

Summer 2017

# Veritas

For St. Catherine's Families, Friends and Alumni

A Champion  
of Catholic  
Education

**Reflect Back;  
Look Forward**

**Strengthening Our  
Communities Through  
Faith Formation**

**Angel You Should Know:  
Jaylon Brown**

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The Veritas  
July 2017

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The Veritas is published by  
St. Catherine's for the  
families, friends and alumni of the  
school. Latin for "truth", each issue  
shares the stories of our alumni,  
students and teachers.

Email news submissions to  
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# Principal's Letter

Dear St. Catherine's Community,

With the completion of another school year, I took the opportunity to reflect on what we had accomplished to sustain the school's Catholic, Dominican tradition and mission. Members of the class of 2017 were offered over \$2 million in scholarship dollars, accepted \$1.1 million and won numerous awards for their accomplishments and service. I had the opportunity to address the graduates and share my hope for them as they leave St. Catherine's as alumni. I mentioned that when I returned to St. Catherine's some things had changed and other things were still the same. The McGuire Gym, for example seems exactly the same. Similarly, for over 150 years, students have walked the halls of St. Catherine's and have been influenced by the Racine Dominican ideal, "Committed to Truth, Compelled to Justice." Attending the St. Catherine's Alumni Hall of Fame gave me the opportunity to hear amazing stories from graduates who were inducted. These stories, although different, had the similar themes of accomplishment and service. So the hope I have for St. Catherine's graduates is simply the realization and appreciation that they are part of something much bigger than themselves and they remember that, "Once an Angel, Always an Angel."



And so, with an ending comes a new beginning. We will begin again in the fall with the tasks of school and using data collected this year to inform goal setting as we continue our journey of continuous school improvement. We will also continue the process of becoming a Siena Catholic School, a new Catholic school system serving Greater Racine. This system will allow us to be part of something greater than ourselves as has been the case throughout our history. While no changes are expected for St. Catherine's during the 2017-18 school year, the system plans to hire a President and establish key board members over the summer. We look forward to working with them as they assume their roles.

Wishing you many blessings,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Betty Hunt '72".

Betty Hunt '72  
St. Catherine's Principal

# SIENA CATHOLIC SCHOOLS of *Racine*



## What's next?

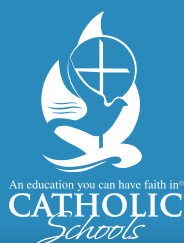
As communicated in the meeting on May 24, the next steps will be:

- The Founding Board will approve the By-laws of the system and the Articles of Incorporation will be filed with the State of Wisconsin
- The Board Committees will be staffed with skilled and dedicated parish members
- A Search Team will begin the hiring process of the President
- A Faith in Our Future grant application has been submitted
- Communication will continue through newsletters, parish bulletins and the website

## In Case You Missed It

Read more about the system in the May 4th edition of the *Catholic Herald*:

[catholicherald.org/news/local/collaboration-key-success/](http://catholicherald.org/news/local/collaboration-key-success/)



## Introducing Siena Catholic Schools of Racine

Archbishop Jerome ListECKi has approved the formal proposal for a Racine Catholic schools' collaboration, a journey that started nearly 7 years ago. Beginning with the 2018-19 school year, Racine Catholic schools will collaborate under the name Siena Catholic Schools of Racine. The system is named after St. Catherine of Siena, who was named a Doctor of the Church in 1970, and is regarded for her spirituality and ability to bring popes, bishops, kings and diverse groups together.

The announcement was made on May 24 to Racine area pastors, principals, parish trustees and representatives of the Racine Dominican sisters. "We always have to make Catholic education accessible and affordable," ListECKi said. "What this does is help to promote those two qualities."

He also shared that we will need to promote the system, have patience as it forms and pray for its success. Archbishop acknowledged that all will be called on to sacrifice. As all area parishes will begin to financially support the system beginning in July 2017, everyone will be asked to give something for the greater good.

Under our new Catholic school system for the Racine area, each current school – K-8 schools and St. Catherine's School, will retain its own name and campus but be referenced as a member of the Siena Catholic Schools of Racine.

"This next year is a transition year of getting the board in place and in hiring three key leaders – the system president, director of academics and director of business," said Brenda White, Associate Superintendent of Catholic Schools. "The parishes will operate their schools as they have in the past during the next year but will transition into the new model for 2018 - 2019."



**Mission:** Our schools are committed to educating in a Catholic learning environment rooted in Christ's teachings and characterized by academic excellence, servant leadership, student diversity, personal accountability and respect for every individual.

**Vision:** Our schools will effect positive change in the community by graduating life-long learners, grounded in strong Gospel values, who are prepared for higher education and meet the challenges of a rapidly-changing world with compassion and hope.

If you have questions or need more information about Siena Catholic Schools of Racine, please visit [racinecatholicschools.org](http://racinecatholicschools.org) or contact **Sarah Toepfer, Catholic Schools Marketing Manager**, at [toepfers@archmil.org](mailto:toepfers@archmil.org). Thank you in advance for your interest, support and prayers.

# Christopher Olley

## A Champion of Catholic Education

By Stephanie J. May

**10** years ago as Christopher Olley stood in the back of the John Foster Auditorium, as the newly appointed President of St. Catherine's, and as the students started to enter he noticed many empty seats. He recalls thinking at the time, that is what this is about: filling those seats with young minds and spirits and offering the opportunity to be changed for the better by a St. Catherine's education. His mission then and now was to refocus the school on the Dominican Pillars and to expose as many students to them as possible. Every decision was made with thoughtful discernment regarding St. Catherine's as a ministry of the Catholic Church.

For Christopher, conversations around the family

dinner table on Sundays had only a few repeated themes over the years - family, the weather and St. Catherine's. To say when Christopher took the job as the President 10 years ago was like coming home, is the ultimate understatement. From his earliest memories, Christopher has bled Black and White. His family would talk of St. Cats as if it were a long-time friend or family member. He longed to be an Angel as a child, was a proud Angel as a teenager and as an adult has given so much to the St. Cat's community. So for Christopher, assuming responsibility for St. Catherine's 10 years ago was like assuming responsibility for a beloved family member. At the time, he wasn't sure if he was brought on to help lay her to rest or to help revive her and usher her into a new phase of life. Sure enough, he learned he would be able to breathe new life into a building and



Christopher, Luke, Jackson, Allison, Kathryn and Jane Olley

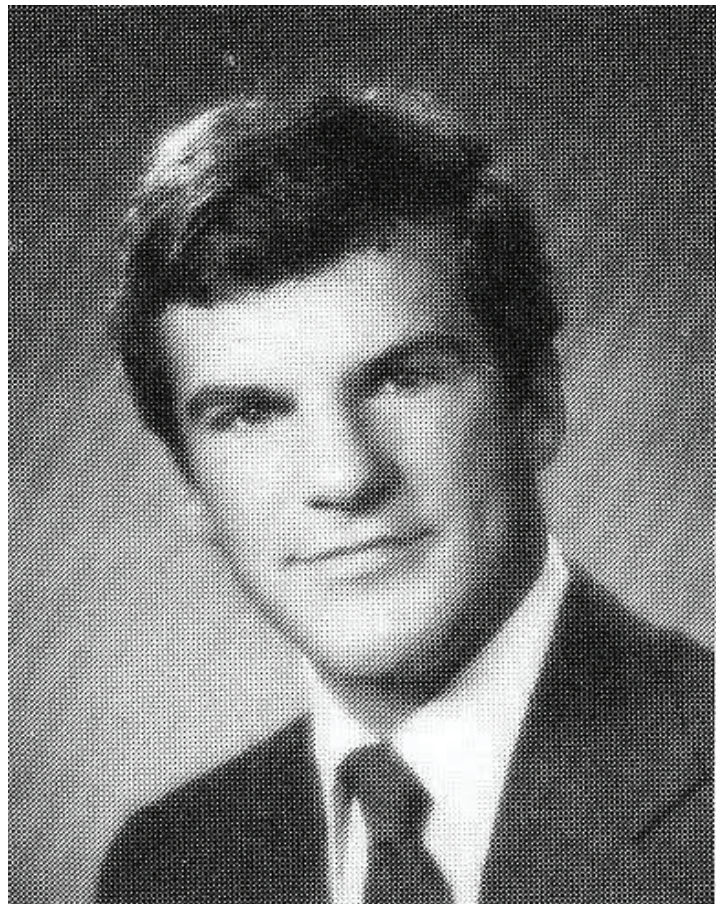
community he loved so much and was such a big part of his history – a mission in which he believes so deeply.

Christopher, no stranger to hard work, rolled up his sleeves and enlisted the best and the brightest he could find to help plan for an updated mission for St. Catherine's. He attributes this strong work ethic to his upbringing and experiences at St. Rita's and St. Catherine's. "Sr. Michelle Olley (Christopher's Aunt) introduced me to civic engagement, taught me to love what St. Catherine's stood for and to have the courage to be an agent of change if necessary." With the task ahead to help uplift the school, his years of leadership participation would come in handy. It was the guiding influences of the Dominican nuns that paved the way for his relentless desire to maintain the Dominican identity and boost St. Catherine's until she flourished.

His first order of business was to establish a vision in which the community could believe. It was through somewhere near 85 speaking engagements to anywhere from 8 – 50 people from church groups, businesses and stakeholders that he began to lay out his vision of St. Catherine's for future generations. His vision included various ways to balance the books, including greater focus on development, marketing and increasing enrollment, tackling inefficiencies and ensuring a high-quality Catholic education. Of course this meant going out on a limb and risking going up against some traditional thought. Not always popular, these brave choices led St. Cat's back into the black within a few years. He was assisted in the growth by key players in his administration and in the community who saw the vision and were able to help make it a reality.

