



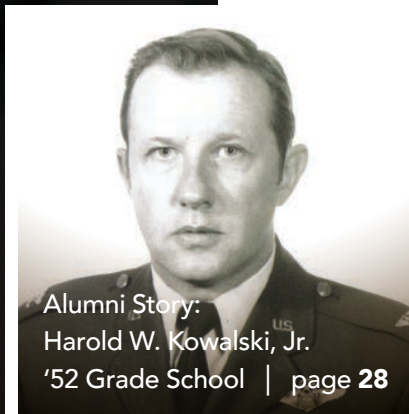
THE Aggie Archives

Keeping alumni, families and friends connected to Saint Agnes School • SPRING 2026



FREEDOM^{TO}
Flourish

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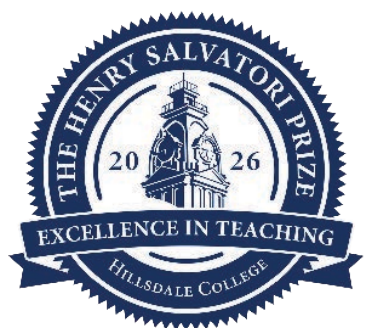
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Verum, Bonum, Pulchrum: The Salvatori Prize

The end of the academic year is as exhausting as it is exhilarating. Concerts, awards ceremonies, and playoff games are all squeezed into a tight time frame. But this year was

special. At the conclusion of our 9-12 awards ceremony, we had a special announcement via livestream from Hillsdale College—distinguished by its classical liberal arts curriculum, with a strong focus on Western civilization, the U.S. Constitution, and traditional Christian principles. The K-12 Education Office at Hillsdale provides curriculum, training, and resources for public and private schools, and has established a wide network of classical charter schools throughout the nation. Each year, Hillsdale awards the Henry Salvatore Prize to one K-12 school in the nation that has implemented and executed a classical education to an exemplary degree. This year, Saint Agnes School was named the winner! The prize includes a \$40,000 grant for educational materials. This is truly a distinct honor and one that is equally humbling.



The transformation of Saint Agnes School over nearly two decades has been extraordinary. Receiving this honor only strengthens our collective desire to strive for excellence in the pursuit of the true, good, and beautiful. May this award serve as a catalyst for continued self-reflection and growth, as we will never rest on our laurels. Tremendous credit goes to Fr. Mark Moriarty, Dr. Kevin Ferdinandt, and Dr. Michael Adkins for their transformative work and to our faculty, staff and student body for a great team effort in strengthening our mission and living a faithful Catholic life. I applaud the hard work of Mr. Jim Morehead, Mrs. Jean Houghton and Mr. Patrick Menke, who in 2007 stabilized the school financially and organically created a culture that paved the way for our future. Are we a flawless school? Heavens no! We continually seek improvement, as we are all disciples on a journey.

When attending a recent track meet—which can stretch several hours—it was rewarding to observe our athletes with open backpacks, squeezing in homework between races. One sophomore Latin student was translating one of Cicero's Catilinarian orations, while another was studying for an A.P. U.S. History exam. Less than a half an hour later, both ran a sub-5:00 mile! To my thinking, that represents the complete package. We strive for excellence in all facets of student life, forming Catholic hearts, minds, and bodies in faith, reason and virtue. Saint Agnes School is so much more than an academic program, sporting activity or spring musical. It is special because of an ethos, a culture in which the whole person is fully engaged and challenged. Above all, each student is known and loved, first by God and his or her parents, and also during each school day by our faculty and staff.



In their letter announcing the award, Hillsdale wrote: "Your lived fidelity to your mission is what truly distinguishes Saint Agnes School. Your students study Latin and great works of literature, immerse themselves in history and math, while receiving genuine guidance in moral virtue. Your school brings to life the best that has been thought and said, forming students to know the good and to love it." However, this Superintendent was a bit devious too. I shared with our lunchroom staff that I wanted to reward all students on the final Friday before exam week with cake at the conclusion of our award ceremony—true enough on the face of it. What I didn't tell them is that I surreptitiously placed an additional cake (inscribed in Latin, of course!) backstage Friday morning without being seen! I wanted the award to be a surprise, so may God forgive my sneakiness!

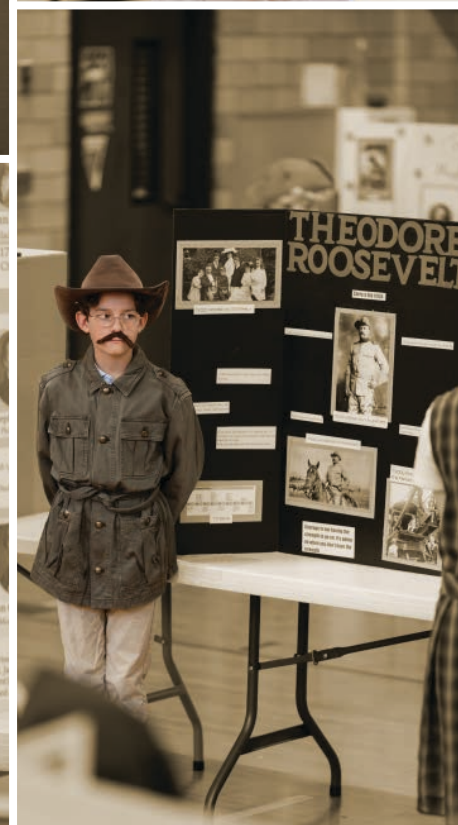
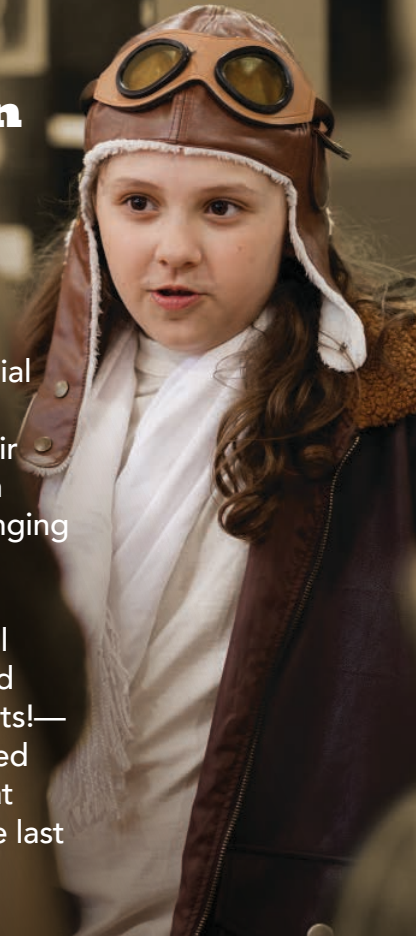
Rev. John L. Ubel

Rev. John L. Ubel
Superintendent

LOWER SCHOOL LIFE

5TH GRADE American History Day

As our country celebrates its semiquincentennial this year, our 5th graders held their annual American History Day, bringing us back in time to meet many of the influential Americans—and even a few saints!—who have helped shape our great nation over the last 250 years!



A HEART OF GOLD \

A Visit from Britta Curl-Salemme



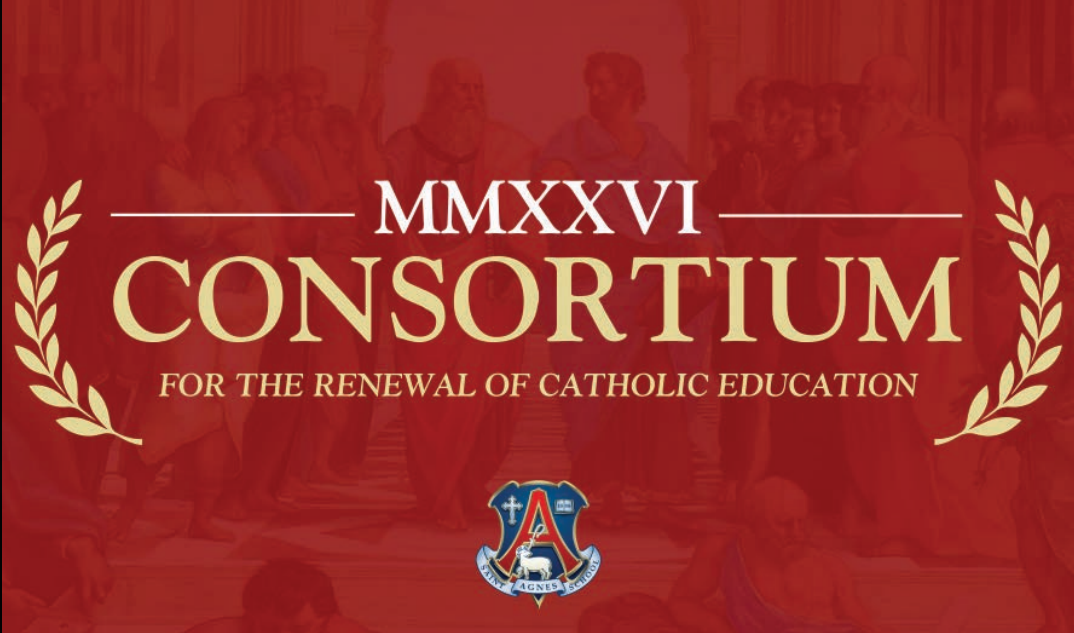
Fresh off winning a gold medal as a member of Team USA's Women's Hockey Team at the 2026 Winter Olympics in Milan, Minnesota Frost star forward and Saint Agnes parishioner **Britta Curl-Salemme** stopped by to visit with our students. She shared about her experience as both a woman of faith and professional athlete, testifying to the pivotal role that her Catholicism plays as she lives out her vocation. Curl-Salemme reminded our students that true greatness is found not only in personal achievement, but in faith, persistence, and the courage to live boldly for Christ.

Whatever virtue you see in me—it comes from Christ in the Eucharist.

Britta Curl-Salemme



This January, Saint Agnes School welcomed nearly 300 educators, administrators, clergy, and home educators from across the country for the Consortium for the Renewal of Catholic Education, a gathering dedicated to the renewal of Catholic liberal arts education. Representing 28 schools, a dozen home education communities, and five dioceses, attendees came together, united in the mission of revitalizing education in our Catholic schools.



The conference included phenomenal keynote addresses by Jeremy Tate of Classic Learning Test and John M. Dejak of the USCCB, along with breakout presentations from some incredible partner organizations like the University of St. Thomas' Catholic Studies program, St. John Henry Newman Institute, Saint Paul Seminary, the University of Dallas, Catholic Textbook Project, and Augustine Institute.

Over the course of the conference, participants attended Holy Mass, engaged in lectures, panel discussions, classroom observations, and fellowship centered on the mission of forming students not merely for careers, but for lives of virtue and holiness. Rooted in the Catholic intellectual tradition and the classical liberal arts, the Consortium sought to foster meaningful dialogue around the urgent challenges and extraordinary opportunities facing Catholic education today.



