

Saint Andrew School

PROVIDING A QUALITY
ROMAN CATHOLIC EDUCATION

ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

Spring 2012 Inside this issue

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From the Pastor

"Success is not final, failure is not fatal.

It is the courage to continue that counts."

The above quote comes from Winston Churchill and reflects a truth that all of us would do well to learn. Neither success nor failure is permanent as it relates to who we really are; that each new day provides an opportunity to begin anew with a fresh vision and the courage to keep going! Churchill's wisdom debunks the "I've arrived and can sit back and glide" attitude and cautions against its danger and destructive results. More importantly, however, Churchill proposes that it is not the ends that justify the means; rather it is the journey that creates the lasting effect. The point relates not to something "out there" but to the character and integrity of the person (individual or corporate) on the way. The use of the word "courage is significant; its roots are from the Latin *cor* (heart) and *agere* (to act).

When preparing this letter in which I intended to discuss the January decision of the Blue Ribbon Commission to close Saint Andrew School that sent a shock wave through our community, I drew both inspiration and consolation from Churchill's wisdom. Archbishop Chaput's decision to accept our appeal and to overturn the original decision was received with deep gratitude. It is important, however, as the Archbishop has been urging throughout the Archdiocese, that none of us (parents, students, administrators, teachers, alumni/ae, parishioners, friends and benefactors) be lulled into apathy or a false



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sense of security, but remain vigilant to support, encourage and promote Catholic Education in general, and Saint Andrew School in particular. Churchill urges us to realize that success is not final; therefore we need to be courageous in remaining attentive and focused on the mission and purpose. We at Saint Andrew School define our mission as providing a quality Roman Catholic Education by building a culture of life and a civilization of love through faith and knowledge. Our purpose is our children. It is that simple. It is our responsibility and privilege, therefore, to act with our hearts and continue this task of love.

Thus, at the heart of our appeal was the common goal shared by the Blue Ribbon Commission to make available and provide an affordable and quality Catholic education. With the same goal in mind, however, we had very different visions as to how this goal would be achieved and through which approach it would be implemented. In an interview after the news conference aired on January 6, 2012, Mr. John J. Quindlen, Chairman of the Blue Ribbon Commission stated: “A lot of this should have been done 10 years ago,’ but ‘naïveté and an unwillingness to face reality’ kept many pastors and archdiocesan leaders from halting long ago the ‘death spiral’ of declining population and rising tuition at so many schools, he said.”(<http://www.philly.com/philly/education/136919183.html>) Neither naïve nor unwilling to face the reality of the death spiral caused by decreasing enrollment and higher costs, Msgr. D. James McGettigan, with the encouragement of the then-Archdiocesan Office for Stewardship, began our inspiring and sometimes difficult journey toward integrating the principles of discipleship and stewardship in the parish community with the primary focus of making Catholic education both affordable and accessible. The vision was set and further developed as outlined in recent documents promulgated by the Holy See and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops on Discipleship, Stewardship and the inestimable value of Catholic Education.¹ St. Andrew was at the time and continues to remain unique in the Archdiocese because we chose to embrace and implement the principles of stewardship according to the model provided by the Diocese of Wichita. The “Wichita model” is highlighted in a *Thomas Fordham Institute for Advancing Educational Excellence Report*, published in 2008. Interestingly, the study demonstrates that despite public voucher programs at the time, enrollments in Milwaukee and Washington Catholic Schools continued to decline, in juxtaposition with the tuition-free Catholic schools in Wichita which were continuing to grow through the commitment to Stewardship on the part of Catholics in their local parishes.

(http://www.edexcellencemedia.net/publications/2008/200804_whoillsave_americanurban/catholic_schools_08.pdf)

In 2005, the United States’ Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) published a document entitled: *Renewing Our Commitment to Catholic Elementary and Secondary Schools in the Third Millennium*. In its Introduction the bishops referenced their 1990 document *In Support of Catholic Elementary and Secondary Schools* and stated: “In it we affirmed our strong conviction that Catholic elementary and secondary schools are of great value to our Church and our nation; and that, in our role as chief teachers, we are each responsible for the total educational ministry of the local Church. We affirmed that ‘the entire ecclesial community . . . is called to value ever more deeply the importance of this task and mission, and to continue to give it full and enthusiastic support.’ These Catholic schools afford the fullest

¹ Cf., JOHN PAUL II, *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (1993); *Post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation, ECCLESIA IN AMERICA* (1999); CONGREGATION FOR CATHOLIC EDUCATION, *The Catholic School on the Threshold of the Third Millennium* (1997); *Consecrated Persons and Their Mission in Schools* (2002); *Educating Together in Catholic Schools* (2007); CONGREGATION FOR CLERGY, *General Directory for Catechesis* (1997). USCCB, *Statement in Support of Catholic Elementary and Secondary Schools* (1990); *Stewardship: A Disciple’s Response* (1992); *Renewing Our Commitment to Catholic Elementary and Secondary Schools in the Third Millennium* (2005).

and best opportunity to realize the fourfold purpose of Christian education, namely to provide an atmosphere in which the Gospel message is proclaimed, community in Christ is experienced, service to our sisters and brothers is the norm, and thanksgiving and worship of our God is cultivated." Later in the same document, the bishops address the challenges of financing Catholic Schools and state: "The burden of supporting our Catholic schools can no longer be placed exclusively on the individual parishes that have schools and on parents who pay tuition. This will require all Catholics, including those in parishes without schools, to focus on the spirituality of stewardship. The future of Catholic school education depends on the entire Catholic community embracing wholeheartedly the concept of stewardship of time, talent, and treasure, and translating stewardship into concrete action." (p. 11)



In the introduction of their 1993 letter, *Communities of Salt and Light: Reflections on the Social Mission of the Parish*, the American bishops stated: "The parish is where the Church lives. Parishes are communities of faith, of action, and of hope. They are where the Gospel is proclaimed and celebrated, where believers are formed and sent to renew the earth. Parishes are the home of the Christian community; they are the heart of our Church. Parishes are the place where God's people meet Jesus in word and sacrament and come in touch with the source of the Church's life."

