teachers can show their faces while narrating a lesson along with video images, websites, PowerPoint Slides, etc. The HoverCams allow teachers to model science experiments, show work with math manipulatives, and share worksheets and other materials. The HoverCams are compatible with video conferencing programs such as Zoom Video Conferencing and Google Meet, and they have better image quality and versatility than standard webcams.

Helen Barry Hamlin and her husband, Earl, were founding members of St. Sebastian Parish. In the late 1980s, Helen's grandchildren began making donations to the Foundation in honor of their grandmother in lieu of buying her Christmas presents. After Helen passed away in 1990 at the age of 96, the family created the Helen Barry Hamlin Library Fund at the Foundation in her memory to support the parish school's library. Over the years, the Hamlin Library Fund has supported annual purchases of educational materials as well as a major renovation to the library in 2011. "We are so grateful for the generosity and support of the Hamlin family over the years," says Foundation Director Kathy Holaday, "This new equipment in particular will improve the learning environment for all of our students, whether they are in the classroom or working remotely."

Below, 5th-grade teacher Jennifer Bradley is wearing a lanyard with one of the new XD microphones that were purchased for all of our teachers, thanks to the Helen Barry Hamlin Library Fund. The Hamlin Library Fund has also provided for the purchase of new sound bars and document cameras for each classroom, completing significant and timely upgrades to our parish school's audio-visual equipment.



SUPPORT ST. SEBASTIAN ON GIVING TUESDAY: DECEMBER 1, 2020

Giving Tuesday is December 1: On this global day of giving, please consider making a donation to St. Sebastian Parish Foundation. Funds raised will be used for the restoration and repair of the sandstone walkway around the school.

You can join in the exciting #weGiveCatholic effort on the first Tuesday after Thanksgiving by making a gift to St. Sebastian Foundation at www.wegivecatholic.org. Thank you!