Throughout the event, Saint Agnes faculty, staff, and students shared the school's integrated approach to faith and reason—one that seeks to cultivate wonder through the study of the Great Books, mathematics, science, fine arts, history, language, and theology. On our preview day immediately preceding the conference, visiting educators observed our classrooms alive with Socratic discussion, joyful learning, artistic excellence, and a culture deeply rooted in the sacramental life of the Church.

The conference also provided a unique opportunity for collaboration and encouragement among educators laboring in

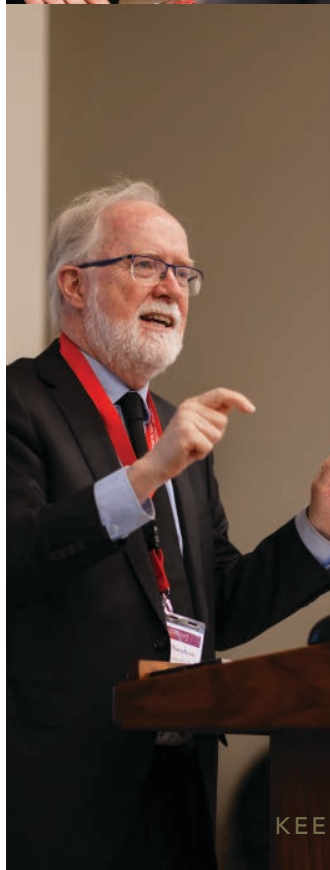




the renewal of Catholic education across the country. Conversations throughout the halls and over shared meals reflected a growing movement of schools and families seeking an education grounded not in utilitarian outcomes alone, but in the pursuit of Truth, Beauty, and Goodness.

For Saint Agnes School, hosting the Consortium was both a privilege and a reflection of its broader mission. As Catholic schools nationwide continue rediscovering the riches of the liberal arts tradition, Saint Agnes remains committed not only to serving its own students and families, but also to supporting the broader renewal of faithful, intellectually vibrant Catholic education. The morning after the conference, we hosted a Catholic job fair where many of our conference sponsoring organizations were able to meet with conference attendees to share more about their missions and the varying needs of their institutions.

The spirit of the conference was perhaps best captured in the camaraderie and fellowship shared amongst the attendees. In an age often marked by distraction, fragmentation, and technological acceleration, the educators gathered at Saint Agnes were united by a common conviction: that authentic education begins in wonder and ultimately leads students toward wisdom, truth, and Christ Himself.



Mark your calendars for the 2027 Consortium for the Renewal of Catholic Education!

The theme for the 2027 Consortium will be America250 and feature keynote presentations by Andrew Zwerneman of Cana Academy and History250 video series and Dr. Susan McWilliams Barndt of Claremont McKenna College.

SENIOR SERVICE DAY



Last year, a group of students—then juniors—dreamed up a legacy of service and gratitude they could leave for Saint Agnes in their senior year. They researched ways to practice the corporal works of mercy in our community, then partnered with various ministries to plan a whole day of service projects as a class.

This spring, they were able to execute their vision. They went out in teams to a nursing home, a shelter for expectant mothers, a children's hospital, a soup kitchen, a food bank, and the St. Vincent de Paul warehouse. They tied blankets for hospital patients, helped a Catholic ministry for bereaved parents, wrote notes to people coming out of incarceration, and packed snack bags to share with those in need. They cleaned the church, even dusting the Stations of the Cross! And best of all, they covered the day in prayer, crafting and praying rosaries for those they served.





WAFFLE BREAKFAST

Our senior girls hosted a sweet waffle breakfast for our underclassmen girls—yet another beautiful reminder of the sisterhood, joy, and service that define life in our school.



ALL-SCHOOL LIFE

At some point each day, our oldest Aggies cross paths with our youngest Aggies. As the last remaining PreK-12 parish school in the Archdiocese of Saint Paul & Minneapolis, we cherish and celebrate the gift we have in housing our entire student body under one roof in the heart of Frogtown.

Visio Divina

During this year's Catholic Schools Week, our Upper and Lower School students came together to pray in an exercise of *Visio Divina*. Through guided reflection on works like Van Eyck's "Ghent Altarpiece," Fra Angelico's "Communion of the Apostles," and Bouguereau's "L'Innocence," beauty draws our Aggies' hearts closer to Christ and the mystery of His life, death, and resurrection.



Bouguereau's
"L'Innocence"



FROM THE HEADMASTER



At Saint Agnes School, we have continued to focus on a classical approach to Catholic liberal arts education—the birthright of all Catholics and the best approach to education proven throughout the millennia.



Dear Saint Agnes School Alumni, Families, and Friends,

We have just concluded our school year, and what a school year it was! Another spring has sprung, another class has graduated, and summer is in full swing—with its attendant clean-up, repairs, and renovations. The teachers are getting some much-needed and well-deserved rest; the students are sleeping a bit later and working summer jobs (as well as working out in the weight room); and we 12-month employees are buttoning up one school year and preparing for another through the summer.

As the country turns 250 years old officially on July 4, I wanted to offer some reflections on the state of American education, and more specifically, the state of Catholic education in the United States of America. American education has been so influenced by the philosophy of John Dewey that we see one fad after another being forced on schools by well-meaning, poorly trained educators—to wit, outcome-based education, STEM, standards-based education, 1:1 electronic device schools, critical thinking, self-esteem, whole language, 21st Century skills, critical theory—the list goes on and on (and that’s just in my 36 years in education). And if that’s all not confusing enough, we now introduce AI into the mix. To say the least, education in the United States is confused due to a faulty underlying philosophy; it lacks a coherent rudder and underserves the middle 80% of students—only the top and bottom 10% are served adequately.

By and large, Catholic education in the U.S. has attempted to marry the philosophy of education espoused by Dewey with Catholic social teaching, eschewing the best in traditional Catholic education as articulated by Jacques Maritain to pursue whatever is “current, up-to-date, and established by Education school professors.” Catholic schools in the 2020s pursue a strange amalgamation of public school initiatives with a veneer of Catholic teaching, often apologizing for the Church’s moral teachings on abortion, LGBTQ, and “proselytizing” (among many others).

At Saint Agnes School, we have continued to focus on a classical approach to Catholic liberal arts education—the birthright of all Catholics and the best approach to education proven throughout the millennia. That means that we are leading a charge in the recovery of Western civilization, in reading texts that have stood the test of time, and in discussing ideas with one another under the tutelage of a well-educated and well-formed teacher/witness. Our students spend significant amounts of time in Socratic seminar-style dialogue with one another (beginning as early as 2nd grade), and they are exposed to the good, the bad, and the ugly in our culture—thereby preparing them to engage this generation well.

In the end, our school offers parents the best opportunity left to assist them in getting their kids what they need to succeed in this life and make it to heaven in the next! We are extremely proud of the ways in which our graduates articulate what matters most in this world, and I have two graduates of my own who are finding their way well in a world broken by sin.

Alumni, parents, and friends, you can be proud of what this school is achieving. Keep praying for us to be united in purpose in a vineyard that is increasingly embattled.

God’s blessings to you and your families,

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

Kevin Ferdinandt
Headmaster

CLASS OF 2026



Faustina Adkins
Summa Cum Laude, NHS

Yaretzi Bautista

Louis Berthiaume
Magna Cum Laude

Zoé Berthiaume
Summa Cum Laude, NHS

Violet Bratt
Magna Cum Laude

Brian Brennan

Rebeka Brenneman
Cum Laude

Henry Bruggemann

Edward Buss
Magna Cum Laude, NHS

Emma Busse
Magna Cum Laude

Elle Chandler

Jeremiah Cooley

Elizabeth Cottrell

Emma Marie
Cummings
Magna Cum Laude

Luke Damm

Veronica Damm
Cum Laude

Kidus Dawit

Kathleen Dobie
Magna Cum Laude, NHS

Mary Doll
Cum Laude, NHS

Madeline Doran
Summa Cum Laude

Matthew Eastham
Summa Cum Laude

Joseph Ellsworth
Summa Cum Laude

Johan Finne
Magna Cum Laude, NHS

Anali Flores
Magna Cum Laude, NHS

Samantha Gombold-
Peterson

Daniel Graff
Magna Cum Laude, NHS

Phillip Graner

Cecilia Grant
Magna Cum Laude

Gemma Hagen
Cum Laude

Sarah Hahn
Summa Cum Laude

Joseph Harper

Olivia Horton
Magna Cum Laude

Raymond Hrbacek
Cum Laude

Samuel Hunt

Vincent Jurek

Mary Justen
Cum Laude

Genevieve Kafuuma
Cum Laude

Mackenzie
Kammerer

Eh Kaw

Evelyn Kiehl
Summa Cum Laude

Samantha Kunz
Magna Cum Laude

Kevin Le
Summa Cum Laude, NHS

Aden Lemma

Elizabeth LeVesseur
Magna Cum Laude, NHS

Edward LeVoir

Daniela Lopez-
Moran



Mary Mantel
Summa Cum Laude, NHS

Madison Marquardt

Andrea Martinez
Cum Laude

Alyssa McLaughlin

Ydidya Meheretia
Cum Laude

Zachary Miller

Jonathan Muehleck
Summa Cum Laude, NHS

Lucas Munn-
LaRoche

Bridget Muttonen
Summa Cum Laude

Jovi Nelson

Gia-Bao Nguyen
Cum Laude

Michael Norris

Emma Louise
Odenbrett
Magna Cum Laude

Maria O'Keefe
Magna Cum Laude

Rowan Pasdo

Teresa Patros
Magna Cum Laude, NHS

Joseph Pepin
Summa Cum Laude

Anthony Petruconis
Summa Cum Laude, NHS

Evonson Plamann

Angela Proper
Magna Cum Laude

Sophia Rossini

Ezekiel Samson

Lucia Sands
Cum Laude

Glenn Schmitz
Cum Laude

Amelia Seuntjens
Summa Cum Laude, NHS

Arianna Sharkey
Cum Laude

Isaac Sherf
Cum Laude

Elijah Sieve

Luke Simpson

Eleanor Sobieski
Cum Laude

Hannah Starr
Magna Cum Laude

William
Steffenhagen

Isabella Stich
Magna Cum Laude, NHS

Kendall Theis
Summa Cum Laude

Kyle Thill

Tessa Trygstad
Magna Cum Laude, NHS

Gabriel Uhlenkott

Eleanor Walter
Summa Cum Laude, NHS

Ruby Witzel
Cum Laude

Annika Yevtikhov
Magna Cum Laude

Leah York
Cum Laude

Bereket Zegeye

Gabriel Ziernicki

On Friday, May 29, 2026 Saint Agnes celebrated its 85th Commencement Exercises in Msgr. Bandas Gymnasium.



As our senior class waited expectantly for their moment to cross the stage, they were addressed by administration, their classmates, and by Dr. Patricia Connolly, a 1982 Saint Agnes graduate and Senior Vice President and Global Head of Global Capability Centers Services at Hexaware Technologies.