The stage had been set for people who would become advocates for accessible Catholic education in Christopher Olley's family long before he became the president. His aunts, Sr. Michelle and Betty Olley as well as uncle, Fr. Edmond Olley, paved the way for encouraging and helping schools negotiate tuition for families. This process made it possible for schools across the country to offer faith-based education to many more students regardless of income. Christopher Olley adopted this model as one of the first courses of action upon his arrival. He recalls many meetings in those early days with families which began with prayer and reflection and ended on a tuition that the family felt they could sacrifice.

It was about making this kind of educational experience available to as many people as possible. He had his sights set on filling seats at mass. It wasn't easy arriving at the decision to negotiate tuition, but it was worth the struggle and effort to make it available. Negotiating tuition for families was a well thought out plan and used a calculated financial model which allowed for growth and fiscal responsibility at the same time. Christopher Olley, Nancy Kost and their team were careful to be sure with each negotiated tuition student, the school would still run most efficiently. It is these less than visible efforts that Olley feels are often forgotten. While many more visible changes were being made like the addition of middle school, uniforms, iPads and Racine Parental Choice, things like negotiated tuition fell under the radar. Each of them carefully, prayerfully calculated with the mission (putting as many students in the desks who would benefit from a St. Catherine's education) in mind. He reflects on being able to provide a Catholic school opportunity for his own children, "I am so grateful that my own kids were able to attend St. Cat's. Two of my children graduated from here and Luke was the class president. I am so proud they are Angels. I wanted to



**Christopher Olley 1980 Senior Photo**

make this opportunity available to as many families as possible regardless of income." Olley, maintaining the conviction that as an extension of the Catholic Church, opening the doors wider for the purposes of educating and evangelizing, is the right thing to do.

In 2010, Christopher and his team viewed the addition of the middle school as an opportunity to offer another door for the youth of Racine to take advantage of St. Cat's caring educational environment. Not knowing how it would go and having a number that would make it work, the program started small, but took off like wildfire. This middle school was different though. It had a 1 to 1 iPad program unlike any other, the tuition was set higher than other middle schools and they required foreign language and Algebra. Within one year the school had a waiting list and had added 6th - 8th grades. These students had the benefit of becoming Angels earlier with the first 6th grade class graduating this spring having spent seven years at St. Catherine's. Each year the population of students who have stayed for high school has grown tremendously. We will see more Racinians in each graduating class who were able to flourish within the walls of 12th & Park and benefit from experiencing a community living out the Dominican Pillars. The school had begun to see an upswing in enrollment and was moving toward fiscal health.

A few years after adding the middle school, Christopher and the Board were faced with another decision – whether to participate in the Racine Parental Choice Program. They opted in as part of their effort to increase enrollment and bring a Catholic, Dominican education to more families. Racine Parental Choice is a program designed to assist low-income families by offering a voucher provided by the state to cover a portion of the

student's tuition. Since then, it has become clear that the program has had and will continue to have a positive impact on the viability of St. Catherine's, the lives of families and individual students and the overall health of Racine. St. Catherine's students are taught within the confines of the Dominican Pillars, which further opens the door for students of other faiths to experience St. Cat's and creates an environment where they are held to a very high standard. This standard transcends academics and includes areas such as leadership, community service and recognizing all aspects of humanity and diversity. Christopher has always seen St. Catherine's as a gem of Racine for the purposes of evangelization, but soon realized she also needed to be an innovative beacon.

The team recognized the need to venture into the ground level of cutting edge technology for education. This meant investing in the future. Their intention was to be a technically innovative lifeblood for the community. He and his team made a decision to become the first school in WI to go 1-to-1 iPad starting with the middle school furthering the attraction to the school and increasing enrollment. The auditorium was filling up. The investment was clearly worth it and the program was added to the high school the following year. At the time, Christopher and his team

created an academic program that had only been added by a few schools in the country. Since then, many other schools have followed in the footsteps of St. Catherine's blazed trail. Along with this technology boost, the school has been able to add integrated software to help manage finances, students and grades furthering the overall school efficiencies.

More recently under Christopher's leadership, the

**Sisters Betty and Michelle Olley**



**Fr. Edmond Olley**

school established a strategic plan with four key areas of focus, School Model, School Campus, Faculty & Staff and Financial to be sure the school and all the key stakeholders were moving in the same direction. The school is focused on 11 strategic objectives to grow the school over a five-year time frame. Christopher's vision and leadership have helped drive the school to become the most diverse and realistic experience a student can get in a safe caring environment. Each strategy focused on increasing enrollment and filling those seats.

Christopher Olley has been the leader of a tremendous team of mission-driven people over the past 10 years who are now enjoying the fruits of all of their labor. The school maintains ACT scores which have gone up every year for the past 5 years, a rigorous academic program for all students including among the highest academic standards for athletic participation in the state and a 30-year high in enrollment. Christopher is leaving St. Cat's when more students in a generation in Racine will benefit from a Catholic education.

Many family dinners later and 10 years in the making, he stood in the back of what would be his last all-school Mass consumed with gratitude for the opportunity to fill many of the empty seats and leave his family friend on much better footing. In fact, now the new puzzle to solve is how to fit everyone in the auditorium for an all-school Mass. There is talk of adding seats! For Christopher Olley, this is what it has always been about. He receives calls from other schools wanting to know how he has done it. Happy to oblige, he shares what seems to be his secret, love what you do and who you are doing it for, keep God and family at the center and don't be afraid of calculated risk even in the face of those averse to change. As his risks have turned into a flourishing St. Catherine's environment, he will go quietly on to the next thing as he has requested to depart with little fanfare, but he is proud to leave his alma mater in better shape than when he arrived. He feels confident that St. Catherine's will continue to be great long into the future and keep graduating amazing people who will change the face of Racine and beyond. St. Catherine's will enjoy a robust enrollment this year, academic accolades that rival any prior year and a continual production of alumni who are changing the world. He departs 12th & Park grateful for the time and opportunity to lead the charge in bringing so many more souls to the Pillars and St. Catherine's premier educational opportunity. His investment of time, energy and heart, has left her a far healthier beacon of the Catholic mission and equipped to serve her community for a long time too. Grateful for having his leadership, we want to wish Christopher and his family health, happiness and continued success long into the future.



**Christopher Olley in the prom court (1980)**

# Stories of Evangelization

## Strengthening Our Communities Through Faith Formation

By Fr. Allen Alexander

In a recent article in the Journal Times about the formation of The Siena Catholic School System, Archbishop Listeki is quoted saying, "Part of our mission is education and part of that is evangelization, and the best way to do that is through the schools." I couldn't agree more. Catholic schools not only support the work of families and parishes to form individuals already involved in a life of faith. They also provides the opportunity for those who might not otherwise encounter Catholicism, or who may have fallen away from its practice, to kindle or rekindle a fire of love for God in their hearts. In my short time here at St. Catherine's, I have witnessed this play out in the lives of others and have come to know of many for whom journeying through the walls of St. Cat's has led them to journey closer to the Church. But don't just take my word for it.

### Rachel Lantz

"I came to St. Cat's as a substitute teacher. The celebrated and notorious Mr. Mike Zelenski had fallen ill in 2009. I had the daunting task of taking over his five high-level classes. Rachel at the font of baptism.

However, when I think back on that time, one of my first memories of the school is going to Mass. I think I was filled with the Holy Spirit that day. I was just struck with so much awe and wonder. It was the feeling of community: the feeling of belonging. I had never really felt that before in a school. I delighted in the fact the students and faculty gathered and celebrated the Lord. Attending public schools my whole life, I had never witnessed this before.

Fast forward to the next school year, I was hired on at St. Cat's as a full-time English teacher. Little did I know I would soon need St. Cat's more than the school needed me. In 2010, I was diagnosed with

stage 2b breast cancer. What was supposed to be the start of my teaching career, quickly became a year of surgeries, chemo and missing days. However, St. Cat's was there for me and pivotal in my recovery.

Before I even left for my surgeries, the Campus Minister and faculty blessed me and prayed for me. I was gifted a prayer shawl, something that came in handy while chemo dripped into my veins. Throughout my recovery, the faculty from St. Cat's prepared meals for my family each week.

When I look back on my experience with cancer, St. Cat's is a big reason why I look at the experience with thankfulness. It is through St. Cat's that I became thankful for suffering. I saw the good side to suffering. God knew what He was doing when He brought me here. This place is my calling. I needed St. Cat's. I needed to get through cancer, and St. Cat's helped me. I needed to find Community, and St. Cat's helped me. I needed to find God, and St. Cat's helped me!



Rachel with Archbishop Listeki



*Hope is in God's Plan  
Sickness, thou art the affliction of all.  
More than life, it is thee who plagues the soul;  
With thy diseases, thou causes man's fall,  
Descending into a black, endless hole  
With you, there is weakness to the body,  
And a hardening of the heart's desire.  
Many times there's no such antibody  
To fight you away; life lacking the fire.  
Yet, is this always the case with man's life?  
Does not hope conquer the sickness of man?  
The heart will soften, pulling out the knife  
From man's forlorn soul. Hope is in God's plan.  
Only those with faith will defeat Sickness.  
Without this hope, man's life would be cureless.*

Poem written by Rachel Lantz

After I recovered from my surgeries and chemo, I knew I needed to become closer to God. My family did not belong to a church when I was growing up. I knew my parents believed in God, but that was the extent of their religious connection. I needed more. After deep reflection, I knew I was sent to a Catholic school for a reason; I knew I was diagnosed while at St. Cat's for a reason. I was called here. I was called to be closer to God. That is when I went to my coworker

**John Clarke to ask him how I could become Catholic. St. Richard's Parish and Father Ron Gramza welcomed me with open arms. After months of faith formation, I was Baptized, took First Communion, and was confirmed during the Easter Vigil of 2013.**

**My journey is not over. I continue to grow my relationship with God. I even teach confirmation students at St. Richard's-where I have had the privilege of teaching several St. Cat's students. I still view the Masses at St. Cat's with awe and wonder, and I now have the privilege of serving as a Eucharistic Minister at the Masses. I wish I could express the great joy that fills my soul.**

**Thank you St. Cat's!"**

## **Stephanie May and Nicole Smart**

It's great to see how God works in the lives of others and then to see how his work in their hearts moves them to lead others to Christ. For Stephanie May her journey to Christ and the Catholic Church through the RCIA process took place before becoming an employee, but since then she has been able to help her coworker, Nicole Smart, go through the process as well.

