

The Spire

St. Stanislaus
Alumni & Friends Newsletter



VOLUME 8, ISSUE 2
8 PAGES

JULY 2020

Alumni & Friends Support:

Divine Mercy Shrine

From the desk of Editor Bob Sledz:

Not long after you received your January 2020 copy of the Spire—our world shifted because of the coronavirus pandemic. Scheduled events were either postponed, cancelled or are in limbo because of social distancing and isolation.

It was at this time that the Alumni committee unanimously decided to play a role in supporting the NEW Gothic Divine Mercy Shrine project under construction in St. Stanislaus Shrine Church. Because of your regular support for our efforts to help the elementary school as well as the parish—we all felt you would go along with our commitment to sponsor the creation of the St. Faustina painting—one of three Divine Mercy portraits that will eventually be on permanent display. Just as there is an inspiring story to be told by every statue, window, or image already in the church, there are also several stories involving the new Shrine.

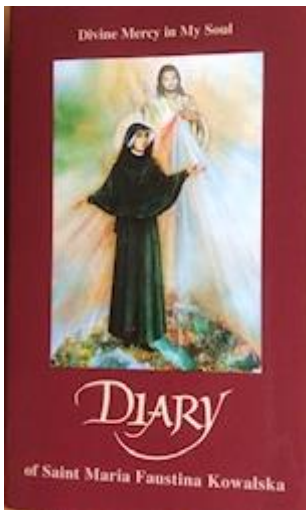
Vatican News:

On Monday, May 18, 2020 – the same day that the church marked 100 years since the birth of Karol Wojtyla, the future Pope St. John Paul II, it was also decreed that St. Maria Faustina Kowalska will have a memorial date of celebration around the world on the 5th of October.



Photo L-R: Fr. Eric Orzech, Fr. Rob Ramser, David Krakowski and Chuck Gliha (Frs. Eric & Rob just finished having their Saturday, May 2nd Mass taped for home reception. You Tube at — <http://Tiny.cc/Stanislaus>

Divine Mercy History



The great message of God's Divine Mercy was partly revealed through the OLD Testament and later through His Son Jesus Christ. The first Sunday after Easter is celebrated today as the Special Feast of the Divine Mercy as was established by St. Pope John Paul II in 2000. This special new event was suggested from inspired messages found in a diary by Sister Maria Faustina (1905-1938) as World War II approached. At that time when evils such as Fascism, Nazism and Communism were taking shape that message of Mercy was needed as it is today by our daily life overwhelmed by the individual pursuit of desire, fulfillment, or monetary profit

A moving presentation about St. Faustina and Divine Mercy by Sr. Guadia Skass of Krakow (in English) can be viewed at https://YouTube.be/01FESJ_2fjg

The good news revealed through Jesus Christ is that God's love for each person knows no bounds, and no sin or infidelity, no matter how horrible, will separate us from God and His love when we turn to him in **confidence, and seek his Mercy.**

The St. Stanislaus Divine Mercy Shrine will provide a corner of solitude for personal reflection, thanksgiving, and contrition. This will also contain a relic of St. Peregrine, (pictured at right), the Patron Saint of Cancer patients, AIDS victims. and others sufferina from serious illnesses.



Do You Remember Sr. Estelle?

You may be surprised of the role she played in the St. Faustina Story.

Many alumni knew Sr. Estelle Pruszynski, CSFN, as their high school classroom teacher for Mathematics, Theology or Latin. Originally from Pennsylvania, she joined the Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth in August 1930. After being sent to Poland for studies in the early

30's things were rapidly changing—the period became more dangerous as Nazi Occupation increased. Sr. Estelle and some of the other American Nuns, with passports, asked for a transfer to Rome in 1940.

However, before leaving Poland she visited OSTRABRAMA, the Holy Site where St. Faustina first observed the Divine Mercy Image in 1935. While there, Sr. Estelle was asked by Fr. Michael Sopocko, confessor and spiritual director and advisor to smuggle the story of the visionary and mystic Sr. Faustina, soon after she died and before the Nazi's stopped all travel out. Sr. Estelle was one of two Nuns to carry the story from Vilnius, Lithuania to Rome. **The diary was written in silk and sewn into the hem lining of their habits.** The journey took three days and nights traveling by train through Nazi territory to Rome where she delivered the diary to the Vatican.

Mission Completed!!



Sr. M. Estelle

Sr. Faustina was Canonized in 2000 by Pope John Paul II

During the 50's and early 60's Sr. Estelle was at St. Stanislaus High school and went on to work in PA, MI and IL She died in 2011.

