

THE Aggie Archives

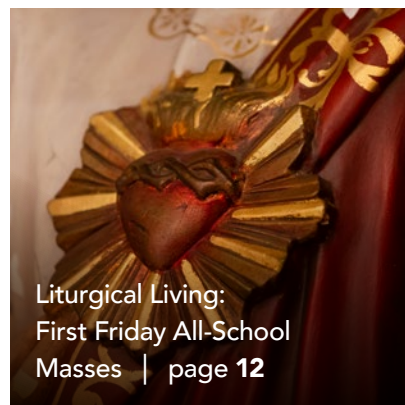
Keeping alumni, families and friends connected to Saint Agnes School • FALL 2023



Revitalizing

Catholic Education

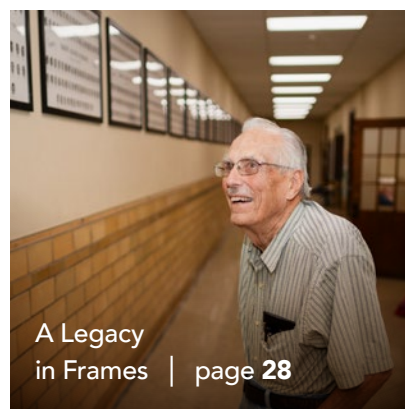
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On the cover: Aggie Alumna Margaret Blackstone '18, a Mission and Culture Fellow, works with a second grade student.

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Dr. Kevin Ferdinandt
Headmaster of Saint Agnes School

Dear Saint Agnes Alumni, Families, and Friends,

As many of you have come to understand, Saint Agnes School has become an increasingly popular place for students to get a high quality, authentically Catholic education in this Archdiocese. With students from well over 70 ZIP codes, our school continues to attract mission-fit families who want what our school has to offer—for any number of reasons! In this fall's edition of the Aggie Archives, you will see a substantial focus on the question: "Why Saint Agnes School?"

Every year, I hear story after story about the impressions our students leave on members of other communities. When we invited friends, co-workers, and family members of Larry McGough to celebrate the dedication of the McGough Room (see the featured pages in this issue), several commented on how the students they met were so wholesome—they looked them in the eye, shook their hand, and gave them a friendly greeting when they arrived. When we had our second fire drill of the year, one member of the fire department commented, "I've never seen kids come out of a school this quietly!"; another one said, "Your kids were great—I would send my kids here!" Such behavior—especially from high school students—is, sadly, becoming increasingly rare, even in other private and Catholic schools. We simply expect it here. One answer to the question of, "Why Saint Agnes?": our positive student culture and comportment is simply outstanding.

Our classical, liberal arts curriculum attracts parents, students, and teachers who believe in our mission to our school. The Institute for Catholic Liberal Education (a Catholic organization supporting traditional Catholic liberal arts education for K-12 schools) routinely

relies on us for presentations at national conferences and repeatedly requests that we host Catholic schools and Catholic school systems from other dioceses to show the art of the possible in K-12 Catholic liberal arts education. We have also established a formal partnership with the Center for Catholic Studies at the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul to train Master's level students to teach in Catholic schools—the program is called the Catholic Studies Mission and Culture Fellows Program (see the featured article in this issue). Another answer to "Why Saint Agnes?": a curriculum and curricular approach that many Catholic schools try to emulate.

The Catholic faith remains front and center in our school. We are fundamentally a school, where academic programs prepare students for any number of future endeavors—BUT we are a *Catholic* school, and that adjective makes all the difference for our school's identity and approach to everything we do. We foster a life of prayer among our students, and many show up early for school or during lunch to pray with one another (and their teachers) in the sisters' chapel. Such an unapologetically Catholic mission leads to many healthy vocations—to the priesthood,

religious life, or marriage. Twenty junior and senior girls went to the Dominican Mother house in Ann Arbor, Michigan in early November to explore a possible vocation to become religious sisters. At a recent gathering of young men interested in discerning the priesthood, half of the highschool-aged young men there were from Saint Agnes School. Our K-12 students attend weekly Masses and have the opportunity to go to Confession each month. All our teachers make an oath of fidelity to the Church and Her teachings at the first Mass of the year each fall. "Why Saint Agnes?" The ability of all students, faculty, and staff members to be boldly and faithfully Catholic.

We are a *Catholic* school, and that adjective makes all the difference for our school's identity and approach to everything we do.

And so, if you haven't been back to experience our beloved school lately, please call us and come in for a tour. Alumni will find their individual photo on their graduating class's picture on one of our walls. You can see for yourself why so many people are so impressed by our students, our teachers, and the respect for all of God's children here. Come and discover your own answer to the question: "Why Saint Agnes School?"

Blessings to you and your family,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Kevin Ferdinandt".

Dr. Kevin Ferdinandt
Headmaster

HOMECOMING

2023

This year's Homecoming was our best ever! More than 1,500 people enjoyed the festivities at Hamline's Klas Field, cheering on the Aggies to a 35-7 victory over Breck. Aggies young and old took part, from enjoying hotdogs and quesadillas at the tailgate before the game, to cheerleading at halftime, to belting out the Aggie Rouser after every touchdown. Bishop Michael Izen, our archdiocese's newest auxiliary bishop, was even on hand to bless our athletes before the game. The Aggie atmosphere and spirit at Homecoming is truly unlike anywhere else!







THE
Mission AND
Culture FELLOWS

Presented with the opportunity to help form quality, faithful educators for Catholic schools, Saint Agnes is the first school ever to partner with the University of Saint Thomas' new *Mission and Culture Fellows in Catholic Education* program.

The *Mission and Culture Fellows in Catholic Education* program is a nine-month certificate program completed alongside students' coursework. While pursuing a Master's Degree in Catholic Studies, participants spend 15 hours each week in a K-8 classroom. The program is a unique way in which young people can receive a rich, Catholic education in theology, history, art, and literature through the University of Saint Thomas' Master of Arts in Catholic Studies, while avoiding the pitfalls of many of today's secular education programs. Upon completion of the *Mission and Culture Fellows* program, graduates can move straightaway into the field of teaching.

Noting how essential this kind of collaboration is to revitalize Catholic education in our world today, Mr. Michael Adkins, Director of the Lower School, says, "It's become very clear that just getting your Bachelor's in Education degree and moving into teaching is really not adequate to serve Catholic schools well because it doesn't dovetail well enough with a deepened sense of Catholic culture and mission. The solution is to be found precisely in collaboration between primary, secondary, and higher education. The Catholic Church invented the Western intellectual tradition. Why would we hand that over to secular 'experts' in education? What the *Mission and Culture Fellows in Catholic Education* program is doing is forming precisely the kind of people we want teaching in our Catholic schools."



The first class of *Mission and Culture Fellows* we are partnering with this year are alumna Miss Margaret Blackstone '18, Miss Hannah White, and Miss Liseth Quezada.



Miss Margaret Blackstone '18

Miss Blackstone is partnering with Mrs. Leila Vance in second grade. After Saint Agnes, she earned her bachelor's degree in business and music at Lake Forest College. For her, there is a lot to love about coming back to teach at her alma mater. "The best part about being back at Saint Agnes," she says, "is the opportunity to be with the kids in a Catholic environment so that you can teach them about what matters most—Christ. It's beautiful to see how eager they are to learn. It's humbling constructing the lessons but

edifying to see the kids putting everything together. Hearing stories from the 2nd graders and seeing how excited they get about their day—I need to have that joy too."

We are so grateful to have a distinguished alumna like Miss Blackstone back at Saint Agnes!