PALM HONOREES

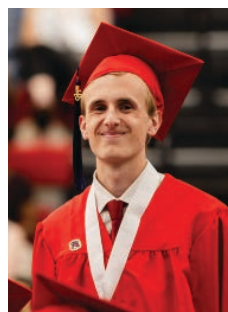
The “Saint Agnes Palm Award” is a great honor that bears the name of the symbol of victory of our patroness, the palm branch. The award’s honorees - one young man and one young woman from the senior class- are selected by the faculty and are students who model all that which Saint Agnes School hopes for in each of its graduates. These seniors embody the best of our school; these young people are well rounded and have achieved excellence in virtually all areas: faith, academics, activities, athletics, character, virtue, leadership, friendship, and service. As the plaque itself states for both the male and female recipients: “This senior represents best the hopes and goals as expressed in the mission and vision of Saint Agnes School.” On behalf of the faculty, administration, and the entire student body, we are honored to announce that the

10th annual “Saint Agnes Palm Award” was presented to seniors Raymond Joseph Hrbacek and Eleanor Grace Walter.

Raymond Hrbacek PALM AWARD HONOREE

Palm Award Recipient Raymond Hrbacek is a parishioner of the Church of Saint Agnes. Ray served as president of Militia Immaculata, was an altar server, and was a captain of the Cross Country and Track & Field teams. He was also involved in the Pro-Life Club, Trap Shooting team, and LEAD Retreat team. He will be attending North Dakota State University and will be majoring in Psychology.

At Commencement, Ray shared about the importance of sacrifice and following our Lord by carrying our own crosses. He said, “We will all be asked to sacrifice in diverse ways. What matters most is how we respond to this call to sacrifice...this sacrifice of oneself is choosing forgiveness



when someone intentionally hurts you or getting out of your comfort zone by recognizing the dignity in the people around

you. Sacrifice is letting go of your own desires and choosing to follow the will of God, which is loving others. Brothers and sisters, to die to yourself is to live for Jesus.”

The heart of carrying our crosses, Hrbacek remarked, lies in letting go of our own desires and trusting in God. “Start by basing your happiness on not getting what you want, rather will what God wills and your joy will be incomparable,” he said. “When we choose to carry our crosses in our daily life, our hearts are transformed. We must now live through love, truth, and radical trust in Jesus, all these which conflict with what the world around us lives for. Thus, we must continuously empty ourselves of pride, our own ego, and all self-centeredness. Only once we achieve this can we begin to truly look like Jesus through discipleship. We must remember that the disciple takes up his cross not just because suffering is noble, but also because God is worthy of our unconditional trust.”

Eleanor Walter PALM AWARD HONOREE



Palm Award Recipient Eleanor Walter is a parishioner of the Church of Saint Joseph. Eleanor was the president of the National Honor Society. She was involved

in many clubs and activities including the Student Council, Spring Musical, Pro-Life Club, Latin Club, Drama Club, Service Club, Militia Immaculata, and Track & Field, in addition to being a captain of our Girls’ Soccer and Basketball teams. Walter will be attending North Dakota State University this fall, majoring in Education.

Eleanor drew on *The Brothers Karamazov* in her remarks, encouraging her classmates to cherish the memories they have made

here together: “You must know that there is nothing higher, or stronger, or sounder, or more useful afterwards in life, than some good memory, especially a memory from childhood, from the parental home. You hear a lot said about your education, yet some such beautiful, sacred memory, preserved from childhood, is perhaps the best education. If a man stores up many such memories to take into life, then he is saved for his whole life. And even if one good memory remains with us in our hearts, that alone may serve some day for our salvation.”

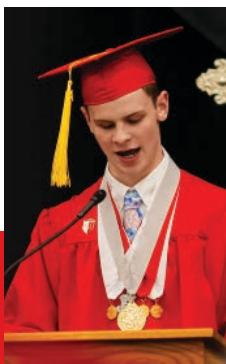
Walter further challenged her classmates to continue to be their authentic selves as they leave Saint Agnes. She said, “One of the most notable things about our class is the number of unique and strong personalities. We have a culture where people are confident and unapologetic of who they are. For example, we love an iconic drum solo or just dance competition. Our Lord says in John 10:10, ‘I come so that they may have life and have it abundantly.’ In living an authentic life, we have participated in this abundant life that Christ has offered us. Just as Father Baker said in his homily during our Baccalaureate Mass, our lives will be known by the fruits they bear. As you go out and join new communities, remember that the fruit you bear may not always be evident to you in the moment, but if we continue to live this abundant life, we will be witnesses to Christ’s mission wherever we go.”

Joseph Pepin

SALUTATORIAN

2026 Salutatorian Joseph Pepin is a parishioner of the Church of Saint Agnes. Joe is a member of the National Honor Society, was an altar server, and received the Drama, Math, and Science Department

Awards. He participated in Band, Jazz Band, Jazz Combo, Brass Quintet, the Spring Musical,



Wrestling, and Latin Club. He was also Co-Vice President of the Drama Club, and a captain of the Cross Country team. Pepin will attend the University of Dallas, majoring in Computer Science.

In addressing his classmates, Pepin quoted J.R.R. Tolkien’s lovable hobbit Bilbo Baggins, remarking: “I don’t know half of you half as well as I should like; and I like less than half of you half as well as you deserve.”

Zoé Berthiaume

VALEDICTORIAN

2026 Valedictorian Zoé Berthiaume is a parishioner of the Church of Saint Agnes. She received the Latin and Math Department Awards, and was Treasurer of the National Honor Society. She was also Captain of the Math team, Aedile of the Latin Club, and Captain of the Girls’ Hockey and Softball teams. She participated in Girls’ Soccer, the Spring Musical, Drama Club, Creative Writing Club, Latin Club, Service Club, and Militia Immaculata. Berthiaume will be attending the University of Mary, majoring in Nursing.



Before sending off the graduates to conclude the ceremony, Berthiaume reminded her classmates of their call to greatness and their call to go forth and bear good fruit, quoting from the Alleluia

verse of the day’s Mass. Bidding farewell, she said, “As you take your next steps, your next *gradus*, as you graduate, do not just walk, but walk humbly, and as the Romans used to say, *bene ambulate*, walk well. Remember to pray continuously, live joyfully, forgive always. *Carissimi mei*, my dearest ones. Farewell, be strong! *Valete!*”



COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER

Dr. Patricia Connolly ‘82

Dr. Patricia Connolly hails originally from Minnesota, and she once walked Saint Agnes School as a student, graduating with the Class of 1982. Since her time at Saint Agnes, Connolly has gone from success to success.

She graduated Magna Cum Laude from the University of Minnesota with a B.A. in Computer Science, followed by a Summa Cum Laude Master’s in Business Administration from the University of St. Thomas. She has also completed a Doctorate in Corporate Strategy from the University of St. Thomas, and, finally, she earned a Master’s Degree in Theology from the University of Notre Dame.

As laudable as her academic achievements are, however, what she has done with her career and service to others is even more impressive. She has led several highly successful businesses, the most recent of which is her position as Senior Vice President and Head of Global Capability Centers Services at Hexaware Technologies, which merged with her company SMC Squared to deliver AI-driven solutions for various organizations. She has worked with Fortune 500 companies such as Target and Polaris, and she serves on the Foundation Board for Catholic Relief Services as well as on the boards of multiple banks navigating strategic change. For all of her contributions, she has been recognized as an EY Entrepreneur of the Year Nominee, an HMG Global Tech Executives That Matter, and Women in Technology by the Dallas Business Journal. Patricia’s desire for excellence and determination to succeed are driven by her

89 Graduates

19 13-year Aggies

1 National Merit Commended Scholars

Students attending colleges/universities like:

University of St. Thomas • Benedictine College • University of Notre Dame • St. Mary's University (Winona) • University of Mary (Bismarck) • North Dakota State University • University of Minnesota • University of Minnesota-Duluth • Winona State University • Ave Maria University (FLA) • Duquesne University • St. Paul College • Air Force Academy • University of Dallas • Fordham University (Lincoln Center) • Hamline University • Dunwoody Institute • Creighton University

Catholic faith, her love for her family, and her unique contributions as a woman in the field of technology. She has a passion for family values, corporate social giving, continuous learning, and elevating women in leadership.

At Commencement, Connolly reflected on the lives of three saints: St. Catherine of Sienna, St. Thomas Aquinas, and St. Mother Teresa. "If Catherine calls us to authenticity," she remarked, "and Aquinas teaches wisdom, Mother Teresa teaches love in action." Her words encouraged our graduates to be their true selves as God created them to be in all that they do, to slow down and think thoroughly to solve problems, and to love courageously. "Ask hard questions. Seek truth, not convenience. And understand that knowledge does bring responsibility," she said. "Your education here at Saint Agnes has given you tremendous tools. What you now do with them really does matter."

"The world you are entering simply needs you," Connolly concluded. "Be brave enough to stand firm. Be wise enough to stop and think. And be kind enough to love anyway. If you ever wonder whether your life can truly make a difference, remember this: when you live authentically, seek truth, and choose love even in small ways, you will set the world on fire. Class of 2026: make each day a significant day. Congratulations, and may God bless you always."

Department Awards

Band • Kevin Le, Angela Proper
Drama • Teresa Patros, Joseph Pepin
English • Bridget Muttonen, Amelia Seuntjens,
History • Anthony Petruconis, Anali Flores
Latin • Zoé Berthiaume, Jonathan Muehleck
Math • Zoé Berthiaume, Joseph Pepin
Physical Education • Evonson Plamann, Isabella Stich
Science • Mary Mantel, Joseph Pepin
Spanish • Yaretzi Bautista, Amelia Seuntjens
Studio Art • Lucy Sands, Hannah Starr
Theology • Bridget Muttonen, Anthony Petruconis
Vocal Music • Violet Bratt, Madeline Doran

Recognition of Service Awards

Student Council President and Vice President • Kevin Le, Edward Buss
Senior Council Members • Beth Cottrell, Johan Finne, Evelyn Kiehl, Angela Proper, & Eleanor Walter
Yearbook Senior Editors • Luke Damm, Elizabeth LeVesseur, Madison Marquardt

Honor Awards

St. Paul Chapter of the Sons & Daughters of the American Revolution • Jonathan Muehleck
Sr. Adrienne Award • Jeremiah Cooley & Elizabeth LeVesseur

2026-2027 Awards

Newly elected 2026-27 Student Council Co-Presidents • Audrey Amiot & Ethan Johnson
All-State Choir • James Alt, Jane Kuwata, & Sarah Lehn
Donna May Vocal Music Scholarship • Peter Draganowski & Natalie Wolf



2026 JUNIOR HIGH AWARDS

Students and faculty gathered for the Annual Junior High Awards Ceremony to honor the many gifts and talents of our junior high students. First recognizing the service of altar servers, ushers, and Junior High Student Council, the junior high faculty and administration proceeded to acknowledge the following individual accomplishments. Congratulations to these students for their excellent work!

