

# ST. MARY ALUMNI NEWS

## School Awarded "Spirit of Excellence"



Schools across Wisconsin competed for a title more prestigious than any other celebrated: "The Spirit of Excellence Award" - an award honoring schools for achieving excellence in leadership, spirit, and service to their school and communities - true champions in their region and in our state.

Schools across the state submitted a detailed portfolio highlighting their achievements in various venues, including leadership, service, lowering the achievement gap, etc. This portfolio

was judged by a team of leaders from Wisconsin.

An all-school assembly was held at St. Mary's School on February 22, where the school was presented with this prestigious award and recognized for their outstanding achievements.

Recognition for this award included banners, an award presentation at half-time of the Mar. 20th Milwaukee Bucks Game and an awards presentation at the upcoming WASC State JAM Conference in Green Bay Wisconsin on May 2nd.

### St. Mary Class of 2011

Thirty five students will graduate to the rank of St. Mary alumni next month in a graduation ceremony during the 5 p.m. Mass on Saturday, June 4<sup>th</sup>, in the church.

Based on a recent survey of the graduates, they will be attending the following high schools:

- Sussex Hamilton – 3 students
- Menomonee Falls – 7 students
- Germantown – 5 students
- Pius – 4 students
- DSHA – 8 students
- MUHS – 8 students

### St. Mary Class of 1986

Twenty-five years ago, 42 students were in the St. Mary graduating class. According to the graduation booklet they compiled, some of their favorite musical groups included Rush, Kiss, Air Supply and Culture Club. Most-watched television programs were "The Dukes of Hazzard," "Happy Days," and "Gilligan's Island."

And, what did they do in their free time? "Listen to the radio and talk about guys," roller skate, go to the mall, and play cards.

Graduates also reported they would most miss the good religion discussions, all-school Masses, the good learning atmosphere and the helpful, caring teachers that they grew to love at St. Mary School.

## A Note from the Principal

Dear Saint Mary Alumni,

We are quickly coming to the end of another school year. We will soon be enjoying our summer break and begin preparing for the 2011-2012 school year. This year brought several exciting "firsts" to our school.

This was our first year with a kindergarten program for three-year-olds and it was very successful. The program was full with fifteen children enrolled. We also welcomed Mrs. Katie Pomroy to our dynamic faculty. Mrs. Pomroy took on our three-year-old kindergarten and has done an excellent job getting this program up and running.

This was also our first year with Smart Boards installed in every classroom in grades 1-8. Faculty members completed an advanced level Smart Board training class last summer, so they were ready to go when the students entered the building last August. Our Smart Boards were made possible through generous gifts from donors and profits from our scholastic book fairs. It is amazing how quickly this technology has become such an integral part of daily life here at school.

Many of you may remember participating in the Destination Imagination program. This program promotes creative thinking, problem solving and teamwork. I am very proud to announce that one of our teams took first place at the regional competition at Germantown and went on to compete at the state competition. This is the very first time that one of our teams has ever made it to this level of the competition!

St. Mary also broke new ground when our school was awarded the first ever Spirit of Excellence Award for middle schools. This award honors schools for achieving excellence in leadership, spirit, and service to their school and communities. To compete for this award our student council put together a detailed portfolio highlighting our achievements in various areas. This portfolio was judged by a team of leaders from Wisconsin. Recognition for this award included a presentation at school, at half-time during a Milwaukee Bucks Game, and a presentation that will take place at the WASC State JAM Conference in May.

There are many more great things happening at St. Mary Parish School that I would like to share with you; however, it would be best if you could come for a visit and see us in action. Please keep us in your prayers as we strive to meet the needs of the children and families we serve.

*Faithfully, Linda Joyner*

## St. Mary Bids Farewell to Father Greg Greiten

After serving 12 years with the people of St. Mary Parish, Father Greg is awaiting his next parish assignment. To bid him farewell, there will be a reception for Father Greg at 6 p.m. Saturday, June 10, in the Activity Center, following the 5 p.m. Mass.



St. Mary Parish was Father Greg's first pastorship. He was one of the youngest pastors in the Archdiocese – only 33 years old. During his time with us, he has made a memorable impact. His interest in technology led to the expansion of the School's computer lab. Father Greg reinvigorated the Christian Formation Program by adding a Youth Minister to get the young people in the Parish more involved in liturgy and in living Christ's words each and every day.

Fr. Greg began participating in the trips to Honduras in 2005. Through this "life-changing experience" he shared in giving to the Honduran people through the Word of God. He implemented the Heart-to-Heart fund which provides outreach to those in need within our community. Father Greg always wanted to try new things and wasn't afraid to take the Parish in new directions. The children of the school and your parish community will miss you!