Miss Hannah White

Miss White obtained her bachelor's degrees in English and Graphic Design at Assumption University. She is a second-year student in the Master of Arts in Catholic Studies program. She is partnering with Mrs. Lynda True to teach Junior High English Literature, and spending her time primarily in the Junior High has given her

a special window into just how integrated faith, reason, and virtue are here. She shared that, “At Saint Agnes I’m getting a practical formation as a teacher but also a formation in mission. I’m very grateful to have been placed at a school that takes its identity and mission as a Catholic school seriously. Everything from curriculum to pedagogy to daily schedule—all those things at Saint Agnes are informed by its mission.”



Miss Lisseth Quezada

Miss Quezada is partnering with Miss Madison Sandquist’s ‘16 Kindergarten

class. She earned her bachelor’s degree from the University of St. Thomas in General Business Management and Catholic Studies this past May. Her experience here so far has been especially shaped by the welcoming environment we provide here at Saint Agnes. “The kids are the best part,” she shared, “The community here is very welcoming—the kids and the families have been so great. I didn’t have that growing up, so it warms my heart to be here.

Through the *Mission and Culture Fellows in Catholic Education* program, these students will essentially receive an equivalent teacher practicum. During the first semester they began by observing, offering help and support, delivering a small-group lesson, and introducing assignments while giving directions. They start with baby steps, all along the way collaborating with their teaching partners. By the end of the first semester, we will have paved the way in their experience so that they have picked up on discipline and classroom management, offered a short lesson, given an assessment,

and even seen how the gradebook works. When the Fellows return from Christmas break, they will then be well-equipped to take over a subject area and teach our students for the entire second semester.

“There is much reason for optimism in Catholic education, and we are happy to play a part,” Mr. Adkins says. “This program,” he shares, “will set these young ladies up such that they will have received a rich, broad-based liberal arts education integrated with the Catholic faith through their Master’s level Catholic Studies education, and they will also have had a student teaching experience at a Catholic school. The hope is that this experience will provide the opportunity for these three to get a job—whether at Saint Agnes or another archdiocesan Catholic school—for the 2024-25 school year. Saint Agnes will be helping to populate Catholic schools in our archdiocese with people who have already caught the vision of what Catholic Education is and what it means to be a Catholic educator.”



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AGNES
SCHOOL**

RAFFLE

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\$46,220 VALUE 7-Seat SUV



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100% of Proceeds Benefit Saint Agnes School

TICKETS \$20



Drawing to be held on
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SAINT AGNES SCHOOL ANNUAL
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Must be 18 to purchase tickets and win. Sales, income tax and applicable fees are responsibility of the winner.

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www.SaintAgnesSchool.org

530 Lafond Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55103

Teacher's Pet

Our 2nd Graders have a new furry-fuzzy-creepy-crawly friend this year. Meet Arachne, their new pet tarantula!

Arachne resides in Mrs. Leila Vance's classroom, and the students have enjoyed caring for her and learning about her. Mr. Brian Walter, one of our Upper School science teachers, introduced the young spider to our second graders earlier this fall.



- **Species:** *Aphonopelma anax*, commonly known as the Texas tan tarantula
- **Defense:** She uses her hind legs to scrape off fine hairs from the top of her abdomen to deter predators by irritating their eyes or skin
- **Fangs:** Used to inject venom into prey. Typically, a bite is no more harmful than a bee sting
- **Favorite Food:** Crickets
- **Size:** As Arachne grows to a palm-sized tarantula, she will need to continuously molt to shed her exoskeleton (you can see she is actively molting in the close-ups!)



LOWER SCHOOL LIFE

"If you see her wandering around the hallways, let me know!"



First Friday All-School Masses

In Honor of the Sacred Heart of Jesus

Fr. Mark Moriarty



During this school year, we have begun a new tradition of celebrating First Friday Masses. These will be Latin sung Masses for the entire school as well as homeschool families.

First Friday Masses are a special devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. While the devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus had been practiced for several centuries, St. Margaret Mary brought increased attention to it in the 1600s. Although St. Margaret Mary appears to have had no particular devotion to the Sacred Heart previously, Christ chose to reveal to her the desires of His Heart. Jesus Himself asked that Catholics consecrate each First Friday of the month to His Sacred Heart, in order to increase love for Him and to make reparation for previous and current offenses against His Love.



Devotion to the Sacred Heart has spread around the world. Generally speaking, the requirements of the devotion are: 1) receive Holy Communion on First Friday 2) that they be nine consecutive First Fridays 3) that they be offered in honor of His Sacred Heart and for reparation for sins against His Sacred Heart.

But why should we have a devotion to His heart? Because in every day and age, in every language around the world, the heart is a symbol of love and affection. Pope Pius XII says that His Heart, more

than all the other members of His body, is the natural sign of His boundless love for us. Pope Leo XIII said that His Heart is "the symbol and express image of the infinite love of Jesus Christ which moves us to love in return."

While we emphasize the importance of this devotion for our students, I encourage you to begin your devotion as families and as individuals. His love for us is deeper than we can imagine and powerful beyond human comprehension! May the fire of His love that burns for us, give us the grace and strength to bring about a deeper love of others.

"I promise you, in the excessive mercy of my Heart that my all-powerful love will grant to all those who receive Holy Communion on the first Friday for nine consecutive months, the grace of final repentance; they shall not die in my disgrace nor without receiving the sacraments; my divine Heart shall be their safe refuge in that last moment."

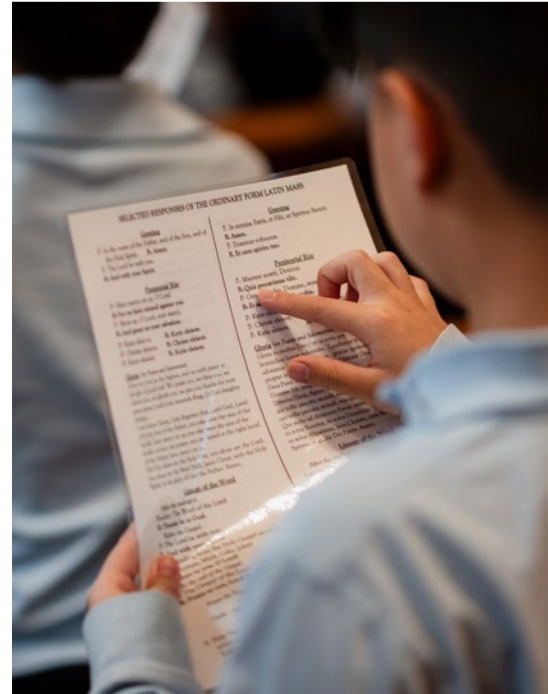
~ Our Lord to St. Margaret Mary Alacoque

Sacred Heart of Jesus, have mercy on us!
Saint Agnes, pray for us!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Rev. Mark Moriarty

Rev Mark Moriarty





A Q&A With Our New Chaplain

Fr. Paul Baker grew up in our archdiocese and was ordained to the priesthood in May of 2017. Fr. Baker has served at St. Vincent DePaul in Brooklyn Park, as chaplain at Totino-Grace High School, and as assistant priest at Epiphany in Coon Rapids. His assignment at Saint Agnes includes assisting with the pastoral needs of the parish, serving as the chaplain for our school, and teaching theology courses. We sat down with him to learn more about his call to the priesthood and what his first few months at Saint Agnes have been like.

Q: Where did you grow up and what was childhood like for you, Father?

Father: I grew up in Mendota Heights with my mom and dad, and two younger sisters. It was your pretty standard Catholic childhood. We went to Mass every Sunday, I went to Catholic school from 4th grade on and, you know, had a pretty normal childhood. I never thought I wanted to be a priest growing up other than playing Mass a little bit.

Q: That was our next question—when did you start to really hear the call to the priesthood?

Father: I didn't start thinking about being a priest until after I was out of college. It just

sort of happened naturally. I had been getting more interested in my faith, and just some philosophy in general. In the course of reading and growing in life, prayer, and devotion, I started to sense that God was asking me to pursue this.