There is a beautiful summary of Sr. Estelle's story from a rendition she shared in 2003 with Sr. Rose Mondzelewski. WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/USER/NAZARETHCSFN

HOW WE CAN SUPPORT NEW SHRINE:

The construction of the Divine Mercy Shrine Project is at a 'stand still' waiting for the paintings to be completed.

Phase One: Construction

The shrine structure is white oak hardwood. Style is based on other millwork in the church, as well as historic architecture in Europe, especially the 'Steeple of Notre Dame'

It was built by Cleveland area carpenters, cabinetmakers, and sculptors including Timothy Riffle, Andrew Pitrone, Norbert Koehn, **Charles Gliha**, Mike Stifler, and Anne Sherridon. Most of the construction and beautiful wood carvings have been completed, with some of the delicate pieces 'housed' at another site until the paintings can be installed.



Phase Two: Paintings

The official Czestochowa artist, Mariusz Gradman, has been commissioned and now, after having been hospitalized is happily back at work.

Phase Three: Installation

The large, central panel picture is of the Divine Mercy Image.

The left panel is of St. John Paul II.

The right panel is of St. Faustina. (Alumni project)

The cost of our sponsorship of this portrait is about \$4000. It will be a permanent part of the Shrine and an added destination for all who visit when attending Church. We would be following in the footsteps of our ancestors who built the church 150 years ago.

* * * * *

To help "**KICKSTART**" our efforts, an '**ANONYMOUS, ART LOVING, ALUMNUS**' has offered a **\$1000 challenge** to match your donations to reach our **\$4000 goal**. You can help make it happen by returning the following ticket with your donation.

St. Stans Alumni & Friends—Divine Mercy Shrine Fund

\$100 \$75 \$50 \$25 Other

Name _____

Address _____

Mail Checks payable to:

St. Stans Alumni -- The Shrine Church of St. Stanislaus

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

3649 East 65th St.

Amount enclosed _____ Phone _____

Cleveland, OH 44105

Graduation year _____ E-Mail _____

OPEN HOUSE STATUE IDENTIFIED

Thursday, January 30, 2020 was the Elementary School Open House — the Alumni again provided a faculty meal at the end of the school day and then set up a welcome table for all those attending. Once the visitors started arriving, parents, students, teacher demonstrations, and alumni meandered through the lower three floors. The dimly lit 4th floor had no action, but a few alumni reminiscing about their days of attendance did make their way up to the darkened top floor and were surprised to see what appeared to be the profile of a Nun sitting near a window! We timidly turned more lights on and ventured over. Surprise, surprise — a beautiful statue bust of a sister was by the window. From her habit we knew she was awfully familiar.



After research we have her story. The statue was identified by the Mother House in Chicago. It is an image of Frances Siedliska (November 12, 1842-November 21, 1902) born near Warsaw Poland. She became the Foundress of the Congregation of the Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth (CSFN). Her religious name was Mary of Jesus the Good Shepherd. She was beatified in Rome on April 23, 1989 by Pope John Paul II. The Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth from Chicago started teaching at St. Stanislaus on August 28, 1907.

Alumni three-fold overall goals:

- Appreciate and savor our PAST.
- Live in and enjoy the PRESENT.
- Work to help the FUTURE of St. Stanislaus Parish and School as well as our Alumni Development.

Rainy Day Fund 2020: Part 1

Thank you for all your support of our fund which helps allow continuation of the Spire Newsletters as well as our involvement with St Stanislaus Elementary School and Parish. The following 31 donors allowed us to increase our fund by \$2140 since Jan 2020.

Below is a listing of the latest Honor Roll Donors, thank you all.

Pacesetter (\$500+)

Florence (Karash) Nowocin '60

Star Performers (\$100-499)

Donna (Larca) Burovac '60
Lynda (Stevens) Frechette '61
Ron (ES '49) & Wanda Halinski
Ron Kaczmarek '65
Alan Mosinski '68
Eugene C Pawlowski ES'55
Michelle Peck ES'70
Norm '60 & Iris Pieschalski
Bob '61 & Ingrid Sledz
Ron Wilinski '65

Benefactors (\$50-99)

Frank Franz '55
Steve Hujarski '65
Louis P. Kleis Jr '55
Rich '63 & Carol (Kolbay) '65 Nowak
Anthony Prusinski '63
Len (Przyborowski) Pryer ES '44
Jerry Ratusnik '68
Marianne Zoldak '65

Patrons (\$10-49)

Arlene (Kneblewicz) Baer '55
Mary (Rochowicz) Garapic '54
Andrew Guzy '59
Donna (Roginski) Heid '61
Ralph Konkowski ES '44
Sharon (Sietlaty) Kozak ES '66 HS '70
Balbina (Backiel) LaRosa '56
Gayle (Luboski) McGlumphy '65
Carol (Koprowski) Orzech '61
Helen (Pruc) Pekala '69
Larry Pruchnicki
Dorothy Serfilippi '44
Barbara (Rutkowski) Stine '58

RECENT EXPENSES

\$300 Parish Altar Wine & Hosts for November 2020
\$150 faculty meal at February Open House
\$650 student informal uniforms
\$200 supplemental study material for students

PLEASE REMEMBER THAT YOUR SUPPORT

- * Allows us to mail over 1000 Spire Newsletters twice a year.
- * Provided confidence for us to be the St Faustina portrait sponsor.

