



St. Sebastian Parish School ALUMNI ASSOCIATION



Newsletter

Fall 2016

Great News!

The St. Sebastian Parish School Alumni Newsletter will continue to be published, printed and mailed three times per year.

Thank YOU! The response was overwhelming and the decision was made to continue printing the hard copy edition of the newsletter as well as the soft copy version that is posted on-line on our St. Sebastian Alumni web page. Please visit <http://alumni.stsebastian.org/alumni>

In order to bring current and interesting news to you, please keep us posted on the latest happenings in your life. We would love to celebrate the accomplishments and achievements of our alumni and the newsletter is a great vehicle to accomplish that goal. As you turn the pages of this newsletter, please know we are grateful for the information sent to us and hope that you enjoy reading the stories of St. Sebastian Parish School Alumni – no matter the graduation year!

St. Sebastian Parish Foundation Appoints New Director of Development

The St. Sebastian Parish Foundation is pleased to welcome Kathleen Zehenni Holaday as the newly appointed Director of Development.

In this position as Director of Development, Kathy will play an integral role in donor development and donor relations. In addition to promoting the Foundation, overseeing alumni relations and foundation-related fundraising activities, Kathy has taken on the responsibilities of securing funds for the upcoming Church restoration project.

When asked about her new position, Kathy said “I am thrilled and honored to join The St. Sebastian Parish Foundation Team. For so many years I have described our Parish Church as my spiritual home and now I have the pleasure of working to help sustain and grow the Foundation. In the few short weeks that I have been onboard, I can say that this truly is a wonderful place to work! We have so much to be thankful for – whether it be Father Valencheck and his leadership, the accomplishments of our students, our awesome alumni, our dedicated parishioners and the talents of our staff and faculty.”



Previously, Kathy was the Vice President of Sales at LTS Scale in Twinsburg, Ohio, Director of Constituent Relations for St. Vincent-St. Mary High School (her alma mater) and has an extensive sales background. Kathy received her Marketing Degree from The University of Akron in 1982.

Kathy, a native of Akron, has been a member of the St. Sebastian Parish for nearly 40 years. Formerly a parish volunteer, Kathy has served as Sanctuary Society President, co-founded the Annual Walk-a-Thon, and also served on September Spectacular, the Parish School’s main fundraiser. In addition, Kathy played an active role in the formation of the parish marketing structure, and

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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 ✠

Robert Kraus, Sr., '34, August 11, 2016

Ann Baughman Cox, '56, May 24, 2016

Fr. Robert Wendelken, '48, September 14, 2016

Reynold Desman, '58, August 29, 2016

John Garrett, Jr., '50, July 25, 2016

Patricia Ann Traub McKee, '60, June 27, 2016

Richard Schroy, '52, August 24, 2016

Edward C. Bates, '63, May 17, 2016

Timothy O'Rourke, '53, July 29, 2016

Mr. Robert Kraus, Sr. '34, passed away August 11, 2016. His father designed all of the buildings here at St. Sebastian from the original church concluding with the "new church" in which we worship today. The father and son designed everything down to the candlesticks which are unique to the parish. Robert personally designed the plant stands, currently located in the lobby. Robert went on to design many ecclesial structures for the Diocese of Cleveland churches in our area including St. Francis de Sales in Portage Lakes, St. Ambrose in Brunswick, and Sacred Heart, now known as Prince of Peace Parish in Barberton.

Patricia Ann Traub McKee, '60, passed away June 27, 2016. In addition to being an alumni (class of 1960) she was a first grade teacher at St. Sebastian Parish School for many years. Patty was born in Akron, Ohio and attended both St. Sebastian Parish School and Our Lady of the Elms High School. She graduated from The University of Akron (Kappa Kappa Gamma). Shortly after graduating she began a long career as a 1st grade teacher at nearby Fraunfelter Elementary. She married Paul McKee in 1968 and their son Michael was born in 1974. Patty came back to St. Sebastian School and began teaching in the early eighties where she remained as a 1st grade teacher until 2002.