Q: How did you end up here at Saint Agnes?

Father: Every year they have the priests fill out a survey where they ask lots of questions, and one of the things they ask is if you're satisfied with your assignment. As my third year was coming to a close at Epiphany, I got this sense that God maybe wanted me to teach high school. This seemed strange to me because it wasn't something I ever pictured myself doing as a priest. But that thought was persistent, so I shared it with the committee who advises the archbishop as to what the priests' assignments should be.

The leader of the committee called me up and asked me about coming to Saint Agnes. I was taken aback by that because I didn't even think that was a possibility. And you know what? I realized, especially after talking with some other priests, how much God really was with me in that process. So, I enthusiastically said yes.

Q: What was high school like for you?

Father: My high school experience was—if I could just sum it up in one word—average. I think part of the reason God called me back to high school was, at least in some small way, so that I can provide for the students a way to make their high school experience more extraordinary than my own. That's one of the things that attracted me to this was just knowing I can at least be a part of an experience for these kids where they can look back on this time and say not that their time was great because of Father Baker, but that I was part of the mosaic that made this experience so formative for them.

Q: What do you see as some of the challenges for high schoolers in the culture today?

Father: The biggest thing—and this was already getting bad when I was in high school—is just the fact that our attention is pulled in so many different directions. The challenge is, at least in terms of what I teach, to try to get these kids to slow down a little bit and realize that there's a greater purpose at work here. That it's not just about getting a good education. It's not just about preparing yourself to go to a good college so you can get a good job and make a good living and then fill your life up with nice things. The purpose of this experience overall is to prepare for the life to come.



I think part of the reason God called me back to high school was, at least in some small way, so that I can provide for the students a way to make their high school experience more extraordinary than my own.



Q: What have been some of your first impressions of our students and of our community?

Father: That first day of class, one of the things that struck me was just how respectful the students were and their gratefulness for my presence, even though most of them didn't know me yet. That said a lot about the culture and students we have here.

In terms of teaching, I see students who have a very good level of engagement with the material and with what I have to share with them. They acknowledge that I have something to hand on to them.

Q: We heard you had to sneak in for a super top-secret teaching tryout?

Father: When they proposed the assignment to me the committee told me that if I was interested, it was on the condition that I teach a sample class because the headmaster of the school—Dr. Ferdinandt—wasn't going to stick some guy into a classroom just because he was a priest. He'd want to see if I could actually engage with the material well at a high school level and be somebody the students would respond to in a positive way.

I drove down from Coon Rapids and taught a sophomore theology class. It was just me and the students and Dr. Ferdinandt sitting in the

back. It was presented to the students as, "We've got a guest teacher today." I ran into two students from my parish, but I don't think they caught on. I thought it went pretty well and, thankfully, so did Dr. Ferdinandt. He said he thought I'd be a great fit here. So, it was pretty much decided then.

Q: Did you know Father Moriarty before coming here?

Father: I had met him at various priest events over the years, but I had never really talked to him. Actually—and this might be interesting for the Aggie Archives—Father's older sister was my 6th grade teacher at Saint Joseph's in West Saint Paul. The year I was in her class was the year he was ordained.

Q: That's amazing! Has Father Moriarty trained you well into priestly life at Saint Agnes?

Father: In some ways coming here has been like learning to be a priest all over again,

because there's so many things that are particular to Saint Agnes not only with the school, but even the way Mass, other sacraments, and devotional life are done here. That was an aspect I really looked forward to in coming here. I've enjoyed getting to know the Saint Agnes way.

Q: When you're not teaching, grading, or serving the parish, how do you spend your free time?

Father: There's not much time these days with all that, but I will say one thing: I do enjoy playing trivia. My strongest categories would be history or geography—like my undergraduate majors—but I know a decent amount about sports too. I would say if I had a weak area, it would be popular music.

Q: Is there anything else you want the Aggie community to know about you?

Father: People here have been very kind, supportive, and welcoming. I appreciate that, because that stuff really does make a difference, even if it's just a kind word. I want the students, especially, to know that I'm not just interested in teaching them material—I'm genuinely interested in their lives. As a shepherd wants to know his sheep, I desire to really know our students, and not just be somebody who floats in, teaches class, and then sort of floats out. I try to be as available as I can—not just for the ones I teach, and not just in the classroom.



UPPER SCHOOL LIFE

Few days better exemplify our Aggie school spirit than our annual Upper School Field Day. Held this year at Frogtown Community Center, our students ran, cheered, played, climbed, and competed for their houses in activities from kickball to flag football to survivor games.



One of the popular activities for both the Junior High and High School was Spikeball—a relatively new game combining volleyball and four square in which you literally spike the ball onto a netted trampoline to your opponent.



House flags were hoisted high as Aggies cheered on their housemates to victory.



Kickball and rounds of knockout basketball competitions saw many close battles fought.



Puzzles necessitated thoughtful collaboration to move onto the next stage of the "Survivor" challenges.



The blindfolded obstacle course was another new addition as a part of the "Survivor-style" games.



Tasked with holding ridiculous poses with their partners, students would often end up collapsing in laughter.



Aggies utilized both their finesse and sharpshooting skills in the bean bag toss.



Donning their house colors, many Aggies went all-out in supporting their house.



Tough. Gritty. Intense. How else would you describe flag football at Field Day?



Teamwork always makes the dream work on Field Day.

FROM THE ADVANCEMENT OFFICE

Every year, the Advancement Office is tasked with raising \$2.6M to close the gap between tuition dollars collected and the cost of educating a student. That money comes from Foundations, grants, fundraising events, the annual fund, and, most recently, **Aggie Give Day**. In order for Saint Agnes to continue to serve families who desire a Saint Agnes education for their children, we need you—our alumni, parents, faculty, staff, and friends—to give consistently and generously to our annual fund.

You may ask: **Why should I support Saint Agnes School?**

Meet the Bratt Family!

Gordon and Kate Bratt are the parents of eight lovely children, Violet, grade 10, Georgia, grade 8, Zella, grade 7, Stuart, grade 3, Hen, grade 2 and 3 young boys, Clarence “Cricket”, Ernest, and William. This is their third year at Saint Agnes and we’d like to share some of their experience.

How did you come to look at Saint Agnes for your children?

GB: We’ve lived in Frogtown for sixteen years but didn’t look into private school since we didn’t think it was within our budget. Our older kids attended a public charter school until COVID hit. Then that school, like many, pivoted to distance learning. When the school had no plan of being in-person going into the fall of 2021, we knew that wasn’t the right fit for our family anymore. We have been friends with Brandon and Kelsey Wanless for years and they encouraged us to come in for a visit in August of 2021.

KB: After the visit, Violet, our rising 8th grader, said she wanted to come to



Saint Agnes. For a girl her age to want to leave her friends and start at a new school was the first affirmation. Being a musical family, we were very impressed with the outstanding music and choir program and the art program, and all the activities offered.

Why have you chosen to enroll your children at Saint Agnes?

GB: Though no one likes to say it, the public school system is terrible. Some charter schools may be doing a better job, but the current affairs hurt them as they must cave to the pressures of the world and its politicization. The beauty of Saint Agnes is that it is founded on the faith and can withstand those forces. The Catholic church provides a strong foothold on which to carry on the classical education tradition.

KB: At Saint Agnes, income doesn’t matter. All students are exposed to

top-level academics and have the opportunity to enroll in college level courses. We are impressed with the counseling provided from kindergarten through graduation. It is evident that teachers, administration, and staff are truly invested in the kids from their first day of school to graduation and beyond. Whether a student wants to learn a trade or become a doctor, they help them choose the best path forward.

We all agree Saint Agnes is a welcoming community. Not only have the kids made school friends, but we as parents have made school friends, too! There is such a huge diversity of people and backgrounds. Families have cleaning services, sell real estate, teach ballroom dancing,

and practice medicine and law. Just mention what you need to a fellow parent and suddenly you’ve got a whole network of people ready to assist.

