

Saint Mary

ON THE HILL
CATHOLIC CHURCH



News and Notes from Fr. Jerry

Rejoicing in our Past, Investing in our Future



Dear Parishioners,

October is a wonderfully historic month for our parish. Thanks to the good work of the Sisters of St. Joseph, there has been Catholic Education on the "Hill" for close to 100 years, but 50 years ago this month our faith community joined with the Sisters in dedicating a parish school. Consequently, the school's name was changed from Mt. St. Joseph Academy to St. Mary on the Hill School. Under the watchful eye of Msgr. Bourke and Sr. Mary Gerald, construction was completed on a new parish school, which opened in September 1960. On Oct. 9, 1960, St. Mary on the Hill Catholic School was dedicated by Bishop Thomas McDonough. A young assistant pastor helped direct the ceremony. His name was Fr. J. Kevin Boland, who of course is now our bishop. Bishop Boland will be with us on Oct. 9 to celebrate this happy anniversary.

the Good News of the first 50 years of our parish school. And I hope you will join in the celebration of St. Mary School's Golden Anniversary.

I also encourage all our parishioners to attend a special gathering on Wednesday evening, Oct. 13. Fr. John Lanzrath, Director of the Office of Stewardship of the Diocese of Wichita, will be with us as the keynote speaker for our fall leadership meeting. Since renewing our commitment to stewardship is so critical to what we want to accomplish in our parish school, this will be a mandatory meeting for all

We are so very blessed to have so many parishioners who are willing to sacrifice in order to support Catholic Education. Having a parish school means never having to choose between your children's academic enrichment and their moral and spiritual development. I hope you enjoy this issue of *The Marianite*, which proclaims

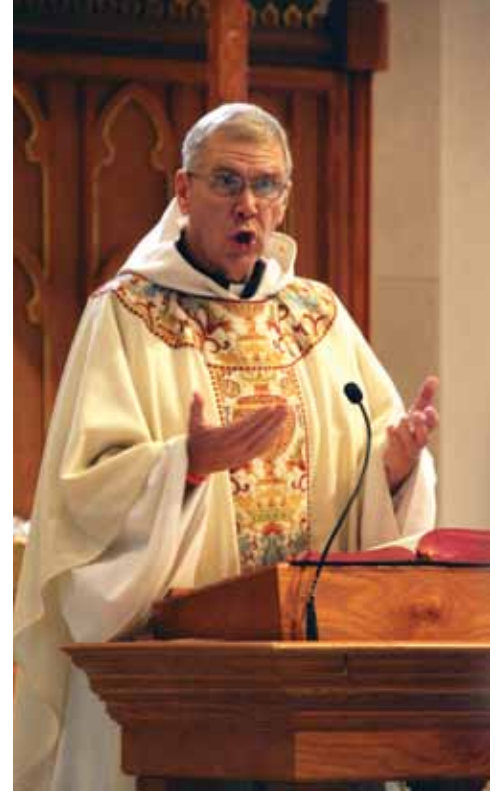


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St. Mary on the Hill Catholic School *Celebrating 50 years of Excellence*



On Wednesday, Sept. 8, our school had reason to celebrate. It was on that date, exactly 50 years ago, that St. Mary on the Hill Catholic School opened its doors for the very first time.

To commemorate this special occasion, students, teachers, parents, and alumni gathered for a special Golden Jubilee Mass that was a tribute to the school's past, a celebration of the present, and a look to the future.

Following the entrance hymn, *She Will Show us the Promised One*, the Mass began with students reading a brief history of the school, including an explanation of the school flag and the school crest.

The flag design, which was created by former student Matthew Lint, is a combination of Bishop Boland's Diocesan Coat of Arms and the school's former flag. The blue and white field represents our school colors, and the red cross across the front symbolizes the suffering, death and resurrection of Our Lord. Particularly symbolic are the four stars which, on the Bishop's Coat of Arms signify Georgia as the fourth state to ratify the Constitution, but on our flag repre-

sent the students in the Early Childhood, Primary, Intermediate and Junior High Departments.

