

Is there

\$500,000.00

in STP's future ●

ANONYMOUS DONORS ISSUE BCACS A HALF-MILLION DOLLAR CHALLENGE

*Gift contingent on raising \$500,000.00 of new
Spirit of Community donations by Dec. 1, 2009*

The Battle Creek Area Catholic Schools Foundation announces a challenge pledge honoring the leadership of Reverend John D. Fleckenstein, Former Pastor of St. Joseph Parish and Pastor Administrator for the Battle Creek Area Catholic Schools.

Kathy Gallagher, Development Director of the Battle Creek Area Catholic Schools Foundation, noted that we must raise \$500,000 by December 1 in order for the donor(s) to contribute their matching gift to the campaign.

Once this challenge is reached, we will be able to move forward with the project at St. Philip.

"Father John's vision and leadership

have been instrumental in the success of our capital campaign," said Gallagher. "This challenge pledge is a tribute to Father John's pastoral and school leadership and his overall commitment to our community. We are appreciative for all that he has done to advance our schools and especially this project. We invite the community's support of our In the Spirit of Community Capital Campaign."

Potential donors can contact Kathy Gallagher, Development Director at the BCACS Foundation, at 963-4771 for information about the challenge pledge.

Look inside for more details and how you can help BCACS answer this call.

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the project at St. Philip.**

ALSO INSIDE

- 2009 Reunions including the heartwarming Atha/Marriott Wedding
- BCACS Today featuring new Tiger football coach, John Hume, the return of Fr. Bob Creagan, and STP Campus Ministry
- Alumni Commentary by Patti (Schoder) Emmerson, Class of 1973, and Paul Newman, Class of 2009
- Meet our 2009 Distinguished Alumni & Hall of Fame Recipients
- Upcoming STP Alumni Events, Nomination Deadlines, Keeping in Touch, and so much more!

Alumni's Guide to Who, What, Where, When & Why

TAKE A LOOK WITH YOUR CALENDAR BOOK

14th Annual Alumni Homecoming Reunion

All alumni and friends are invited Saturday, October 2, 2010, for a full day of nostalgia, food and fun.

The reunion begins Saturday at 1:30 p.m. at C. W. Post Field for Big RED Football. During the game, the Athletic Hall of Fame Inductees will be honored.

The celebrating con-

tinues at St. Philip Church, where all alumni will be honored at the 4:30 p.m. mass. We will also recognize the **Class of 1960** as they celebrate their 50 year reunion.

Festivities conclude with a hors d'ouvres and cocktail reception held from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Sheila Guerra Gym-

nasium. The 2010 Distinguished Alumni will be honored and the school will be opened for all alumni to explore. Reconnect and reminisce while wandering the hallways and classrooms of your alma mater.

Don't miss a moment of the fun. Mark your calendars today!

All Proceeds Support BCACS Scholarships

Sheila Guerra Memorial Golf Outing

Sunday, September 19, 2010

Allwyn Downs

Contact Vicky Groat

vgroat@bcacs.org or 269.963-4503

2010 Hall of Fame & Distinguished Alumni Nomination Forms due March 31, 2010

We invite your nominations for the St. Philip Athletic Hall of Fame and the Distinguished Alumni Awards.

Nomination forms can be downloaded at www.bcacs.org or you can receive a form by contacting Kathy Gallagher at (269) 963-4771 or by email at kgallagher@bcacs.org.

Deadlines for both forms are March 31, 2010.

Hall of Fame recipients will be honored at the 2010 Homecoming Football Game. The Distinguished Alumni Awards ceremony will take place at the Alumni Homecoming Reception that same day.

CALLING ALL MEMBERS OF THE CLASSES OF



1930, 1935, 1940, 1945, 1950, 1955,
1960, 1965, 1970, 1975, 1980,
1985, 1990, 1995, 2000, & 2005



CELEBRATE YOUR MILESTONE YEAR HOMECOMING WEEKEND

Please join our Battle Creek Catholic
Community for our 4th Annual

Community Wide Mass

November 22, 2009

10:30 am

W. K. Kellogg Auditorium

Celebrant:

The Most Reverend Paul J. Bradley, Bishop

SAVE THE DATE...

Bauman Softball Tourney

April 17, 2010

...DETAILS TO FOLLOW

AUGUST 13, 2010

STP Alumni Summer Block Party

Watch bcacs.org,
the STP Alumni Facebook page at
"saintphilip", and your mailbox for
more details

PLANNING A REUNION?

HAVE STP ALUMNI NEWS TO
SHARE?

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!



Alumni News

269.963.4771

stpalumni@bcacs.org

LET ME CALL YOU *Sweetheart*

BY: FATHER CHUCK FISHER, PASTOR OF ST. PHILIP CHURCH

Two St. Philip High School classmates were married on May 30th this year. Not unusual, you say? They were classmates in the graduating class of 1944. Now that's unusual!

Mary Lou (Dowd) Atha of California and Joseph Marriott of Colorado decided to come back to St. Philip Church in Battle Creek to celebrate their marriage, 65 years after graduating. After graduating 65 years ago, Lou and Joe went their separate ways. Each was married for 56 years. Each has been widowed. Each has four living children, and more grandchildren than anyone bothered to count.