Stephanie was hired to manage communications as part of development team at the end of 2016-17 School year and since then I have had the opportunity to work closely with her in various capacities. I have grown to know her as someone who takes her faith seriously and who shares it with others in a compassionate and non-confrontational way. Speaking of her own journey to Christ, Stephanie writes:

***"I spent nearly the first 40 years of my life knowing and believing that God exists and that he was available. However, it never really dawned on me that He was available to me. I went to church off and on as an exercise of connecting with something greater than myself, but didn't rely on church or God to center my life.***

***After turning 40, I realized that I had spent so long relying on myself for the answers and so often I came up short or I made the wrong decision. Suddenly it dawned on me that I should have been relying on God and His love all along to guide me. I realized, if I asked for His help and discernment each day, and especially when faced with decisions or trials, then there would be comfort in knowing the answers and the decisions are coming from somewhere other than just me and my very limited and selfish view of the world.***

***Becoming Catholic was a more cerebral choice for me in that I read a lot about Catholicism and it became clear to me that if I was going to rely on a path, I should at least rely on the original path that was intended for us. I don't expect that all people will think that Catholicism is the only way to get to Heaven or to live a righteous life (I don't think it is the only way either), but for me it is the best way I know to***

***stay connected to God and check in regularly to be sure He is always helping to steer my ship."***

Nicole Smart has been at St. Catherine's for five years and like Stephanie works in the development office. She was one of the first people I met when I came to St. Catherine's and one whom I would get to know quite well. I have to admit that when I first met Nicole, I found myself judging the book by its cover and her book was covered in tattoos and piercings. I felt the Holy Spirit convict me, "Get to know her, she too, is my handiwork." Soon after that we began to talk and formed a friendship, and I was surprised to find she had a high level of knowledge of the faith and a strong desire to learn more.

What impressed me even more was her big heart and concern for others. We would talk often about life, the pope, Christian unity and many other things. During my second year, she asked me about getting her daughter baptized, which as we talked meant getting herself baptized too. I was able to connect her and her Daughter Jael with Eric Antrim (faith formator) and Fr. Javier Guativa (pastor) at St. Lucy's, where she went through the RCIA Process and was Baptized (with her daughter), Confirmed and received First Holy Communion.

***"I joined the Catholic Church because I wanted to share with others the love and sense of family that I've been blessed to receive since I started working at St. Catherine's five years ago." - Nicole Smart***

Since each person who is baptized (or Confirmed) needs a sponsor (or godparent) Nicole asked Stephanie, who had been encouraging her in her search for the truth. Stephanie joyfully agreed! Reflecting on her role of Sponsor/Godmother for Nicole, Stephanie writes:

***"It has been very exciting to be part of someone else's conversion story. I know for me, it was easy for life to feel out of control when you feel like you are relying solely on yourself for answers. I like the idea of knowing that I was part of someone else coming to the realization that if we are listening, God will give us the answers. God will give us a clear and pious path. We will often disappoint ourselves with the decisions we make, but if we invite God into our lives through the sacraments and prayer, the answers to life's dilemmas are much easier to see. It is heartwarming being part of someone inviting God into her life like this. I hope regular check-ins with God have the same impact on Nicole as they have had on me over the years."***

## **Student Section**

Each year there are students who should be making their confirmation, but for one reason or another they slip through the cracks. While some just get caught up in all the other things going on in their lives, others encounter difficulties and challenges, which make them question their faith. Through interactions with teachers, staff and Campus Ministers who



all work together with parents and local parishes, we are able to help challenge those students to grow and reengage their faith and get reconnected with parish life.

After working with the Directors of Religious Education (DRE) of the local parishes, I was able to determine which students who, when they came to St. Cats, said they were members of a particular parish, but who had not registered for confirmation prep. For some Juniors, it was just a matter of getting them to sign up, but for others it took some convincing and some of them will be entering courses their senior year. For Seniors, I found myself tracking them down and trying to get them squared away before graduation.

One teacher who has helped with this process is Theresa Dixon. She was the very first teacher I met here. I had ridden my bike to St. Cats to work on my campus ministry room and I saw her unloading tables and chairs and decided to ask if she needed help. We have been friends ever since. My first year, I would help out after school from time to time with her reading program and I was very impressed with the rapport she had with the students. I soon discovered her deep love for the faith, and when I mentioned what I was trying to do with the students, she was totally on board.

## Liz Fox

One of the first students who I became aware of during my first year who missed being confirmed her Junior year was Liz Fox. Since Mrs. Dixon had connected well with Liz in middle school, and unbeknownst to me had already agreed to be her sponsor the previous year, she jumped on the opportunity to help Elizabeth get confirmed.



Elizabeth Fox with Archbishop Listeki

***“When Liz asked me for a recommendation to Conserve School, her Junior Year I had no problem letting them know she was a rock star student they would be lucky to have. Before she left she asked me to be her confirmation sponsor and I was so honored. Completing the requirements her Junior year was the easy part-it took a little more determination to***

***make sure she was confirmed the following spring. It was worth it as I have an excuse to check in with her and continue to cheer her on.” –Theresa Dixon***

Elizabeth explains, “My confirmation was a bit different from

**most of my peers, since I was away at boarding school during the time I was supposed to be confirmed with them. I got confirmed more than a year after taking my class and writing my letter of intent to the archbishop.**

**My confirmation was special in many ways. First, I chose my middle school teacher Theresa Dixon as my sponsor. Mrs. Dixon had seen and helped me grow into the woman I had become by my senior year of high school, and she served as a rock at St. Catherine’s I knew I could always go to. I felt so blessed to spend time with her and have her join in the celebration of my faith.**

**Second, my confirmation was in Milwaukee with a group of young to middle-aged adults who became confirmed later in their lives than me. I thought it was special to not only see my friends from school who had been raised Catholic their whole lives become confirmed, but also adults who allowed the grace of God to act upon them later in their lives.**

**As I was confirmed, I had my favorite teacher and mentor next to me, as well as my school’s priest, Father Allen and my family watched from behind. The day was so special and I got to share it with so many people. That day, I cemented my place in the Catholic Church by entering into a different relationship with God. I also shared the experience with people I care about, which made us closer in the process.**

## Nicholas Rodriguez

Nicholas Rodriguez was confirmed just this past Easter. He was a Senior and thus one of the students I set my sights on at the beginning of the year to see if I could convince him to go through the process before graduation. I came to learn that he had been enrolled in Confirmation classes the previous year, but that through the course of the program at his parish, he found himself at odds with what was being presented or at least the manner in which it was portrayed. In his experience, he was not allowed to question anything and thus felt very discouraged in seeking a deeper understanding of the faith.

Nicholas writes,

**“Originally when I joined the Confirmation class junior year like most kids do, everything was going well. At first I was on the fence about doing it, but my parents and friends wanted me to so I agreed to take the class. The first few weeks were fine, until I started to question some of the material being presented to me. It wasn’t that I disagreed with it, but I wanted a stronger understanding of what I was getting into. Christianity isn’t a cult, so I don’t think anyone should be blindly following it.**

**As I began to ask more questions, I was met with resistance from some of the teachers and even the**



priest. I was told that I have to completely agree with the church or be completely against it and there was no middle area. I hadn't said that I disagreed with anything yet, but I was already being discouraged from trying to learn more. I didn't feel that this class was the right thing for me at this time, so I decided to drop out.

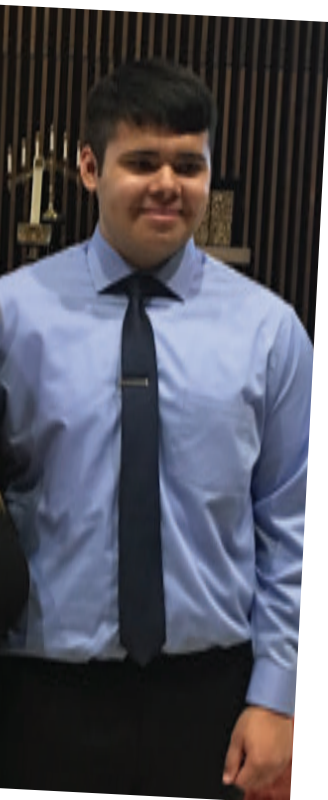
About a year later my teacher, Mrs. Dixon told me that I was on Father Allen's list of students that he was trying to get confirmed before they went to college. At first I didn't think much of this. My faith life was in the past and even though I still thought about it from time-to-time, I never saw myself getting confirmed. When Father Allen first approached me, he suggested that I join another student's Confirmation class because she was never confirmed either. I wasn't entirely against it, but as ironic as it may seem, my schedule was very full: I had recently begun working at a church. Confirmation didn't seem very likely at this point."

But I didn't give up. I saw a spark in Nicholas and the Holy Spirit was fanning that spark in to a flame. After many conversations with Nicholas, I found him very willing to consider and reconsider the Church's teachings as long as someone was willing to listen and address his concerns. Many times I came to realize that his personal convictions aligned with Church teaching across a spectrum of issues which often divide Catholics into different factions.

