



# St. Joseph School Alumni News

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<http://www.stjosephcantn.org/>

## From then to Now

This article is a continuation of a previous article from 2009. Completion of the basement of St. Joseph Church in 1922 and the church itself in 1932 allowed for more of the original school/church building to be used for the school. The original church sanctuary, in the basement of what we call the old building, became the cafeteria for the school, but the parish continued to grow, and with it the need for more classroom space.

By 1952, the fiftieth anniversary of the parish, enrollment in the school had reached 625 students. As the school continued its growth, twelve new classrooms were erected on the north end of the school in 1957, replacing the wooden annex which was torn down. Unfortunately, we have been unable to uncover any photos of the annex at this time. The school's growth would continue when an additional four classrooms were built onto the recently completed 12-room addition in 1959. By the mid-1960's enrollment at the school topped 1,100 students, with classroom space being used in the present church basement, the school basement (now The Martha Bonnot Sponseller Memorial Library), and every available classroom in both the old and new sections of the school. Unfortunately, with the arrival of the 1970's came the steady decline of the school's enrollment. The advent of tuition and a dwindling parish population

caused fewer Catholic families to send their children to St. Joseph.

By the late 1980's, the last of the Sisters of St. Joseph, who had faithfully served the parish for over eight decades, left the school. Deterioration of the convent building resulted in its demolition in August of 1987.

Though with a smaller enrollment than in its heyday of the 1960's, the school continues to provide a quality education to its students and will hopefully continue to do so for years to come.



8th grade boys 1907

## From the Principal's Desk

As I write this letter, our Fish Fries have begun and we are in our second week of Lent. I hope this newsletter finds you healthy and preparing for our holiest season of the church year. I know the weather has been a challenge in many parts of the U.S. this winter, but I feel that when Spring finally arrives we'll be so thankful for God's goodness and gifts.



Our yearly drive for tuition assistance and help with the budget has gotten off to a great start! We've heard from over 100 alumni and have collected almost \$6,000.00! Can you imagine what we could do if we even heard from 20% of our mailing list? We have almost 2,000 names on our mailing list. Last year we gave \$1,500.00 to help families in need and another \$2,000.00 to the parish to help with the budget. Thank you from the bottom of my heart. May God continue to bless you and your loved ones.

We are in the second year of a study that is looking at the parishes and schools in the Youngstown Diocese. I can't tell you how many times people have said to me, "I've heard St. Joseph School is closing." NO ONE knows what schools will be affected. We know consolidation is coming for the schools in Stark County. That's not always a bad thing. We need to pool resources and students to make Catholic Education affordable and enticing to parents. St. Joseph School has many things going for it. We are not in debt and our building is large and in good condition. Those are favorable things to consider when they are determining what buildings will be used in the restructuring. I will keep you informed as I hear the news but now when someone asks you if St. Joseph is closing, you'll have an answer.

Sincerely,  
Joellen Esber - principal



## ALUMNI UPDATES



### In Memoriam

**Patricia (Savage) Ritchey '45** - died October 7, 2009, at her home after a courageous battle with cancer. Condolences go out to her daughters, Pam Druckenbrod, Polly Hall '76, sons Pat '79 and Pete '81 Ritchey, and her numerous grandchildren.

**Edward S. Kolesar, Jr. '64** - died Oct. 7, 2009. After a 20 year military career in the U.S. Air Force, Ed taught at the Air Force Institute of Technology and Texas Christian University. Ed was also awarded 13 patents for his research and was awarded the Air Force Research and Development Award in 1987. He is survived by his wife, Elinor, and three children.

**Gail (Lightbody) Hahn '64** - died Oct. 9, 2009, after a 6-month battle with leukemia. Gail was active in the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life and Making Strides Against Breast Cancer walk, having been an 8-year survivor of breast cancer. Condolences go out to her husband, Don, and her family, including sister Rebecca Lightbody DeSantis, brother Gilbert Thewes and her extended family.

**Verne Brothers** - died Jan. 27, 2010. Verne was the husband of Mary Brothers, long-time librarian at St. Joseph, with whom he celebrated 60 years of marriage. A World War II veteran, he worked for the Canton City Schools for 32 years.

**Gary Schering '52** - died Feb. 14, 2010, after an extended illness. Gary was an Army veteran and retired truck driver, serving 39 years with the Timken Company. Gary is survived by his two sons, Gary II and Kenneth.



### Reunion information

At this time there are no immediate plans for an all-grades reunion. Those wishing to help to organize and hold a reunion for a specific class from St. Joseph can call the school at **330-454-9787** and we can assist with contact information and advertisement of the event.