Introduced for the first time was the school's new crest. While some of the elements have remained the same – such as the lamp symbolizing acquired knowledge and the crown representing Mary as Queen of Heaven – a central gold color was added in honor of the Golden Jubilee. Furthermore, the dates 1960 (the year the school began) and 2010 (our 50th year in education) are written on each side, with a banner below proclaiming 50 years of academic excellence.

Many of those attending the Mass didn't realize that seven members of the faculty are also alumni of the school. Mrs. Ginger Goodwin, Mrs. Gina Folsom, Mrs. Caroline Brady, Mrs. Allison Crow, Mrs. Katharine Doss, Mrs. Therese Rhodes, and Mrs. Kelly Shouse were called forward and each presented with a bouquet of flowers and a special pen caddy with the school's jubilee logo. Then, all other alumni present at Mass were asked to stand, and they, too, were presented with a gift.



Kindergarten teacher Mrs. Ginger Goodwin explains how the school legacy is now being passed on to a second generation of children since many of those she taught are now parents who are sending their children to St. Mary's.

"I have walked these halls for 39 years of my life," she explains. "I feel blessed and privileged to be working at St. Mary's – It is my home."

The celebration will continue Saturday morning, Oct. 9, with the Saints Run for Gold 5K Run/Walk. That evening, another Mass will be celebrated to mark the exact date in which the school was dedicated. The Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Boland who, amazingly, attended the original dedication 50 years ago.

Following the Bishop's Mass will be an adult social beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the school gym. Tickets are \$30/person

or \$50/couple, and will include an open bar and heavy hors d'oeuvres provided by Jennifer Shuford of Tastefully Yours. The school will be open and everyone is invited to wander through the halls admiring the memorabilia, yearbooks, and

photos that will be set out.

Reaching 50 years for anything in life is a cause for jubilation, reflection, and wonder. In the case of our school, it means celebrating 50 years of morning prayers, kindergarten halloween parades, fall carnivals, lunch lines, homework assignments, First Communions, and May Crownings – 50

years of students learning the virtues of truth, wisdom, and knowledge while growing in God's grace.

Many of those in attendance didn't realize that seven members of the faculty are also alumni of the school. Mrs. Ginger Goodwin, Mrs. Gina Folsom, Mrs. Caroline Brady, Mrs. Allison Crow, Mrs. Katharine Doss, Mrs. Therese Rhodes, and Mrs. Kelly Shouse were called forward and each presented with a bouquet of flowers and a special pen caddy with the school's jubilee logo.

From the Pages of History 50 Years of Photos at St. Mary on the Hill Catholic School

If the saying “a picture is worth a thousand words” is true, then the following pages speak volumes about the history of our Catholic school.

In honor of St. Mary on the Hill Catholic School’s 50th anniversary, we’ve “opened the vault” and taken a peek at how our school has developed over the past half century.

The photos featured on these two pages clearly communicate the rich and vibrant heritage at St. Mary’s, and give promising insight into what the next 50 years may hold.





All in the Family: SMS Alumnae



Mrs. Katharine Doss



Mrs. Ginger Goodwin



Mrs. Therese Rhodes



Mrs. Carol

Without a doubt, one of the most outstanding attributes of St. Mary on the Hill Catholic School is its sense of family.

Family is what gives life to our school, transforming classrooms into opportunities for ministry and formation. Family is the reason many in our community continue to send their children to St. Mary on the Hill Catholic School. Family is also the reason why seven alumni decided to return to the halls of their alma mater, to teach in the very same classrooms in which they were taught.

Katharine Doss, Third Grade

Augusta native Katharine Doss enrolled at St. Mary's as a fifth-grade student, attending from 1977-81. At the time, the Sisters of St. Joseph taught many of the classes and served as the school's administration.

As an adult, Katharine taught in the public school system for 10 years before joining the St. Mary's School staff.

"I never imagined myself back at SMS as a part of the faculty, but I count myself lucky that I found my way back here," she says.

During her years as a public school teacher, Katharine recalls her father encouraging her to "go back to your roots," and teach at St. Mary's. She would eventually do so – sadly, three years after her father's passing.