In my opinion, the failure of the Blue Ribbon Commission and the Archdiocesan Office for Catholic Education to be familiar, study and implement the teachings of the USCCB on Catholic Education into their findings and their reluctance to consider spearheading genuine Stewardship in the Archdiocese as a viable solution to the financial problems facing our Catholic Schools was a grave mistake. Moreover, the idea that the future of Catholic education could be

determined simply by the evaluation of lifeless statistics, classroom capacity and how well maintained buildings were represented in reports or to merely reduce it to "the bottom line" betrays the distinct, yet inseparable, relationship of the parish "where God's people meet Jesus in word and sacrament and come in touch with the source of the Church's life" and the parochial school which provides "an atmosphere in which the Gospel message is proclaimed, community in Christ is experienced, service to our sisters and brothers is the norm, and thanksgiving and worship of our God is cultivated." When bureaucrats make decisions without engaging real people in dialogue, the endeavor is sure to suffer, if not fail.

In a June 5, 2012 opinion piece, National Review writer, Rich Lowry, offers words of praise for Queen Elizabeth on her 60th Anniversary as Great Britain's monarch. While it may seem disconnected at first, I believe that what he states about the monarchy and its powerful symbolic meaning to the soul of the British people has a parallel in the situation through which we have come. He writes: "If the makers of the European Union and its misbegotten experiment of a common currency had studied the British monarchy, they might have quit their foolhardy exercise in seat-of-the-pants nation-building long before they brought the Continent to the edge of the abyss. They might have understood the organic and distinctive nature of nations and the limits of deracinated bureaucratic rule, with no meaningful symbols, no long-standing traditions, no hard-earned legitimacy."

(<http://www.nationalreview.com/articles/301787/queen-duty-rich-lowry>)



Saint Andrew School

Oblige me please and allow me to modify these words in reference to the case in point to read: If the members of the Blue Ribbon Commission and its misbegotten experiment in simple consolidation had studied the British monarchy or the history of parochial schools and neighborhoods in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, they might have quit their foolhardy exercise in seat-of-the-pants regionalization long before they brought Catholic elementary education to the edge of the abyss. They might have understood the organic and distinctive nature of individual parishes and the limits of deracinated bureaucratic rule, with no meaningful symbols, no long-standing traditions, no hard-earned legitimacy. They might have engaged the human processes of dialogue, human interaction, personal visits to engage those who would be most impacted by their decision, and to see first-hand what our children experience; rather than reduce the future of Catholic education to poorly gathered statistics and incomplete information.

Please understand that I do not believe the decisions reached to have been intended maliciously or were made to hurt people. At the same time, I do not believe that the negative and passionate reactions to the Blue Ribbon Commission's recommendations were made by ignorant, uncooperative trouble makers. Most people will agree that something needs to be done to address the financial instability of our Catholic Schools, but all parties must be respected and consulted in such a comprehensive overhaul because we are all stakeholders in this most worthwhile endeavor. The highly emotional and visceral response to the recommendations proposed by the Blue Ribbon Commission's epiphany of 2012 throughout the Archdiocese may not be understood completely by those who have not grown up in Philadelphia and may not even be expressible clearly by those of us who did. For over a century, however, the bedrock of the Catholic experience in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia has been directly and intimately bound to the "experience of Church" as encountered primarily in the parochial school and subsequently the parish. Beyond the family circle, the person whom each of us have become was forged in this familial community; from it we developed our social circle, learned the lessons of trusted friendship, had the seeds of our spiritual lives planted and found a "home" for the soul to rest. In some situations, the school and parish provided an oasis of peace, order and friendliness that may not have existed at home or simply a circle of support outside the daily interaction with members of one's own family. As Catholics, those precious moments in which we received our sacraments, those various rites of passage which we have oft forgotten in our conscious minds are deeply embedded in our subconscious and profoundly fused to these institutional realities. These bonds that tie us so emotionally to our parochial schools and parishes are not antithetical to the cause of Catholic education; they are in fact strong and positive realities that should be tapped and engaged in our pursuit to strengthen our schools. The unsuccessful consequences of many of the proposed experiments in the Blue Ribbon Commission's recommendation evinces a weakness in the entire process and a failure of understanding the dynamic and life-giving relationship of the



schools and the parish to the community of believers. Moreover, the persistence to promote failed or ill-prepared experiments lacks integrity and assures ongoing failure. With a clear vision, a strong Catholic identity, with growing financial stability, academic excellence and a faith-filled community of believers supporting the endeavor, Saint Andrew School is experiencing success and continuing to provide a quality and affordable Catholic education. Our principal, Mrs. Helen McLean, outlines in her letter some of the details of our on-going success.

Upon my arrival as pastor four years ago, I reaffirmed and refocused our vision for Catholic education in a letter published in the 2008 Annual Stewardship Report entitled, *CATHOLIC EDUCATION: People of Faith, Touching Lives and Forming the Future*. In it I wrote: "Jesus, whom we proclaim: 'What was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we looked upon and touched with our hands concerns the Word of life--for this life was made visible; we have seen it and testify to it and proclaim to you, the eternal life that was with the Father and was made visible to us--what we have seen and heard we proclaim now to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; for our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ.' (1 John 1-3) Catholic schools, since their origin, have sought to share this powerful message of faith, to touch people's lives with its hope and transform the present into a civilization of love. Catholic schools have sought to form persons at every level of their being to know, to love and to serve the Lord here on earth, so that they may experience the blessed happiness of His presence in eternity. This is our task. This is our awesome task. . . . Catholic schools are not simply academic institutions; rather they are communities that form free persons with immortal souls in the Catholic faith, the sciences, the liberal and fine arts, as well as in the practice of service. This is what Jesus would do! This is what Jesus did! This is what we need to do, if we wish to remain faithful to Him and our mission. . . . Let us re-commit ourselves to this awesome task of love."

