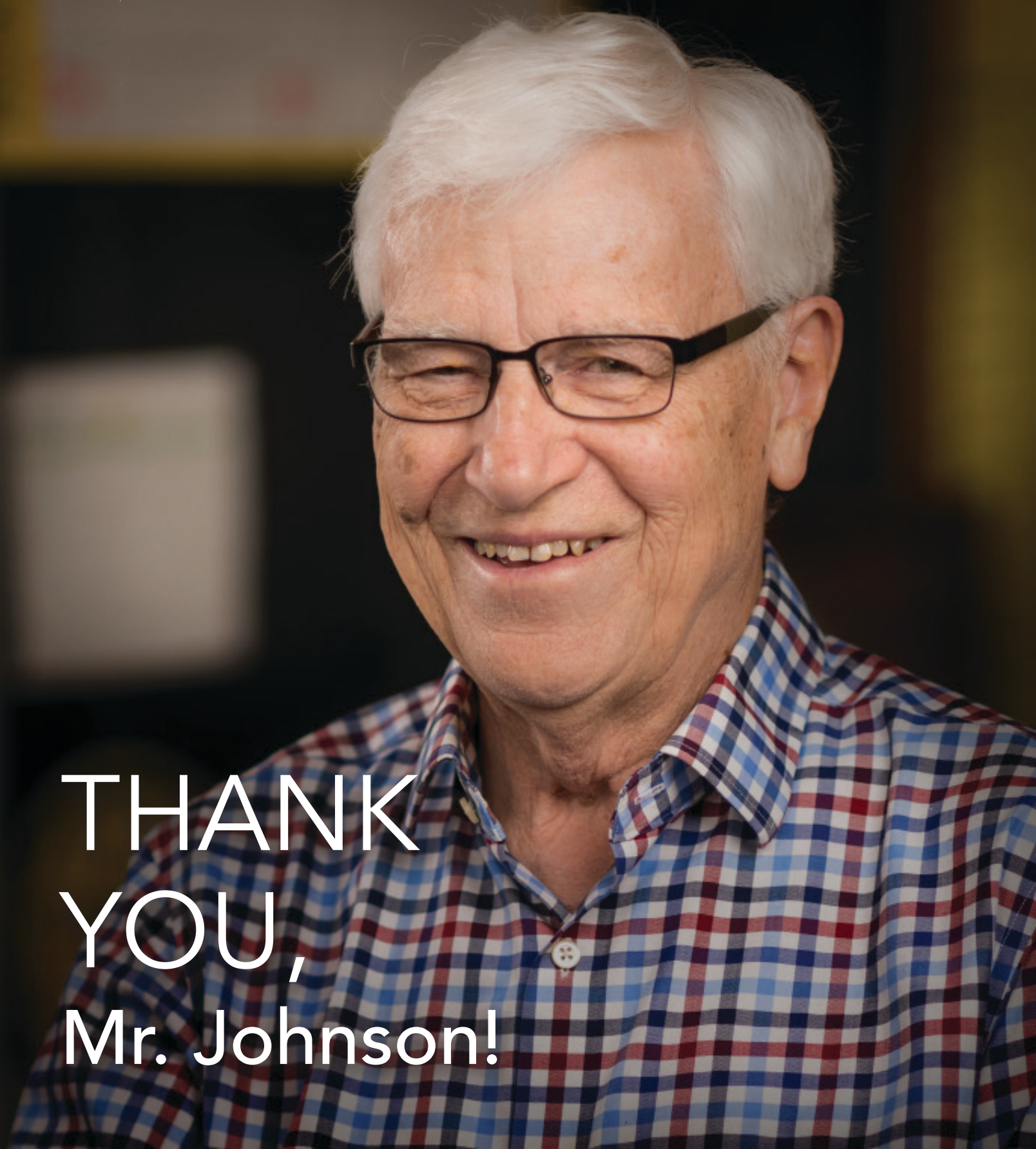


# THE Aggie Archives

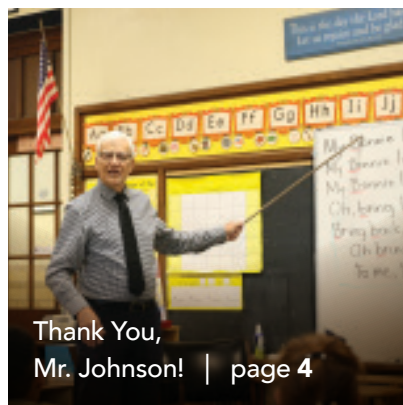
Keeping alumni, families and friends connected to Saint Agnes School • SPRING 2022



THANK  
YOU,  
Mr. Johnson!

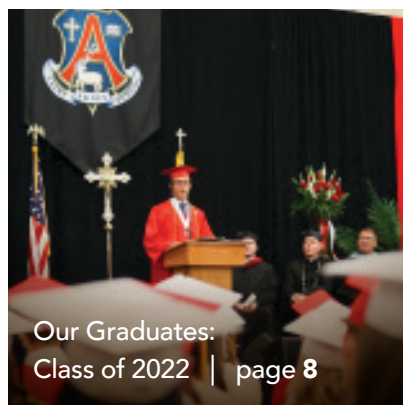


# INSIDE THE ARCHIVES



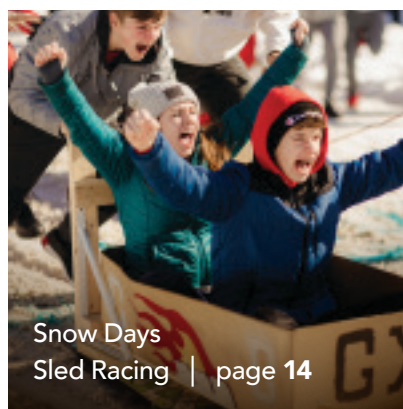
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On the Presence of our Sisters | page 18



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Dear Saint Agnes Families,

As we conclude another school year, we have, for the most part, returned to normal. Students and teachers have worked very hard and are ready for the respite from the school year schedule that only summer can bring. With the worst of the pandemic behind us, children of all ages are again getting into moderate trouble for age-appropriate, inappropriate behavior! Some of our teaching and student bodies have over-extended themselves by participating in too many positive activities. Some of us are trying again to get more out of a 24-hour period than is humanly possible. Yes, we have returned to normal!

We announce with great gratitude the retirement of one of our most beloved teachers, Mr. David Johnson. David has taught in our elementary school since fall of 1973—finishing his 49th year in the classroom. What a testament to the vocation of teacher! An alumnus from the class of 1957, David has faithfully carried out his duties in forming Catholic hearts and minds in faith, reason, and virtue. He has led young

ones in developing math and reading skills, prepared countless souls for the reception of First Holy Communion, directed and choreographed student performances, and so much more. Much has changed in nearly five decades, but David has been a constant. We will miss him in these hallowed halls.

In April, we had a team from our accrediting body, Cognia (formerly known as AdvandED), visit our school virtually and evaluate the extent to which we have a healthy approach to teaching and learning, to realistic, data-driven strategic goals and initiatives, and to completely honest departmental input into the ongoing improvement of our school's program for all stakeholders. I have often called re-accreditation the work to keep our



The climate and culture of our school community—especially as it relates to student and faculty culture—is at a high point now.



“Good Housekeeping Seal of Approval.” It allows us to function as a private school should—without interference from the state of Minnesota or from the local school district's superintendent.

At our exit meeting, the Cognia team praised the school with two powerful practices in the areas of “extended leadership engaged in strategic resource management” and the culture of being “unabashedly focused on forming Catholic hearts and minds through Faith, Reason, and Virtue.” The team praised the school for its engagement with all stakeholder

groups, leadership cultivation, and stakeholder support for our mission as well as for our philosophy of education, our commitment to a coherent curriculum with high expectations, and the strong culture for learning. Over the next five years, they asked us to focus on using qualitative and quantitative data to structure our continuous improvement progress and to work hard at strategic planning based on that data. All in all, we are extremely proud of where we are right now, but we also know that we can always improve, and we are committed to getting better!

The climate and culture of our school community—especially as it relates to student and faculty culture—is at a high point now. Students feel like Saint Agnes School is a second home for them; they are comfortable, exuberant, and supportive. The Class of 2022 in particular has brought us to new levels of community support at home games, meets, and matches.

At our annual spring lunches, I always ask the seniors two questions—namely, what will you miss most about your school? And, if you were headmaster, what would you change? They had a number of suggestions for ways to improve their alma mater, and most of them could be managed with more funding. However, they did offer me what they will miss most—the community and the people, especially their friends and teachers. I told them that if they have loved their fellow human beings well, they will always miss the people most. That is Saint Agnes School—people doing their level best to love one another well!

Blessings to you,

Kevin Ferdinandt  
Headmaster





## Nearly Five Decades in the Classroom

After 49 years, Mr. David Johnson is retiring.

**F**orty-nine years is a long time. Saint Agnes School has seen incredible changes take place over the last five decades. Our world has witnessed times of peace and times of war, technological advancements that have come to completely control many

of the ways in which we go about our daily lives, as well as cultural changes that have brought an increased love and respect for our neighbors while simultaneously casting a bright light on the existence of human darkness and our inclination toward sin. Inside the walls of our school, students, teachers, administrators, pastors, religious sisters, and benefactors all have come and gone. Renovations have taken place around every corner, with entirely new additions being built to propel us far into the future. Yet one familiar face has remained the same here in the second-grade classrooms of Saint Agnes School throughout all this time, a constant amidst the seasons of change: the joyful, kind, smiling face of Mr. David Johnson.

For forty-nine years, Mr. Johnson has been a fixture on our Lower School faculty. The number of lives he has touched both in the classroom with his students and their



Never underestimate these children. They do marvelous things.