"I know he is looking down and is thrilled that I am finally home," she says.

This is Katharine's seventh year at St. Mary's, and she is honored to teach alongside many of her former teachers, including Paige Parel, Kathy Barrett, Suzanne Beusse and Barbara Lewis.

Ginger Goodwin, Kindergarten

Ginger Goodwin began her career at St. Mary's as a kindergarten student in 1962. Eighteen years later, she was hired as a member of St. Mary's faculty. For the past 30 years, Ginger has taught in vari-

ous departments at the school, spending the majority of her time – 24 years – as a kindergarten teacher.

"I knew since I was in kindergarten that I wanted to be a teacher, but I didn't know I would end up back where I started," Ginger says. "Knowing that I have been walking the halls of SMS for over 30 years of my life makes me feel blessed that I can contribute to the success of SMS."

Looking forward, Ginger says she hopes that St. Mary's school community continues to grow.

"We need to continue to hold high standards for our students, and we need to pave the path for them to achieve their goals," she says.

Therese Rhodes, Second Grade

Since her earliest days of grade school, Therese Rhodes has dreamed of teaching at St. Mary's.

"As a little girl, I loved playing school, and I even pretended to be some of my former teachers who I am actually teaching with now," she says.

Therese attended St. Mary's from kindergarten – in 1987 – through eighth grade – in 1997. She joined the school faculty in 2007.

As a second-grade teacher, Therese has the privilege of preparing her students to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation and the Eucharist.

"My proudest moments each year happen in May when I watch my students receive Jesus for the very first time," she says.

Therese is honored to teach alongside many of her former teachers, admitting, however, that it has been a challenge getting used to addressing those same teachers by their first names.

i Return to Teach at St. Mary's



Caroline Brady



Mrs. Gina Folsom



Mrs. Allison Crow



Mrs. Kelly Shouse

Caroline Brady, Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Grades

When asked to sum up her experience as a St. Mary's student, Caroline Brady says, "I made friends for a lifetime!"

Today, as a part-time teacher, Caroline is encouraging her own students to make some of the same memories she made as a student.

Caroline attended St. Mary's from 1964-1973, and joined the faculty in 1987 as a fourth-grade teacher. She says that while the school's appearance has changed dramatically over the years, the Catholic atmosphere has remained the same. And as a teacher, the strong Catholic presence at the school has done much to positively impact her own spiritual journey.

"Being surrounded daily by a Christ-centered atmosphere has helped me grow closer to Christ," she says.

Gina Folsom, First Grade

When Gina Folsom attended St. Mary's from 1962-1970, the classroom experience was much different than it is today.

"There was no air conditioning," she says. "The large fans were so loud you couldn't hear the nuns talk. The library was literally a closet. Discipline was tough – it wasn't uncommon to get your ear twisted if you were not behaving!"

However, Gina remembers St. Mary's as a great place to attend school. And it is this feeling that she hopes to pass on to her own students.

"I try to be a model of Christ to the children I teach," she says.

Gina began teaching at St. Mary's in 1994, and each day she considers herself blessed to be a member of the school's faculty.

"I am surrounded by people who are committed to living their lives in the image of Christ," she says.

Allison Crow, Third Grade

When Allison Crow decided to pursue a degree in Education, the only place she saw herself teaching was St. Mary's.

"I would look over at the school every day as I was leaving Augusta State, and I knew that my heart belonged there," she says.

Allison began teaching at St. Mary's in 1999, and has remained at the school since. She says she loves teaching at the same school she attended as a child.

"My students like hearing stories about what it was like when I was at SMS," she says. "Two of my former teachers – Mrs. Beusse and Mrs. Lewis – are still teaching at SMS. They are two of my most treasured teachers, but I am now blessed to also call them my friends."

Kelly Shouse, Reading Specialist

Kelly Shouse, reading specialist, attended St. Mary on the Hill Catholic School from 1985-88. She says the school played a big role in "shaping who I am as a person with strong Catholic values."

Kelly, who has worked as a teacher for seven years, has taught at St. Mary's for just a few months. As a reading specialist, she works with students in every grade level. When asked to share with us some of her most memorable moments in the classroom, Kelly says, "the most special memories are made in that moment when students finally realize that they can read, and that is a very powerful thing."