Over the past four years, the pastoral and finance councils of St. Andrew the Apostle Parish risked making capital improvements in the school during an extremely weak economy; our teachers, without exception, accepted a one-year pay freeze 2 years ago in order to play their role in the re-investment in our school, and despite opposition by the Archdiocese to our model of stewardship and charging us an assessment way over what is equitable, we have paid the assessments, have retained our "A" financial rating and have completed the fiscal year ending June 30, 2012 with a modest surplus. These decisions were made based on our Catholic faith and inspired by a clear vision of hope for the future. Thus, as a community of learning, Saint Andrew School strives to teach not only the three R's, but more significantly, about what life and love really mean: the on-going lesson of moving from narcissistic self-centeredness to Eucharistic self-giving. Is there anything more valuable in which we might invest our own time, energy and financial resources than in providing our children with the fundamental tools to engage this world—so different than the one in which I grew up—with its myriads of temptations and empty promises?



To be sure, our success is rewarding, but as Churchill warns, is not final. Act with your heart and support Saint Andrew School! Join us in the courageous and on-going effort not to maintain buildings, not to preserve an institution, not to make ourselves feel good; but to provide a safe environment in which our children, our future,

will be given a quality Catholic education and the tools to build a culture of life and a civilization of love through faith and knowledge.



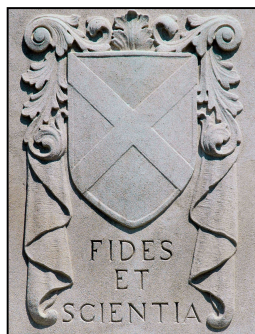
From the Principal

In the sixth months since you've last heard from us, we've registered eighty new students. For the third consecutive year, enrollment will be higher than the previous year. In the past three years, Saint Andrew School realized a 45% increase in student population! More importantly, in the same three years, five of our students were baptized. Their young hearts burning with desire, their parents' faith renewed; these youngsters our Lord claimed as His own! It just doesn't get any better than this!



In the same six months, we almost lost what we had - our parish school and our local Archdiocesan High Schools (Bonner & Prendie). My breath still catches a bit when I think back to January 6, 2012. Feeling understandably confident in our school's performance, financial strength, and our healthy enrollment standing among our peers prior to the January 6th Blue Ribbon Commission's announcement, I scheduled our 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students give an encore performance of the 'USO Show' they'd given over Skype for our troops in Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan. After all, snippets of the show were broadcasted by the local news media prior to Christmas, but the students' parents had not seen how truly entertaining their children were. For a good-will donation to the Wounded Warrior Foundation, family and friends could see the show, and then hear Msgr. Grous comment on the recommendations of the Blue Ribbon Commission.

Never did I imagine that our parish school would be slated for closure. For three years prior, we had followed the recommendations of consultants from the Churchill Institute and St. Joseph's University. Embracing the exhortations of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops in their pastoral letter - *Renewing Our Commitment to Catholic Elementary and Secondary Schools in the Third Millennium*, Msgr. Grous, with the support of St. Andrew's Pastoral Council & Finance Committee, implemented strategies necessary to change the course of Saint Andrew School.



You may have noticed the branding of the SAS shield and motto. From our earliest days, these were etched in stone above the parking lot entrance in the lower (old) school building. The motto, *Fides et Scientia* (Faith and Knowledge) is incorporated into the mission of the school, *Building a culture of Life and a civilization of Love through faith and knowledge*. Throughout the entire process, the faculty was on board and agreed to a one year pay freeze to ensure financial stability and help underwrite many of the significant upgrades to our school facilities. Parishioners, through their generosity and stewardship, supported these aggressive initiatives in a very difficult economy. And you, our alumni,

responded so generously to the annual school appeal. Saint Andrew School, long a pillar of Catholic education in Drexel Hill, was flourishing! For the life of me, I could not understand

why this 90 year legacy of excellence had to cease to exist so that a regional school could be formed at our site.

I am grateful to our pastor, Msgr. Grous and business manager, Steve Litz for appealing the recommendation of the Blue Ribbon Commission on January 13th. A comprehensive fact-based case for reversing the decision was presented to the Appeals Board. The appeal left little doubt about our academic excellence and capabilities, affordability, enrollment growth pattern, marketing plan, financial stability & sustainability, and most importantly, the support of St. Andrew the Apostle Parish. In mid-February we learned of Archbishop Chaput's decision to allow Saint Andrew School to remain a parish school.

Our collective commitment to Catholic education preserved Saint Andrew School as a parish school. And you, dear alumni, are the troops who support this endeavor. Each gift, whether prayerful or monetary, breathes life into these walls for another generation to benefit from a Catholic education.

Perhaps, and I do find some consolation in this; perhaps, the real mission of Blue Ribbon Commission was to awaken in us the realization of the value of our Catholic schools. Several indicators warn of the dire situation of education in our nation. Let us stand strong in support of Saint Andrew School. As each issue of our Alumni Newsletter illustrates, our graduates make a difference. We are ever grateful for your continued prayers and support in forming the next generation of God's children.

May God be praised in all we do!

Helen McLean

Principal Appreciation Day at Saint Andrew School





Class Notes

"It is the bonds that develop over the elementary school years that link alumni for life."

