

Saint Mary's College COURIER

Summer/Fall 2020





UPON REFLECTION

What a complete pleasure it has been—even in the difficult times we are living through—to begin my role as the 14th President of Saint Mary’s! In my earliest days at the College, I mobilized a versatile team to take on the head-over-heels effort to reopen the campus for the fall semester—a once simple expectation that, this year, required extraordinary preparations. So now, a few months into the role and several weeks into the semester, I welcome this occasion to reflect on the opportunity of joining a strong institution and the responsibility of continuing a tremendous legacy.

Since arriving on campus, I have engaged in hundreds of conversations that have helped me begin to understand the singular and distinctive qualities of Saint Mary’s and the impact the College has made on generations of women. I have asked everyone: as we look to the future, what should we *revere* and what should we *revise*? And the answers have remarkable consistency. We should always be a Catholic College for women, firmly planted in the liberal arts tradition. We should also emulate the Sisters of the Holy Cross in evolving to meet the needs of the times. Many people I spoke with offered specific areas of need that we are positioned to address—from building and modeling a culture of belonging and mattering, to establishing a national reputation for advancing women across the life-cycle, to ensuring we fulfill our goal to be a just and equitable community.

Students and alumnae tell remarkable stories of what happened to them at Saint Mary’s: they found their voices; they ignited their passions; they expanded their faith horizons; they soared in ways they never could have imagined. My own shorthand for this has become: *They discovered their gifts and how to give them to the world.*

That phrase turned me toward the question of what *I* have to give to Saint Mary’s. Well, recently I revisited a 2015 interview from my favorite podcast, *On Being*: host Krista Tippett speaking with Mary Oliver, the

award-winning New England poet so beloved (and now missed) by readers across multiple generations. Oliver made me reflect—as she has so often over the years—on the virtue of paying attention, of bringing one’s whole self into whatever the day offers. “To pay attention,” she writes, “this is our endless / and proper work.”

And it dawned on me that the “gift” I could give to the College was just that: to pay attention. To learn the histories. To bring my whole focus to interactions with others and to this sanctuary we call a campus. To look with open eyes, to listen with open ears, to embrace our shared challenges with an open mind and an open heart. “Attention,” Oliver writes elsewhere, “is the beginning of devotion.” And I realize my devotion to Saint Mary’s has been born out of my attention. I imagine myself the scholar in Oliver’s poem “Mindful”:

*“Oh, good scholar,
I say to myself,
how can you help
but grow wise
with such teachings
as these—
the untrimmable light
of the world,
the ocean’s shine,
the prayers that are made
out of grass?”*

I hope to grow wiser every day.

Sincerely,

Katie Conboy, PhD
President



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About Saint Mary's College
Celebrating over 175 years of empowering women to make a difference in the world, Saint Mary's College is recognized as a pioneer and a continued force in the education of women. A Catholic, liberal arts institution in Notre Dame, Indiana, the College offers more than 50 undergraduate academic programs and as well as graduate programs open to all.

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On the Cover: Saint Mary's welcomed Dr. Katie Conboy as the 14th president on June 1, 2020.

ONLINE EXTRAS

Check out our new *Courier* website for sharable articles, additional photos, videos, and more.

Take deeper dives into many of the stories and enjoy interactive content.

saintmarys.edu/Courier

2020. Saint Mary's holds its first virtual commencement.



“I hope there is lots of joy
and clapping in your homes.”

Nancy Nekvasil



Honorary Degree Recipient

■ **Maryanne Wolf '69**
Commencement Speaker
Director of the Center for Dyslexia, Diverse Learners, and Social Justice at the UCLA Graduate School of Education and Information Studies

“The great American novelist Marilynne Robison said, ‘The greatest test ever made of human wisdom and decency might very well come to this... We must teach and learn broadly and seriously.’ It was at Saint Mary’s that I was taught seriously and learned broadly and it is essential that you who are graduating today understand not only what you have been taught but how a foundation of learning and caring prepares you like nothing else for what will be asked of you.”

Over the past one and three-quarter centuries, there has never been a Saint Mary’s College Commencement like Commencement 2020.


In some ways, it looked the same, the robed presenters filing out of Le Mans Hall toward their chairs and Interim President Nancy Nekvasil approaching the lectern to address the Class of 2020’s 353 undergraduates and 47 graduate students. Except there were no students in the audience. There was no audience—at least, none on site.

Instead, hundreds of students and their families tuned in virtually from across the country via a web link. Yes, it was a difficult time to pull off a commencement in the midst of a global pandemic that had shut down schools and businesses everywhere. But Saint Mary’s College organizers did it.

The presenters remained a respectable distance away from each other during the ceremony. Photos of the Outstanding Senior, Lumen Christi, and Madeleva awardees were displayed on the live video, while the speeches of the three valedictories and the Commencement speaker were offered via previously recorded messages. As Tracy White, senior academic advisor, performed the Presentation of Graduates, names were displayed on the screen.

There might not have been as much noise and commotion in front of Le Mans Hall following the ceremony, but as Nekvasil said at the end, “I hope there is lots of joy and clapping in your homes.”

But whether a commencement is traditional or very untraditional, as this virtual one was, nothing can diminish the days, months, and years of toil and triumph on the part of the 400 undergraduate and graduate students. Perhaps their Commencement will be all the more memorable when their children, in years to come, ask “What did you do during the coronavirus pandemic, mommy?”

Congratulations to the 2020 graduates as they face a world unlike any entered by previous Saint Mary’s College classes. Now more than ever, the world will need their courage, compassion, creativity, and brilliance. And we know, as Saint Mary’s women, they will deliver. 

Valedictorians



■ **Nicole Aggarwal**
sociology and communication studies majors with a minor in gender and women’s studies

“If you want one thing to take away from your Saint Mary’s College journey, let it be this: Just because your Saint Mary’s experience was not perfect does not mean it was not beautiful. With our senior year abruptly stolen from us, we know what it is like to handle a devastating situation, but within difficult times of strife, true resilience arises.”



■ **Anna Bilse**
biology major with a concentration in molecular/cell biology and a minor in dance

“We did it. We made it. We blossomed. Now it’s time to plant our own seeds of knowledge and individuality throughout the world. I challenge you to be that individual who encourages growth in everyone you meet.

“We did it. Belle, yeah.”



■ **Sarah Hautzinger**
sociology major with a concentration in criminology and a minor in psychology

“Our experiences have given this place meaning — a meaning it did not have when we took our first tours years ago. By coming here and learning and making a home and forming friendships, we are continuing the sisterhood that has thrived here since 1844 and that will continue to thrive for years to come.”

Lumen Christi



■ **Anne Maguire**
global studies major

Annie’s approach to service and leadership sets her apart. She embraces the community in which she finds herself — whether that be Saint Mary’s College, South Bend, or Seville, Spain — enters into the life of that community, and seeks to contribute to the common good. The spirit within which she serves is rooted in her understanding of the call of faith, so she does so in a way that upholds the dignity of those with whom she serves.

Outstanding Senior



■ **Katie Glenn**
double major in political science and philosophy and a minor in economics

Katie is considered a brilliant student, widely recognized as a natural leader who willingly gives of herself in every situation. Thoughtful and compelling, Katie is a person who can lead, listen, respond, and collaborate. She quietly finds ways to make a large impact on those around her with her presence, leadership, and calm demeanor. Her deep, abiding faith is integral to her life, and she challenges herself to seek out opportunities for growth.

Lumen Christi



■ **Kayla Wilkerson**
Kayla came to Saint Mary’s as a graduate student in the Doctor of Nursing Practice program. Through her Practice Innovation Project, she strived to make a meaningful and lasting impact in the health and well-being of people living in rural Uganda. At her own expense, she made several trips to Uganda to learn about the needs and culture of the Kyembogo Holy Cross Health Centre. Her work there has enabled the center to improve continuity of health care delivery and become a regional leader.

 See the full Commencement event and honoree’s bios online at saintmarys.edu/Commencement.

* The Madeleva Award is a new Saint Mary’s College honor presented to an **outstanding graduate student** in recognition of scholastic distinction and exceptional achievement.

2020 Legacies

Our legacy graduates celebrate along with their family members:
mothers, grandmothers, aunts, and other women who all attended Saint Mary's.
(*Mothers are listed in italics; deceased alumnae denoted with an asterisk.*)

Alison Y. Alberts, Jessica Elizabeth Alberts '18

Mary Marta Grace Antonetti, *Sherry Green Antonetti* '88, Margaret Wooden Green '63, Jean Shinnars Woodin '38*, Marjorie Shinnars Hayes '30*, Mary Green Hall '60, Joan Woodin Connelly '70, Robin Walsh Bourjaily '96, Catherine Jean Walsh '93*, Mary Sauer Willrodt '86

Anna Victoria Babiak, Carolyn Rigby Tansey '15

Gabrielle Jeanne Beach, Hannah Felicia Beach '18

Emily Elizabeth Beam, *Lisa Britt Beam* '85, Molly Stanton Witt '88

Hannah Kristina Benchik, *Mary Hollies Benchik* '89, Rosemary Boughal Benchik '61*, Betty J. Bowen Benchik '37*, Dawn Kennedy Boughal '66, Marilyn Benchik '89, Jacquelyn R. Benchik-Osborne '89

Margaret Mary Benjamin, *Colleen M. Benjamin* '86, Maureen Ann O'Brien '89

Olivia Allison Bentley, Molly Weiland Schmidt '92

Maria E. Betten, Elizabeth Amber Bajema '11

Anna Christine Bilse, *Christine Kolbus Bilse* '84

Marie Kelleher Burke, *Cecilia Walsh Burke* '76, Theresa Marie Burke '16, Marie Murnane Walsh '49*, Dorothy Murnane McMahon '52, Dorothy Murnane Wehmer '76, Laura Barry Walsh '81

Abigayle Cecile Carter, Loree Lynn Greenwood '93

Emily Casado, Michelle Casado '18

Maria Elisabetta Ciaravino, Emily Virginia Theis '12, Catherine Solomon Bahoura '09

Kaitlin Anne Clifford, *Mary Elizabeth Pingpank Clifford* '89, Anne Pingpank Doyle '86

Mary Eloise Coleman, *Kathryn Spencer Coleman* '90

Bridget Diane Delaney, Laura Ann Strack '13

Molly Colleen Donegan, Colleen Ann O'Sullivan '94*

Katherine Callahan Doyle, Sydney Ann Doyle '18

Courtney Michelle Driscoll, Christena Maree Driscoll '14

Megan Elizabeth Drolet, *Susan K. Drolet* '80, Anne Drolet Edwards '06, Colleen Margaret Drolet '18, Julie Kanak Rigali '83

Camila Taylor Edwards, Erin Elizabeth Edwards '14

Monica Lynn Eggerbrecht, Megan Michelle Eggerbrecht '17

Mary Maureen Favo, Gabrielle M. Zarembo '19

Meghan Kelly Feldmeier, *Kathleen Clark Feldmeier* '88, Arlene Lagona Feldmeier '60*, Elizabeth Weigel Quigly '76, Colleen Weigel Wold '02, Jeanine Weigel Pickering '99, Gretchen Michelle Weigel '96

Amanda Rosemarie Fischer, Mary Barnett Large '52*, Barbara Barnett Tincoff '54

Emma Patterson Freund, Lillian Corbett Freund '18

Austin Marie Fritzgerald, *Sabina Russo Fritzgerald* '92

Kathryn McKenna Glenn, Katherine McKenna Gelfand '85, Mary L. McKenna '83

Madeline McKenna Greely, *Amy McKenna Greely* '84, Margaret Claire McKenna Sliney '14, Molly McKenna Sliney '76

Chloe Elizabeth Griggs, Heather Rakoczy Russell '93

Kathleen Margaret Holloran, *Colleen Hagen Holloran* '96

Magdalena Hernandez, Luz Maria Hernandez '18

Grace Ann Hillman, Joyce Murtagh Stengle '86, Ann Korhumel Filipiak '83, Colleen Kenney Vedra '94, Karen Korhumel Weidner '77, Kathryn Korhumel Dise '75, Maureen E. Kenney '75, Molly A. Murtagh '78, Julia Catherine Kenney '13, Elizabeth Alma Kenney '15

Anastasia M. Hite, *Jennifer Stimson Hite* '92

Claire Michelle Holman, *Michelle Taylor Holman* '81, Caitlyn Patricia Holman '13, Mary Taylor Spalding '57*, Emmy Lou Keappock O'Connor '64, Moira Taylor Castro '84

Maura Eileen Honan, Maria Lopez Honan '84

Clara Faith Judge, Mary Ann Scherger Fairlie '52

Kassidy Mikala Jungles, Kylie Nikole Jungles '16

Elizabeth J. Kaspers, Ann Katherine Kehner '53

Catherine Elizabeth Kehner, Isabell Katherine Kehner '19

Kelsey Anne Keilman, *Patricia Tierney Keilman* '89, Janice Herrman Keilman '61

Karissa Lee Kennedy, Katlynn Grace Kennedy '17

Marta Elizabeth Kernan, Aileen Catherine Kernan '16, Caroline J. Kernan '18

Elena Elizabeth Kolarevic, Melissa Meyer Burke '85, Teresa Meyer Steichen '84, Kathleen Soule Geis '90, Mary McCarthy Haarberg '68, Catherine Cecelia Freeman '15, Kerry Meyer Destino '71, Jane Tiernan Meyer '67, Kristin Meyer Reed '74, Margaret Meyer Soule '62

Meaghan Elizabeth Lagore, Colleen Ryan '88, Erin Ryan Savage '93, Jennifer Nagy Ryan '97

Sarah Katherine Ludwig, Elizabeth Ludwig Caffrey '94, Margaret Kelley Lawrence '34*, Margo Lawrence Ludwig '65

Abigail Rose Mabry, Laura T. Sloan-Mabry '81

Anne Carolyn Maguire, *Kathleen A. Schirger Maguire* '86

Alexandra Arlene Majchrowicz, Judith A. Mrvan '79

Anna Stasia Mason, Elizabeth Rose Mason '18

Madeline B. Mauck, Regina Catherine-Anne Mauck '14, Kathleen Welsh Raymond '78

Nicole G. McCaffery, Janice Panting '74

Grace Patricia McCarthy, *Amy Rich McCarthy* '84, Mary Kay Whiting Rich '58*

Colleen Marita Meade, *Mary McInerney Meade* '82, Marita White McInerney '46*, Mary Patricia Wenn-Guizzetti '77, Katherine Adele Perry '57

Megan Jane Mullaney, *Dawn M. Mullaney* '95, Rhonda Kokot '94

Colleen Lauren Murphy, *Laura Lee Halland Murphy* '84, Elizabeth Jean Murphy-Delaney '15, Kristin Grace Murphy '15, Eileen Morrison Santschi '84, Elizabeth Santschi Spear '12

Sarah Elizabeth Nation, Hannah M. Nation '19

Catherine Emilie Niles, *Mary Cooney Niles* '88, Cynthia Daly Cooney '80

Anne Terese Nowalk, Elizabeth Nowalk Schmiedlin '89, Sally Nowalk Helfer '82, Nancy Nowalk McKinnis '80, Mary Nowalk Wood '77

Kendra E. Osinski, Kelsey Noire Osinski '15, Lorette Borda Schmuhl '66

Elyse Marie Paul, *Deanne Isabelle Paul* '90

Mary Kathryn Selvaggi, *Anne Conaty Selvaggi* '82, Mary Kathryn Conaty Selvaggi '82, Mary Wolf Conaty '76, Elizabeth Spraul Rogers '86

Lucille Semler, Margaret Foy Pankhurst '83, Gayle Baumer Foy '56

Christina Elizabeth Serra, Gina Marie Serra '16

Sheridan Anne Sims, Aspen Elizabeth Sims '17, Maureen Butler O'Malley '57

Abigail Frances Smedley, *Kelly F. Giacolo* '92

Anna Kathleen Smierciak, *Lynn Van Wassenhove Smierciak* '82, Teresa Moriarity Kosse '85, Mary E. Smierciak '84, Anne Smierciak Thomsen '91

Jessica M. Snyder, *Anne DiNardo Neary* '90, Katherine DiNardo Schaffler '94

Mary Grace Stechschulte, *Amanda M. Stechschulte* '90

Taylor Shannon Strong, *Kerry O'Hara Shannon* '70

Laura Marie Taylor, Emily Sarah Taylor '14

Rachel Ann Thomas, *Theresa Kloska Thomas* '85, Bonita Marie Murphy '19, Morgan Lea Thomas '15, Kathleen Zimer Kloska '97, Lisa Kloska Marino '91, Karen Kloska Swick '88, Cheryl Kloska Murphy '86

Mary Therese Trainor, *Katherine Mary Trainor* '13, Patricia M. Horwath '67*

Emily Patricia Varanka, Cynthia Varanka Mahony '85

Cameron Noel Verducci, *Noel Morahan Verducci* '82, Patricia Morahan Bufalino '76, Lois Morahan Sheridan '88

Kathryn A. Vicenzi, Rose Marie Vicenzi '18, Mary Clare Vicenzi '18, Ellen Sullivan Vicenzi '85

Lauren Marie Wartner, Mary Van Wolvlear Crell '47

Katherine Lee Weese, *Susanne Scalise Weese* '89, Annette Scalise Cable '87

Lauren Ellen Wood, Lynne Olivieri Barton '91

Erika Ann Wright, Kelly Jean Wright '15

Valerie Renee Zaczyk, *Carole Ross Zaczyk* '85


Anna M. Zappa, *Marguerite Quinn Zappa* '81, Rita Spaulding Quinn '53, Patricia Quinn Murnane '84, Irene Quinn Winston '90

Lucille Jean Zeiger, Gloria Louise Zeiger '16, Nina Marie Zeiger '18



2020

The energy on the Zoom calls was palpable. “There was so much conversation and catching up, even for alumnae who might not

She reflected, "I think attendance will be very good next year for these alumnae. I think people realize that you can't take anything for granted. This unique situation will help them grow tighter as a group. The 2021 event will be all the more special because of what they went through together in 2020." 



View special Reunion content including a message from the Sisters of the Holy Cross and special sessions from the Class of 1970 at saintmarys.edu/Courier

"We received great feedback," McCarty said. "Many classmates told us they were able to reconnect with each other. We now plan on offering Zoom sessions at least bimonthly to keep the momentum going until we can hopefully meet in person in June 2021!"

2020 Reunion Honorees

Each year the Alumnae Association carefully selects from nominated alumnae and recognizes these outstanding women.



Distinguished Alumna Award

Mary L. Burke '85 graduated with a bachelor of arts degree in humanistic studies from Saint Mary's, then later received an MBA in 1995 from the Booth School of Business at the University of Chicago. While Burke is a notable investment banker in Chicago and is partner and owner of Lakeshore Food Advisors, LLC, it is her profound dedication to her alma mater that is being honored. Since graduation, Burke has not only supported Saint Mary's through her involvement in alumnae clubs and on multiple boards, she tirelessly encourages her sister alumnae to do the same. She is an active fundraiser for the College, and the President's Medal recipient in 2016. Most importantly, she is recognized for the service she has given the countless students at Saint Mary's. She is present for multiple student-centered events on campus every year, and gives a great deal of her time counseling, writing letters of recommendation, and listening to students.



Alumna Achievement

Hon. Muriel D. Hughes '80 graduated with a double major in business administration and philosophy; she received her JD from the University of Detroit Mercy Law School in 1983. In 2006, Hughes was appointed to the State of Michigan 3rd Judicial Circuit Court by the governor and has since been re-elected by the people of Wayne County three times. Judge Hughes currently serves in the Civil and Business Divisions of the Court. Previously, Hughes successfully practiced law for 23 years with the firm Hughes & Hughes P.C., specializing in general litigation, business, real estate, and probate law. She also served as a Wayne County Public Administrator. Judge Hughes mentors young attorneys through the Detroit Bar Association and has served on numerous committees to ensure access to justice. Ever vigilant in all pursuits, she is an astute political and philanthropic volunteer. Judge Hughes has been active in her church and community, modeling her Catholic values in everything she does.



Humanitas Award

The Humanitas Award honors an alumna who makes the world a better place and recognizes her role in the welfare of fellow human beings. **Mary Catherine (Cathy) Collet '70**, who graduated from Saint Mary's with a bachelor of science in math, is honored for her tireless advocacy and awareness efforts for ALS (Lou Gehrig's disease). In memory of her mother, who died of the disease, Collet travels the world at her own expense to advance the cause. Her focus is to create changes in public policy and clinical research. She has testified multiple times at the FDA, and took part in a Stanford initiative that focuses on patient-centered innovations. An active blogger and social media influencer, Collet passionately delivers the latest research findings and public policy initiatives. She was a founder of the Patient Fellows Program in 2017 after realizing a great number of scientists who research the disease had never met or worked with the real experts in the disease—actual patients.



Outstanding Young Alumna Award

Nicole O'Toole '15 was chosen for her leadership, devotion to her alma mater, and demonstration of the standards, ideals, and mission of Saint Mary's College. She received her bachelor of arts degree in political science, her law degree from DePaul Law School in 2018, and is currently an associate attorney at Swanson, Martin & Bell, LLP in Chicago. As a law student, O'Toole received the CALI Award for one of her classes, was a Judge Helen C. Kinney 2018 Scholarship recipient, and was selected to be the student commencement speaker for her class' law school graduation. She serves as the vice president of the Saint Mary's Chicago East Alumnae Club, exponentially expanding its social media presence and participation. She actively assists the admission team by participating in Accepted Students Receptions. She volunteers at several charities across Chicago, including Lawyers in the Classroom, which places attorneys in 2nd – 8th grade classrooms to educate students on the constitutions, legal system, and law-related careers.