Before Mr. Johnson returned to his alma mater to teach second grade, he was first a student here. He fondly recalls the very first time that he entered the school: “I still remember being an eighth grader and walking in for the first time to take the entrance exam, and I was just amazed at the picture all done in terrazzo on the floor. It was just kind of overwhelming. I couldn’t wait to get home and tell my mother about the beautiful floor. And that feeling has never changed.” Mr. Johnson graduated from Saint Agnes High School



parents and through his involvement in our community is incalculable. We sat down with him to learn about his experiences here at Saint Agnes over the last (nearly) five decades and to understand what makes this place so special for him.

in 1957, and it wouldn’t be long before he returned to walk our halls again. This time, though, he would be on the opposite end of the classroom—teaching.

When Mr. Johnson arrived back at Saint Agnes in 1973, he assumed the role he





would hold for all but two of his forty-nine years here: second-grade teacher. He recalls that, “The school was full: two rooms of every grade, but very poor. There was no technology, no phones on our desk, no computers. If I wanted to talk to a parent, I had to go to the office and talk on the phone in front of the principal.” Not only were many basic technologies that we now take for granted not available at Saint Agnes forty-nine years ago, but even essential classroom learning materials—like books and writing utensils—were hard to come by. “We had few books—our workbooks were not to be written in,” Mr. Johnson remarks. “We had plastic sleeves to slide over every page and write with a grease pencil and wipe them off. We had few tools to work with.”

With limited classroom resources at his disposal, Mr. Johnson needed to get creative. Being the first lay male teacher at a school staffed entirely by religious sisters and lay women, some of his methods—now considered to be common practice—were bound to be questioned. Preferring that his classroom not be arranged in the typical five rows of desks facing the teacher’s desk, he asked his principal at the time—Sr. Nicolette, SSND—for permission to bring in a carpet for the students to sit on during story time. He then asked if he could arrange the

desks around it in cooperative groupings, encouraging collaboration and teamwork amongst the children. Though Sister was startled by the idea and hesitant about how he would keep the carpet clean, she



allowed it. Mr. Johnson purchased an area rug at Montgomery Ward—the first piece of carpeting in the school.

But innovative room arrangements, teaching methods, and technology aren’t the only things that Mr. Johnson has both seen and brought to Saint Agnes over the years; he and his wife Nancy have brought their own children and grandchildren into the Saint Agnes community as well. He recalls, “Back in ’73 I was a bachelor. I was about 34 years

old and I was pretty sure I was a confirmed bachelor. And so, I gave my teaching its all. But God had a plan.” Within the next few years, Mr. Johnson met and married his wife, Nancy. They had twelve children (six adopted and six birthed), and he currently has eleven grandchildren in the school. That’s quite the plan. “God has blessed me very much besides giving me health and great kids to work with,” he says with a smile.

Undoubtedly one of Mr. Johnson’s greatest and most unique blessings, then, has been the fact that he has been able to witness firsthand the growth in some very special students in his classroom—his own grandchildren. In each of the last

There’s Christ in every classroom—we teach it, we promote it—but what is really wonderful is you can walk through the halls and get the same feeling.



Some of the members of Mr. Johnson's first second-grade class in the fall of 1973 shared this memory: "We were so excited to have the first lay male teacher at Saint Agnes—we couldn't believe it!" In this faculty photo—taken four years later—not much had changed!

fourteen years but one, Mr. Johnson has been the second-grade teacher for his own granddaughters and grandsons. In his final year, in fact, he is teaching two of them—Mary Lentsch and Eloise Berthiaume. "Of course, teaching my grandchildren is great because they're perfect!" he laughs. "Just kidding, but they have really been fun. They've been a very good thermometer as to how things are going. They go home, tell their moms of what we do and what we did, and I get that feedback from my daughters and my sons-in-law. Otherwise, you teach every day and you have no idea how it's going and how it's being received. But when you have a close relative like a granddaughter or a grandson, they keep the feedback quite high."

In the classroom, just like at home, his grandchildren refer to him simply as. "Pa." "This is the name that my oldest son christened me with when he was just barely able to talk," Mr. Johnson remembers. "He would look at my picture and say 'Pa Pa Pa.' It's caught on, so all my grandchildren call me, 'Pa.' They do it right in the classroom and everyone accepts it; nobody questions it." If you've sat in on a class with Mr. Johnson

or seen how he interacts with his students, it quickly becomes clear that the love he holds for his grandchildren effortlessly informs the way in which he works with all his students.

As his students work to apply what they have learned in his classroom every day, Mr. Johnson says that he's learned more than a

few lessons from his students along the way, too. "I have learned from my students not to underestimate them," he says. "Being around this long I see them grow up, I see them get into the high school, and I'm amazed how that child that just couldn't sit still is a responsible highschooler and involved in everything. I had a boy in this room who just could not read. We did everything...he went to Title I...we did everything to help him read. Well, when he became a high school student, he became my lead in the musical; he memorized pages and pages of script. He had the Title I teacher in tears. Never underestimate these children. They do marvelous things."

There is yet another constant that has greatly impacted Mr. Johnson's time at Saint Agnes, and this constant continued to return to the front of our conversation with him: the presence of Jesus Christ in his life and in this school. Leaning forward, he says, "You know, there's Christ in every classroom—we teach it, we promote it—but what is really wonderful is you can walk through the halls and get the same feeling. The artwork and the written work on the walls, everyone is friendly and greeting you. It feels very much that Christ not only lives in the classroom, but through



Mr. Johnson hasn't closed the door on returning to direct next year's spring musical. With a twinkle in his eye, he says he hopes to, "Keep everyone on their toes."



“

The spelling tests and the math tests are all going to soon be forgotten, but I hope they learned that they can't do anything in this world if Christ isn't walking with them.

”

the halls too. You really have the feeling like you're walking through your own hall in your own house. I think I can say it in one word—Saint Agnes means to me: home.”

The Johnson family is a five-generation legacy family at Saint Agnes. Mr. Johnson's grandparents were immigrants from Germany and founding members of the Church of Saint Agnes. Mr. Johnson's mother, Louise Thomas, and her siblings were graduates, as was Mr. Johnson himself. And we already know that his own children and grandchildren call themselves Aggies. When your roots run that deep and you spend nearly fifty years teaching, learning, and living in one place, it's no wonder that Saint Agnes feels a lot like home to Mr. Johnson. And it's a home that will miss



Mr. Johnson was our Featured Alumnus in the Fall 2013 edition of the Aggie Archives. He has since taught many more of his grandchildren—even two in his final year.



In recognition of his service, a bronze plaque has been installed outside Mr. Johnson's classroom.

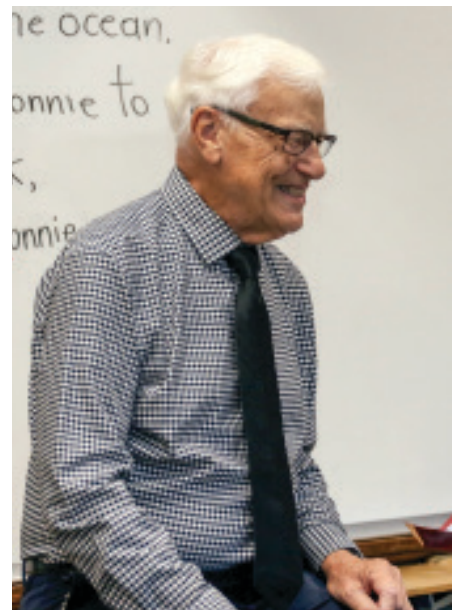
him dearly when the man who has been a constant for forty-nine years here is no longer happily greeting students and parents in late August when next year's bell rings and a new school year begins.

But while Mr. Johnson's time as a teacher at Saint Agnes might be at an end, we know that the other constant he has infused into his classroom—the presence of the Divine Teacher, Jesus Christ—will remain forevermore. When we ask him how he would like to be remembered, he simply says, “I'm not so sure I need to be remembered. You know, I'm just a second-grade teacher, and I've been here a bit, but that's probably my only claim to fame.” Then, pausing for a moment to think, he concludes that, “I guess I'd like to be remembered as a teacher that kept Christ with me. I try in my classes and all the things we do in here to keep Him always with us. I hope (my students) have learned in my classroom to trust in the Lord. You know, the spelling tests and the math tests are all going to soon be forgotten, but I hope they learned that they can't do anything in this world if Christ isn't walking with them. My hope is that as they leave this classroom, they take Jesus with them.”

Mr. Johnson has inspired generations of young learners both inside and out of the classroom. For forty-nine years, he has been a shining example of what it means to live out your vocation for Christ. He has served our Lord faithfully, and in so doing, made Him known to everyone he has met. Thank you, Mr. Johnson—for everything.



Even though his time teaching in the classroom has come to an end, Mr. Johnson won't be far from Saint Agnes. Not only will he have grandchildren to visit, but he plans to return to continue lecturing at Lower School Masses when able.





