



The Spire

St. Stanislaus Alumni
Association Newsletter

JULY 2013

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

Welcome to "The Spire" ...

This is the inaugural edition of the **St. Stanislaus Alumni Association Newsletter**. As many of you may know that was the name of the school newspaper for St. Stanislaus High School from 1947 thru 1969. We welcome you to this endeavor. We hope to inform you about Alumni activities and upcoming events.

This is not only for Alumni of the Elementary School and St. Stanislaus High School but we invite parishioners and friends of St. Stanislaus Parish to become involved in the alumni activities, events and newsletter.

At this time we plan to have two issues a year which will showcase our upcoming events and highlight the previous events with pictures and details.

You are invited to contribute glimpses of your past school experiences. E-mail your items of interest by December 1, 2013 for the Winter Issue and June 1, 2014 for the next Summer Issue.

We hope to be of service to you, our readers. See you at an Alumni event! We hope we can **'count on you'** to join us.



Rob Jagelewski

ST. STANS HISTORICAL FACT

In the early 19th century the area now known as Slavic Village was an unpopulated forest. This area was located in the Connecticut Western Reserve. Few settlers would move into the area in those early years. Most stayed nearer to Lake Erie. The first settlers in this area were Irish and Welsh immigrants. The present building on the northeast corner of East 65 and Sebert Avenue shows the early Welsh roots of the neighborhood. This area was part of Newburgh Township. When more industry came to the area in the mid-nineteenth century more settlers followed the jobs. Early workers at these industrial plants were Irish and Welsh. They were soon followed by Polish and Czech immigrants. The Poles created enclaves at Forman Avenue and East 65 and at East 71 and Ottawa Road.



Dear Alumni Members,

It's my pleasure to be able to greet you in this inaugural edition of your newsletter, "**The Spire**".

Your Organization serves an important purpose in bringing together those associated with our parish by being alumni of our schools. It provides a further link by connecting all those near and far with their **Alma Mater**, allowing them to remain a part of our Shrine family. It is my hope that this newsletter will help keep St. Stanislaus a special part of our Alumni's heart.

We are all very grateful for the many ways in which your organization shows its appreciation and love for all that St. Stanislaus stands for by your many social and fundraising activities. You are making a difference for the better and we are thankful for it!

May God bless and keep you all and Our Lady always watches over you.

Yours in Christ,
Rev. Fr. Eric Orzech

FROM THE BEGINNING...

By Sharon Sielaty Kozak



A lot of people ask me how the St. Stanislaus Alumni Association came into existence. This is the story of how it all began! But first, here is some of my own background information. Each of us has a story. Here is mine!

I attended the St. Stanislaus Elementary School from kindergarten to eighth grade. Then in 1970, I graduated from the first class of Cleveland Central Catholic. Thus far, I have received all my sacraments at St. Stanislaus. And most importantly, I found my faith at St. Stanislaus ... that's the important part and quite another story. When my husband and I were married and moved first to Parma and then to Sagamore Hills, I joined nearby churches.

At one time, I belonged to two parishes—one local to my home and the other, St. Stanislaus. By the time my dad passed away in 1993, I belonged solely to St. Stanislaus as a place of worship. I felt that this parish was truly "home" . . . this is where I belonged. After my dad passed, I started taking my mom to Sunday Mass at St. Stanislaus. I still do that to this day . . . my mom is 93.

Eventually my involvement at St. Stanislaus grew. My terms of service had finally come to a close on the Pastoral Parish Council when Fr. Michael Surufka, the pastor of the Shrine Church of St. Stanislaus at that time, asked to meet with me. We talked about my involvement in another phase of lay ministry, serving on the Parish Finance Council and, specifically, his idea of creating an Alumni Association, which he asked me to chair. At first it seemed a mammoth task. How do we reach so many alumni members who are spread out so far? We couldn't use any previous records, since such information had been unintentionally discarded when the elementary basement was being cleaned. But, I said "yes" and thus, the beginning began!