Student Awards, Nominated by Classmates

St. Thérèse of Lisieux Award: For doing small things with great love, being helpful and thoughtful, showing kindness to classmates.

Felicity Spencer, Dockery Olson, & Maureen Alt

St. Barnabas Award: For showing kindness and forgiveness to classmates, including everyone, ensuring nobody feels forgotten or unwanted.

Della Tibesar, Amelia Gustafson

St. Paul Award: For choosing to do what is right, even when it is a hard choice to make.

Agatha Adkins, Levin Amundson

St. Thomas Aquinas Award: For displaying a love of learning and a desire to know the truth.

Benedict Pepin, Dominic Lu

St. Philip Neri Award: For exuding joy and cheerfulness, uplifting those around them to see God's love.

Margaret Loch, Liesl Posteuca, & Selah Amundson

Academic Awards

National Latin Exam: Silver Medal

Maxima Cum Laude, for their performance on the Latin exams.

Intro Exam: Michael Draganowski, Cecilia Kobbermann, Eleanor Winkelman, Henry Kemp, Graham Amundson, Xavier Millea

Latin I: Isla Mernin, Faustina Brownell, Sam Ducote

Gold Medal Summa Cum Laude honors for their top scores of 38 out of 40.

Intro Exam: Monica Houle, Mary Angela Ferrara, Stella Blair, Journi Robinson, Benedict Pepin, Marie Merabella, Maria Fernanda Hernandez Soto, Felicity Spencer

Latin I: Liesl Posteuca, Josephine Cudd, Sophia Posteuca, Levin Amundson, Christopher Hedrich, Louis St. Martin, Elizabeth Walter, Anyra Silva, Maureen Alt, Grace Heider, Selah Amundson, Gabriel West, Dominic Lu

Perfect Scores on the Latin Exam

Intro Exam: Martin Jaimes

Junior High Science Fair, Top Projects:

Grade 7: Lalisa Feyissa, William Slattery

Grade 8: Faustina Brownell, Grace Heider

Academic Excellence Award: Given to a male and female student from each grade who display academic excellence in all subjects throughout the year.

Grade 7:

Marie Merabella, Benedict Pepin

Grade 8:

Dominique Levi, Louis St. Martin

Junior High Aggie Award: Presented to a male and female from each grade who represent the goals of a Saint Agnes education and exhibits all-around excellence. Qualities considered include: excellence in faith, academics, activities, athletics, virtue, leadership, service, and school spirit.

Grade 7:

Mary Angela Ferrara, Dockery Olson

Grade 8:

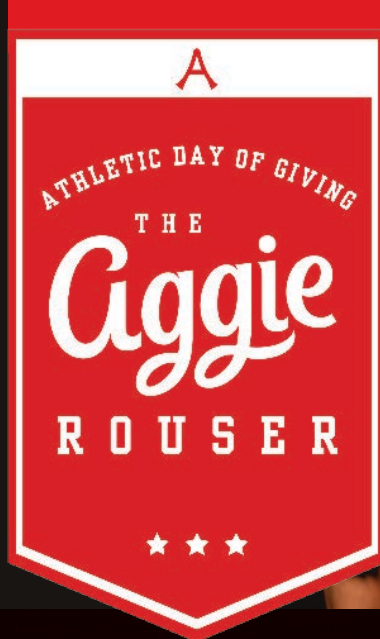
Sophia Posteuca, Maximilian Shrake



Our 7th Grade Aggie Award winners.



Mr. Hendrickson presents a St. Philip Neri Award.



TWO WAYS TO SUPPORT

Cash Donations - July 20 (or before!)

- Online at onecause.com/aggieopen
- Venmo @SaintAgnesSchool – note Athletics
- Scan the QR code
- Designate DAF funds or IRA distributions
- Gifts of stocks and securities
- Mail cash/check in the enclosed envelope and designate ATHLETICS



MATCHING FUNDS JUST ANNOUNCED!

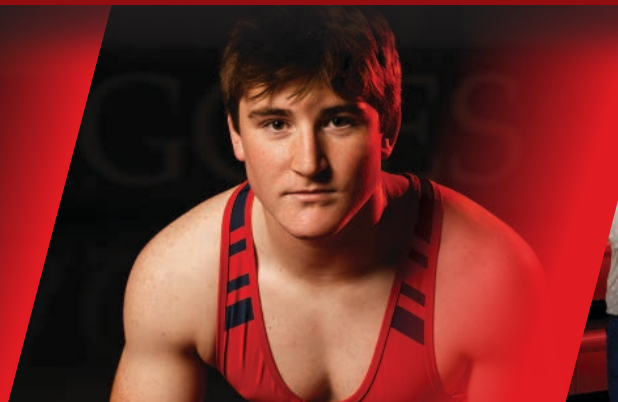
Two former athletes have offered \$20,000 in matching funds for gifts to Aggie Athletics! Turn your \$50 into \$100 or your \$250 gift into \$500! All gifts matter and you can double your impact!

CAN WE COUNT ON YOU TO BE PART OF OUR AGGIE TEAM?

Donate to the Aggie Rouser Athletic Day of Giving OR

Join the Aggie Open Golf Tournament!

Aggie Athletics represents a proud tradition of teamwork, sportsmanship, dedication and the pursuit of excellence that permeates all aspects of life. Almost 75% of our students participate in a sport and 60% play on two or more teams. However, maintaining a competitive and robust athletic program costs \$500,000 a year. The Aggie Rouser Athletic Day of Giving is one way to help cover costs and allow all students a chance to participate.





AGGIE ATHLETICS

Golf the Tournament - July 20

- \$125 per player - Includes golf, motorized cart, box lunch, course games, dinner, and prizes.
- \$45 dinner only
- We have reserved both Como and Phalen Golf Clubs to accommodate more golfers!
- 12:00 Noon shotgun start
- All return to Saint Agnes for social hour, dinner, and prizes.

Sponsor a Hole

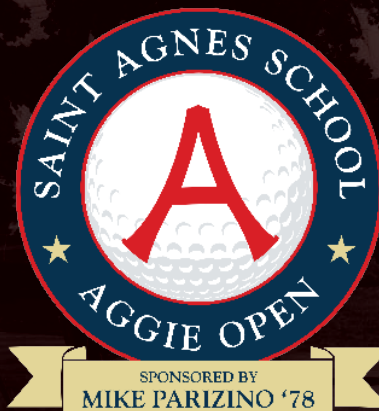
- Have your class or team sponsor a hole for just \$300 and get class recognition on the course.

Donate Prizes for the Aggie Open Raffle/Auction

- Sports memorabilia, tickets, gift cards, wines, and liquors are most popular.

Bid on Auction Items

- A variety of sports memorabilia, sporting goods, designer purses and more
- Online bidding. Need not be present to win! Opens July 14.



JULY 20, 2026

REGISTER

Register at onecau.se.com/aggieopen, or scan the QR code, or call 651-925-8720 for more information.

All proceeds from the Aggie Open and the Aggie Rouser Athletic Day of Giving support Aggie Athletics.



1st place
Team Kusterman
at Como



1st place
Team Heppner-Kirkland
at Phalen



1st place
Team Stangl
Senior Division

Angela Proper,
1st Team All-State Softball,
Athena Award Winner



WINTER SPORTS



BOYS BASKETBALL

The Aggie boys' basketball team entered the 2025-26 season with a young roster and a significant rebuilding challenge. Despite finishing 9-18, the team remained competitive throughout the winter, battling through several close contests while gaining valuable experience. With a strong core of returning players, the Aggies are well positioned to take the next step and contend for the Skyline Conference title in 2026-27.

Individually, junior **Thomas Plasch** earned **All-Conference** honors, while junior **Ben Davis** and sophomore **Sam Ekholm** were recognized as **Honorable Mention All-Conference** selections.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

The Saint Agnes Girls Basketball program continued its remarkable success during the 2025-26 season, posting its **fourth consecutive winning record**. The varsity team finished 19-9, tying the 2015-16 squad for the **second-most wins in a season** in program history. In another milestone, all three high school levels recorded winning seasons for the first time ever, with JV finishing 16-9 and C-Squad posting an 8-7 mark.

The Aggies earned notable victories over several larger Twin Cities schools, including Como Park, Concordia Academy, and St. Croix Lutheran. Saint Agnes finished **third** in the **Skyline Conference** and **fourth** in **Section 4AA** for the fourth and third consecutive years, respectively.

Junior **Ma'Lon McCoy** became the program's seventh **1,000-point** scorer and now ranks **fourth** on the **school's all-time scoring list**. **McCoy** and senior **Evelyn Kiehl** earned **Skyline All-Conference** honors, while seniors **Veronica Damm** and **Elizabeth LeVesseur** received **Honorable Mention** recognition.



The coaching staff was also honored, with **Coach Tommy Boyd** named **Section 4AA Co-Coach of the Year** and **Coach Marlon McCoy** recognized as **Assistant Coach of the Year**. Although the Aggies graduate four seniors, a talented returning core positions the program for continued success.



ALPINE SKI

Congratulations to senior **Bridget Muttonen** on qualifying for the **Minnesota State High School League Alpine Ski State**

Meet. Bridget competed at Giants Ridge in Biwabik, Minnesota, earning her place among the state's top alpine skiers.

A dedicated competitor, Bridget has been skiing competitively for 12 years and has been a member of the varsity alpine ski team since 2023. This marks the **second time** in her career that she has qualified for the State Meet, having previously advanced as a sophomore. At that competition, she placed **46th** among 87 of Minnesota's best female alpine skiers.

Saint Agnes skis with the St. Croix Prep Co-op that also includes New Life Academy.



Saint Agnes competes in co-ops for boys' and girls' hockey.

BOYS & GIRLS HOCKEY

The boys are part of the St. Paul Academy co-op along with Nova Classical Academy, Minnehaha Academy, Great River Academy and Twin Cities Academy.

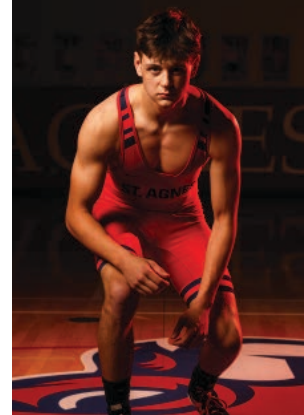
The team finished 1-24. Aggie senior and hockey captain **Louie Berthiaume** earned the **Hoby Baker Character Award** as well as the **Shannon O'Hara Hockey Day in Minnesota Scholarship**. Saint Agnes students make up half of the co-op roster.

The girls skate with the Osseo/Park Center co-op along with Maranatha Christian Academy, Totino Grace and Legacy Christian Academy. They compete in the Northwest Suburban Conference. They finished the season 7-16. Aggie participants include **Zoé**, **Mary** and **Maddie Berthiaume**.