A phone call connected them about 13 months ago, when Joe while visiting Battle Creek dropped in on the usual Wednesday evening gathering of the Class of '44 and decided to check on Lou at her California office. This led to several dates in California and a trip to Ireland and then the decision last December to marry. (Some of these seniors move quickly, even at age 83.)

The wedding Mass was lovely. Lou had her maid of honor and Joe had his best man (his brother) from their first marriage present again at St. Philip to reprise their roles, about 60 years after the prior

ceremonies. Most of the remaining members of the famous Class of 1944 were present. Many family members took an active role in the Mass. A priest Lou knew well from Ireland, Fr. Myles O'Reilly, SJ, came to preside at the Mass. He was assisted by Fr. Anthony Bitchapogu from India, by way of Kalamazoo, and myself. It was fitting that such a wedding would require three priests from three different continents.

A festive luncheon for about 90 guests was held in the St. Philip cafeteria, a relic from long before 1944. Two days later the bride and groom were to stop off for Joe's college reunion at Notre Dame before flying back to California, where Lou was planning to be "back to work" by the following week.

Yes, indeed, love is ever full of surprises.

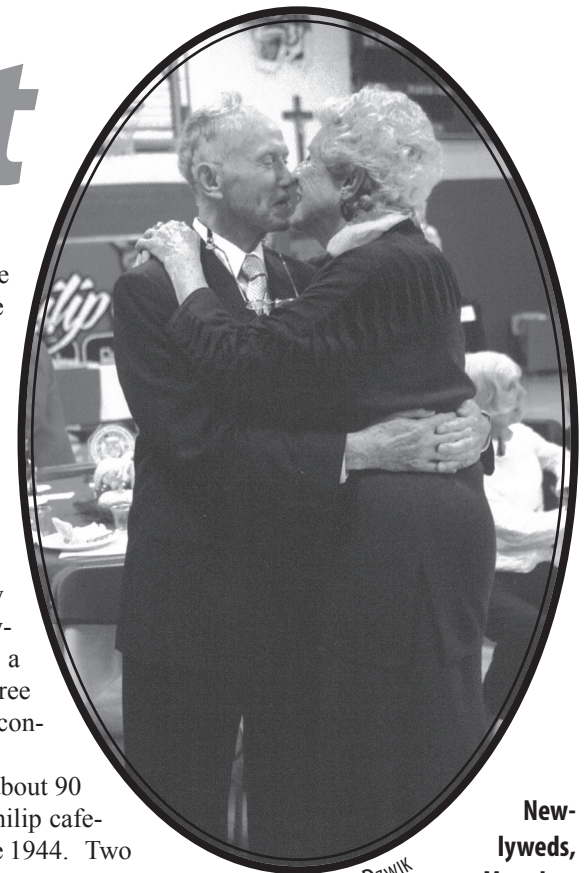


PHOTO BY: CAS DZWIK

Newlyweds,
Mary Lou
(Dowd) Atha, Class of
1944, and Joseph Marriott,
Class of 1944, share a kiss
at their 65th Class Reunion

Milestones & Memories



Celebrating 65 years
CLASS OF **1944**



Celebrating 30 years
CLASS OF **1979**



Celebrating 50 years
CLASS OF **1958**

Battle Creek Area Catholic Schools

Fr. Bob Creagan named BCACS Pastor Administrator

BY ELIZABETH WILLIS, COURTESY OF THE BATTLE CREEK ENQUIRER

The Rev. Robert Creagan, the recently appointed pastor of St. Joseph Catholic Church, has been chosen to serve as pastor administrator of the Battle Creek Area Catholic Schools.

Bishop Paul Bradley, the new head of the Diocese of Kalamazoo, made the announcement to students at school Mass on Friday.

Creagan, 48, who grew up in Decatur, said he feels as if he is coming back home to Battle Creek. It was here that he attended seminary and was ordained in 1998. His first appointment was at St. Philip Catholic Church.

"Battle Creek became my second home," he said.

Bradley's decision to appoint Creagan head of the private school system was made on the recommendation of Creagan's fellow Battle Creek-area priests, Father Chuck Fischer of St. Philip Catholic Church and Father John Tran of St. Jerome Catholic Church, said Vicki Cessna, director of communications for the Diocese of Kalamazoo.

Creagan said he will continue what Rev. John Fleckenstein had done before him: He will be a

priestly presence at the school as well as pastor of St. Joseph Catholic Church.

"It just made sense to accept the appointment," Creagan said.

Fleckenstein became pastor of St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Church in Portage on Aug. 24.

He said he has known Creagan since before they were ordained and knows he is passionate about Catholic school education.

"He's a big supporter of Catholic schools and Catholic education," Fleckenstein said.

In a previous role as pastor of St. Charles Borromeo in Coldwater, Creagan said he helped reopen a Catholic elementary school in 1993 that had shuttered in 1969.

"In the midst of regular education we can share our faith and devote Catholic values, and having that daily with the young people," he said. "I have found already how receptive the young students are at all grade levels ... about their faith and learning."



