



St. Sebastian Parish School
ALUMNI
 ASSOCIATION



Newsletter

Winter 2016



Rev. John T. McDonough, Pastor Emeritus

Rev. John T. McDonough, the third pastor of St. Sebastian Parish, passed away January 5, 2016 after suffering a series of strokes. He served at the helm of St. Sebastian Parish from 1984 to 1995, one of the largest Catholic parishes in Summit County at that time.

Fr. McDonough was born on February 19, 1925. Archbishop Edward F. Hoban ordained him to the priesthood in 1950 at the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist. He served parishes in Cleveland, Rocky River, Willowick, and Akron. In 1996, he retired to Our Lady of Grace in Hinckley, Ohio as a Senior-Retired priest. Fr. McDonough was well loved and enjoyed the friendship and support of many parishioners from his many assignments.

The funeral Mass was presided over by Bishop Richard Lennon and the sermon was delivered by the Rev. James O'Donnell. Burial was at the All Souls Cemetery in Chardon. Please visit <http://foundation.stsebastian.org/news> for links to the obituary and an article by the Akron Beacon Journal.

Alumni Update from Victoria Luckenbaugh '09

This past summer, Victoria Luckenbaugh '09 traveled to Tajikistan to study Persian language and culture on a Critical Language Scholarship (CLS). The CLS Program is a U.S. Department of State exchange program which offers full funding for college students to study one of the thirteen languages deemed to be in critical need by the federal government. The Critical Language Scholarship Program is one of the most competitive scholarships in the U.S. with an average acceptance rate of less than 10%.

Victoria studied Persian for two years at the George Washington University before going to Tajikistan. At GW she studied Iranian Persian, or Farsi, not Tajik. Farsi, Dari, and Tajik are the three dialects that fall under the umbrella of the "Persian" language. While Farsi and Dari use a modified

Arabic script, Tajik is written with the Cyrillic script due to Tajikistan's time in the Soviet Union. In Tajikistan, she lived in the capital city, Dushanbe, with a host family. In the classroom, Victoria studied Persian literature, language, and culture for a minimum of four hours a day. On days off, she would often leave the city and go hiking in the nearby mountains or explore the ruins of ancient cities whose date back to as early as the 6th century BCE. Over the Fourth of July weekend, Victoria and some of her fellow CLS participants went camping in the Pamir Mountains, near one of Tajikistan's famous glacial lakes, Iskanderkul.

cont' on page three



We Will Remember

The Alumni Association extends our sincerest sympathy to the families and friends of the alumni, parents and spouses of alumni who have passed. If you learn of the passing of a St. Sebastian Alumni, please contact us by phone at 330.836.2233 x119 or by email at alumni@stsebastian.org.

✠ Please keep these friends in your prayers ✠

Rev. John T. McDonough, Pastor Emeritus, Jan. 5, 2016

Marjorie Inama Lewis, '36, August 12, 2015

Sr. Marie Hohman, OP, '39, November 11, 2015

Rosemary McAlonan Frail, '41, July 17, 2015

Robert Reymann, '42, November 14, 2015

Charles Leib, Sr., S'46, January 19, 2016

Dr. Carl Krill, Jr., '47, January 15, 2016

Margaret Kraus Mahurin, '49, August 13, 2015

Barbara Hummel Sheeks, '49, September 6, 2015

Mary Krill Sawan, '50, December 15, 2015

Clifford Collins, P'50, P'53, January 1981

Irene Collins, P'50, P'53, January 1998

Rev. Gordon Yahner, '51, August 13, 2015

Willard (Bill) Maloy, Jr., '52, December 18, 2015

Ellen Jo Kidder, S'53, January 28, 2016

Frank Sherman, S'59, November 24, 2015

Edmund Siess, III, '62, October 18, 2015

Mark Aylward, '67, November 29, 2015

Ann Leonard, P'72, P'74, P'77, P'80, Nov. 9, 2015

Michael Taggart, '77, September 21, 2015

Mary Redle, P'90, P'95, P'97, October 10, 2015

Sydney Hanlon, '08, September 22, 2015

Catherine Paparella, P'15, P'18, October 11, 2015

*P designates that they are the parent of an alumni
S designates that they are the spouse of an alumni*

Alumni Updates



Stan Najeway, Jr. '71, Anne Najeway Vainer '72, Stan Najeway, Sr., John Najeway '84, and Madison Najeway '19.

Stan Najeway, parent and grandparent of 5 St. Sebastian Alumni was recently inducted into the Wake Forest Hall of Fame in Winston-Salem, NC for his basketball achievements during 1948-51 as a member of the championship team and team MVP. Stan was considered one of the top 50 players in the country at that time.