WRESTLING

The Saint Agnes wrestling team competed against a challenging schedule throughout the 2025-26 season, facing many larger

schools and strong programs. Although the Aggies finished with an 8-22 dual meet record, the season featured numerous close contests and significant individual and team accomplishments.



Three Aggie wrestlers—**Sam Hunt**, **Daniel Hunt**, and **Peter Brownell**—**qualified** for the **State Tournament**, marking the first time all three sectional champions from the program advanced to state in the same season. The year also featured a historic milestone as brothers qualified for the State Tournament together for the first time in program history.

Sam Hunt and **Philip Graner** also achieved the remarkable feat of reaching **100 varsity career victories**, joining an elite group of athletes in Saint Agnes wrestling history.

The team's growth was evident at the Section Team Tournament. The Aggies earned an impressive victory over North St. Paul after narrowly defeating them earlier in the season. Saint Agnes also battled eventual state tournament qualifier South St. Paul in a highly competitive match before the Packers' depth proved decisive in the upper weights.

The season showcased the continued development and competitiveness of the Aggie wrestling program against some of the area's strongest competition.

SPRING SPORTS

TRACK & FIELD

The 2026 season was one for the record books for Saint Agnes Track & Field. For the first time in program history, both the boys' and girls' teams finished among the **top five teams** at the **True Team Section Meet**, highlighting the continued growth and success of the program.



At the **MSHSL Section Championships**, the boys placed **5th** out of 19 teams, while the girls earned a strong **7th-place** finish in a highly competitive field.

A historic milestone came when the boys' 4x200-meter relay team of **Matthew Fischer**, **Neil Connolly**, **Caden Kroona**, and **Evons Plamann** **qualified for the State Meet**—the program's first relay team to do so since 2000. The quartet set a **school record** of **1:31.28** at sections before lowering the mark to **1:30.50** at the State Meet, where they earned an impressive **7th-place** finish.

Individually, **Matthew Fischer** placed **7th** in the **110-meter hurdles**, while **Evons Plamann** earned **All-State** honors with an **8th-place** finish in the **100 meters** and **6th place** in the **200 meters**.

The girls also delivered outstanding performances at the **Section Championships**. **Faustina Adkins** finished **3rd** in the **1600-meter** run, **Rosie Lopez** placed **5th** in the **shot put**, and **Maddie Steffenhagen** earned **5th place** in the **300-meter hurdles**. The girls' **4x200-meter relay** team of **Lucy Kirkland**, **Julia Kirkland**, **Evelyn Kiehl**, and **Catherine Loch** narrowly missed a state berth with a strong **4th-place** finish.

BASEBALL

The 2026 Aggie Baseball team finished with a 7-14 record, facing the challenge of replacing 12 seniors from last year's squad. While the season did not produce the results the team had hoped for, it was marked by growth, perseverance, and valuable experience that will benefit the program for years to come.

Many of the Aggies' losses were decided by the slimmest of margins, often turning on a single difficult inning. Despite the setbacks, the team remained competitive throughout the season and continued to battle until the final out.

With a balanced roster consisting of five seniors, five juniors, five sophomores, and two freshmen, the season provided significant opportunities for younger players to develop at the varsity level. The experience gained by the underclassmen will provide a strong foundation as Aggie Baseball looks ahead to 2027.

Senior **Louis Berthiaume** earned **Team MVP** honors after leading the Aggies in nearly every major offensive and pitching category. **Louis**, along with **Judd Berthiaume**, was recognized for outstanding play by earning both **All-Conference** and **All-Section** honors.



While the win-loss record may not fully reflect the team's effort and potential, the season laid important groundwork for the future and demonstrated the resilience and character that have long defined Saint Agnes Baseball.

SOFTBALL

The Saint Agnes softball team continued its remarkable run of success in 2026,



finishing with a 21-5 record and capturing its **second consecutive Skyline Conference Championship**. The Aggies have now recorded four straight seasons with 21 or more victories, cementing one of the most successful eras in program history.

The season was highlighted by several significant individual milestones. Senior pitcher **Angela Proper** surpassed **1,000 career strikeouts**, becoming one of the most accomplished players ever to wear an Aggie uniform. Sophomore **Sienna Stefani** reached the **100-hit** mark for her career, an impressive achievement early in her varsity career.

Proper earned **First Team All-State** honors and was selected to participate in the **Minnesota Senior All-Star Game** in Mankato. Joining **Proper** on the **All-Conference team** were **Stefani**, seniors **Emma Odenbrett** and **Zoé Berthiaume**, and sophomore **Hannah Anderstrom**.

With **Proper** and her fellow seniors concluding their careers, they leave behind the most successful stretch in program history, highlighted by **three Section Championships**, **two fourth-place** finishes at the **State Tournament**, and **two Skyline Conference titles**.

BOYS GOLF

The Saint Agnes boys golf team continued to make strides in the third year of the program's revival, finishing **seventh** in



conference play. **Michael Merabella** earned **All-Conference** honors, while **Joseph Merabella** received **Honorable Mention** recognition. The season was highlighted by significant individual improvement, with **Joseph Merabella**, **Joey St. Martin**, and **Brian Brennan** all recording career-best tournament scores. The Aggies also earned a **fourth-place** tournament finish, their best result in the past two seasons.

At the **Section Tournament**, held in challenging heat at Brookview Golf Course, **Joey St. Martin**, **Luke Thorson**, and **Ben Davis** each posted personal-best scores. **Michael** and **Joseph Merabella** both advanced to the second round of section competition, capping off a season marked by growth, achievement, and continued progress for the Aggie golf program.

GIRLS LACROSSE

The girls lacrosse co-op enjoyed an outstanding season, finishing with an impressive 11-4 record. Saint Agnes was proudly represented on the varsity roster by **Tessa Trygstad**, **Summer Peters**, **Cecilia Junker**, **Mary Doll**, and **Myah Peters**, all of whom contributed to the team's success throughout the year.



A season highlight came when **Myah Peters** reached a significant milestone, scoring her **100th career goal**.

The St. Paul Academy Lacrosse co-op is made up of girls from Saint Agnes, St. Croix Lutheran and Nova Classical Academy.

BOYS LACROSSE

The TriMac boys lacrosse co-op continued to make strides during the 2026 season, finishing with a 2-12 record while showing continued growth and development across the program. Participation increased among the co-op schools, providing a strong foundation for the future and reflecting the growing interest in lacrosse throughout the partnership.

Saint Agnes was represented on the varsity roster by seniors **Isaac Sherf** and **Daniel Graff**, along with sophomore **Tony Graff**. Their leadership, dedication, and commitment helped contribute to the team's competitive spirit throughout the season.

TriMac is a cooperative program that brings together student-athletes from Minnehaha Academy, St. Croix Lutheran, St. Paul Academy, South St. Paul, Nova Classical Academy, New Life Academy, Avalon School, United Christian Academy, and Saint Agnes.



CAA BASEBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Coached by Nathan Czaia '03 and Alex Hilpisch '09, the 6th grade baseball team **won the CAA championship**, finishing the season undefeated. The 8th grade baseball team finished **second**, losing a 5-4 thriller to Nativity in the bottom of the 7th inning. Our 5th grade softball team also finished **second** in the CAA championship, losing a high-scoring 21-10 game.



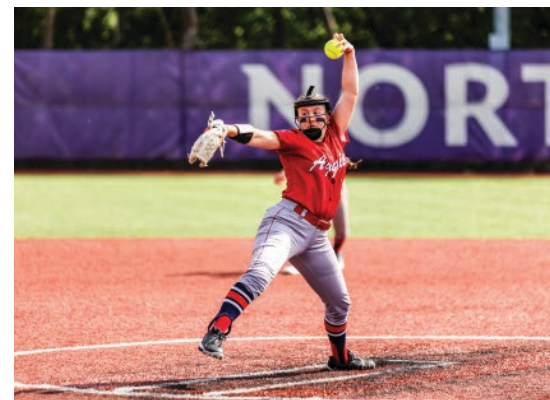
WINFIELD AWARD WINNERS

Evans Plamann and **Daniela Lopez-Moran** were honored at the 50th anniversary of the **Winfield Awards** this spring. The Winfield Awards honor minority student-athletes from Saint Paul schools.

ATHENA AWARD WINNER

Senior **Angela Proper**, along with other young women representing St. Paul city and suburban public and private high schools, was recently selected to receive the **St. Paul Area Athena Award** for outstanding achievement in athletics during her high school career. She and the other recipients were celebrated at a private awards ceremony on Wednesday, April 15, 2026 at Saint Paul RiverCentre.

Proper was a **5-year letterwinner** in **softball** (as well as **4x All-Conference**, **2x All-State**, **3x All-Section**, **2x All-State Tournament Team**, and a **2x Captain**), a **4-year letterwinner** in **weightlifting**, a **1-year letterwinner** in **soccer**, and participated in Honors Jazz Band, Jazz Combo, and Brass Quintet while earning **6 Academic Letters** in the classroom.



Fiddler on the Roof



Our Helene Houle Auditorium transformed into Anatevka this spring as the Aggies presented the beloved musical *Fiddler on the Roof*! Featuring classics like, "Tradition," "If I Were a Rich Man," and "Matchmaker," the cast and crew put forth a memorable production that showcased the extraordinary talent, dedication, and spirit of our students. This year, members of our faculty got involved in a special way as well, rotating cameo appearances during Tevye's frighteningly comedic dream sequence. Everyone from Mr. Broszko to Mr. Kemp to Dr. Ferdinandt took the stage!

The two-week run featured stellar musical performances, compelling drama, plentiful amusement, vibrant choreography, and beautifully crafted staging, lighting, and audio design to tell a timeless story of faith, family, and tradition.

More than simply a theatrical success, *Fiddler on the Roof* reflected the heart of a Saint Agnes education: cultivating beauty, fostering community, and forming students through meaningful encounters with the great works of human culture. Congratulations to our cast, crew, pit orchestra, directors, and volunteers for making this year's spring musical such a tremendous success.





100

200

300

400

500

\$200

\$400

\$600

\$800

\$1000

FOR ONE UNFORGETTABLE
AFTERNOON THIS SPRING,
THE SAINT AGNES COMMUNITY
GATHERED TO WATCH ONE
OF OUR OWN COMPETE ON
JEOPARDY!

fr. Baker ON

JEOPARDY!



Students, faculty, parishioners, family, and friends filled the Helene Houle Auditorium to near capacity as they watched Fr. Paul Baker—our parochial vicar and school chaplain—appear as a contestant on his favorite TV show: *Jeopardy!*

Fr. Baker had auditioned several times in the past but never made the cut. That all changed when, after appearing on our school podcast earlier this fall where he discussed his affinity for the long-running trivia game, he began the audition process once again. This time, they called Father's number—which he almost ignored, as it was an L.A. number buzzing as he stepped outside of the rectory to pick up the morning paper—and he soon found himself flying out to Los Angeles after a 7AM Sunday Mass to realize a dream he never thought could actually come true.