1949

Frances Kelly Thomas - I took piano lessons from Sr. Mary Donald & practiced in the convent - raced another student to get there first or had to wait an hour! many great memories - good friends - have reunions every 4 years (reunion planned for fall 2012). My sister Ginnie is a Sister of St. Joseph - Sr. Michael Eileen.

Daytona Beach, FL

1953

Paul Crawford - I am 50 years removed from SAS but still have fond (a few not so fond) memories of SAS. How did they fit that many kids in a classroom?

Wilmington, DE

Gerald Scheidhauer - Fond memories from my whole family - memories of our days at SAS. Sisters were in the choir and my brother and I were Altar Boys for many years.

Odenton, MD

1962

Catherine Hutton Hawes - My son graduated from Saint Andrew in 1983. He showed me the fall edition. Glad to be on the mailing list.

Media, PA

Vincent Ricciardi - I'd like to thank all at St. Andrew for last week's First Friday Mass. I am a 1966 graduate of Msgr. Bonner and a 1962 graduate of SAS. Father's homily at Mass was particularly appropriate and inspired. Since moving away in the early seventies, I've had few occasions to visit my old neighborhood. Your service made me feel at home again.

1964

Kathy Henry Dawson - I remember our 2nd grade teacher was Sr. Anne Terrence. It was her 1st year teaching and even as a child, I thought she was so young and sweet!

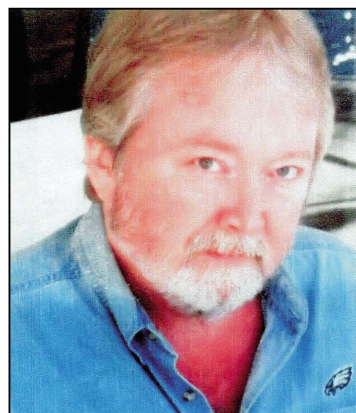
Chesapeake, VA

1977

Kathy McGarvey Hidy - Thanks so much for keeping the flame alive at Saint Andrew School. I am making a donation with gratitude and in honor of my parents - Bill & Barbara McGarvey.

Cincinnati, OH

In Memoriam



John "Jack" Marshall '63

6/9/1949 - 5/27/2011

A graduate of Millersville University, Jack served in the Navy on the Destroyer - Wallace L. Lind. Jack was Polymer Chemist and worked for DuPont, Marshall Labs, RCA, Lilly, Sherwin Williams and PQ Corp. Past President of the Media Lions, Jack was a musician and avid car /racing enthusiast. Jack started in St. Andrew Parish ministry as an Altar Boy and finished his ministry service as an usher.

Jack is survived by his wife Anne Remshard Marshall and his mother Anna Berger Marshall. He is also survived by his sisters - **Patte Marshall Michel '66** and **Leslie Marshall Sannino '71**; his sisters-in-law Patericia Gallelli and Kathleen Albaugh; and many nephews and nieces.

Class of 1952 - Sixtieth Anniversary



Congratulations to all the members of the **Class of 1952** who recently celebrated their 60th 'Diamond' Anniversary starting with Mass at St. Andrew Parish on June 9th followed by a reception at Casey's Restaurant. We would love to include all of you in our next SAS Alumni Newsletter mailing list - please send your classmates names and addresses to Helen McLean at: sas.hmclean@gmail.com

Top Row - left to right

- 1 Ron Toussaint
- 2 John Coyne
- 3 Dan Dougherty
- 4 Jack Reina
- 5 Mary ?
- 6 Patricia Simpson
- 7 Elizabeth Dietz
- 8 Annette Oaks
- 9 Josephine Oaks
- 10 Jane Weston
- 11 Gert O'Brien
- 12 Edwin Farley
- 13 Joe Devalerio
- 14 Joe Burke
- 15 Bob Loftus
- 16 Dave White

Middle Row - left to right

- 1 Bernie McDevitt
- 2 Kathleen O'Connell
- 3 Kit Dansereau
- 4 Denise McCarthy
- 5 Marie Joyce
- 6 Mary Caroline Scott
- 7 Joan Rourke
- 8 Rosemarie Mahon
- 9 Helen Smith
- 10 Eileen Carr
- 11 Ruth Kugler
- 12 Mary Lenz
- 13 Nana Hayden
- 14 Pat Pidgeon

Bottom Row - left to right

- 1 Bob Burke
- 2 John Manning
- 3 Joe Donnelly
- 4 William Robb
- 5 Franny Minton
- 6 Gene Hewitt
- 7 Ed Dowling
- 8 John Hartnett
- 9 Bernie Currie
- 10 Dan Lyons
- 11 Don Lorber



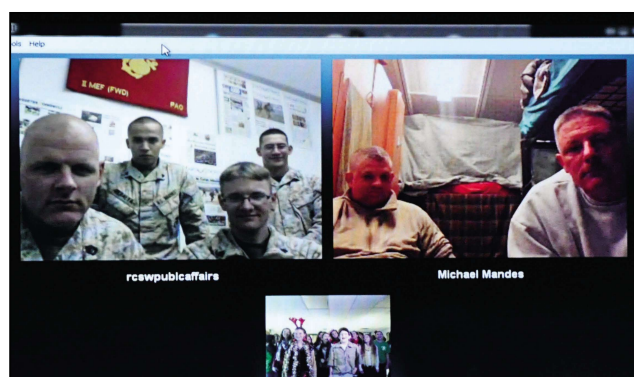
Thanks for the Memories

This past December, grades 6, 7, and 8 again teleconferenced with Marines stationed at Camp Leatherneck in Helmand Province, Afghanistan. But this time, the students entertained the men and women at Camp Leatherneck with an original SAS version of the classic Bob Hope "USO Christmas Show."