Teaching at the same school she attended growing up is a blessing for Kelly.

"I feel as if I am 'home,' and I love every single minute of it," she says. "I feel very connected to the students, as well as the faculty here at St. Mary's, and it makes for a very special work environment. I want the students of St. Mary's to be just as happy as I was walking through these halls everyday."

Parishioners' Generosity Blesses St. Mary's School

Over the past 50 years, St. Mary on the Hill Catholic School has offered students quality academic education in a Christ-centered environment. The success of St. Mary's, while due in large part to a solid teaching staff and administration, is also due to the stewardship of St. Mary's parish community.

"Our school runs because of people's giving," says Principal Joe McBride. "We've had countless people offer money for things we don't have in our budget, donate their talents to allow us to start things like a sports program or even to take the students on field trips and, most importantly, pray for us – for the success of the school, for the safety of the school family, and for the health and well being of all involved. Without these many gifts, there's no way that St. Mary's would be what we are today."

In the seven years that Principal McBride has served the students and families of St. Mary on the Hill Catholic School, he has marveled at the generosity of parish families displayed through gifts to our parish school.

"People are so generous," he says. "It is wonderful to see. In particular, it floors me how much people are committed to praying for us. I see parents drop off their children and then head straight to the adoration chapel. And then to witness the power of those prayers – it's incredible. It's nearly tangible. You can see what a difference the prayer makes in the life of the school."

Parishioner Kelly Fair also acknowledges the presence of stewardship at St. Mary's School. She feels blessed beyond measure to be a part of the school community, and she and her husband, Pat, have made a conscious effort to give of their gifts for the benefit of Catholic education.

"I started serving as a room mom when our oldest daughter was in kindergarten, nine years ago," Kelly remembers. "Since then, Pat and I have gotten involved in a number of activities, including serving as the presidents of the PTO."

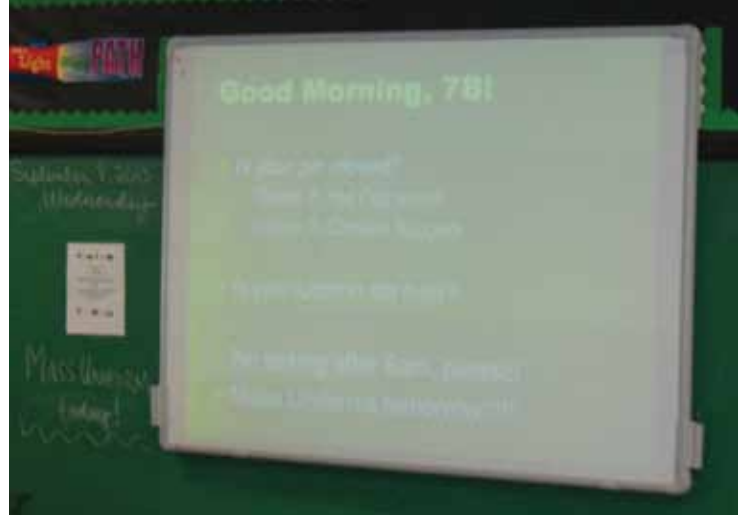
The reason for the Fairs' acts of stewardship? Simple; they wholeheartedly believe in the mission of St. Mary's School, and they feel honored to be a part of it.

"We feel like St. Mary's has made a difference for our children and for our own growth as Catholic Christians, and we really enjoy being a part of it. It is a blessing. At many schools, the parents cannot be involved. Here, we are encouraged to, and it is wonderful."

Teacher Katharine Doss has seen first-hand the effects of stewardship at St. Mary's School. In fact, she and every other teacher at the school benefit from stewardship each day. Katharine's own family bestowed a tremendous blessing on the school when they donated money to furnish each classroom with ActivBoards, which are interactive whiteboards, a few years ago. Her father, who passed away seven years ago, left behind a large sum of money to be invested in a non-profit organization. At the direction of Katharine's mother, the money was used to benefit St. Mary's.

