



# The Spire

St. Stanislaus  
Alumni Association Newsletter

JANUARY 2014  
VOLUME 2, ISSUE 1

## Recipe for Success

**Homemade Chili + End of January + Alumni Fundraiser + It's Fun!**



Chef Autographed Apron – Door Prize

How about it folks? If you are hunkered down for the winter—how about a break on Saturday, January 25, 2014! After the 5 o'clock Mass the Alumni and Friends will be hosting the **4<sup>th</sup> Chili Cook Off** in the Social Center on Baxter. All are welcome to attend – \$5 admission supports the event's costs. A panel of judges will determine the **"Golden Spoon"** winner and this year a new category **"People's Choice"** – decided by all the chili lovers attending, has been added.

If you have a favorite recipe and would like to participate, contact any alumni committee member. There will be no more than 20 entrants – so call early.

This event would not be as successful or as fun if it were not for the volunteer chefs—they are most generous with their TIME, INGREDIENTS and SKILL. In the past there have been very distinctive homemade final products, such as: Ann's—"Look What the Cat Dragged In! Chili"; Norm's—"Pieschalski's Pulled Pork Passion Chili"; Bob's—"239 Bean Irish Chili – The Beans are not too 'farty'" and everyone's favorite name, Andy's—"Hillbilly Road Kill Chili". Yes, folks, these are just a few of the entrants from the past three years.

Celebrity judges Tony Brancatelli, Jon Loufman and the previous Golden Spoon winners had a tough job of determining the winner of the coveted **'Golden Spoon Award'**.

### Congratulations to our past Winners:

**2011 Marilyn Mosinski, 2012 Kevin & Laurie (Kurak) Holdash and 2013 Ed Jason!**

### Thanks and appreciation to the following for their past participation as Chefs:

Norm Pieschalski---'11,'12,'13  
Andy Emrisko---'11,'12,'13  
Bob Sledz---'11,'12,'13  
Ann Armen---'11,'12,'13  
Jim Walkuski---'11,'12,'13  
Gerri (Tatulinski) Sajetowski---'11,'12  
Sharon (Sielaty) Kozak---'11,'13  
Marilyn Mosinski---'11,'13  
Tina (Sielaty) Krosky---'11,'13  
Fran Bankowski---'11,'13  
Len Krysinski---'11  
Deanna Shuster---'11  
Denise (Shuster) Allen---'11

Andy Fijalkovich---'12,'13  
John Fijalkovich---'12,'13  
Robert Bartzczak---'12,'13  
Jim Benduhn---'12,'13  
Michaeline (Kamczyc) Marhefka---'12  
Frank Fijalkovich---'12  
Will Swincicki---'12  
Joanne Sklodowski...---'12  
Kevin & Laurie (Kurak) Holdash---'12

Christy (Hudek) Bartley---'13  
Ed Jason ---'13  
Diane Bulanda---'13  
Bob Sklodowski ---'13  
John Sklodowski---'13  
Jim & Mary (Sledz) Vaughan---'13



**Fr. Mike and Marilyn Mosinski**



**Kevin & Laurie (Kurak) Holdash**



**Ed Jason and Jon Loufman**





Dear Alumni Members and Friends,

Much has happened since our inaugural issue of this publication went out. We had another wonderful and successful Polish Festival and a special visit from the world traveling Icon of Our Lady of Czestochowa, in defense of life, which met with great response. We also looked forward to another fun and productive Fr. William Gulas Scholarship Reverse Raffle.

In all of these, and similar events, the presence and support of our St. Stanislaus Alumni is so very important. Your devotion and dedication to all that St. Stanislaus stands for is both inspiring and beneficial.

As our attention will soon turn to the Christmas holiday, please know that among our special prayers will be ones of gratitude and blessings for each and every one of you and your families.

Father Eric Orzech

... From the Principal



Who could have imagined on May 7, 2007 that I was being invited to share in such a wondrous heritage at Saint Stanislaus School? That was the day I met with Fr. Michael Surufka and the Search Committee and had my interview to become the next principal. I can clearly see the conference room. In an instant, I can recall the emotions of, as St. Teresa says, "Trusting God that you are where you are meant to be." The connection was immediate. The impact was deep. And I hadn't even been offered the job yet.

I will admit to dancing around the living room when I received the phone call saying that I was being offered the position. My sister in Maryland joined in my squeals of delight. Papa was very proud. And I hadn't even started working here yet.