Pictured left to right: The Most Reverend Paul J. Bradley, Bishop, STP Principal, Kathy Grosso, and BCACS Pastor Administrator, Fr. Bob Creagan

The Bridge between Reunions and Homecoming

BY KATHY GROSSO, ST. PHILIP HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

One of my favorite things to do as principal is to give tours of St. Philip to groups of alumni. This is a 'walk down memory lane' and a great way for me to learn the stories of the past. Usually, there is not much discussion about the rigorous academic standards, curriculum alignment and state benchmarks. Memories are usually about the personalities of the teachers, the antics of a particular group of students and the relationships that grew while at St. Philip. There is overwhelming fondness for St. Philip and the lasting bond shared

by our alumni.

With each story told by these alumni, my understanding of the spirit of St. Philip deepens and I value the important link between the past and the present. The connection is more cerebral than concrete; more about relationships than programs and more about memories made in this building than the physical building itself.

I really felt the 'sense' of St. Philip during the recent Alumni Reunion held on Homecoming weekend. With about 150 people gathered in the gym, I strongly felt the bond, commitment, and dedication of these alumni to St. Philip. My hope is that all alumni appreciate the influence and impact that they have on our current school and students. It is important to understand that all of today's efforts are built upon a foundation that was established by our alumni. Their experiences

provide substance and foundation and a sense of pride for today's students.

Following the Homecoming Alumni Reunion, our current students gathered in the gym for their Homecoming Dance. As our future alums from the classes of 2010-2013 arrived, their paths crossed with alumni from many decades. I was overwhelmed by the sense of nostalgia, tradition and new memories created by sharing Homecoming 2009 with those that had 'danced' in this gym many years before us.

Comprehending the dedication of so many alumni who share a sense of pride and commitment encourages our students and faculty to continue to honor your traditions and create new memories that will continue the St. Philip story. We are grateful for our rich history and confident in our promising future.



2009 STP Homecoming Court
Back Row: Max Dechant, Chris Riley, Todd Lassen, Aaron Smith, Matt Lake
Front Row: Allie Coggins, Emily Cracolici, Seneca McKinzie, Riley Buschke, Colette Curtis

STP Football Welcomes Another Hume at the Helm

BY NICK BUCKLEY, CLASS OF 2003, COURTESY OF THE BATTLE CREEK ENQUIRER

There will be a Hume as the head coach of the St. Philip varsity football team again.

St. Philip announced it is naming John Hume as its new football coach. Hume, 44, is the son of longtime St. Philip football coach and athletic director Mike Hume, who was at the school for nearly 30 years until the early 1990s.

John Hume, a 1984 graduate of St. Philip, who played football under his dad, is excited about the opportunity to lead the program.

"As a graduate and after all the years my dad was with the school, it's an honor to be a part of the program and to help continue the resurgence it has seen in recent years," Hume said.

St. Philip enjoyed an undefeated regular season last year and top 10 state ranking under then-coach Jay Carrigan. Carrigan stepped down after the season to become coach at Delton Kellogg.

It was one of the best

seasons St. Philip had experienced since the days when Mike Hume led the Tigers. Hume led St. Philip to an undefeated record and a state championship in 1985.

After his death in 1997, a street leading to the St. Philip football practice field was named in his honor - Mike Hume Way.

"By watching and playing for my dad, I've seen it done the way it is supposed to be done. I have a wonderful respect for how he got things done and he has always been my idol and my best friend when he was alive," Hume said.



John Hume, Class of 1984, STP Head Football Coach

member of the staff at Centreville for six seasons.

"John brings a lot of passion, pride and tradition to the program. John understands the St. Philip football tradition and

Hume coached in the St. Philip system last season as the middle school football coach. He has previous varsity football experience as a

also understands the challenges of coaching at a small school," St. Philip athletic director Vicky Groat said. "We are excited and looking forward to the 2009 football season."

Prior to last year's undefeated regular season, St. Philip went 2-16 the two years before that.

Hume is currently scheduling meetings with prospective football players and hopes to grow numbers and bring more consistency to the program.

"This program needs to become a program. You can't have just one season, you have to build over a number of years," Hume said.

"Last year was absolutely wonderful, but you have to build on that momentum. We want last year to be the expectation, not just something that happened."



2009 STP Football Team with St. Philip Pastor, Fr. Chuck Fisher, The Most Reverend Paul J. Bradley, Bishop, and St. Joseph Pastor, Fr. Bob Creagan

LEADING A LIFE OF SERVICE

The vibrant Campus Ministry Program at St. Philip High School takes students beyond the Theology classroom and into the practical life of Christian service.

Students, together with their families and the STP staff, share their gifts and minister to the community through a variety of outlets. These acts of service build their Catholic identity, sense of community, and depth of compassion.

One aspect of this comprehensive program is the development of the L.E.A.D. (Leaders Engaged in Active Discipleship) team. Composed of qualifying juniors and seniors, this group plans and facilitates grade-level retreats, weekly masses, special

holy day worship, weekly prayer services, freshman mentoring program, outreach to BCACS eighth grade students, and the peer listening program.

"Through Campus Ministry at St. Philip Catholic Central High School, Christ has come alive in not only Theology class, but in every aspect of the school day and in our hearts."