Though Fr. Baker ultimately finished in second place to reigning champion Jamie Ding—who entered the episode with an 11-game winning streak and would go on to win 31 consecutive games—he walked away with \$3,000 in prize money and memories to last a lifetime. Still, he joked that the greatest challenge wasn't appearing before a live audience and television cameras, but keeping the outcome a secret for weeks before the episode aired. With a wink, he likened it to preserving "the seal of the confessional."

But what mattered most to Fr. Baker was not the outcome or all the attention he received from various

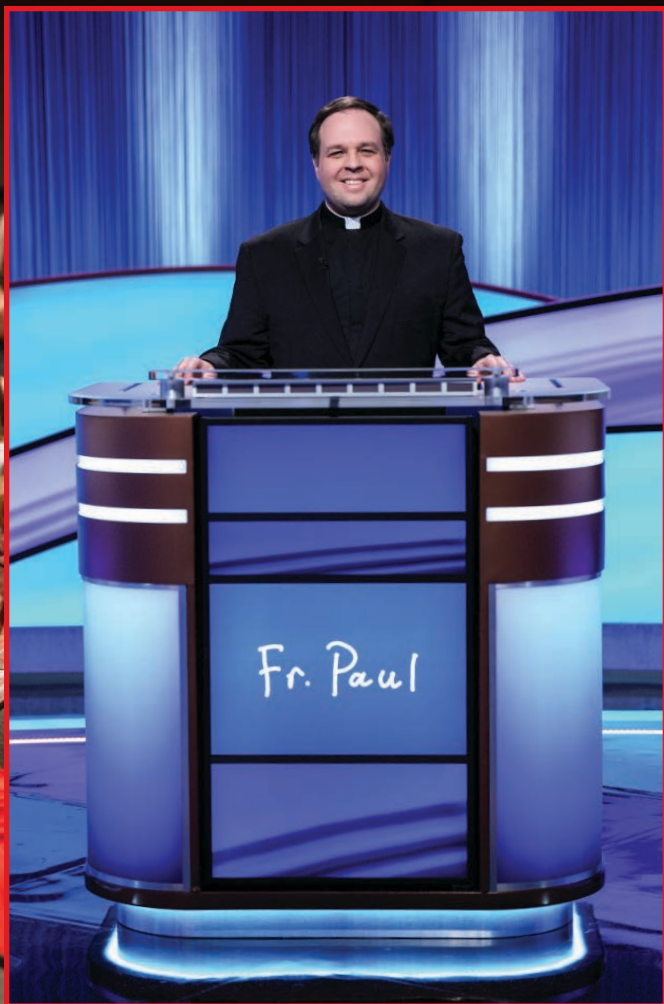


newspaper and television outlets; rather, it was the witness he offered through the experience. Throughout the episode, bursts of applause and raucous cheering filled the auditorium each time Fr. Baker answered correctly. One news reporter later remarked that it sounded like, "We were at a sporting event!" as the building erupted in support of our priest, teacher, colleague, and friend. By the end of the show, it was clear that the experience was a win for our Aggie community regardless of the score lit up in blue and white on Fr. Baker's podium.

"It would have been great to win," Fr. Baker reflected afterward to Dave Hrbacek of *The Catholic Spirit*, "but the best thing was simply to represent my church, my school, and Christ well."

"My hope is simply that people see a priest can have these aspirations—not for fame or money, but to be a joyful witness for God and His Church," he continued. "That was the real accomplishment."

For the entire Saint Agnes community on that joyful afternoon, it certainly was.



Watch Fr. Baker talk about his love for the liturgy, teaching, and—of course—*Jeopardy!* on the Saint Agnes School Podcast. Scan the QR Code to watch!



TEACHING, VATICAN II, & JEOPARDY

003: FR. PAUL BAKER



The Journey of Harold W. Kowalski, Jr. '52 Grade School



When Harold W. Kowalski, Jr. looks at the latest *Aggie Archives*, his attention is drawn immediately to the cover. “That photo is so unique,” he says. “My immediate thoughts were of my wedding day and the beauty portrayed by the sanctuary, the altar and the vastness of the interior of the church.”

Interviewed in March 2026 at his home in Springfield, Virginia, Harold reflects on a life deeply rooted in faith, discipline, and gratitude—values formed during his boyhood years at Saint Agnes and carried through a distinguished military and diplomatic career.

Growing Up in Frogtown

Born May 1, 1938, Harold grew up on Grotto Street in Saint Paul’s Frogtown neighborhood, just three blocks from Saint Agnes. The parish was central to daily life and deeply embedded in his family history. His grandmother



attended Saint Agnes in the 1890s, his father graduated from the grade school in 1929, and Harold followed, attending from kindergarten through ninth grade, being a member of the 8th grade class of 1952.

“I didn’t realize how much history we had at Saint Agnes until I found my dad’s 8th grade graduation photo,” he recalls. “It made me appreciate it even more.”

Faith was woven into everyday routines. His grandmother, a steady influence, would walk to 10 a.m. Mass and stop to pick him up along the way. “She saved me,” he says. “My Baptism, First Communion, Confirmation, and later my wedding were all at Saint Agnes.”

As a student, Harold was selected for the boys’ choir by the nun in charge of music, who auditioned students individually. Choir members practiced twice a week and sang at Mass, including special liturgies like Holy Thursday. “We wore cassocks with red shoulder capes and processed into the church,” he remembers. “Those are moments you don’t forget.”

Lessons from the Sisters

Harold credits much of his formation to the School Sisters of Notre Dame who taught at Saint Agnes. “They were strict,” he says, “but they were excellent teachers. If you respected them and did your work, you got along fine.”

The expectations were high. Students were expected to come prepared, complete assignments, and ask questions if they didn’t understand.

“Simply saying ‘I don’t know’ wasn’t enough,” he explains. “And once you learned it, it stuck.”

One teacher in particular, Sister Irma, left a lasting impression. As his eighth-grade teacher and later principal, she exemplified both discipline and care. Harold recalls that at times during the year, “She would tell us, ‘Now when you get to high school, it will be on your shoulders to be ready and the work is going to get harder.’ She not only taught us the basics, she was preparing us for our future.”

Beyond academics, Harold says Saint Agnes instilled lifelong values: respect for others, a strong work ethic, and a commitment to excel. “I didn’t realize it then, but those



lessons stayed with me,” he says. “They’ve guided me my whole life.”

A Detour— and a Turning Point

Despite his strong foundation, Harold’s path forward was uncertain. His parents could not afford the \$60 tuition required for continued education at Saint Agnes, and he transferred to Wilson High School after 9th grade.

“It was a blow,” he says. “I had no motivation or plans to go to college. I was thinking about becoming a pattern maker.”

Instead, an unexpected opportunity changed his trajectory. Through a neighborhood connection, he began working after school for a lawyer assisting disabled veterans at Fort Snelling. The job required a daily commute by bus or streetcar, followed by several hours of office work.

“I did a little bit of everything—filing, typing, delivering documents,” he recalls. “Watching that lawyer work inspired me.”

Encouraged by a high school counselor and supported by a \$500 grant, Harold enrolled at the College of Saint Thomas. There, he studied political science and joined Air Force ROTC—initially as a requirement, but ultimately as a calling.

“I found I liked the structure and discipline,” he says. “It was something I needed.”

A Career of Service

Harold graduated from Saint Thomas in 1960 and was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force. That same summer, he married his high school



Boeing B-52D-70 Stratofortress
(in original SAC paint scheme) being
refueled by Boeing KC-135A Stratotanker



sweetheart, Joan, at Saint Agnes. They had been dating for four years.

“She was the biggest blessing in my life,” he says. “She supported me through everything.”

His Air Force career would span 30 years and include both flying assignments and high-level staff positions. Initially trained as a pilot, he was redirected into navigator training when the Air Force reduced pilot positions—a change that ultimately worked in his favor.

He was assigned to fly B-52 bombers with Strategic Air Command, serving at Air Force bases within the United States. Over time, he became a radar navigator instructor and developed a reputation for precision and leadership. He later flew 60 combat missions during two tours in Southeast Asia.

Following the advice of a mentor, Harold alternated between flying assignments and staff roles—a strategy that accelerated his advancement. His assignments took him across the country, including Washington State, California, Michigan, Louisiana, and eventually Washington D.C. and the Pentagon.



B-52D-60 being refueled by Boeing KC-135A
on its way from Vietnam to Andersen Air
Force Base, Guam, during the Vietnam War

Leadership and Opportunity

Throughout his career, Harold embraced leadership roles that required both technical expertise and strong interpersonal skills. His academic background in political science and experience in strategic operations led to an assignment at the Pentagon, where he worked on the Air Force Headquarters staff. There, he was involved in strategic planning, mission analysis, and coordination with other services. His outstanding performance led to his assignment to the Joint Chiefs of Staff and a promotion to Colonel.

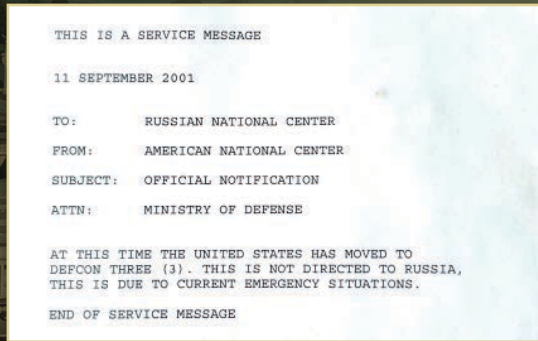
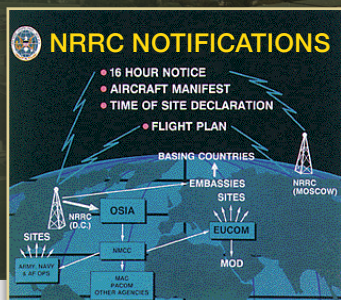
Later, reassigned to a command position in a flying unit in Arkansas, he oversaw maintenance operations for a fleet of B-52 bombers and KC-135 tankers, managing nearly 1,000 personnel.



Colonel Kowalski on flight line directing
prep for launch of a B-52



Above: 1987, Soviet Foreign Minister Shevardnadze and U.S. Secretary of State Shultz sign the NRRC Agreement
Right: Old map illustrating the U.S./U.S.S.R. network of communication concept



“That was one of my most career fulfilling jobs,” he says. “Working with those young men and women, seeing their technical knowledge and dedication to the mission—it was impressive.”

At the Center of Diplomacy

Colonel Kowalski’s career reached a new level when he was assigned to the U.S. Department of State, eventually becoming Director of the Nuclear Risk Reduction Center (NRRC). Established during the Cold War, the NRRC was designed to facilitate communication between nuclear powers and reduce the risk of conflict.

“We had direct communication links with the Soviet Union and

later with Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, and Kazakhstan,” he explains. “It was about preventing misunderstandings, maintaining stability, and nuclear arms reductions.”