Meetings with teachers. Renovating the lobby. Creating a faculty space. Reading test scores. Washing walls in the office before painting it. Finding treasures in every closet and coatroom and cabinet. And I hadn't even met the students yet.

Oh that very first school day at 7:40 am, when the staff and I went outside en masse to welcome the students to the new year! My job at Saint Stanislaus became a life; and the lens of my looking at the school community shifted outward. This wasn't about me. This was about them. This wasn't about how good I was (or thought I was). It was about how good I could make them become. This was, indeed, about trusting God.

In the seven years since that first day, Saint Stanislaus School has shown its endurance and perseverance and flexibility and sustainability. We have transitioned from 65% Catholic students to 17%. Our enrollment has gone up and gone down and gone up again. We've been audited and reviewed and accredited. At the end of the day, the things of which are most proud are not necessarily measurable.

Our children now learn Latin and the classics. They know the terms *phonemic awareness* and Catholic Classic Education. They are read to and they read. They have gym and music and art and computer. Research papers are written; SNAP words are learned; states are memorized; cross-curricular/cross-grade learning experiences are the norm.

And we pray...in Latin or English. At the pace of Kindergarten or the deep voiced eighth grade boys, we pray. We pray to start the day. We pray to start breakfast and lunch. We pray to end the day. We pray as a community during retreats and as individuals during confessions. Weekly Masses are as sure as recess. And yet, there is still so much more.

The children who fill the halls of Saint Stanislaus School these days are "low income free/reduced lunch" categorized. Some call their families economically challenged. Few are from nuclear families. Often they are judged. Frequently they are underestimated.

To us, the children are opportunities for us to use our talents and acknowledge our vocation. The students give us the opportunity to work together as teachers and administration and create a phenomenal unit. We further have the opportunity to join with our families in raising children of God. And we aren't even done yet.

Being principal of Saint Stanislaus School is the most rewarding thing I have ever done, both professionally and personally. I know the walls stood for 100 years before I arrived. They will still be standing after I leave. I truly feel blessed to be a part of this community, and honored that I have been a part of the richness and excitement that is urban Catholic education, specifically at Saint Stanislaus School... and I'm not even done yet.

Blessings,  
Deborah Ann Martin, Principal



L to R: Mrs. Martin and faculty members Terri Rando and Jeannine Stalter at the Parish Festival.



Above: New cafeteria space in lower level of school.

Above and left: 4<sup>th</sup> Floor Music and Library areas.

*Sister Madeleine Rybicki, CSFN, grew up as Geraldine Rybicki from East 61<sup>st</sup> and Heisley Avenue area. Today Sister is as busy as ever as she continues her religious vocation and duties—yet—she is also looking forward to her 1954 Class Reunion. This summer—it is their 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of graduation from St. Stanislaus High School, which had 68 graduates. Sr. Madeleine occasionally can be seen attending the 5:00 o'clock Saturday Mass at our Shrine Church and she is very open in expressing her appreciation—to God—for her rewarding vocational journey and anticipating what is to come next in her life.*

## Here is her story...as told by Sr. Madeleine CSFN



Geraldine F. Rybicki

*I...Geraldine Rybicki...* was truly blessed to have the wonderful parents and siblings I had. Having been born on November 2, Poor Souls Day was a blessing and the start of a life filled with challenging events. My formal education was at St. Stanislaus starting with kindergarten (1941) and graduating from the High School (1954).

Our class was the BEST...the most awesome group of peers and friends any teenager would want. As I approach our 60<sup>th</sup> reunion, September 13, this summer, I find that the older one gets, the more we appreciate each other as well as our contributions to society and our personal life. *"Geraldine the Neighborhood Tomboy"* described me well as I was full of energy and loved sports.

Ever since third grade I wanted to be a Sister, truly falling in love with Jesus as the Sisters prepared us for our First Communion and with all the religion classes and instructions by them and the Franciscans over the years. To me these were countless treasures.



GERALDINE RYBICKI, 1952: 61st St. is proud of Little Silver. While the horse and won in a Lone Ranger contest.

As an 8<sup>th</sup> grader—I Hit the Jackpot—I won a Horse ... Yes! *A HORSE, 16 Hands high!* I entered the General Mills Lone Ranger Cereal Box Top Coloring contest and was one of the 10 winners out of over 10,000 entrants.