# CLASS OF 2022



James Paul Adam  
*Magna Cum Laude, NHS*

Paityn McKinley  
Adams  
*Magna Cum Laude, NHS*

Jessica Elizabeth  
Agudo  
*Cum Laude*

Alisa Therese  
Augdahl  
*Magna Cum Laude*

Amelia Marie  
Bamsey  
*Magna Cum Laude, NHS*

Clare May Faith  
Beaudry  
*Cum Laude*

Ethan Andrew Bemis  
Kiara Ann Boyle

Cecelia Elizabeth  
Brennan  
*Cum Laude, NHS*

Jordan Anthony  
Buche  
*Cum Laude, NHS*

Joseph Gabriel  
Carlson

Nathan James  
Chlebeck  
*Cum Laude*

Rebecca Lynn Coyne  
*Magna Cum Laude, NHS*

Sophia Catherine  
Cronk

Mikael Jacob  
Dahlstrom  
Olivia Mary Damm

Patrick Ignatius  
Deavel  
*Cum Laude*

Sophia Grace  
DeRaad  
*Magna Cum Laude, NHS*

Theresa Marie  
Dierberger  
*Cum Laude*

Maya Frances  
Dimmel  
*Summa Cum Laude, NHS*

Sophia Elizabeth  
DiPietro

Maura Edith Dobie  
*Summa Cum Laude, NHS*

Genevieve Collette  
Doerr

McKenna Ryan  
Evans  
*Magna Cum Laude, NHS*

John Michael Fink  
*Magna Cum Laude, NHS*

Mary Therese Fischer  
*Cum Laude, NHS*

Thomas Augustine  
Fischer  
*Cum Laude*

Andrew James Fish  
*Cum Laude, NHS*

Caleb Patrick Flood

Mary Katherine  
Freas  
*Cum Laude*

Madelyn Adele  
Gauthier

Vincent Michael  
Hernandez

Oliver Joseph Hoppe  
*Summa Cum Laude, NHS*

Elena Maria Hughes

Mikayla Marie Kaiser

Elizabeth Rose  
Kimlinger

Madelyn Elise  
Kobbermann  
*Summa Cum Laude, NHS*

Laura Therese  
Koontz  
*Cum Laude*

Ciella Michelle Kang  
Lancette

Andrew Joseph  
Lehnen  
*Summa Cum Laude, NHS*

Julia Grace Loots  
*Cum Laude*

Samuel José Lopez  
*Cum Laude*

Joseph Walter  
Lyngdal  
*Magna Cum Laude, NHS*

Mary Grace Lynn  
Maggie Josephine





Marcolina  
*Cum Laude*

Sophia Philomena  
Maslow  
*Magna Cum Laude, NHS*

Morgan Clare  
McCann  
*Cum Laude*

Ellen Marie Menke  
*Summa Cum Laude, NHS*

Roxanne Bernard  
Menke

Maia Catherine  
Mischke  
*Summa Cum Laude, NHS*

Clarke Rene Louise  
Moore

DaVonna Symone  
Moore-Middleton

Linda Renee Marie  
Muschenheim

Sophia Angela  
Muttonen  
*Summa Cum Laude, NHS*

Tommy Thach  
Nguyen

John Matthew Patros  
Moo Thleh Paw  
*Cum Laude*

Naomi Jean Peters  
*Magna Cum Laude*

Jonah Michael Petric  
*Cum Laude*

Dominick James  
Randall

Elena Katherine  
Reinboldt

Joseph Andrew  
Rossini  
*Cum Laude*

Sara Ann Samec  
*Magna Cum Laude, NHS*

Josephine Madalena  
Sandquist  
*Summa Cum Laude, NHS*

Isaac Joseph Schmidt  
*Cum Laude, NHS*

Jonah Steven Seifert  
Devon Isaiah Micah

Selmon  
*Cum Laude, NHS*

Gianna Therese  
Shrake  
*Summa Cum Laude, NHS*

Julia Laurette  
Simpson  
*Magna Cum Laude, NHS*

Sophia Elizabeth  
Sitko  
*Magna Cum Laude, NHS*

Dominic John Smith

Nicholas Armando  
Soto

Audrey Elizabeth  
Steffes  
*Magna Cum Laude, NHS*

Mary Therese Steiner

Juliana Mary  
Stokman  
*Cum Laude*

Hillary Thao Thach  
*Cum Laude, NHS*

Raymond George  
Tibesar  
*Cum Laude*

Zachary Paul True  
*Magna Cum Laude, NHS*

Abigail Rose Turner  
*Magna Cum Laude*

Charlene Chinwe  
Uwazie  
*Cum Laude*

Natalie Mary Vance

Mateo Kendall  
Wegner

Justin Joseph Wernet  
*Summa Cum Laude, NHS*

Theresa Ellen  
Williams  
*Summa Cum Laude, NHS*

Yordanos Amanuel  
Wolday

Erick Thaying Yang  
*Cum Laude, NHS*

Josephine Ann  
Ziernicki  
*Cum Laude, NHS*





# COMMENCEMENT

## PALM HONOREES

"The Saint Agnes Palm Award" is a great honor that bears the name of the symbol of victory of our patroness, the palm branch. The award's honorees—one young man and one young woman from the senior class—are selected by the faculty, and are students who model all that which Saint Agnes School hopes for in each of its graduates. These seniors embody the best of our school; these young people are well rounded and have achieved excellence in virtually all areas: faith, academics, activities, athletics, character, virtue, leadership, friendship, and service. As the plaque itself states for both the male and female recipient: "This senior represents best the hopes and goals as expressed in the mission and vision of Saint Agnes School." On behalf of the faculty, administration, and the entire student body, we are honored to announce that the 5th annual "Saint Agnes Palm Award" was presented to seniors: Isaac Joseph Schmidt and Sophia Angela Muttonen!

Aggie Alumni and past Palm honorees, Anna Reimer ('21), Ben Seifert ('16), Terrell Jones ('20), and Maria (Turch) Thompson ('16), were at the ceremony to bestow the great honor on this year's recipients.

## Sophia Muttonen

### PALM AWARD HONOREE AND SALUTATORIAN

Sophia, a parishioner of St. Peter's in Forest Lake, will attend the University of Mary where she'll double-major in Mechanical Engineering and Pre-Medicine. At Commencement, Sophia thanked the Saint Agnes School community for all of their support over the years. She said, "Thank you to my parents for pushing



me even when I wanted to give up. Thank you to the families of the Class of 2022 for giving us this opportunity and these gifts. Thank you to these teachers who have educated the whole mind

and soul and offered such critical support. Finally, thank you to this class who has truly grown to be a family to each other and leaders for the rest of the school. This class, our families, these teachers, these academic opportunities are gifts which we have been endowed. God gave us these wonderful gifts and graces, and with that comes great responsibility."

## "If" by Rudyard Kipling

If you can keep your head when all about you  
Are losing theirs and blaming it on you;  
If you can trust yourself when all men doubt you,  
But make allowance for their doubting too;  
If you can wait and not be tired by waiting,  
Or, being lied about, don't deal in lies,  
Or, being hated, don't give way to hating,  
And yet don't look too good, nor talk too wise;  
If you can dream—and not make dreams your master;  
If you can think—and not make thoughts your aim;  
If you can meet with triumph and disaster  
And treat those two impostors just the same;  
If you can bear to hear the truth you've spoken  
Twisted by knaves to make a trap for fools,  
Or watch the things you gave your life to broken,  
And stoop and build 'em up with worn-out tools;  
If you can make one heap of all your winnings  
And risk it on one turn of pitch-and-toss,  
And lose, and start again at your beginnings  
And never breathe a word about your loss;  
If you can force your heart and nerve and sinew  
To serve your turn long after they are gone,  
And so hold on when there is nothing in you  
Except the Will which says to them: "Hold on";  
If you can talk with crowds and keep your virtue,  
Or walk with kings—nor lose the common touch;  
If neither foes nor loving friends can hurt you;  
If all men count with you, but none too much;  
If you can fill the unforgiving minute  
With sixty seconds' worth of distance run—  
Yours is the Earth and everything that's in it,  
And—which is more—you'll be a Man, my son!



## Isaac Schmidt

### PALM AWARD HONOREE

Isaac is a parishioner of St. Joseph's in West St. Paul and also plans to attend the University of Mary this fall to study Civil Engineering. In his Commencement address, Isaac spoke about the challenges the graduates will face as they go forward. He remarked, "In our world today, we are constantly bombarded with the apparent need for comfort in our lives. The world offers us comfort in many ways. The



advertisements of today give a vision of a life centered on ease and accessibility. It is uncommon to be pushed outside of our comfort zones, to face difficulty or inconvenience.

We live in a selfish world, where rarely do we suffer from the consequences of our actions. Although these comforts are not always inherently a bad thing, they rid us of any hardship in our lives with which we should use to grow and allow us to flourish. A comfortable life leads to a lukewarm life. A life that is accustomed to mediocrity."

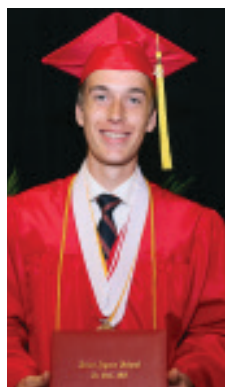
Seeking to challenge his classmates and the packed audience inside Bandas Gymnasium, he asked, "What does it mean to strive for greatness?" He answered, stating: "It should not be defined in our accomplishments or even meeting our goals, but rather being sculpted into the person God desires us to be, a reflection of his own greatness. This cannot be done in a selfish, narrow-minded way, but rather a self-giving vulnerable way, with a greatness of heart. The greatest acts on earth are those done out of love." Concluding his address, Isaac encouraged everyone present to acknowledge their individual call to

greatness: "This greatness we desire, or as Aquinas calls it magnanimity, is rooted in hope that it will fuel us to fight the fight of growth and humility in knowing our shortcomings and need for God's grace. In our call out of comfort, we must turn to the Lord with hopeful and humble hearts, asking Him to fill us with a dissatisfaction towards comfort and a longing for greatness. May God bless you, Class of 2022, go out and be great!"

## Andrew Lehen

### VALEDICTORIAN

Andrew, a parishioner of St. Joseph's in West St. Paul, will attend the University of St. Thomas where he is enrolled in St. John Vianney College Seminary and will pursue a double-major in Philosophy and Science while discerning a call to the priesthood. Bidding his classmates farewell, he gave them one more piece of advice: "Order your priorities each day. In this way, you will win every day, leaving a lasting impression and inspiration for others of the peace and joy of quiet success."



### COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER

## Father James P. Burns

A 1985 graduate of Saint Agnes School, Father Burns was named President of Saint Mary's University of Minnesota in 2018. Prior to joining Saint Mary's, Father Burns was the dean of the Woods College of Advancing Studies and Summer Session at Boston College, co-chairman and associate professor at the Graduate School of Psychology at the University of St. Thomas, and an assistant professor in counseling psychology and religion at Boston University.