Patricia is survived by her husband Paul, her son Michael '88 and his wife Sarah, and her beloved grandchildren, Drew and Jack, and her sisters Susan Traub Carter '66 and Ann Traub Yancura '57.

George P. Mikan passed away July 15, 2016. George was the founder and beloved Band Director for the past 30 years here at St. Sebastian and St. Augustine in Barberton. Dedicated to the task of introducing instrumental music to our students, he has inspired young folks since 1985.

George was born in Barberton where he was a life resident. George had been a part of the Akron music scene for over 40 years. He was an accomplished jazz musician, music educator, private piano and instrumental instructor and band director. He began his music studies at an early age while attending Sts. Cyril and Methodius Elementary School and Archbishop Hoban High School.

Every Tuesday and Thursday, Mr. Mikan could be found in Z Hall leading fifty students in band practice. Afterward, he would head to his studio to hold private music lessons. He has been a kind and positive role model for hundreds of our children over the years, and his patience and kindness knew no bounds.

Alumni Updates

CLASS OF 1976 Reunion

The class of 1976 hosted a reunion on September 17, 2016. Nearly 30 classmates attended the event at the O'Neil House. A good time was had by all that attended!



CLASS OF 1976

Barbara Ann Hunt has a daughter, Amy Capretta who is married to Dr. Ryan Geers. Barbara has 2 grandchildren, Jack, 5 years and Ava 2 years.

CLASS OF 1961 1964, 1968, 1974

Father Tom Mosher '67 was on sabbatical in Rome earlier this year, so his four brothers, **Tim '61, Mike '64, Dan '68** and **Joe '74** decided to visit him. Tim Mosher '61 reported "We spent eight fantastic days touring



St. Peter's Basilica, the Vatican Museum, all the major basilicas in Rome, the Colosseum, and all the historical venues surrounding it. We also took a day trip to Pompeii to tour the ruins there and drove the beautiful Amalfi Coast. Since we're all St. Sebastian graduates, a highlight of the trip was a visit to the Catacombs and the Basilica of St. Sebastian. Another major highlight was to participate with Father Tom as he said Mass on one of the side altars in St. Peter's. We were also able to look up a picture of Monsignor Hilary Zwisler at the Pontifical North American



College where Father Tom's sabbatical group was staying. It was an awe inspiring trip that none of us will ever forget."



CLASS OF 1981

The class of 1981 is planning a 35th reunion that will take place on Monday, December 26, 2016 at Forest Lodge (across the street from the school). Please contact **Kristine Rosenfeld** at krosenfeld100@me.com for more information.

CLASS OF 2012

Five students, Patrick Walter, Keith Contrera, Maddie Grosklos, Sam Ruscak and Tim Casey entered St. Sebastian Parish School as kindergartners. This August they all headed to OSU to study Engineering.

Send Us Your Alumni Updates

We love to hear from our Alumni! Send us a quick note and let us know what you are doing, if you were recently married, or have a new addition to your family. We want to hear it all. Email us at alumni@stsebastian.org.

Foundation Endowment Spotlight

Each month we spotlight a fund or endowment that helps support the Parish and School.

This month the spotlight is on **The Mary Jane Hudak Roberts Math Endowment**. This Endowment was established in 2011 as a memorial to a much-loved wife, mother and alumni (class of 1952) of St. Sebastian Parish School. Her husband, Jim, started the fund to honor her dedication to education. This endowment provides St. Sebastian School with money to be specifically used for the Mathematics curriculum.