Thank You for Your Gifts!

Class of 1970

Class Participation Award and the Mother Pauline Society Award

Class of 1985

Highest Class Gift to the College and the Highest Class Gift to the Saint Mary's Fund

Class of 2015

Young Alumnae Participation Award



Join us June 2021!

1's and 6's June 3–6

0's and 5's June 10–13

Registration will open in January 2021.



Saint Mary's Fights Back Against Racism

By Kathe Brunton

In recent decades, the murders of Black people at the hands of law enforcement have created sparks of anger and discontent. But with the murder of George Floyd on May 25, those sparks raged into a fire that was fueled by additional deaths.

Following the incident in Minneapolis, Minnesota with Floyd, Saint Mary's social media accounts were flooded with requests from students and alumnae to "do something!" With planning already in the works, President Conboy and her Cabinet keenly heard the pleas, knowing that the upcoming months would require not only specific and direct action, but a philosophical shift in hearts and minds as well.

continued

Illustration by Andrea Eberbach



The stand against racism

On June 1, the College Cabinet began by drafting a statement to reiterate and strengthen its commitment to stand against racism. President Katie Conboy—on the first day of her new role—directed the statement’s creation, which invites and challenges the entire College community to commit to a number of actions intended to enlighten, engage, inspire, and effect lasting change. This statement charges everyone—faculty, staff, students, and alumnae—to pull together to bring about fundamental shifts. Conboy realizes that this is no small challenge.

Redgina Hill, executive director of inclusion and equity, is helping to lead this charge. She points out that success or failure in this endeavor relies on every person being willing to take a fresh look at themselves, what they observe around them, and the courage to make a stand. Too often, efforts fail in organizations because the onus is put on the shoulders of one person. “Success is much greater when everyone owns the responsibility,” Hill said. “We are striving to weave our efforts in diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice into the fabric of our institution.”

The seven important actions outlined by the commitment statement are both tangible and intangible. They include engaging in continuous learning to understand the challenges of communities impacted by racial injustice. The statement nudges the College community to develop an awareness of their own biases and work toward overcoming them, as well as calling out racism wherever they see it. It is vital, too, to honor the experiences of others by listening to, and validating their narratives, and fostering friendships with people from diverse backgrounds.

The College also has committed to supporting organizations that are addressing issues surrounding racism, like the South Bend-Elkhart Regional Partnership (SBERP). Still in the planning stages, this and other partnerships may involve campus events or the College participating in the organizations’ activities. “We will walk alongside them to raise the banner for diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice,” said Hill.

In the statement’s final directive, the College encourages individuals to support policies and laws at the federal, state, and local levels that address disparities in educational opportunities, health care, housing, and law enforcement.

These seven directives—connected to Saint Mary’s mission and core values of learning, community, faith/spirituality, and justice—form a foundation for shifting hearts and minds as we journey down the path toward a more just campus and world.

Granted, this path will be long and it may not have a true end point, but the College will continually gauge its progress, because it is not enough to just ‘do’; one must also monitor and measure, and adjust as needed. “Accountability is key to the success of our commitment,” Hill said. “We have set measurable goals for the College’s new strategic plan, which includes a significant section on diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice.”

Educating and empowering

The Cabinet’s Stand on Racism was quickly followed by an open letter from the Board of Trustees later that week. In it, they outline additional commitments of the College including open dialogue. Beginning last June, Hill and President Conboy held a series of virtual town halls among faculty and staff, alumnae, students of color, alumnae of color, and faculty and staff of color. The latter were asked to share their experiences at Saint Mary’s. “The shared narrative that has lived on throughout the generations of alumnae and current students is heartbreaking,” said Hill. “It was difficult to hear that someone who just graduated in 2020 had similar experiences as someone who graduated in the 1950s or 1970s. We have to do better at educating our College community, advocating for our students, and implementing structural changes that will enhance the climate for inclusion on our campus.”

Hill also brought to campus (virtually) last summer a five-week anti-racism journey that she co-facilitated with President Conboy. Each week, approximately 140 participants were provided with exposure to pertinent movies, documentaries, podcasts, and articles, then asked to follow a five-step plan: Watch. Read. Listen. Pray. Discern. At the end of each week, Hill and/or President Conboy moderated a discussion among the participants, who reflected on the current reading or viewing. Much of the material provided was uncomfortable at the least and gut-punch visceral at the most.

After watching the documentary called “13th” one participant told Hill, “I had several ‘Aha!’ moments about the ‘war on drugs.’ This has been so eye-opening. Understanding how the 13th amendment has led to another form of slavery breaks my heart.”

By week three, faculty and staff members began commenting that this educational journey was prompting them to question how they talked, what they celebrated, and even how they instructed. Multiple participants began to discuss what they might do differently at work and in the classroom. Many also were sobered to learn that attitudes and actions they thought were acceptable are now being challenged. Professors who attended the five-week

“*Compositional diversity is not enough and can be extremely dangerous if we are not willing to address the issues that cause students to experience racism or feel excluded. We have to be unafraid to change the culture for all to experience belonging.*”

journey also reflected that they now have a more critical take on how to approach their pedagogy in the classroom.

Removing barriers

Some organizations might find it tempting to increase the number of diverse people within their walls and call their diversity effort solved. While it is true that the College welcomes greater diversity among faculty, staff, and the student body, as Hill notes, “Compositional diversity is not enough and can be extremely dangerous if we are not willing to address the issues that cause students to experience racism or feel excluded. We have to be unafraid to change the culture for all to experience belonging.”

During the five-week antiracism journey, some faculty members were inspired to review their curriculum to be more inclusive. “We are looking at the barriers that are in place that are potentially keeping some students from feeling included,” Hill said. “We want to see how we can be more inclusive in our curriculum in bringing in voices and faces, different ethnicities that may not be already represented here. Plus, the learnings that we gained from the five-week anti-racism journey have created traction for more training for faculty, staff, administration, and the board.” Training is currently being planned for the campus.

Hill is also engaging the President’s Council on Inclusivity and Multicultural Diversity (PCIMD) in this commitment. Vital to sustaining Saint Mary’s commitment against racism, the PCIMD is a long-standing advisory and leadership team—comprising Cabinet-level administrative members, faculty, staff, and student leaders—that develops, oversees, and monitors College-wide efforts on inclusivity and multicultural diversity. Hill chairs the council.

Learning from our past

It is difficult to reflect on the nearly 70 years that have passed since the first woman of color, Juanita Boozer Bay, graduated from the College in 1952. Today, in 2020, women of color at the College represent 22 percent of enrollment. But, as Hill said, and as alumnae reminded us, compositional diversity is not enough. Just because more women of color choose Saint Mary’s does not mean they will not experience subtle or not-so-subtle moments of racist attitudes.


For those alumnae who do not believe that racism has existed and still occurs on campus, Hill recommends they pay attention to the narratives of those who have lived it. “Connect to your local alumnae base or your class year, because you likely will find

someone within your class, someone who lived in your dorm or that you had a class with or ate with in the dining hall, who probably had some negative experiences,” she said. “Reach out among your classmates and ask to have a conversation about their time at Saint Mary’s, then listen and don’t invalidate their experience.”

The focus as the College moves forward, however, is not to lay blame, but to chart a course for effecting long-term sustainable and measurable change with the goal of eliminating racist attitudes and misbeliefs, of changing hearts and minds.

Hill said she has been excited at seeing the “many light bulbs that went on for so many people” during the five-week journey and through other activities. To see this enlightenment translated into the new school year, its impact on how faculty approach the classroom, and even how individuals approach conversations, “I feel good that we are moving in the right direction.”

This “right direction” is an ongoing effort for Saint Mary’s—and the rest of the world. There won’t be a finish line to this work, rather a sustained awareness and active education for the current campus community and all the generations to follow. It means the College must always lead the exploration of biases, learned behaviors, and lack of awareness of those who step onto these beloved grounds. But it also means that the College must encourage our larger communities to do that same—including our alumnae who live around the world.

Saint Mary’s invites you to join the College in the fight against racism. Online, you’ll find the five-week antiracism educational journey, Our Stand Against Racism from the Cabinet, and the Trustees’ open letter with the College’s commitments to take sustained action. You’re encouraged to review and adopt these tools into discussions with friends and family, in your workplace, and everywhere you interact with others. It is no small feat to make the world a just and inclusive place but by broadening perspectives, Saint Mary’s hopes to help make an impact on campus and in our communities. 

 Join the anti-racism efforts with resources, dialogue, and tools at saintmarys.edu/Courier



At Home with President Conboy... Our Mom

By Mairéad, Caitríona, and Siobhán O'Grady

In the age of COVID-19, the open door policy that would ordinarily be President Conboy's signature welcome to the Saint Mary's College community may need to be more virtual than literal. But the spirit will prevail: in the Conboy-O'Grady household, an open door has been our way of life—literally—for as long as we can remember.

Have a college friend without a place to go over a long weekend? Bring them to stay with us. A promising new love interest? You'd better invite him to Thanksgiving. Four international students from India who can't get home over winter break? We're picking them up and driving them back to 9 Oak Road for Christmas dinner—and gifts! When one of her previous institutions welcomed a group of 20 young women from across Africa during her first month as provost, she insisted on hosting some of the students under our roof—and on making them the *Panang* curry she mastered during a cooking class in northern Thailand. The more cultures represented and the more paths crossing in our home, the better.

For our well-traveled mother—an Army brat who knows what it's like to want to feel at home—this is simply how a life should be lived. There is no space too small to crowd in another person; no table too fancy for an extra, unmatched chair. She and our dad preside over Thanksgiving dinner at the head of the table, sharing a small piano bench so that everyone else has a seat to lean back in after feasting on her Michelin Star-worthy




smorgasbord. We'll drag that bench back into the living room after dinner for a singalong in which she is equally as likely to solo as to harmonize.

And that seems like a good metaphor for what we've seen of her first few months in the top leadership role at Saint Mary's College. Arriving on campus in the midst of a pandemic ravaging the country and a national reckoning over racism, she stepped up and stepped in for the biggest solo of her life. But she has also sought countless opportunities to harmonize, to learn from her new colleagues and the students and alumnae she serves, and to give other voices the chance to take the lead. She has affirmed wholeheartedly that Black Lives Matter, with the conviction that this is the time for bold, principled leadership, not vacillation among conflicting views of the world.

Our mom has always sought to understand the lived experiences of others. For us, there is no clearer example of this than her decision to visit each of us during the transformative college semesters that we spent abroad. Her first trip brought her to Senegal to visit her eldest daughter. In Dakar, Mairéad's host family referred to our mom as "Mommy Katie," but also lovingly bestowed upon her the same Senegalese name as their matriarch,

Coumba. Two years later, she booked a family trip to Morocco for Thanksgiving during Caitriona's first semester there, where she surprised and delighted her daughter's hosts and classmates with American-style pumpkin pies. (Mairéad couldn't join because she was on a teaching fellowship in Thailand, but our mom took a multi-day flight across the world to see her six months later.) And, of course, she couldn't skip visiting her youngest daughter in Cameroon after seeing the older two in their new contexts. In Yaoundé, she cooked her famous spaghetti and meatballs for a dozen members of Siobhán's host family, with a dash of local hot *pepe* as an extra touch. For each of us, her presence in the moment, learning about a new culture alongside us, felt like a gift we shared. But what we realized soon after returning to the US was that having someone back home who could understand our stories firsthand, who could picture the people and the places we'd come to love, who could listen when we missed our far-off friends the most—that was a gift that kept on giving.

We know that this is precisely the spirit our mom brings to Saint Mary's: she is committed, first and foremost, to learning a place and its people. Most people need to get to know a place before it can feel like home; she makes a place her home as a way to get to know it. We've seen her do this in the cities and the countries that mean so much to us, and in places like Paris and Dublin and our father's native Prince Edward Island, where she is the one who organizes and facilitates large family gatherings on our annual pilgrimages there. She has never met a kitchen, or a community, she couldn't make her own.

Since her South Bend condo wasn't ready by the time her job was starting on June 1, our mom drove 14 hours across the country, alone, and moved directly onto the Saint Mary's campus. In a way, she was coming home: wedding her previous professional stops at a Holy Cross institution and a women's college, Saint Mary's sits just across the road from Notre Dame, where she and our dad earned their PhDs and where they were married in the Basilica 35 years ago. Living on campus allowed her to demonstrate her commitment to the school and to provide stability and trust during one of the most uncertain eras in recent memory. Soon, she and our dad (and their two cats) will be fully settled into their condo, and we look forward to the day when they can host us—and so many of you in the Saint Mary's community—safely. But in the meantime, Riedinger House, where our mom lived during her first couple of months on the job, will be her office this year. How perfectly apt that in her first year as President, her office—doors open wide—will be a home. 

Mairéad O'Grady is Associate Head of School at The School for Ethics and Global Leadership and Director of their Program in Johannesburg, South Africa. Caitriona O'Grady is a Social Worker in Boston, MA. Siobhán O'Grady is a reporter on the Foreign Desk at the *Washington Post*.

Our mom has always sought to understand the lived experiences of others.



Siobhán, Tom, Katie, Caitriona, Mairéad. In Caitriona's arms is Huloo.



a connection that transcends Decades

By Haleigh Ehmsen '16



Women from the 0s and 5s would have celebrated their Reunion this year. 5 years, 10 years, 15 years, even 70 years since they graduated, Saint Mary's women reunite on campus to soak in the nostalgia of their college moments in the place where their friendships began so many years before. For Rebekah and Penny, two women whose Saint Mary's experiences span 55 years, Reunion would have brought them to the place that has a special place in their hearts.

Rebekah Rackar Gaspar '05 met **Rosemary "Penny" Schilling Ferriter '50** at Westminster Village in West Lafayette, Ind. In her work as Assisted Living Life Enrichment Coordinator, Rebekah works closely with seniors to engage them in activities and quality of life programming.

And Penny loved to tell stories. She told stories about her college days. Recalling a 10 p.m. curfew, when the nuns would call the students in for the night. How sometimes after the sisters came around for "lights out," she and her friends would sneak into their closets to stay up later talking. How they used to take the tunnels to class on cold days.


Rebekah recognized the setting of those stories. "You went to Saint Mary's, Penny? I went there!" The two women have been bonded ever since. Although they were not able to attend their Reunion this year, they got to spend plenty of time together during quarantine. With no guests able to visit Westminster Village, Rebekah said Penny feels like family to her.

Penny was an education major at Saint Mary's. Her parents believed in the importance of an education, and she soaked in all the experiences she could. She fondly remembers taking the bus to town with her friends, daily morning Mass, walking down The Avenue, staying warm in the tunnels, and the friendships she made.

Rebekah has different memories of her Saint Mary's experience as a fine arts major, but she appreciates the uniqueness of the Saint Mary's education. Also from a small town in Indiana, going to Saint Mary's challenged her and broadened her perspective. The small class sizes allowed her to express herself and learn in an intimate setting. The individualized approach is something that she uses in her work, tailoring activities and programming to the needs of her assigned cohort.

After graduation, Penny moved back south to West Lafayette and taught in a second grade classroom. She married her Notre Dame boyfriend Maurice Ferriter in 1951, and she made the decision to stay home with their first son who was born shortly after.

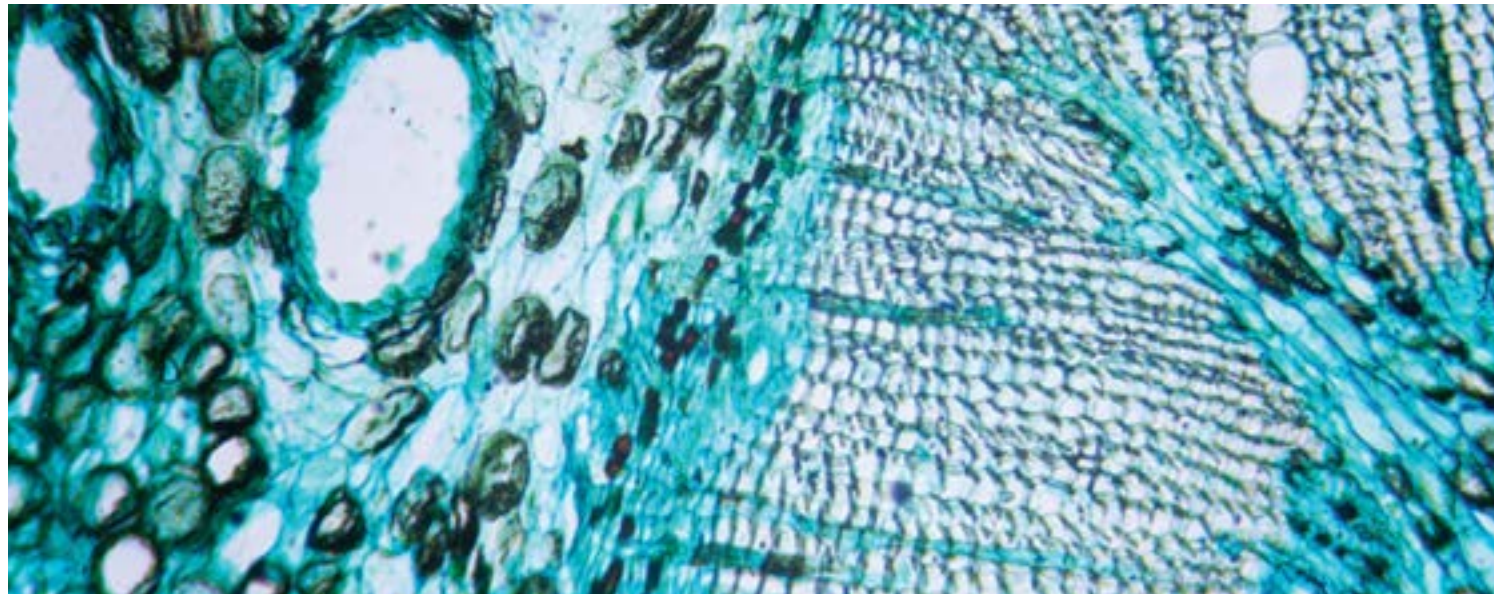
"I see how the whole world—and Saint Mary's—has changed. Everything is so different—Rebekah said even five years made a difference," Penny said. "Generations change, too. We share experiences, but through a different lens or perspective. We can talk about shared stories that we both know and understand... We know what each other means."

Alumnae around the world know what it's like to share the special bond of a Saint Mary's education, to be around driven, passionate women who seek to make the world a better place. That's why so many, in a typical year, come back to campus for Reunion weekend. Even though that wasn't possible this year, being understood in the late stages of her life, means the world to Penny. Their connection is beyond where they went to school, it's a set of shared experiences and values that enriches both of their lives. 



Dr. N, A Woman of Faith

By Haleigh Ehmsen '16



Dr. N engages her granddaughters in new explorations.

In late May, vehicles lined The Avenue and signs hung from car windows with well wishes. “Nancy for Sainthood.” “Thanks for your leadership.” “We love you,” read some of the signs and car paint doodled on windows. During a pandemic, a send off looks different for the Saint Mary’s community, but more than 150 faculty and staff masked up and drove through Le Mans Circle to wish Interim President Nancy Nekvasil well as she departed from her role as interim president.

After 36 years at the College, leaving campus during a pandemic is bittersweet. But Saint Mary’s will never be far from Nancy’s heart. “Blessed,” is how she would describe her time on campus. “The send-off was just right for me. It filled my heart up,” Nekvasil said.

Beginning in 1984, Nekvasil taught physiology at Saint Mary’s. She is remembered by students as an inspiring mentor, a faithful leader who encouraged students to follow their dreams, and someone who reminded them to never give up on themselves.

Amy Renee Lalick-Prinzi '97 was mentored by Nekvasil as her health professions advisor and is thrilled that her daughter will follow in her footsteps attending. “I’m so excited my daughter is at [Saint Mary’s] this fall. I am hoping she has as wonderful

an experience as I did and will become the woman I know she can be.”

She goes on to say, “Dr. N made sure to keep me on the right track and not to get discouraged when things were not always perfect, as I like them to be. She made sure to assure me when I was down about my future.”

Lalick-Prinzi was accepted into three dental programs thanks to guidance of “Dr. N.” After receiving her dental degree, she further pursued public health and received master’s degrees in public health and education as well. Nekvasil’s leadership has inspired Lalick-Prinzi to give back. “I still would love to be a mentor like her and have the degree in education to someday mentor other students. I would love to bring my public health skills to a school and to get more dentists to do what I have done, caring for the least of these as Jesus said in the Bible to do.”

Lynne Stokke '01 worked with Nekvasil when she was a student in Eureka Science Academy, which began in summer 1999 to offer science education to elementary-aged students in a collaboration between the biology and education departments. Offered for a couple of weeks during the summer, Saint Mary’s students led elementary-aged students through hands-on experiments, outdoor exploration, and art projects.

The lessons learned that summer have stayed with Stokke. “Dr. Nekvasil is a great woman of faith and she taught me that one way I can love others is by sharing my faith with them,” Stokke said.

In 2017, Nekvasil was named provost and senior vice president for academic affairs, and then stepped into the role of interim president in October 2018. She reflected recently, “One very important thing that I have learned in my personal faith journey and that has been reinforced by the Sisters of the Holy Cross is that we are to meet people where they are and walk beside them in their life.”

The most meaningful part of her work, Nekvasil says, is the personal relationships that she has formed with students, faculty, and staff from all areas of the College. The opportunity to interact with them from different perspectives was “an incredible experience.”


“I’m a firm believer that everything in which you engage changes you and reshapes your lens and how you view life from there on out,” she noted. “It has been a privilege to take the time to get to know so many people at the College. It has enriched my life to walk through the college journey with my students. My job was just to be open and be willing to listen and be a safe place if they needed that.”