School clubs, as the Glee, Mission, Press, Booster, Science, Sodality, Choir and Student Council kept me busy as well as Intramurals, bowling and maintaining an A average in class.

I was honored to be "Homecoming Football Queen in 1953", Christmas attendant and winner of the title "Miss St. Stanislaus in 1954".

After graduation in June 1954—a new life began for me. I entered the Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth on August 12, with a three day Retreat and I was invested as a Postulant on August 15.



Sr. Patricia with Sr. Madeleine as a Postulant in 1954

After 2 years of Novitiate, I received the name of Sister Madeleine in 1956.

...for the initial first 9 years I taught: 3 years each in the following places; Dearborn, MI, Holy Family School in Lawrenceville, PA and then Mt. Union, PA and along the way I received my B.S. degree in Education from Duquesne University in Pittsburgh.

...it was about 1965 that my teaching ministry was completed and a new phase of my vocation began. For the next six years I was the Child and Youth Care Worker at Holy Family Institute in Pittsburgh—working with *abused and neglected special needs children...those kids who were abandoned and unwanted.*

...continuing my education I earned my Masters degree from the University of Pittsburgh in the field of Child Development & Child Care—the School of Child Psychology. Following this was my appointment as Director of the Residential Program at Holy Family Institute until 1979.

...my next ministry was working at Parmadale in Parma, Ohio and living at the convent for 14 years. Here I had three terms as Superior and was the Founder and Director of the Parmadale Training Institute. We provided Special Training Conferences and Workshops for child and youth care workers, foster parents, social workers, teachers and anyone else who wanted more skills and techniques to work with challenging and developmentally impaired. About this time I connected with the Institute of Human Services in Columbus, Ohio to provide training for various youth organizations and counties under the umbrella of the 'Child Welfare System'. From 1993 until 2006 I was an independent trainer and consultant nationally and internationally. In 2006 Holy Family Institute invited me to return as the Director of Training, of which I am presently involved with the residential and school programs.

...I have had many opportunities to travel, some of the highlights: I backpacked the Grand Canyon five times; went to Rome for my 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary as a Sister with my family, again for the beatification of our Martyred Sisters and again to Rome for Pope John Paul; training in the Philippines for our sisters and a special mission in South Africa; and a trip to Israel for my renewal program.

Whoever said that "being a nun is a waste of a life time", I beg to disagree, I have been enriched by others and I have also made a contribution for His Kingdom. Thanks to everyone I have known AND whoever I may get to know in the future.





Buddy Ward -1952

## *My Pal...Buddy Ward and other Remembrances...*

by Jim Ducato '52

*While still in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade I met Father Ed*, who officiated my sister's wedding. He offered a suggestion for me to apply to St. Stanislaus to attend high school. It was a relatively new school, in that the first graduating class was in 1947 but it had a very good reputation for its teachers and coach.

There were only 52 in our class of graduates in 1952 and I still remember everyone. Most of all, I remember my best pal, Jerry Robert Ward...known to everyone as **BUDDY**. We loved all sports, basketball and intramural baseball were on our yearly agenda, as well as football, and our Senior Varsity Football team was 8-1 and described, at that time, as the best team in the history of the school and being 'renaissance guys', we joined our pals in the Glee Club.

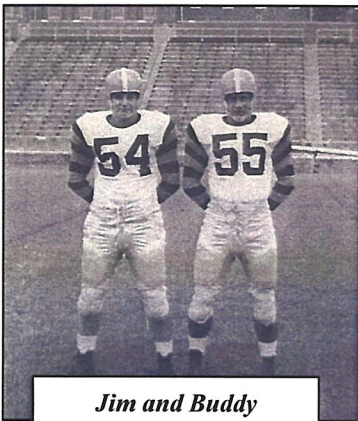
During our junior year, Buddy and I got a job working 2<sup>nd</sup> shift (3-11 p.m.) for the Pennsylvania Railroad, on the Whiskey Island facility in the flats, unloading ore ships. We would have lunch at Buddy's house, work till 11 p.m. and then show up for school the next morning. Our job was dirty and physical—but it made us stronger mentally and physically. The ore was removed from the ships and placed in railroad cars called gondolas. We would oil the journal boxes on the cars so they would not overheat and have a wheel come off.

