

# CATHOLIC HERALD

## HIGH SCHOOL EDUCATION EDITION 2020

*Oh, the Places You Will Go*

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# Autumn is Perfect Time to Reflect on 'Last Things'

The summer weather stayed with us throughout most of September, but we are definitely now in the fall of the year. The leaves are changing color and falling, and we are entering into that time of year when plants go dormant, skies turn grey and cold winds begin to blow. During this time of year, it is normal for us to grow reflective about our lives, the brevity of our time on earth and our own mortality.

As we come closer to the close of the liturgical year, the readings that we will hear proclaimed at Mass will focus on the "last things" – death, resurrection, the last judgment and our final fulfillment in the Kingdom of God. In this way, the Church helps us to reflect upon life, death and the life to come.

As members of the Church, we are on a journey — a journey that includes both struggle and transformation. The Second Vatican Council document, *Dogmatic Constitution on the Church (Lumen gentium)*, refers to the Church as a "Pilgrim Church." We are a pilgrim people, ever in need of conversion and renewal as we make our way to our final destination. (See *Lumen gentium*, 48) Our journey as Christians is one of hope.

A pilgrimage, of course, is not about wandering aimlessly; it is a journey with a purpose. We Christians live in this world with an understanding that this is not our permanent home. We are on a journey to the Promised Land, the Kingdom of God. We are an imperfect people in need of God's transforming love, and we are on our way to our ultimate fulfillment. This journey requires faith, prayer, a realization of our need for God's mercy, and a willingness to extend that mercy to others. The possibility of transformation and renewal gives us hope amidst our struggles.

In the Second Letter to the Corinthians, St. Paul refers to a truth, to which all of us can relate in one way or another



**HERALD of HOPE**  
BISHOP JAMES T. SCHUERMAN

– that suffering plays a role in our personal and communal conversion and transformation. Of all of St. Paul's writings, this letter is his most personal. It deals with crises that arose within the Corinthian Church. As St. Paul addresses these problems, he begins to reflect upon his relationship with the community in Corinth, and he expresses his thoughts openly and honestly. He both vents about his frustrations and expresses his affection for the community. It is clear that St. Paul understands suffering as an inevitable and often necessary part of our growth, but certainly not as an end in itself. All followers of Christ must direct their lives to becoming a new creation and living in union with God.

In this letter, St. Paul reflects on the redemptive dimensions of suffering for the sake of the Gospel. He refers to his own suffering, in which there is always some element of salvation. His experiences of suffering are not experiences that end with him, but have an effect for the good of the community. He writes, "I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions and constraints, for the sake of Christ; for when I am weak, then I am strong" (2 Corinthians 12:10) Redemption is a radical transformation, taking the people out of a sinful mode of being, and introducing them to the new reality of the risen Christ. Christ

initiated the work of redemption, and all who minister to the Gospel are involved in the work of reconciliation, bringing others to God.

Chapter 5 of this letter deals with our future destiny with God, the resurrection of the body, and the tension between the present and the future. St. Paul encourages the Christian community to be courageous and to remain focused on the future: "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive recompense, according to what he did in the body, whether good or evil." (2 Corinthians 5:9)

Along with this focus on individual judgment, there is a complementary emphasis on how a person's deeds affect the actions of others. In the faith community, there are communal responsibilities. The baptized must be involved in the ministry of reconciling the world to God. St. Paul writes: "So whoever is in Christ is a new creation: the old things have passed away; behold, new things have come. And all this is from God, who has reconciled us to himself through Christ and given us the ministry of reconciliation, namely, God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting their trespasses against them and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. So we are ambassadors for Christ, as if God were appealing through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who did not know sin, so that we might become the righteousness of God in him." (2 Corinthians 5:17-21)

Reconciliation takes place by God's initiative. He freely extends his mercy to us, but to be reconciled, we must respond freely and accept his offer of mercy and love. Once reconciled, Christ calls

► **READ MORE PAGE 23**

# Sister from Germantown Professes Final Vows

SAM LUCERO  
SPECIAL TO THE CATHOLIC HERALD

A woman who grew up in Germantown was one of two women who professed final vows as members of the Missionaries of the Word during a liturgy held Aug. 22, the memorial of the Queenship of Mary, at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Good Help in the Diocese of Green Bay.