She estimates that she has reviewed hundreds of personal statements for graduate school over the years. “Getting to know the students has broadened my view of God’s love for all of us. And what I appreciated and loved so much in my experience as interim president at Saint Mary’s was getting to know more of the people who make Saint Mary’s what it is. Having the opportunity to work at Saint Mary’s for so many years has changed my life and has taught me much about loving others.”

The impact of Nekvasil on her students is lasting. “Dr. N was always very encouraging,” Stokke said. “Science has not always been my favorite subject, but she taught me I could always appreciate it. The joy she has for life came through in the science lab.”

Known for teaching physiology, Nekvasil’s interest in scientific education discovery is informed by her faith. “I taught physiology (the study of how things work) my entire time in the classroom at Saint Mary’s, and teaching about how the change in one ion can alter the heart beat or how one minor change in the genetic code can cause a fatal condition is mind-blowing to me. I will never tire of learning—or teaching—about such things.”

For Nekvasil, science and faith will always be intricately linked. “My deep interest in science was actually kindled by my belief in a God who created the amazing variety of scientific phenomena we can observe, including all the intricacies of how the body works.”

Nekvasil’s students are a little younger these days. She is now helping her granddaughters in Tennessee in their science discovery—teaching them how to use microscopes and engaging them in kitchen chemistry. The hope, she says, is to inspire in them a love for science. 

ALUMNAE DEATHS

1939		
Mary Cahill Canale	December 27, 2019	
1940		
Sister Mary Saint Brigid Bromeling, CSC	April 22, 2020	
1942		
Gertrude Daley Moran	April 21, 2020	
1944		
Jeanne Sohm Thyberg	May 30, 2020	
1945		
Irene Motta Stofan	June 2, 2020	
1946		
Jane Daley Clark Elizabeth Stang Drinkworth	April 12, 2020 June 12, 2018	
1947		
Barbara Garner Babcock Sister M. Marilla Dyer, CSC	March 2, 2020 May 9, 2020	
1950		
Shirley Krause Brennan Mary Cucchi Depman Suzanne Hemp Millon	April 8, 2020 May 2, 2020 December 11, 2019	
1951		
Antoinette Rinella Gedon Jeanne Proksch	March 9, 2020 April 30, 2020	
1952		
Gloria Gazzara Eppler	January 20, 2020	
1953		
Florence Buckley Duff Betty Kosman Sofranko Mary Margaret Grignon Tormey	February 15, 2020 December 10, 2019 January 25, 2020	
1954		
Joan Sharpe Burke Betty Stark Kelsch Elizabeth Gowan Mester Gerdamarie Hofmokel Settle	February 16, 2020 May 5, 2020 September 2, 2018 January 17, 2020	
1955		
Jean Kershaw Boehm Rita M. Gould	October 24, 2019 April 15, 2020	
1956		
Jaqueline Coady Carskadon	March 6, 2020	
1957		
Mary K. Sheehan Chandler Margaret McCarthy Rice	May 3, 2020 May 5, 2020	
1958		
Joan Drymalski Heuel	February 18, 2020	
1959		
Frances Rufe Gorman Mary Jo McNamara Montgomery	February 15, 2020 April 8, 2020	
1960		
Andree Jeney Hodson Ruth Gropelli Kribel Susan Scott Trumpore	January 15, 2020 April 16, 2020 June 5, 2020	

1962		
Sara Camblin Breault Maura T. Kiley Joan Brickman Palazzolo	March 14, 2020 May 23, 2020 May 1, 2020	
1964		
Elizabeth Keegan Mary Ann MacDonell Burke	January 19, 2020 May 30, 2020	
1965		
Sister Marie Dugas, SSA	June 11, 2020	
1967		
Patricia M. Horwath	June 15, 2018	
1969		
Mary Noelke Nesius Barbara D. Sylvester	February 23, 2020 March 20, 2020	
1970		
Sue Ann Wilkinson Gruver	April 28, 2020	
1973		
Constance Maria Sanders	May 20, 2020	
1976		
Kathryn Crumley Horning	January 18, 2019	
1981		
Frances Reidy Kowal	February 4, 2020	
1988		
Catherine Bove Steenland	September 12, 2019	
1990		
Patricia Knoebel Philipp	January 12, 2019	

FAMILY DEATHS

Rosemary Ames, mother of Sharon Ames Nelson '73, grandmother of Molly Kathryn Rose Nelson '11, March 10, 2020.	
Lucille Armstead, mother of Michelle Armstead Pacynski '82, July 24, 2019.	
Barbara Berg and Norman Berg, parents of Kathryn M. Berg Liesveld '84 and Julie Berg Pulte '85, March 23, 2020 and March 24, 2020, respectively.	
Jose Bicalho, grandfather of Laura Teresa Vives '13, September 16, 2019.	
Sharon Borkovec, mother-in-law of Moira Sullivan Borkovec '92, March 31, 2020.	
Brian Boulac, husband of Mary Binkle Boulac '65, June 3, 2020.	
Timothy Branigan, husband of Catherine Mdsaac Branigan '85, father of Caleigh Lydon Branigan '18, October 10, 2019.	
Comelia Brooks, mother of Brigid Brooks Zvirbulis '92 and Nora Brooks Hard '93, March 11, 2020.	
Charles Burleigh, husband of Margaret Stratton Burleigh '59, February 13, 2020.	
Thomas Campbell, husband of Mary Ann Kramer Campbell '54, father of Kathleen Campbell Lorenz '80 and Maureen Campbell Lopina '81, April 10, 2020.	
Ralph Casteel, father of Debra Casteel Flahaven '82, February 23, 2020.	
Madeline Cavenagh, mother of Anne Cavenagh Cahill '75, Catherine Cavenagh Fitzpatrick '78, and Elizabeth Cavenagh McCarthy '82, grandmother of Brigid Cavenagh Fitzpatrick '08, October 16, 2019.	

Charles Coe, husband of Martha Thompson Coe '64, February 5, 2020.	
Colonel Richard Craig, husband of Linda Kolp Craig '57, November 8, 2019.	
Virgil Dechant, father of Karen Dechant Thompson '81, February 16, 2020.	
Lorraine Dobrzykowski, mother of Elizabeth Sara Grainger '92, February 24, 2020.	
Daniel Dondanville, husband of Anne Hesslau Dondanville '82, April 29, 2020.	
Walter Donnelly, husband of Rosemary Corcoran Donnelly '58, March 9, 2020.	
John Michael Duffy, husband of Julie A. Webb '73, April 5, 2020.	
Marilyn Failor, mother of Mary Elizabeth Failor Kennard '92, February 5, 2020.	
David Farr, husband of Joan Falvey Farr '66, father of Laura Farr Ping '85, June 3, 2020.	
Kathleen Feeley, mother of Sheila Feeley Dodds '89, Anne Feeley Dooley '91, and Colleen Feeley Paholak '93, December 27, 2019.	
Marlene Finn, mother of Kelli C. Finn '89, May 2, 2019.	
Vivienne Cecilia Finn, granddaughter of Phyllis Redgate Finn '69, March 10, 2020.	
Kevin Flemming, father of Julie Anne Flemming '90, June 29, 2019.	
William Geary, husband of Nancy Grummell Geary '59, father of Kathleen Geary Vitanovec '87, October 2, 2019.	
Kathi Gill, mother of Autumn Norris Gill '96, May 13, 2020.	
Therese Grojean, mother-in-law of Maureen O'Sullivan Grojean '86, March 27, 2020.	
Timothy Hanrahan, father of M. Shannon Hanrahan Garcia '77 and Maureen Hanrahan Fink '81, April 18, 2020.	
Joan Henning, mother of Lucia Henning Erskine '75, April 26, 2020.	
Ronald Holthouse, father of Rebecca Holthouse Hamlin '82 and Rene Holthouse Chronert '83, April 21, 2020.	
Alfreda Jablonski, mother of Jacqueline F. Jablonski '83, March 5, 2020.	
Paul Kearney, husband of Mary Dahm Kearney '56, grandfather of Kaitlin Elizabeth Woods '16 and Megan Margaret Woods '16, April 7, 2020.	
Robert Kirke, husband of Loral Baker Kirke '57, January 12, 2020.	
Donna Kokot, mother of Rhonda Kokot '94 and Dawn M. Mullaney '95, March 26, 2020.	
Innocenza Lanzollitta, mother of Diana Lanzollitta Bobis '95, May 8, 2019.	
Annabelle M. Logue, mother of Annabelle Logue Curran '74, January 31, 2020.	
John Lovoi, father of Elizabeth Lynn Lovoi '01, February 2, 2020.	
Lucy Martinov, mother of Terese Marie Martinov '92, March 7, 2020.	
Catherine Mazanec, mother of Barbara Mazanec Lewis '76 and Susan R. Mazanec '79, February 23, 2020.	
John McDavitt, father of Kelly McDavitt Ford '07, May 29, 2020.	
Mary Jane McDonald, sister-in-law of Nancy L. Samberg '83, April 3, 2020.	
John Moynahan Jr., husband of Virginia Thomas Moynahan '58, father of Laura K. Moynahan '82, February 14, 2020.	

FAMILY DEATHS

Edward Mraz, husband of Lora Pagliari Mraz '55, father of Melissa Mraz Zeck '93, March 28, 2020.	
James Murphy, brother of Josephine Murphy Vorda '57, December 3, 2019.	
Doris Murray, mother of Anne Murray McDermott '85, June 7, 2020.	
Robert O'Connor, husband of Margaret Liebrich O'Connor '59, brother-in-law of Kathryn Liebrich Kenniff '63, December 5, 2019.	
Raquel Paez, mother of Raquel Paez Flood '76 and Jacqueline Margaret Paez-Goldman '88, September 29, 2019.	
Dolores May Pajakowski, sister-in-law of Sister Mary Ann Pajakowski, CSC '69, March 30, 2020.	
William Reynolds, father of Eileen Reynolds Lindburg '72, April 10, 2020.	
Peter Riehm, husband of Margaret A. Fryling Riehm '66, father of Erica Riehm Howley '92, April 1, 2020.	
Walter Rudge, husband of Nancy Grimes Rudge '61, February 7, 2020.	

David Sanders, father of Suzanne Sanders Burzynski '93 and Ellen Sanders Reed '96, January 27, 2020.	
James Schiltz, father of Jane Ann Schiltz '77, May 29, 2020.	
Daniel Schneeman, father of Julia Schneeman Gough '79, Margaret Schneeman Reagan '82, Mary Schneeman Waldvogel '84, and Anne Schneeman Dougherty '98, father-in-law of Catherine Hedges Schneeman '79, cousin of Melissa Bailey Cullen '89, March 26, 2020.	
Kenneth Schuster, father-in-law of Mary Anne Brown Schuster '77, grandfather of McKenna Leigh Schuster '15, February 29, 2020.	
James Sheehan, father of Maureen Sheehan Massaro '82 and Lorraine E. Sheehan Wilson '85, January 4, 2020.	
Mary Catherine Steen, mother of Catherine Steen Huska '82, February 18, 2020.	
Paul Stephens, husband of Ann Andre Stephens '79, May 8, 2020.	
Thomas Sullivan, father of Mary Margaret Sullivan Moore '88, grandfather of Kaileigh Ann Moore '17, father-in-law of Margaret Gazzolo Sullivan '92, February 11, 2020.	

Janet Szabo, mother of Lisa Marie Boyd-Devers '89, March 10, 2020.	
Rev. Simon Samuel Tabb, father of Janice Tabb '76, June 5, 2020.	
Burton Toepp, husband of Barbara Kelley Toepp '59, cousin of Beth Kamm Reising '57, Maureen Toepp Damer '83, and Clare Reising Sobiersalski '86, March 15, 2020.	
Kathryn Trethewey, grandmother of Penelope Trethewey Clayton '10, January 16, 2020.	
John Van Gilder, father of Sandra A. Van Gilder '76 and Jane Van Gilder Vosters '83, grandfather of Jennifer Anne Vosters '16, December 2, 2019.	
Neil Werthmann, father of Betsy Werthmann '82, September 9, 2019.	
Herbert Zureich, father of Abigail Sullivan Zureich '02, April 24, 2020.	

For births and weddings, please visit
Baby Belles and Wedding Belles
at alumnae.saintmarys.edu



IN MEMORIAM

William W. (Bill) Cushwa passed away on September 8, 2020, in Mishawaka, Ind. with his family by his side. He was 83.

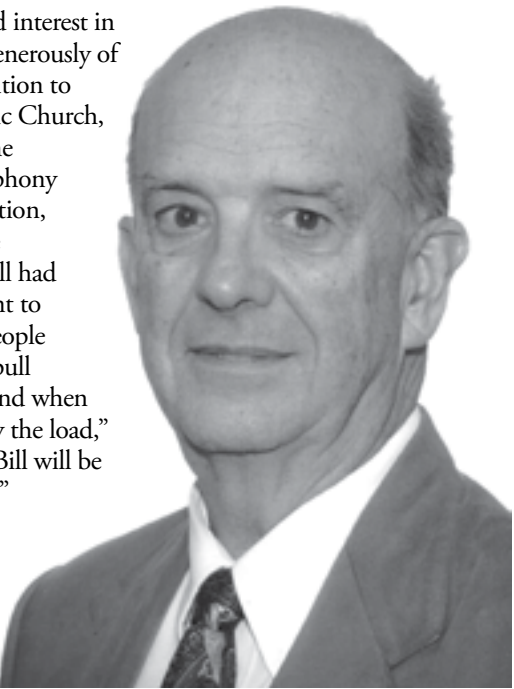
Bill served as a member of the Board of Trustees from 2012–2020 as well as the *Faith Always, Action Now* Campaign Steering Committee from 2009–2015. He was active on several committees including the Audit Committee, the College Relations Committee, Finance and Budget, Facilities and Grounds, Academic Affairs, as well as the Capital Campaign Steering Committee.

Surrounded by Saint Mary’s women his entire life, Bill carried on his family’s commitment to the College and was audibly proud to be a son, brother, father, and grandfather of Saint Mary’s alumnae. His mother was **Margaret Hall Cushwa ’30**, for whom the Cushwa-Leighton Library is named after. His daughter **Margaret Cushwa Haller ’90**, and granddaughter **Kathleen Hall Dunn ’17** are Saint Mary’s alumnae, as was his sister **Mary Ellen Cushwa Wolsonovich ’71** and his six cousins. Bill and his wife Anna Jean established the William and Anna Jean Endowed Moreau Scholarship. Together with family members, Bill and Anna Jean helped to endow the Margaret Hall Cushwa 1930 Memorial Scholarship, the Mary Ellen Cushwa Wolsonovich Memorial Scholarship, and the Sister Rita Claire Lyons, CSC Library Fund.

Bill always believed in the College and what Saint Mary’s stands for. He fostered his deep connection to the College by attending nearly every lecture, multiple art events, and by whole-heartedly serving on the Board of Trustees. “He was always there to lend a helping hand or thoughtful ear when we needed him,” shared

Shari Rodriguez, vice president of college relations. “Bill had a special gift of encouraging others to recognize and consider opportunities rather than focus on difficulties. He was always working to connect people and always had what is best for others in mind.”

Those that knew or worked with Bill will likely miss his presence, kindness, and genuine conversations. He was known for having a profound interest in others and gave generously of his time and attention to St. Joseph Catholic Church, REAL Services, the South Bend Symphony Orchestra Association, and a dozen more organizations. “Bill had an incredible talent to somehow push people to achieve more, pull people together, and when needed, help carry the load,” said Rodriguez. “Bill will be incredibly missed.”



Chicago East

The Chicago East Club has gotten together for a few activities in 2020, and we look forward to seeing each other in person soon. We held our Q1 board meeting and happy hour at City Winery, volunteered to help pack food boxes with Catholic Charities, met for virtual book club each month, and held our Q2 board meeting via Zoom. While we're separated we've begun hosting weekly live yoga and fitness classes and cooking demonstrations on Instagram. This summer we're also preparing for our board members to change hands, and we're in need of a treasurer. Check out our social media for details!

Facebook & Instagram: @SMCChicagoeast



Cincinnati

The Cincinnati Club kicked off 2020 with a wonderful Epiphany party hosted by **Erin Heck Shambaugh '08**, welcoming alumnae from all over the Tri-State area. Though scheduled spring events are currently on pause, the club leadership hopes to find ways to connect Cincy Belles and the community virtually until it is safe to resume our normal club events. We would like to express our gratitude to all the alumnae members whose careers have them on the front lines of this pandemic! The Cincinnati Club is praying for all of you!

Please use our website as we update changes to the calendar in the coming months: <https://smccincinnatialumnae.weebly.com/>



Colorado

In early March, the Colorado Club hosted an evening with Interim President Nekvasil. Eighteen alumnae attended a dinner event, shared stories and laughs, and heard updates on the College. We had a wonderful time! If you are interested in hosting or planning an event this year, please contact **Bridget Edmonds '12** or **Samantha Lee '12** at bridget.m.edmonds@gmail.com and samantha.tulisiak@gmail.com.

Dayton

Over the past several years, it has been a pleasure to see so many Dayton alumnae participate in activities. We have seen almost half of our roughly 90 alumnae at at least one of our recent events. Our plan is to have three events a year. If anyone is interested to help with the club each year, please contact **Mary Ann Potter Ruthmeyer '85**.

Georgia

The Georgia Club, undeterred by a snowstorm, met to fill goodie bags for the current Georgia students for Valentine's Day. We thank everyone who supported the project! Spring events have been cancelled or postponed, but we hope to see everyone in August for the student send-off.



Los Angeles

In response to the pandemic and people sheltering in place at home, the Los Angeles Alumnae Club decided to host a "service opportunity" in a different way to support SMC students, Sisters of the Holy Cross, and others in need. We provided a structure to respond from your home. Cards for current students, CSCs at Saint Mary's, as well as support for the Brother Andre Center at St. Agnes and the Little Sisters of the Poor were options or you could choose your own project. The club has a long-standing relationship with the Brother Andre Center in Los Angeles that serves the poor and homeless with food and other necessities; their tag line could be "where no one is turned away with nothing."



The Little Sisters of the Poor in San Pedro provide meals for 120 and found their donated food sources dried up with the pandemic and groceries all sold in the store.

The "event" was held on Saturday, April 25, 2020; participants wrote cards during the week. We publicized the event through the newsletter and several emails. A Zoom gathering will be held for all participants to affirm our impact during the pandemic and meet each other.

The results are as follows:

- **54 cards sent to all students by 12 members of the club**
- **20 gift packets of SMC notes and good wishes during the pandemic**
- **7 gift packets of cards, plus Starbucks cards to seniors and an invitation to join the club gratis this year**
- **20+ cards sent to Sisters of the Holy Cross by 8 members of the club**
- **\$370 – Ralph's gift cards for Brother Andre Center**
- **\$150 – food delivered plus cash donations to Little Sisters of the Poor**
- **reversible face masks made and donated**

During the pandemic we seized the opportunity to engage members of the club while they were home and sheltering in place. The LA Club is spread out geographically and this was an effective way to involve members. We will make this an annual service project in April as a result of good response. We are also considering additional ways to gather members of the club virtually.



Nashville

The Saint Mary's Club of Nashville enjoyed a very social year in 2019. We hope to resume our annual student send-off and a group outing when it is safe to do so. With the current COVID-19 crisis in mind, it's important to update your contact information with the Alumnae Office so that we can stay informed and in contact for last-minute changes. As of now we do not have anything planned for 2020. We will email all alumnae and students regarding a student send-off for the fall or winter—whenever our public health officials feel it is safe. Keep an eye out for our first Virtual Book Club Zoom invitation. We hope everyone is staying healthy, safe and SANE :). Wishing everyone lots of love and luck. We look forward to seeing everyone really soon!

NYC

The NYC co-presidents got together for a virtual cooking class. Fun times had by all; fried rice had by one!



Richmond/Central Virginia

We welcome contact from any new alums to the area—residents, graduate students, or others! Make sure your addresses, emails, and phones are updated at the College to keep our local roster updated.

We look forward to life beyond COVID-19.

Mary Ellen Stumpf '70

Contact: stumpfandassoc@gmail.com, 804/402-2511

San Francisco Bay Area

The San Francisco Bay Area Alumnae Club was honored to host Interim President Nancy Nekvasil and VP of College Relations Shari Rodriguez at the home of club VP **Colleen Foraker '82** for wonderful evening of conversation and refreshments.



Thank you for sharing your news with us and for participating in our dynamic alumnae community. As a rule we do not censor Class News. This section is intended to be an avenue for self-reporting of life occurrences. The content or positions of these submissions do not necessarily reflect the views of the College, the Office of Alumnae Relations, or the *Courier* staff.

1952

Marilyn Dargis Ambrose
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It's that time of year again to send in news of our Class of '52. I hope to hear from more of my classmates. This time, however, our world is in a pandemic of coronavirus flu — a time that none of us have ever experienced before. Each state is following national guidelines so it will be quite interesting to read the *Courier* class news about how alumnae living in our own country as well as countries worldwide are coping.

Nancy Ahlforth Steele wrote that she's trying to follow the "stay-at-home" mandate in California. "The 'elders' in our society are doing their best to help contain the spread of this virus — especially since our age is more susceptible to serious illnesses like pneumonia. Many in our class are (or already have) turned 90 years of age. Our children are also getting older — pretty soon they'll pass me up. Debbie, my second daughter after our five sons, just celebrated her 60th. It's a good thing we originally planned on keeping her birthday celebration simple, since her own daughter had a wedding in the works for April 2020. With many guests needing to fly from overseas, it was necessary to postpone the event. We're just going one day at a time and pray the overall pandemic ends soon without too many casualties."

