



COURTESY OF JOANNE HERMANN,
KEVIN BLANCHETTE AND MAL PETERSON,

A MESSAGE FROM OUR ST. PATRICK'S ALUMNI

Dear St. Patrick Alumni

Again we pray all is well with you and your family. At the time of our last mailing, the world was going thru some historic trouble. Our nation and the world was brought to it's knees. Our lives will be forever changed. There is Hope. Jesus Christ was a Healer and is still healing, not just physical. Let's all pray the world will accept his Healing Power and ask for his Divine Mercy.

Memories: Marilyn "Mal" Jensen Peterson (High School Class of 1955)

My memories of St. Patrick Academy could really fill a book and more! Although I was a "day scholar," I spent more time at S.P.A. than the boarders. I lived only a block or so down the road. I went home for lunch, but got back in time to play basketball or baseball with the boarders after they had their lunch. We did this after school too. The girls had a playground of a whole ¼ block behind the church as well as the one by the grotto. The boys played by the gymnasium.

In the summer, it was more fun than work to help the nuns clean blackboards, classrooms, dormitories, etc. We also made paper book covers for all the hard cover text books. I could do all that, but my children, grandchildren & great-grandchildren sure know how to use modern technology better than me.

Some nuns that I knew well were, Mother Mary Delores, Sisters: Timothy, Veronica, Helen Marie, Gerard (her bell made the boys beware in their hall), Genevieve, Ursula, Mary Michael, Mary Rose, Jerome Marie (and her guitar), Mary Stella, Marie & Aloysius (who both taught piano), Cecilia (she was the good cook before Mrs. Reyling came making home-made bread, hotdog and hamburger buns and "shepherd's pie"), Loretta, Margaret and Sebastian. Who have I forgotten?

The sisters left in 1972 and assumed we would close the school. However we dug in and had many years left. To the younger students, you would have more memories of the teachers from that point up to the closing of St. Patrick School mandated by the Diocese of Joliet in 2006.

Kevin Blanchette (Grade School Class of 1973)

In first grade I was starting from scratch on the learning curve. This was before "Sesame Street" in 1965. The alphabet, arithmetic and reading were all new concepts for me. "See Tip Run", was the first small reader that Sr. Timothy used to teach us with. I remember that our classes were full, over 40 students. The days seemed long. When was recess going to be, or when was lunch time? Of course everyone had an idea when lunch was,

because the aroma of fresh baked bread would come up into the first floor where the younger students had classes. Now the Sisters were always saying "Walk! Don't run." But it was still a race down the steps and thru the halls to get to the cafeteria. People would slide down the banister or jump two to three steps at a time to get in line. It was a mad dash. We gave our 2 cents for our carton of milk and accepted our hot lunch on a tray. The goal was to finish our trays to get the Grand Prize. Home made bread everyday with or without peanut butter. That aroma and that taste was like Heaven. Thank you Sister Cecilia!

I admit that I am a "foodie" but so are my six siblings. We often share recipes with each other. I bet they remember the aroma also. Jeannene (74), Keith (75), Bruce (??), Brian (81), Sean (82) and Francine (87).

If you have any fond memories that you would like to share please email Joanne Boudreau Hermann (High School Class of 62) at jojohermann@att.net. Please contact us for any updated addresses. Feel free to call us about any questions. Marilyn "Mal" Peterson (55) at (815) 472-4218, Joanne Hermann (62) at (815) 472-2710, and Kevin Blanchette (73) at (815) 472-2152. Many of our alumni have contributed to the cause since our last letter keeping this vision alive for a new RE building. Thank you to those still considering to donate. Most importantly though are your continued prayers. Check out the parish website stpatricksmomence.org and pass it along to your family and friends. God Bless all of you and thank you.



"Our Lady's Grotto" news: The updated rosary, the addition of statues and repainting of St. Patrick, and placement of the "Stations of The Cross" was spearheaded by Fr. Denis White, past pastor, Fr. Dan Hessling (past pastor), Ardys Wardynski & family, Mary Johnson (76), and other parishioners. Many hours of planning, many donations of money and many hours of work by parishioners and community members has really beautified the grotto area. Many of the Sisters and Priests from our past are memorialized in the paver garden.

From our recent past, a lot of landscaping was done by the Frank Siwicki family. He attended St. Patrick Academy. His sons Robert (71) and brother Mark (76) recall that it was a family affair, coordinating with Fr. Dennis Settles and parish donations to plant the shrubs for the rosary. The rest of the family members were wife Marcie, and

their children, Susan (73), Frank (??), and Janet (79), all from the grade school. Robert and his family have continued thru the years keeping the landscaping around the church property looking great. He recently helped us plant new trees. Many others have helped in the past including Eldon Marcotte (Grade School Class of 55).