Bob Hopeful and his sidekick, Mary Christmas, led a cast of 77 SAS students in a musical review that included such Christmas hits as "Mele Kalikimaka," "Santa Baby," "Snoopy's Christmas," "Little Saint Nick," "Someday at Christmas," and the ever-popular, "Heat Miser/Snow Miser."

Costumes, props, recorded instrumental music, and live guitar and drums accompanied the students' performance. The show closed with a USO Christmas show tradition – the singing of "Silent Night" and a rousing rendition of "We Wish You a Merry Christmas" followed by the traditional Marine cheer - "OO-RAH!"

Everyone involved worked hard to bring this humble offering of time and talent to those at Camp Leatherneck who sacrifice so much to serve us all.



Skype 'USO' Show for Our Troops In Afghanistan

Simply click the above captioned Photo Album title on the SAS website homepage for the Channel 6 video coverage of this event.

saintandrewschool.com

SAS Alum receives Air Force Cross for Heroism

April 12, 2012

The President of the United States of America awarded the Air Force Cross to **Captain Barry F. Crawford, Jr.**, (SAS Class of 1994) for extraordinary heroism in military operations against an armed enemy of the United States as Special Tactics Officer near Laghman Province, Afghanistan, on 4 May 2010. On that date, while attached to Army Special Forces Operational Detachment Alpha and their Afghan partner force, Captain Crawford conducted a helicopter assault. Upon landing, Captain Crawford received reports that multiple groups of armed enemy were maneuvering into prepared fighting positions in the high ground around the village. As the assault force initiated clearance operations, they began to receive a high volume of accurate machine gun and sniper fire from an enemy force well over 100 fighters. As the assault force was attacked, Captain Crawford took decisive action to save the lives of three wounded Afghan soldiers and evacuate two Afghan



Air Force Captain Barry F. Crawford, Jr.,
SAS Class of 1994



The **Air Force Cross** is the second highest military decoration that can be awarded to a member of the United States Air Force.

soldiers killed in action. Recognizing that the wounded Afghan soldiers would die without evacuation to definitive care, Captain Crawford took decisive action and ran out into the open in an effort to guide the helicopter to the landing zone. Once the pilot had eyes on his position, Captain Crawford remained exposed, despite having one of his radio antennas shot off mere inches from his face, while he vectored in the aircraft. Acting without hesitation, Captain Crawford then bounded across open terrain, engaged enemy positions with his assault rifle and called in AH-64 strafe attacks to defeat the ambush allowing the aid-and-litter teams to move toward the casualties. While the casualties were being moved, the team's exposed position once again came under attack from two enemy trucks that had moved into the area and were threatening the medical evacuation landing zone. As one of the aid-and-litter teams was pinned down by enemy fire, and the medical evacuation helicopter took direct hits from small arms fire, it departed with only four casualties leaving one wounded Afghan soldier on the ground. Captain Crawford developed, coordinated, and executed a plan to suppress the enemy, enabling the helicopter to return to the hot landing zone to retrieve the last casualty. While Captain Crawford's element exfiltrated the village, the assault force conducted a two kilometer movement over steep

terrain with little to no cover. Captain Crawford again engaged the enemy with his assault rifle while integrating AH-64s and F-15E's in a coordinated air-to-ground attack plan that included strafing runs along with 500 and 2,000-pound bomb and Hellfire missile strikes. Throughout the course of the ten hour firefight, Captain Crawford braved effective enemy fire and consciously placed himself at grave risk on four occasions while controlling over 33 aircraft and more than 40 airstrikes on a well-trained and well-prepared enemy force. His selfless actions and expert airpower employment neutralized a numerically superior enemy force and enabled friendly elements to exfiltrate the area without massive casualties. Through his extraordinary heroism, superb airmanship, and aggressiveness in the face of the enemy, Captain Crawford has reflected great credit upon himself and the United States Air Force.

Barry lives in Springfield with his wife, Mary Karen, and sons - Alexander, 3 and Nathaniel, 20 months.

You're not Special ... be Extraordinary!



When was the last time a high school commencement speech was heard by over 1.5 million listeners? That is the current number of YouTube video hits to David McCullough Jr.'s speech at the Wellesley High School commencement ceremony. David's father is a two-time Pulitzer Prize winner (*Truman* and *John Adams*) and the National Book Award and a recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the United States' highest civilian award.

In the interest of space, the speech has been excerpted:

"...commencement is life's great ceremonial beginning, with its own attendant and highly appropriate symbolism. Fitting, for example, for this auspicious rite of passage, is where we find ourselves this afternoon, the venue. Normally, I avoid clichés like the plague, wouldn't touch them with a ten-foot pole, but here we are on a literal level playing field. That matters. That says something. And your ceremonial costume... shapeless, uniform, one-size-fits-all. Whether male or female, tall or short, scholar or slacker, spray-tanned prom queen or intergalactic X-Box assassin, each of you is dressed, you'll notice, exactly the same. And your diploma... but for your name, exactly the same. All of this is as it should be, because none of you is special.

Contrary to what your soccer trophy suggests, your glowing seventh grade report card, despite every assurance of a certain corpulent purple dinosaur, that nice Mister Rogers and your batty Aunt Sylvia, no matter how often your maternal caped crusader has swooped in to save you... you're nothing special.

Yes, you've been pampered, cosseted, doted upon, helmeted, bubble-wrapped. Yes, capable adults with other things to do have held you, kissed you, fed you, wiped your mouth, wiped your bottom, trained you, taught you, tutored you, coached you, listened to you, counseled you, encouraged you, consoled you and encouraged you again. You've been nudged, cajoled, wheedled and implored. You've been feted and fawned over and called sweetie pie. Yes, you have. And, certainly, we've been to your games, your plays, your recitals, your science fairs. Absolutely, smiles ignite when you walk into a room, and hundreds gasp with delight at your every tweet. But do not get the idea you're anything special. Because you're not.