—Allison Kincaid, Class of 2009—

Campus Ministry also provides each grade level with a community service concentration. The freshmen focus on hunger,

the sophomores on poverty, the juniors on community response and investigation of community human service organizations, and the seniors on homelessness. Each class engages in the exploration, involvement, reflection, and action related to their specific human conditions.

Through this great program, students experience meaningful volunteerism within many greater Battle Creek community organizations. These organizations include the Food Bank of South Central Michigan, Empty Bowls, St. Philip Sunday Suppers, Charitable Union, Haven of Rest, Life Recovery Program and American Red Cross.

Spirit of Community Objectives

- ☒ BUILD A NEW ST. PHILIP RECTORY
- ☒ RENOVATE THE SETON CENTER
- ☒ DEMOLISH NEARBY VACANT BUILDINGS
- ☒ NEW LOCKER ROOMS, REFEREE OFFICE AND CONCESSION STAND AT WALSH FIELD
- ☒ BUILD NEW MIDDLE SCHOOL AT THE ST. JOSEPH CAMPUS
- ☒ EXPAND AND RENOVATE ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL CAFETERIA
- ☒ RENOVATE TIGER DEN GYMNASIUM INCLUDING NEW BLEACHERS, LIGHTING AND SOUND SYSTEM
- ☐ RAISE \$500,000.00 BY DEC. 1ST TO RECEIVE THE \$500,000.00 CHALLENGE GRANT
- ☐ CONSTRUCT A PARISH CENTER AND SCHOOL CAFETERIA AT ST. PHILIP
- ☐ RELOCATE OUR LADY OF LOURDES GROTTO
- ☐ NEW HIGH SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES
- ☐ RELOCATE MAIN HIGH SCHOOL ENTRANCE
- ☐ RENOVATE CLASSROOMS AND THE MAIN FLOOR OF THE HIGH SCHOOL
- ☐ UPGRADE HIGH SCHOOL INFRASTRUCTURE

Our \$500,000.00 Challenge...

"This Challenge Pledge is a tribute to Father John's pastoral and school leadership and his overall commitment to our community. We are appreciative for all that he has done to advance our schools and especially this project. We invite the community's support of our In the Spirit of Community Capital Campaign."

Kathy Gallagher, BCACS Foundation, Development Director on the anonymous donation challenge offered in honor of Former Pastor of St. Joseph Parish, Reverend John D. Fleckenstein



What the Challenge will mean for STP's Future

We will get results!

Meeting this **Challenge Pledge** will allow the construction of a new parish center and school cafeteria to begin as soon as the weather permits. Once completed, this nearly 9,700 square foot facility can accommodate up to 200 people.

The parish center will replace our old "Social Hall," a parish structure that is 100 years old and retrofitted to serve as the school cafeteria. Presently, the meal preparation equipment in the

social hall dates back to the 1960's. The bright, new parish center will house a commercial kitchen with ample storage space for a very active parish and school community.

Our ultimate plans are to close Cherry Street and develop a cohesive St. Philip campus.

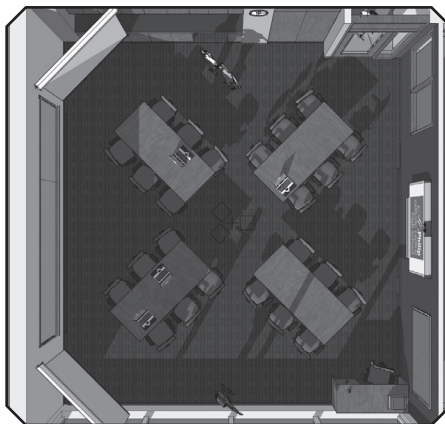
These plans include coordinating design work for landscaping, greenscaping, lighting and expanded parking lots.

Thanks to the Class of 1951's generosity, we will also rebuild the Our Lady of Lourdes Grotto north of St. Philip Church. Gardens, patios, and ample outdoor gathering

space will complement the grotto, providing a gorgeous opening to the new parish center.

There will be several upgrades to our high school building including a new main entrance, a full conference room, new locker rooms, and extensive main floor renovations. The generosity of our contributors determines the time line of with these projects, which is why this Challenge Pledge is truly a blessing!

There are 2,500 living alumni. If each alumnus were to contribute \$200.00, we would accomplish our goal. For some, this is a sacrificial gift; for others, a more generous gift may be possible. Your gift, whatever the amount counts!



Meeting the Challenge Pledge would enable STP to go forward with projects like classrooms redesigns and renovations.

IN HONOR OF THOSE WHO HAVE GONE BEFORE US...

I am grateful to the St. Philip Community for all the love and support during the abrupt sickness and eventual death of my mom, Betty Behnke. It was so reassuring to have the presence of Fr. Chuck with our family as he anointed my mother with the Holy Oils. We gathered around her bed and prayed the Memorare, a prayer that recalled decades of football games and other St. Philip events. But it was the aftermath of Betty's death and the prayers at both the Sunday and daily Masses that brought my torn soul peace.