Mary Dvilaitis Blanford moved back to Illinois after her husband Marty died since her two daughters still live there and would be better able to care for her if needed. She flew back to California to visit friends she and Marty made while living on the West Coast for many years. We enjoyed a long lunch with another alum, who was only at Saint Mary's her freshman year — Mary Musante Kraemer. It's a good thing our waitress didn't rush us — the lunch crowd was gone and we were the only ones left on the patio. Both Marys spent just their freshman year at SMC yet both lived close by me in the San Diego area when I moved west after nearly 30 years on the shores of Lake Michigan in Indiana. Interestingly, **Mary Musante Kraemer** married Dan, who was a cousin in the late **Jan Kraemer DeCoursey**'s family. Jan was my roommate in Le Mans Hall for three years and also a dietetics major. Jan was a native Californian as was Mary and sadly was one of the first in our class to die quite young.

After sending an email reminder to respond with news, **Kay Healey** did so. Let's hope more of you do likewise.

"Life is almost the same for me," writes **Dorothy Murnane McMahon**. "I'm alone in my upstairs apartment and friends and family bring me food and other necessities. I only go out for my eye shot

due to macular degeneration. I've been watching several TV series like *For Life* and *The Resident*."

Mary Dvilaitis Blanford writes — "Don't know if this is considered news, but I turned 90 on Sunday, April 22, 2020 while we were all in lockdown. In the midst of this pandemic, I was blessed with phone calls, texts and cards. Stay in place and God's goodness will come to you."

Joanne Bryan Macdonald writes — "Like most people, the coronavirus has affected my life. In January, my daughter and her husband took their dream cruise along the coast of Asia. They were on Holland/America. Their ship sailed to five ports and was not allowed to dock. They finally spent four days in Cambodia and were sent to Istanbul, where they were denied landing, so flew to Amsterdam and the US. After that, I heard reports of a serious outbreak in the state of Washington and hoped it wasn't happening in Kirkland, where my son and his wife live. I soon knew that the virus was again in my concerns. It is now a part of my daily routine. The staff of my retirement community has done everything right to protect us older and vulnerable people and fellow residents. I do believe that there's good in every situation if we look for it. Most of us have been abundantly blessed. We are all connected, and caring for one another is paramount. I often reminisce about my years at Saint Mary's and those years were the best of times. We had many rules and restrictions, which I now see as a caring protection. We had the privilege of hearing Mortimer Adler, Helen Hayes, Eric Waugh, and other notables. Learning was seen as a serious endeavor and teachers were excellent. How fortunate we are to have been Saint Mary's women."

I, Lynn, will share some recent help I've received from a couple neighbor angels. Claire, a youngish retired nurse, lost her dog a year ago and got another golden retriever one-year-old puppy. Heidi, another just retired nurse, lost her 14-year-old dog a few weeks ago. Both were walking by my home as I was about to take a short walk with Caleb, my 13-year-old therapy dog, and Grace, my 2-year-old newly registered therapy dog. Caleb is slowing down a lot due to hip and joint issues so we only go a little distance and slowly. Claire and Heidi asked if maybe they could take Grace on a long walk with them and Finnegan — what a combo of energy! Heidi commented it was good to have an exuberant puppy on the end of her leash, and Claire said it was a joy to have a playful puppy keeping Finn company. A win-win situation. Each morning now, Grace joins them, coming back VERY tired and I didn't even know these neighbors' last names till now. God is good. What are the rest of us watching/doing? For me, Jeopardy is my prime TV brain teaser.

Our small church group will be doing our very first "virtual" gathering this week. We've been meeting monthly at our homes, which now are "off limits." One of us is Dirk, a tech-savvy man working now at home rather than at UCSD. So he is connecting us on Zoom this week as we read and discuss the Sunday liturgies. One of our members is also our parish deacon, so we get the benefit of previews of his homilies — he's well known in our diocese as one of the best homilists. As many of us know, the good Lord is watching over all the world though perhaps we're being forced now to change some things for ourselves and others. Blessings to all of you!

A meditation for our world today from Pope Francis.

*"Rivers do not drink their own water;
trees do not eat their own fruit;
the sun does not shine on itself
and flowers do not spread their fragrance for themselves.
Living for others is a rule of nature.
We are all born to help each other.
No matter how difficult it is...
Life is good when you are happy;
but much better when others are happy because of you."*

1955

Maureen A. Sullivan
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Greetings to all members of the Class of 1955 during this very unusual year of the coronavirus pandemic. I hope you have all remained healthy throughout this challenging time.

I had a delightful chat with **Suzanne Morrissey Gaumond**, who still lives in Illinois. Due to the stress of her father's death during her freshman year at Saint Mary's, she decided to transfer to Rosary College (now Dominican University) and be close to family at home. She was in touch with the late **Alana Moynahan Rosshirt** from our class for several years and also had a sister who became a nun, so she did retain ties to SMC. Suzanne has five children (three sons and two daughters) yet none live in the Chicago area. She had been spending the winter in Arizona prior to the onset of COVID-19. She is currently doing a needlepoint of the skyline of Chicago for one of her sons. I sure wish I could see the finished product.

Jeanne Jenk Goen has eight children and several grands and great-grands. One of her children lives with her. She worked as a dietitian at the University of Iowa in her early married life and now has a daughter who lives in the South Bend area, with whom she visits now and again.

Shirley Dyckes Kelley enjoys her busy life in Florida. She is planning to move in the near future to a 55 and up retirement community nearby that has the facilities where she can spend her remaining years. She hopes her sister will join her there. Currently she and **Carol Graham Moran** play golf and lunch together during the winter months when Carol winters in Florida. Carol is also looking forward to moving into a retirement community during the summer of 2020 when she returns to Michigan from Florida.

Juliette Noone Lester was happy to report she is still playing her beautiful baby grand piano and was so pleased to learn that through her encouragement two of her great-nieces are now taking piano lessons. One of her nephews, Drew, is the principal of a high school in Dayton, OH. She still is in contact with **Sue Mitchell Crowley**.

Barbara Bridgman O'Connor is still looking forward to leading tours in downtown Chicago when the pandemic curfew is lifted. She said it is a



sad sight to see so many places closed down. There are some people still outside doing their exercise walking. She had lunch with **Lora Pagliari Mraz** and her husband Ed during the Christmas season. They reminisced about college and high school.

Jane McCormick Nilles lives in Lake Forest Place near her five children and has recovered from her stroke quite well. She is happy there, where several long-time friends also reside and during normal times share meals and recreational activities together. She also reported that she just received word that Ed Mraz, Lora's husband, died on March 28, 2020. Happy that Barbara was able to spend time with them during the holidays.

Carolyn Linnig O'Rourke is very involved in the Right to Life programs and encourages us all to think seriously about doing the same.

Mary Beth Croxall Wahl called to say she is "living life as it presents itself." Great motto, Mary Beth. She moved to the Gainesville, GA area about five years ago when she designed and built a new home in a 55 and over community. She has great neighbors and has one of her four sons living near her. She didn't get to play golf this year; however, she still likes to kayak and take walks.

Jeanne Foley Stokes '56 called and left me a message that she and **Elise Torczynski** had been in nursing school together and she was sad to read in *Courier* that Elyse had died. Jean Stokes also mentioned that she had roomed with **Jean Loneragan Celeste** during freshman year and that Jean Celeste and her husband would be celebrating a wedding anniversary milestone this year. Congrats, Jean!

Sadly, we report that **Jean Kershaw Boehm** died on October 24, 2019.

I left messages for the following and hope to hear from them or someone who might be in contact with them: **Joan Lynch Arthurs-Chadima, Dolores Dietsch Berry, Joan Birchenall, Jean Loneragan Celeste, Mary Powers Fitz, Gerry Krysko Fritz, Carole Wilber Giroux, Rita M. Gould, Elaine Mauch Grove, Pat Qualia Hanna, Jeanne Benish Hasbrook, Kathleen Giller Marke, Barbara Orr Matovina.**

1957

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This is my favorite column of the year, which must be true for any class reporter. Your wonderful Christmas cards, emails, and calls gave me a good head start. **Pat Bauervic Leonard** included a nice note summarizing her "Old Fashioned Christmas" celebration with her Michigan families at her farm. This included the first birthday of her grandson. Due to the extremely high water level, the family spent much of the summer "shoring up" what used to be a shore at their summer beach house on the East Bay of Lake Michigan.

Margi McCarthy Rice's card again featured her own artwork, and the drawing on **Mary Comisky** Riley's greetings from Arizona was done by her daughter Betsy. More talent was displayed on **Anne White Maysak's** card, with the painting by her daughter Susan. When Anne wrote, her Christmas plans were up in the air because her daughter Mary, who usually hosts Christmas, was going to Yankee Stadium in NYC to watch her son play football for Wake Forest in a bowl game. What a good excuse!

When Anne wrote, she had just returned from the memorial service for Colonel Richard Craig, husband of **Linda Kolp Craig**. Colonel Craig, a West Point graduate, had a distinguished career in the Army and enjoyed teaching science and math after retiring from the service. Our sympathy to Linda and their family.

Family photos are always a treasure. Dan and **Pat Peterson Huber's** was a wonderful family picture. I didn't count but it looks as if they were all there, which is amazing considering the multitude of work and college sites the grandchildren represent. Dan and Pat's decision to move from Hilton Head, SC to Lake Forest, IL, where all three of their children live within 20 minutes, was a good one.

John and **Peggy Maher Engler's** card was a collage of handsome children and grandchildren. Peggy followed up with a wonderful mid-March phone call. She was excited that her granddaughter Emily Malone, an attorney, was moving back from DC to work in Charlotte. Emily is the daughter of **Kathleen Engler Malone '82**. Music is still an important part of Peggy's life, which she loves sharing with her family and delights in their musical careers. Her son, Father Chapin, is recovering from a car accident (as a pedestrian) but is back at his weekly TV and radio show and serving his parish in West Virginia.

Josie Murphy Vorda's card included a picture of Josie with her four cute grandchildren. Josie's older brother James D. Murphy died early in December. Jim, a lawyer, was the father of four and a Chicago area resident.

Jody Donohoe McGoldrick's card featured Jody and four traveling companions in Paris last fall. I mentioned the trip in the previous *Courier*, but you'd be impressed if you could see the group wearing matching red berets and on their bicycles! *Tres chic!*

I wish you all could see the photo gracing the New Year's card of **Mary Kathryn Carroll Hartigan**. It is a truly stunning picture of Mary Kathryn and her granddaughter Kathryn Madigan at Kathryn's December debutante ball. Kathryn is a senior at New Trier High School, lives near Mary Kathryn, and is interested in pursuing musical theatre in college.

Careful perusal of the Commemorative 2019 *Courier* brought me to the Class of 1984. Lo and behold, there was our **Rosemary Knope Trippe** at the Legacy reception of graduation 2019. The graduate **Samantha Rose Geaslen '19** was also pictured with her mother **Judy Trippe Geaslen '84** and aunt **Patty Trippe Brand '80**.

The same *Courier* carried sad news in the For the Record section. **Shirley Chiavetta** died in February 2019. Shirley, a math major, came to Saint

Mary's from Angola, NY but had lived for years in Pennsylvania, most recently in North Wales.

Also listed was **Viola Kovacs Fischer**, who lived in South Bend as a student but had been born in Hungary, fleeing with her parents in 1950. She was a sociology major who worked as a social worker before marriage and was the much loved mother of two sons and grandmother of six.

In the Family Deaths section, I was distressed to see **Mary Katherine (M.K.) Sheehan Chandler** mentioned twice. Her husband Robert Chandler died in March 2019 and then she lost her brother Patrick Sheehan in July. M.K. and Bob have lived for years in Massachusetts, close to all seven children, and have 20 grandchildren, who are more scattered.

I also noted the death of William O'Loughlin, brother of Mary Ann O'Loughlin Szydlowski. Mary Ann sadly shared that with Bill's death she has now lost four brothers and a sister, all younger. Larry and Mary Ann headed to Florida this March and are doubly grateful for the opportunity to appreciate each day. Mary Ann contacted **Irene O'Leary Van Beckum** and they got together several times on Marco Island.

I was thrilled to get a newsy email in February from **Nancy Mack Gullivan**, our freshman class president. A California girl, she left us after that year and happily thinks of us as we were at 18 or 19! Ah, youth! Nancy finished college at Mount St. Mary's in LA and worked briefly as a medical technologist before marrying her doctor husband Bill (retired) and having seven children in 8.5 years. They now have 26 grandchildren and four greats. I was impressed to hear that Nancy has made a needlepoint stocking for EACH of them (and has one in reserve). Even more impressive is that Bill and Nancy and five of their children are planning their 12th bike trip in Europe. This will be in France next September. Way to go!

Carole Nordengren Suttner checked in from Chilton, WI, where she and John are surrounded by many of their eight children, 19 grandchildren, and seven greats. Currently granddaughters are studying at four different Wisconsin schools and the Parsons School of Design in New York, and the youngest grandsons are still in high school. Carole says she sometimes has trouble keeping up with everyone, but I doubt that.

Sadly I heard from **Loral Baker Kirke** that her dear husband Bob had passed away in January in Des Moines, where they lived and raised their two children. Loral reminded me of the story of their meeting when she, **Mary Comisky Riley, Patsy Moore Payne**, the late **Joanne Francel Lavender**, and the late **Jean Giddens Cass** shared a Chicago apartment while working after graduation. Bob Kirke and his friends from Iowa State were working in Chicago and had an apartment in the same building. Bob was to look up his sister-in-law's cousin **Mary Comisky Riley** and, as they say, the rest is history. Hearing of Bob's death prompted a call from Patsy. She and Bill are still in Columbia, SC and I can't tell you the memories hearing her wonderful accent brought back.

Late February brought the annual 24-hour donor challenge at Saint Mary's and you won't be surprised to hear that the Class of '57 again showed our well known spirit. Our Class ranked #13 in the

percentage of participation. Of the classes ahead of us, all graduated since 2000 or were significant Reunion years. **Ann Schultheis Massey** and **Maureen Butler O'Malley** helped greatly by their group emails, cheering us on. Congratulations to us!

Since 2016, thanks to **Julie Bohan Allen's** great idea, a Mass has been offered for the intention of our deceased classmates in the Holy Spirit Chapel of Le Mans on the last Wednesday of March. Obviously this year around that time, life everywhere was changed by the coronavirus and there was no Mass. An email suggesting we join in prayer on that day was welcomed. Many responded with positive words of mutual support, including **Mary Hertel Hartman, Ellen Boyle Benish, Nancy McNamara Score, Irene O'Leary Van Beckum, Eva Haas Dolan, Julie Bohan Allen, Patsy Dawson Tierney, Sara Trippel Funck, Jeannine Timko Lechner, and Ann Schultheis Massey.** It is comforting to know that our ties remain strong. My hope is that by the time you read this, these challenging days will be a memory and we will have all turned a new page.

1958

Barbara Hilger Hanahan
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Hello to Class of 1958,

I am writing during the coronavirus crisis. Sheltered here at my condo in Winnetka, IL. I sent out over 75 emails. About 20 or more addresses were obsolete. Anyone with a new email please contact SMC so they can update our class list.

News from **Teddi Reid Murray** is that her youngest son will be married in Houston in May. Sad news is that Teddi's younger sister **Charlene (Sue) Reid Sarphie '62** is seriously ill. Prayers would be appreciated.

Nancy Sanders Sturgis wrote her husband Bill Sturgis (ND) passed away on September 29, 2019. They were married 58 years.

I had a newsy email from **Jody Vetter Olson.** She takes classes at the University of St. Thomas, haunts several art institutions, and reads, reads, reads. Jody, **Jane Eyerly Kozuszek,** and **Paula Lawton Bevington** are hoping to attend SMC Christian Culture lectures in September. Finally, she plans a trip in April to Whitefish, MT to see her daughter's family.

Pat Elen Costello sent sad news that our dear classmate **Joan Drymalski Heuel** passed away on February 18, 2020. Keep her family in your prayers.

Dick Harrigan sent me this: "Barbara Kluth Harrigan, my wonderful wife, passed away on October 14, 2019. Among her credits are the Stations of the Cross in the Chapel of Le Mans Hall. It was a senior class project for fulfillment of requirements for her BFA degree." I was so glad to learn this from Dick and share it. Proud to be her classmate.

Nancy Schwind Gallagher proudly shared the news that her granddaughter is in the convent in Florida and went this summer to Miami for profession of her first vows.

Gloria Vidotto Dugan was busy directing *The Diary of Anne Frank* when the last two shows were cancelled because of the coronavirus. She is living with her youngest daughter in Vienna, VA. She said, "I think of Saint Mary's often, with love." Three of her children live two to three hours away and helped celebrate her 83rd birthday in February. How blessed she is!

Pat Elen Costello sent me more news about having a good time celebrating "International Women's Day with the Lexington Suffragettes from the 1880s." Wish I could have been there!

Sue Corcoran Griffin gets together with **Maggie Casey Phillips** two to three times a year for lunch. How fun!

Last but not least, **Joan Renehan Thompson** says hello to all and **Patricia Kennedy Flock** is sheltering from the virus in Naples, FL and will keep all class members in her prayers. On that note, I second that!

And from **Paula Lawton Bevington:** "I don't have any news to send, but I do have a recommendation: Tara Westwood, author of *Educated*, a biography of her childhood and young adult life as the daughter of a father who lived 'off the grid' in many ways. She is going to lecture at SMC in September. Assuming the coronavirus is only a nagging memory by then, some classmates who live near might want to hear her."

1959

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The Class of '59 continues to shrink, doesn't it? As I read the obits of fellow classmates now gone, I think of our days as undergraduates at Saint Mary's. We were bursting with hopes and dreams for our future. **Marilyn Manion Thies** wrote in our *Senior Edition Static*, "The world — now it is ours, we think, and for each one of us, it is ours. Call us starry-eyed graduates if you will, because we are. We have a lot to learn, but we are young, and ready to try and make our dreams come true." It would seem these gals all made ripples in the pond of life, some very large, some smaller, but all significant. ...and we miss them.

As you may have read in the last *Courier*, **Mary Ann Feeney DeWitt** passed away in Grand Rapids, MI, due to pulmonary fibrosis on June 13, 2019. She was preceded in death by her son David. Surviving are her husband of 58 years, Jon DeWitt (ND '59), who she met at Notre Dame, four children, and six grandchildren. She worked as assistant to the dean of women at Saint Mary's (1959-1960) and as secretary to the dean of women at the University

of Michigan (1960-61). After marriage in 1960, she devoted her life to raising four children and volunteering for many community institutions — too numerous to mention, but I'm sure there wasn't a board or fund-raising committee in Grand Rapids which she didn't serve on!

I heard from **Christine Daniels Tillinghast '89** the first week of January informing me of the death of her mother **Margo Heineman Daniels.** I had heard from **Colleen Taffee Goldkamp Harmon** in December that Margo was having a hard time, following a diagnosis of lung cancer. She passed away January 2, 2020. She is survived by three children, six grandchildren, and her husband Pera, who she met while serving in the Peace Corps in 1960. They were stationed in the Philippines and got married halfway through their service. (I heard somewhere that they were the first to marry while serving in the Peace Corps. I may be wrong.) Margo worked in the library system in Fairfax County, VA for her entire career, starting as a children's librarian and rising to become the regional branch manager. After retiring, she and Pera moved to Reno, NV, where she taught a memoir-writing class called Landscapes and indulged her passion for music, singing with the Reno Philharmonic Chorus and University Choir at Carnegie Hall. These gals made more than just ripples in the pond of life! May they rest in Peace.

I received a sad note from **Marge Liebrich O'Connor** that her husband Bob passed away on December 5, 2019 in Midlothian, VA. He suffered from skin cancer that eventually invaded his brain. He was 92. I also learned that **Nancy Grummell Geary** lost her husband Bill Geary (ND '58) on October 2, 2019 in Winnetka, IL. I texted her and she told me that Bill suffered from dementia for some years and that the night before I contacted her, the family (three children, eight grandchildren, and one great) had celebrated his birthday with a special Mass and dinner. Please remember the O'Connor and Geary families in your prayers.

Pat Wilson Fastiggi wrote in her Christmas card, "Apparently, my cow valve from six years ago was not doing its job and I needed a replacement. The good news is that they could replace it less invasively through an artery. It was amazing. I got to watch it on a little screen the anesthesiologist set up for me. So now I have a titanium mesh delivery capsule, a new pig valve, and my old useless cow valve all hanging out inside me." Pat summers in Vermont, where she lives in a 100-year-old house that apparently was falling down around her, like her old cow valve, so it received much needed renovation before she left for her winter home in Texas with her new valve. She is looking forward to the birth of her first great-grandchild in June.

Sally Porth Brown lives in a very large retirement community (1,400 residents) in Ashburn, VA, where she serves on the Resident Advisory Council and various other committees. **Mary Carpenter Erler** writes that in the spring she will receive the 40-year teaching medal from Fordham. Congratulations! That's quite an achievement. I follow **Rosie Mudd Nickodemus** on Facebook. She enjoys good health, continues to sing in her church choir, participates in two book clubs, and volunteers at the library. "Happily, my three-person team won this year's adult spelling bee...twice in the last three years." She

travels a great deal, just ordered a new liner for her pool (which she uses a lot, weather permitting), and always has a new puzzle in progress on her dining room table. She's still living in her big empty house in Saginaw, MI, but is giving some thought to change. So is **Sue Brown Bapst**, who has put her house in Jasper, GA on the market. She wants to move closer to Atlanta and her children. "I can't wait for someone else to fix my meals and take care of me."