Sr. Marie Bernadette of the Sacred Heart of Germantown and Sr. Maria Lucia Stella Maris professed their final vows with the community that is based in Baileys Harbor.

With more than one dozen priests, family and friends in attendance at the shrine chapel, the women knelt before Bishop David Ricken of Green Bay and Mother Mary Catherine, superior of the religious community, and professed their vows of poverty, chastity and obedience. The ceremony was originally scheduled for March 25 at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral, but the COVID-19 pandemic forced the celebration to be postponed.

The Missionaries of the Word religious order (called a public association of the faithful, according to canon law) was established on May 1, 2014, the day Mother Mary Catherine made her final vows at St. Pius X Church in Appleton.

Sr. Bernadette (Sarah Margaret Schueller) is the daughter of Tom and Margaret Schueller. Both professed their first vows at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral on April 4, 2016.

The formation process for Missionaries of the Word takes at least seven-and-a-half years before final vows. "At final profession, a sister definitively and irrevocably gives herself entirely to Jesus, vowing poverty, chastity and obedience for life and is fully incorporated as a member of the



▲ Germantown native Sr. Marie Bernadette of the Sacred Heart (right) and Sr. Maria Lucia Stella Maris, shown with Green Bay Bishop David Ricken, professed their final vows to the Missionaries of the Word. (Photo courtesy of *The Compass*)

community," according to Mother Mary Catherine.

Sr. Maria Lucia told *The Compass* (the diocesan newspaper of Green Bay) in an email that to profess final vows "is a profound gift and joy."

"I'm deeply grateful for the church's discernment and testing of my vocation over the past almost eight years, which has strengthened and confirmed the Lord's call in my own heart, purifying my response to him," she said.

"To profess final vows is such an unmerited gift of God that I will continue

to unpack each day of my life," said Sr. Bernadette. "The most exciting part of belonging to Jesus ... is his faithfulness in all things: to giving every last thing I need — graces, crosses, joys, corrections, consolations, you name it — to draw me into the 'always more' of himself.

"He is so good and so faithful, and to give my life to him in the profession of my final vows is one small way his love is magnified for our world to come to know and love him, too," she added.

In his homily during Mass, Bishop Ricken told the sisters their vocation is a

gift to the church and to the world.

"Sr. Bernadette and Sr. Lucia, this is an important day for you. You began this journey in 2012 and here you are in 2020," he said. "I would say you have been persevering and loving your vocation and being tested by your vocation and carrying the cross with Mother (Mary Catherine) of founding a new order, which is not an easy task. And so thank you for your 'yes' to follow Jesus and to enrich the Church with the gift of your vocation as women religious, which is not easy today. It is such a counter sign to all of the trends in the world."

The profession rite began with the sisters being called forth by name by Mother Mary Catherine. Following his homily, Bishop Ricken questioned the women on their resolve to undertake "a life of perfect chastity, obedience and poverty," to live the Gospel and to "spend your whole life in the generous service of God's people through the charism of the Missionaries of the Word."

After affirming their resolve, the sisters lay prostrate before the altar while the Litany of Saints, followed by Psalm 30, was prayed by the assembly. The two women then professed their vows to God while kneeling in front of Mother Mary Catherine. They then signed their vows on a card at the altar.

Bishop Ricken recited a solemn prayer of consecration for the newly professed sisters and they received a crown of red roses, "a symbol of their joyful union with Jesus crucified," from Mother Mary Catherine. The crowning was followed by exchanging the sign of peace with their superior and Bishop Ricken.

Mother Mary Catherine told *The Compass* the community has six women in various stages of formation with the order and two who are joining the community this fall.