Addressing our graduates, he remembered, "My family has had a long history of graduates from Saint Agnes...I sat where you sit thirty-seven years ago. Never would I imagine I would be in this position today- which is a reminder to all here that any one of you could, in the future, be in this same position, so take time over the years to reflect and keep note of what you do and think. I want to note how grateful we should all be for a Catholic education and especially for Saint Agnes education. What a gift our families and this parish have provided all of us. It is an education for a good life."

Father Burns holds a Doctor of Philosophy degree in counseling psychology from Northeastern University in Boston, a master's degree in counseling psychology from the University of St. Thomas, and a master's degree from St. Paul Seminary's School of Divinity. He completed pre-doctoral and postdoctoral fellowships at Yale School of Medicine and Harvard Medical School and earned his undergraduate degree in accounting from the University of St. Thomas School of Business.

He asked the graduates, "Where are you going from here? College may well be where some are headed, to a career and a new home for others, to take on a role of leadership, to be a



community organizer, and so on. Some of you—as members of the skilled work force—may be headed to gain more credentials and skills, others to become organizers of labor, et cetera. Yet as important as these are, they do not define a life. Life is defined rather by some greater, more superordinate goals and trajectories. As Christian witnesses, the answer to where you are headed is simply this: to heaven.”

A highly accomplished author, researcher, and a licensed psychologist in Minnesota and Massachusetts, Father Burns sits on a number of professional boards and committees and is a doctoral program accreditor for the American Psychological Association.

Father concluded his address to the graduates by encouraging them to strive for greatness—growing closer to God themselves and then going out into the world to bring Him to others. He said, “In each of you, our graduates, we see the marvelous, unique way that you are called to witness. Whether or not you are aware of it, Christ calls each of you to a deeper, more intimate relationship with Him, to love Him and your neighbor and spread that good news. The diploma you receive from this Catholic school in some ways is an acknowledgment of this. This is the command of Jesus to the Apostles and to us all. It is a reminder of the truth we are called to witness to and to proclaim, both when convenient and when inconvenient, to remain steadfast in both word and deed. Not allowing ourselves to stray from this call due to our own desires or the culture around us, allows us to transform the culture and our own hearts in Him. You are called to be this witness. Do not shy away. Lean into it and allow Him to transform your life and the lives of others!”



## Department Awards

**Band** • Maya Dimmel and Justin Wernet  
**Drama** • Josephine Ziernicki and James Adam  
**English** • Maia Mischke and Patrick Deavel  
**History** • Paityn Adams and Patrick Deavel  
**Latin** • Theresa Williams and Mary Grace Lynn  
**Math** • Maia Mischke and Andrew Lehen  
**Physical Education** • John Patros and Mikael Dahlstrom  
**Science** • Maya Dimmel and Andrew Lehen  
**Spanish** • Maia Mischke and Jessica Agudo  
**Studio Art** • Ellen Menke and Alisa Augdahl  
**Theology** • Maura Dobie and Justin Wernet  
**Vocal Music** • Madelyn Kobbermann and Andrew Lehen

## Recognition of Service Awards

**Student Council President and Vice President** • Devon Selmon and Paityn Adams  
**Senior Council Members** • Patrick Deavel, Oliver Hoppe, Clarke Moore, Sophia Muttonen, Julia Simpson, Josie Ziernicki  
**Yearbook Senior Editors** • Sophia Maslow, and James Adam

## Honor Awards

**St. Paul Chapter of the Sons & Daughters of the American Revolution** • Justin Wernet  
**Sr. Adrienne Award and Amy Hansmann Memorial Scholarship** • Justin Wernet and Zachary True

## 2022-2023 Awards

**Newly elected 2022-23 Student Council President and Vice President** • Aidan Walsh and Henry Kaardal  
**All-State Choir** • Robert Bushee, Joseph Draganowski, Philip Eilen, Elizabeth Grant, Isabelle Most, and Catherine Roddy,  
**All-State Orchestra** • Noel Varco  
**All-State Band alternate** • Rosemary Blackstone  
**Donna May Vocal Music Scholarship** • Joseph Draganowski and Christian O'Hara





# JUNIOR HIGH AWARDS

Students and faculty gathered for the Annual Junior High Awards Ceremony to honor the many gifts and talents of our junior high students. First recognizing the service of altar servers, ushers, and Junior High Student Council, the junior high faculty and administration proceeded to acknowledge the following individual accomplishments. Congratulations to these students for their excellent work!

## Student Awards, Nominated by Classmates

**St. Thérèse of Lisieux Award:** For doing small things with great love, being helpful and thoughtful, showing kindness to classmates:

**Norah Hermerding '27, Emma Cummings '26, and Hannah Starr '26**

**St. Barnabas Award:** For showing kindness and forgiveness to classmates, including everyone, ensuring nobody feels forgotten or unwanted.

**Joseph St. Martin '27 and Veronica Damm '26**

**St. Paul Award:** For choosing to do what is right, even when it is a hard choice to make.

**Lucy Kirkland '27 and Analí Flores '26**

**St. Thomas Aquinas Award:** For displaying a love of learning and a desire to know the truth.

**Gemma Spencer '27 and Violet Bratt '26**

**St. Philip Neri Award:** For exuding joy and cheerfulness, uplifting those around them to see God's love.

**Nathan Yang '27 and Eleanor Walter '26**

## Academic Awards

**National Latin Exam: Silver medal maxima cum laude,** for their performance on the Latin exams.

**Intro Exam: Klara Ferdinandt, Darren Valento, Maggie Coyne, Caden Kroona, Dimitri Dokos, Sarah Lehnen, Elizabeth Warner, Mac Treichel, & Dominic VanHeel.**

**Latin I: Faustina Adkins, Madeline Doran, Jovi Nelson, Annika Yevtkhov, Cecilia Grant, Daniel Graff, & Eden Sitko.**

**Gold Medal Summa Cum Laude** honors for their top scores of 38 out of 40.

**Intro Exam: Sophie Nelson, Maria Duggan, Victoria Jaimes, Jane Kuwata, Peter Brownell, Norah Hermerding, Madeline Wernet, Henry Misenor, Joseph St. Martin, & Lucy Kirkland.**

**Latin I: Hannah Starr, Joseph Ellsworth, & Eleanor Walter.**

**Perfect scores on the Latin Exam**

**Intro Exam: Madeleine Berthiaume, William Buss, Katelyn Campbell, & Gemma Spencer.**

**Latin I: Jonathan Muehleck, Mary Mantel, Joseph Pepin, & Zoe Berthiaume.**

**Junior High Science Fair, Top Project:**

For representing Saint Agnes at the finals of the Big Bang Catholic STEM Fair:

**Peter Brownell '27**

**Academic Excellence Award:** Given to a male and female student from each grade who display academic excellence in all subjects throughout the year.

**Lucy Kirkland '27, Peter Brownell '27, Mary Mantel '26, & Joseph Pepin '26**

**Junior High Aggie Award:** Presented to a male and female from each grade who represent the goals of a Saint Agnes education and exhibits all-around excellence. Qualities considered include: excellence in faith, academics, activities, athletics, virtue, leadership, service, and school spirit.