Shortly after that meeting, I asked Rita Golubski to help me contact people who might want to be a part of creating an Alumni Association. We contacted alumni who were parishioners (through the church bulletin) and those who were not parishioners (people we personally knew). When all was said and done, our very first alumni committee consisted of: Jack Caster, Betty Dabrowski, Bob Gailey, Rita Krysinski Golubski, Jim Jagelewski, Rob Jagelewski, Ralph Konkowski, Larry Mielczarek, Kim Gailey Montgomery, Len Pryer, Stanley Racicki, Kathy Gailey Saunders, and me.

We talked and talked about this new organization. We met several times to try to determine what plan of action we should take. We brainstormed and discussed ideas. We finally came up with a plan. Our first event would coincide with Catholic Schools Week, which always occurs at the end of January. We planned to serve finger food, pastry, and beverages. We advertised in every newspaper we could think of and in many Cleveland and suburban church bulletins.

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Is the Mighty Panther Resting? ... By Bob Sledz, Alumni Committee Chair

St. Stanislaus Parish is the MAIN anchor for the Slavic Village Neighborhood today, as it was in “our days” as well as for many of our previous ancestors.

Reflecting back on our formative years at St. Stanislaus we were fortunate because:

- The fine education we received mainly from the Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth, the Franciscans, coaches and lay teachers could only be matched by the better schools operating today.
- The beautiful Shrine Church still offers memories and spiritual inspiration as it always has.
- The St. Stanislaus Elementary School is thriving under the direction of Principal Deborah Martin and her dedicated staff. Catholic values and respect are instilled in students who are as eager to learn as we were.
- Cleveland Central Catholic High School has record attendance. There are slightly more students attending today then there were in the early 1960's. There is also a strong commitment from families, students, teachers and staff to assure that students excel despite the economic obstacles they face as did our families.

One of the main areas of assistance that our Alumni group aimed for this past year was a long overdue project for the elementary school. Our first raffle was dedicated to the surveillance system the school needed. Together with our raffle proceeds and matching funds from an undisclosed “Angel,” we were able to provide almost \$19,000 for the security system and lighting projects. For a building constructed in 1907 and fully implemented today, there are many needs—especially plumbing, lighting and ventilation.

The raffle was a successful project, but we need help—“YOUR HELP.” Tickets were sold by the alumni committee to their family, friends and neighbors; sales were made by the elementary school staff; parishioners purchased tickets after Masses; and our own alumni committee members dug deep into their pockets to aid sales. However, if a future raffle is to succeed in addressing a specific parish or school project, we need MORE DEDICATED alumni rolling up their sleeves and saying such things as:

“I Can Help; I Want To Give Back To St. Stan’s, I Am A Good Alumnus, Count Me In”!

Our education at St. Stanislaus gave us the tools to deepen our faith in God, to become stewards in the community and to lead successful lives. Hopefully, we are at a stage in our lives that we are eager to give back. Years ago the parish helped to monetarily support their neighborhood schools. Times are different today—three local parish elementary schools, two suburban high schools as well as St. Peter Chanel High School have closed. Many of us may belong to outlying parishes that average \$20K to \$30K per week. Check the St. Stanislaus Parish web site . . . the average income is about \$5K. By being an active alumnus or by dual parish membership, we can help support our former parish and our former school today.

If you want to be an active alumni member who says “Count Me In,” attend the Alumni Picnic; bring your friends and family, neighbors, and contact a former classmate to meet you there . . . reconnect with someone you haven’t seen in many, many years. Remembering the “good old days” is good for the heart and soul!