How has financial aid helped you?

GB: First off, we want to extend a huge thank you to everyone who contributes to scholarship funding. You are probably not aware of how much stability it gives a family. With the promise of financial assistance, we don’t have to wonder when the rug may be pulled out from under us. Worrying about that affects your whole life. We are on solid ground, knowing that our kids will continue to get an excellent education. It is very comforting in this crazy world

KB: How Saint Agnes handled our situation was unheard of for us. When we talked with Admissions Director Joseph Olson, he was so transparent about finances and said, “What can you afford?

If you want to be here, we will make it work." Our tuition contract comes with a whole list of scholarship funds that fill in the gap between what we can handle and the total bill. With five students enrolled, it is substantial. A private, Catholic school had never even entered our realm of possibilities, yet here we are, and we are so very grateful.

The Bratt family is just one of many of the families we serve. We ask that you prayerfully consider a donation to Aggie Give Day so we may continue to educate and provide a solid foundation to families like the Bratts. Donations from now until Dec. 31st are included in Aggie Give Day totals.

**G AGGIE
GIVE
NOV 15
2023 DAY**

\$ 201,307 raised so far!
298 donors are making an impact!

Saint Agnes held Aggie Give Day 2023 on November 15th. Following up on last year's success, we set an aggressive goal of \$240,000. We have a great start, but we are not there yet! We need your help to continue to form Catholic hearts and minds in faith, reason, and virtue.

We are
PROUD to be
CATHOLIC!

Our
CURRICULUM
inspires
EXCELLENCE!

Our
COMMUNITY
is **STRONG!**

Saint Agnes students need you now, more than ever, to support our annual fund so that we can continue to hand on a faithful Catholic education to this generation of Aggies.

Missed Aggie Give Day? It's not too late! Gifts received from now until the end of the year can still be counted toward our goal!

Five easy ways to give!

- Scan QR Code with your smart phone
- Venmo @SaintAgnesSchool
- Online at SaintAgnesSchool.org/GiveDay
- Phone 651-925-8811
- Mail in enclosed envelope



FREEWILL

Almost all Catholic families leave their estates to their children.
Could they get by on 75%?

Make your legacy count – and support future Aggies.

If you feel Saint Agnes School has played an important role in shaping your community, your faith, and your life, it only takes a few easy minutes to establish your legacy with Saint Agnes School through our partners at FreeWill.

Here's how FreeWill's online estate planning can benefit you:

- It helps protect your loved ones and assets through your plan
- It takes less than 20 minutes to use, and you can cross this legal task off your list
- It makes planning a gift to Saint Agnes School simple, so that you can make a permanent impact for future students without paying anything today!

Pass on the faith, benefit future Aggies, and protect your loved ones in the process. Get started for free at **FreeWill.com/SaintAgnes**



MCGOUGH ROOM DEDICATION

On Wednesday, September 6th, 2023, we were blessed to dedicate the McGough Room, named after our longtime friend, benefactor, and builder of Saint Agnes School, Mr. Larry McGough.

Formerly known as the UAC Conference Room, the McGough Room is located upstairs on the second floor of the Ubel Activity Center and is our school’s primary meeting room. It is fitting that such a prominent meeting space be dedicated to Larry McGough, as he has been one of the most important individuals behind many of the biggest construction projects in the history of our parish and school. The dedication program began in the morning, and included a presentation by Father Moriarty, Dr. Ferdinandt, and Sister Gianna Marie, O.P. summarizing McGough’s work here at Saint Agnes and the impact it has had on our community. Following these remarks, our Madrigal Singers performed “The Lord Bless You and Keep You” for Larry, his family, and members of McGough’s current leadership team. The attention then moved upstairs, showcasing the McGough Room itself with a blessing of the space, light refreshments, and conversation.



This room is dedicated to Mr. Larry McGough in grateful recognition of his life-long generosity to Catholic education and specifically to Saint Agnes Church and School. From his beginnings with McGough Brothers as a laborer and stone mason, to his essential role with McGough Construction, Larry has worked on Saint Agnes building projects in one form or another since the 1940s. His work ethic is surpassed only by his continued generosity in supporting scholarships for our students. Larry has dedicated his life to literally building the Catholic Church on earth.

Below is a photocopy of an original McGough Brothers General Contractors time sheet that we discovered in our records--dated January 7, 1948--from Larry’s days as a brick mason. He made \$1.30/hour laying brick for us 75 years ago, and he has since become one of our most generous benefactors.

The windows have been decorated with various historical photographs from each of the projects that Larry and McGough Construction built here at Saint Agnes over the last century--Gruden Hall, the Rectory, the Convent, and the Ubel Activity Center. Inside, the east wall is decorated with copies of the original blueprints for each of these buildings.

In the center of this display is a framed photo of Larry and his late wife, Andrea, with an inscription detailing our gratefulness to Larry for his dedication to our school. It reads:



Thank you, Larry, for all you have done for Saint Agnes School and the Church of Saint Agnes. We are grateful knowing your name will live on forever not only in the workmanship behind our buildings, hallways, and classrooms that you helped to construct, but in our students, families, faculty, and staff whose lives you have touched.



TIME SHEET																
McGOUGH BROTHERS																
GENERAL CONTRACTORS																
WEEK ENDING			PROJECT AREA										PAY ROLL NO.			
January 7, 1948			Saint Agnes													
RADGE NUMBER	NAME	OCCUPATION	TH	FR	SA	SU	MO	TU	WED	TOTAL HOURS	RATE	AMOUNT EARNED	DEDUCTIONS	NET PAY		
			TH	FR	SA	SU	MO	TU	WED				P.O.A.B.	W. TAX	OTHER	
	LeRoy M. Miller	Supt.	8	8			8	8	8	40	90.00	90.00	.90	8.30	X	80.80
	P.T. McGough	B.Fore	8				8	8	8	32	80.00	80.00	.80	.00	X	80.00
	Leo McGough	Brick						4	8	12	2075	24.90	.25	-	X	24.65
	Donald Alfveby	AppB	8	8			8	8	8	40	1.25	50.00	.50	3.20	X	46.30
	Lawrence McGough	Lab	8							8	1.30	10.40	.10	-	X	10.30
	Carlton Mc Nally	AppB		8			8	8	8	32	1055	33.20	.33	3.90	X	29.97
	Eddie Clyde	AppB		8			8	8	8	32	1.56	49.92	.50	3.00	X	46.42
	Norman Tolefson	AppB		8						8	1.56	12.48	.12	-	X	12.36
	Peter Juberigan	Brick					8	8	8	24	2075	49.80	.50	3.00	X	46.30
	Grant Juberigan	Brick					8	8	8	24	2075	49.80	.50	6.60	X	42.70
	Norman Sparr	La b 4	8	8			8	8	8	40	1.40	56.00	.56	6.00	X	49.44
	Dan J. Roering	Lab	8	8			8	8	8	40	1.30	52.00	.52	7.20	X	44.28
	Mark Schriber	Lab	8	8			8	8	8	40	1.30	52.00	.52	3.50	X	47.98

Creative

WRITING CLUB

It has been standing room only this year at Creative Writing Club! Mr. Ted Sexton's classroom fills to capacity on Monday afternoons as many of our Upper School's storytellers gather for their weekly writing workshop.

Our Aggie wordsmiths are challenged in various composition exercises, as well as in writing contests amongst club members. On this occasion, Aggies submitted genres, settings, and activities to write about and were given 15 minutes to come up with a story based on the prompts they drew.

After putting pencil to paper, a few students were able to share their work—and with some of the prompts that were submitted and combinations that were drawn, you could hear the laughter echoing throughout Gruden's 3rd Floor hallways.