Our senior year, Buddy was selected as 'Athlete of the Year' and I was 'Lineman of the Year'. We had athletic scholarship offers to several colleges, KSU, Miami, Dayton, O.U. and Toledo. In the fall of 1952 I went to Dayton and Buddy went to Toledo. After a semester at Toledo, Buddy transferred to Dayton, but that put him one year behind me. I was the starting center and Buddy the left guard for the University of Dayton Flyers Homecoming game on October 9, 1954. We played the Louisville Cardinals, who had John Unitas as QB and Leon Lyles as HB. Buddy was also a terrific kicker.



Buddy and Jim

*Hugh Devore* was the head coach during our 1954 and 1955 college football years. It was like playing for a legend:



Jim and Buddy

- Devore played for Notre Dame in the 1930's when Knute Rockne was the coach.
- In the mid to late 30's, Devore coached the line at Fordham and Vince Lombardi was one of the guards.
- In the fall of 1952 I was freshman center and defensive nose guard and the starting varsity guard was a Cleveland boy from Benedictine named Chuck Noll.
- Since Noll and I were both from Cleveland, we traveled back and forth together and became friends. During the summer of 1953 he and I worked out together before he reported to the Browns.
- Lombardi spent a week at Dayton for spring training in 1955—Buddy and I got some training tips from him!
- In 1956 when the Philadelphia Eagles—where Devore was now coaching—played the Browns in Cleveland, Buddy and I met him at his hotel and he invited us to see the game from the Eagles Bench.
- In 1955, our last season, we had a 3<sup>rd</sup> string quarterback named Jerry Faust who later became the head football coach at Notre Dame.

During my four years at Dayton I remained in contact with the Sisters who taught me in high school. I had a 1951 Desoto to commute back and forth to school and on one visit home a group of the Sisters needed a ride to their Mother House in Pittsburgh. The car was filled with the Nuns and me, with Sr. James, an elderly Nun in the front seat. While on the highway heading east—Sr. James remarked how much she enjoyed 'DRIVING REALLY FAST'—well, so I sped up! Wouldn't you know it; a PA trooper pulled us over—ouch! From the back seat Sr. Sophia slipped me a \$20 bill and said "use this!" Apparently Sister had experience in a situation such as this. Once the trooper saw all the nuns and where we were going he just said "Drive carefully".



After college I had an R.O.T.C. commission and entered the army as a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant. Buddy never finished college at Dayton; he had a serious knee injury in his junior year and had to give up football. We lost contact with one another...but a few years ago we met up again. However, he was confined to a wheelchair. Buddy passed away in 2012.

*Coach Len Janiak and Fr. Flavius* will always have a special place in my heart for their influence on my life. Buddy and I made a point to stop by Mr. Janiak's home in Brecksville and visit with his wife and family as we arrived in the Cleveland area from Dayton. I last saw Coach Janiak when he was in the hospital just prior to his death. He introduced me to his friend in the hospital as "one of the top 5 players he ever coached". I was very proud that Coach came to Dayton to see me play in my last game.

Over the years my career has mainly been in managerial positions for the Ohio Bell System, ATT and Southwestern Bell which carried me all over the county. I met my wife Pat at Dayton when I was a senior and she was a freshman working in the university Publicity Department. We have been married for 56 years and have 6 children, 12 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren. I have lived in Texas since 1979. I have enjoyed remembering all of this part of my life as I fully enjoyed my time at St. Stan's. I remember fondly all the great friends and good times during those years.



*Memories of Brother Fidelis Veselak OFM*

By Rob Jagelewski

Many of us had contact with Brother Fidelis Veselak OFM, the longtime sacristan at St. Stanislaus Church during our years attending either St. Stanislaus Elementary or High School. Alumni will remember "Brother" moving around the church, setting up for Mass, accepting parishioner's donations for candles, helping with weddings, and just being a shining example of the Franciscan spirit.

Brother Fidelis was at St. Stanislaus Parish from 1941 until his death on Christmas Eve in 1973, our centennial year. He was eighty years old and he had set up the Christmas crib for the Midnight Mass, went into his room, lay down on the bed in his Spartan quarters, recited the rosary, and went to heaven to spend Christmas with Jesus. It was a great loss for our Parish but his spirit would live on in the many people whom he touched during his journey at St. Stanislaus.