Nicholas continues:

**"From here on Father Allen, Mrs. Dixon and I began to have a lot of conversations about faith and the Church's teachings. Any questions I had during my Confirmation were answered without any resentment or resistance. I didn't realize it, but between being at Mass three times a week and just having conversations about Catholicism, my faith was starting to grow. Eventually Father Ricardo from the church I work at talked to me and asked if I wanted to be confirmed at the Easter Vigil Mass. From conversations he had with me and from what others had told him, he thought I was in good faith and ready to be confirmed. For the first time, I actually felt the desire to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation.**

**I needed to find a confirmation sponsor, so the next day I asked Mrs. Dixon if she would be mine. She had been with me through all of this and was a huge part in helping me find God. She agreed to it and then I was ready to be confirmed. I was finally confirmed at the Easter Vigil Mass.**



**Nicholas Rodriguez  
with his sponsor  
Theresa Dixon**

**My family and friends came to support me and Father Ricardo was the priest that confirmed me. After being confirmed, I felt much more content. I knew I made the right decision and was very grateful for everyone that helped me. Because my confirmation had a few detours and didn't go the 'planned' way, it felt much more personal to me. Although it wasn't easy, I'm more than happy with the way it worked out."**

According to Theresa Dixon,

***"Father Allen is absolutely tenacious about supporting these kids in their faith. Knowing Nicholas was on his 'list' I hoped I could give a little nudge or perhaps a warning that the conversation was coming. Actually, my comment sparked a year long conversation about our faith. Nicholas thinks I was supporting him, but at some point, our roles reversed. He taught me how to evangelize. It was amazing watching him talk to his friends about his faith journey. I learned so much from him about what is possible with help from the Holy Spirit. It's not always easy to talk about my faith, but Nicholas inspires me to be brave."***

## Many More

In addition to those whose stories are told here, there are many others the St. Cat's family have helped welcome into the Church and/or complete the Sacraments of Initiation. Natalia Reyes, who will be a sophomore in the fall, was baptized, confirmed, and received her First Communion at the Easter Vigil at St. Anne's in Pleasant Prairie; Richard Sosa, father of students Madaline and Carmen, who helps with our Music for Liturgies, and his wife Josie, were her Godparents and Rich was her Confirmation sponsor. Elizabeth Quiroz-Lockridge, a Senior this coming fall, received all three sacraments her sophomore year. Emma Madden who graduated this past June, was confirmed this year together with several Juniors, after preparing for the sacrament as part of an adult faith formation class. I would also like to mention Connor Philips who hopes to be confirmed soon, due in large part to encouragement from his friend and classmate Nicholas Rodriguez, who since his own confirmation has taken it upon himself to encourage others in the process. Now that's Evangelization!

In closing, I would like to mention with gratitude the large number of students each year who sign up for Confirmation. I have had the joy of being present at area Masses in which several of them have received this sacrament. No doubt these students too have benefitted from the formation they receive in their homes, at their parishes, at St. Cat's and the many other Siena Catholic Schools, to which many of them belonged prior to entering our doors. It is my sincere hope that as we work together through this new school system to strengthen the bond between families, parishes and Catholic schools, we will welcome and encourage many more students, faculty, staff and families in their journeys of faith. If you have any questions regarding the process for becoming Catholic, about registering with a parish or sacramental prep for you or members of your family, feel free to contact our Campus Ministry Team at [campusministry@saintcats.org](mailto:campusministry@saintcats.org).

# 2017 Graduates

Reflect Back; Look Forward

# 71

Angels  
Graduating

# 88%

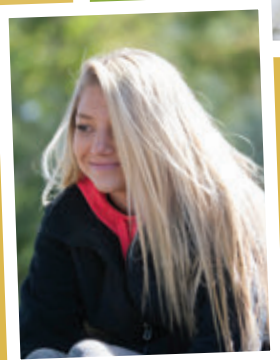
Attending  
In-state  
Schools

# 94%

Bound for 2 - 4  
Year Colleges

# 1.1

Million in Accepted  
Scholarships and  
Awards





# 2017 Graduate Reflections



## What has been most memorable for you?

Being a part of the Rube Goldberg contest with Mr. Miles. Overall, it taught me how to work well with my classmates and at the same time I got to know them all much better. Winning second placed showed me how well things can go when you work together. My favorite teacher is Ms. Allesee. I had her as my Spanish teacher for three years. Out of these three years, I felt she cared the most for her students. She always asked us if we were doing okay and if we needed any help with anything. Even when she was on her pregnancy leave, she was still there for us to help us learn and be successful.

***Mya Vorlob***

STLF was probably my favorite activity at St. Cats. On STLF you got to hang out with friends, make new friends and engage in service activities that benefit people in other states.

***Nicholas Ignasiak***

The theater family. Everyone is so kind and welcoming and it is so amazing to be a part of something so big.

***Delaney Nielsen***

I participated in the Black and White Ball for 3 years of my career here at St. Cat's. My Freshman, Junior, and Senior years. I love helping out and putting things together. I know that some people do it solely for the service hours, but I do it just because I generally love being a part of it even though I always get nervous about it. I guess I get it from Girl Scouts. I love helping out and I've even learned new things I didn't think I would.

***Olivia Helbling***

I would say going out and providing my service to the museum. It made me want to do more service and help others in need.

***Fernando Maldonado***



## What will you miss about St. Cat's?

The people. I will miss hanging out with my friends, the close relationships I have been able to make with teachers and coaches, and the overall experience of high school. This is a place where respect is universal regardless of grade which leads to friendships being made across age groups. The teachers are what make this place what it is, they keep the St. Catherine's spirit alive. The old familial spirit. I will miss the people here.

**Ethan Letsch**

## This experience helped me grow in my faith.

For me, my experience was as simple as the monthly liturgies. I feel that if I did not have this continual experience, I may have strayed more in my faith. But the monthly Masses helped me to stay focused on my faith, even while in school. Plus it reminded me that my faith should be an active part of not just my social life, but also my life at home.

**Grace Lefebvre**

Service work has shown me how to live like Jesus and to be generous and unselfish. It has helped me understand the struggles of the less fortunate and how to help them.

**Brian Weir**

Becoming President of Campus Ministry helped to grow my faith because it helped me to take on a leadership role and expand my religious knowledge and abilities.

**Elizabeth Renguette**

I think that the Masses have been a good experience for me and have helped me grow in faith. It's very powerful to be able to celebrate the liturgy with the entire school, and be openly connected with them on a spiritual level.

I will use the Dominican Pillars to serve as an outline for my life. It can help you determine what is important to focus on and incorporate into your daily life.

**Christian Hovan**

Going on STLF my senior year. We went to South Dakota and did service along the way. Mr. Miles lead us all in prayer often and reminded us why we were doing what we were. We finished off the trip by going to a massive church in South Dakota. By doing all of the service and prayer it really reminded me how important God and service are.

**Michael Brown**



## Lessons learned at St. Cats that will help me next year and beyond.

Hard work pays dividends.  
**Ethan Letsch**

To always study and give it your best, because you never know the results or what will happen.  
**Brandon Stulo**

**Air Force National Guard  
Alverno College  
Carthage College  
Gateway Technical College  
Hillsdale College  
Marian University  
Marquette University  
Marquette University  
Milwaukee Institute of Art and Design  
Northeast Wisconsin Technical College  
Saint Cloud Community & Technical College/State University  
Santa Clara University  
University of Kentucky  
University of Washington  
University of Wisconsin-LaCrosse  
University of Wisconsin-Madison  
University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee  
University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh  
University of Wisconsin-Parkside  
University of Wisconsin-Whitewater  
Viterbo University**



# Nick Bennett

**A**s Nick Bennett wraps up his first year as St. Catherine's Boys Basketball Coach, he reflects on what the year has meant to him and his team and what he looks forward to for the 2017-18 school year.

## **How has the first year been in general?**

St. Catherine's is a special place. It is driven by the people. It has been refreshing to be around such hard working and driven teachers, administrators and support staff. This leads to a terrific learning environment for the students. My first year has been more enjoyable than I could have imagined. I leave every day thankful for this opportunity and excited to come back tomorrow to help shape this school in a positive way.

## **What are the highlights of the basketball season?**

I was most impressed with the work ethic of such a young group of players. We have plenty of work to do, but they got better each day; that's all I can really ask.

He points to a couple of signature moments from games.

- Beating the 5-time reigning state champions (Dominican) was a fun night
- Defeating rival Kenosha St. Joe's on a buzzer beater was a thrilling moment
- Playing a terrific all-around game and beating conference

leading Prairie School in the last game of the regular season was a great night as well

## **How has coaching college differed from high school for you?**

Basketball is basketball regardless of level. My father, Jack Bennett, often would tell me 'Greatness knows no level.' The older I get, the more this makes sense to me. We live in a world driven by how many 'likes' one can get on social media. That has never been what drives me as my goal for every day or season is to pursue greatness. That can take on many different forms and evolve. However, being around younger athletes (compared to college) has been terrific. The chance to connect with these guys on and off the court is a lot of fun. As long as I am coaching, I will be on a daily pursuit of greatness; this does not mean a 'win at all costs' mentality. This means, I will do my absolute best to put these young men in the best position possible to be successful.

## **What are some of the differences in being the head coach and an assistant coach?**

Simply put, it is the pressure. You feel the losses more. This isn't to say as an assistant the losses didn't matter, but as a head coach you find your mind racing of what you could have done differently. I am a competitive person and I want to win, but

not at the cost of losing my core values along the way. I want to instill a mindset that our guys understand what this game is all about.

**Has there been any benefit for you as a coach to also be in the classroom?**

I love sports and education. My mom and dad were both educators (lesser known fact as most assume Bennetts are solely coaches). As much as I get excited after a great practice or big win, I truly find joy and satisfaction after an interactive and spirited school day. Watching kids work hard in the classroom and take a sense of pride in their progress is inspiring to me. St. Catherine's is instilling characteristics that will lead to success well beyond their middle school or high school days. For me, I am grateful to be around such fantastic people every day.

**How have you grown as a coach this year? In what ways?**

Coaching is always changing, and I am in a constant chase for knowledge as I will never know it all. I learned a lot in this first year at St. Catherine's, and I am only scratching the surface in regards to what it takes. A huge benefit to coming here has been learning and growing from so many other great coaches and teachers. Bob Letsch, Dan Miller, Jeff Pulda, Betty Hunt, John Johnson, Russ Tillman, Christopher Olley, Mark Duckworth and countless others have made my transition easier. They are always willing to give a helping hand or advise on how to enrich this school.