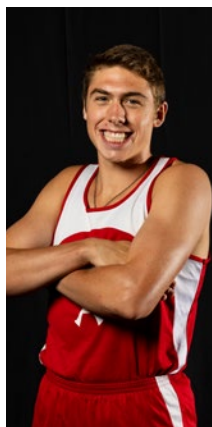
ATLANTA



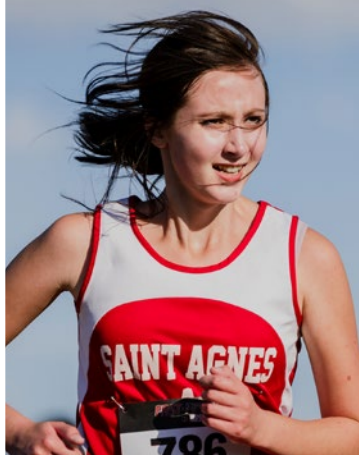


BOYS AND GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY

The Aggie Boys Cross Country team wrapped up their season finishing 5th at the Section 4A meet. **Ezra Kuznia** led the way on a stormy afternoon finishing 13th with a time of 17:44, narrowly missing out on qualifying for the state meet. Ezra did secure All-Conference honors at the Conference meet the week before and earned an Academic All-State award. **Micah Lehnen** finished up a solid season charging through the mud and rain to come in 35th at 18:52. Close on Micah's heels were 8th graders **John McGeehan** and **Jack Pepin** in 37th and 38th. **Ben Wappes** rounded out the Top 5 in 47th place. Looking ahead, the boys have an exciting group of 7th, 8th, and 9th graders who are hungry to improve upon that 5th place finish in the section and hopefully send individuals and the entire team to state in the near future.



The Aggie Girls Cross Country team wrapped up their season by placing 7th at the Section 4A meet, the highest they have ever placed in the section. While



no individual made the All-Conference or All-Section team, Senior **Ave Wolf** led a strong pack of 9th grade girls including **Klara Ferdinandt**, **Jane Kuwata**, and **Sarah Lehnen** that consistently scored in the top half of each race. Senior **Margaret Kuwata** stepped up this year dropping a lot of time and consistently scoring as the 4th or 5th varsity runner. As injury and illness took its toll late in the season, senior **Lily Dimmel** also came through with some of her fastest runs in years to help the team finish strong. The girls hope to continue moving up in the section ranks next season.



FOOTBALL

The 2023 football season came to an abrupt end when Cannon Falls defeated Saint Agnes 60-34 in the Section 4AA Championship, giving the Aggies their only loss of the season.

Coach Thompson's Aggies became the second football team in school history to finish the regular season undefeated at 8-0, joining the 1953 team. Saint Agnes was the only AA school that did not play another AA school during the regular season. The Aggies played 1 AAAAA school, 2 AAAA schools and 5 AAA schools. The



team averaged 38.3 points per game while allowing only 14.4 per game.

Senior **Cadman Foley** was selected to play in the Minnesota High School Football All-Star game on December 2nd at 1:00 PM at US Bank Stadium.

In addition to winning another District Championship, the Aggies landed 7 players on the All-Skyway District Team: **Landen Mickelson**, **Adam Hernandez**, **Cegan Flood**, **Cadman Foley**, **Raphel Uhlenkott**, **Dan Plamann**, and **Charlie Witzel**.

Several players took home District Player of the Year honors. **Ryan Hernandez** was named District MVP as well as Linebacker of the Year; **Cadman Foley**, Defensive Lineman; **Dan Plamann**, Defensive Back; **Landen Mickelson**, Quarterback; **Elijah Simmons**, Running Back; and **Charlie Witzel**, Offensive Lineman.



BOYS SOCCER

Aggie Boys Soccer finished the season 9-8 overall, which was their second winning



season in as many years. Their section win over #3 Trinity was the first quarterfinal round playoff victory in over 25 years. The Aggies were led by senior captains **Jacob McLaughlin**, **Sean Brennan**, and **Casey Lynn**, who received All-Conference honors, as well as senior captains **Joshua Walter** and **Luke Honerman**, who received Honorable Mention recognition. Brennan and McLaughlin led the team in scoring with 16 and 15 goals respectively. They are among the all-time leading scorers in the history of Aggie Soccer.

GIRLS SOCCER

The Girls Soccer Team finished 7-2 this season and made substantial improvement from the prior season. The Aggies finished the season strong, making their way to the Section 4A semifinal game, but lost to section champions St. Croix Prep.



This season, the team scored 39 goals while allowing 37. For perspective, last season they scored 19 and allowed 74. The program is still very young, starting 6 sophomores. Thank you to seniors **Summer Lemma**, **Catalina Lopez**, **Evelyn Simpson**, and **Elizabeth Williams** for all their hard work.

Faustina Adkins, **Elizabeth LeVesseur**, and **Elizabeth Williams** were named All-Conference. **Alyssa McLaughlin**, **Mary Tichawa** and **Eleanor Walter** earned conference Honorable Mention awards.

VOLLEYBALL

The Aggie Volleyball program went 12-20 this year. Some of the season highlights included: getting their first season win against Blake in a tough 5 game battle, the team placing 4th in the North Branch Tournament, and overtaking SPA in a

3-game sweep to help the Aggies secure a 7th seed at Sections. The Aggies also finished in 7th Place in a very tough Skyline Conference.

This season was Head Coach **Rachel Zinter**'s first for the Aggie Volleyball Team, and she was joined by **Elizabeth Dickerson** (Asst.), **Brent Odenbrett** (JV), and **Zack McElduff** (C-Squad).

Gianna Schmidt received All-Conference for her great digging as libero, and **Sarah Clyde** and

Veronica Hagen received All-Conference Honorable Mention recognition for their great work as middle blockers/hitters.

One of the players summed up the team's dynamics as a "sisterhood". The team will not be the same without their seniors: **Gianna Schmidt**, **Gianna Johnson**, **Veronica Hagen**, **Sarah Clyde**, **Maria Fischer**, and **Faith Barrett**. But they left a lasting impact by plowing a trail for the next generations of Aggie Volleyball players.





AGGIE OPEN



New this past year, we expanded on our Aggie Open Golf Tournament to include a special day of giving to raise additional funds for the athletic department.

Field rentals and transportation are an integral part of our athletic program, yet they are our largest budget expense. In order to maintain a strong and competitive program, Saint Agnes invests over \$450,000 annually. While participation fees are reasonable, they still pose a financial burden for many of our families. To address this issue and provide equal opportunities for all students, the Aggie Rouser Athletic Day of Giving served to raise funds and subsidize expenses, enabling every student to participate regardless of their financial situation.

We are happy to report that, between the Aggie Open Golf Tournament, and the Aggie Rouser Athletic Day of Giving, we were able to raise \$100,000 for our athletic program this year! A huge thank you to our alumni and sports fans who understand the value of athletics and the lifelong lessons they impart. You continue to make a difference in the lives of our student-athletes!



Congratulations to this year's winners of the Msgr. Bandas Cup: Josh Moore '98, Rod Rankin '98, Bill Mauer, Jack Hannahan.



Headmaster Kevin Ferdinand hit the links with Tom Gormley '74, Kevin Abbott and Dana Kelly.



Coaches Ercolani and Heller enjoyed catching up with former players and students.



Joe McDonald '14 prepares for the round.

Nick Turch '14 took a few swings in the new batting cages that were purchased with last year's tournament profits.



New to the tournament was the Czaia family: Nathan '03, Adam '98, John, and Roger.



At 90, Russ Bovee '51 had the honor of being the oldest alumnus to play.