Across the country no fewer than 3.2 million seniors are graduating about now from more than 37,000 high schools. That's 37,000 valedictorians... 37,000 class presidents... 92,000 harmonizing altos... 340,000 swaggering jocks... 2,185,967 pairs of Uggs. But why limit ourselves to high school? After all, you're leaving it. So think about this: even if you're one in a million, on a planet of 6.8 billion that means there are nearly 7,000 people just like you.

“But, Dave,” you cry, “Walt Whitman tells me I’m my own version of perfection! Epictetus tells me I have the spark of Zeus!” And I don’t disagree. So that makes 6.8 billion examples of perfection, 6.8 billion sparks of Zeus. You see, if everyone is special, then no one is. If everyone gets a trophy, trophies become meaningless. In our unspoken but not so subtle Darwinian competition with one another—which springs, I think, from our fear of our own insignificance, a subset of our dread of mortality — we have of late, we Americans, to our detriment, come to love accolades more than genuine achievement. We have come to see them as the point — and we’re happy to compromise standards, or ignore reality, if we suspect that’s the quickest way, or only way, to have something to put on the mantelpiece, something to pose with, crow about, something with which to leverage ourselves into a better spot on the social totem pole. No longer is it how you play the game, no longer is it even whether you win or lose, or learn or grow, or enjoy yourself doing it... Now it’s “So what does this get me?” As a consequence, we cheapen worthy endeavors, and building a Guatemalan medical clinic becomes more about the application to Bowdoin than the well-being of Guatemalans. It’s an epidemic — and in its way, not even dear old Wellesley High is immune... one of the best of the 37,000 nationwide, Wellesley High School... where good is no longer good enough, where a B is the new C, and the midlevel curriculum is called Advanced College Placement. And I hope you caught me when I said “one of the best.” I said “one of the best” so we can feel better about ourselves, so we can bask in a little easy distinction, however vague and unverifiable, and count ourselves among the elite, whoever they might be, and enjoy a perceived leg up on the perceived competition. But the phrase defies logic. By definition there can be only one best. You’re it or you’re not.

If you’ve learned anything in your years here I hope it’s that education should be for, rather than material advantage, the exhilaration of learning. You’ve learned, too, I hope, as Sophocles assured us, that wisdom is the chief element of happiness. I also hope you’ve learned enough to recognize how little you know... how little you know now... at the moment... for today is just the beginning. It’s where you go from here that matters.

As you commence, then, and before you scatter to the winds, I urge you to do whatever you do for no reason other than you love it and believe in its importance. Resist the easy comforts of complacency, the specious glitter of materialism, the narcotic paralysis of self-satisfaction. Be worthy of your advantages. And read... read all the time... read as a matter of principle, as a matter of self-respect. Read as a nourishing staple of life. Develop and protect a moral sensibility and demonstrate the character to apply it. Dream big. Work hard. Think for yourself. Love everything you love, everyone you love, with all your might. And do so, please, with a sense of urgency, for every tick of the clock subtracts from fewer and fewer; and as surely as there are commencements there are cessations, and you’ll be in no condition to enjoy the ceremony attendant to that eventuality no matter how delightful the afternoon.

The fulfilling life, the distinctive life, the relevant life, is an achievement, not something that will fall into your lap because you’re a nice person or mommy ordered it from the caterer. You’ll note the founding fathers took pains to secure your inalienable right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness—quite an active verb, “pursuit”—which leaves, I should think, little time for lying around watching parrots rollerskate on Youtube. The first President Roosevelt, the old rough rider, advocated the strenuous life. Mr. Thoreau wanted to drive life into a corner, to live deep and suck out all the marrow. The poet Mary Oliver tells us to row, row into the swirl and roil. Locally, someone... I forget who... from time to time encourages young scholars to carpe the heck out of the diem. The point is the same: get



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busy, have at it. Don't wait for inspiration or passion to find you. Get up, get out, explore, find it yourself, and grab hold with both hands.

Like accolades ought to be, the fulfilled life is a consequence, a gratifying byproduct. It's what happens when you're thinking about more important things. Climb the mountain not to plant your flag, but to embrace the challenge, enjoy the air and behold the view. Climb it so you can see the world, not so the world can see you. Go to Paris to be in Paris, not to cross it off your list and congratulate yourself for being worldly. Exercise free will and creative, independent thought not for the satisfactions they will bring you, but for the good they will do others, the rest of the 6.8 billion—and those who will follow them. And then you too will discover the great and curious truth of the human experience is that selflessness is the best thing you can do for yourself. The sweetest joys of life, then, come only with the recognition that you're not special. Because everyone is.

Congratulations. Good luck. Make for yourselves, please, for your sake and for ours, extraordinary lives."

In many respects, McCullough's speech offers a similar message as the well known Catholic author and speaker Matthew Kelly - challenging us to continuously make sound decisions that will lead us to become the *best versions of ourselves*. So, to our newest alumni /ae, the Class of 2012, we wish you God's richest blessings and encourage you to '*make for yourselves, please, for your sake and for ours, extraordinary lives.*'

Class of 2012

Archbishop Carroll: *Annaliese Black, Siobhan Kelly*

Monsignor Bonner-Archbishop Prendergast: *Maggie Baldini, Steve Cromity, Victoria Crumlish, Hillary Espinal, Kacie Farrell, Courtney Givnish. Veronica Kirchner, Dominic Love, Monica Maenner, Jacob Mengel, Michael Oladosu, Nyarra Phillips, Julia Puciata, Allison Pyfer, Andrew Stewart, & Lisa Tomasetti*

Roman Catholic High School: *Declan Canny, Michael Fialkowski, Matthew Vanderveer*

Merion Mercy Academy: *Meghan McDermott, Domenica Tomasetti*

Penncrest High School: *Sawyer Thomson*

Undecided: *Alex Silva, Myles Miller*

**Class of 2012 Scholarship Awards totaled
\$156,000**



A SAS Legend Retires

In the ninety-six year history of St. Andrew Parish, there have been just seven pastors. Betty Spano has worked for all but one of our pastors! What started out as just a one-year commitment in 1966 turned into a 46 year career at Saint Andrew School - just over half the time in

the 90 year history of our school's existence. Her reputation among students and fellow faculty members was without peer - tough, demanding, abhorred excuses and regularly called the best educator at SAS. Betty - with our profound respect and gratitude for your uncommon commitment to our school, parish and students spanning six decades, we wish you good health, joy and happiness in your retirement. God bless you!