Received an anonymous note saying:

“I have gone to the Alumni picnic several times and found it very happy, My problem was that everybody seemed in pairs. Could you on the next invitation mention that there would be a table who are alone, we would be happy to meet one of our alumni to make friends with. Lost touch with others from school days. Thank you An Alumni”

The committee was saddened to receive this note and we would like to respond by encouraging everyone to notice your fellow alumni whether you know them or not. Anyone who comes to any of the events sponsored by the Alumni Group should feel comfortable to approach any of us and we would be happy to introduce them to others and anyone who is a single person can invite a friend to join them; everyone is welcome to attend all of our events. This being said I hope you come to another event.

Bob Sledz, Alumni Chair



Dolores Dobransky (class of 1952) and Steve Sickora (future Alumni representative) are very stylish in their St Stan’s Alumni Polo Shirts. Sporting the shirt at alumni sponsored events can demonstrate your school spirit and guarantee conversations. Then the fun begins with “did you know...do you remember Sister or Father xxx...can you believe it has been 50 years since we’ve seen each other?” You can get your own Polo shirt by going to Rod’s T’s & Sports, at 6412 Fleet Avenue, 216-441-0919. Rod’s T’s is a supporter of St. Stanislaus Parish and schools. By supporting the businesses in the area we are also helping to support Slavic Village.

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FROM THE BEGINNING...

...“approximately 500 people attended 5 p.m. Saturday Mass on January 26, 2006 “...

Since we had no idea of how many people would attend, you can imagine our surprise (and delight!) when approximately 500 people attended 5 p.m. Saturday Mass on January 26, 2006, and joined other alumni attendees for a social in the elementary school! I am always amazed when I think about this event. People came from near and far. I'm sure you remember the parable about the loaves and the fishes. This was a modern day rendition! To this day, we don't know how the many alumni who attended were able to eat what little we offered! You had to be there (and maybe you were) to feel the “buzz” inside the school. Alumni walked up and down the stairs, walked in and out of the classrooms, and talked about memories of the Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth, the Franciscan Friars, their own classmates, and the actual classrooms. In fact, when I walked into one of the classrooms, one alumnus had a small circle drawn on the chalkboard. When I asked what that small circle represented, she said: One day she was talking during class. Sister drew a small circle on the board and told her to put her nose on the circle! She stood there remembering that you shouldn't ever talk in class unless called upon! Does this story bring back your own memories?!?!

Our second signature event was an Alumni Mass & Picnic held on Sunday, June 4, 2006. This event started with an 11:30 a.m. Mass at St. Stanislaus with a picnic on the grounds of the campus. This event, along with the January event, continues to this day with a celebration sometime during the summer or early fall.

The Alumni Association has grown throughout the years. We've raised money and built friendships. Committee members have come in and out of our lives. But, through each event, we continue to make friends. These friends—whether alumni, friends/family of the alumni, or our very own dear parishioners—have all become a permanent part of St. Stanislaus. We all believe in the “magic” of this church, this parish, and these schools. The Alumni Association is alive and thriving. Thank you for being a part of it! Stay tuned for further events and fun times!

Once you meet us, you will love us! Come back . . . give back . . . be a part of the St. Stanislaus Alumni Association. You'll be glad you did!



The 2006 Reunion Committee, left to right: Kim Montgomery, Craig Montgomery, Rob Jagelewski, Larry Mielczarek, Jack Caster, Sharon Kozak, Bob Gailey, Kathy Gailey, Tim Gailey, Rita Golubski, and Stanley Racicki. Taking the picture is Jim Jagelewski

Four Eagle Award Ceremony...

The Eleventh Annual Four Eagle Award Ceremony took place on May 10, 2013 at the St. Stanislaus Social Center. One hundred ninety-five alumni, friends, family and parishioners gathered as the St. Stanislaus Alumni Association and Friends were recognized by Pastor, Fr. Eric Orzech. Fr. Orzech presented the Alumni representatives, Sharon Kozak and Bob Sledz, with the Medallion. This Medallion will be displayed as a reminder of the dedication and service of the many alumni who have participated in the past, present and hopefully the future to keep our Parish and Schools growing and strong.