My father, Mac Behnke, thought a fitting memorial to his wife of 54 years would be the St. Phil building fund. What a wonderful opportunity the Challenge Pledge is for the St. Philip Alumni community around the world. If we can raise a half million dollars by December 1, 2009, it will be matched with another half million AND we will have the amount needed to break ground on a community center.

As we remember those who have died for All Souls Day, I take out all the holy cards and place them by the candles I have lit over the years. This is my 40 day ritual as the Liturgical year draws to a close. This year it will also be 40 days of fund raising. Please know that your loved ones will be in my prayers along with my mom. Please consider a donation to the In the Spirit of Community Campaign in the next 40 days.

--Suzanna (Behnke) Carney, Class of 1975

CHALLENGE PLEDGE QUESTIONS

What if we fall short of the \$500,000 goal?

We must raise the full amount to be eligible for the challenge gift.

Do we need to collect all dollars before Dec. 1st 2009?

Yes. Contributions must be received at the BCACS Foundation by Tuesday, December 1, 2009.

Can I contribute stock gifts?

Absolutely, an account is set up at Hilliard Lyons to receive gifts of stock. Please call Kathy Gallagher at 269.963.4771 for more details.

How can I participate in reaching the challenge goal if I am already contributing toward my original pledge?

Please consider suspending your original pledge payment and donating to this very important challenge during October and November. Contributions toward your original pledge can be resumed in December.

What about Matching Gift Companies?

Matching gifts count toward the challenge pledge. To find out if your company offers a matching grant employee benefit please check with your Human Resources Department.

Who should participate in the Challenge Pledge?

Every parishioner, alumni, staff, parent and youth should take advantage of this opportunity to double our contributions!

This is an "all or nothing" proposition

We **must** raise \$500,000 in new gifts for our In the Spirit of Community Capital Campaign by **December 1, 2009.**

Achieving this challenge will allow us to begin the project at St. Philip School **immediately.**

If you haven't taken advantage of the opportunity to support your alma mater, **now is the time!**

If you have already supported the In the Spirit of Community Capital Campaign **please consider an additional gift.**

Remember, your dollars are doubled.

Your gift, whatever the amount, counts!

IN HOPE FOR THOSE WHO COME AFTER US...

"For the greater honor and glory of God, this plaque is dedicated with sincere gratitude to these loyal living and deceased members and all friends of our parish, through whose sacrifice and generosity the building of the school addition and the new convent were made possible."

The above statement is on the plaque by the lower Cherry Street doors along with all the names of the people who helped make the 1956 addition to the original 1924 high school a reality. It is a testament of what can be done when we all work together.

We have been given an opportunity to finish our fund-raising efforts and to proceed with the projects at St. Philip. A donor(s) has challenged us to raise \$500,000.00 and they will match that amount.

Many alumni have given generously to the capital campaign and we are asking once again for all the alumni to step up and make this a reality. We can do this. We must do this.

This is our chance to enhance the learning environment for the present and future students of St. Philip Catholic Central High School. Generations before us have given us the opportunity to be a part of St. Philip, let's all help future generations to have the same experiences that we did.

Please send your donation by December 1, 2009 and help us reach our challenge goal.

--Mary (Hunt) Rabbitt, Class of 1974

Congratulations to our 2009 Distinguished Alumni

Maureen "Renie" (McCauley) Pelter, Class of 1944

Renie's depth of faith is an inspiration, bringing both family and friends to the Catholic Church. Celebrating a private mass with Pope John Paul is a personal milestone in Renie's life.

Renie's contributions to her parish church are many and varied. For over forty-five years, Renie has been the organist, pro bono, for her parish and plays all weekend masses, funerals, and weddings. She has been the Altar Society president for fourteen years, served on her parish school's advisory board, attends daily mass, transports elderly parishioners to Mass, and worked for the Right to Life initiative.

She was the first person to deliver Meals on Wheels in her community and continued this mission for eight years every Sunday after Mass. She continues to volunteer whenever her help is needed. She has served on the Herington Library Board for four years and was responsible for reviewing books under consideration by the library. She also served on the Herington Historical Museum Board for six years.

For recreation, Renie plays bridge, reads, and travels. She really enjoys returning to Battle Creek for the Alumni Reunion and reuniting with her family and good friends.

Renie was nominated by **Lena (Maddalena) Wood, Class of 1944**, who shared, "She is steadfast in loving and defending her Catholic faith. This is the true spirit of St. Philip and a tribute to the priests and sisters who devoted their lives to our alma mater."

Renie is the widow of Joe Pelter and has six children: Joe, David, Linda, Deborah, Chris, Tim, and Scott.

June (Klimmer) Crocker, Class of 1952

June has always been very supportive of the STP alumni association and has been responsible for organizing many reunions for her class.

June earned her LPN degree at Kellogg Community College in Battle Creek. She worked at Hospice and was in charge of the Volunteer Training Pro-



Pictured left to right: Joseph Zuk, Class of 1965, Maureen (McCauley), Class of 1944, June (Klimmer) Crocker, Class of 1952, and Patrice Emerson, Class of 1973

gram and Scheduling. She retired in 1999.