**What's on the horizon for you and the team?**

If I knew, that would make the journey less exciting. I was fortunate enough to play on some great teams in high school and college. Inscribed inside my first National Championship

ring simply reads 'The Journey.' This is to remind me of what it took to get to that place. It doesn't happen overnight. It isn't easy. It's not glamorous and there will always be struggles. Whatever the outcome, the journey is what makes it fun. When my college teammates and I meet up and discuss the past, we never talk about our rings (in fact, I haven't worn mine in over 5 years). We reminisce about the heated practices, clutch performances on the road, pre-game locker room talks, bus rides learning about each other and celebrating the countless achievements obtained after our playing days. This is what makes a team a program, and a program a family. Buddha put it best: "It is better to travel well than to arrive." This quote hangs inside my house. I want to help St. Catherine's students travel well, rather than give them everything and simply arrive.

**You and your team were involved in a service project this year during which Racine's foster kids were invited to a Christmas party and a basketball game. How did that come about and how did you feel about being involved in that project?**

I have to give all the credit to the parents of our players. They set this up and made it so special for the youth that day. It was a terrific day and a lot of fun. Our players were great and made a positive impact on those involved. It was special for me to sit back and watch our guys interact with the kids. I hope to continue projects like this in the future.

With one year under his belt, he has summer basketball camps and league to look forward to. We want to wish Coach Bennett a great summer. He certainly had big shoes to fill and his humble nature and love for basketball seem to have done the trick. Thanks for the year of great basketball, Coach Bennett. We look forward to seeing more in the coming years.



# Bulletin Board Material

## Rube Goldberg: Alec Smith '17

Being a part of the Rube Goldberg project has allowed me to live out the pillar of community in my class work. My classmates and I worked together to create a machine that none of us could have conceived or built on our own. The machine was a collection of the class's ideas and efforts to build a chain reaction that completes a simple task. This year we were tasked with applying a bandage, and instead of simply use a weight to push the bandage onto the target area, we brainstormed unusual ways to apply the bandage. We eventually agreed that a robot pulling the adhesive flaps would be unique and challenging for us. During the Rube Goldberg building phase, we worked as a team both during school hours and after school to get the job done. Participating allowed me to learn as much about my classmates as I did the physics of the machine. To the Rube Goldberg team next year: I would recommend you start building as soon as you think of an idea to test whether or not it will work instead of implementing it onto the machine before testing it like we did.

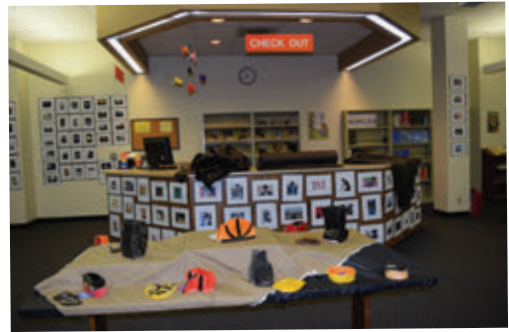
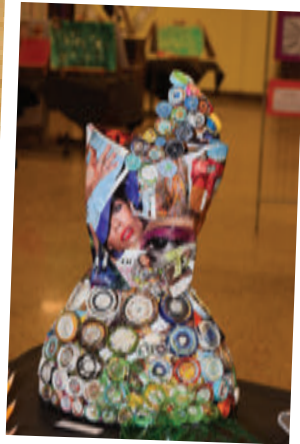
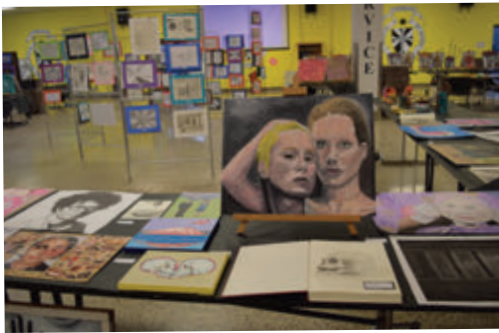


## Meghan Flynn '18:– Youth in Government

Racine St. Catherine's Junior, Meghan Flynn has been chosen to serve as the youth representative on the Health and Human Development Committee during her Senior year. Meghan will be working along-side, alumni, former teacher and principal, Robert Miller who chairs the committee. The youth in the program will provide a voice and a unique perspective regarding community issues that affect them to lawmakers. Congrats Meghan!



# Students showcased their works of art for one night throughout the school in the Festival of the Arts.



## Awards Night

Many current and future Angels received achievement awards and scholarships. A new highlight this year is the renewable \$3000 President's Scholarship awarded to 6 incoming Freshman who exhibited excellent leadership qualities and will hold a special leadership role for all four years.



## Students Today Leaders Forever

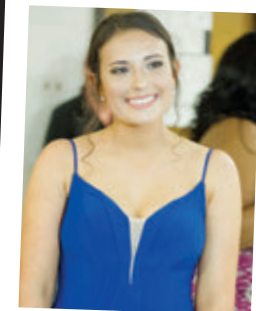
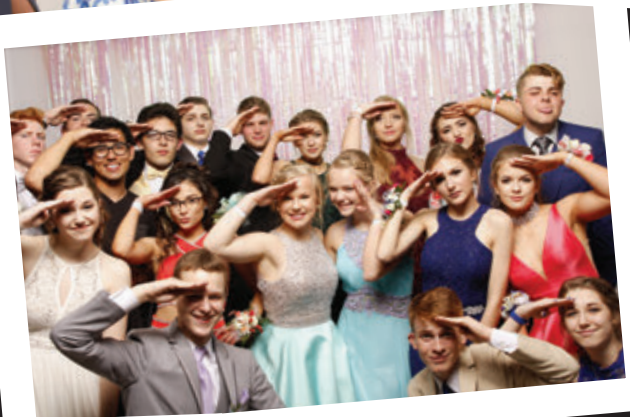
A group of about 40 students ventured out again to have a positive impact on communities in South Dakota. Way to go STLTF-ers!



## Middle School Musical

The Magical Land of Oz was the first ever middle school musical and was a delight for all. Thank you Mrs. Ernst-Schalk for making this a reality!

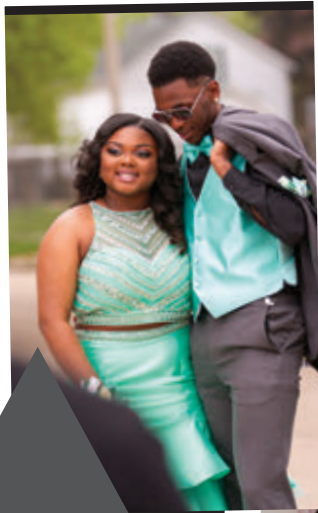
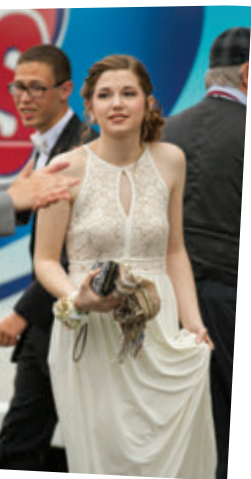




# Prom

Diamonds of the 90's





## An Educator You Should Know:

# Maria Allesee

**By Theresa Dixon**

**A**s she prepares for her 12th year at Racine St. Catherine's, Maria Allesee-Sweeney brings a global lens into her classroom. As a Spanish language teacher, she studied abroad in both Spain and Argentina. As a teacher, she loves to share her passion for traveling with her students, "not just seeing new places but meeting people and making connections and hearing people's stories." In 2009, for her first student trip, she traveled to Peru with 7 students and saw the ruins of Machu Picchu. It was a "surreal" experience that has inspired additional student travel including three 2-week Nicaragua mission trips with youth from southeastern Wisconsin. They volunteered with the NGO Cantera in Managua and various other rural communities. Two St. Catherine students participated in those trips, one of whom now works for the organization.

More recently she began planning student trips to Spain. During the first one, students got to experience several cities full of culture in Andalusia as well as Madrid and Barcelona. "An awesome cultural experience they had was to watch and compare traditional flamenco with gypsy-style flamenco dance," says Mrs. Allesee. Currently she is organizing a 2018 trip that will take place over spring break. She is excited because it will pair her enthusiasm for world-wide travel with her dedication to St. Catherine's service leadership mission. Students will

attend a language school in the morning and participate in volunteer activities within the community in the afternoon. Additionally, they will also see the Mayan ruins, specifically Chichén Itzá.

Global travel fits well into her modern language teaching, but it also meshes with what she values about St.

Catherine's, "I really enjoy watching kids get involved in making a difference in their communities." Reflecting on students who have traveled with her in the past she shares, "I love watching kids grow and seeing them find their niche. I also love when students come back later in life to share their exciting adventures." Her enthusiasm for growing service minded students has led her to taking on advisory of the Interact Club this past year as well.

A passion for the Spanish language is something she shares with her daughter Stella who is 4 going on 14 -- her favorite Spanish song is "La pequeña araña". Her son Simon, a year-and-a-half, for now is a giant ball of energy. Those two, along with dogs Marty and Chloe, a cat, and Nemo the fish, keep her and her husband, Dwayne quite busy at home.



Mrs. Allesee loves being outside and includes photography, reading, live music and of course travel on her list of hobbies. While she loves her busy life of teaching and parenting she is also mindful of the need to slow down and enjoy the simple moments with her family and friends, indulge in a bottomless cup of coffee and the listen to the serenity of the ocean whenever she can.