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## Deacon Tom Wuchterl and Principal Barbara Lee Remembered

Deacon Thomas Herbert Wuchterl, 75, was born to eternal life October 31, 2010.

Upon completing his studies at St. Francis de Sales Seminary, St. Francis, Deacon Tom Wuchterl was ordained a permanent deacon in 1978 by Archbishop Rembert G. Weakland, and was appointed to St. Mary, Menomonee Falls, where he faithfully served the people of both the parish and the school until his death.

As a deacon, Tom served in a number of ministries. He also served as the coordinator of Ministry to St. Mary's sister parish, Sagrado Corazon de Jesus in the Diocese of Puerto Cortes Sula in Honduras.

His daughter, Michelle Greiner, shared the following reflection about her father, "This past February, the missionaries went down to Honduras and built a memorial to my Dad in an area he loved. They put up a bell that can ring when it is time to gather the folks for church. It can be heard throughout the land. There is a lovely memorial stone with my Dad's name and photo etched into it, too. The people have built a fence around it to protect it and will be maintaining it regularly. It sounds amazing!

"My father loved serving the people of St. Mary Parish for the last 30+ years. He dedicated his life to God and this church, and found a new love, after my Mom died 11 years ago, in the people of Honduras .



He committed himself to the Honduran people, raising funds, donations, and most importantly, awareness for his newly adopted family. In fact, he would tell people that he lived in Honduras and vacationed in Wisconsin ! His impact in this country, as well as in our church community, will not be soon forgotten."

### We Are Part of a Circle That Will Last Forever...

Anyone who was a part of St. Mary's School, 1987-1997, will forever remember our principal, Barbara Lee, 1948-2011, and her love of children, life and learning. A memorial Mass was held on March 24 at St. Mary. The Mass was a good way to celebrate and honor her life. Teachers, friends, former students and their families, attended.

Diane Harley, St. Mary Alumna and teacher, shares the following reflection of Lee's years at St. Mary School. "As principal, she stressed life-long learning, was always on the cutting edge with new methods of teaching and learning, and wanted each student to be the best he/she could be. It was during her tenure that our school got its first computer. She was an excellent communicator with parents, students, and faculty. She did many good things for others without public awareness, and always tried to bring culturally diverse programs to St. Mary's, so that students would grow in their knowledge and understanding of other groups of people. Her prayer services were outstanding, and her faith in God was obvious in all she said and did. Her passion was books, and she was constantly giving them to people, and adding to our school library."

Because of Ms. Lee's love of books and reading, our school library will be dedicated to her, adding new books and computer enhancements. Memorial contributions would be appreciated and checks can be made out to The Barbara C. Lee Library Fund, in care of St. Mary School. Her legacy will continue and your family will be recognized as a donor to the Lee Library. Questions may be directed to Patty Bence, Diane Harley, Marie Makal and/or Kathy Pollard at St. Mary School - 262-251-1050.

## Class of 1976 Announces Reunion Details

**ST. MARY  
MENOMONEE FALLS**

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We're on the Web!

*See us at:*

**www.stmarymf.org**

and Facebook:

St. Mary Parish School  
Menomonee Falls

The Class of 1976 is invited to celebrate their 35<sup>th</sup> reunion year with a school tour, Mass and dinner with former classmates on Saturday, September 10, 2011. The evening will begin with a school tour at 4:30 p.m., followed by 5 p.m. Mass. The festivities will then continue with dinner at Trysting Place, Menomonee Falls. Connect with classmates John Schilling and Mary McGowan Brennan for more details.

Facebook: St. Mary Menomonee Falls Class of 1976

Contact: John Schilling [jwsgroup@comcast.net](mailto:jwsgroup@comcast.net)  
Mary Brennan (McGowan) [nulu@sbcglobal.net](mailto:nulu@sbcglobal.net)

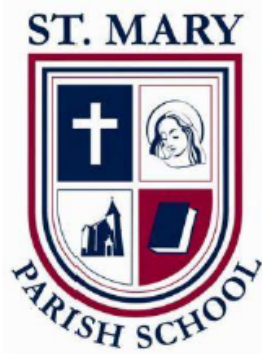
Missing Classmate: Joe Murphy – if you know how to reach him, please send information to one of the above contacts.

### Alumni Spotlight

In upcoming issues, we'd like to feature information about alumni from all classes at St. Mary. We encourage you to send us a short description of recent accomplishments, information about your career, family or hobbies, wedding or birth

announcements – anything you'd like to share with former friends and classmates.

Mail updates to the school office, attention St. Mary Alumni Committee, or email:



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