Colleen Taffee Goldkamp Harmon's husband was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease in early 2019. To fight back, he is enrolled in a boxing and physical therapy program that seems to be quite effective. She would like to move to a condo but she can't convince Bob — he doesn't think he will have enough to do since at 90 he still does all the yard work and necessary repairs on their property. Meanwhile they are on the go — cruise to Panama, fishing trip to Arkansas, gatherings in Hilton Head, and a trip to the Big Apple. **Connie Roller Curtin** ended up in the hospital recently after being bitten by her own cat! Not able to sleep one night, she was searching in her bed in the dark for her TV remote and scared the beejeepers out of her sleeping cat, who instinctively sunk his/her teeth in Connie's arm, which led to a nasty infection and hospital stay. Connie is a cat person so all has been forgiven.

Burton E. Toepp (ND '56), husband of **Barbara Kelley Toepp**, passed away on March 15, 2020 in Naperville, IL. In addition to Barbara, he is survived by four daughters and their spouses, four grandchildren, and one granddaughter in heaven.

I had a wonderful visit with my sister **Betty Benford Belfiore** in Florida over Christmas. She held a Celebration of Life for her husband Jack, who passed away in October, and Gerry and I got to see all her children and grandchildren — a first in many years. She is adjusting to widowhood — enjoying local cultural events, exercise classes, her new Amazon watch, and caring for her three doxies.

All is well here in California. Aaron and **Marty Gillis Esrig** joined us for lunch this week in our new community restaurant, where we had a lively visit. They were greatly impressed with the grounds and our spacious apartment. We'd love to have them as neighbors but they are quite settled in their beautiful home in Tustin. Because of her balance problem, Marty is now using a walker to prevent further falls.

And then there is the coronavirus...trying not to panic. We should probably turn off the TV, stay home, and read a good book, or two or three! Gerry and I celebrated our 60th wedding anniversary with most of our family (36 were present) at a beach resort in Oxnard, CA the weekend of February 14 and a great time was had by all. Thank God it was a happening! I think we were barely a baby-step ahead of COVID-19 and a cancellation.

And lastly, welcome, to our new president of Saint Mary's, Dr. Katie Conboy!

1960

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The anticipation of our 60th Reunion is almost as exciting as the event itself. How quickly the years have flown — but our memories of the late '50s are vivid and precious and ready to be shared.

However, as this issue of *Courier* is being prepared on the SMC campus, we are each isolated on our own home campuses praying for our families, for those who have the virus, for those in the health field, for first responders, for leaders of our nation and nations all over the world.

We have managed to share our stories with one another for the past 60 years (plus the time on campus), so let's continue our reunion — however we are able. If I can help you find an address or phone number or email, please let me know.

In the meantime, we are back to the anticipation of our 60th Reunion. Keep smiling, Mo.

1961

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Mary Biddle Aisthorpe sent word she had been planning to attend three college graduations in May. Three of her grandsons were graduating. They plan, instead, to have one big celebration sometime in the summer. Her first great-grandchild Margaret Elizabeth, or Maisie, was born in January.

From "across the pond," **Wini McGuinness Meikle** wrote they had just returned from Florida to their home in England. They had enjoyed their time with **Mary Pentes Graham** in Vero Beach, where Mary Ellen also invited **Barb Breen Hickey** and **Sue Metzger Tully** and their husbands for drinks and a celebration dinner of fond memories and good times.



Left to right: Mary Pentes Graham, Wini McGuinness Meikle, Sue Metzger Tully, and Barb Breen Hickey.

B.J. Sitzberger Gorman and husband Earl were "told" to stay put in Florida and stay away from airports and airplanes for a while. They were able to get together with Howard and **Marylee Zahner Foley** in February, however. B.J. sends love and prayer energy to all the Class of 1961 during this trying time.

Sad news from **Nancy Higgins Keenan** that her husband Bill passed on January 2. They had been married one month short of 59 years, with six children, 20 grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

As **Eleanore (Dee) Wilson Eldred** expressed in her email, and also each classmate who answered my request for news, we were so very fortunate to have had those years at Saint Mary's and to have those memories to treasure now.

Thank you to all who answered my request for news. My next deadline is August 1, 2020. I'd love to hear from you.

1962



Celebrating that "special birthday" in Venice, FL, from the Class of '62 were Mary McCarthy Brooks, Vera Victoria Nigrelli, and Paula Walsh Henry.



Christmas luncheon in Chicago (l to r): Kathy O'Boyle Kearney, Joan Roddewig Geary, Babs Herbstritt Ward, Ginny Lynch Collins, Carol Morrissey Shovel, Mary Irene Scanlan Doran, Maureen Sullivan Sheehy, Sheila Higgins Botti, Ginger Shay Murphy, and a friend.

1963

Gail M. Donovan
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A quick random survey of classmates in the last days of March revealed some coping commonalities as people grappled with new realities brought on by the coronavirus. First off, of course, were new ways to use all the time suddenly available: folks noted the luxuries of reading and walking (often with dogs), enjoying a Yale course on the science of well-being via Coursera, taking in the online Spotlight Chats offered by the Metropolitan Museum of Art, doing far more cooking than usual, and discovering that they were still in pj's mid-afternoon. First prize for creativity, at least in the context of this survey,

would go to John Landry (ND '61), husband of **Mary Jo Pauli Landry**, who moved his ping-pong table out onto their driveway in Carlsbad, CA and later to their street. Neighbors wore gloves and masks for a tournament; others pulled up lawn chairs for the spectacle — all six or more feet apart. Gavin Newsom's later restrictions suggested further modifications, but I gather the street game had a marvelous run.

Lurray Pfister Bell noted that she and husband Russ were “weathering the times very well” but she missed going to their local recreation center for exercise programs, where she was seeing progress that yielded “benefits that were amazing for both mind and body.” She and **Julie Hutchins Stackpoole** now commiserate by phone about similar pursuits while quarantined — “cleaning out drawers, cupboards, and closets — a far cry from our lunches at the Bloomfield Women's Village Club.”

Kathy Wiedl Mettler reported that she was experiencing something of a quiet hiatus in her gastroenterology practice as all elective outpatient procedures had been put on hold. She and husband Steve were relishing a bit of downtime toward the end of February after several major challenges during the fall. Steve had just gotten an all-clear diagnosis after requiring neurosurgery in December. Earlier in the fall, while sightseeing in Dublin, Kathy had tripped on a cobblestone street and broken her cheek bone.

Eileen Holtmeier Cash was settled for the time being in Cincinnati, where she'd had knee

replacement surgery during the winter. She was missing her Naples (FL) community, where a contingent of our classmates reside, and anticipating a return in the spring. She and husband Bob continue to split the year between Florida and Ohio.

The long open blocks of time have offered valued opportunities for reflection as well. **Margaret Kelly Davenport** has come to recognize that “an abiding interest in culture... began at SMC” when she joined a Notre Dame organization called the Council of the International Lay Apostolate and worked with Mexican immigrants in South Bend. In the summer between her junior and senior years, she deepened this work in Mexico City and began to experience a widening lens on culture and cultural differences. The opportunities offered by the CILA were formative during her undergraduate years, continuing to shape not only her life but the lives of her children. Margaret has 10 grandchildren now; she loves spending time with them and says “their parents are pretty wonderful, too.” Two of the five families are in the Foreign Service and their assignments have opened further worlds for Margaret, who has visited them in Mongolia, Vietnam, the Philippines, Jordan, Hungary, and Guatemala. Each opportunity “has been a grand adventure. I lived and learned from each place.” Over years largely spent in metropolitan Washington, Margaret's career began when she served as education coordinator of a refugee center serving the Hmong people who had fled Vietnam after the war, and her immersion in their culture eventually made her a very valuable recruit for the increasingly diverse world of the public school arena there. Now

retired, Margaret relishes all that the DC area offers her, and she plays piano “in a volunteer music group of seniors who play for seniors while also reading, practicing Tai Chi, daydreaming, etc.”

In Seattle, **Mary Jo Connelly Martin** and **Mary Beth Gemperle** are in regular touch and both are doing what they can for the various nonprofits they're affiliated with. Mary Jo noted that her volunteer work for the St. Vincent de Paul Society always centered on “plenty of requests before COVID-19 but now the requests are many. ... Normally, we make home visits, but now we're 'visiting' the clients by phone and trying to do what we can. It's always been a rewarding task, and even more so now.” Mary Beth and husband Dick (ND '62) now have fewer board meetings and work for the various organizations serving the arts community or providing support to homeless populations with which they've long been affiliated. Devoted aficionados of the Seattle Opera and local theatres, they're saddened but realistic about the productions that have been canceled. But they really lament the canceled high school and college graduations of grandchildren they'd anticipated attending in California, Minnesota, and New York during the spring.

And finally...it's always gratifying to learn that this column has reconnected people. **Sue Sullivan Lane** and **Margie Nutting Ralph** shared warm exchanges after Sue wrote me that her husband Chris (ND '63) had just ordered two of Margie's books — her best-selling *And God Said What?* and the newer *Does the Bible Tell Me So?* (Rowman

and Littlefield). Chris and Sue knew the books would “fit wonderfully into our study” in a parish bible study group. As Sue wrote Margie, with the two resources, they could both be reading at the same time and “we're constantly interrupting the other's reading to say ‘Now, listen to what she says here...’” **Dona Duncan Hotopp** sent me a recent email and noted that since I'd earlier mentioned a book choice of our New York City friends — **Mary Schuh DeSilva, Joann Vanek, Barry Troxler O'Grady, and Maureen McCafferty '62** — she was now reading and enjoying *Sisters in Law: How Sandra Day O'Connor and Ruth Bader Ginsburg Went to the Supreme Court and Changed the World* (HarperCollins). Let's keep those book suggestions rolling in, folks. They're well received!

All told, it's so heartwarming to realize how friendships formed in the early Sixties continue to grow and flourish, however far-flung we are. This is the class news, as written in early April. We'll be assessing what the coronavirus has wrought with us when reading this column in a late summer issue of *Courier*. In a sense, this *Courier* column is something of a marker as we experience a history-making point in time. May we all stay well.

1964

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It is April 1 and we are in the throes of the coronavirus pandemic. As a country, we are not certain of the end results but we do agree that we all must pray, hope, and trust in God.

Pat Malone Nathe reported that she is doing “very well” as she makes her way back from the chemo depths, feels blessed, and thanks everyone for their prayers. **Jinx Hack Ring** and **Pat Powers Gowdy** both emphasized to follow all the directives for safety and “this too will pass.” **Noel Giblon Manion** looks forward to her granddaughter Emerson Cate Henry entering the Class of '21.

Kay Christenson Janiszewski wrote that Joann Bukovic Wess sent her some walnut-swirled nut bread. Kay is in touch with **Mary Beth Allen Sweeney** and **Mary Jane Foley Brisbane**. Like many of our daughters, Kay's daughter is concerned. “If your mother is over 60 and wants to go out, forbid her. If she complains and says everyone is going out, you tell her: You're not everyone! (What goes around, comes around.)”

Mary Ann MacDonnell Burke lost 30 pounds, has some health problems, and requested our prayers!

BV: Before the virus, **Sue Shalgos Wolsfeld** invited **Mary Kay Brady Turner, Carol Cronin Moran, Bobbye Borchers Flecker, and Angie Braunstein Maher** to her house in Scottsdale, AZ. As they watched the news, markets plunging, virus spreading, they felt fortunate to be together.

For those of you who are home, reach out, call, email your SMC friends. PRAY, HOPE, SHARE and CARE...in God we trust!

1965

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Hi, Ladies. I don't have a lot of news, so I will take just a moment to mention something to you all during this time of staying at home due to the virus. I've been so pleased to be your reporter for 50 years. When I began writing our news, we were all so young. Young women with new and exciting jobs, new spouses, and we became new mothers. We had the world stretching ahead of us. The news was almost always exciting and hopeful. Weddings, jobs, babies and so much happening in all our lives. As time passed there were well-deserved promotions, more babies, moves, accomplishments, travel, and mini- reunions. I loved receiving the news from you! Then, as the years have gone on, I wrote about our adolescent children becoming college bound, their weddings, then of our grandchildren and their jobs and successes. But, there was also great sadness, as well. There were, as happens in life, terrible losses, illnesses, and sad, terribly disappointing news you didn't want me to share in the column, but were thoughtful enough to entrust to me for my prayers. I began to know you all far better than I did in college. My prayers have never stopped for our class and our college. I am so honored to report these many years of news from you, and I thank you for your confidences. And so here were are, now three-quarters of a century old and still smiling and sharing together. I so hope our 55th Reunion happens; it's still an unknown at this point with COVID-19. But know that I send my love to each and every one of you! You have been a great blessing in my life. P.S. Please send news!

From **Lil Chard Beshel**: “**Paulette Crouere Gamard** is now a great-grandmother of Rosie (7 months). She sent a photo of five generations of Croueres! (her mother, etc.). She is still part time at Holy Name — she likes helping wherever needed. She said it keeps her busy.”

News from **Teffy Lyons Brosnan**: “My work with the prison has expanded to my being in charge of an outreach program for men and women leaving the jail. When we do a retreat, we give them a business card with the deacon's information and my cell number. I have been quite busy helping people get housing and jobs. As for my personal life, I visit my sons John and Michael as often as I can, and in April we are going to Hawaii together with my niece and her family.”

News from our wonderful songstress, **Eileen Fitzgerald Harris**: “Thank you so much for your kind birthday wishes from LI! I sing at the senior citizen's center here in the boonies (south of Tallahassee). But this town is so peaceful compared to Miami. Blessings, Eileen.” Nice to know there are people enjoying Eileen's beautiful voice.

We recently lost another classmate. Please pray for the repose of the soul of **Sandy Hewitt Sutherland**.

“I don't know about Reunion at this time,” writes **Pat Hoben Daniels**. “It's a maybe 'yes' and a maybe 'no.' Some other things are on my plate around then, and I don't have those dates confirmed yet. All is well here in SW Florida and the weather is beginning to change from hot and sticky to rather nice. I keep busy with all the activity here so don't feel lonely or neglected. One of my sons moved to Dedham, MA this summer and the other moved into St. Joe, MI after living on some lakes outside of town for years. Their oldest is now in high school and all the driving back and forth was beginning to take its toll. Son Tim's new house was built in 1894, and they have done an almost complete rehabbing of the entire dwelling along with adopting a dog at the same time. Needless to say they are living a busy lifestyle! This year I was fortunate enough to take a trip to Cuba (again!) in March, and then spend a few weeks in Portugal and Spain in October. Both were extra special trips.”

Judy Piers Locher was honored by her diocese in Oregon. The article about Judy is called “Art Becomes a Blessing at St. Anne's.” Judy lives in Grants Pass and is an art therapist with a further degree in spirituality. She passes her gifts on to her fortunate church members. Here is the link:

<http://catholicsentinel.org/Content/Social/Social/Article/Art-becomes-a-blessing-at-St-Anne-s/-2-/2/30196>

Sara Johnson Walz and Nick sent a great Christmas card with all their grandchildren — such a great-looking brood. They are still avid travelers and recently took a trip to the Balkans. Sara and Nick are in Michigan City, IN and stay busy tutoring grade school children in reading as well as seeing their children and grandchildren.

Nice news from **Sheila Flynn Boone**: “Earlier this month, I got together with **Valerie Maracz Perrone** and **Elise Meyer** at a SMC Colorado Club dinner to welcome our Interim President Nancy Nekvasil and our VP for College Relations Shari Rodriguez to Denver. I had not met Dr. Nekvasil before, and I was very impressed with her and the wonderful way she has directed our alma mater these last few years. She gave us a status on all things Saint Mary's and told about the bright plans for the future. So many women's colleges have closed since our school days; I think we can be very proud of the way Saint Mary's has moved forward and done so well. Things are all planned and ready to go for our 55th Reunion — now, if it just happens! Such uncertainty these days, what with COVID-19 running wild. It will be sad if Reunion has to be cancelled, but what's most important is everyone's health and safety. Awful as this is, the good that is happening is that we're all really working together (even our Congress, at last), for ourselves, for each other, and for our country. And, we're loudly expressing our appreciation for so many — our health care workers, police and first responders, teachers, and all the people who are still at their jobs so that we can all go on. Hopefully this will be over soon, and with all of us and our families okay and having learned from this terrible experience. I look so forward to seeing you in June, but if not, then for our 60th...or maybe our 56th!”

Sue Casey D'Amico and Dick took an amazing trip to Peru and then Ecuador. They then got together



Taran Humbert Conyers '97
biology major and nursing
(accelerated option)

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for their annual Midwestern dinner with **Kathy Zeller Nicklin** and Oliver, Sara and Nick Walz, **Mary Delaney Willer**, and hosted by **Cille Sorrentino Bucolo** in Oak Park, IL.

Please do not forget about our **Class of 1965 Memorial Scholarship**. It provides so generously for our current Saint Mary's students. May the good Lord keep you all safe and well during this time of illness in the world.

1966

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As I write this column on the first of April, I am "Sheltered in Place" by order of the Governor of Illinois. And as a good Catholic girl, I am doing what I am told. In addition, we are in the danger age zone for COVID-19. **Sharon Priester** Lewert said that she called an older neighbor to offer her assistance. A few minutes later, she received a phone call from a younger neighbor offering help to Sharon. Don't they know that we are not old.

To stay safe, **Carolyn Hart Irvine** waved to her grandchildren from the other side of the street. Her three children and their families live close by. We did a Zoom chat with our children, who live in Indianapolis, Minneapolis, and Cincinnati. I hear families are playing Scattergories and Trivial Pursuit with family and friends on Zoom. **Mary Dunn Finneran** said that she used to know all the answers and then the company updated the series to meet the interests of the younger generations. Someone got a request for a virtual cocktail hour with neighbors. Whatever you did, I hope it helped you endure the pandemic in style.

Mary and her husband E.J. (ND '66) recently moved into a retirement community in Portland's South Waterfront neighborhood. They will be close to their son E.J., his wife, and their new granddaughter Willa. Their apartment is on the 23rd floor with a view of the Willamette River. On a clear day, they can see Mount St. Helens.

Mary Lee Hamilton Spencer sent a note on Facebook that her son Ted moved in with her. He has been a great help. Mary Lee spends her time cooking, and crocheting scarves and baby blankets for Christ and Child Society and Catholic Charities. Mary Lee keeps in contact with **Carol Smither Mansfield** and **Anne Sheehan Garbarino**.

Anne traveled through Texas, Illinois, Ohio, and Indiana and back to upper New York, where she lives. In Chicago, Anne had dinner with her Big Sister **Carole Barskis Weber**. Traveling east, she stopped for a good visit with Mary Lee and then onto Cleveland, where Anne spent time with **Diane Sulzbach Pexa**.

Maureen Rodgers Budetti set up a Zoom book club with **Anne, Kate O'Hara Aubert**, and **Carol Smither Mansfield**. **Anne Liess Hoover** was absent from their virtual book group meeting. When Anne is not traveling and virtual chatting, she teaches young students how to cross-country

ski. Before the shelter in place, Anne returned to substituting.

Susan Klover Martin will celebrate her great-granddaughter Drew's first birthday. Her first granddaughter will be married in July in Austin, TX. Congratulations!

Estelle Ford Williamson suggested that we think about taking time to write down our memories or recollections of important events in our lives. She suggested *Writing Down the Bones* by Natalie Goldberg to help you tap into the central issues in your story. Take a few minutes to jot down or brainstorm some thoughts. Each day will bring more thoughts and more thoughts.

In the fall of 2018, Estelle spoke at Cleveland State University with her co-author Majok Marier. (*Seed of South Sudan: Memoir of a 'Lost Boy' Refugee*.) After the lecture, Estelle met with **Carol Masterson Waner '68**. In Florida, **Catie Condran Geist '68** drove from Palm Bay to Melrose, FL for the lecture.

In closing, I will quote Estelle's last sentence, "It is a true Saint Mary's Community that inspires women to make the effort to see each other."

Keep connecting, jot down a good or bad memory, and remember to put on lipstick before you start a Zoom session.

1967

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Life in the time of pandemic has its challenges. On the up side, **Betsy Robertshaw Umhofer** by her own account has likely "not sent an update in 50+ years," but now brings us up to date. "I retired three years ago after working with Congresswoman Lois Capps and Congressman Walter Capps for 20 years. Before that, I taught at California Polytechnic State University for 20 years. I am currently cochair of the Women's Legacy Fund Advisory Board and am a hospice volunteer, among other things." Does anyone else have questions about "among other things"? That sounds so interesting. Maybe in the next report.

Betsy and her husband, a retired judge, are married for 53 years and live in San Luis Obispo, CA. They have three adult children and seven grandchildren in LA and Washington, DC. "Our life has been decidedly blessed."

Betsy had the great good fortune to attend the Inaugural Ceremony and Gala for the Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg Women of Leadership Award in February 2020 at the Library of Congress. RBG is Betsy's personal hero and this was "truly a night to remember."

Another "up" moment occurred when **Cheryl Smith Hofweber** accidentally clicked the FaceTime icon and "wound up having a wonderful video conversation with **Carol Garvey O'Malley**...such a lovely moment to reconnect."

On the "challenging" side, **Sharon Wilchar** writes that she is in her third week of "sheltering in place"

per California guidelines, with more to come. She has had to cancel three trips, including one for her great-nephew's college graduation. Preparation for the annual Emeryville Art Exhibition in October that Sharon has coordinated for over 30 years should be underway, but even that is unsure.

Caroline Dull Hamburger spent time with her twin sons Peter and John, their ladies, and her London friend Charles Pettit this October in the "party room" of her Chicago condominium — all looking in glowing health, just before Charles had major surgery and Caroline learned that she has pancreatic cancer. She extends best wishes to all her classmates, now implored to say some good Belle prayers, please!