Miscellaneous photos from various 2019 events



More Adventures with Bill Dix '60...

“Neighborhoods Are Important”

“A neighborhood is not just people who happen to live near each other but rather an area with some shared characteristics.”

East 59th Street was a stable neighborhood. People did not even think of moving elsewhere. Right after WWII (I was born July 4, 1942) there was a great deal of patriotism, pride, and conviction that the war’s sacrifices should not be forgotten.

The rationing, deaths and hardships made everyone want to make a better life for their children. Hard work was a necessity.

Even at a young age I was consumed with curiosity about WWII. Most of my neighbors (male and female) served somewhere in the military. When I questioned them about the war, they either changed the subject or told me to “Go Away!” Early on, there were few historical movies shown, even fewer accurate books written until the early 1950’s. The librarian at the Fleet Branch got ‘sick and tired’ of me asking about any new publications. My mother’s cousin’s husband Ted Koziol was in the Navy and served as a turret gunner on a large cruiser in the Pacific Theater. He was at Iwo Jima and several other island landings. “Uncle Ted” answered every question I ever asked of him, because as he said: “this horrible event should never ever be forgotten and never repeated.” He showed me photos (some quite graphic) and even gave me his Navy Soft Cap.

When I asked him to be my Confirmation sponsor, he said: “of course, it would be an honor,” with tears in his eyes (just like those in mine as I write this). He was more a ‘good friend’ than an ‘uncle’ and I miss him to this day.

This interest in history led me to become a Social Studies teacher in the inner-city (Audubon School) for 32 years. I got my B.S. from John Carroll in 1964 and my M.A. from Case Western Reserve in 1970.

In a very real sense, the “neighborhood” influenced my choices and helped to determine my life’s path.

How about you??



Uncle Ted 1937

Ken Brzozowski '60 reunited with college ring

Life offers some pleasant surprises from time to time. You could run into an old friend you haven’t seen for a long time, win a few bucks on a scratch-off lottery ticket or you could get a call from someone who found the class ring you lost 55 years ago!

In the spring of 1965, I was on a picnic with some of my John Carroll friends at Chagrin Metroparks (Squaw Rock). Being energetic, young, soon-to-be college graduates, we decided to climb the challenging rocky elevations. I was wearing my recently acquired, exorbitantly expensive (for me) John Carroll class ring. After I conquered a particularly demanding incline, I looked down at my right hand and my ring was gone. Peering down at the terrain I had just conquered, of course, there was no sign of my lost treasure. Immediate searches and several later visits to renew the hunt were unsuccessful. I had to accept my fate that my ring was lost forever and would never be seen again.



*However, one early morning on February 25, 2020, I received a phone call from a gentleman who asked if I had lost my class ring near Squaw Rock in the Metroparks. I said, as a matter of fact, that I did. He said he and his young sons were trying out their metal detector Christmas presents and found a ring. It was a 1965 John Carroll class ring with the initials **KJB** on it. After looking at a copy of the 1965 JCU Yearbook, he found my initials matched those on the ring. In this age of limitless communication methods, he sent a picture of the found ring to my iPhone. Yes, there it was, my long-lost ring. It was beautiful, exquisite, and looked brand new. I truly was taken aback by the picture and the flood of memories that went through my mind. I hope everyone could experience a similar moment. John Carroll made a big impact on my life. It made me understand who I was, opened the world to me and told me that I could accomplish anything I wanted to do. To have the ring back would be a major event in my life.*

*I received the ring at a dinner at the Mike Gibson’s (the finders) house. He wanted it that way and invited Channel 3 News to be present at the dinner. My wife, Lucy, and I arrived early and bonded with the family before the interview began. They turned out to be a wonderful family and we intend to spend a lot more time with them. One of the sons gave me a signed, colored picture which he drew while we were there, and Lucy intends to frame it. How nice it was to be reminded that there are still genuinely nice, decent people in this world. I have strong feelings that the ring was found for more reasons than just its return. There are much deeper explanations for **THE GOOD THINGS** that happen in our lives.*



School Report:

Connecting online classes during the coronavirus related school closures has been a challenge. As soon as Gov. Mike DeWine ordered schools to be closed March 12, **Cleveland Central Catholic High School** distributed about 400 Chrome book computers to keep lessons going. **Sr. Allison Gusdanovic**, the school's principal, has been adding Chrome books the past few years and had used them in class regularly.