June was nominated by **Nancy M. Brown, Class of 1954**, who expressed, "June's life is greatly influenced by her strong faith and Catholic school values. Her dedication and compassion for the sick demonstrates what the spirit of St. Philip is about."

"Bear ye one another's burden," Galatians 6:2, describes June's devotion and her commitment to share friends' troubles, allowing personal burdens to become lighter and hope to become stronger.

June practices The Corporal Work of Mercy of caring for the sick. She has accompanied several of her friends to their cancer treatments and was always there when they needed her assistance. She frequently transported their family members so they could visit with their loved ones. When a friend asked what she could do to repay June, June's response was, "You don't repay me; you do something kind for someone else."

June has been a Eucharistic Minister at St. Philip Church for thirty years. She assists with parish and funeral lunches, and serves as a Stephen's Minister. She was on the Parish Council at St. Joseph Church and taught CCD for many years. June is a twenty-five year member of Sweet Adeline's.

June has five children: Gail, Karen, Bob, Cathy, and David, all of whom attended St. Philip School. She has eleven grandchildren and four great grandchildren.

Joseph Zuk, Class of 1965

Joe attended St. Joseph Elementary School through eighth grade and then went on to graduate from St. Philip High School. He con-

tinued his education and graduated from Western Michigan University in 1970 with a degree in English and Secondary Education.

Joe began his teaching career at St. Philip High School as the English instructor. During his tenure, he wore many hats in addition to the teaching of the English curriculum. He served as Vice-Principal, Assistant Volleyball Coach, Bus Driver, Dean of Discipline, Senior Class Advisor, and Quiz Bowl Advisor. He also served on the Discipline Review Board, the Curriculum Committee, and various other committees.

Mr. Zuk impacted the lives of over 3,000 students at St. Philip Catholic Central High School, at times influencing their career paths.

Joe was nominated by fellow classmate, **Mary Cummings, Class of 1965**, who stated, "I nominate Joe for the outstanding teacher and leader he has become. He has taught four of my children. He honored the trust I placed in him for the care and education of my children with humor, respect, and a blessed love of learning of English, reading, and creativity. He is generous of heart and time. What more can a Christ-like man do for others?"

Joe and his wife, Carol, live in Battle Creek and are members of St. Philip Parish. They have three children: Stephanie of Anchorage, Alaska, Sara of Portage and Andrew, who lives in Los Angeles. They also have two grandchildren.

After 39 years of dedication to St. Philip High School and students, Joe retired at the end of the 2008-2009 school year. Joe is enjoying his retirement with activities such as cooking, playing with his grandchildren, enjoying the outdoors, and of course, reading

**Patrice "Patti" (Schoder) Emerson,
Class of 1973**

Patti graduated from St. Philip High School and went on to study writing at the University of Michigan. While there, she received the University's Distinguished Hopwood Writing Award for a play she wrote. Patti served as a lay missionary with the Jesuit Volunteer group after her graduation from the university.

Patti works for Perry Ballard, Inc., a communications firm in St. Joseph, Michigan, where she is a Senior Writer. She has won numerous local, regional, state, district, national, and international writing awards while at PBI.

Patti was nominated by **Mary (Sch-**

oder) Collins, Class of 1981, who stated, "Patti's academic, professional, and spiritual achievements are an excellent example of how St. Philip prepares students to make a positive impact in their families, parish, community, workplace and the world. I think she is an excellent example of the great contributions that St. Philip alumni make."

While living in the area, Patti and her husband, Pete, were actively involved with the Diocese of Kalamazoo's Office of Marriage and Family, which included helping at engaged couples' weekends and promoting Natural Family Planning. They were also actively involved in supporting Catholic Schools and donated numerous volunteer hours to various parish activities and fund-

raisers. Upon relocating, they continue their support for St. Philip School, as well as, the Catholic Schools in the Grand Rapids.

Recently, Patti has become involved in mission work in Haiti. Her efforts there include securing resources from the United States. She also assists with immigrants from African countries, helping them find housing, work, health care, and familiarizing them with American culture. She cares for their children and provides activities to ease their transition to United States schools.

Patti and Pete have three children, Molly, Tim, and Maricolleen. Patti also foster-parented a young mother until she was able to become self-sufficient.

2009 ST. PHILIP ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

**Jerry Reece,
Class of 1958**

Jerry is described by his fellow alumni as "always in his element with sports, whether that's as a player, in the broadcast booth, or when helping kids get their start."

Jerry won three varsity letters in both football and basketball. Jerry started on the 1955 state championship football team, a sophomore defensive end. He was an All-City football and basketball player his senior year.

His children, Kim, Mark, Mike and Kelly, all earned letters playing for St. Philip. He has two grandchildren who attend St. Philip and participate in athletics.

Jerry is also well-known for his sportscaster and commentator career for WELL radio, where he broadcast area athletic events and a Saturday coach's talk show. He also cofounded the Southern Michigan Sports Network, expanding his broadcasts even further.

Jerry worked in Michigan and California with sev-

eral automotive manufacturing companies, including General Motors in Kalamazoo. He also launched his own business, Total Cleaning Solutions. He and his wife, Sandy are now retired.