CLASS OF 1952

The class of 1952 got together for dinner on October 29th at The Hooley House in Montrose. 19 people attended. Bill and Barb Malloy have relocated from South Florida to Hilton Head where Bill enjoys playing golf regularly.

CLASS OF 1976

The class of 1976's 40th reunion will take place on Saturday, September 17, 2016 at the O'Neil House in Akron. Please go to the "St. Sebastian Class of 1976" Facebook page or e-mail Sue Preston Barry at Suereunion2016@comcast.net for more information.

Alumni Scholarship Endowment



For the past three years the St. Sebastian Parish Foundation has been collecting donations for the Alumni Scholarship Endowment. This endowment benefits all students at the school with tuition assistance. Due to your generous giving last year and this year, we have exceeded the minimum needed and will now start paying interest from the account to the school. Thank you to everyone who has given this past year. Below are the names of the alumni who have given during this past holiday season. As always, we pray that the love of Christ be with you throughout the New Year.

1938

Betty Ulrich Burkley

1939

George Bachmann, Jr.

1945

Edwin Reymann
in memory of Grade School

1947

Roland Bertolini
in memory of Louise, Joseph
and Raymond Bertolini
Beatrice Humphrey Scott
in memory of Charlie Scott,
our son

1948

Paul Klein
in honor of the Class of 1948

1949

Edward Dannemiller

1951

Charlotte Hummel Reymann
in memory of Grade School

1952

Julie Censky Randall
in memory of Michael V.
Sullivan

1953

David Meeker

1957

David Naples
John Reichart

1958

Anonymous in memory of
Raymond and Veronica Smith

1959

Peter Baldacci
Roger Crassweller in memory of
Fr. Wall, Fr. Valley, Monsignor
Zwisler, and Fr. Costello

Stephen Hetey

1961

Timothy App

1962

Anonymous

1963

Anonymous

1965

Anne Lynett Clark

1966

Michael Cleary
in memory of David Cleary
John Hershberger
Mary Beth Spalding Torre
in celebration of 50 years ago

1967

Paul Murrow
Richard Zodrow

1970

Thomas Bray, Jr.

1972

Gregory Berg
in memory of David Leonard
David McCulley
in memory of Anne McCulley

1973

Theresa Redle Brostowitz
Kaye Kipp Rowe

1975

Ray Boshara

1978

Carl Krill, III

1979

John Farmer

1982

Elizabeth Pinkerton

1984

John Najeway

1998

Patrick Cleary

2000

Patrick O'Neill

2001

Max Bedell in honor of
Mike and Pat Bedell
Lauren O'Neill

2004

Mari O'Neill

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While the primary goal of CLS is language acquisition, the program is also seen as an opportunity for cultural exchange. Victoria learned to make *Osh*, the national dish of Tajikistan, with her host mom. She was also there during the month of Ramadan and celebrated Eid with her host family. One Tajik tradition during Eid involves children going door-to-door where they are given sweets and other items, much like on Halloween in the United States. Victoria taught her host brother some English, as children are taught only Tajik and Russian in school.

In exchange, her host brother helped her learn some Russian in addition to Tajik card games. As a result of the intensive immersion environment, Victoria gained the equivalent of one year of language study in about 9 weeks.

Victoria is a junior at the George Washington University in Washington, D.C. She is double majoring in Middle East Studies and International Affairs and is a member of the University Honors Program. Since participating in the CLS Program, she has gone on to intern at the U.S. Department of State in the Bureau of Economic and Business Affairs and now works at the Institute for Women's Policy Research. Victoria plans to graduate from GW in the fall of 2016.



Victoria (second from the right) with other CLS participants

St. Sebastian Parish School Honors The Beck Family Foundation

Each year at St. Sebastian Parish School's *September Spectacular*, the school honors parishioners who have made a positive impact in our community and beyond. The **Beck Family Foundation** was the honoree at the 2015 September Spectacular for their support to local literary, scientific, educational, charitable and religious causes.

St. Sebastian Parish School has been a fortunate recipient of the Beck Family Foundation generosity via The Beck Family Foundation Awards for St. Sebastian Parish School graduates. Each year the Beck Family Foundation provides two extraordinarily generous tuition assistance awards for a four-year, full-tuition grant for students who will attend Walsh Jesuit High School and a separate award for students who will attend Our Lady of the Elms High School. In some years, the award is split among two or more deserving students for the full four years. This scholarship was first awarded in 2010, and to date twenty-one students have received The Beck Family Founda-



Principal Sandie Isabella, Fr. John Valencheck, and Michael Beck of the Beck Family Foundation being honored at the 2015 September Spectacular.