Chef, Rick Sklodowski and his “*As You Like It*” Catering staff out-did themselves with a delicious meal and presentations. Transforming the Social Center is always a big challenge and John Sklodowski, his crew and the Four Eagle committee members step forward to transform a cafeteria into an elegant banquet hall. Thank you to all who attended and those who participated in the ‘Silent Auction’ fund-raising.

‘Just as the eagles of yesteryear came together, we celebrate those who have committed themselves to the preservation of our faith.’

Inscribed on the medal presented to the Alumni Committee



Alumni Committee Members receive Four Eagle Award at May 10, 2013 Ceremony.

Back row: Donna Ciborowski, Norm Pieschalski, Larry Pizon, Wally Kase, Peggy Krynsinski, Fr. Eric Orzech, Sharon Kozak, Ralph Konkowski, Bob Sledz, Len Prver. Front row: Marv Ann Sklodowski, Rita Golubski, Fran Bankowski, Jane Bielawski, Inerid Sledz.

Missing from picture: Dolores Dobransky, Jack Caster, Linda Sickora, Larry Mielczarek, Jim and Rob Jagelewski, Al Bielawski and Principal, Deborah Martin.



Hall of Fame Inductees...by Dave DiCarlo

The Cleveland Central Catholic High School Athletic Hall of Fame added eight new "legacy" inductees to its rolls on April 28, 2013. Legacy members of the Athletic Hall of Fame are inductees who attended any of Cleveland Central Catholic's *founding* high schools, Our Lady of Lourdes, Saint John Cantius or **Saint Stanislaus**. Among the eight legacy honorees were three former St. Stan's Panthers: **Dave DiCarlo** (Class of '56), **John Springer** (Class of '58) and **Ken Wisniewski** (Class of '59). The three join former Panthers, **Jim Cackowski** (Class of '60) and **Rich Badar**, (Class of '61) in the Central Catholic Hall of Fame, bringing the total of St. Stanislaus legacy members in the Hall to five.

Both John Springer and Ken Wisniewski were athletes in the "super star" category. Springer was a three-sport athlete, a legitimate star in both baseball and basketball and a *super star* in football. Wisniewski was arguably as fine a quarterback as ever played high school football in the Greater Cleveland area, earning a football scholarship to Michigan State University. Ken was also a true *super star* catcher in baseball. Both John and Ken earned All-Conference honors multiple years in each of the sports in which they competed. Springer was a Press Star and All-City in football; Wisniewski was a Press Star, Plain Dealer Dream Teamer and played in All-Star games in both baseball and football. The late, great Coach Len Janiak called Wisniewski the "best player I ever coached."

Dave DiCarlo, who was a starting two-way football lineman for three years in high school, was inducted primarily because of his coaching career. DiCarlo coached football for 49 years in the Cleveland area, 39 years as a high school coach and 10 years as a Division III college assistant, where he coached eight Division III All-Americans (two linebackers, four offensive linemen, one tight end and one QB).

Continued next column

"John Springer (below left) and I played together on his 9th and 10th grade football teams. John was a 135 lb. 'scat back' running back, untouchable when he got into space. I was a two-way lineman whose top playing weight was 190 lbs."



In 23 years as a high school head coach, he earned various Coach of the Year or Co-Coach of the Year honors five times, coaching conference championship teams at three different high schools, Byzantine Catholic, Cleveland Heights and Independence. His Independence teams twice reached the state final four, in 1992 and 1995.

A common thread connecting the three new inductees is legendary coach Len Janiak, who was the first person inducted into the Central Catholic Athletic Hall of Fame. Janiak coached all three, and in every sport. Dave DiCarlo began his coaching career as an assistant football and basketball coach at St. Stan's under Coach Janiak.