My husband and I have also cancelled trips, two of which included seeing our daughter (thank heavens for Skype), and one was a celebration of our 40th anniversary. But there's an "up" here, too. Both Sharon and I have received emails from a common friend in Switzerland, with whom there has only been spotty communication for years. This crisis has brought some good and that, hopefully, will last.

We are thinking of all our classmates and hope that they and their families make it through this trying time ok.



Caroline Dull Hamburger with twin sons Peter and John, their ladies, and my London friend Charles Pettit, taken this October in the "party room" of my Chicago condominium — all looking in glowing health, just before Charles had major surgery and I learned I have pancreatic cancer.



Betsy Robertshaw Umhofer attended the Inaugural Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg Woman of Leadership Award that was presented to Alice Gund at the Library of Congress on February 14, 2020. She is pictured with her son Matthew and with Martha Stewart.

1969

Joyce O'Donnell Bussewitz
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Hello, classmates,

A Notre Dame friend forwarded me the obituary of our classmate **Mary (Sandy) Rechtsteiner McKew** from his classmate, Sandy's husband Walt (ND '69). Sandy passed away in Sun Valley, ID in

July of 2019, where she and Walt lived. They were married for 49 years and had two daughters and two grandchildren. We send our condolences to Sandy's loved ones.

Our love and prayers for comfort also go to **Patti Wiedner Purcell**, whose husband Paul (ND '69) passed away in Florida in February. They were married for 49 years and had four children and six grandchildren. I want to thank Patti here for all of us for her dedication and hard work for Saint Mary's College, including her recent time cochairing the search committee for our next president of the college.

Mary Alice Herod Lajoie wrote, "I attended my first event with the Denver Alumnae Club after moving from Cincinnati. Nancy Nekvasil updated us on events at SMC. It was hosted by **Samantha Tulisak Lee '12** and **Bridget Meade Edmonds '12**, who again (as in the Cincinnati Club) proved that our college continues to graduate smart, involved leaders! **Nan Raaf** also attended as a break from a huge remodel of her basement, which probably doubled the size of her house. She reported it had been a long and involved process but added a gorgeous spare bedroom and lovely craft work space. I'm sure she is especially enjoying it since we are to "shelter in place" due to the coronavirus. My husband Dick (ND '69) and I love being near our two grandchildren and had been able to spend quite a bit of time with them prior to the quarantine. Like everyone else, we now do FaceTime and wait for videos. I hope that by the time the next *Courier* comes out, all of our classmates and their families are well and back to life as we knew it!"

Betty Smith Sullivan checked in from LA and reported she and "Norman Sullivan (ND '67) are hanging in there in New Orleans, where we have lived for over 40 years. We have had two children and three grands and will be celebrating our 50th in September! Hope everyone stays safe and sane!"

I want to add a thank you here to both **Mary Alice Herod Lajoie** and **Mary Maureen McNamara** for sharing posts on Facebook letting friends know of Pope Francis' prayer service from the Vatican in late March when he bestowed the Urbi et Orbi blessing — "to the City of Rome and the world." In the midst of this terrible COVID-19 pandemic, it was such a comfort and beautiful experience. This is indeed a scary time in our history. Such online chances to worship along with inspirational messages from our College through Facebook serve to keep us focused and joined in hopeful prayer for our world. Be safe and be well, dear friends! God bless!

1972

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I am writing this column at the end of March, right in the middle of the coronavirus pandemic. It is an understatement to say it is a strange time. This column will be published in six months and I certainly hope the virus is over, or under control. I also hope that all of you remained safe and healthy through this.

Cheryl Kunberger Taylor sent a wonderful article published in the *Fort Wayne Journal Gazette* announcing her retirement after a very impressive and remarkable career as CEO of the Foellinger Foundation. She will step down May 31 as president and CEO of the private Ft. Wayne/Allen County charitable organization she joined in 1990 as a program officer and has led since 2001. The foundation was created in 1958 by former *News-Sentinel* publisher Helen Foellinger and her mother. It has since grown, developing a permanent philanthropic endowment and becoming one of the largest sources of grant funding for area nonprofits. The foundation assets hold a market value of more than \$200 million and last year grant payments topped \$8 million. Much of that growth occurred under Cheryl's watch. Millions have been given to local groups including the Allen County Public Library, Little River Wetlands, Early Childhood Alliance, and others. One focus of hers is grant programs aimed at nonprofits that help children — "particularly those with the greatest economic need and the least opportunity." The article delivered many accolades to Cheryl calling her leadership "dynamic and adaptive" and noting that she has been a "difference-maker in the community for the last 20-plus years."

What will Cheryl do after her retirement? The news article starts by Cheryl saying she "would like to write a philanthropic murder mystery"! She plans to visit family and friends, read — her house is full of books — and maybe write. (She was an English major.) She will continue to work with nonprofits and philanthropies and their leaders. In an email to me, Cheryl shared an interesting point that her career shows "liberal arts majors can go into unusual fields" and that she "didn't know a thing about philanthropy" when she was at Saint Mary's.

I would love to get some news from any of you — please? In the meantime, I send love and hugs to all of you.

1973

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As I sit down to write this message, our world is besieged with the coronavirus. These are unprecedented, weird, and strange times. Let's hope that by the time this issue of *Courier* is published, COVID-19 will be a past memory!

Writing from Centennial, CO here's an interesting update from **Monica Raaf Huso**:

"Although 2020 has imposed travel restrictions on so many, my husband Rick and I were super fortunate to have spent seven weeks in New Zealand from Christmas to Valentine's Day (pre-COVID-19) thanks to a house swap with a NZ family whose son is on the NZ Olympic development ski team and needed to come to the Northern Hemisphere to keep skiing during his summer break. It is a fabulously beautiful country! Immaculately clean and with stunning views around every turn in their lovely, winding roads. If you haven't visited, we highly recommend you plan to travel there if you can. The people are fun and friendly, and we met other travelers and

workers from 18 countries. It's going to be tough to top this trip!"

Monica met her husband in Denver back in 1986. They were married in 1988 and have one living son Spencer (now 27), who lives in Puyallup, WA.



Monica Raaf Huso and her husband Rick in beautiful New Zealand 2020.

One of my college roommates **Mary Jo Geffert Lahr** has made a big move from Cambridge, MN to Charleston, SC. I, of course, am thrilled to have her in my part of the country! Mary Jo grew up in Michigan and I grew up in Illinois. Our other roommates (**Mary Ann Weis Fenimore** and **Terry Trenor Wilkins**) grew up in Indiana and Ohio, respectively. So we were Midwestern co-eds who wound up living in Charleston and Jacksonville and Tampa. Now we are all in the Southeast and within driving distance from one another. Wonderful!

1974

Jill Fahey Birkett
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Just before social distancing kicked in, I had visitors to my Florida winter home: **Julie Griffin Murphy** and husband Bob. We had a great evening of fun. Shortly after that, **Jeannelle Naquin Brady** and her husband Brian invited me and my husband as well as **Janet Caldemeyer Meier** and her husband Rick to a lunch at their beautiful home in Naples. An afternoon of laughs! All my Reunion notes are in CT and I'm isolating in Florida. Stay healthy!

1977

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I hope this finds my fellow classmates from 1977 in good health and good spirits. Before I get on with the news, I want to acknowledge the resiliency and fortitude we have all demonstrated during the COVID-19 pandemic. I pray that you and your family have weathered the storm and that we will come out of this stronger than ever!

With many of us reaching our MILESTONE BIRTHDAY this year, we are entering into an exciting chapter of our lives — welcoming ads from AARP, Medicare, and other organizations! It is important that we celebrate this with one another — whether in person or virtually. I receive many messages from various SMC alum groups, notifying me of birthdates and other milestones. I am pleased to report that I gathered with other '77 alumnae in January in Tucson, AZ, hosted by **Mary Anne Brown Schuster**, where we started the festivities with celebrating **Mary Jo Koenigs Bench's** birthday. Also in attendance were **Ellen Shalvoy Davis** and **Patsy Jones Mullin**. Hiking, golfing, swimming, talking, reminiscing were top on the agenda. It was good for the soul and we highly recommend it!



Left to right: Patsy Jones Mullin, Maureen Tomshack, Mary Anne Brown Schuster, Ellen Shalvoy Davis, and Mary Jo Koenigs Bench.

Following the trip to Arizona, for the last two weeks in February, Patsy traveled to the Middle East to visit with her sister JoAn, who is a superintendent of a private school in Kuwait (250 teachers, 1,800 students, kindergarten – high school). Her two-week trip started in Dubai, then continued to Kuwait, and ended in Oman. It was a wonderful, life-changing experience; however, Patsy reports that it was surreal at times hearing about the international news on the coronavirus. During the trip, travel into/out of Kuwait was discontinued, as was the case in other countries, such as Italy. Many of the study abroad programs were shut down in



Left to right: Mary Jo Koenigs Bench, Ellen Shalvoy Davis, Mary Anne Brown Schuster, and Maureen Tomshack.

February/March, with students having to return to the US to complete their studies. Patsy returned safely to the US on February 29, facing the realities of what was to come with “shelter in place” throughout the US. As of this date, she reports that her sister is still experiencing “shelter in place”; however, the school is able to stay open by conducting classes “virtually.”

Hello from **Faye Judith Maloof** in Westlake, OH: “I wanted to tell my classmates what I’ve been up to. Right now, March 30, 2020 we are in what I hope is near the end of the coronavirus outbreak. In my home is my dad, a WWII vet who was in the Pacific Campaign. He will reach 99 years young on this 16th of April. Along with my dad is my 25-year-old banker son Billy, working from home, and a Polish immigrant couple who help me care for my dad. Their stint ends in two weeks but with no airplanes to Europe, I’m not sure how this is going to go. Although grateful as I am, after seven years of my folks living with me, I’m tired of caretakers telling my 64-year-old self what I can and cannot eat and in my home. So after this no more caregivers...my dad will be all mine. Actually, it’s rather funny if you can see the humor. When this couple arrived this past October (they had been here three years before when my mother was alive), it wasn’t three days later that I wasn’t in the ER at our local hospital for the husband Leon to have his appendix out.

And before that I had a man, Joseph, from Slovenia, and three days after he came, my dad was in the ER for a blocked gallbladder stone that made him septic. Our priest gave dad “anointing of the sick.” The hospital gave him 12–48 hours to live...I left the doctor with “you don’t know my father.” Hospice came and left three months later. I had the same wonderful hospice crew that helped me with my mother. And just three days before my mother passed in June of 2017 a Polish woman, on her second stint, had just arrived. Three days has significance; I’m just not sure what it is, but I’m pretty sure it’s to go it alone.

“My 27-year-old daughter Mary Nora Wolf is an executive admin for JP Morgan Chase in Chicago, as well as an actress. You can read about her online at the ‘Wolf of Wall Street.’

“My son Billy (an Eagle Scout) and I had the good fortune to go to Sienna last summer for the Palio horse race. We accompanied my life-long Provenzano friends. Our contrada (neighborhood) was Giraffa. Spending the days leading up to the Palio was so authentic, as there were few tourists. Don’t get me wrong, the place was packed, but with mostly Italians. And the costumes, pageantry, and songs were plucked out of a Franco Zefferelli film. Through the sweltering heat, we won! I also made my son travel with me by bus from Sienna to Assisi, so we could see the beautiful hamlet of Sts. Francis and Claire, attend mass there, and wine taste at my favorite winery, SAIO.

“Last fall Billy drove up to South Bend with me to the USC game. Thanks to the gracious hospitality of **Maureen Tomshack’s** sister **Nan Tomshack Tulchinsky ’64**, I had the opportunity to visit with **Patsy Jones Mullin** and her son. But in all honesty it was freezing and we had to exit at half-time. I’m always grateful to Nan and Maureen’s hospitality and listening to all Maureen’s siblings call her Grace brings quite the smile to my face.”

Ok, classmates, it’s back to Maureen. I hope you are enjoying all the stories from the Class of 1977. It would be even better if we heard from more of you. What are you doing these days? Retired? Grandmother? How did you survive COVID-19? Please send your input to me. Thank you.

1978

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It is the end of March 2020 and we are in the midst of an unprecedented time in the world currently. We are socially distancing and working from home or not at all. Lord, please help those whose businesses are suffering and income is affected. It is a time to turn to our faith and rely on God’s graces to get us through this crisis.

My daughter Lesley and husband Jason are having her first baby in early September and we are incredibly excited. Our first grandchild Francesca, and we are calling her Frankie. The baby shower may or may not take place; everything is questionable right now. A bunch of us are planning to go to Delray Beach, FL next spring, March 26-29, to attend the Beatles on the Beach weekend to celebrate our 65th birthday. About 10 of us are still hoping we can celebrate “when I’m 64” in Michigan this June for a weekend at **Suzy Plavac Heidkamp’s** summer home. Many of our fourth-floor freshman McCandless alumnae are attending. We will have a great time just being together. Everyone is hoping for relief of COVID-19 by the end of June. Isolation is especially tough on our parents. I know that mine are 89 and 91 and it is so difficult not visiting them for the past two weeks, now extended another month. I spoke to my 94-year-old aunt, who is in a nursing facility and has not left her room for weeks. She is frightened but more worried about young families than herself. Who knows how much longer this will last. We will do whatever we have to do to keep our families safe and healthy. I have read **Betsy Dorzweiler Danza’s** posts on Facebook from Cervinia in northern Italy, where the pandemic is so severe. The world is praying collectively. By the time you read this many months from now, summer of 2020, the crisis will be over, God willing. Please, Blessed Virgin Mary; intercede for us, asking your Son to save our world. God bless you beautiful women and your families.

1979

From the *Courier Office*

Cheri Petride Miller reports: I am very happy to be on campus at least once a year. My cousin **Jeannine Senft Julian ’80** and our husbands attend at least one ND football game each year. It is a great way to see each other and reminisce. I am an instructor at Cuyahoga Community College, teaching political science. Since the pandemic, I have been teaching online, which is a great change from teaching face-to-face for 13 years. I have two children and two grandchildren, who keep me very active. I attended our 40th class Reunion in 2019 and it was a great way to catch up with fellow classmates.

1982

EXCELSIOR

Kathy C. Burns ’82 was announced as the new CEO of Greater Lynn Senior Services in February. She began her new role in March 2020.

1983

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Dear Classmates: For the first time in ages, I don’t have any submissions for this column. You’re all so good about writing that this is unusual, but it’s not at all surprising given today’s world. As I write this on April 1, our country is in the midst of the pandemic. I know I don’t need to tell any of you it’s a strange and scary time. Rather than have an empty column, you’re stuck with me, as I thought I’d write a brief update of my own to fill some space here. But before I do, let me say that I hope that when this issue finds its way to your house, you and your loved ones are all safe and healthy.

Here goes: Last fall my husband Brad and I moved from Long Beach, CA to Tucson. It’s not retirement yet, just a job change for Brad and another move for us. When we lived in Long Beach, I volunteered for Legal Aid, advising clients who were being evicted from their homes. I practiced law for 14 years but stopped out ages ago (in 2000), shortly before Brad’s job took us overseas for a few years. I’m still getting up to speed here and trying to figure out what I’ll be doing in Arizona. Our three kids are ages 31, 29, and 27. Our oldest son Peter lives in Philadelphia. After teaching school for many years in Washington, DC and in Casablanca, Morocco, last summer he and his girlfriend returned to the States. Peter works for a nonprofit called Book Trust that gives books to kids in low-income schools. Our second son John returned to school at the ripe old age of 29 to get his law degree. He’s in his first year at the University of Colorado. John got married two years ago and his wife makes beer for New Belgium Brewing. Our youngest Mary teaches second grade in DC. She and her boyfriend are planning to relocate to Philadelphia in the fall, where Mary will start a master’s program in reading, writing, and literacy at the University of Pennsylvania.

Submission from **Jacqueline F. Jablonski**: “My mother passed away just a few days before the COVID crisis hit. My dear friends, **Carole Griffin Ruzich**, **Katie M. Seidel**, **Sue Brett Enright**, **Michele (Micky) Kosak Hofman ’85**, **Patricia Monahan Diana**, **Laura J. Nitsos**, and **Maureen Hunt Scalzo** either were able to attend her funeral or sent a gorgeous flower bouquet that lasted over two weeks. We are all keeping in touch during these COVID times, and we are trying to plan a mini-reunion when the crisis subsides. I attained my master educator certificate in Idaho this past year.”

1985

Elaine M. Suess
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Greetings! I’m happy to be sharing the good news about our classmates while writing this during these difficult times.

Christy Smith Moran shared that she and husband Jack (ND ’85) welcomed their first grandchild (a granddaughter) in December — Katherine Marie Burger! She’s close to another SMC’er, **Julianne Keigher Lange**. They live a mile from each other in Atlanta, GA and see each other quite often.

Deborah Pascente Lifka shared her surprise that she was considered an essential worker (now without any admin help). When she wrote, she was desperately trying to close dozens of residential transactions that “have been under contract for a few months in my new remote world.” She also shared that there were many joyous reasons for our SMC Class of 1985 friends to gather and celebrate this past fall: “In September, we traveled to **Anne Murray McDermott’s** sensational summer home in Glen Arbor, MI to sip wine, play board games in the rain, and make plans for future endeavors. In October, we danced at the beautiful wedding of **Mary Beth Bruton Carroll’s** daughter **Erin Elizabeth Carroll ’18**. Our ‘gang’ of **Mary Jo Hogan Cox**, **Mary Beth Bruton Carroll**, **Cathleen Colfer Norton**, **Meg M. Rowley**, our honorary SMC sister/twin Maura Rowley, and **Anne Murray McDermott** were also on deck for a baby shower hosted by Deborah for her daughter Alison. A few weeks later, we showered Cathleen’s daughter Mary Kate with love in anticipation of the arrival of her firstborn. Babies Wesley and Jameson arrived weeks apart last November, and these healthy boys are bringing both photos and smiles to our regular group texts! In January, everyone grabbed their suitcase and traveled to Naples, FL by invitation of Mary Jo, whose hostess skills are second to none! We enjoyed a few lovely days of laughs, sun, great meals, and precious time together. We also took in an amazing sunset on the Naples beach with **Michelle Lopez McLeod**! Summer of 2020 will bring more joy as Mary Jo’s daughter Courtney welcomes her first baby in July. We wish our SMC classmates and their families love, peace, and good health during these unprecedented times. May we continue to be a beacon of light and hope for those without.”

I recently connected with **Mary Hammond Hollman**. She and her family are doing well in Michigan. Her mom was in Florida for a two-month winter hiatus, and with the virus picking up quickly, Mary flew down overnight to pack her mom up and fly back with her. She’s very grateful to have her home in Michigan again. And, not surprisingly, Mary said that the airports and planes were empty, which was very eerie. She is in regular touch with **Betsy Ebert Ballek**.

Maryellen May-Daranall shared that she and **Cathy McIsaac Branigan**, **Patti Buchanan Barniskis**, **Darlene Wojda Evans**, **Ellen Byrne Willertz**, and **Mary Ann Potter Ruthmeyer** have been holding SMC happy hours to help get them all

through the virus challenges, and that it has been awesome to connect with each other. In other news, in April of last year, Maryellen left her position as executive director of The Hartford Insurance School to start her own coaching and training company called Door 3 Coaching. In October she presented at the WING World Insurance Network Group in Vienna, Austria, addressing over 139 countries on the topic of emotional intelligence and its role in leadership!

Beth Murphy McNish shared that she is a retired (after 30 years) paralegal, loving wife, and mom to one, a 19-year-old son, who was set to complete his first year at Indiana University in May. She said that it was really tough sending him off, but that she didn't expect to have him back so soon (for so long) now because of schools going online. She and family are adjusting to the new normal! She lives in Bloomfield Hills, MI and all things considered, feels very blessed, having their health and being surrounded by great friends and family!

Sending hugs to **Ellen Byrne Willertz**, who shared that her mom had been sick and in and out of the hospital since Labor Day 2019, but "ultimately her melanoma got the best of her so it is good that she is at peace with God." Ellen said that she had time to mentally prepare, but it's still so heartbreaking. Coincidentally, she had heard earlier in the day from **Maryellen May-Darnall** that she was planning a SMC Zoom call, so Ellen virtually hung out with everyone that Maryellen mentions in the next

update. "They all started the call with a Hail Mary for my mom, which was very sweet."

Joanne M. Noonan is currently splitting her time between Arizona and Chicago. She retired from HUB Consulting several years ago after spending 30+ years in the employee benefits consulting field. Much of her career was spent alongside **Cathy McIsaac Branigan**. She also stays in touch with **Anne McDonald Hammond, Maureen Hartnett Mills**, and **Missy Vogt Mallers**. And despite her thought that this update might be a bit boring, I thought it was great to hear from her and learn what she's up to.

Mary Sue Dunn Curry lives in South Carolina with husband Gerry and two of their sons. They moved there a few years ago from Charlotte and love visitors, so if anyone is passing through she invites you to contact her! Mary Sue has been teaching adults to swim for the past eight years. She said that she fell back into coaching when her son Michael was swimming year-round at SwimMAC. It's a perfect fit for her, part time while raising the kids, and helping others learn a crucial lifesaving skill as well as getting people ready to compete in triathlons. She feels very fortunate to be in such a fun field while her husband pounds the corporate pavement! They have four sons: three of whom are on their own now. Their oldest son Andrew works in Charlotte in cyber security, and Michael in Pittsburgh with fiancé Aubrey, busy

planning an August wedding. Tim just graduated in December from UNCW and is working in Atlanta selling software. Their youngest Jack is a junior at Charlotte Catholic High School. "Usually we are kept super busy between his games, visiting our sons, and work. We are thankful for our health, friendly neighbors who keep us sane, and the warm spring weather that encourages us to get outside daily!"