**Norah Hermerding '27, Joseph St. Martin '27, Eleanor Walter '26, & Glenn Schmitz '26**



Education is the kindling  
of a flame, not the filling  
of a vessel. - Plato



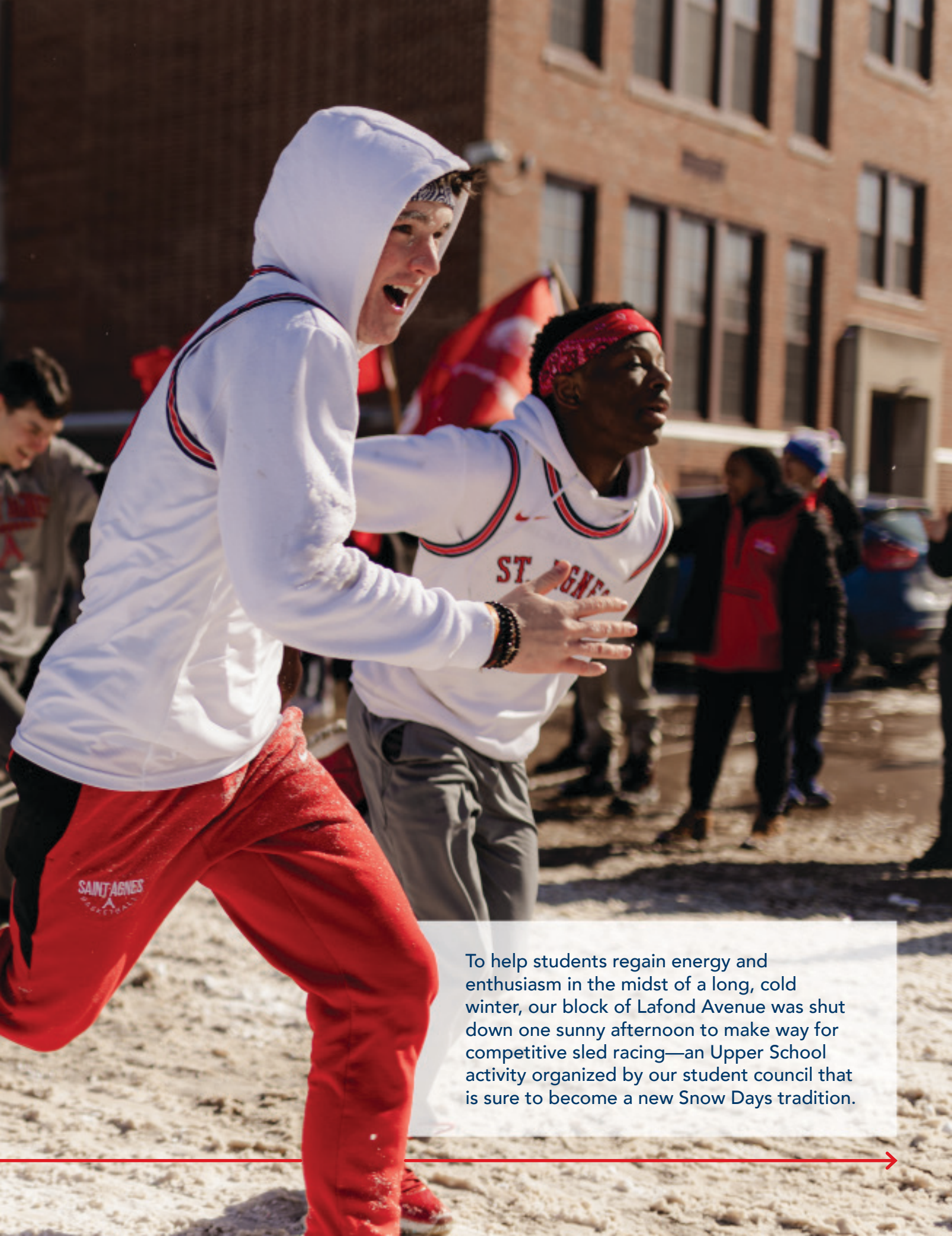


UPPER SCHOOL LIFE

# *SNOW DAYS* SLED RACING

A New Tradition Is Born





To help students regain energy and enthusiasm in the midst of a long, cold winter, our block of Lafond Avenue was shut down one sunny afternoon to make way for competitive sled racing—an Upper School activity organized by our student council that is sure to become a new Snow Days tradition.





Each house's team pulled, slid, and rode their slides from the start line near the front entrance to the Ubel Activity Center all the way down LaFond Avenue to the finish line, which was perpendicular to the steps of the church. To kick off the races, our Madrigal Singers sang the National Anthem in Gruden Gym.

Many sled riders donned unique outfits to help their sled's aerodynamics, including spandex morph suits, masks, and color-coordinated jerseys.



Additional modifications were added to each sled by each house to both add to their speed and efficiency and to personalize them.



Sled bases were constructed by Oliver Hoppe '22, who had taken Dr. Ferdinandt's "Woodworking 101" course last summer and refined the design over the course of the following months.



Students designed flags to represent their houses, featuring crests, mottoes, and unique imagery.



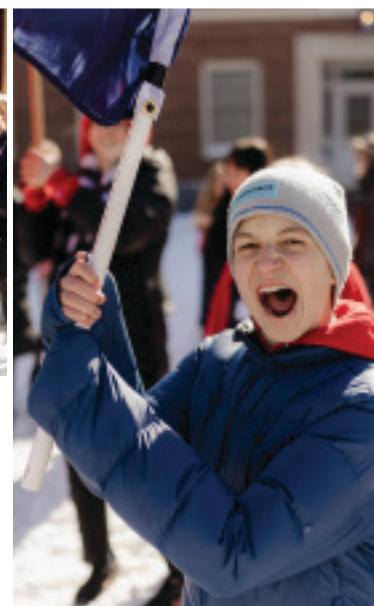




A few crashes and manufacturing malfunctions derailed dreams of glory for some house teams, but they would not be denied crossing the finish line, even still.



From the sidelines spectators raised their house flags high, cheering their racers on, while others launched snowballs into the air across Lafond Avenue in an attempt to sabotage other teams.



Many races were closely contested, including a photo finish in the final. In the end, it was Houses Assisi & Clare who took home the gold.





On the  
Presence of  
**OUR SISTERS**

Fr. Mark Moriarty



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

With four teaching sisters, Saint Agnes School opened its doors on September 5th, 1888. This was just one year after the formation of the parish in Frogtown. Two of those sisters were novices, and one was only a candidate! Many dedicated and faithful sisters have followed in the footsteps of those first consecrated women from several religious orders in the past 134 years.

We have been blessed to have Dominican Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist, since 2018. This spring, we learned that the inaugural group of Dominican teaching sisters who have been at Saint Agnes have received new assignments and new sisters from the same order will take their places. Four years is actually a longer-than-expected term, as two or three-year assignments are the norm. With the departure of Sisters Teresa Christi, Mary Philomena and Mary Consolata, I would like to share with you the amazing impact the Dominican Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist are having on Saint Agnes Church and School.

Even before our Dominican teaching sisters enter the classroom, they exemplify a way of life that is always focused on God. They are first and foremost consecrated to God as spiritual daughters and brides of Christ. They love God and spend significant time in prayer and meditation. Being so close to our Lord fills them with an authentic joy that is obvious to all who witness them!

Second, they are truly sisters to one another, growing in holiness and virtue through mutual encouragement and support. They recreate and work together, enjoying a special esprit de corps. The sisters are adept at rollerblading, bicycle riding, ping pong, board games, basketball, and card games. I have attempted to compete with these sisters in shooting baskets, only to be soundly defeated. Of course, the sisters gently told me it's an opportunity for me to grow in the virtue of humility!

Third, they are students. They have spent years learning the art and science of teaching, as well as becoming proficient in various

specialties while always being students of theology. For the Dominicans, every summer means continuing education or working toward completing an advanced degree. They truly exemplify being lifelong learners.

Fourth, they are teachers. They are teachers who love the truth and want to share it because the truth is from God and the truth will set us free. They are teachers who love the children entrusted to them, and who want to see those children grow in wisdom and grace. In particular, they have introduced a virtue curriculum which has profoundly transformed how we help our young people develop good habits.

Lastly, the Dominican sisters generously serve in many and varied ways that build up the broader school community and parish. They assist with retreats, vocational discernment events, works of mercy, and attend parish and archdiocesan functions and liturgies. I was pleasantly surprised to see them wearing their work smocks over their habits helping plant flowers and shrubs to beautify our outdoor shrine to Saint Agnes!

In every respect the sisters are generous. And yet they display a kind of generosity that is ordered, balanced, and appropriately prioritized with God always receiving the first fruits. In a world that demands us to go in so many directions and with limited time, the sisters remind us of the power of focusing on what is most important.

Though we are losing three of our inaugural sisters, we wait joyfully for the arrival of three new sisters and look forward to welcoming them to our school and parish community. The Dominican Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist's formation is clearly thorough and imbued with the wisdom of the ages! Our students, faculty, parish, and entire community are blessed to witness the joy of consecrated life.

Saint Dominic, pray for us.

Saint Agnes, pray for us.



Divine Mercy

# PASSION PLAY

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Holy Week is always a special, sacred time here, and the return of our Divine Mercy Passion Play to the Helene Houle Auditorium helped refocus our hearts on the Lord during a busy time of year—setting the stage, if you will—for this year's Triduum. Written and directed by one of our former teachers, Mrs. Claire Bona, our Passion Play was performed three times by our 1st and 6th Graders to audiences full of students, faculty, parents, alumni, benefactors, and community members.







work and words of some of today's top artists. Copies are available for purchase at Barnes and Noble.

Ms. Soriano's early training began at the University of Dallas in 1994 where she received instruction as an oil painter. She was always fascinated with portraiture and a desire to understand

their character and insights into who they are that goes beyond just capturing a likeness."

Soriano's second award winning piece, *Cast the First Stone*, a charcoal drawing with gold leaf accent, won first place in the Drawing category in the 2021 MN State Fair Fine Arts Exhibition. "It was extraordinary to see my drawing in the company of Alec Soth (Alec is a well-known photographer who worked for New York Times and resides between Minneapolis and New York)," remarked Ms. Soriano.

In describing her piece, Jennifer explained, "I wanted her to directly engage the viewer and present them with a choice. Breaking frame was important, she was inviting the viewer into making a deliberate choice to cross a barrier and grasp

## STUDIO ART

# Cultivating Talent

Studio Art teacher Ms. Jennifer Soriano is a talented and accomplished artist. Two pieces of her work have recently been awarded top honors. Highly recognized among thousands of entries, Soriano's first piece, *Lockdown*, has been accepted for publication in a special edition of *The Best of Drawing* magazine as a Finalist for the Strokes of Genius 13 competition. Celebrating the best drawings by contemporary artists, the *Strokes of Genius* series features the



people and tell their story. After years as a successful portrait painter and studio instructor, she continued her training at the Academy of Art University in San Francisco. "Worlds have opened to me since furthering my education. I feel I now have a

more definite focus and direction in my work. I have had so many wonderful opportunities to engage in deeply fulfilling projects and to bring people's stories to life."

Ms. Soriano's portraits show people in the most real moments when

they are just being themselves. "I love giving my viewer a peek into human nature and emotions. I am always so touched by clients' reactions to portraits especially when they realize you understand a great deal about the person you draw and can capture

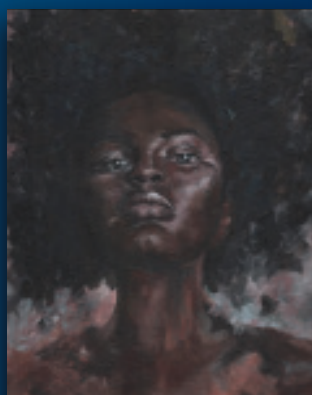
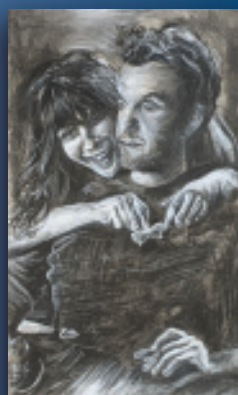




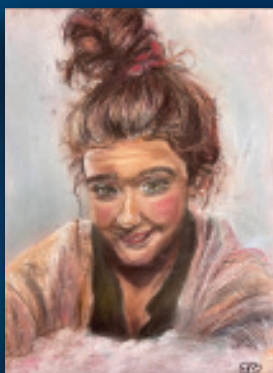
for something that unites people instead of dividing them: our common, shared humanity. The feathers and the dove present the opportunity for peace and healing while in her other hand the stones retreat from the viewer but remain present in the scene, as a lingering choice many have taken. The use of water as a symbol often signifies cleansing and renewal, but water can also drown us. When we are separate, we are drowning in our

own fears and misconceptions. There is pull and tension throughout the piece, where you are not sure if the viewer has taken what is offered or not and I wanted that strain to be there in the sense that this is an ongoing choice to be made and we must make it deliberately."