We all have memories of Brother Fidelis. One of the most common memories is of helping Brother to make the communion hosts used during Mass. He was always in his room at the bottom of the basement steps of the rectory doing something, but making hosts was a big process in those days. During those times he always managed to find a rosary being recited on his old radio. And when the task of making the hosts was finished Brother had scraps of the wafers that he would put in a brown paper bag and distributes them to his helpers or to anyone who knocked on the rectory door leading into the basement.

I remember Brother Fidelis as a very kind hearted person with a great Franciscan spirit. Just like St. Francis, he suffered from glaucoma in his later years. However, even having bad eyesight did not stop him; he knew every inch of the church, he kept up his duties. In fact, he would count the candle money. Coin is one thing but distinguishing paper money denominations is quite another when you have glaucoma. Brother counted by feel. Yes, Father Clarence Korgie OFM, Pastor, always counted the candle money again after Brother did his accounting, and he was never wrong in his amounts.

Cardinal Karol Wojtyla entrusted the relic of St. Stanislaus to Brother Fidelis when he graced our Parish in 1969. Years later, Brother actually predicted, in a conversation, that Cardinal Wojtyla would be elected Pope, before it was announced that Blessed John Paul II was the new Pontiff.

Brother Fidelis was a 'jack of all trades' too. In the centennial book on page 23 there is a photo of Brother in his welding gear. If you look closely at the tabernacle on the big altar, there are carvings of wheat, angels, grapes, and the Holy Spirit surrounding the doors. Brother's creativity fashioned those carvings from the silver of the spent flashbulbs used by photographers taking pictures at weddings.



As an altar server I learned of selfless dedication and great caring for our Parish and Church by emulating Brother. Most of the people who care for our Church had contact with Brother Fidelis in their life and they were greatly influenced by him. Maybe that's why I am now a sacristan at St. Stanislaus Church. The sacristy at St. Stanislaus Church was dedicated to Brother Fidelis and his picture hangs in a prominent place within the sacristy.

We all "Thank you, Brother Fidelis" for your years of selfless service to our Parish and our people —Your Holiness still permeates our Church and parish. You will always be that shining example of our Catholic faith that guides us in our work for St. Stanislaus Parish.

*From: Alumni and Friends Chairman.....Bob Sledz*

The overall goal of the Newsletter and the Alumni Association is *Three Fold*:

1. Appreciate and savor our past through involvement with alumni and cherished friendships.
2. Live in and enjoy the present by being aware and participating in up-coming activities and parish events.
3. Work to help the future of St. Stanislaus Parish and Schools, as well as our alumni development.

You are again invited to contribute glimpses of your past school experiences. It just goes to show that sometimes you just need a reason or excuse to be out there looking for stories and something wonderful will pop up. Stories on Altar servers, particular teachers, class adventures with the Sisters (CSFN) or friends, all are good.

*In the next issue: Norm Pieschalski, '60, will give his first hand story of how the 1969-70 school year transition of St. Stanislaus and the founding schools became Cleveland Central Catholic High School.*

Use the contact information on the back page and send your items by June 1 for the summer issue. Some of our best and most reliable supporters are "FRIENDS" and we certainly welcome them in everything we do and are happy to include them in our "Count Me In" campaign.

*We hope to be of service to you, and see you at both alumni and parish events. We hope that we can 'count on you' to join us.*

## *Our Lady of Czestochowa*

Wow! A crowd of 1,000 people filled the church on Tuesday evening October 22, 2013 to visit with their Mother! There was so much excitement in the air during the entire short visit. Before the icon arrived, the level of anticipation was astronomical! Smiles and tears and wide eyes and bent knees welcomed Our Lady into our church. After the welcome by Fr. Eric, the Church prayed a beautiful rosary accompanied by scriptural passages and Marian hymns. The mysteries were the *Luminous*, the set of mysteries formularized by Blessed John Paul II, whose feast we celebrated that day.

Shortly after 7 p.m. the Mass began with the singing of the processional hymn “*Totus Tuus*”, words based on the motto of Bl. John Paul II along with the verses being the *Litany of Loreto*. We sang the *Kyrie* from the ‘*Missa de Angelis*’ and Bishop Roger Gries intoned the *Gloria*. Our singing of the “*Credo*” in Latin was the melody used at the Vatican for all major celebrations and gatherings of Catholics from around the world. The remainder of the Mass included many John Paul II related songs as well as a beautiful ‘*Ave Maria*’ sung by cantor, Damian Henri. It was a beautiful celebration. **We welcomed Mary with drums and trumpets, bells and voices...all befitting the Queen of Creation.**

The crowd lingered into the night as many people stayed and prayed to Mary. Three strong women managed to be the soldiers who guarded Our Lady all through the vigil, the glow on their faces masking any hint of being tired.