# Alumni and Friends Donor Roll

Thanks to the following for their generosity

## Parishioner's Friend- \$250-\$499

Kutka Family Charitable Gift Fund  
(in memory of Mary E. Kutka)  
Paulette Moriarty '61  
Mark Hontas '65  
Anonymous

## Student's Friend- \$100-\$249

Anne Maccora - Assoc.  
Dorothy Nist McGreal '34  
Carl Pucci '42  
J. Richard Savage '42  
Zita Paumier '43  
Anne Staudt Dowling '45  
Robert Fickes '45  
Thomas '48 and Shirley '51(Hoagland) Colaner  
Rev Thomas Cebulla '56  
Georgia Cox Pickard '57  
Patricia McGreal Butcher '58  
Robert Friedmann '60  
Maury Sullivan '60  
Greg Zugrave '67  
Therese Fitch '70  
Pete Amendola, Jr. '75  
Mr. & Mrs. Donald Colaner

## School's Friend- \$1-\$99

Franklin Zanders - Assoc.  
(in memory of his dad, F.N. Zanders)  
Mary Holland '34  
Paul Campbell '41  
Robert '41 & Margaret '43 Wackerly  
D.H. & Patricia Anesansley '42 Gellenbeck  
Audrey Roth Lung '42  
Eugene & Kathryn Reno '42 Sicker  
Joan Capes '45  
Frank Warth '46  
Thomas Hanket '47  
Mary Lou Krynock Frank '49  
Nancy Rand Hentsch-Jacobson '49  
Barb Kettler Little '49  
Judith Kovach Weber '52  
Daniel Woodring '54

**\*Continued Next Column\***

Lawrence Beck '55  
Patricia Baker France '55  
Richard Schrader '55  
Rebecca Roth Swinehart '55  
Michael DiPietro '57  
Julian '57 & Connie Fasano  
Daniel Valot '60  
Martha Hoopingarner Bedwell '61  
Susan Gulling Harding '62  
Mary Patricia Henry Noll '62  
James Babcock '63  
Maryanne Griggy Beall '63  
(in memory of Margaret Griggy)  
Leonard Bossart, St. '64  
Michael Laign '64  
Kathleen McCann '64  
Richard '65 & Mary Rose Bajornas  
Kate Cullum '65  
(in memory of Leo & Lucy Cullum)  
Richard Bauman '67  
Tim '67 & Susan Schweitzer  
John Amendola, Sr., '68  
Patty Moriarty Hoffman '68  
Joan Decker Lukach '68  
Patrick Shriver '69  
Deberrah Lamb Welshenbaugh '69  
Ray Barnes '71  
John Casari '72  
Jill Ungashick '72  
Molly McKelley Amato '73  
Rita Tersigni Grabowski '73  
Tim Reinhart '73  
Dianne DiMattio Szittai '73  
Dave '74 & Lisa Sicker  
Julia Fitch '77  
Joe Casey '78  
Tom Casey '82  
Erin O'Reilly '85  
Amy Murphy Papacostas '87  
Paul '91 & Melanie Forquer

## **In Memory of Charles E. Miller '49 Fund**

Russ & Pat Muncer '48 Flynn  
Ron '49 & Donna DeChellis  
Don '57 & L.A. Elseser  
Andrew '00 & Barbara Szabo  
Edward '02 & Anna Marie Miller  
William & Nila Welch  
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Kranstuber



## Faculty Focus

For many years I've applied the lessons I learned in 7th grade English to what I taught my own fifth grade students, and yes that included diagramming sentences. I recently had the opportunity to talk to the woman responsible for that, Mrs. Yvonne Ezzie.

Mrs. Ezzie taught for 28 years at St. Joseph School after teaching her first two years at St. Paul's. She remembers how the school had 1,100 students her first year and was busting at the seams. Having taught in grades four through eight during her tenure at St. Joseph, she is very proud of the achievements of many of her former students.

Although retired from teaching since 1994, Mrs. Ezzie still is hard at work as she approaches 80 years of age. She is currently working in the management department at T.K. Harris.

**St. Joseph School**  
**126 Columbus Ave NW**  
**Canton, OH 44708**

## Golden Opportunity

As many of you know, the price of gold has skyrocketed over the past few years, and with the economy as it is, many people have opted to sell off their old unwanted or broken gold jewelry and turn it into cash. We've received an offer that will allow you to do this and help the school as well.

Ron Bagley, an alumnus of St. Joseph School ('81) and a partner in The Jewelry Refinery at 5622 Fulton Dr. NW, has offered to donate 15% of any transaction above \$100 to the school. By simply identifying yourself as a St. Joseph graduate, you can turn your old jewelry into cash on the spot with very competitive prices. The jewelry Refinery is located in the Lake Cable area across from Jose's Landing on Fulton. Call 330-705-9131 for details.



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