# Swinarski Releases First Fiction Book

COLLEEN JURKIEWICZ  
CATHOLIC HERALD STAFF

Claire Swinarski is best known these days for her hit podcast “The Catholic Feminist” and her non-fiction book “Girl, Arise: A Catholic Feminist’s Invitation to Live Boldly, Love Your Faith, and Change the World.”

So the recent release of her middle-grade fiction novel “What Happens Next” might seem like a departure for Swinarski, who lives in Brookfield with her husband, Krzysztof, and two young children.

But actually, stepping into the role of fiction author has been Swinarski’s dream for years.

“That’s all I’ve ever wanted to do,” said Swinarski, a parishioner at St. Dominic Catholic Church in Brookfield. “It’s funny, because the podcast and what I’m known for in the Catholic world kind of came out of nowhere — that was a spur-of-the-moment, spontaneous decision, but writing fiction has been my lifelong dream.”

She describes the publishing of her novel as a hard-won victory that took some time to realize. She initially

signed with her literary agent several years ago for a book that didn’t end up selling, but her second attempt, “What Happens Next,” eventually ended up going to auction and will be published by HarperCollins this week.

It’s an overwhelming development, she said, and one for which she is profoundly grateful.

“Some of my favorite authors are published at HarperCollins,” she said. She gives the mainstream publishing house props for taking a chance on a writer who so openly espouses Catholic teaching. “It was really cool for me as a Catholic writer, because if you Google me, a lot of stuff comes up that could be seen as controversial in a secular world, for sure. I really admire that they were willing to take me on.”

“What Happens Next” is the story of Abby McCourt,



a young girl from a small town in Wisconsin who is grappling with the fallout from her older sister’s eating disorder when a visiting astronomer enlists her help to find his long-lost telescope. Set during the solar eclipse of 2017, the coming-of-age novel explores the themes of family relationships and the choices that can — but don’t always have to — define them.

“When I started writing the book, I wasn’t writing it with a moral message in mind, but when I look at it now, I think the main thing I would hope that people take away is that we are so much more than a handful of choices that we’ve made,” said Swinarski. “We are so much more than our current life circumstance. Every character in the book is complex and some of them make pretty big mistakes. But all of these people are so much more than that, and it’s never too late to say: ‘I want to make a change in the way that I’m behaving in this situation, in this relationship, in this habit.’”

To find out more about Swinarski, including where you can pre-order “What Happens Next,” visit [claireswinarski.com](http://claireswinarski.com).

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WHERE YOU RISE

# Delmore Named New Victim Assistance Coordinator

LARRY HANSON  
CATHOLIC HERALD STAFF

A strong background in counseling will serve Stephanie Delmore well in her new role with the Archdiocese of Milwaukee.

Since July 1, Delmore has been the new victim assistance coordinator and employee support coordinator for parishes and schools.

The victim assistance coordinator position had been under the umbrella of Catholic Charities for the past five years before Delmore assumed the role. It was combined into the new role in the central offices of the archdiocese, because Safe Environment Program Manager Suzanne Nickolai was also seeing a mental health need in schools based on calls to Nickolai's office.

"I think this is an interesting role for me, personally, because it feels like such a merger of my background in school counseling and my clinical, professional counseling background," Delmore said. "I'm really enjoying the role because of that."

"As we searched for the best fit for this position, we wanted someone that possessed not only the correct skillset, but also would be able to provide highly compassionate care and response that survivors and their families in the archdiocese deserve," Nickolai said.

Delmore said Dr. Kathleen Cepelka was also interested in providing assistance to principals, staff and teachers in schools. That includes resources and support for mental health issues, along with emotional and social learning, and how they can respond. She will also provide development opportunities for staff at schools and is part of a group of first



▲ Stephanie Delmore. (Submitted photo)

responders who can go to parishes and schools if there is any type of critical incident where the staff needs assistance.

After graduating from college in the

Chicago area, Delmore lived in Illinois before moving to the East Coast with her husband, Mike. They moved back to the Milwaukee area in 2003. She grew up in the Milwaukee area and attended Catholic Memorial High School.