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Saint Andrew School 2011 Annual Appeal Campaign

(donations received after October 2011)

Principal's Circle

(\$1,000 +)

Anonymous

Edward W. & Linda A. Rimmer

Friends of SAS

(\$250 +)

Anonymous

John Convery, Jr. '48

Joe Foy

Mary Pat Nespoli Fralick '77

John ('63) & Janet Jenkins

Helen McLean

Mr. & Mrs. John O'Hara

SAS Steward

(\$100 +)

Jim Brophy '68

James J. Burke '56

Patrick Burke '87

Kathleen A. Carr '79

Bruce Conforto '66

William Curtin '55

Lucy Desmond

Mini Lavin Dolan '72

John & Mary Dunbar '72

Kathleen Clarke Frenzel '62

Kathy McGarvey Hidy '77

Kevin W. Kidd '73

James P. Lake '80

Ed Lozowicki '58

William F. Martin '60

Claire '77 & Bob Martorana

Patte Marshall Michel '66

Anthony J. Mina '59

John J. Salvucci '74

Leslie Marshall Sannino '71

Jeffrey Viola '71

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Karen Friel

Brian Geraghty '59

Dale Meiswich Lamoureux '56

Judy Larentowicz '58

Edward J. McGarvey '63

Marie (Lamay) & Louis Pinto '50

Gerald Scheidhauer '53

Jack Tegler '58

Frances Kelly Thomas '49



In honor of the Class of 1948 Nuns

In honor & memory of the Nespoli & Lombardo Families

In honor of Els O'Haren

In honor of Bernice Brophy & in memory of Joseph Brophy

In memory of Mr. & Mrs. James F. Burke;

John "Jackie" Burke '56 & John G. Jenemann

In memory of Ray Ewing

In honor of Faith Carr (mother) &

in memory of Robert P. Carr, Sr. (father)

In memory of Clara & Joseph Conforto

In memory of Eileen Curtin Carlucci '68

In memory of Regina A. Clarke

In honor of Bill & Barbara McGarvey

In honor of Dolores M. Kidd & in memory of Norman L. Kidd

In memory of James & Joan Lake

In honor of the Class of 1977

In memory of John "Jack" Marshall '63

In memory of Anna & Vito Mina

In memory of Bill Tobin

In memory of John "Jack" Marshall '63

In memory of Pascal J. Viola



In memory of Sally & Tom Henry

In honor of Caitlin, Tina & Paul Friel

In memory of the deceased members

of the Lamay & Pinto Families

In honor of the Sisters of St. Joseph



Congratulations

Paul Bracken '62, a professor of management and political science at Yale's School of Management, made the **Princeton Review Top 300 U.S. Professors** from 122 colleges and universities across the country.

Paul teaches courses such as "Problem Framing" and "Business, Government, and Globalization" at the Yale School of Management and has been rated the best professor in Yale's executive education programs.

A few final thoughts....

Yes - you are receiving the "Spring" SAS Alumni Newsletter in July - and that's the good news. For 54 elementary schools in the Archdiocese, there will be no more alumni newsletters. While SAS celebrates and give thanks for Archbishop Chaput's reversal of the Blue Ribbon Commission's decision, it was nonetheless difficult to witness other parish schools with long, rich histories and traditions close their doors for the last time on June 15, 2012.

Outrage, protests, picketing and candlelight vigils were common responses from parents, students and alumni throughout the Archdiocese. Yet, for these 54 schools, it was too little too late. The lingering question for the remaining parish schools as well as for the new regional schools remains - will this major restructuring event awaken Catholic families and alumni to renew their commitment and support of our Catholic schools? While 54 elementary schools clearly wish they had one more chance, one more opportunity to prove they were viable through the renewed passion and support of their stakeholders, it will not save their parish school.

Throughout this edition of the Alumni Newsletter, there are remarkable stories of heroism, accomplishment, service, commitment, dedication, and friendships lasting a lifetime - *extraordinary lives* indeed - what David McCullough called "the great and curious truth of the human experience - that selflessness is the best thing you can do for yourself." Will we continue to live that "selflessness" or wait till the next crisis and hope for the best?

Unlike the courage, valor and selflessness displayed by Captain Barry Crawford (page 11) on May 4, 2010, most of us will never know in our lifetime how many lives we have touched and changed for the better through our selflessness and generous support of Catholic education and SAS. Be assured, however, that this is one of the best investments you will ever make. If you believe that Catholic schools have played an important part in your formation and development, please do everything you can to provide that same opportunity to the next generation of God's children.

Your thoughts, comments and memories of your days at SAS are always welcomed and encouraged. Have a wonderful and restful summer.