Interact Club sponsoring events on International Women's Day

# An Angel You Should Know:

## Jaylon Brown

By Stephanie J. May

**L**ike 80 other young men and women, Jaylon Brown just completed his Junior year, and will be venturing into his final two semesters as a Senior. However, if there is anything you should know about this very bright young man, it is that there isn't anyone else quite like him. Jaylon speaks of being an original – being an authentic version of himself. His tendency seems to be to flow with what comes naturally rather than being concerned with the trends or what others think. This seems to be what makes him such a universal friend. "Jaylon is everyone's friend. He doesn't adhere to cliques or social boundaries. Everyone likes him because he likes everyone," says Theresa Dixon. He doesn't make an effort to be different, he just doesn't feel the need to figure out how to be the same. How refreshing!

In his own words, Jaylon describes what it has been like to be an Angel, while still being true to himself.

**What are some of the most significant highlights from your years at St. Catherine's?**

**Winning Shot:** I was in 9th grade when Senior, Kelly Thomas hit the buzzer beater and won the game for St. Cat's. The crowd went insane! It was so much fun to be there and be part of that.

**Embarrassing:** During my 10th grade soccer season, we were playing against Prairie, and I fell three times during one game. It was so embarrassing.

**Donkey:** That same year I got to perform in Shrek as Donkey. I didn't know I would, but I loved being in the play and on stage. It was so fun to make people laugh.

**Confidence Booster:** During the summer after my Junior year, I attended the Dominican Conference with Fr. Allen. I didn't know what to expect, but it was really amazing.

**Winning State:** I have so many great memories, but so far the best is winning the state championship with my Soccer team. I knew at some point all we had to do was hold them out and our hard work was going to pay off.

**What do you attribute to your success?**

As a person, I would say not looking around and conforming to what others are doing.

For my team we were successful because we stuck together, we had great coaches and the energy from the fans motivated the team to keep driving. I have to say our back line didn't look uniform, but we were a force, with Sam French who is young but was solid, Ernesto Gomez, who is an amazing player and me being so tall. Everyone left it all out on the field and you could feel the intensity in every game and every play.

**I heard you made a special soccer team this year. What is the team and the commitment?**

I tried out last summer for an elite soccer team. It is Football Club Wisconsin Nationals (FCWN) and I was chosen as part of the team before I even left tryouts. It was so amazing. I have been playing soccer since I was 8 years old, so to be able to make a team like this is awesome. Our team has been playing all over the country, including the Disney Cup in Florida for a week, and we

recently won the Regionals in Rockford, Illinois. In July, we will be playing for the National title in Westfield, Indiana. I hope I can continue to play well into my college years.

**How does it feel to be heading into your senior year?**

I am excited. I want to have a good season and keep my grades up. I think I might be getting a car this year, which will contribute to my growth and independence. I am looking forward to beginning the process of preparing for college. I have had to be dependent on others for help and rides and such. I am looking forward to learning to take care of myself because in college, I will need to be prepared for that.

**What are you looking forward to most about the upcoming year?**

I am looking forward to enjoying spending time with friends and doing better in classes. I am going to be a Guardian Angel this year, which I am looking forward to. I remember



being a freshman and being a little frazzled with all the things you have to know. I want to be there to help the new incoming freshman to feel more comfortable and confident.

### **What happens after High School?**

I am not sure about the field I am going to study, but I am definitely going to play soccer. I have thought about sports broadcasting, but I don't know for sure.

### **Are you involved in any activities or groups outside of school?**

For a couple of years, I have been involved in the YLA (Young Leaders Academy) through the YMCA. I enjoy working with young people and I hope to inspire them to be comfortable being themselves and to not follow the crowd.

### **Who has influenced you in your life and why?**

My mom, for sure. She has always worked so hard making ends meet no matter what, and she puts in 100% all the time. It is inspirational. Also, my grandmother who always added a loving touch to everything and my grandfather who just was a fun person and always made people smile. We have had generation after generation of Cannons (mom's maiden name) living, loving and making people smile on Villa St.

### **How do you want people to feel having met you?**

I want people to know I am always listening. I want my positive energy to impact them and make them feel good. I like people to know that I can be an instant friend. I always want to have a positive impact on others and encourage them to be themselves. I want people to feel comfortable being themselves.

### **What is one word you think others would use to describe you?**

Funny. Humor is really important and I am usually happy.

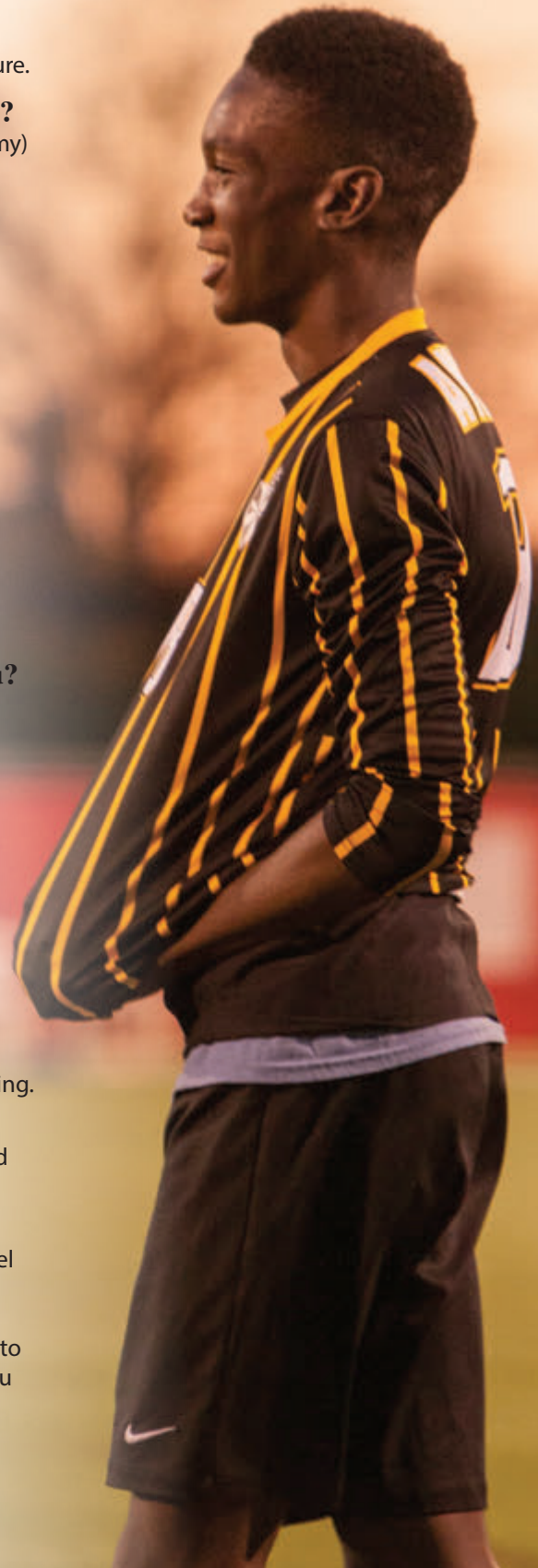
### **What is one word you would use to describe you?**

Unorthodox. I have a different way of thinking. I may even be considered eccentric.

### **What advice do you have for younger students?**

- Don't let opinions from others stop you from doing what you want.
- Never be afraid to step out of your comfort zone because of the fear of failing.
- I learned from falling to never quit. I thought about quitting soccer in my Sophomore year because of embarrassment.
- I learned from being in choir that I almost didn't take the opportunity to sing. Now I am singing in choir and have had singing parts in two musicals.
- I learned from being Donkey that you should try a lot of new things to find out what you really love.

The Angel You Should Know is a recognition for individual students among our student body whose names are mentioned by faculty and staff as model examples among all the Angels. While it is true there are so many amazing Angels You Should Know, we are tasked with choosing just one- it is truly a difficult job. We are proud of Jaylon Brown for all the uniqueness he brings to our community at St. Cats! Thanks for being you Jaylon – you're the best you we could imagine.





## 7th Grade – Laudare - Praise

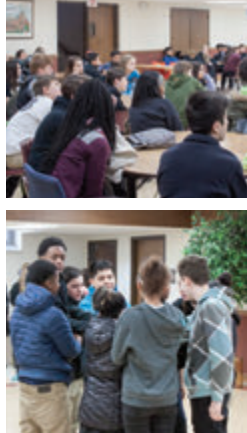
The theme of the Seventh grade retreat is to learn to praise God especially when it is most difficult to do so. We often find it easy to praise God when things go our way, but it can be difficult when things are not going as we planned and worse if we are suffering. Psalms 143 provides a motive for our praise of God and helps us reflect on his worthiness of our praise, for "Great is the Lord and worthy to be praised... The Lord is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and rich in love. The Lord is good to all; he has compassion on all he has made... The Lord is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth. He fulfills the desires of those who fear him; he hears their cry and saves them... Let every creature praise his holy name forever and ever." By reflecting on the Lord's goodness and all he has done for us, we are more inclined to praise him.

# *Campus Ministry:* **Retreat!**

## 10th Grade – Study

For the Sophomore retreat our students head to Covenant Harbor in Lake Geneva to see the importance of continuously learning more about the world around us, about ourselves and about God. The theme of STUDY becomes an acronym for the sub-themes of Scripture, Truth, Unveil, Discern and Yahweh. Each group is assigned one sub-theme with accompanying scripture passages. As the students are lead in many challenging team building low ropes activities, the staff of Covenant Harbor does an excellent job of incorporating the sub-themes of each group into the activities. In the afternoon, there is the excitement of the High Ropes course and the zip line, where students learn a lot about themselves, their fears, how to trust others and the power of encouragement. The day ends with a prayer service where each of the day's elements are brought together, and students share their sub-theme with others.





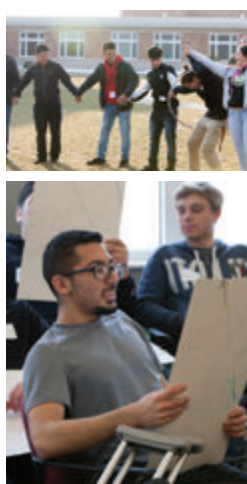
## 8th Grade – Predicare - Preach

The Eighth grade retreat focuses on our duty to preach the love of Christ with our words and with our actions. As the students look forward to their transition to high school, it is emphasized how they are meant to witness their faith to others as they mature. One of the highlight activities of the retreat is the letters which the students write to their future selves. The idea is that they are meant to share something that they learned from the retreat or a memory from there time in middle school or maybe some way they felt God speaking to them during the time of prayer. The letters are then collected by the adult leader, who holds on to them for a while and then sends them to the students at a later date so they have the opportunity to reflect again on lessons learned or graces experienced and receive some encouragement from the past.