Kowalski led U.S. delegations negotiating agreements with these countries, particularly in the years following the collapse of the Soviet Union. His work required careful coordination, cultural understanding, and constant communication through interpreters. “It was complex,” he says, “but it was important work.”

He also developed a leadership style that emphasized recognition and morale—something he felt was lacking in the government’s bureaucracy. “In the military, you recognize people for what they do. I brought that with me.”

Holiday gatherings, small celebrations, and personal acknowledgments became part of

his approach. “It made a difference,” he says. “People responded to that and it made for good team work.”

Honors and Reflection

Colonel Kowalski retired from the Air Force in 1991 and continued his work at the State Department as a civilian until 2004. Over his career, he received numerous military awards, including the Defense Superior Service Medal and the Secretary’s Career Achievement Award, presented by Secretary of State Colin Powell.

He also had opportunities to meet national leaders and participate in historic initiatives. Yet, when reflecting on his career, he remains focused on the people and experiences that shaped him.

“I was fortunate,” he says. “I had opportunities that many people don’t get.”

Career Highlights

- 1952: Graduated from Saint Agnes Grade School
- 1960: Earned B.A. in Political Science; commissioned as Second Lieutenant, U.S. Air Force
- 1961–1964: Completed flight and navigator training; began Strategic Air Command career
- 1964–1968: B-52 navigator and instructor, Fairchild AFB, Washington
- Late 1960s–Early 1970s: Flew 60 combat missions during two tours in Southeast Asia
- 1968–1971: Staff officer, 15th Air Force Headquarters, March AFB, California
- 1971–1972: B-52 crew member, K.I. Sawyer AFB, Michigan; top radar navigator recognition
- 1972–1973: Air Force Command and Staff College; earned M.A. in Political Science
- 1973–1977: Chief, Analysis Division, Strategic Air Command Combat Evaluation Group
- 1977–1981: Pentagon assignments in strategic planning and crisis

A Lifelong Connection to Saint Agnes

Despite living more than 1,000 miles from Saint Paul, Harold has maintained a strong connection to Saint Agnes. When visiting Minnesota, he makes a point to attend Mass at the parish.

"It brings back so many memories," he says. "It still feels like home."

He also continues to support the school financially—a commitment rooted in his own experience. After leaving Saint Agnes due to financial hardship, he made a personal promise to give back.

"I couldn't afford \$60 back then," he says, "so, I decided I'd repay it someday. I started small, but over time I've been able to do more."

He remains impressed by the school's vitality and strong traditions. "It's still a place where faith and education go hand in hand," he says.

Faith, Family, and Gratitude

Harold and his wife Joan were married for nearly 55 years before her passing in 2015. She now rests at Arlington National Cemetery, honored for her role as a military spouse.

"During our Air Force career, Joan was my number one mentor and confidant that I could lean on when I needed help, with a people problem, or just a listening ear. When



I was on an aircrew, I was gone a lot, and she kept things together and our family on a solid foundation. She was as much a part of the Air Force as I was and dedicated to our military life," he says. "I miss her every day."

Together, they raised three children and now have five grandchildren spread across the country. In retirement, Harold enjoys fishing and hunting, often traveling with his sons to Minnesota or some of the western states. Last year it was hunting moose in Colorado and antelope in Wyoming. His favorite is an annual trip to Alaska to fish for salmon.

Reflecting on his life, he sees a clear thread connecting his early education to his later success. "My years at Saint Agnes were the foundation," he says. "Everything else built on that."

A Message to Fellow Aggies

Harold's message to fellow Aggies is simple and direct:

- management; promoted to Colonel
- 1981–1985: Deputy Commander for Maintenance, Strategic Bomb Wing, Arkansas (1,000 personnel)
- 1985–1988: Senior Military Representative, Joint Chiefs of Staff at U.S. State Department
- 1988–1991: Deputy Director, then Director, Nuclear Risk Reduction Center
- 1991: Retired from U.S. Air Force as Colonel; continued as NRRC Director (civilian)
- 1991–2004: Led U.S. diplomatic coordination on nuclear risk reduction and arms reduction agreements
- 2004: Retired from federal service; awarded Secretary's Career Achievement Award

"One of the most important things in life is giving back to something that has benefited you. Saint Agnes has benefited so many of us."

Whether through time, talent, or financial support, he believes alumni play a vital role in sustaining the school's mission.

"This is a great institution," he says, "and the best way to keep it strong is for each of us to give what we can."

For a boy who once had to leave because of \$60 tuition, the return has been immeasurable. "It shaped who I am," he says, "and I'm proud to be part of it."



2025: Harold salmon fishing in Alaska

Decorations:

Defense Superior Service Medal (highest non-combat award medal given by the Department of Defense), Legion of Merit, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, two Air Force Meritorious Service Medals, three Air Medals, the Air Force Commendation Medal, three Presidential Unit Citations, the Combat Readiness Medal, and three Southeast Asia Decorations.



HONORING LEGACY GRADUATES



Lucas
Munn- LaRoche '26

Molly Munn '00

Anne Marie (Dwyer)
Munn '66

Anna (Juelich) Dwyer
1935 Grade School

Anna (Hoeller) Juelich
1909 Grade School

Edward Juelich
1900s Grade School



Louis Berthiaume '26

Annie (Moosbrugger)
Berthiaume '03



Mary Mantel '26

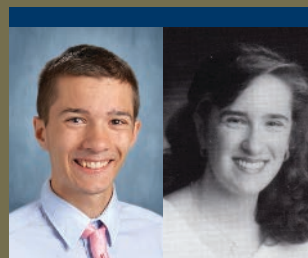
Christina (Seitz) Mantel
'97



Jovi Nelson '26

Janet (Holcomb)
Nelson '89

Sam Nelson '90



Michael Norris '26

Shannon (McGill)
Norris '96

Carrying on
the tradition
of excellence
at Saint Agnes
School.



Joseph Pepin '26

Gregory Pepin '01



Sophia Rossini '26

Joseph Rossini '92



Glenn Schmitz '26

Jolene (Rosenthal)
Schmitz '91



Zoé Berthiaume '26

Rebecca (Johnson)
Berthiaume '00

Daniel Berthiaume '00

David Johnson '57



Annika Yevtikhov '26

Mary (Rosenthal)
Yevtikhov '99





REUNIONS

Class of 1964 80th Birthday Party!

Thursday, October 8, 2026

Pool and Yacht Club

Lilydale, MN

More information to come from your planning committee: Bill Dunn, Jim Streadwick, Jim Law, Tom Miller and Pat (Mahowald) Theroux

Class of 1966 60-year reunion

Saturday, August 15, 2026

7:00-11:00 PM

Gabe's by the Park

Lexington Ave

St Paul MN

Note: All food and drink will be up to each attendee. Servers will be available in the party room. Questions? Tom Nieszner at tom.nieszner@gmail.com

Class of 1976 50-year Reunion Barbeque!

Saturday, Sept 12, 2026

1:00-7:00 PM

Como Park Pavilion

1199 Midway Parkway

St. Paul, MN 55103

Drinks: BYOB

Cost: \$25



RSVP: [MyEvent.com/Aggieclass-1976](https://myevent.com/Aggieclass-1976)

Facebook: [StAgnes1976ClassReunion](https://www.facebook.com/StAgnes1976ClassReunion)

Contact: Karen 651-253-0607

KKdeneen@gmail.com

Contact: Michele 651-769-4419

MAP1988@hotmail.com

Class of 1986 40-year Reunion

Saturday, Oct 3, 2026: 6:00 PM

Gabe's by the Park

Lexington Ave, St Paul MN

\$40 per person

To RSVP or for more information contact Samantha Hurd at sammbarre@aol.com

Class of 1991 35-year Reunion

Saturday, September 19

Join us for an unofficial gathering to work out details on Monday July 20 at Half Time Rec. starting about 7:30 PM. (Following the Aggie Open Golf Tourney.) Questions? raylesnar@yahoo.com

Class of 2006 20-year Reunion

Save the date! September 12, 2026

More details to come from Amber (Humphrey) Steiner amberjsteiner@gmail.com

NEWS

Class of 1952

Gerald Hubbard lives in Spokane, WA. He notes, "I turned 91 on Oct. 27 and am still getting into trouble!"

Class of 1955

Theresa (Adam) Schwinghammer is living in Alamo, Texas and enjoys connecting with former classmates.



Class of 2014

Katie Gellerman sends news, "I got married on November 8th, 2025 to Alex

McKenize at Our Lady of Grace Church by our friend and fellow Aggie Alumni, Fr. Nick Vance ('14). I have been coaching the Girls' Varsity Soccer team for the last few years and am the Enrollment Coordinator

with Collegis Education (partnered with Arizona State University Online)."



Class of 2020

Rebecca (Fabozzi) Holmquist is the Communications Coordinator at St. Patrick Catholic Church and was married this past October at Saint Agnes! She and her husband Miles make their home in Circle Pines.

Join our email list!

Stay current on alumni events, reunions, athletics, concerts, and the latest Saint Agnes news.



Subscribe to our monthly "Aggies Connect" Alumni E-newsletter list!



FREEWILL

August is National Make-A-Will Month

As we head into summer, we want to make sure you have had an opportunity to use this easy, free resource to plan for your future and to provide for yourself and those you love.

The idea of making a will can seem overwhelming, but the FreeWill tool makes the process simple. Fill in your information and wishes, print it out and sign it in the presence of witnesses. That's it! A legal will in about 20 minutes!

If you are so inclined, you can even include a gift to Saint Agnes School in your plan—an easy way to support our mission for generations to come that costs you nothing today!

Visit FreeWill.com/SaintAgnes to create your plan today!

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.