Also, Mary Sue met up with SMC friends **Julie Strazzabosco Graham, Ann Boutton Raguz, Maureen Meagher Orsini, LeeAnn Franks McConnell**, and **Sue Naples Nye** in St. Augustine, FL when that was still possible!

Kathey Conley Taiclet says that she and daughters Claire and Dorie are hunkered down in St. Louis. Dorie is teaching middle school science class in Texas and Claire is taking her classes at Marquette, both while in St. Louis. Claire is a junior nursing major; David Jr. is sequestered in Boston; and Jack is a Navy officer and out to sea. Kathey has been on chats with **Colleen Flynn Roohan, Mary Blaha Doyle, Peggy Pecjak Golden, Anne J. Connors, Kim Kirasich McDermott**, and **Cathy Brissette Reidy**. Also on the chat are **Maria Gschwind Horvath** and **Kathy McKenna Gelfand** (both transferred from SMC and did not graduate with us). They are all Regina 2 South girls and have had this chat for many years.

Kathey shares that Colleen is a geriatric nurse working with 70+year-old patients.

Cathy Brissette Reidy also has a daughter who is a nurse. **Maria Gschwind Horvath** is a seamstress, who is making masks for these girls and sending them out to them for extra protection. Many thanks to Maria for this!

Mary Doyle was sharing with the group that her daughter Kathleen was the Big 10 Player of the Year in basketball at the University of Iowa! Peggy shares pics of her grandson Max on chats. Anne has four of her six kids at home during the outbreak and are watching Mass from the Knock Shrine in Ireland. Kim's family was able to get together on Zoom to celebrate Mass with her husband Joe's brother, who is a priest.

Kacey Horner Schmitt was contacted by SMC to be the Reunion Gift Chair for our 35-year Reunion, and she immediately called **Mary Sue Dunn Curry**, with whom she reconnected on a Saint Mary's Ireland trip, and asked her to be cochair. They are both very thankful to all who contacted classmates for the committee! Kacey shared updates from Mary Sue and some of the Reunion Gift Campaign committee members: **Betsy Anne Burke**, Indianapolis, IN – "After teaching math (mostly middle school) for many years, I am now at home with my son Patrick...and getting back into the school routine." **Karen Wittgen Cain** – "In November 2018, I joined the staff of the Catholic Diocese of Evansville as the associate finance officer. My husband Jonathon and I have one son Nicholas. He is finishing his senior year in high school (remotely), hoping he won't have to graduate via a Zoom meeting! He plans to attend Western Kentucky University in the fall!"

Barbara Butler Henry; South Bend, IN – "My husband Geoff (ND '85) and I will celebrate our 34th wedding anniversary in May. We are the proud parents of our 23-year-old daughter **Jane Elizabeth Henry '19**, who graduated from Saint Mary's with a degree in social work and a minor in gerontology. During her time at SMC, she competed with the ND/SMC equestrian team and was a national finalist in individual competition. Perhaps her greatest college equestrian-related achievement was challenging the 'ND students only' eligibility requirement and was elected club president and senior team captain. Jane is currently in an advanced standing MSW program at Washington University in St. Louis. We enjoy traveling and look forward to more adventures when possible."

Kacey Horner Schmitt, Cincinnati, OH – "My husband Mike (ND '84) and I will celebrate our 35th wedding anniversary this summer if we make it through this period of us both working from home! For the past 20 years, I have been working as a freelance sign language interpreter in the medical, educational, and religious realms. I am very involved in the Cincinnati community in Tender Mercies, which is a shelter home for people with mental health diagnoses, and Off the Streets, a home for victims of human trafficking. I am currently the VP of the SMC Cincinnati Alumnae Club and cherish all the wonderful alumnae from different decades that I have met through it. I am also very proud of our daughter **Emily Schmitt Baroz '12**, who is a successful playwright in NYC and has been quarantined indefinitely to her studio apartment."

Please keep **Cathy McIsaac Branigan** and her daughter Caleigh in your prayers. Cathy's husband Tim (ND '86) passed away unexpectedly of a brain hemorrhage last October.

From **Laura Johansen Jeffcoat**: "For the last 30 years (well, almost, we have missed four or five along the way), **Anne Bowler Madden, Mary Thinnies Evans, Annie McGraw Morrical**, and **Laura Johansen Jeffcoat** have gathered annually...first just the girls, with other '85ers some years (**Gaylan Gfroerer Ryden, Sue Eisenhower Heron, Virginia Carden Carnahan, Alma Fallon Ferrier**, to name a few), then at our weddings in Northbrook, Fort Myers, Kalamazoo, and Menlo Park, then with the husbands (John, Doug, Matt, and Joel), and a few years with all the kids! We've been to places like Lake Tahoe, Lake Burton, and Lake Powell. Also San Fran, Chicago, and Seattle...we cannot forget Mazama and Palm Desert OR Cabo and Tuscany! We have had the opportunity to go to lots of wonderful places and see and do amazing, fantastic things, but most of all we gather to see each other, be with lifelong friends that we met 34 years ago at Saint Mary's College. The bond built and the growth and education experienced together during those four years in South Bend (and Rome and Ireland) has been unbreakable. Thank you to our parents who supported and encouraged our decision, AND Saint Mary's for the caring, nurturing, challenging environment that shaped our development and provided the four of us a place to meet! For this, I am forever grateful!"

Elaine M. Suess, Cincinnati, OH – Elaine is happy and healthy in Cincinnati, running a successful executive coaching business, Beyond being coach, and loving time with her 5-year-old goddaughter Gabi, picking her up from daycare once a week for the last three years. And recently, missing her terribly. She recently surprised her wife Janet of 20 years with an online birthday party attended by over 50 friends and family members. She and Janet love to travel, and enjoyed three weeks in Patagonia in November, kicking the trip off with a 50-mile backpacking hike.

I hope you all are staying safe and healthy. Please email me with updates to share at Laineyisnow@gmail.com. Peace.

1986

From the *Courier Office*

From **Caroline Berlin Murn**: In memory of **Susie Karas Horstman** and in celebration of her life, Greg Horstman and I with the support of fellow classmates are establishing the **Susan Karas Horstman '86 Study Abroad Endowed Scholarship** at Saint Mary's College. The designation reflects Susie's love for her Rome Program experience, its lifelong impact, and enduring friendships. Classmates are welcome to make a gift to Saint Mary's College and designate the gift to Susie's fund.



Louise Heldring Hummel, Susan Karas Horstman, Stacy Dannacher Sullivan, Christine Boncosky Hunt, Caroline Belin Murn, and Kimberly Ann Kaegi.

1988

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For the first time in forever, I am going to make deadline! Like much of the nation, I am working largely from home. My son Michael returned to California in the fall, making the nearly 2,000-mile drive in just under 36 hours and one night on the road. He enrolled in a graduate program for forensics and is a professor for an undergraduate criminalistics class, teaching remotely until at least the fall. We all seem to be experiencing similar strange circumstances.

Kelly Jane Igoo says her daughter Rachel has moved home, too. Kelly says Rachel "is busily taking everyone's blood pressure to get credit for her nursing clinical. She is finishing her second year of nursing at the University of Kentucky." Her parents couldn't be prouder!

While husband Ed (ND '87) is safely at home in Nashville working, **Kathleen Spellacy Leonard** shares: "We are quarantining at my mother-in-law's beach house in Florida with six of my nine kids. We can't step on the beach, but we can't beat the view. Two of the kids are doing online college, two are doing online high school, and one is working remotely. Fingers crossed that the Wi-Fi can continue to support us!"

Mary Pohn Spretnjak has children doing the online thing, too. She writes: "Our oldest son Mark is graduating in May from ND. With or without the ceremony, he'll have degrees in physics and economics and will be hitting the job market. Will is wrapping up junior year at ND from the comfort of home. He's majoring in theology and peace studies with the intent to join the ACE program after graduation." The biggest news, perhaps, is that their daughter Liz Jean Spretnjak will be a Belle this fall!

Kara Murphy Richards is staying safely at home in Seattle. But before responding to the statewide stay-at-home order, she transitioned into a new role. She explains: "After 25+ years as a domestic violence victim advocate, prosecuting attorney and judge pro tem, I was sworn in as a full-time judge for the city of Renton, WA on December 2, 2019." She is staying more in touch with classmates since the 30-

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year Reunion. Is it too early to start the countdown to the 35th?

Ann Rucker O'Connor lives in Atlanta, GA and has worked at the CDC since 2006. She shares: "As you can imagine, we are living and breathing coronavirus emergency response all day and every day at CDC. It's been a rocky road for public health during this pandemic, but please know that there are many dedicated public health professionals all working very hard in the public interest." She and her college sweetheart Tim O'Connor (ND '88) celebrate their 30th wedding anniversary in May 2020. They have two boys who "are well on their way to being launched." The older (Edward) is a sophomore planning on law school. The younger son (Henry) spent a year abroad in Thailand and will be going to college next year. Ann keeps in touch with **MaryCatherine Smith Jurczyk**, who lives in Columbia, MO and also occasionally touches base with **Ann Eckhoff Gott**, who lives outside of Cincinnati.

Gwen Schratt Bender shares the sad news that **Cathy Bove Steenland** died in September 2019. She is "trying to make early summer plans to meet up with **Catherine (Cassie) Perrone Schauer**, **Michele Ann Williams-Bonadies**, and **Denise Lynn Rejent-Lee**." Coordinating vacations these days is tricky, for several reasons, including spread-out families. Gwen is a judge in Cincinnati, reelected in 2019. With her sons working in DC and Atlanta, she and her husband "are doing the empty nest thing with French bulldog Monty."

Reneé Conwell Steger met up with **Kelly Jane Igoe** and half SMC sister **Kelly McEvoy Osimowicz** in Sedona, AZ last November for a long weekend getaway. She says: "We spent our days talking, hiking, shopping, and eating our way around town. The visit was a great time to reconnect and refresh our souls. We're looking forward to our next get together — the time went by so quickly!"



Kelly Jane Igoe, Reneé Conwell Steger, and our half SMC sister Kelly McEvoy Osimowicz

Before all the craziness set in, **Meghan Farley Astrachan**, husband, and son visited with fellow SMC chic **Tammy Krysia Tedesco** in Maui! Along for the adventure were Tammy's 18-year-old son Rocco and their 18-year-old exchange student

from China. Meghan says it was "a spring break trip we shall not forget. We were scheduled to be on the Big Island, but our resort told us not to come due to COVID-19, so we stayed another week in Maui in Kihei and Lahaina." I wouldn't mind finding shelter there! Meghan acknowledges: "It's a scary, unnerving time but we are all here for one another. Hope to see you all soon." I couldn't agree more.

1989

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Today, as I'm writing, we are in the midst of a global pandemic and facing an unknown timeline. It's affected every aspect of life — from cancelled proms, postponed graduations, and home schooling to working from home, lockdowns, and shortages of toilet paper, medical masks, and hand sanitizer. Life is certain to be different on the other side of COVID-19, and I pray we can hold on to our appreciation for our teachers, health care professionals, and essential workers, and the importance of family, friends, and neighbors.

Kelly Glavin Zeh sends her "Thank You" to all the '89 classmates who said prayers and sent good wishes her way last fall. It was a scary time due to some heart issues that led to a stroke. She is doing much better and cannot thank you enough for all the prayers! She sends good wishes to all of you that you and your families are staying strong during this time. And God Bless to everyone with an "essential" person on the front line.

Spring found **Mimi Tuohy O'Leary** and her husband Mike (ND '89) pondering exactly what the Notre Dame 2020 graduation was going to look like for their daughter Mary Kate. The answer: due to the coronavirus, a virtual graduation was held on May 17 with a planned Memorial Day 2021 campus celebration. Their younger son Jack was anxious to return to Notre Dame for his sophomore year. It was a strange and confusing time for all. Their oldest son Joe graduated from Auburn in December 2019 and started a job as a construction manager at GL Homes in Port St. Lucie, FL, and it's wonderful to have him local.

Mimi is in her second year of their college planning business, Class 101. She worked with 10 seniors last year and enjoyed seeing their college acceptances roll in. Mimi has found a career that she enjoys and is excited for the future.

Las Vegas provided a great weekend trip for **Jane E. Barger**, **Meg Schreck Brake**, and **Kate Premo Shrum '88** and their spouses at the end of January. They stayed in an Airbnb together and had an awesome time catching up on life and families! They crossed off Meg's bucket list seeing Van Morrison in concert, caught a show with Penn and Teller, and went to the Mob Museum. The group last got together two years ago in New Orleans and are already planning to meet up again at the Schrum's in Georgia for the ND vs. Georgia Tech game on November 14!



Roslyn Eckrich Anderson, Janel Hamann Vanek, Tracy Ferrick Cowden, Bridget O'Brien McGettigan, and Jeanne Bartling Gillanders

Another mini reunion took place when **Roslyn Eckrich Anderson**, **Janel Hamann Vanek**, **Tracy Ferrick Cowden**, **Bridget O'Brien McGettigan**, and **Jeanne Bartling Gillanders** gathered in 2019 in Chicago.

And last December, **Elizabeth Wrobel Falco** hosted a mini holiday reunion at her home in Libertyville, IL with **Mary Luehrs Masel '88**, **Christine Jean DiDonato '88**, **Lisa Ting Yee '88**, **Kathleen Mary Moran '88**, and **Jamie Smith Taradash '88**.

Everyone has been staying busy with family life and work. They enjoyed catching up, sharing laughs, and spreading holiday cheer. Christine was praised for her continued excellence as an associate professor of pediatrics (human molecular genetics) at Northwestern Medicine, where she researches solutions for neuromuscular diseases that affect muscles. Mary continues to use her healing powers as an occupational therapist at Advocate Healthcare while juggling school and athletic schedules for middle schooler Stephanie and high schooler Caroline. Lisa is the assistant regional counsel for the US Department of Veteran Affairs. When not working, she remains busy with close friends in Chicago and spending time with her amazing nieces and nephews. Kathleen is applying her natural abilities as special education teacher and raising an amazing and talented daughter Caitlin, who enjoys performing in plays.

Jamie completed her master's in rehabilitation counseling cohort from Northeastern Illinois University and is putting her new skills to work at the Social Security Administration in Chicago. She is also busy with a son in his sophomore year at Temple University in Philadelphia. Elizabeth remains busy in the IT/Ecommerce arena, working for Mastronardi Produce and ensuring we have the best supply of produce in our grocery stores, including Sunset Brands Campari, Wild Wonders, One Sweet Peppers, Angel Sweets, and more. She has been busy raising her middle schooler Rocco and juggling the schedule of hockey mom. To keep life full, Elizabeth took on the responsibility of president of family association (PTA) at her son's middle school.

NOTE: Please take a moment to update your information with Saint Mary's or through your class reporter. Keep in touch!

1991



EXCELSIOR

Angela McDonald-Fisher '91 was recently named Vice President and Chief Counsel, Global Contracts for Eaton's legal function. In her new role she will lead the Eaton global contracts team and head many strategic initiatives.

1992

Patsy McGowan Donahue
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From Patsy: Hope everyone is safe and healthy during this frightening pandemic. We have just a few updates from our class.

Las Vegas welcomed 12 members of our class over President's Day weekend! **Carrie Herber Genovese**, **Sarah Boyle Powell '93**, **Susan Donalds O'Brian**, **Colleen M. Smith '93**, **Chrissy Nauman Sever**, **Maureen Lowery-Fritz**, **Katie Elizabeth Stanton**, **Sarah Downey Olson**, **Kelly F. Giacolo**, **Tracey Seppi**, **Anne Mathews Erkman**, and **Tory Erkman Livingston** gathered there to celebrate everyone turning 50 this year.

Ann Marie Jasper Dromsky and **Annie Lopez Kiperman** both have girls at Miami University in Oxford, OH. Ann's daughter Carolyn is a sophomore nursing major and Annie's daughter is a freshman double majoring in bio (pre-med) and Spanish. They live in neighboring dorms and see each other often at Starbucks as they need lots of caffeine with those majors. Ann and Annie were able to hangout during family weekend in late October 2019. They enjoy their bonus

college roommate reunion every time they get to see our girls! **Laura Kouri Consolazio**, **Lynn Doppke Torning**, **Alysann Lee Sieren**, and **Annie** celebrated Laura's birthday at Lynn's house on Kiawah Island. Lynn came from Houston, Alysann came from Charleston, Laura came from Atlanta, and Annie came in from Chicago. They biked 16 miles in chilly weather, talked for hours, went out to eat, did a tiny bit of shopping, blew out some candles for Laura, watched movies, and relished in the precious three days they spent together. Just like old times! Annie's extra special bonus was a trip to the airport escorted by Alysann's adorable girls Katerina and Eliza.

Hope to hear from more of you soon! Please check out our class Facebook page and please keep in touch.

1996



EXCELSIOR

Kimberly Rennick '96 has been named Chief Marketing and Business Development Officer of the Americas at Allen and Overy.

1998

EXCELSIOR

Chiara Wrocinski '98 has been named Chief Administrative Officer at Kirkland & Ellis LLP in Chicago.

1999



EXCELSIOR

Stephanie L. Nitzschke, MD '99 is an acute care surgeon, trauma surgeon, and surgical intensivist, and is one of the clinicians developing guidelines on tracheotomy timing at Brigham and Women's Hospital amid COVID-19.

2001

Alyson Leatherman
alysonleatherman@gmail.com

Dearest 2001 Belles, I'm thinking about you during this challenging time and hope you are well. A short update from our class.

Kathy Denise Fech shared, "I have been living in Toledo, OH since 2017 and am working at Epiphany of the Lord Parish as their director of faith formation."

Until next time, my best.

2003

Meganne Hoffman Brezina
meganneh@gmail.com

As I write this update, we are in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic and I'm hoping that we are able to resume a "new normal" by the time you are reading this! So wonderful as always to hear from our classmates; please continue to share your news. We enjoy celebrating each other from afar, no matter what the update.

Kelly Long Jackson was promoted in May of 2019 to lead change management at the enterprise level for Xcel Energy, a Fortune 500 utility that operates

in eight states. At the end of September her family moved into what they are hoping is their forever house, only a mile from their previous home, but with a lot more space, which we are especially thankful for during this time when we are all home! They recently welcomed a new family member, an 8-week-old golden retriever puppy named Cheddar. Kelly writes, "He's been a great distraction for the kids during this strange/scary time and has brought us a lot of joy already."

Kelly also shared that she started a text thread with **Meghan McKeon Doud, Corrine Negrelli Carlson, Torie Allison Cox, Amy Wall Surma, Kara Ann Beck, Sara Bishop Nelson, and Jessica White Metzger** just to check in with each other, and they are planning a Zoom get-together soon.

Shannon E. Rooney '04 along with Ben and Jacob are still happily settled in South Bend. Shannon writes, "I have been a content specialist with the enrollment division at Notre Dame for nearly four years now — forever writing away. Jacob is all grown up and will start at IU in the fall, where he plans to major in French. I enjoy connecting with you all on social media, so feel free to add me on Facebook or @shannonerooney on Insta. Love to all!"

Anne Furman Worthington shared wonderful news: "Little Miss Grace Regina Worthington was born June 8, 2019. She eked out her older brother by half an ounce and one-quarter of an inch. Samuel LOVES his little sister and can't stop snuggling her. The two are quite a pair, making each other (and mom and dad) laugh all day long. Grace is a wonderful baby and a very happy sleeper!"

Margo A. Klosterman is currently living in DC and her role takes her to the Chicago area quarterly. During her last few visits, she has had the delight of visiting Ann Hoover Sinclair's West Loop shop (The Fig Tree) and catching up with **Robyn Grace Riconosciuto**. Margo is looking forward to taking a class at Robyn's yoga studio (New Level Palatine) during her next visit. Margo would love to hear from others she could visit when she's in town.

Merideth Pierce Sullivan has taken a job as the director of communications at Emmanuel Presbyterian Church in Thousand Oaks, CA, where her husband and three children and I have lived the last nine years. Merideth writes, "A group of us have started weekly Zoom happy hours: **Katie Marie McVoy, Renee Donovan Genetti, Lauren Dasso Stalter, Kendall Riedlinger Ymalay, Karen Schaff Awe, Adrienne Dorbish Pietropaolo, and Amy Greene Smith** and it's great to stay connected that way!"

Lisa Marie Cesak writes, "**Jessica Lynne Needles, Amber Adkinson Ruszkowski, Michelle Elise Miller '05, Katie Seroka Catanzarite '04**, and I enjoyed some cocktails and great conversation via Zoom this past weekend during our quarantine! Some of our kids and fur babies even made quick guest appearances! It was a great way to boost our spirits a little bit during this crazy time!"

Monica Cannon Meeker opened up her own design firm, Meeker Interiors LLC, in late 2019. Monica writes, "The COVID-19 pandemic has put my business plans on hold but I look forward to getting back into the swing of art, design, and all

things 'interiors' when it is safe to leave the house. My kids have been home from school since March 12, 2020. I am actually happy to have them home and hope one day we can write a book about this historic time for our country. I hope everyone is safe and doing as best as can be expected, all things considered. Thank you in advance to everyone who has been praying for health care workers and their families. This is such a scary time to be part of the medical community. I look forward to hugging my fellow Belles when we get past this global pandemic. I'm sending everyone virtual hugs from Nashville."

Lauren Hofer wrote with a fabulous idea — she's thinking we need a reunion before Reunion! (Editor's note — count me in, Hofer!) As a pharmacist, Lauren is still working to provide valuable services during the pandemic. Her daughter Viv learned how to ride her bike without training wheels (she's 4.5!). Lauren shares that her other daughter Lily refuses to use the potty. Motherhood!