**Richard "Dick" Smith,
Long Time STP Athletic Booster**

Dick will not be a stranger on the Hall of Fame ledger. His son, **Fred Smith, Class of 1973**, and daughter, **Mary Jo (Smith) Jager, Class of 1977**, were inducted in 2000 and 1995, respectively. Nor is Dick the only Smith being inducted this year. His son, **Steve Smith, Class of 1975**, is also a 2009 Hall of Fame recipient.

Dick and his wife, the late Josie Bauman, raised six children, Margaret, Virginia, Fred, Steve, Mary Jo and Teri. They were committed to helping the St. Philip athletic programs for decades. Dick ran the concession stand for fifteen years, supporting his kids' endeavors along the way. He also volunteered after athletic events to ensure that the equipment and facilities were taken care of well.

Dick played baseball while in the United States Army, helping to introduce the sport in Japan in 1947. He played on the Oliver's Stan Musial team, the Reichert Steel basketball team

and bowled in the Knights of Columbus League.

Dick retired from Michigan Bell in mid 1980's. He also worked for a short time at Eaton Corporation. He used his skills as a telephone lineman to install the first phones at C.W. Post Field to allow coaches to communicate during football games.

**Steve Smith,
Class of 1975**

Steve is considered one of the best athletes ever to play in the STP football trenches. He started 27 straight games at center and middle linebacker. Steve lettered three times in football and twice in basketball and baseball. He was an Associated Press All-State center in 1974 when St. Philip posted a 9-0 record and claimed a mythical state championship.

Steve went on to play football for four years and graduated from Northwood University. He currently resides in New Port Richey, Florida and is employed by Rodeway Trucking. He has two children, Richard and Renee.



Pictured Left to Right: STP Principal, Kathy Grosso, Steve Smith (Class of 1975), Richard Smith, Jerry Reece (Class of 1958), STP Athletic Director, Vicky Groat

The Mystique of Rome...

SUBMITTED BY PAUL NEWMAN, CLASS OF 2009

My name is Paul Newman; I just recently graduated from St. Philip Catholic Central High School, and had the great privilege of attending our class pilgrimage to Rome. I was asked to share with you my wonderful experience there. I am very thrilled to take you through a brief journey of one of the holiest places on earth.

It's hard to explain the mystique of Rome. When we arrived it was nothing like I expected. The biggest car in Rome was the size of a Volkswagen Beetle, there was so much traffic and so many people, that at first I was slightly overwhelmed. We arrived at the hotel in the morning but hadn't slept much because of the time change. I counted 22 hours for myself with no sleep. Something you have to realize when Father John is leading you on a pilgrimage to Rome, you are going to see everything, even if it means you have to go a couple days without sleeping. We wandered around the Vatican square, saw the Pope deliver a brief message to a large audience, and then took a visit to St. Peter's Basilica. The first day was overwhelming. I don't think I fully understood the experience I was about to have.

My experience in Rome may have been different from that of most my classmates. I spent much of my free time with Ryan Anthony and Father John. I feel I can call both of those men great friends of mine. For those of you who don't know me I am quite religious and often think about what God is calling me to do in life. I knew by spending time with a seminarian like Ryan and a Priest such as Father John, that God's call for me would become clearer. I have to share with you what was to this point, the most amazing night of my life. I had been having a rough week, the week before going to

Rome and I had some things I needed to talk about. I went on a walk with Father to try and clear my head and rid my self of things that were bothering me. If you can imagine sitting at the edge of a large water fountain in the middle of the Vatican square when you're in a time of questioning, it is very easy to place yourself in a religious state of mind. I won't share what Father and I discussed, but I can tell you that his advice changed my life. I would have never been able to talk to

I hope people understand that if you take a trip to Rome, pay attention, listen, and pray, because you may experience something you've never felt before, you just might find God there.

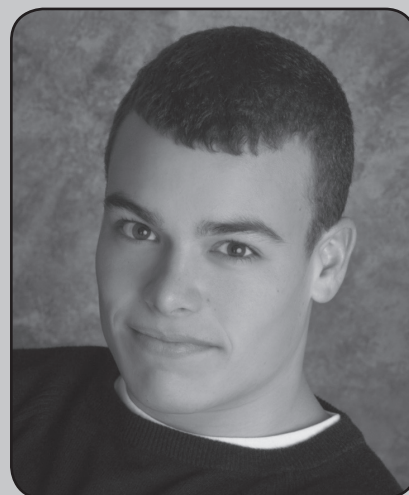
him without that environment, but as they say "When in Rome."

I talked a lot with Ryan Anthony, who is close to my age. We discussed things such as God's call for us individually in life and where we see ourselves 10 years from now. He helped me to understand the challenges that lie ahead in college and the temptations I, along with all my classmates will face. We spoke for hours on what it means to be a man and the honor in serving God in everything we do. To say Rome changed my life would be an understatement.

I could have written an article explaining all the wonderful sites and activities in Rome, but that wouldn't do any justice. The fact is if you are interested in advancing, or even discovering your faith, a journey to Rome would do you justice. It is a place out of the ordinary. It is an environment of

spirituality and faithfulness. I can't explain to you what it was like to climb, on my knees, the same steps the Lord Jesus walked Himself. The pain of each step forces you to feel Christ's suffering and makes you pray thanking Jesus for dying for us. I now truly understand why I believe in God and why I need to serve Him.