*These spiritual retreats seek to do something similar by pulling away from our normal tasks in hopes that we can come back to them strengthened by grace, equipped with truth and bound more tightly to God and each and thus better prepared for the battle of life. At St. Catherine's, every year, each class does just that. The 2nd semester was host to the four remaining retreats for the classes and offered a special feature for each one.*

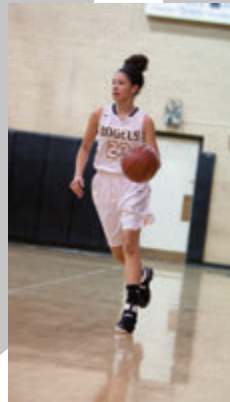
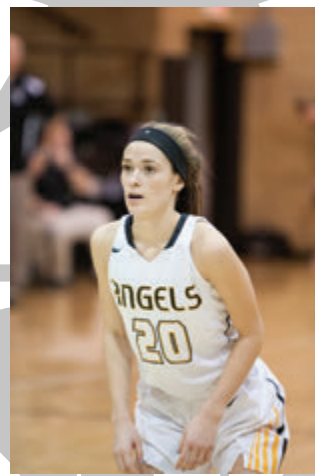
## 11th Grade – Prayer

The Junior retreat is by far the most reflective of all. The focus of the retreat is taking the time to open up our hearts to God, to praise Him and to ask Him for guidance. The retreat begins quite early, with students reporting to school before 5:30 a.m. so we can get to the lakeshore and watch the sunrise. While there might be complaints ahead of time, no one regrets seeing the beautiful sight of the sun bursting out from the waters of Lake, MI, and it provides a great setting for our opening prayer. We then head to the beautiful Siena center for a day of quiet reflection. Students have the opportunity to get to know each other more through one minute interviews, they compose prayers and songs of thanksgiving and praise, they learn more about their gifts as seen by others as they read the loving words of their classmates written on poster boards attached to their backs. Lastly they receive the gift of love in a way that is too special to announce here (it's a surprise), but ask any junior who's gone on the retreat and they can tell you.



# Boys Basketball

# Girls Basketball

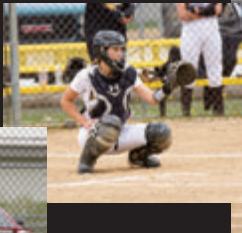
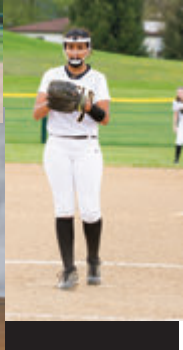
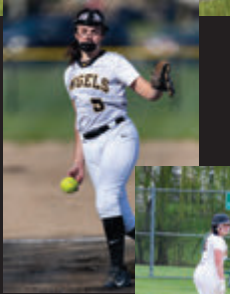


# Track and Field



# Baseball

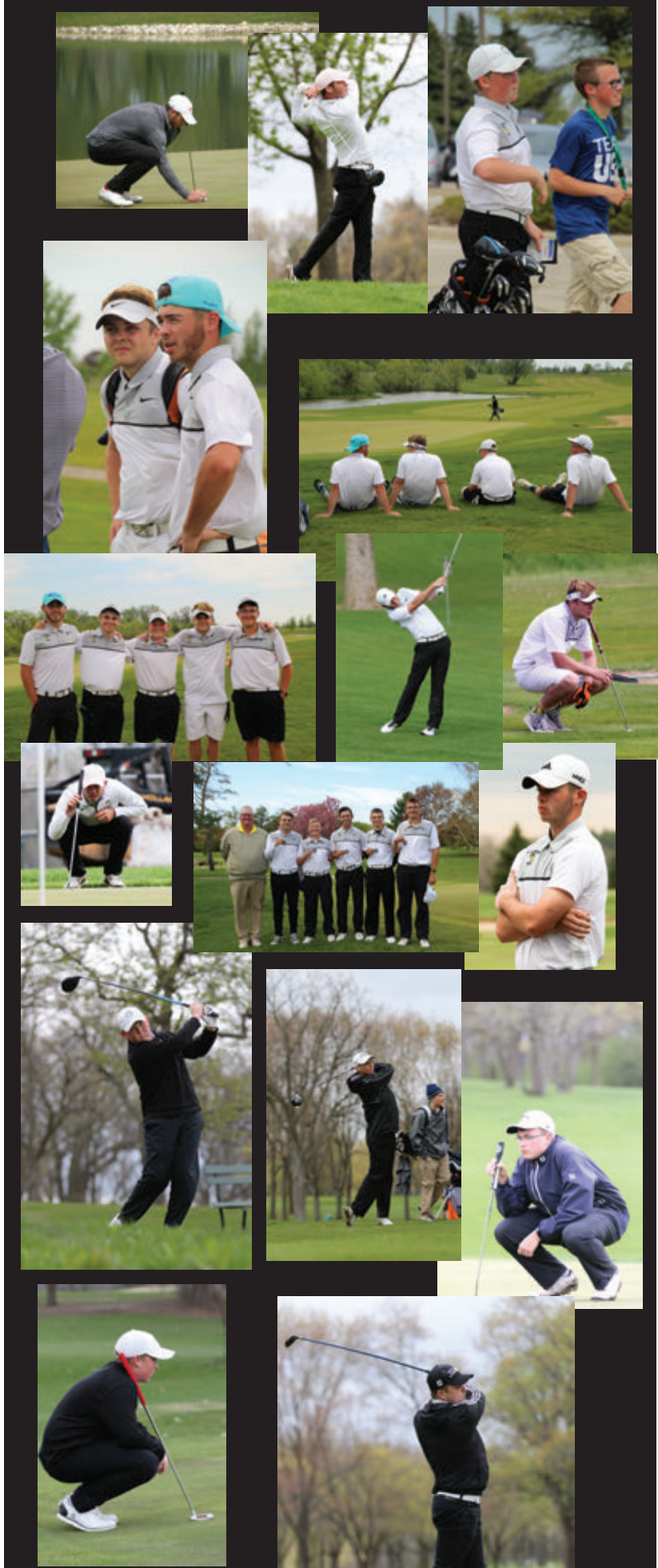




## A large crowd of students is gathered outdoors, many wearing basketball jerseys, watching an event. The students are of various ethnicities and are looking towards the left side of the frame. Some are smiling and talking to each other. The background shows a chain-link fence and some trees.



# Boys Golf



# Tennis



\*\*\*For more information about sports rosters and awards please visit [www.schsangels.org](http://www.schsangels.org)

# Robbie Milder

*By Mike Rittgers '11*

**R**obbie Milder '17 has had quite the ride! As he sees his senior year and final athletic season at Racine St. Catherine's come to a close, he has a chance to step back and realize that he has been able to do what very few student-athletes have done before him. In 12 semesters, he has earned a varsity letter (for sport participation) a grand total of ten times. He was awarded all-conference honorable mention during his senior-year basketball season and even made it to the state tournament during his freshman-year baseball season. Robbie played three sports every year: Football, Basketball and Baseball. Although he says he still cannot decide which sport is his favorite, each of his coaches and teammates believed in him to take their teams to the next level. He treated each sport as his favorite, always leaving it all on the playing field. His athletic skill wasn't the only thing that allowed him to excel, it was his selflessness and leadership that made him better each season.

If earning ten varsity letters isn't enough proof that Robbie has been a standout in each sport, just ask his coaches. "Robbie always put the 'T' in Team! He motivated his teammates by his daily hard work and words," said head football coach Dan Miller. It is always a good sign when every coach has the same positive perception of a player. "Robbie is a lead-by-example type of guy. He helped our team greatly by practicing with effort and enthusiasm on a daily basis. Robbie wasn't concerned about stats. He was focused on improvement and doing what it took to be successful," said head basketball coach Nick Bennett. Head baseball coach Paul Pulera added, "Robbie is the guy who shows up and accomplishes more than expected, which can be inspiring and motivating to others."

The best way to learn and grow, as Robbie learned at St. Catherine's, is through challenges and adversity, and he faced plenty of it during his athletic career. One good example is the Angels' playoff loss to Cedar Grove-Belgium this past season. "The last football game of my career was a sad day," according to Robbie. "We were up by five with 42.3 seconds left, and we lost the game. The team that beat us went to the state championship game. We had a shot to win the game at the end, but we just came up short." Although Robbie made some crucial plays in that game, including a 30-yard touchdown catch late in the game, it stung to know that the ride (in football, at least) was over. However, he says moments like that have taught him patience. He has learned how to keep a level head and deal with the wins as well as the losses.

Another example of Robbie's resilience and leadership can be found on the basketball court. During his junior basketball season, Robbie was the team's leading scorer, but during his senior season he took more of a playmaker's role and left much of the scoring to his younger teammates. For most players, that would be a tough pill to swallow, but Robbie never said a word; he took pride in his new role, in which he excelled and made the team much more effective. In fact, he led the team in assists. "At first it was a really hard adjustment," said Robbie. "It took a while to figure out, but I knew it would help the team win more games if I let the younger players take the majority of the shots, and I just focused on my defense and passing." That is exactly the quiet leadership that Robbie has built and for which he has become known.

Robbie's most impressive accomplishment is that he was able to excel and lead on the playing field while taking care of business in the classroom. Through all the ups





and downs, he has been able to keep a 3.4 GPA. It has been said that being a student-athlete is a full-time job, especially when you play a sport year round! Robbie learned a lot of valuable life lessons through his consistent ability to balance both school and athletics. "It is really hard to play sports year round because you just want to take a break and go straight home after school," said Robbie. "But I learned how to push through it and keep working at the sports to get better and that you always have to use your time wisely in order to get all your schoolwork done."