Platinum Tournament Sponsor

Michael Parizino

Front & Back 9 Sponsors

Kirkland Family

Carla Warner

Lunch Sponsors

KCB Corp - McDonalds -
Courtney Henry

Pulse Electric

Beverage Cart Sponsors

Jeremy Webber Family
Josh and Becky Moore

Pulse Electric
Tim Sheetz ReMax

Water Station Sponsors

Cecelia Gormley
Scholarship Fund
Catholic United Credit
Union

Acme Tuckpointing
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Abbott Paint
Acme Tuckpointing
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Hawk Janitorial - Jerry Klein
Carroll Construction Supply
Class of 1966
Competitive Edge Real Estate - Nathan Czaia
Financial Dimensions
Frazier Automotive
Gateway Bank
Butch Hathaway Family
Bill and Bernadette Hafner Family
Heppner's Autobody

Hilpisch Chiropractic
Tom and Jean Houghton
Hynan Chiropractic
Bernie Lancette Mancini's
McKasy Insurance
Greg Peichel Family
Providence Security
Pulse Electric
SPO
Tim Tibesar
Tuan Auto
Urban Village
Walsh & Gaetner
Warner's Stellan



A LEGACY IN FRAMES



Dick Houck is the spouse of the late Mary Ann (Koller) Houck, Valedictorian of the Saint Agnes Class of 1947. Dick and Mary Ann often attended the Alumni Memorial Mass and Brunch and have a fondness for Saint Agnes. Since Mary Ann's passing, Dick has continued to use his time and talent to support Saint Agnes.

Dick met Mary Ann on a blind date and, for their second date, went tobogganing at Como Park. Mary Ann took a spill and broke her back and spent the next six months in a full plaster body cast. What a memorable start to their relationship! After graduating from Saint Agnes, Mary Ann attended one year of college at St. Catherine's and then

attended the Diocese's Teacher School on Summit. Her first year of teaching was at St. Bernard's, where she had attended grade school. She was responsible for a class of 60 first grade students. Mary Ann was one of the first lay teachers in the Diocese and was paid \$200 a month. Not being used to paying his staff, the Pastor often forgot to pay Mary Ann until she asked for her wages. Dick and Mary Ann became engaged, and the Benedictine Sisters threw her a party in the convent. They were married at St. Bernard's on August 18, 1951, accompanied in song by the full contingent of Sisters.

Dick was drafted for service in the Army for the Korean War in 1952 and was sent to

Virginia for basic training to learn to be a truck driver. While on bivouac in the forest, he contracted a severe case of poison ivy and was hospitalized for several weeks. Upon his release, he learned that everyone else on the post had already shipped out to Korea so he went to work in the personnel office signing up draftees from the southern states. However, while attending daily Mass on the post, he was asked to transfer into the Chaplains section to drive to Richmond every weekend to bring a priest to the camp for Sunday Mass. His MOS then officially changed to being a Chaplain's Assistant. After working that assignment for several months, he also received orders for Korea. It was unusual to



ship out of New York for the Far East, but a ship was being transferred from the Atlantic to the Pacific and needed a 3000-troop cargo for the thirty-day trip. That was the beginning of a future assignment to Eta Jima, the WWII Japanese Naval Academy site. Dick spent his entire service term as the Catholic Chaplain's assistant there, fortunate not to have to be in the very active Korean war.

Dick himself spent his entire life in Roseville at the home he was born in. His father started Houck Motor Coach Bus Advertising in 1919, selling advertising signs in and on buses in Minnesota and Wisconsin. Upon his father's retirement, he ran the business for another twenty years, after which his two sons took over. The business has now been owned and operated by the Houck family for over a century, as a grandson is now the owner. It was his experience in sign design for the company that led Dick to notice the class photos on the walls of Saint Agnes. Each high school graduating class has a class photo on the wall. The individual student photos were taken from the yearbooks and enlarged for framing. Unfortunately, the classes of 1942-

1948 did not have yearbooks, but only a group photo standing on the church steps.

Dick noticed that Mary Ann's Class of 1947 was one such class, so he asked about the possibility of getting a copy to see what he could do about it. It had been quite some time since Dick had worked with designing programs, but he was soon busy taking individual faces from the group shot, editing them to reconstruct partial faces, erase neighbor's hats, recolor features, and more. He then had the difficult challenge of matching names to the proper faces. After a couple of weeks, Dick returned with a poster-size print that matched the other class photos. We were thrilled! So much so, that we asked Dick if he'd be willing to do the remaining six classes. He readily agreed.

The hallway photo collection is now complete with every graduating class from 1942 to 2023 represented. Dick's time and talent were used to help preserve the legacy that is Saint Agnes.

"It was a pleasure to be able to make them for you and Saint Agnes. I know Mary would have been excited to have me do them, too. She especially had a very soft spot in her heart for Saint Agnes and continued to be friends with many of her class of '47. I also got to know most of them and enjoyed their reunions, even more than my own. In my somewhat recent detailed look at just about all of the local Catholic high schools, only Saint Agnes was the one without at least one, if not more, serious problems. In my humble and knowledgeable opinion, Saint Agnes is the best Catholic high school in the state, and I was honored to be able to do my little bit to help make it so."

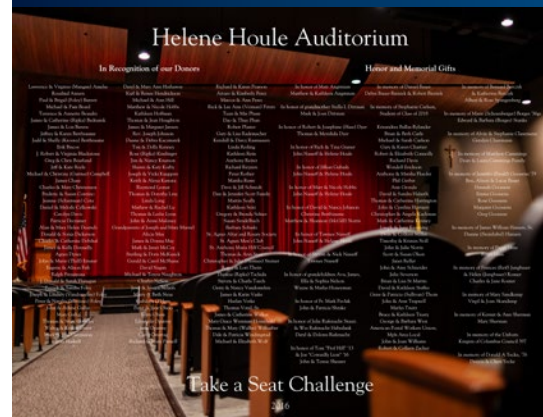
- Dick Houck



Take A Seat Challenge Display

The "Take A Seat Challenge" display is now viewable inside of the primary entrance doors to the Helene Houle Auditorium.

When we were in the process of designing and constructing the Helene Houle Auditorium, a great number of generous donors stepped up to support the funding of a proper performance and assembly space for our students. This display features a photograph of the seats and stage in the background, along with the names of the donors and honor and memorial gifts. Thank you, donors, for your generosity! Be sure to take a look at it the next time you are here for a program or show!



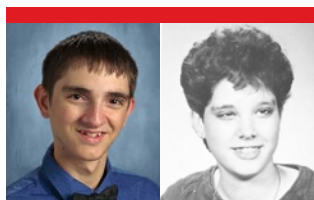
ALUMNI NEWS



ALUMNI LIFE

Correction

We apologize for the photo error in our Legacy Grad page in last spring's Aggie Archives. Connor Zgodova '23 is the son of Angela (Johnson) Zgodova '90.



Connor Zgodova '23

Angela (Johnson)
Zgodova '90

Class of 1947 Grade School

Lawrence Kirchhamer writes from Arizona, "I had a wife for 30 years and am father to two girls and one boy. I am now single and attend a small church here in El Mirage, AZ."

Class of 1957

Virgilia (Bertini) Moran passed away this past August. Virgilia had contacted Saint Agnes in 2021 with a proposal. Vigilia relates that in high school, she was leaning toward a religious life. A speaker she heard her senior year changed her life. Elizabeth

Reed from the Grail, a lay apostolic women's organization, came to speak at Saint Agnes and challenged the students to think of giving time to serve others both in the U.S.



and overseas. She was so inspired that she immediately decided to join the Grail and be a lay missionary in a foreign country.

After several years of preparation, she was assigned to join the Grail team in Tokyo, Japan. She worked five years in a hospital and one year at a leprosarium. In Japan, she met her husband, Bob, a Canadian also working for the Catholic Church. They raised five children, two of whom joined the Peace Corps, and all of whom have been encouraged and introduced to a world view where they all speak at least three languages.