"It brings St. Mary's into the 21st century in a very real way," Katharine says. "And it is wonderful to see my father's death touch the lives of so many children."

These are just a few of the many examples of how stewardship has blessed St. Mary on the Hill Catholic School over the years. As parishioners and school families continue to live the stewardship way of life, these gifts will only increase over time. Thank you, St. Mary on the Hill Parish, for your support of our Catholic school over the years.



ActivBoards, which are located in each classroom at St. Mary's, are the result of a generous gift from the Colgan family.



A new basketball court, located on the playground, was a gift from the Strong and Hagler families.



Home Sweet Home

by Katie Conner

As Steve and I made plans to move to Augusta, the first stop on our house-hunting trip was St. Mary on the Hill Catholic School. Perhaps an unusual first stop, but we wanted to be sure about this place where we would be sending our children to learn and grow.

As we toured the school, I was struck by its peaceful atmosphere. It was by no means silent, but there was an order, a rhythm to everything that was happening. We were greeted by large statues of Mary and Joseph at the entryway. Kindergarteners in their plaid uniforms headed quietly into music class, and older students were engaged in an art project next door. Classical music played in the hallway. I don't remember who led our little tour, but she was friendly and rightly proud of the lovely buildings, the excellent textbooks, and the technology in use throughout the school.

All in all, it was quite impressive, and yet I still had some anxiety about placing our children here. Would they be at home in this school? Would they be alright? Before we left to look at houses, we discovered the little chapel at the end of the school and were happy to find the door unlocked. When I walked inside I was amazed. The Blessed Sacrament was right there on the altar. I knelt down and I think I heard the Lord speaking in my heart, "You can send them here and they will be alright. See, I will be with them every day."

And truly the Lord has been with them every day at St. Mary's. He is with them in the priests who greet them in car-pool line in the morning or on the playground at recess. He is with them when the whole school invokes His blessing at the flagpole ceremony at the beginning of each new year. He is with them as their school day starts and ends with prayer. He is with them in the Eucharist when they make their weekly trek to Mass and in the homily preached with them in mind.

He is with them in the teachers who call home when they have struggles in their class. And the teachers who arrive at school early to pray and share breakfast with them. He is with them as they learn about the Rosary in October and celebrate Advent and Lent with their classes. He is with them in their "Mass buddies" – those little ones see Him in the attention they are given by a "big kid," and the big kids see Him in the innocence of the little guys. He is with them in science class where they learn that faith and reason work in harmony. He is with them when discipline means teachers and the principal bringing them in line with Gospel values. He is with

them when they collect food for the poor and gather tightly around a fellow student who is battling cancer.

We have just started our ninth school year at St. Mary on the Hill, and though by some accounts we are still newcomers, it has become for our children a second home and family. It is not perfect – after all it is a school of human beings, not angels. But it is a place where they have grown and flourished every day because every day Jesus is with them.

Happy 50th, SMS. We love you!



Rejoicing in our Past *continued from front cover*

parish staff, school faculty, and stewardship families with children attending St. Mary School. But it is my hope that many parishioners will want to hear this special presentation. All are welcome to attend.

Fr. John Lanzrath has served the Diocese of Wichita in many capacities since his ordination in 1988: associate pastor, Vice-Chancellor, Moderator of the Curia, and director of the Spiritual Life Center. Currently he is the Director of the Diocese's Office of Stewardship. Fr. John has worked closely with Msgr. McGread (the "father" of modern Catholic stewardship) and Bishop Eugene Gerber in spreading the message of stewardship throughout the diocese, as well as to other parishes across the nation. In addition, Fr. John was instrumental in the development of their diocesan pastoral letter, *The Pillars of Parish Stewardship*. His lively presentation will bring these four pillars to life and show what we need to do to more fully develop stewardship as a way of life.

As pastor of this faith community, my prayer is that we will always strive to be a community of intensive hospitality, prayer, formation, and service. In sharing generously of our time, talent and treasure, we grow in the stewardship way of life, the discipleship way of life. Our stewardship ministries are gathered under these four pillars:

Hospitality: Christian Kindness

- We strive to extend a warm, hospitable, and loving welcome to all who join us in worship, service, study, social or in times of personal need.
- We assist our parish community in presenting a visible sign of Christ's loving kindness in all we do.
- Even in our large parish, we work at a sense of belonging, a sense of a truly caring community.