With the arrival of daylight we saw at least 200 additional people arrive for Mass and rosaries (The Grade School offered a rosary at 8:30 a.m. and behaved like real angels). Then, the sad hour of 11 a.m. arrived and we had to bid farewell. That event saw many tears, even from the skies, as Mother was escorted out to her vehicle with the help of the Captains of the Central Catholic football team.

*We were blessed with her visit. Let's pray the tiny seeds of faith planted produce fruit*



## *Welcome! Witamy!* .....David Krakowski

Let's celebrate the culture of life together!

“Where two or three of you are gathered in my name...there I am!” Well, with all the people of the St. Stanislaus Polish Parish, you can bet Jesus is right here in our midst. We see him in the obvious place (the altar and tabernacle) and we see Him dancing in the Social Center! We see Him eating Pierogi and we see him washing dishes! We see Him sitting alone along the wall hoping for someone to sit with Him and keep Him company and we see Him standing at the bar downing a *Cytrynówka* with friends! We see Him stirring the *czarnina* and we see Him selling raffle tickets and instants and side-boards! We see him in every smiling face and in the faces of those who are no longer at this festival, but already with Him in heaven! He speaks with our mouths ... words of welcome, of kindness, of concern, of comfort and of joy.



He sees with our eyes... watching all the people have fun or just waiting in line, hoping to win a great basket or watching for faces of old friends. He touches with our hands... shaking the hands of guests, accepting an order of stuffed cabbage from one of the servers, patting the head of a child or pushing the wheel chair up our church ramp so mom can visit with the Blessed Sacrament at least for a little while.

He gives us the greatest gift at every Holy Sacrifice of the Mass when He awaits us near the altar as we sing: “Jesus, come to me! Jesus, live in me! Jesus speaks with my mouth, see with my eyes, and touch with my hands! Jesus, Bread of LIFE, love others through me!”

Jesus partied at Galilee and He parties with us at St. Stanislaus. We are such a blessed people, and we want to share this gift with everyone. Together we celebrate the ‘culture of life’ and we despise the ‘culture of death’. We want everyone to do this with us as well! If you’ve heard this once, you’ve heard it a million times: “DON’T BE AFRAID!” The life which Jesus is offering to share with you is beyond anything the world can offer. Look Him in the eyes and say “YES!” The life He offers to each of us is liberating.

We invite all to celebrate the culture of life, to use each cross as a compass to find that life and embrace its beauty and truth in every cry and whisper of the day and night. Dance! Eat! Be happy! Jesus wants you to do all of these things! See Him alongside you and know that He is there to be your ultimate friend...in good times and in bad...for better, for worse...for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, until He invites you into His kingdom at death! A great gift...one we wish for everyone!

## How about Volunteering??

At the heart of most ACTIVE Alumni and Friends is a deep love of the Church and especially for the St. Stanislaus Parish. Life has taken us in a myriad of directions – yet deep in our hearts a desire to “give back.” By dual parish membership or active support we can help and “give back.”

Attending, participating and volunteering at events is a way to “give back.” The event opportunities show up throughout the year and are varied.

- Chili Cook Off
- Dyngus Celebration
- The 4 Eagle Event
- Parish Picnic
- Alumni and Friends Picnic
- Fr. William Gulas Scholarship Reverse Raffle
- The Polish Festival every October
- City Music in Church events

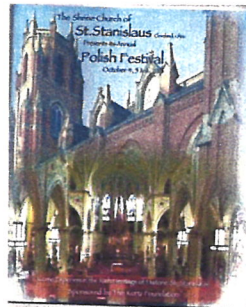
These events do not ‘just happen’ but do offer opportunities to help them succeed. When planning a “volunteering day,” make the most of the opportunity. For example, you may be serving at the Polish Festival for a two-hour shift with family or friends, followed by a two-hour opportunity to enjoy the event. You can gain satisfaction in knowing that you are giving of your time and talent so that others at the event can enjoy themselves, too!