Margaret (Lavigne) Haggerty, 1948
Joan (Bonneprise) Felling, 1949
Mary Ann (Thill) Herhoff, 1945 GS
Richard Jungwirth, 1951
Richard Toussaint, 1951
Ted Steichen, 1952
Florine (Bauer) Sullivan, 1954
Raymond Wegleitner, 1954
Eugene Galatowitsch, 1955
Joan (Lachenmayer) Perusse, 1955
Eileen Ryan Gottwalt, 1955
James Bougie, 1958
Dennis Emerson, 1958
Florence (Gross) Kerr, 1958
Alice (Litkenhaus) Robinson, 1958
Marlene (Magner) Andert, 1958
Thomas Muellner, 1958
Kathleen (Mulcahy) Tschida, 1958

Lottie (Nied) Krosch, 1958
Robert Spock, 1958
James Weber, 1958
Joan (Thill) Schierman, 1959
Charles Huettl, 1960
William Langenberger, 1960
John Ernster, 1961
Kathleen (Nosbusch) Toner, 1962
Nancy Strohmayer Joyce, 1964
John Tschida, 1964
Kim Blees, 1963 GS
Carolyn Kowalski, 1967
Rick Novak, 1968
Michael Pitzl, 1968
Dennis Thalhuber, 1968
Jodee (Carter) Kuschel, 1970
John (Jack) Dunn, 1970
Catherine (Watson) Batchelor, 1974

David Fleischacker, 1982
Joseph Mitchell, 1982
Katharine (McDonald) Lefebvre, 1984
Joseph Freyholtz, 1986
Michelle L Ferguson, 1989
Jonah Peter Lehnen, 2024
Sharon (Fahey) Brennan, past faculty, past parent
Agnes Dynes, past parent
Monica Heesch, past parent
Thomas Hilpisch, past parent
Larry Hobbs, past parent
Teresa Kusterman, past parent
Lugarda McDonald, past parent
Missy Tarnowski, past parent
Vivaldis Vanags, past parent
Vilhelmine Vanags, past parent
Joan Winter, past parent

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

A collage of images related to the St. Agnes Parish Veterans Memorial. The background features a large American flag on a building. Overlaid on the right is a close-up of the memorial plaque, which reads: "IN MEMORY OF VETERANS OF ST. AGNES PARISH PRESENTED BY PAUL J. DUDLEY POST No. 1139 VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS MAY 1961". Below this is a photo of the school building, a large red brick structure with many windows. In the bottom right corner, there is a photo of the plaque being installed in the ground, surrounded by mulch. In the bottom left corner, there is a photo of four people (two men and two women) standing in front of the school building.

WHISPERS OF THE PAST

UNCOVERING A PATRIOTIC MEMORIAL

When we replaced our deteriorating fence in front of the school last summer, we were pleased to be able to expose some additional green space that had been lying unused behind it. Unbeknownst to many, also lying behind that fence at the foot of our American flag was an important memorial stone; it reads, "In Memory of Veterans of St. Agnes Parish" and was presented in May, 1961 by the Paul J. Dudley Post No. 1139 of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. We are proud to be able to prominently display it now!

As we celebrate the 250th birthday of our nation throughout this year, we are especially thankful for those Aggies of both our parish and school who have answered the call to serve our country through the armed forces, and we hold in our hearts and in our prayers those who have given their lives to defend and protect our home and our freedom.

A collage of images related to the St. Agnes Parish Veterans Memorial. The top left shows a large American flag on a building. The top right features the title 'WHISPERS OF THE PAST' in large, bold, blue letters, followed by 'UNCOVERING A PATRIOTIC MEMORIAL' in smaller blue letters, flanked by stars. Below the title is a paragraph of text. The middle left shows a close-up of the memorial plaque, which is a dark, rectangular stone with white lettering. The middle right shows a close-up of the American flag. The bottom left shows a group of four students standing in front of the school building. The bottom right shows a view of the school building, a large red brick structure with many windows. The bottom center shows a close-up of the memorial plaque, which is a dark, rectangular stone with white lettering.

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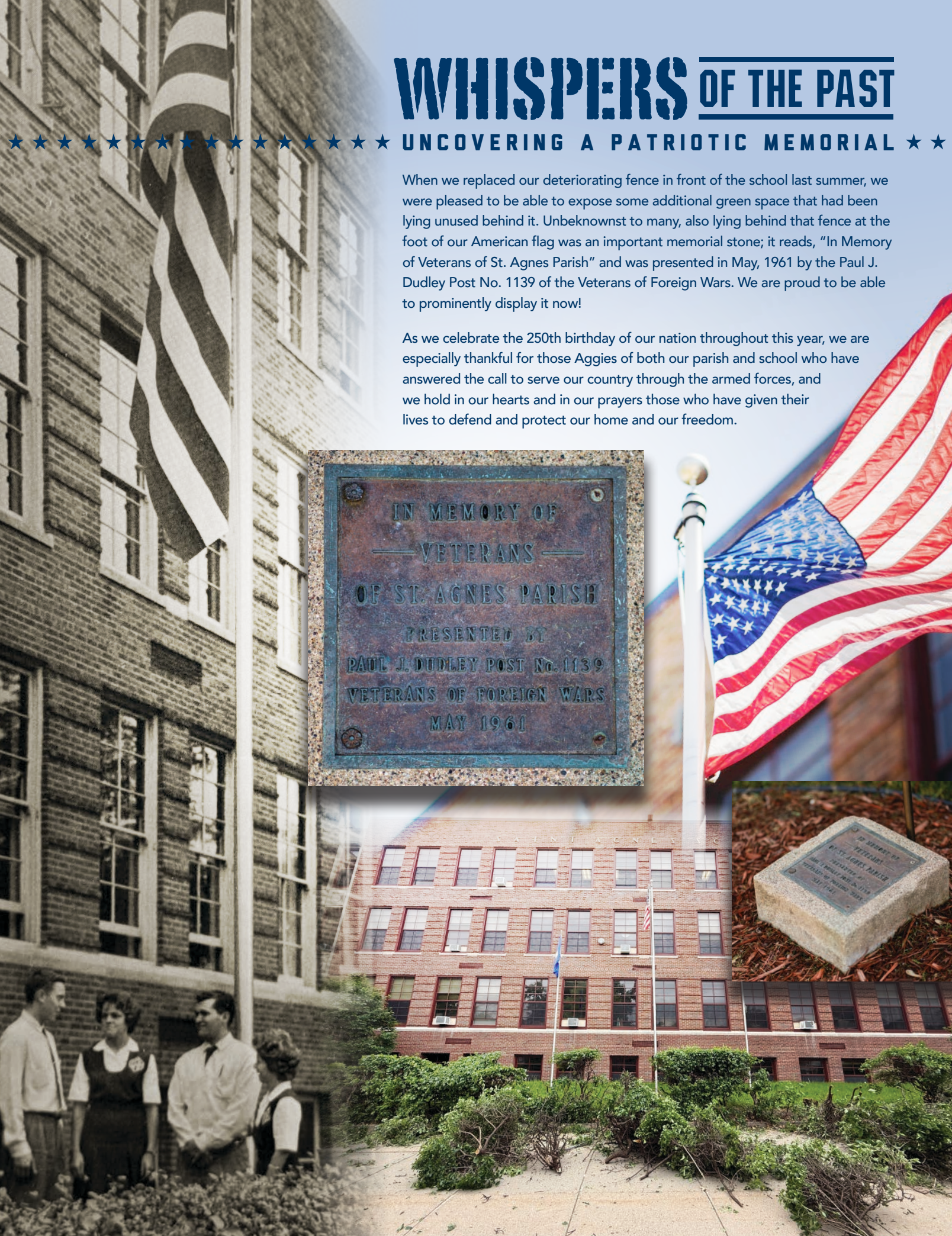
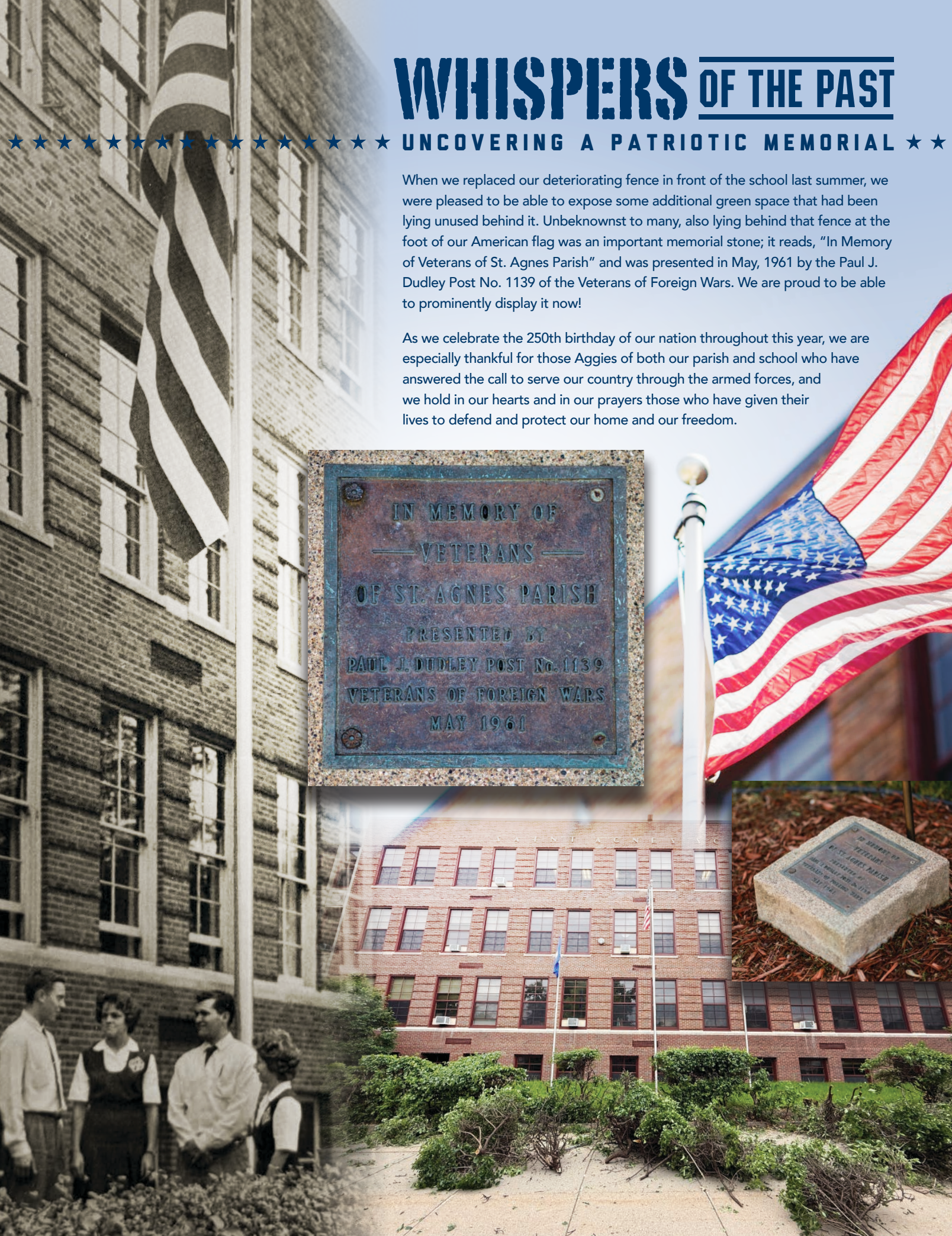
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Saint Agnes School

Church of Saint Agnes
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SAVE
THE
DATE

HOMECOMING

9/17

THURSDAY
SEPT. 17TH

- Alumni Memorial Mass & Brunch
- Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony

2026 Hall of Fame Inductees: Jerry Misukanis † 1960, Theresa (Eicher) Cartwright 1971/Coach, Mike Parizino 1978, Marlon McCoy 1994

9/18

FRIDAY
SEPT. 18TH

- Homecoming Game & Tailgate
- All Football Reunion **NEW**

with special recognition of coaches Ercolani and Heller