For Robbie, it really has been quite the ride. He has learned and grown through sport experiences that will serve him well as he begins life as a high school graduate. He has gained lasting friendships and made an impact on the many teammates he has competed with along the way. Most importantly, he has made memories that will last a lifetime. "My favorite memory of playing high school sports was my freshman year when our baseball team made it to State," said Robbie. His other favorite memories include the buzzer-beating shot that Kelly Thomas hit to beat Dominican two seasons ago, as well as seeing the boys' soccer team win State this year. Being the true team player that he is, it's fitting that some of his fondest memories don't include his own personal accomplishments.

Robbie credits much of his success on and off the playing field to his biggest role models, his parents. "My parents have come to each and every game I've played over the past four years. They taught me to always try my hardest, even when I don't agree with something." Most importantly, he says, "They taught me how to be a leader." As he has shown, Robbie will continue to use what his parents have taught him in order to succeed in the next chapter of his life.

That next chapter will begin at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater. Although Robbie did consider trying out for football or baseball for the Warhawks, he decided that he wants to focus on his education. He plans to study and pursue a degree in Sociology.

The advice that Robbie has for underclassmen at St. Catherine's is simple, yet powerful: "Enjoy every moment because high school doesn't last forever. It goes by really fast. Make sure you don't have any regrets." It may have come and gone really fast, but it's clear that sports have had a huge impact on Robbie's life, ultimately preparing him for his future. In turn, Robbie has had a positive impact on all the coaches and teammates he leaves behind. Whatever Robbie decides to pursue in life, one thing is certain: he will always have a big group of Angels cheering him on.

# Investing in the



By Leslie Hertz

Cardinal Timothy Dolan once stated: "The truth is that the entire parish, the whole diocese and the universal church benefit from Catholic Schools in ways that keep the community strong". He urged all Catholics to have a sense of common ownership to keep Catholic schools viable and healthy. Personally, I am grateful and excited that we have Catholic school options in Racine from preschool through high school and have always wanted to do my part to keep that option available to future students. Part of my "common ownership" of Catholic education is volunteer work at St. Catherine's. Through volunteering time over the years, I have been able to develop great relationships while supporting events which create opportunities for the kids to do the same. The Black & White Ball is one event that takes many months of planning with some great people who are all focused on raising funds to support student activities throughout the year.

I am a product of 20 years of Catholic school, have had three children graduate from St. Cat's and attend Catholic universities, and my youngest will be a senior next year. Before my first child entered St. Cat's in 2008, I had attended some of the fundraisers with friends who already had children there. In 2011, the Development Office intended to establish a signature event to be held in the McGuire gymnasium. I attended a meeting, along with a few other parents, which was organized by the school for parents who wanted to help and suddenly we were the Black & White Ball steering committee! While some faces have changed over the years, some of us continue to be yearly volunteers or attendees.

The first Black & White Ball was held in the gymnasium, but as the event began to blossom, the gym and the cafeteria were made over to resemble a ball and a lounge creating an evening to remember. The steering committee members spent their free time the week before, with other fabulous parent and student volunteers, organizing and setting up the event. I think we were all shocked by the transformation, including the students and faculty who kept poking their heads in the gym. The conversion of the gym into a beautiful formal setting and the success of

the event was deeply satisfying to all that worked on it and we all said "yes" when asked if we wanted to continue on the committee for the following year.

The Black & White Ball has continued to grow and change over the years. There have been different caterers, themes of design, and entertainment. What hasn't changed is the great fun the steering committee members and volunteers have putting on the event. It has been a challenge to tweak the event year after year and fix the glitches that inevitably occur, but it is rare that the planning ever becomes too stressful. The most stressful time I remember is one year when the decorating chair decided to use an Angel theme and feathers were flying everywhere with the doors about to open to the guests. Despite the frantic cleaning and vacuuming, up to the arrival of the first guests, it is now a story that comes up over and over to great hilarity.

We all have different roles on the committee and are never pressured to work an area in which we are not comfortable. Some of the members like to decorate, procure auction items, or plan the flow of the event. It is enjoyable and rewarding to volunteer this way and we have a dedicated group of parent and community volunteers who work the event every year as well. Because it is such a fun night, some of us on the committee

also attend as paid guests. It is a great to see how the Black & White ball comes together from this perspective.

Knowing how much the proceeds directly affect student activities is rewarding in itself. It is so gratifying to continue to have "common ownership" of Catholic education through this event. Some people shy away from helping or attending fundraisers, but there are so many ways to help throughout the year without much time or any monetary commitment. For me, volunteering at the Black & White Ball has been a fun social way to meet more school parents and faculty while helping my children's school stay strong and viable. The steering committee has already begun to meet about next year's event as well as St. Cat's newest "Friendraiser," The Fall Social, and will start to have regular meetings soon. Hopefully, more people will want to be invested in the Black & White Ball and the efforts to financially support student activities and to keep Racine St. Catherine's a premiere Catholic educational option for Racine families.



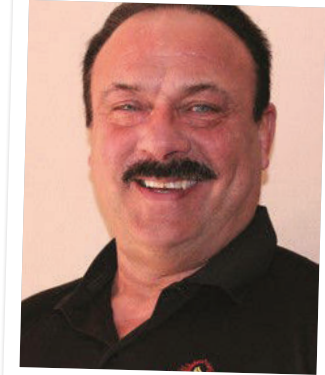


Save-the-date  
for our 2018  
Black & White Ball ~  
Saturday, March 24.  
Additional event details,  
including sponsorship  
opportunities, will be  
shared on our website and  
via social media this Fall.

# Alumni Page

## Racine 2017 Volunteer Award Winners

**Education Award:** Douglas Andrews '73 who lends his marketing and motivational skills to pro bono projects for academic and military nonprofit programs.



**Senior Award:** Pat Adams '63 is a tireless advocate for disaster preparedness and veterans outreach. She is the Racine County coordinator for the Medical Reserve Corps and chairs the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 767 Vietnam Moving Wall project.

**Economic Development Award:** Tom Buhler '76 serves as the key catalyst behind the Visioning a Greater Racine project that has coordinated three phases: committee formation, fundraising planning and consultant selection.



## Class of 2035 Congrats Jenny (Scheller '00) and Dan Howard

*Help us welcome Landon John and Tyler Edward*



## In Memoriam

Harriette Heiring Becker '40  
Hubert Braun '40  
Marcella Thomas Mueller '40  
Sylvia Tamm Petersen '42  
Rose Arakelian Truckey '42  
William Karls '45  
Joan Barina Barina '47  
Doris Verbeten Lowe '47  
Helen Fllliess Tunkieicz '47  
Gerald Atkinson '48  
Patricia Geraghty Auchter '48  
Roger Canfield '49  
Betty Karecki '49  
Marcel Dandeneau '50  
Edith Fumo Gabbey '50  
Joan Adamski Schulz '50  
Joseph Falduto '51  
Helen Cook Jakubowski '51  
Frank Aiello '52  
Walter Cooper '52  
James Healy '52  
LeRoy Kosterman '52  
Lucille LaMacchia Inda '53  
Elizabeth James Miskinis '53  
Thomas McNamara '56  
Ronald Betker '57  
Dennis Held '57  
Nancee Cespkas Getman '57  
Josephine Murphy Mata '58  
Sharon Christensen Seidel '58  
Barbara Zalesak Stauss '58  
Marsha Ernst Krueger '59  
Donald Hartig '60  
Susan Kosterman Altenbach '61  
Sharon Mahoney Nelson '61  
Edmund Weisbrod '61  
John Haas '62  
Robert Olley '62  
William Beyer '64  
C. Judley Wyant '64  
Judith Kosterman Melcher '66  
Eugene Szymczak '67  
Angela Totero '67  
Rene Johnson Gagliano '71  
Jeff Wakefield '77  
Dave Brehm '82  
Laureen Consiglero '82  
Jacob Trottier '09

## Upcoming Class Reunions

**62nd** – Class of 1955  
**Saturday, August 26**

**60th** – Class of 1957  
**Saturday, August 12**

**50th** – Class of 1967  
**Saturday, August 19**

**45th** – Class of 1972  
**Saturday, August 5**

**30th** – Class of 1987  
**Friday and Saturday,  
July 21st & 22nd**

**For all the details go to [saintcats.org/classreunions](http://saintcats.org/classreunions)**

**Planning a reunion? Contact Nicole  
Smart at [nsmart@saintcats.org](mailto:nsmart@saintcats.org) or call  
(262) 833 - 5519**



St. Catherine's  
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Racine, WI 53403  
www.saintcats.org

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## *McGuire Letsch Golf Scramble*

Honoring the Legacies  
of the Legends

\*\*\*\*\*



### **Save the Date for the 17th Annual Scholarship Scramble**

This event will not only honor the legacy of John F. McGuire as it has for the past 16 years, but it will also honor the legacy of recent retiree, Robert C. Letsch. The St. Catherine's community will gather on the green at Ives Grove Links to pay tribute to the significant contributions these two legends have made to our history. John and Bob have changed the lives of countless students on the court, field and in the hallways of St. Catherine's.

Save the date to be sure you can attend this beloved event which funds student scholarships at Racine St. Catherine's.

September 29, 2017  
Ives Grove Golf Links  
Roma Lodge

\*\*\*\*\*

# Fall Social

**Saturday,  
November 11th**

Racine St. Catherine's  
hosted its first Fall Social  
event on November 12, 2016,  
for 90 satisfied guests.

This casual social includes  
wine and beer tasting,  
appetizers and fun.

It's a great opportunity for the  
community of parents to get  
to know each other better in  
a casual setting.

**Don't miss the  
opportunity  
to attend this Fall.**

**November 11, 2017!**