Suggestions on how to become involved:

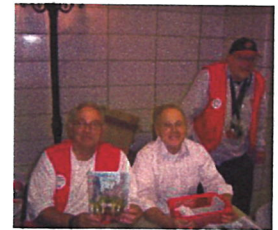
1. **INDIVIDUAL** – call the rectory to give them your contact information. Your information will be forwarded to the appropriate chairperson. You can also drop an envelope with your detail into the collection basket.
2. **FAMILY**- make it a family affair
3. **FRIENDS, NEIGHBORS AND PALS**
4. **WITH CLASSMATES** – have a Mini Reunion
5. **HELP TO LOCATE SPONSORS FOR THE POLISH FESTIVAL BOOK.**



The Sklodowski Family cooking at the Polish Festival



Classmates



Parishioners



Friends volunteering at Polish Festival

## Dyngus Celebration ----- Saturday, April 26, 2014



Dyngus celebrates the end of Lent and the joy of Easter. It is also a way to celebrate Polish-American traditions and heritage.

One of the stories that helps describe the origin of Dyngus Day deals with the custom of pouring water as a rite of cleansing and purification. Thus, Dyngus Day and its rites, of water sprinkled, have become a folk celebration of thanksgiving because the first king of Poland was baptized into Christianity and thus bringing Catholicism to Poland.

The tradition continued on the Monday after Easter when farm boys in Poland wanted to let the girls of their choice know that they liked them would use spring pussy-willow shoots dipped into water and hit the girl's legs with the water. (This was the “OLD TIME” tradition but NOT an activity at OUR Dyngus Celebration.) Then the Polish girls got back at the boys the next day using the same tactics.

Another source of the celebration is based on two pre-Christian Slavic gods: SMIGUS (water) and DYNGUS (earth). Dyngus was about giving gifts, such as decorated eggs and Smigus was the switches and water routine.

Look for details about entertainment, food and activities in the church bulletin, parish website and the Facebook alumni page at “[Alumni of Saint Stanislaus \(St Stans\) in Cleveland Ohio](#)”.

## ‘COUNT ME IN’ Campaign

Last year at this time we, the Alumni Committee, stuck out our necks and ventured into a fundraising raffle to benefit St. Stan’s Elementary School. The campaign started at the Chili Cook Off on January 26, with the drawing at the Dyngus Party on April 6. Thanks to the hard work by dedicated alumni and friends, the elementary staff, and after Mass sales to parishioners, we were able to raise our goal of \$9000 by the time of the Dyngus Day raffle.

After reflecting on what was involved in successfully accomplishing our initial goal—it was decided by the committee—that we need more help from alumni before we can attempt another fund raising raffle for a large project. We were looking for about 300 alumni and friends to say “*I CAN HELP; I want to give back to St. Stan’s, I am a good alumnus, ‘COUNT ME IN’*”.

Thus began our sign-up campaign drive with the initial issue of ‘The Spire’. At this point we are about 1/2 of the way to our goal. Below are the names of those who said ‘Count Me In’ as of November 2013:

Bernadette (Stupczy) Abraham	Linda Golubski	Bill Lestock	Denise & Kevin Siemborski
Denise (Shuster) Allen	Rita Golubski	Mary Long	Virginia (Olsen) Sikon
Anne Andrako	Debbie Grale	Jon Loufman	Mike & Nancy Sipko
Mary Ann (Kwiatkowski) Anselmo	Frank and Ann Greczanki	William Madanski	John & Kim Sklodowski
Michelle Argle	Larry & Joyce Guzy	Estelle (Szafranski) Mance	Maryann & Ed Sklodowski
Ann Armen	Ronald & Joanne Grams	Deborah Martin	Chester Slabinski
Fran Bankowski	Jim & Sue Halamek	Eileen Matteson	Barbara Sledz
Robert Bartczak	Ron & Wanda Halinski	Lavern (Springer) Mementowski	Bob & Ingrid Sledz
Shawn Bartczak	Joan & Lee Hoelscher	Louis Nemece	Leonard Sledz
Kenneth Bartkowiak	Kevin & Laurie (Kurak) Holdash	Ted Nemece	Mike & Karen Sledz
Christy & Jared Bartley	Loretta (Rosinski) Horvath	Deborah Martin	Diane & Ed Slovenski
Larry & Donna Bender	Jim Jagelewski	Larry Mielczarek	Roberta Sovizral
Jim & Joyce Benduhn	Rob Jagelewski	Bob Molinski	Celeste Suchocki
Jane & Al Bielawski	Marie Jenkins	Alan Mosinski	Lois Sumegi
Marie Bobowski	Dan Kane	Marilyn Mosinski	Fr. Mike Surufka
Madeline (Stupczy) Bogart	Wally Kase	Karen (Matus) & Tom Neuman	Allen & Diane Szuflada
Fabian Boris	Donna (Przeworski) Kelly	Patricia Otloski	Ralph Tatulinski
Tony Brancatelli	D.J. Kishka	Fr. Eric Orzech	Ray Tegowski
Marilyn (Runo) Brenkus	Alice Klafczykanski	Jay Orzech	Tony Teper
Paulette (Sledz) & Reed Brooks	Edward Klasa	Lucille Patrick	Steve & Naomi Tokar
Fran Buford	Lynn E. Kleis	Diane Perl	Jack Toronski
Diane Bulanda	Zenia (Zbrzeski) Kobylski	Lottie Piechowiak	Kathy Lynn Van Duzer
Pam Cabral	Rose & Henry Kondziela	Norm & Iris Pieschalski	Chris Vassanelli
Joe Caputa	Ralph Konkowski	Larry & Chris Pizon	Mary (Sledz) & Jim Vaughan
Jack Caster	Mel & Barbara Koster	Mike & Ann Podkova	Dorothy Walk
George Chase	Agnes Kovar	Tom & Judy Polomsky	Dick & Ruth Walker
Donna Ciborowski	Theresa (Springer) Kowal	Ken Prybor	Ralph & Jane Walker
Thad & Helen Cooke	Sharon (Sielaty) Kozak	Ted Prybor	Halina (Barnes) Walkowski
Paul Cuglewski	David Krakowski	Len Pryer	Jim Walkuski
Betty Dabrowski	Patty (Jess) Krakowski	Bernice Racut	Jean Ward
Rosalyn (Pannent) Dadas	Elaine (Szczepanski) Krawulski	Rob Ramser	Ronald Wilinski
Ralph D'Amico	Joanne (Olszewski) Krisko	Carol (Kudlaty) Rezac	Walter Wolowicz
Dennis & Chris Deluga	Charlotte Kmrac	Angelo Rodriguez (Rod’s T’s)	Irene Wozniak
Bill Dix	Tina (Sielaty) Krosky	Sr. Madeleine Rybicki	Hank Wroblewski
Dolores Dobransky	Leonard Krysinski	Ed & Irene Rybka	Rich & Karyn Zappala
Vincent Dobrski	Michael Krysinski	John Rzeczycki	Angie & Joe Zidanic
Jim Ducato	Peggy Krysinski	Helen Sielaty	Nobbie Zielinski
Fairchild Printing	Denise (Sapp) Kubinski	Gerry (Tatulinski) & Mickey Sajetowski	Marianne Zoldak
Daniel Flower	Don Kucia	Kathy (Gailey) Saunders	Linda Zuber
Andy Garcia	Donna (Michalski) Lantos	Debra Schultz	Paul Zuchowski
Carol Gazda	Joe Lasinis	Joe & Nicki Shaw	
Fred Geis & Kris Monaco	Diane Lesniak	Deanna Shuster	
Kathy (Madanski) Golias	Roman & Denise Lesniak	Linda Sickora & Son, Steve	

Thank You...Thank You! However – we need about 150 more alumni volunteers to say ‘COUNT ME IN’...so, the sign-up drive continues. The generous contributions to the Alumni Fund, as well as the \$5 newsletter checks to cover printing and postage, have helped to sustain ‘*The Spire*.’ If your name has been inadvertently omitted, we are sorry and please contact us to add you to our list. Thank you, again.

### Contact information:

The Shrine Church of St. Stanislaus  
3649 East 65 Street  
Cleveland, OH 44105

### Rectory and Parish Office:

216-341-9091  
www.ststanislaus.org

### Alumni Association Chair:

**Bob Sledz: 440-333-7827**  
sledzbob@yahoo.com



**Count Me In .....Cut on the dotted line and mail to the contact information above.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_ Friend of Alumni \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Grade School Year \_\_\_\_\_ High School Year \_\_\_\_\_

Receive Newsletter by Snail Mail \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_