Renee Donovan Genetti shares about her new weekly Zoom date with her fellow Belles: "Thirsty Thursdays have taken on new meaning for this crew from '03! **Renée Donovan Genetti, Katie Marie McVoy, Karen Schaff Awe, Lauren Dasso Stalter, Adrienne Dorbish Pietropaolo, Kendall Riedlinger Ymalay, Merideth Pierce Sullivan, and Amy Greene Smith** are learning to slow down between work, homeschooling, and taking care of the fam for weekly get-togethers via Zoom for drinks, reminiscing, and general fun while quarantined this spring. It might have taken a pandemic to get these friends all together, but better late than never. Hopefully these nationally scattered friends (CA, AZ, WI, OH, KY) can continue to get together more often, even via technology, in the months to come...Cheers!"

Kremi Petrova Angelova writes with some happy news to share: "I met the love of my life a few years ago and we tied the knot in 2018. Joe and I had two wedding celebrations, one in Chicago for our family and friends in the US and another one in Bulgaria for my family back home. Best friend and roomie from SMC **Elisabeth (Lily) Pascucci Harrison '05** was my maid of honor at both celebrations. In August 2019, Joe and I were blessed with the arrival of our first child, a beautiful baby girl. Baby Eliana is growing healthy and happy, and we are in love!"

From **Elaine Porter Perez**: "Tom (ND '02, '03) and I welcomed our first son Joseph Anthony on October 16, 2019. His four sisters, Claire, 13, Emily, 10, Anna, 7, and Mary, 4, are thrilled to have a baby brother and love to play with him. Also, we moved to Batavia, IL in 2018 and love our new parish and Catholic school."

In my own news, I recently took a new role at Lessonly as their director of enterprise enablement in Indianapolis. After more than five years in the email marketing industry, it's exciting to switch gears and double-down in the LMS space. Let me know if your travels bring you to the Circle City once we are permitted to travel again!

Such a bright spot in my day to hear from all of our Belles and I hope this note has brought some sunshine to your day, too. Keep those updates

coming and until then, prayers and well wishes for health and safety to you and your families.

EXCELSIOR

Amber Ruszkowski '03 Department Chair and Associate Professor for the School of Business, Logistics & Supply Chain at Ivy Tech Community College South Bend-Elkhart, was awarded the 2020 Associate Degree Award by the Accreditation Council for Business Schools and Programs (ACBSP).

2004

EXCELSIOR

Stephanie Ryan '04 recently released a children's book titled *Lets Learn About Chemistry*. The book introduces STEM concepts to young minds in a fun and creative way. On the day of its release, the book rose to #1 on Amazon's new releases list for the Children's Chemistry Books category.

2006

Ellen Louise Riley-Davis
erileydavis@gmail.com

As I write this, we are in the middle of a global pandemic, many of us quarantined at home, trying to adjust to a new normal. Easter is approaching soon, a hopeful time as we sacrifice much of how we used to live in order to keep ourselves and others safe and healthy. Hopefully, by the time this issue reaches you, we're back to our old way of living and are not taking anything for granted.

Long-time Saint Mary's friends **Clare Marie Hoyt, Maura Bridget Hoyt '07, and Colleen Patricia Bruen** traveled through Ireland for 16 glorious days! It was the first trip to Ireland for Clare and Maura, and a memorable trip for all three of them. A highlight of the trip for Colleen was traveling back to Maynooth to see all of the sites from her year in the Saint Mary's Ireland study abroad program. Colleen sends a shout out to the rest of the group that she studied with there in 2003–04!

Baby boy Maximilian Kenneth Phipps was born on June 29, 2019 to **Maricarol Williams Phipps**.



Lindsey Nelson '06 NAMA's Vice President of Programs and Services, has been recognized with the Association Forum's Association Professional Achievement Award. This award is presented to an association professional member for exemplary service and outstanding accomplishments in association management.

Lisa Ann Helmholtz moved into their new home in August 2019, complete with off-grid power, and they are working at becoming as self-sustainable as possible. They welcomed their third son Titus to the family January 6, 2020. Lisa is busy homeschooling their oldest and bookkeeping for her husband's small excavating company.

Ellen Louise Riley-Davis was nominated to hold the role of deacon in the Presbyterian Church USA at New Hope in Fishers, IN. She was ordained on January 26, 2020. She also accepted a new consulting position on March 23, 2020.

Emily Fannon Rathbone and her husband Justin welcomed their son Leo Joseph into the world in February 2020.

Jill Vasek Garcia released her second album for solo piano in March of 2020, *All Your Heart Volume I*. It's available on most streaming services worldwide and for hard copy purchase in many online music stores. If you would like more information, please see jillgarciamusic.com. Jill currently resides in Okinawa, Japan with her husband Rob and their daughter Briella.

2008

Cate Cetta Scola
catherine.cetta@gmail.com

Natalie Holtz Martinez and husband Wilfredo welcomed their son Grant Wilfredo on February 21, 2019. He joins big sister Caroline and big brother Lorenzo!

Cate Cetta Scola welcomed daughter Siena James Scola on March 18, 2020. Cate and husband Brian live in New York City, where Cate continues to work for NBC News.

2010

Michelle Giannola
SaintMarysCollege2010@gmail.com

Hello, Belles!

My hope is everyone has been staying safe and healthy through the most recent events. In a positive light, I know I found myself reaching out and catching up with other Belles via video chat. I imagine many of you did this as well to help pass the time!

Meagan Temple Hartman and Michael Hartman (ND '11) welcomed Jacob Michael Hartman into the world on April 14, 2019 at 5:25 p.m. in Clinton, MS. He weighed 7 pounds 7 ounces and was 20.5 inches long. He is the happiest baby and brings so much joy and all the smiles to Meagan and Michael every single day.

Amy Kendzioriski Olsen and husband Erik Olsen recently celebrated Mabel Ellen Olsen's first birthday. She was born on February 12, 2019.

Keep sending your updates whenever they arise — it's great hearing about new careers, mini reunions, accomplishments, and everything in between!

EXCELSIOR

Elizabeth Mitchell Dale '10 was promoted to Major on April 1, 2020 in the US Air Force. Elizabeth has been an Instructor of Management at the US Air Force Academy since 2018 and has been selected to be the Department of Management's Executive Officer for Academic Year 2020–21.

2011

Christina Kolling Carlson
cmkolling@gmail.com

As I am writing this, the world is battling the COVID-19 pandemic. I have been thinking about all of our classmates who are working in essential roles on the front lines. If you are one of these workers, please know that you are so appreciated. I truly hope that this summer issue finds everyone in good health and happiness. As always, if you have any class news you would like to submit, you can email it to me at any time. Congratulations to everyone below on your exciting news! Save the date for our 10-year Reunion: June 3–6, 2021. Hope to see you all there.

Natalie Valent Hunter and husband Matt welcomed the birth of their sweet baby boy Zachary Thomas Hunter on November 8, 2019. **Katrina Mesina Meckes** and husband Matt (ND '10) would love to share the announcement of the birth of their twins Cecilia Joy and Arthur Nazario Meckes on December 10, 2019, in Hinsdale, IL. Shortly after their arrival (two days to be exact) our family moved from Chicago to Naperville, IL. Their grandparents (Bob Meckes, ND '80, **Melissa Moher Meckes '81**, Raymond and Shirley Mesina) are thrilled to have them closer to home, and they love being surrounded by family.

Kendall Antekeier Shadley and husband Alex (ND '10) welcomed their sweet baby boy Theodore Xavier Shadley on January 21, 2020. Theodore was born at 10:45 a.m., 8 pounds 3 ounces, 21 inches long. The Shadley family are currently living in Chicago.

Kristen Metzger Cernanec and husband William (ND '12) welcomed their sweet baby boy James Ryan Cernanec on January 22, 2020. James came into the world weighing 8 pounds 7 ounces and measuring an adorable 21.25 inches long.

Sara Crandall Fanger and husband Mike are thrilled to welcome the birth of their sweet baby boy George Michael Fanger. George was born on February 8, 2020 at 3:10 p.m., and at birth weighed 8 pounds 5 ounces and was 21.25 inches long.

Alicia Wilkins Sullivan and husband Patrick welcomed their sweet baby boy Ronan Patrick Sullivan to the world on February 20, 2020. Ronan weighed 8 pounds 2 ounces and was 21 inches long.

Sarah Weber Furtado and husband Nathan (ND '11) welcomed their adorable third child Jonathan William on March 23, 2020. Jonathan joins their two daughters Grace and Emma.

2012

Kate Kirbie Dubinski
SMCclass2012@gmail.com

In February, **Catherine Moore Anton** started a new job as a nurse practitioner at Dartmouth Medical Center in the hematology/oncology clinic.

Stephanie Cherpak Clary and her family moved from Essex Junction, VT to La Grange, IL. She started a new job as digital editor at U.S. Catholic Magazine in Chicago at the end of March.

Kami Marie Umbaugh recently graduated with a master of public administration degree with a focus in nonprofit management from Villanova University and got inducted in the Pi Alpha Alpha national honor society.

In August 2019, **Mariela Aguilera** began her studies for her doctorate degree in school psychology at Loyola University of Chicago. Prior to this, in June of 2019, Mariela had an elopement wedding in Paris, France!

On December 7, 2019 **Lauren Flocken Ahmad** married Hazim Ahmad in Chicago. **Tatum Lee O'Brien** and **Maggie Ann Slavin** joined in the celebration as bridesmaids.

Kate Kirbie Dubinski married Brian Dubinski on April 4, 2020 in Milwaukee, WI. With the health of their family, friends, and community in mind, their reception was postponed until 2021. **Holly Dorson-King Bayer** and her husband Tim welcomed their son Charlie into their family on January 29, 2019. Holly works as an oncology nurse practitioner at the University of Cincinnati.

Hannah Hupp Cain and her family welcomed the birth of Carter Cain on September 25, 2019.

Blakely Shay Lough was born November 23, 2019 at 8:29 a.m. in Richardson, TX to her parents Bryce Lough and **Taylor Paton Lough**. Blakely weighed 7 pounds 11 ounces.

Alexandra Zellner DiPiero and her husband Joey DiPiero welcomed the birth of their son Joseph Timothy DiPiero III on January 8, 2020 at 2:32 a.m.

On February 26, 2020, **Cealy Glover Moore** and Philip Robert Moore welcomed the birth of Philip Joseph Moore. He was born at Greenwich Hospital in Greenwich, CT at 7:57 p.m. The family lives in Rye, NY.

On Valentine's Day, **Brittany Mary Alice VanSnepton** was blessed with the adoption of her two nephews after the passing of her beloved twin Blake. She personally wants to extend her love and appreciation to all of her SMC sisters and their husbands who supported her during this immense time of change: **Jordan Bartrom Mundy** and Nate Mundy, **Alicia Smith Albertson** and Nathan Albertson (ND '12), **Mara Jeannine Scott '13**, **Elis Marie Wasserman**, **Monica Hope Aguirre '11**, **Alessandra Marie Stamper**, and so many more. Thank you for walking the path of Christ in helping a fellow sister during her darkest hours. Your love and support will never be forgotten and forever cherished!

2013

Meghan Kathryn Feasel
Amy Elizabeth Tiberi
smcclassnews2013@gmail.com

Hey, 2013 Belles! Here are a few great updates from our class.

In wedding news, **Meghan Katherine Dillon** married John Sledz last September. **Meghan Flynn Kelly** married Rory Kelly (ND '11) on August 31, 2013. Belles in attendance included bridesmaids **Corryn Neumann Chini** and **Gina Marie Fredericka**, as well as mother of the groom **Catherine Fenoglio Kelly '82**. Congratulations, ladies!

In baby news, **Megan Lord Roberts** and her husband welcomed their second child Vincent Michael in January. **Megan Considine Theisinger** and her husband welcomed their first child Benjamin in February. **Jennifer Simatovich Corsbie** and her husband Joseph welcomed their first child, a daughter named Olive Marie Corsbie, on January 20, 2020. Congratulations on your new additions! We would also like to extend our congratulations to our very own **Kari Anne McClowry** for being crowned Chicago's 2020 Saint Patrick's Day Parade Irish Queen!

If you would like an update published, please emailsmcclassnews2013@gmail.com. We hope all is well.

2014

Kathleen Elizabeth Sullivan
Galia Chantal Guerrero
belles2014news@gmail.com

Hi Belles — We're writing to you from social distancing 2020. Hopefully by the time you all read this, we are back to bonding with our fellow Belles, celebrating many of life's best moments — weddings, new babies (especially future Belles!), graduations, and time with loved ones. It has certainly been an interesting first few months of 2020. We have taken the time to find daily joy via virtual happy hours, game nights, new recipes, more reading, and more time to catch up on our favorite binge-worthy shows!

Despite the times we are living in, our class is still finding things to celebrate! **Hannah Elizabeth Mudd** now serves as a St. Louis District Council member on the Missouri Bar's Young Lawyer's Section Council, the leadership group for the section, and is the secretary for the Young Friends of the Missouri Historical Society's Steering Committee, the steering committee for those under 40 before they run for the society and museum's main committee. Who runs the world? Belles!

A few of our classmates recently rang wedding Belles. **Faye Kennedy Janke** got married on February 1, 2020 in Minneapolis to Steve Janke. **Melissa Macchio Pilling** married Joel Pilling in San Antonio on February 29, 2020. Congratulations, ladies, we wish you continued happiness and love!

Brianna Stanbrough Cater had her second son Finnck Cygnus Cater on March 13, 2020. We are thrilled for you and your family, Brianna! Enjoy this special time with Finnck.

Kaley Jones Flynn is currently teaching kindergarten at Brandywine Merritt Elementary in her hometown, which she is loving! We are grateful for dedicated educators like you, Kaley.

Thank you to all the Belles who have shared their news this season. We are so grateful for the close-knit sisterhood we have with one another. Take care and stay in touch. As always, #gobelles!

2015

Nicole Elizabeth O'Toole
nicoleotoole128@gmail.com

Greetings Class of 2015,

Alyssa Lanting Henneman began a new job working as a special education teacher in an autism classroom for the St. Joseph County ISD in Centreville, MI. Way to go, Alyss!

Stephanie Gatchell Jaworski married Joshua Jaworski on May 26, 2019 at Swan Lake Resort in Plymouth, IN. Classmates **Madeline Elizabeth**

Havrilla and **Sarah Marie Kastelic** were bridesmaids. Congratulations, Stephanie and Joshua!

Tabitha Latisha Hackbush graduated from Indiana University–Purdue University Indianapolis in May 2020 with a master's degree in social work. Congrats, Tabby!

Catherine Hope Sullivan is currently finishing up the first year of her master of social work program at Ball State University, focusing her research on neonatal abstinence syndrome, neonatal opiate withdrawal syndrome, and stigmatization of perinatal substance use within the medical community. She is working as a social worker at a free Healthy Lifestyle community in northeastern Indiana. She begins her practicum this summer, returning to the Fresh Start Recovery Center to once again work with pregnant and postpartum women with substance use and mental health disorders. She is excited to get back to SMC as soon as possible. Way to go, Catherine!

Karlie Marie Wolff started a new position as the business manager for the City of Chicago's Managed Services ITS project at SDI Presence LLC. Go, Karlie!

Maeve Curley Burns married Michael Burns Jr. on February 29, 2020 in Asheville, NC. **Julia Cathleen Saran** was her maid of honor. Bridesmaids included **Megan Noelle Ross**, **Ansley Cynthia Plaetzer**, **Catie Virginia Mulhern**, **Morgan Adeline Carroll**, **Lizz Mary Stickley '14**, and Angelique Curley (ND '14). Many other Belles were in attendance as well. Congrats, Maeve and Michael!

Congrats to the Class of 2015 for such exciting accomplishments! Send me your life updates to: nicoleotoole128@gmail.com.

2016

Jennifer Anne Vosters
smc16news@gmail.com

Happy summer, Belles! Check out what our fabulous classmates are up to:

First up: Baby Belles! **Allie Danhof Kolean** and her husband Jason welcomed their daughter Audrey Jayne Kolean on March 19, 2020. We are sending you best wishes and blessings as your family grows, Allie!

Several '16ers have made the leap abroad for school and work. **Meghan Marie Flanagan** moved to Brighton, UK in September 2019 and now works as an auditor for PwC UK. **Shannon Stephanie Grant** is currently serving as a lieutenant in the US Navy, working as a nurse in Seville, Spain. Lieutenant **Elizabeth Custis Hart**, USN, BSN, CEN, who was recently credentialed as a certified emergency nurse, is now stationed in Guam, where she works in the emergency department of the United States Naval Hospital. And **Allison Leigh D'Ambrosia**, who has been living in the UK, graduated from Oxford University with her MTh in applied theology and now works as the student engagement coordinator at Oxford's Green Templeton College. Any Belles traveling abroad in the future should be sure to reach out!

Kylie Nikole Jungles graduated from Rush Medical College in Chicago with her MD. She matched at the University of Michigan C.S. Mott Children's Hospital, where she will complete her residency training in pediatrics. Major congratulations, Dr. Jungles!

Kathleen Elizabeth Quick completed her doctorate in audiology at Vanderbilt University and accepted a job as a pediatric audiologist at Vanderbilt University Medical Center. **Shannon Carroll Faulkner** also completed her doctorate in audiology at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center. Well done!

Madeline O'Hara Gibbs made a career move from Omnicom Media Group to Baker Tilly in Chicago, where she now works as a marketing associate. She was referred by fellow Belle **Kelley Jean Wright '15**. Congratulations, Maddy, and for our fellow Belles: Don't forget the amazing resource that is our alumnae network!

Bridget E. Enright is currently working as a nurse in the burn ICU at University Chicago Hospital while she pursues her degree at Georgetown to be an acute care adult gerontology nurse practitioner. In recognition of her outstanding work, she received the 2019 U Chicago Medicine Award for Excellence in Clinical Nursing Practice. Congratulations on your much deserved recognition, Bridget! We are proud of you!

While continuing to recruit future Belles with the SMC Admissions Office, **Colleen Kathryn Burke** has begun working towards her MEd in clinical mental health counseling through an online program with St. Bonaventure University. We're cheering for you, Colleen!

Carole Hussam Fasheh recently celebrated three years working as the executive assistant to the Ambassador of Jordan in Washington, DC. Happy belated workiversary, Carole!

And finally, Wedding Belles: **Gloria Louise Zeiger** married LeRoy Worsham III on August 10, 2019. Belles **Nina Marie Zeiger '18**, **Lucy Jean Zeiger '20**, **Shelfie Zeiger '23**, and **Eleanor Jones '16** were all bridesmaids. That same day, in Binghamton, NY, **Mary Clare Kane** married Patrick Callahan.

And on February 22, 2020, **Jennifer Reilly Connell** married Connor Velasco (ND '16) in Grand Rapids, MI; they now live in Kalamazoo, MI. Best wishes to all the happy couples!

Thanks for submitting your news, Belles! Keep us updated at smc16news@gmail.com.

2017

Maggie Carswell Pohl
mccarsw01@saintmarys.edu

As I write this, we are in the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic. I would like to reach out to thank all of our classmates and alumnae who are on the frontlines of this global disaster. As a nurse myself, I know these are some trying times, but am especially grateful for all the life skills Saint Mary's has taught me. But now onto brighter things! **Hannah Hestad Manspeaker** married Trevor Manspeaker in an absolutely beautiful ceremony at St. Pius X Catholic Church in Granger, IN on January 11. The night was followed with much celebration in downtown South Bend at the Palais Royale. **Megan Carswell Singleton** and I were bridesmaids; **Kaileigh Ann Moore** was in attendance as well as **Mary Esch Nagy '07**, **Jenny Nugent Ganser '06**, and **Molly Eagan Frabutt '95**. Another classmate of ours got married this January as well. **Maggie Dewan Mandle** married Quinton Mandle on January 3 in Plymouth, MI. **Marissa Tissot Rodery '17**, **Breanna Marie Elger '16**, and **Megan Angeline Battaglia '18** were in attendance. Congratulations to all of our classmates! Hope you all stay safe, God Bless!

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As alumnae, you'll remember the frenzied beginnings of your time at Saint Mary's. The orientation events, meeting new friends in classes, sharing meals in the dining hall, and going to dorm parties.

Starting college during a pandemic looks a little different. For the Class of 2024, it looks like physically distanced events, a masked-up move in, and daily health check ins. On campus, it can be hard to recognize new faces under masks and get to know your neighbors with health and safety restrictions in place.

First year **Riley Kostic '24** said her biggest challenge was making new friends and feeling part of the community. "Everyone was keeping their distance in the beginning and I was worried about not making friends. Luckily, I found a great group of girls that I am able to rely on in these uncertain times."

And although the pandemic has been isolating in some ways, **Lydia Cszasz '22** said she has seen students come together in other ways.

"One thing that I have noticed is that people are physically distancing at lunch, but still eating with each other and talking instead of just sitting and working on their laptops or playing on their phones... So we are all unplugging and talking."

Political science professor Marc Belanger said he's seen his students step up and engage in Zoom discussions. "The surprise to me is that there has not been a real [difference] in the quality of student work. ...Considering all the challenges they face, and the anxiety, I think students really are trying to do their best work and succeeding more than I might have expected."

The Women's Choir has adjusted their practice schedule to only once a week with the full choir, spaced out in O'Laughlin Auditorium. Students have to wear masks as they sing, but when they come together, it is a beautiful experience.

"The students are just so glad to be able to sing together again, even in this strange way," Nancy Menk said. The Women's Choir came together as a choir to produce the first virtual choir video, "The Bells of Saint Mary's" of course! 🎵

Check out the video and more student and staff comments online at saintmarys.edu/Courier

BACK TO SCHOOL DURING A pandemic



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Colorful flowers are captured in this digital drawing by **Kathleen Soller '20**.