The Beck Family at September Spectacular. Pictured left to right are Sean '92, Michael '89, Kristin '86 and Michael Beck.

tion Award: nine students who went on to attend Our Lady of the Elms High School and twelve students who went on to attend Walsh Jesuit High School.

St. Sebastian Parish Foundation's Board of Trustee Executive Member and 2015 September Spectacular Event Chair Steve Wilt, said "We are deeply grateful to the Beck Foundation and its Trustees for their generosity to our students and for their amazing dedication to making a positive impact on the entire Akron community."

Send Us Your "[Alumni Updates](#)"

We would love to hear from you! Please use the contact form online or email us your updates and stories to: alumni@stsebastian.org

St. Sebastian Parish School Hosts Annual September Spectacular

The St. Sebastian Parish School is greatly expanding the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) offerings this year to all students due to the overwhelming success of the 2015 September Spectacular. This expansion was made possible from the generosity of attendees and donors to the 2015 September Spectacular paddle raise.

The school was able to profit over \$189,000 at this event because of the generosity of St. Sebastian parents, alumni and supporters of the school. This dazzling event is the most important fundraiser for St. Sebastian Parish School because it helps reduce the cost of tuition for all students, makes investments in technology and this year's paddle raise supports the new STEM initiative at the school. From the money raised, \$118,000 will go to our STEM initiative. Led by Dr. Ed Savitski, St. Sebastian Parish School will have a drone club, robotics club, teacher training and more. The goal of this new curriculum is to reach out to our children at an early age to become the "critical thinkers of tomorrow."

Nearly \$49,000 of the funds raised will go to tuition reimbursement to keep our tuition costs low, assuring that we remain an economically diverse school which makes us unique in the Akron area. Additionally, \$22,000 will go towards technology assuring our students and teachers have access to the latest advancements to remain competitive in today's world.



Ken Contrera named to the St. Sebastian Parish Foundation Board of Trustees

The St. Sebastian Parish Foundation is pleased to welcome Ken Contrera to the Board of Trustees. Ken is the Director of Taxes at Myers Industries, Inc. which is an international manufacturer of polymer-based material handling products and a wholesale distributor of tire repair and retread products. Ken is a graduate of The Ohio State University with a BSBA in Accounting and Finance, has his MBA from the University of Akron as well as his CPA. Ken will be serving on the Foundation Board as treasurer.



Ken and his wife, Peggy '72, have been members of the St. Sebastian Parish for nearly 35 years and live in West Akron. Formerly a CYO Coach for 13 years, Ken is also involved with Knights of Columbus and serves as Chairman of the St. Sebastian Finance Council. Ken and Peggy have four children, A. Thomas '00, Kevin '03, Jessica '06, and Keith '12, that have all graduated from St. Sebastian Parish School.

Technology Learning Lab

The newly renovated Technology Learning Lab is up and fully functioning. September Spectacular, the school's largest fundraiser, raised enough funds at the September 2014 event to completely gut and renovate the old computer lab. The renovations took place during the students' summer break. The new Technology Learning Lab has new heating/cooling, walls, ceilings, flooring, furniture, and great new technologies!

The lab has two interactive boards that are utilized by both teachers and students and the lab has a Makerbot 3D printer which will be used in the Junior High in the spring to work on various math projects. The lab also was expanded by five feet and there are now doors going in



between the Technology Learning Lab and the Hamlin Library. This allows for teachers and students to utilize both of these resources in a seamless manner when researching and working on school projects.

The students visit the Technology Learning Lab at least once a week for computer class and many other students visit the lab for classroom activities, such as Think Through Math, an online supplemental math program utilized by grades 3rd-8th. In computer class, students are learning everything from the basics of

word processing to internet research skills. We are also exposing our students to computer programming and other creative technologies such as iMovies, Stop Motion, and 3D printing.

If you would like a tour, please contact the school and we would be happy to show you around and let you see what all our students, from our littlest to our 8th grade school leaders are learning in the brand new Technology Learning Lab. The renovation of this lab will greatly help to prepare our students for their future endeavours!

Sara Wyszynski, St. Sebastian Parish School
Technology Teacher & Tech Support



To view samples of what the St. Sebastian Parish Students are creating, visit Mrs. Wyszynski's Tech Blog at: <http://stsebastiantechnology.blogspot.com>