Prayer: Heart to Heart with God

- We grow as disciples who are committed to prayer — individual and communal prayer, public and private prayer.
- Through prayer, we are invited to draw closer to Jesus and to imitate Him in our daily lives.
- While Eucharist is central to our spiritual life, other prayer opportunities are made available, in particular we are committed

to Perpetual Adoration, which is a great blessing to our faith community.

Formation: Continuous Conversion

- We strive to educate, form and sustain the stewardship way of life for all ages through faith formation opportunities in the parish and school.
- We strive to be stewards, and give a good example as we participate in parish life in ministries and on parish leadership teams.

- We are open to the continuous conversion to a life of stewardship – to sharing what one has with a loving, generous and grateful heart.

Service: Love in Action

- We strive to be servant ministers to the need of our parish members, the wider community and the Church.
- We strive to serve compassionately those who are hurting or in need, lost or alone, or suffering in any way.
- We give thanks to God for all the gifts we have received and we celebrate the special events in the lives of parishioners.

God bless you,

Fr. Jerry Ragan

Fr. Jerry



St. Mary on the Hill Catholic School Fall Carnival

The 2010 St. Mary on the Hill Catholic School Fall Carnival will be held Saturday, Oct. 23, from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. on the school playground. The Fall Carnival is a wonderful opportunity for families to enjoy a day of fellowship, fun, and good food.

Among the activities featured each year at the Fall Carnival is a silent auction. This year's auction will feature exciting theme baskets, including group dinner parties and various sporting and travel packages. Also back this year is the "Country Kitchen," which is always a hit, with casseroles and baked goods for sale. And, as always, the carnival will feature games for children, and delicious food available at the concession stands.

Entertainment at this year's carnival will include popular local musician – and parishioner – Tara Scheyer & the Mud Puppy Band. In addition, with the purchase of a carnival raffle ticket, attendees could win a golf cart, a bicycle or other prizes!

For more information or for those who are interested in donating casseroles, baked goods or sponsoring a theme basket, please contact Neisha Cundey at nbcundey@knology.net.

Thank you for your support and we look forward to seeing you there!



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St. Mary on the Hill Church

In memory of Dr. Victor Casella

Mr. Bill Lewis

Mr. and Mrs. Bill Barrett

Mr. W.L. McCrary

In memory of Bill Price

Judge and Mrs. William
Fleming

Mr. and Mrs. Royal Robbins

In memory of William Nevin

Mrs. Carolyn Mulherin

In memory of Tweet Green

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Capps

In memory of Gerald Saegert

Dr. and Mrs. Ray Johnson

Mr. and Mrs. Edward
Gillespie

Mr. and Mrs. W. Franklin
Abbott

Joan Cameron and Heather
Cameron

Ms. Henrietta Fishback

Ladies Golf Assoc. Augusta
Country Club

St. Mary Church Senior Center

In memory of Al Christine

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Nozzolio

St. Mary Church Adoration Chapel

Mr. and Mrs. K.L. Dendinger

St. Mary Church Youth Ministry

Mr. and Mrs. K.L. Dendinger

St. Mary Church Air Conditioning Unit Fund

Mr. and Mrs. Paul DeCamp

Judge and Mrs. William
Fleming

St. Mary on the Hill School

In memory of Bill Price

Mr. and Mrs. Bill Fair

Baptisms

Hendrick Leary Scholer,
son of Daniel and Rebecca

Katherine Clark Wright,
daughter of Michael and Mary

Emma Katherine Thompson,
*daughter of Jamie Bedenbaugh
and Karin Thompson*

Susanna Hope Berman,
daughter of Adam and Theresa

Mary Elizabeth Givens,
daughter of Steve and Danielle

Allison Katherine Boardman,
daughter of Kevin and Bridget

Rowan Anderson Servy,
son of Lauren Adcock and Alexis