If you would like to help support the St. Sebastian School's math department, please send your donation to:

*St. Sebastian Parish Foundation
Roberts Math Endowment
476 Mull Avenue
Akron, OH 44320*

To see a full list of all the Foundation's funds and endowments visit:

<http://foundation.stsebastian.org/funds-endowments>

Alumni Scholarship Endowment

Thank you to everyone who has ever given to the Alumni Scholarship Endowment. Being able to have a fund that helps support our students and future alumni is important in keeping the parish and school strong. If you would like to continue to grow the Alumni Scholarship Endowment to assist even more students, please send your tax deductible gift to:

*St. Sebastian Parish Foundation
Alumni Association
476 Mull Avenue • Akron, OH 44320*

Thank you to the alumni who recently have given to the alumni scholarship endowment:

1952

Thomas E. Gardner

1957

Nicholas and Ann Traub Yancura
in memory of Patricia Ann McKee

1977

Joseph Walsh
in memory of James N. Walsh

New Director, con't from page one.

served on the St. Sebastian Parish Finance Council. Kathy and her husband Mark have a daughter, Katelyn, a 2009 St. Sebastian Parish School graduate. Katelyn is currently attending John Carroll University.

To contact Kathy with any questions or needs, please feel free to call her at 330.836.2233 x113 or email her at holadayk@stsebastian.org.

Career Paths

As students are starting to apply to high school, they are also considering their career choices. We would like to know what our alumni have chosen for their profession. No doubt our alumni have a variety of career types. Did your degree prepare you for your career or did opportunities lead you elsewhere? Even if you think your job is not that unique we still want to know what our alumni are doing. Please email us at alumni@stsebastian.org.

September Spectacular Is A Success

The 2016 September Spectacular was a huge success, raising over \$120,000. Part of the money raised from this year's event will support one of our parish school's initiatives with the creation of a makerspace. This lab environment provides a hands-on and creative way to challenge and encourage students to design, experiment, invent and build across all their classroom curriculums. The remaining dollars raised will support technology in our classrooms, further strengthen the future stability of our Parish School through our school endowment and continue to make education affordable for every student. Thank you again for all of your support and dedication to St. Sebastian Parish and School!

Photos courtesy of Christina LaMonica



RB Brownfield '99 & Joan Brownfield



Live auction and event chair Kathy Dietrich, Chair Couple Mark and Cyndy Cook, Fr. Valencheck, principal Sandie Isabella, Live auction and event chair Christine Stummer



John '93 and Erica Gerstenmaier



Anne Morgan Dennee '85 and Wendy Reeves

Lauryn '04, Diana and Katelyn '04 McGee



Vince '43 and Jackie DelMedico



Susie Beringer Dix '86 and Chuck Dix

New Entrance to the School from Mull Avenue

The next time you visit the St. Sebastian Parish School, you will be able to use the newly created entrance located on Mull Avenue. In addition to the new signs, this entrance will make finding the main entrance of the school much easier for visitors. Our goal is to eliminate the frequency of finding visitors and new families roaming about the campus trying to find the way into the school. Hopefully, this will help make our school more welcoming. Visitors will be able to park on Mull Avenue and have access to the school without having to wind around buildings.

Originally the building was designed so that this would be the main entrance to the school. The

original drawings depict a similar access from Mull Avenue to gain entrance to the school. Using this new entrance will increase the security of the school and control access to the entire school and all of the floors. Entering the school from Mull Avenue only allows a person to come to the first floor just outside the main office.

So next time you are in town and want a school tour, give Kathy Holaday a call at 330.836.2233 x113 to schedule. We will meet you at the new entrance and show you all the wonderful things happening at our Parish and School.



Welcome New Teachers

The St. Sebastian Parish School welcomed four new educators this fall. We wish them well and many happy years at our school.

3rd grade - Miss Mari O'Neill '04
4 year old, half day Preschool - Mrs. Michelle Kellner
3 year old, half day Preschool - Mrs. Kelly Monroe
Preschool classroom aide - Ms. Leslie Starcher



Help Us Find Missing Alumni

We have just updated our missing alumni page. Please visit <http://alumni.stsebastian.org/missing/> to see if you are listed or one of your friends is on the list. Email us at alumni@stsebastian.org.