Soriano also just finished the program design for the Saint Paul Saints baseball team's 30th Anniversary.



Ms. Soriano has been teaching Upper School Studio Art at Saint Agnes since 2016. Her influence can be seen in the amazing student artwork displays in the hallway, but especially in the work of talented young artist Ellen Menke, who is graduating this year. Ellen became more interested in art while taking an art class with Ms. Soriano her freshman year. Her talent became evident very quickly and she blossomed under the training of Ms. Soriano. Like her, Ellen loves to draw people and faces and bring her subjects to life. She also submitted her artwork to the 2021 MN State Fair Art competition and among several hundred entries, took home first



place honors in pencil, colored pastel, and oil/acrylic mediums, and second place in charcoal and colored pencil. Ellen's *Madonna and Child* painting was also featured on this year's Saint Agnes School Christmas card—a

painting she whipped up over the weekend—and sold at the Red & White Benefit for over \$1000 as a gift for Archbishop Bernard Hebda.

Ellen will be attending Benedictine University in the fall where she is pursuing a degree in Art Therapy and Illustration. She hopes

to use her talents to help young people work through traumas and difficulties using art as a means of expression and healing.



Established in 1923 to ensure that literary and artistic talents are recognized in schools and communities across the country, the Scholastic Art and Writing Awards are the longest running and most prestigious art competition demonstrating the highest level of achievement. Sophomore Bethany Fida submitted her charcoal self-portrait and won the top prize, the Gold Key, for the state of Minnesota. Her work was featured in an online art show and will move on to national competition.

Bethany also submitted her self-portrait to the 2021 MN State Fair Art competition, where she was awarded first place honors. A second self-portrait and an Ethiopian Orthodox priest, both in pastel, won first and fourth place respectively. In addition, Bethany recently received a scholarship and was accepted to Minnesota College of Art and Design's 2022 Pre-College Summer Session in their Illustration Program.

# ATHLETICS

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## BOYS BASKETBALL

The Boys Basketball Team had their best season since 2007, finishing 18-10 overall under first year head coach Chris Pierce '98. "The future of Aggie basketball is bright; we have a group of young men that work hard and understand the investment it takes to be the best versions of themselves on and off the court" said Coach Pierce.

### ALL CONFERENCE

DeVaun Simmons  
Elonzo Simmons  
Andrew Weber (Honorable Mention)  
Caleb Flood  
Nolan Davis

## GIRLS BASKETBALL

The Girls Basketball Team finished 8-18 but continues to make big strides. "This year we had a record number of girls come out and were able to field 3 teams at the high school level allowing them to gain valuable playing experience that will pay off in the coming years" stated first year head coach Tommy Boyd.

### ALL CONFERENCE

Malani Sandifer (Honorable Mention)  
Maria Fischer  
Maria DiPietro



## WRESTLING

The wrestling team had a record-breaking year. The team finished as Tri Metro Conference Champions in both the regular season and in the Conference tournament. Senior Isaac Schmidt and Junior Johnny Cummings qualified for the MSHSL

State Tournament. Schmidt became the first Aggie wrestler to medal at the state tournament. Schmidt also finished his career as all-time wins leader.

### ALL CONFERENCE

Isaac Schmidt  
Johnny Cummings (Honorable Mention)  
Philip Graner  
Joseph Cummings  
David Lopez  
Jacob McLaughlin  
Charlie Wetzell  
Daniel Romero  
Dominic Smith

Tri Metro Conference Wrestler of the Year  
Isaac Schmidt

## BASEBALL

The Saint Agnes Baseball Team is headed to the state tournament once again! A hugely successful season that has been bolstered by the presence of strong senior leadership has led to 20+ victories despite a cold and rainy spring season. Offensively, the Aggies crushed their opponents and on the defensive side they have had numerous games of errorless baseball. Not to mention, senior Dom Smith no-hit Mounds Park Academy earlier in the year! Check out Saint Agnes School on your favorite social media platform to find results from the state tournament.

### ALL CONFERENCE

John Patros  
Isaac Schmidt  
Mikael Dahlstrom  
Dominic Smith  
Aidan Walsh

## SOFTBALL

The Girls Softball Team finished their 2022 season with a terrific performance in the playoffs, claiming 2nd place in Section 4AA. Anchored by the veteran leadership of many seniors, the team's energy and spirit were always on full display whenever they took the diamond. With a strong corps of underclassmen returning next year, they are

poised to make another deep run for the state tournament in 2023.

### ALL CONFERENCE

Clarke Moore  
Sophia Muttonen  
Gianna Schmidt  
Annika Odenbrett



## TRACK & FIELD

The Track and Field team made great strides this season. Though no athletes qualified for the state meet, the team finished the highest in recent history in the section standings with the boys placing 10th of 21 teams and the girls placing 13th of 21 at the Setion 4A Meet in June. Great work to all Aggie Track & Field athletes and to everyone who has contributed to the program this year.

### ALL CONFERENCE

Sarah Clyde • 2nd in 100m Hurdles  
Faustina Adkins • 2nd in 1600m Run  
Sarah Lehnen • 2nd in 3200m Run  
Ave Wolf (Honorable Mention) • 3rd in 3200m Run  
Henry Kaardal • 1st in 4x800m Relay  
Joseph Draganowski • 1st in 4x800m Relay  
Jonah Honerman • 1st in 4x800m Relay  
Andrew Lehnen • 1st in 4x800m Relay  
Jonah Seifert (Honorable Mention) • 3rd in 300m Hurdles  
Jonah Honerman (Honorable Mention) • 3rd in 3200m Run  
Joseph Draganowski (Honorable Mention) • 4th in 3200m Run  
Cadman Foley (Honorable Mention) • 3rd in Shot Put



## Another Legend Retires:

### *Gerrie Lachowitz*

By Mary Appel

I was hired to assist Gerrie Lachowitz in June of 2003 and was exposed to a world I had never known existed in a school. With Gerrie as a mentor, I learned family trees, organized fundraisers, prepared mailings, managed musical tickets, labeled thousands of newsletters, and entered data on spread sheets and index cards for hours on end. What was intended to be a part time job to justify driving 90 miles each day to put my kids through school turned into 19 years for me and I'm still not even halfway to Gerrie's stint. And no, I don't think I have 20 more years in me!

I can tell you how my job has changed since 2003, but remember, Gerrie had already been here for over 20 years and only she can attest to all the changes she has seen. And, as is her humble way, Gerrie wasn't interested in telling her story. So, I will tell you mine and the few details I picked up along the way.



In January of 1982, with her youngest son Joe in high school, Gerrie was approached by Monsignor Schuler and asked to start an Alumni and Development Office. This was a first for Saint Agnes and Gerrie was up for the challenge. With no training and no real guidelines, Gerrie ventured out on her own to find classes and tutorials that could help her. There was a small alumni association that Sr. Pacifica had been maintaining, so Gerrie ran with it.

There were no computers in the Development Office in 1982. Three times a year Gerrie created alumni newsletters with a typewriter and mimeograph machine. The term "cut and paste" was very literal—type a piece, cut it out, tape it to another paper, and tape a photo alongside. Then, make a copy. We were still doing the cut and paste when I started, though the typewriter and mimeograph had been replaced by a computer and copy machine and a professional print shop finished the job.

Once the alumni newsletter was printed, it was returned to Saint Agnes and Gerrie called in a handful of trusty volunteers. For three straight days Gerrie would print address labels and we would affix the labels on the 10,000 copies. She would then sort, box, cover, and strap shut the 2-foot mail trays, load them in her car, and drive them downtown to the post office, where she would unload them and carry them inside to be processed. Lots of heavy lifting, and have you ever tried to keep up with the mailing rules of the USPS?! These days, we provide the content and images and let a graphic designer make it pretty. It then goes out for printing and mailing. Our time and effort are well worth the cost to outsource.

Gerrie also ran the Annual Fund, writing ask letters at least twice a year. She formed a "Blue Ribbon Committee" and asked alumni to also write a personal letter to their



classmates. Again, the mailing was done in-house, but this time it was folding letters, stuffing envelopes, sealing, and preparing for mailing as above. Let me tell you, sealing envelopes was the worst. Too much moistener, and the envelopes all stuck together; not enough and they didn't seal. And, if you didn't notice the paper cuts, you now had to clean the blood off the letters too!

Gerrie's record keeping is invaluable. She has copies of every newsletter, graduation program, class list and school paper archived in our Advancement Office. I just went to those files today when asked for the roster of the 2001 State baseball team, and there they were. She has maintained records on all parents, alumni, parishioners, and donors—these records were originally recorded on 3x5 index cards. Pulling and filing those cards were a major part of my first year of work. Ugh is all I can say. However, by that time, Gerrie was also recording them on an ACCESS program on the computer. The cards were a back-up and provided a history of address and name changes that the computer couldn't. Shortly after that, Saint Agnes invested in a database program and Gerrie learned the system right alongside me and we did away with the index cards. Though, I must admit, there are times we still go back to the original cards to find valuable, historical information.

We again changed computer programs a few years ago and let me tell you, conversions are



not fun. There are always new bells and whistles that are fantastic, but you lose familiarity and some functionality that you are accustomed to with each one. Again, Gerrie was asked to learn a new system and, again, she rose to the occasion.