Virgilia stated, "I believe all of this happened in part because I heard Elizabeth Reed speak at Saint Agnes many years ago. Her influence went beyond me to our children."

Because of this, Virgilia, at age 82, made a very generous donation to Saint Agnes for the sole purpose of having speakers like Ms. Reed come and speak to the student body. "I believe that there could be a student like me, who struggles with questions of what they could do with their life, become motivated by a passionate speaker like Elizabeth Reed."

So far, Saint Agnes has used these funds to bring Jason Evert and Paul J. Kim to speak to the high schoolers, with rave reviews from the students. Plans are underway to continue to bring in speakers and honor the wishes of Virgilia and her husband.

Class of 1987

Aaron Benner was recently inducted into the University of St. Thomas Athletic Hall of Fame. Aaron is also a member of the inaugural Class of 2007 Saint Agnes Athletic Hall of Fame. When asked about the honor, Aaron comments, "I have fond memories of my time at Saint Agnes. I thank fellow Aggie and teammate, Steve Burton, for convincing me to play football my senior year. It was one of the best



'63



'68



decisions I have ever made. Playing football at Saint Agnes allowed me to catch perfectly thrown spirals from Larry King ('88) and helped me realize I had a future in football at the collegiate level. Never in my wildest dreams did I ever think I'd be a hall of fame member at Saint Agnes or at the University of Saint Thomas.



God has truly blessed me. I thank Saint Agnes for reinforcing the values my parents stressed at home and teaching me the basic fundamentals of the Catholic faith. I am forever grateful for my education at Saint Agnes.

Hello to Coach Ercolani! He is an awesome individual and a great coach."

Congratulations, Aaron, on your UST Athletic Hall of Fame induction!

Class of 2019

Conrad Tibesar and Maria Gutzmann were married in June at Saint Agnes. The wedding

party included past and present Aggies, such as Michelle Gutzmann, Maria Tibesar, Cecilia Stariha, Lily Hafner, Agnes Plamann, Jocelyn Schmidtbauer, Millie Tibesar, Della Tibesar, Matt Tibesar, Tim Tibesar, Ray Tibesar, and Henry Tibesar. Many more Aggies were in attendance wishing the happy couple a lifetime of holy happiness.

REUNIONS

Class of 1963

The class of 1963 held a 60-year reunion at Gramercy Park in Inver Grove Heights. Fun was had by all! They are planning to have an 80th Birthday Party Reunion. Stay tuned!

Class of 1968

Since our 50th class reunion, our class has gotten together three times a year to celebrate our friendship. In September we celebrated 55 years after our graduation. **#LIFELONGFRIENDS**

Class of 1973

The class of 1973 celebrated its 50th class reunion at Midland Hills Country Club. Classmates came from as far away as Alaska, Arkansas, and Australia! Mary



Appel from the Saint Agnes Alumni Office spoke to the crowd and thanked them for their support of Saint Agnes over the years. A wonderful time was had by all, and plans are already underway for reunion number fifty-five.

Class of 1978

The class of 1978 had a casual 45 year gathering at Gabe's by The Park. It was great fun! Hopefully the 50th will be a big bash!

Class of 1983

The class of 1983 held their 40-year reunion back on campus! It was a night of great fun and reminiscing through both the new





addition and the old familiar classes. Lots of stories were told in the hallways. We enjoyed reconnecting with those in attendance, missed those who couldn't come, and prayed for those who are no longer with us. Talk of a 45th is underway! Special thanks to the alumni office for hosting us, Alan Tschida who treated everyone to a drink, and the reunion committee of Vanessa, Lisa, Cindy, Karen, Elizabeth, Julie, and Mary.

Class of 1988

The class of 1988 gathered in October for our 35-year reunion. Led by Joseph Olson '03, Admissions Director, we took a tour of the school on Saturday afternoon. What great stories and memories that pulled up. We then headed to Shamrocks for dinner and drinks. To round out the weekend, a handful even gathered on Sunday for High Mass at Saint Agnes.

Class of 2003

The Class of 2003 gathered with spouses in August at Pries Brewing Company (co-owned by classmate Ben Schuster) to celebrate their 20th High School reunion! The reunion was open to any former Aggies of the 2003 class that transferred at the end of junior year. It was a great celebration of healing, laughter, and shared memories. We have agreed the Class of '03 is still one of the best-looking classes to date! A special thanks to the planning committee: Melissa Ghizoni, Joe Olson, Kyle Linscheid, Angela Hilpisch, Annie Berthiaume, and Ben Schuster for all of their collaboration to make the reunion a success! A Facebook page was created with pictures and video. We received such great feedback from attendees and former classmates who were unable to attend. The excitement and buzz for the 25th class reunion has already

begun! If you were unable to attend this event, please be sure to update your current contact information with the Alumni Office via email at alumnioffice@saintagnesschool.org for future reunions.

UPCOMING

Class of 1974

SAVE THE DATE!

Saint Agnes Class of '74 - 50th Reunion

September 21, 2024, 6:00PM

Gabe's - 991 Lexington Ave.,
St. Paul, MN 55103

Music/Cash Bar, More details to follow

Join our Facebook group for the latest updates! Search for **St. Agnes 1974**. Questions? Contact Ellen Hegge Klein ellenanneklein@yahoo.com or 651-343-1852 or Bob Steigauf at rsteigauf@aol.com

In Memoriam

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord. And let perpetual light shine upon them. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

Richard Gangl, 1939
Lorraine (Solheid) Horan, 1946
Beverly (Melancon) Gangl, 1947
Lorraine (Mottl) Lambert, 1947
Steve Misukanis, Son of Georgine Bielke '47
Harry Bealke, Jr., 1948
Thomas Sperl, 1949
Melvin Franzwa, 1950
Patricia (Meyer) Witzmann, 1950
Lester Elkinton, Spouse of Elaine (Green) '50
Robert Cich, Son of John Cich '52
Betty Horwath, Spouse of Robert Horwath '53
Darlene (Carney) Keran, 1954
Elizabeth (Petrasek) Wagner, 1954

Robert Stevens, 1954
Anna (Preiner) O'Gara, 1955
John Christiansen, Spouse of Alice (Kunz) '55
Virgil Bannick, 1957
Virgilia (Bertini) Moran, 1957
Judy (Juaire) Helspar, 1957
Joan (Krueger) Lynch, 1957
Margaret Glass, 1958
James Finan, spouse of Lois Willenbring '58
Louis Charpentier, 1960
James Freeberg, 1961
Ronnie Franco, Spouse of Judith Kitzman '60
James Truitt, 1961
Patricia (Schwartz) Nurnberg, 1965

Joanne (Bodmer) Lorenz, 1968
Ronald Eggert, 1969
Kathryn (Fruth) Koep, 1973
Amy (Adam) Wiessner, 1975
Teresa Gerdt, 1976
Edward Fitzpatrick, 1986
Raymond Pitzl, 1938 GS
Richard Ryan, 1950 GS
Robert Berg, Parish Member
Elizabeth Jones, Parish Member
Rodney Graff, Past Parent
John Hageman, Past Parent
Mary Jane Hofmeister, Past Parent

*GS=grade school alumni *CC=commercial class alumni

Thoughts on Aging, Hiking, and Ping Pong

BY Patrick Johnson '72,
Waynesville, NC



L to R Steve Fuerst, Patrick Johnson , Pete Saiko

They came to our home in the western North Carolina mountains after a long Minnesota winter to hike, drink coffee, and play ping pong. We played hockey together in high school fifty-one years ago. Steve Fuerst and Pete Saiko captained the 1972 hockey team, I played defense. A half a century since our last hockey game brought us families, careers, happiness, stress, death of loved ones, and the slow gravitational pull of aging on the body. It all added up.