The Editor



Saint Andrew School 2011 Annual Appeal Campaign - Final Results

Our sincere thanks and gratitude to all who generously supported the 2011 SAS Annual Appeal Campaign. Despite challenging economic conditions, we finished with a record level of donors and total gifts. **The total amount received for the 2011 campaign was \$41,100 up over \$8,000 or 27% over 2010!**

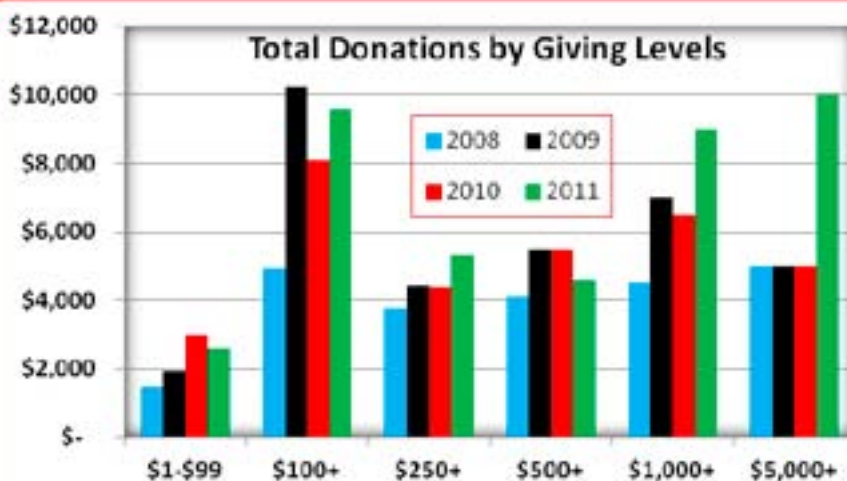
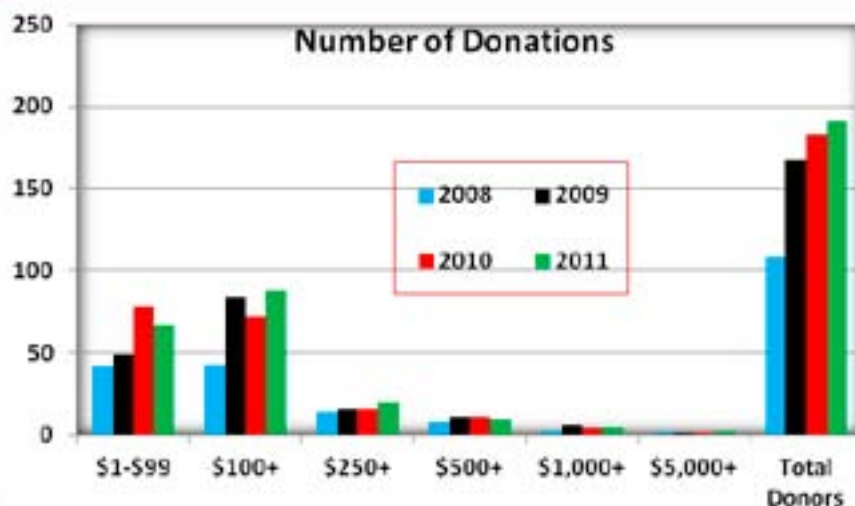
Our 2012 Annual Appeal Campaign begins this July (see page 19). Please watch your mail and take that extra step by contacting your employer (or former employer if retired) about their matching gift program. Your support is indeed making a difference. All gifts, regardless of size, are welcomed and truly appreciated.

2011 Directed Gifts

(May 1, 2011 - May 1, 2012)

Financial Aid	\$ 7,035
Science Lab	\$ 1,825
General Operations	\$ 13,065
Undirected	\$ 19,175
Total Gifts (2011)	\$ 41,100
Total Gifts (2010)	\$ 32,454
Total Gifts (2009)	\$ 34,121
Total Gifts (2008)	\$ 23,746

Total # Donors (2011)	191
Total # Donors (2010)	183
Total # Donors (2009)	167
Total # Donors (2008)	108



Saint Andrew School 2012 Annual Appeal Campaign

Our **2012 Annual Appeal Campaign** is underway with the mailing to arrive within days of receiving this newsletter. After a record appeal level in 2011, we are hoping to surpass that result in celebration of Saint Andrew School's 90th Anniversary!



Your gifts truly do make a difference in the lives of our students - enabling many families to continue their enrollment at SAS through the financial assistance provided through your directed gifts or simply assisting in the funding of critical academic endeavors.

Please complete this section and print your name as you would like it to appear in the Fall 2012 edition of the SAS Alumni Newsletter

☐ Check here if anonymity is desired

Name _____ Graduate of SAS? ☐ No ☐ Yes – Class of _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

My Gift to the 2012 Saint Andrew School Annual Appeal Campaign

Please accept the enclosed gift of \$_____ to Saint Andrew School

Giving Levels:

- ☐ Legacy Circle \$10,000+
- ☐ SSJ Circle \$5,000+
- ☐ Principal's Circle \$1,000+
- ☐ Red & White Club \$500+
- ☐ Friends of SAS \$250+
- ☐ SAS Steward \$100+
- ☐ SAS Donor to \$99

Gift is: ☐ In honor of _____

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(Please Print)



☐ I have remembered Saint Andrew Parish / School
in my Will.

Please direct my gift to:

- ☐ General School Operations
- ☐ Financial Assistance for a SAS Student
- ☐ Science Lab - Materials & Supplies

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Stay Connected

Just moved? New job? Earned a degree? Welcomed a new family member? Or just want to connect with friends and classmates. Please send your latest news to:

Alumni Newsletter, Saint Andrew School, 535 Mason Ave., Drexel Hill, PA 19026

Name _____ Maiden _____ Class of _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (H) _____ E-mail _____

☐

I have remembered Saint Andrew Parish / School in my Will.



News about you or remembrances of SAS: _____

Note to Parents: If your son or daughter has moved from your home address, please help us update SAS's alumni records by completing the above form and returning in the envelope provided with this newsletter.