Have I mentioned fundraisers yet? Let me see if I can remember them all. Gerrie created and sold fundraising calendars with daily, weekly, and monthly cash drawings, maintained a spirit wear shop, had a supply of World's Finest Chocolate bars on her desk year-round, and managed the annual "Booster Bonanza" throughout the years, always looking for new ways to raise funds for Saint Agnes. There was the annual fall auction which required us to number and box up all the Snow Babies, milk glass, Precious Moments and other knick-knacks that were donated, haul them to the church basement and display them each with a bid sheet for the weekend silent auction. We'd then box them up, haul them back to school, reorganize and call all the winners to arrange pick up. Pick up went on for weeks. The same format was used for the annual book sale and religious article sale. Boxes of books are heavy and my back would scream, but how could I complain? Gerrie was two steps ahead of me carrying her boxes, and she is 25 years my senior!



And let's not forget about the musical! Gerrie created tickets and manned the ticket table at each performance. When the "first come, first serve" format got out of hand and folks were roping off entire sections, it became necessary to have a reserved seating section. Gerrie now had to manage seating charts for each performance so guests could reserve their seats, but it had to be done in pencil because there would be multiple requests to change dates and seats. The dinner theater was its own animal. Gerrie mapped the gym, sold tickets, set up tables and chairs, decorated, hired the caterer, found volunteers, and again, worked throughout the evening to make sure all was being done correctly before and during the musical performance.

With the construction of the Helene Houle Auditorium, the spring musical ticketing process has moved to an online platform and our dinner theater is no more. What a change!

I can only attest to the school side of things—and I am sure I missed a ton—but Gerrie was just as active on the parish side. I know she would set up her tables of Melaleuca products and religious articles every Sunday to sell in Schuler Hall after Masses. She has chaired the parish Fall Festival numerous years and is a member of the Altar & Rosary Society. She shifted from her Alumni and Development role and moved into the Business Office, followed by the Parish Office in more recent years. Even if not in charge, she is actively working in one area or another

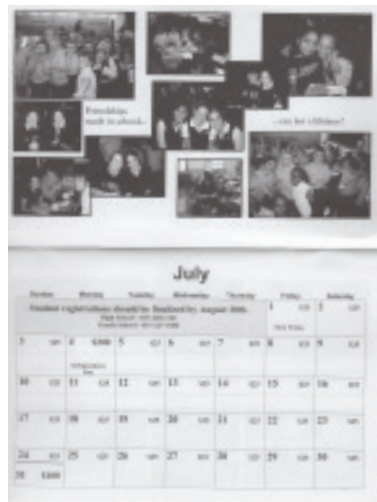
to support the mission of Saint Agnes, and I am confident that will continue even during retirement.

If you need to know any history of the school or parish, Gerrie is the person to ask. She remembers everyone's name, who they are related to, and how they are connected to Saint Agnes. She has worked under Msgr. Schuler, Fr. Welzbacher, Fr. Ubel, and Fr. Moriarty. She has worked for several business administrators and has seen the Alumni and Development Office morph into the Advancement Office with all its changes. I often laugh to myself when a new administrator comes in with lots of new ideas. When they ask what is so funny, often my reply is, simply, "Gerrie already did that."

Gerrie has devoted over 40 years to Saint Agnes School and Church. I often get calls from alumni asking if she is still here, and they are amazed when I say yes. Her work ethic and commitment to Saint Agnes is unequalled, yet she wants no recognition. I can understand that; I think we are alike in that way. But I didn't want her to slip away without

some acknowledgement for all that she has done. I only wish we could download all her memories into a computer program because, as with any other conversion, we may get new bells and whistles, but we are losing the familiarity and functionality we are accustomed to, and that is Gerrie Lachowitzer.

May God bless in her retirement.



The Return of our Spring Musical

# HOLIDAY INN

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After two long years without our annual Spring Musical, our cast and crew returned to the stage with a triumphant production of *Holiday Inn*. This high-energy showcase of musical talent, comedy, and heart took the stage for two weekends in April to sold-out audiences and was complete with all of the singing, tap dancing, live pit band, vibrant lighting and set design, and children's chorus numbers that we had so dearly missed.





# ADVANCEMENT OFFICE



As the school year comes to an end, we are thankful for all of you who support the education and enrichment of our young people. Your contributions help Saint Agnes form Catholic hearts and minds in faith, reason, and virtue! Every student that learns in a classroom, competes on a team, participates in a club, or sings in the choir has been touched by your support.

## **Your investment in the Aggies is truly paying off. It has been a full and busy year as we:**

- Saw the first two Saint Agnes wrestlers compete at the MSHSL State Tournament, with Isaac Schmidt '22 placing 6th
- Revived the renowned spring musical after a two-year hiatus with a rousing rendition of *Holiday Inn*
- Hosted both a Lower School and Upper School Grandparents Day, much to the delight of both the students and their grandparents
- Awarded \$2+ million in financial aid to families needing assistance
- Increased offerings in the fine arts curriculum due to increased demand and high-quality instruction
- Fielded 40 high school athletic teams and joined a co-op to offer boys and girls lacrosse
- Formed a Lower School Militia Immaculata prayer group, led by Sr. Mary Consolata and two school

parents. Members consecrate themselves to Mary and try to imitate her virtues

- Completed our necessary reaccreditation tasks and have been reaccredited for another 5 years by Cognia (formerly AdvancEd)
- Established wait lists for several grades, including 9th, for the 2022-23 school year

We realized all these highlights, plus many, many, many more, on a modest \$6.4 million budget. Paid tuition by our working parents equals \$4.2 million and the majority of the remaining \$2.2 million needed to operate the school comes from fundraising, foundations, and our Annual Fund Campaign.

A Catholic education that forms confident, intelligent, and faithful young adults is one of the best investments for our future. As we close out one fiscal year and begin again with our 2022-23 Annual Fund Campaign we hope to count on you to make your gift and continue to provide these opportunities to current and future Aggies.

It is no accident that Saint Agnes School continues to thrive. Your consistent giving keeps us going strong. Please use the enclosed envelope or donate online at [www.SaintAgnesSchool.org/support-us](http://www.SaintAgnesSchool.org/support-us) and invest in the Aggies.



## **FREEWILL**

As we head into summer, Saint Agnes School is excited to announce that we have extended our partnership with FreeWill for one more year! We want to make sure you have had an opportunity to use this easy, free resource to plan for your future and to provide for yourself and those you love.

The idea of making a will can seem overwhelming, but the FreeWill tool makes the process simple. Fill in your information and wishes, print it out and sign it in the presence of witnesses. That's it! A legal will in about 20 minutes!

If you are so inclined, you can even include a gift to Saint Agnes School in your plan—an easy way to support our mission for generations to come that costs you nothing today!

Visit [FreeWill.com/SaintAgnes](http://FreeWill.com/SaintAgnes) to create your plan today!



# 2022

SAINT AGNES SCHOOL ANNUAL

## RED & White

BENEFIT DINNER AND AUCTION



The Red & White Benefit is the most important fundraising event of the year for our school, and we rely on funds raised at the Red & White as the single largest source of financial aid funding of the year. Saint Agnes continues to serve a broad array of families from a variety of socio-economic groups, and we do our best to serve all these families who support our mission. The greatest challenge is that the more socio-economically diverse families we serve, the greater the need! With more than 75% of students applying

for financial aid, our tuition and fees only cover approximately two thirds of the school's expenses. The community support generated by the Red & White Benefit is a critical part of the tuition assistance funds that help make Catholic education an affordable option. Without that support, our school could not afford to educate as many children as we do—820 students in PreK-12 this year. 15 consecutive years of growth translates into growing need each year, as well.

Thanks to the generosity of the Saint Agnes community, this year's Red & White Benefit realized a profit of over \$385,000! The fund-a-need alone, which is earmarked specifically for scholarships, raised \$185,000. What a blessing it is to offer this kind of tuition assistance for our families this coming school year!

Be sure to save the date of February 11, 2023, for next year's Red & White. It is always an entertaining and uplifting event, and you won't want to miss it!



Saint Agnes School was proud to recognize Mrs. Jean Houghton as the 2022 Red & White Benefit Honoree. Jean began her tenure at Saint Agnes as a parent volunteer when her children were young, but the administration quickly recognized her talents and she became an integral member of the administrative staff where she served for 14 years. Jean's leading roles in admissions, development, and advancement were important parts of the success of Saint Agnes School.

The testimony of several former colleagues emphasized both the compassion and determination that Jean brought to the job. She worked diligently with families, donors, foundations, and community members to ensure that a Saint Agnes education was available for as many families as desired it.

Jean had a vision for Saint Agnes, and she played a pivotal role in making that vision a reality. Her relationships, her perseverance, and her determination led to increasing enrollment, new facilities, and a brighter future for Saint Agnes School. Thank you, Mrs. Jean Houghton!





# HONORING LEGACY GRADUATES



Vincent Hernandez '22 Colleen (Egan) Hernandez '84 Michael Hernandez '83



Caleb Flood '22 Katie (King) Flood '95



Rosemary (Tibesar) King '66 Dennis King '66



Leo Tibesar '26 grade school Margaret (Gillen) Tibesar '30 Commercial Class



Sophia DiPietro '22 Kelly (Pavlak) DiPietro '95



Madelyn Gauthier '22 James Gauthier '85



Mikayla Kaiser '22 The late John Kaiser '89



Laura Koontz '22 Denise (Adrian) Koontz, '92



Julia Loots '22 Heather (Mich) Loots '89



Sophia Maslow '22 Tom Maslow '84



Dominick Randall '22 Mary (Alfveby) Randall '90



Joseph Rossini '22 Joseph Rossini '92



Elizabeth Kimlinger '22 Denise (Scully) Kimlinger '78 Mark Kimlinger '78



Raymond Tibesar '22 Amy (Grau) Tibesar '93 Robert Tibesar '92 Rick Tibesar '66



Leo Tibesar '26 grade school Margaret (Gillen) Tibesar '30 Commercial Class



Josephine Sandquist '22 Nicole (Nelson) Sandquist '89



Mary Steiner '22 Julie (Hermes) Steiner '87 Christopher Steiner '85 William Hermes '49



Theodore Steiner, Sr. '31 grade school

carrying on the tradition of excellence at Saint Agnes School.