We began each morning with coffee on the porch, looking at mountains while listening to birds. When adequately caffeinated and satiated by birdsong and granola we packed the truck for a long hike on the Mountains to Sea Trail. That week in May had rainy nights leaving the Blue Ridge Parkway in low hanging clouds and trails with a soft, misty fog.

I thought morning hikes at 5,500 feet elevation in nature would stimulate

profound discussions about life, aging, and impending mortality.

Instead, we shared memories of our time at a small, strict Catholic high school and the adolescent nonsense that still made us laugh. The trail helped retrieve our shared connections. It's clear this was a time to relish. We hiked deep into the Blue Ridge woods, explored trail art, observed multiple shades of forest green, and studied the brilliance of a lone purple wildflower. Afterwards, we hit pause to drink coffee in downtown Waynesville aside a rushing creek to refresh before the business of ping pong.

In the '60's my father fashioned a piece of plywood and purchased a net, paddles and balls. The table sat next to a wall in our small, low ceiling basement. House rules took the ceiling and wall into play. It made games exciting and, besides, we had no choice. For our 2023 reunion

tournament we decided the higher ceiling basement was still game.

Over the years each of us continued to play ping pong. Focus is critical in this sport. A player learns to not panic by an awful shot or get swept away by a great one. If you wait long enough, both difficult and pleasant situations come and go. That's the beauty and humbling nature of this sport. Just like life.

After one loss, Steve remembered the wisdom of Hank, our high school janitor. Invariably Hank would be there to open the locker room after a late hockey game.

"How'd you'd do?" he'd ask in his eastern European accent.

"We lost, Hank," someone would reply.

"Ya, vell, s**t," he'd always say. "You get 'em next time, boys." Hank was an optimist.

We started the tourney as optimists, but Pete put on a clinic every day and won the Sunrise Ridge Appalachian Ping Pong Championship. Over the course of a few days, we each beat him just once. I wonder if he just gave us a bit of hope.

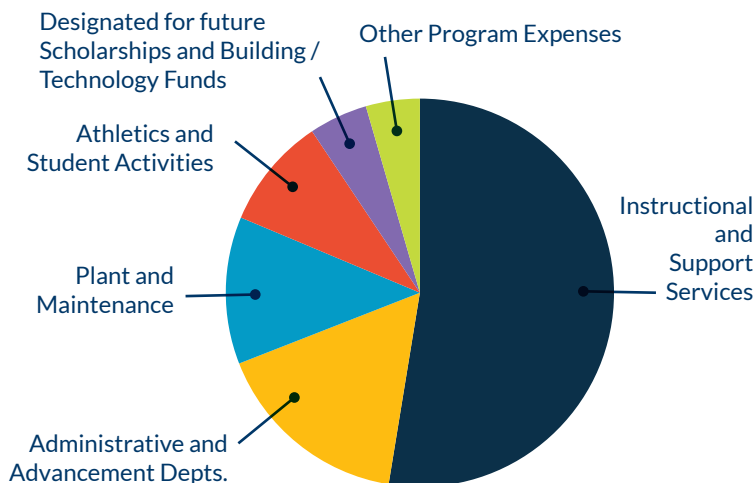
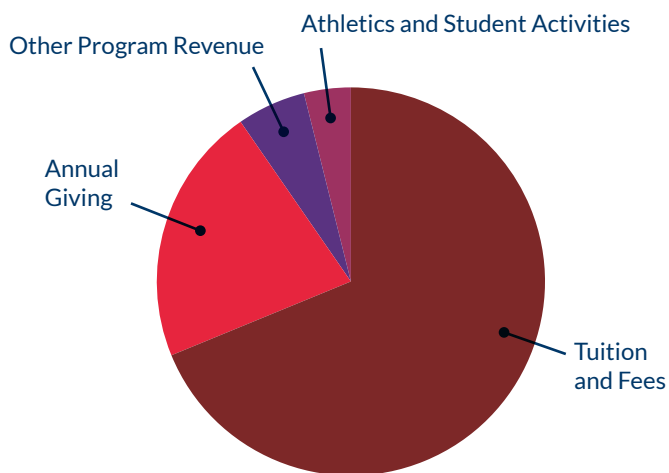
Trails are always available to anyone willing to partake. All you have to do is lace up your boots, step outside, put one foot in front of the other, look and listen. A few days with these guys made me realize the bonds produced early in life can be unbreakable. The friendships we developed on an ice rink in Minnesota decades earlier grew even deeper by a few days of hiking, coffee, and ping pong in the mountains of western North Carolina.

Patrick Johnson, Col (ret.), class of '72, worked in Public Health for 36 years and the Air Force Reserve for 27 years. He is an Iraq war veteran.



ANNUAL REPORT 2022-2023

SAINT AGNES SCHOOL



Revenue

Tuition and Fees	7,480,870
Grants and Aid Awarded	(2,940,335)
Net Tuition and Fees	\$4,540,535 57%

Annual Giving

Unrestricted Gifts	502,436
External Foundations	461,554
Restricted Scholarships	343,067
Fundraising	720,332
Parish Support	320,000
Total Annual Giving	\$2,347,389 30%

Other Revenue

Athletics and Activities	423,677 5%
Other Program Rev	623,048 8%
Total Other Rev	1,046,725 13%

Total Revenue \$7,934,649

Expenses

Instructional & Support	4,171,878 53%
Admin & Advancement	1,307,843 16%
Plant & Maintenance	973,177 12%
Athletics and Activities	737,877 9%
Other Program Expenses	356,371 5%
Designated for future Scholarships and Building / Technology Funds	387,503 5%

Total Expenses \$7,934,649

This report reflects the operating revenue and expenses for Saint Agnes School from July 1 2022-June 30, 2023. Capital projects, unrealized gains, and the PPP Loan/forgiveness are not included in this report.

To view the 2022-2023 annual report, please visit saintagnesschool.org/support-us

Help Saint Agnes
continue to grow

- Tell one person about Saint Agnes this year
- Send us a note about how Saint Agnes has impacted your life
- Consider a first time financial gift or an increase in your giving this year

WHISPERS OF THE PAST: UNDEFEATED

This year's Aggie football team joins the 1953 squad as the only two undefeated football teams (regular season) in school history. Both teams racked up impressive margins of victory over their opponents and featured numerous fantastic Aggie athletes. In 2014, the entire undefeated 1953 Aggie football team was inducted into our Athletic Hall of Fame. A few standout hall of famers (noted especially in the 1954 yearbook) include "Sledgehammer" Mike Kelly '54, "Masterful" Ron Cassellius '54, "Speedy" Denny Hurley '54, "Rugged Frenchy" Dick DesLauriers '54, "Artist" Jack Schmidt '54, and "Old Faithful" Tom Moline '55. These "grids" were coined as "The Victorious St. Agnes Eleven," and it's a title that can now be shared with our undefeated gridiron stars of today.



Even back in 1953 our Aggie athletes knew how to participate in a media day! On the left, quarterbacks Harvey Perusse '55 and Landen Mickelson '24 pose—ready to throw. On the right stand "pile-driving" fullbacks Adam Hernandez '24 and Mike Kelly '54.



Saint Agnes School

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SAVE THE DATE

SAINT AGNES SCHOOL ANNUAL **RED & White**

BENEFIT

Saturday, February 10, 2024

Ubel Activity Center • Saint Agnes School
Dinner, Games, Silent Auction,
Live Auction

The Red & White is a festive night for the entire Saint Agnes community to come together to support the Saint Agnes mission of forming Catholic hearts and minds in faith, reason, and virtue. We ask for your participation, prayers, and financial support so that we may continue our work for years to come.

Social media and electronic advertising packages are available. Have a vacation home? Travel rewards? Provide a service? Consider a donation to the auction! Wine and liquor baskets and new household items are especially appreciated. For more information contact benefit@saintagnesschool.org or 651-925-8720.

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