How was my experience in Rome? What was it like to stand before the tomb of Pope John Paul II? I can't explain what I felt, but I can tell you I'll go back someday, someday when I need to find what God is calling for me to do next. I didn't write this article to make Father John sound like a prophet, I don't want people to think because of my experience in Rome I am going to run off to the seminary and become a priest. I hope people understand that if you take a trip to Rome, pay attention, listen, and pray, because you may experience something you've never felt before, you just might find God there. To explain the mystique of Rome I will use a quote the legendary Coach Lou Holtz once said about the University of Notre Dame. "If you were there, no explanation is necessary. If you weren't, no explanation is satisfactory."





ALUM COLUMN

Catholic Education: Worth the Sacrifice

SUBMITTED BY PATRICE (SCHODER) EMMERSON, CLASS OF 1973

My parents, Helen and Wendell Schoder, and my brothers and sisters made sacrifices so all six of us kids could go to Catholic schools. My husband, Peter, and my children gave up life experiences, the opportunity to own finer things, and the chance to live in a nicer home, for a Catholic education.

What we gained was worth far more than what we gave up.

The blessings of a Catholic

education are worth more than personal gains. Just look at the leaders in the Battle Creek area. Look in our government, public and faith-based schools, judicial system, medical fields, businesses, law enforcement, trades, military, parishes, neighborhoods. You will see people

who are not afraid to sacrifice, willingly give their all to their jobs, respond to the needs of their neighbors, care for the poor, push to bring about good changes, and know how to get

a lot done with very little. These vibrant people are graduates of Battle Creek's St. Philip, St. Joseph and St. Jerome Schools. That is where they learned what it means to be a family and how to be a team player. It is where teachers and administrators, who believed in them, held them and their parents accountable. It is where they learned to trust God.

Our Catholic schools are not perfect, but the value they offer our children and our community

is worth the sacrifice. I challenge you to make that sacrifice. I challenge you to encourage parishioners, your neighbors, your friends and coworkers, your brothers and sisters, your children and grandchildren, to make that sacrifice. Moreover, I ask you to make those sacrifices so that the hundreds of children and teens in this community—who need to have a “family”, teachers that challenge them, friends that last a lifetime—will have those doors opened to them.

Our community, our state economy, our country needs what Battle Creek Area Catholic Schools make possible.

“The blessings of a Catholic education are worth more than personal gain.”

Want to share how your STP experience influenced your life? Email your remarks to stpalumni@bcacs.org. Please put “Alum Column” in the message line and attach a recent photo.

IN MEMORIAM

The following members of the STP family have passed from this life to the next. Please remember them in your thoughts and prayers. We extend our sincere condolences to their loved ones.

John Jarmul, Class of 1929
Francis Karas, Class of 1939
Anna (Jereck) Sartor, Class of 1940
Colonel Benjamin Flagg, Class of 1942
Berniece (Karas) Griffin, Class of 1944
Robert Kazar, Class of 1945
James Griffin, Class of 1947

Margaret (Sweet) Gaskell 1948
James G. Beeson, Class of 1949
Lawrence Lucas, Class of 1954
Mary Alice “Betty” (Murray) Behnke, Class of 1954
James B. Sweet, Class of 1955
Sara (McGuire) Korsak, Class of 1961
David Abbey, Class of 1974

IN THANKSGIVING

St. Philip Catholic Central High School and the BCACS Foundation extend their deep appreciation for recent gifts received in memory or honor of these STP Alumni.

GIFTS GIVEN IN MEMORY OF:

Francis Karas, Class of 1939
Anna (Jereck) Sartor, Class of 1940
Santo Zanetti, Class of 1942
Berniece (Karas) Griffin, Class of 1944
W. Fred Mangan, Class of 1944
Margaret (Sweet) Gaskell 1948
James G. Beeson, Class of 1949
Norman “Bud” Lawrence, Class of 1951
Mary Alice “Betty” (Murray) Behnke, Class of 1954
James B. Sweet, Class of 1955
Sara (McGuire) Korsak, Class of 1961

Carrie Adams, Class of 1991
Dan Simon, Class of 2000

GIFTS GIVEN IN HONOR OF:

Mary Lou (Atha) and Joseph Marriott, Class of 1944
Barbara (Howard) and James Gilbert, Class of 1964
Joe Zuk, Class of 1965
St. Philip Class of 1958
St. Philip Class of 1959
St. Philip Class of 1964
St. Philip Class of 1975
St. Philip Class of 1979
St. Philip Class of 1989

Alumni News...Keeping in Touch

New degree? New job? New city? Recently married? Started a family? Welcomed your first grandchild? We want to hear your news and share it with fellow alums across the country. Please complete this form and return it to the Development Office at 63 North 24th Street, Battle Creek, MI 49015; or e-mail stp alumni@bcacs.org. Thanks! We look forward to hearing from you!

Name: (include maiden name if applicable) _____ Class: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Spouse: _____ Children: _____

Post High School Education/Activities: _____

Employment: _____

News about you: _____

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