## Class of 1949

Joan (Zaspel) Jungkunz sends an update: "My number seven great-grandchild will start daycare in Texas this spring. He is one of six boys and one girl living in MN, TX and CA. Sorry that my husband didn't live to teach car mechanics to them. Maybe there would have been another mechanical engineer from the U of M."

## Class of 1950

Marilyn (Sack) Gautraud invites any classmates to drop her a line at [ann32g@comcast.net](mailto:ann32g@comcast.net).

## Class of 1953 & 1957

An update from Al Spangenberg '53 and Rose Marie (Berczyk) '57: "We will celebrate our 62nd Anniversary on Oct. 15th. We were married at Saint Agnes by Msgr. Bandas in 1960 and came back to the parish in 1986. We have been blessed with 3 children, 10 grandchildren and 18 great-grandchildren. We each have so many fond memories of our high school days at Saint Agnes. We are proud to still call ourselves "Aggies".

## Class of 1956

Georgia (Burlingham) Houle extends an invitation, "My door is always open! I'd love to see some of our classmates. Any grandkids going to Marquette? Come and stay with me—Marquette is 15 minutes from my house!"

## Class of 1968

Shirley (Williams) Muelken and friends attended the Saint Agnes spring musical and dropped this note: "What a fabulous job the Aggies did on Holiday Inn! Six Aggies from '68 attended and had a great time! The class of 1968 meets in January, May, and September each year and maintains a private Facebook page at [Aggies68](#). Join the group for updates on gatherings!"



Back row Steve Huss, Jack Weyandt '65 Front row: Stephanie (Lendway) Monogue, Carol (Voeller) Weyandt '65, (standing in for brother Don Voeller), Mary Langlois, Shirley (Williams) Muelken, Pam (Vander Hayden) Travis, and Kathy (Krzmarzak) Brown.

## Class of 1990

Jeremy Webber sends an update: "Hello from Massachusetts! It is hard to believe that it has been over eight years since we picked up and moved to continue my biotech career on the east coast. I was fortunate to join Moderna in late 2014 where I am leading a project management team supporting clinical development. Having had a front row seat to the COVID-19 pandemic response has truly been an extraordinary experience. My family is doing well with our son Jack now a sophomore at UM Duluth, and our daughter Kayla a sophomore at Minuteman HS in Lexington. We visit Minnesota often, and hope that everyone has a happy 2022!"

## Class of 1991

Patrick Thell is Senior Network Engineer at Sirius Computer Systems in Kansas City, MO.

## Class of 1998

Catherine (Maas) Torberg and her husband are thrilled to be expecting baby number seven!

## Class of 2000

Wesley Rufenacht Habedank and wife Kate are expecting their sixth child in June.

## Class of 2003

Kris Nichols writes, "It's been a long time since updating the SAH community. Over the years I've deployed to Iraq and

Afghanistan, lived in Oklahoma, Virginia, South Korea, Florida, Kansas, and recently moved from Washington State to sunny O'ahu, Hawaii and got married along the way. This past year I completed a lifelong dream of becoming a fixed wing pilot and look forward to flying around the Islands. If there are any Aggie grads traveling to Hawai'i be sure to drop us a line!"

## Class of 2006

Julie Rufenacht Stautz and husband Ian live in Fall Creek, WI. Julie is a French bakery manager for The Nostalgic Bean Cafe & Bakery in Altoona, WI.

## Class of 2010

Matt Fossand and wife Casey welcomed their first child, Phoebe Claire, on Easter Sunday, April 17, 2022. Congratulations to the proud parents!

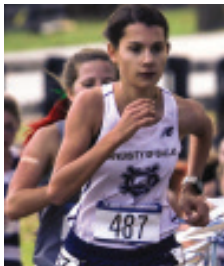
## Class of 2016

Mary Jane Eischen sends news: "I graduated in 2020 from St. Kates with phi beta cappa distinction. My full degree is Studio Art with a double concentration in graphic design and photography, and a double minor in art history and digital humanities. I work with small businesses to make creative content, manage social media, and more. Goldfine Jewelry (my main job) was in MN fashion week in April!"

## Class of 2018

Anna Wilgenbusch, a senior at University of Dallas, is UD's first NCAA All-American and was the 2019 SCAC

Runner of the Year. The cross-country athlete finished her career at the NCAA Division III National Championships, placing 34th



in a field of 300 of the best runners in the country thereby securing her second NCAA All-American Award. Read more: Anna Wilgenbusch, University of Dallas, Women's Cross Country/Track & Field - Character & Community ([scacsports.com](http://scacsports.com))



Evan Most has been selected as one of two 2021 scholarship recipients of the STARBASE Minnesota General Tim Cossalter Scholarship. In 2010, Evan and his 4th grade class attended STARBASE with Mrs. Loomis. He was fascinated with the planes he saw at

STARBASE and was able to explore and learn about them, sparking his interest in becoming a pilot. Evan is now studying Commercial Aviation at the University of North Dakota. After graduation he hopes to become a commercial airline pilot for a major airline, with hubs out of Minnesota.

## REUNIONS

**The Class of 1972** is celebrating its **50-year reunion** on October 8, 2022 at the Pool & Yacht Club in Lilydale. Watch your mail or email for more information coming later this summer. Questions? Ann Quickstad [aquickstad@comcast.net](mailto:aquickstad@comcast.net) or Ron Hauth [rr.rr1@comcast.net](mailto:rr.rr1@comcast.net).

**The Class of 1987** is organizing its **35-year reunion** on October 15, 2022, with more details to follow. Watch Aggie FB page, mail, or email for invitations. Contact Kitty Dietsch at [kathleendietsch@gmail.com](mailto:kathleendietsch@gmail.com) or Laura Davidson at [ljjdavidson@gmail.com](mailto:ljjdavidson@gmail.com).

**The Class of 1997** will be celebrating their **25-year reunion** this September. Details



to follow. Contact Dana at 612-710-2135 or [danazwetow@yahoo.com](mailto:danazwetow@yahoo.com).

**The class of 2002** had a great turnout at their **20-year reunion** in April. They met at Gabe's Bar and Grill and enjoyed catching up with classmates, listening to music from high school and a few lucky classmates won coffee mugs featuring the photos of our former principal and vice principal. There were lots of laughs and great memories!

**The Class of 2012** is planning for a **10-year reunion**. More details to come from Jenny Rembish- [rembish.jennifer@gmail.com](mailto:rembish.jennifer@gmail.com).

**Interested in organizing a reunion for your class?** Contact the Advancement Office at 651-925-8811 or [advancement@saintagnesschool.org](mailto:advancement@saintagnesschool.org) for ideas, class lists, or information about holding your reunion on campus.

## In Memoriam

*Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord. And let perpetual light shine upon them. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen*

Marie (Wess) Kubitschek, 1936 GS  
Mary Pat (Hermes) Wussler, 1937 GS  
Valerie Greenstein, Spouse of James, 1942  
Lillian (Kuebelbeck) Hendel, 1943  
Joan (Soderberg) Glaraton, 1945  
Eugene Daugherty, 1946  
William Mosso, 1946  
Mary Louise (Jansen) Beckmann, 1947  
Mary (Niles) Krings, 1947  
Rose Marie (Chmielewski) Jensen, 1949  
James Engelking, 1949  
Frank Haggerty, Spouse of Mary Jo (Lucker), 1949  
Robert Plaster, 1949  
Noreen (Arntzen) McKenna, 1951  
Marlene (Petschen) Buechler, 1952

MaryAnn (Schmitz) Maehren, 1953  
Harold Racine, 1954  
Gene Thom, Spouse of Pat (Sullivan), 1954  
Sr. Rosemary Schuneman SSND, 1956  
Virginia (Hauwiller) Germain, 1957  
Delbert Foley, 1958  
Arthur Thyen, 1959  
John Gillen, 1960  
John C. Lang, 1960  
Carol (Zywick) Dittel, 1960  
Stephen Fick, 1962  
John Huber, 1962  
Janice (Bump) Bender, 1964  
Peter Connors, 1966  
Ronald Klotz, 1966

Richard Pohl, 1970  
Dorothy (Wilken) Hassenfratz, 1975  
John Poeschl, 1979  
John Humphrey, 1982  
Patrick Keefe, 1983  
John Kaiser, 1989  
F. Alexandra (Sandy) Klas, Friend  
Richard Christensen, Grandparent  
Robert Loida, Parish Member  
Thomas Humphrey, Past Parent  
Bernard Koalska, Past Parent  
Laurentia Smieja, Past parent  
Kathleen Boone, Spouse of John Past Faculty

\*GS=grade school alumni \*CC=commercial class alumni



# Whispers

## OF THE PAST

Our letter jackets have long been a way to showcase our Aggie Pride, and perhaps the best example of this can be seen in this archived photograph dating back fifty years to 1972. Seated atop a row of now-classic cars, our Lettermen's Club described their mission as, "An attempt to represent and involve the St. Agnes athletes in wearing their letter jackets."

Was it the thrill of athletic competition that fueled the camaraderie of this club, or was it actually the "trinket collecting" of patches and medals to add to their timeless outerwear that bonded these young men together? It might just be time to pull your letter jacket out of the closet, breathe in the leathery aromas, and call up your buddies to recount all of your accolades.





## Saint Agnes School

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# SAVE THE DATE

**SUN, SEPT. 25TH:** Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony

12:00 Noon Luncheon and Ceremony, Ubel Activity Center, Saint Agnes School • 2022 Hall of Fame Inductees • 2001 State Baseball Team

**THURS, SEPT. 29TH:** Memorial Mass & Brunch

**FRI, SEPT. 30TH:** Homecoming & Tailgate