Wanted – Chili Chefs

Calling all Chefs! Before you realize it January 25, 2014 will be here and we will be recruiting participants for the 4th Annual Chili Cook Off. Previous winners have been, Marilyn Mosinski, '83, Kevin Holdash, '74 and Ed Jason, '62...everyone seems to have a favorite recipe for their chili...so why not join the other chili chefs and see if you can claim the "Golden Spoon" award for your kitchen display. More details will be in the next issue or you can contact Bob by phone or E-mail.

2013 St. Stanislaus Chili Cook Off



IN THE PHOTO—

L-R Standing: Robert Bartzak, Bob Sklodowski, Kevin Holdash, Marilyn Mosinski, John Sklodowski, Andy Emrisko, Bob Sledz, Fr. Eric Orzech, Jim Vaughan, Jim Benduhn, Andy Fijalkovich, Norm Pieschalski, Ingrid Sledz, Jon Loufman

Kneeling: Denise Burmeister, Diane Bulanda, Tina Krosky, Sharon Kozak, Tony Brancatelli, Jim Walkuski, Ed Jason, Christy Bartley and son, Sam, John Fijalkovich



2012 – Mass and Picnic Sponsored by the St. Stanislaus Alumni Association – 2012



2013 Dyngus Celebration and Raffle



Are you in?

Bring to Picnic, Mail to Rectory, Place in Collection Basket or E-mail to Bob Sledz



"Count Me In"
To be a Good St. Stan's Alumni

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

E-Mail _____

Grade School Year _____ High School Year _____

Friend of Alumni _____

Receive Newsletter by Snail Mail _____ \$5 per year to cover printing and postage.

Send check made out to "St. Stan's Alumni" to Rectory or pay at Picnic.

2011 Chili Chefs ☚ First Chili Cook Off

Marilyn Mosinski receiving the
First Golden Spoon Award from
Fr. Mike Surufka



St. Stanislaus Grade School 1944 Classmates
together at the 2006 Open House

Front Row L-R: Ralph Konkowski, Dolores (Dykas) Malek,
Rita (Krysinski) Golubski, Eleanor (Kaczmarczyk) Buras,
and Helen Sitarz.

Back Row L-R: Len Pryer, Ed Otloski, Ted Sitarz, Lucile
(Kin) Patrick, and Eleanor (Latek) Dwczynski (Deceased)

2012

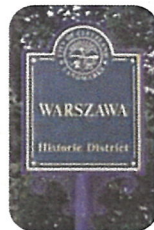
Chili
Cook
Off



Tall guy in the way back (standing on a chair) Andy Emrisko '59,
L-R STANDING: Jon Loufman, Tony Brancatelli, Robert Bartozak '64, Christopher
Davies, Jim Benduhn '64, Norm Pieschalski '60, Ingrid Sledz, Bob Sledz '61, Andy
Fijalkovich '62, John Fijalkovich '65,
SECOND ROW: Ann Armen - Grade School Representative, Frank Fijalkovich '63,
Joanne Sklodowski '98, (standing) Gerry Tatulinski Sajetowski '61, Michaeline Kamczyc
Marhefka '68
FRONT ROW: Jim Walkuski '62, Kevin Holdash '74 and Laurie Kurak Holdash '71
(2012 Gold Spoon Award Winners), Will Swincicki '88 (OLL)



(L.) Mr. Leo Hyland, President – Cleveland Central Catholic High School and
(R.) Mrs. Deborah Martin, Principal of St. Stanislaus Elementary School.
Below: Sister Allison Marie Gusdanovic, SND, Principal of CCCHS.



Contact information:

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

Rectory and Parish Office:
216-341-9094
www.ststanislaus.org

Alumni Association Chair:

Bob Sledz: 440-333-7827

sledzbob@yahoo.com

Photographers: Jim Jagelewski and Mike Sipko

“Count Me In”

To be a Good St. Stan’s Alumni

Are you in?

One lucky person returning the form will receive a
special prize!

Bring to Picnic, Mail to Rectory, Place in Collection Basket or
E-mail to Bob Sledz