St. Stanislaus Elementary also passed out their devices quickly and began offering lessons using programs students already knew. Elementary principal, **Mrs. Deborah Martin** continued her usual practice of personally visiting students' homes if they skip school or do not call for a few days.

"I just knock on the door and say 'Hi'.

I just want to see if everything is ok.

— with social distancing—

I had the kids lined up in the window to say 'Hi.'"

"The schools are learning and adjusting their lessons and routines constantly. Not just now with COVID-19 pandemic and home-based lessons. With summer approaching the Alumni donated "Class appropriate workbooks" for each of the teachers to utilize in their lesson plans. Purchasing extra books for summer literacy programs is not within their school budgets or their personal budgets. We know the dedication of these teachers, so we try to assist in small ways whenever the Alumni can help. **Supporting Literacy Reading Programs** is the most important life resource to grow into a successful, well-rounded, knowledgeable individual. Keeping school children reading over the summer must be continued especially in grade school. Help support children at the grade school with a donation to purchase additional appropriate literacy and educational (math and science) books. "

For more information contact Mrs. Martin (216) 883-3307 or Ingrid Sledz (440) 333-7827

Teacher Appreciation

Thanks, and gratitude for **ALL Staff and Teachers** for their dedication and hard work throughout these trying times.



St. Rocco and Students

During the 1918 Spanish Flu Pandemic the parishioners of St. Stanislaus placed a statue of **SWIETY ROCH** (commonly known as St. Rocco) outside the church in front of the Rectory. During times of great illness, people often prayed to St. Rocco for healing and health—stopping to pray often and devoutly for help. *St. Stanislaus experienced very few illnesses despite the pandemic.* It was common belief that Saint Rocco intervened on behalf of those who prayed. The statue can be found outside the rectory to this day.



On Thursday, March 12, 2020 just before going to recess, Mr. Hinz, took his Kindergarteners to pray in front of the statue, asking St. Rocco for health and healing. "*St. Rocco, pray for us*". It was amazing that while excited to be outside and ready to play, they calmed themselves and prayed sincerely and devoutly for everyone! Mr. Hinz is an awesome teacher to connect our current students to the history of Saint Stanislaus Parish

Read January 2018 *Spire* pages 4-5:

Story of Eleanor Grace Zablotny — the "*Little Slovak Orphan Girl*" and why at age 100 she wanted to visit St. Stanislaus. Find issue at www.ststanislaus.org under Alumni Newsletters

Schedule Changes

It is with sincere sadness that we are cancelling the Alumni & Friends planned Events for 2020. Because of the uncertainty of the Summer months due to the Pandemic as well as making a prudent decision regarding a Flu Season again in October and November we have made the following changes:

- ❖ Alumni & Friends Picnic (July – Cancelled)
- ❖ SSHS Class of '60 Reunion – contact Donna Larca Burovac @ 440-897-2047
- ❖ Polish Festival (October – check bulletins)
- ❖ Pork Chop Dinner (November – Cancelled)

Thank you for all your support over the years! STAY SAFE--BE CAREFUL--BEST WISHES ALWAYS!
From Alumni & Friends

IN MEMORIAM

The St Stanislaus Alumni & Friends extends its condolences to the families and friends of the following recently departed and pray the Lord will welcome them into everlasting life.

Richard Bonkowski '66

Drew Haney

**Vic's Floral*

Mildred Holdash Dudl

**mother of Bill & Kevin (Laurie)*

**sister of Dolores Dobransky*

Norbert Leszcz '61

Irene (Sidwa) Balcerzak '48

James Rodes

**St. Stan's security*

Mildred Sklodowski

**sister of Ed Sklodowski '50*

Mike (Lipinski) DeFranco '69

Frank Rycbacki

**brother of Nancy Dix*

**brother in law of Bill Dix*

Bill Koballa

**husband of Nancy (Blazejewski) Koballa*

**cousin of Bob Sledz*

To inform the Alumni about the death of a member of the Alumni & Friends family please contact either:

Rita Golubski
216-341-0881

or

Donna Heid
dheid1961@gmail.com

Thank You Suzie and Larry Hovater for being there for the Slavic Village Community and the St. Stanislaus Alumni.



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