Delmore started her professional career as a counselor and has worked in various community health settings, working with children, adults and families. She also has a background in working with individuals with trauma.

"Stephanie is highly qualified and competent," Nickolai said of Delmore. "She is a compassionate listener, a strong advocate, a knowledgeable counselor and has a solid understanding of mental health and trauma."

Delmore has two children, including one

in college and a junior in high school.

"Shuttling (the high school junior) to hockey has dominated our lives for a while," Delmore said. "Youth sports has been a big part of our free time. Our kids were both big soccer players."

For the past three years, Delmore was the part-time counselor at St. Charles Parish School in Hartland while maintaining a private counseling practice.

As the victim assistance coordinator, her role involves making people who file a report of abuse feel safe and comfortable, and she said she is able to assist in-person (off site, if needed) or via Zoom or telephone.

To report an incident of abuse, contact Delmore at 414-758-2232 or via email at [delmores@archmil.org](mailto:delmores@archmil.org).

## Archdiocese Updates Accountability Report

As part of the Dallas Charter that came in the wake of the clergy sexual abuse crisis in the early 2000s, every diocese and archdiocese in the United States is required to prepare an annual report to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops on how they are responding to the crisis.

The Archdiocese of Milwaukee has updated its annual report, entitled "Actions Taken, Commitments Made, Promises Kept."

The report assists parish staff and parishioners to understand what steps the archdiocese has taken to combat abuse and ways it is working to prevent further incidents.

New items in the report include an update that every priest, bishop and

deacon in the archdiocese underwent a criminal background check in 2019 and all volunteers working with minors and anyone that is a parish or school employee also receive a criminal background check as part of the archdiocesan Safe Environment Program prior to beginning employment or volunteering and then every subsequent five years.

All priests, deacons, and bishops must read, sign and abide by the Code of Ethical Standards as part of the Clergy Handbook.

Every year, each parish/school is required to complete annual Safe Environment documentation that is compiled into a Charter Compliance report for the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. The annual archdiocesan

Charter Compliance Report is sent to StoneBridge Business Partners for review on behalf of the Secretariat of Child and Youth Protection USCCB. The USCCB compiles each diocese and eparchy's report into an annual report for all dioceses and eparchies in the United States. This Annual Report is available at <https://www.usccb.org/offices/child-and-youth-protection/audits>. The Archdiocese of Milwaukee has been found compliant each year since the USCCB Charter Audit process began in 2004.

The updated annual report for the Archdiocese of Milwaukee can be found at <https://www.archmil.org/ArchMil/attachments/2020ResponseClergySexualAbuseV3.pdf>.



CALLIE GAY  
SPECIAL TO THE CATHOLIC HERALD

**Your parents sent you to Catholic Schools throughout your youth. Why was Catholic education so important to them?**

(I attended) my parish school all the way through eighth grade, then St. Thomas More, and Marquette. I think it was so important to them because it added another aspect to my education that was more than just the standard book learning. We had a faith-based component that made me the well-rounded person I am today. It taught me ethics and morality in a way I wouldn't have known otherwise, and those things I've learned are just as important as the academics.

**What was your experience at St. Thomas More?**

I loved my time there. It helped shape me into the person that I am today. A lot of the experiences that I had really trained me for my time in college as well as my professional career.

**What kinds of activities were you involved in?**

I was very involved and did a variety of things. The main extracurricular that I had there and still do to this day is the sports public address announcer. I do the stadium announcing for all the varsity volleyball, boys and girls basketball, and football games. I love going back to the school and volunteering my time there. I was also involved in theatre, student council, and the honor society. I helped with technology support in the school. I really tried to get involved everywhere. It ended up being more about having to say no to things.

**How many games do you think you've announced?**

Last year, I did my 400th.

**In high school, what made you want to be involved in so many activities?**

I think for me, it's always about trying to

## MY FAITH MINI-PROFILE

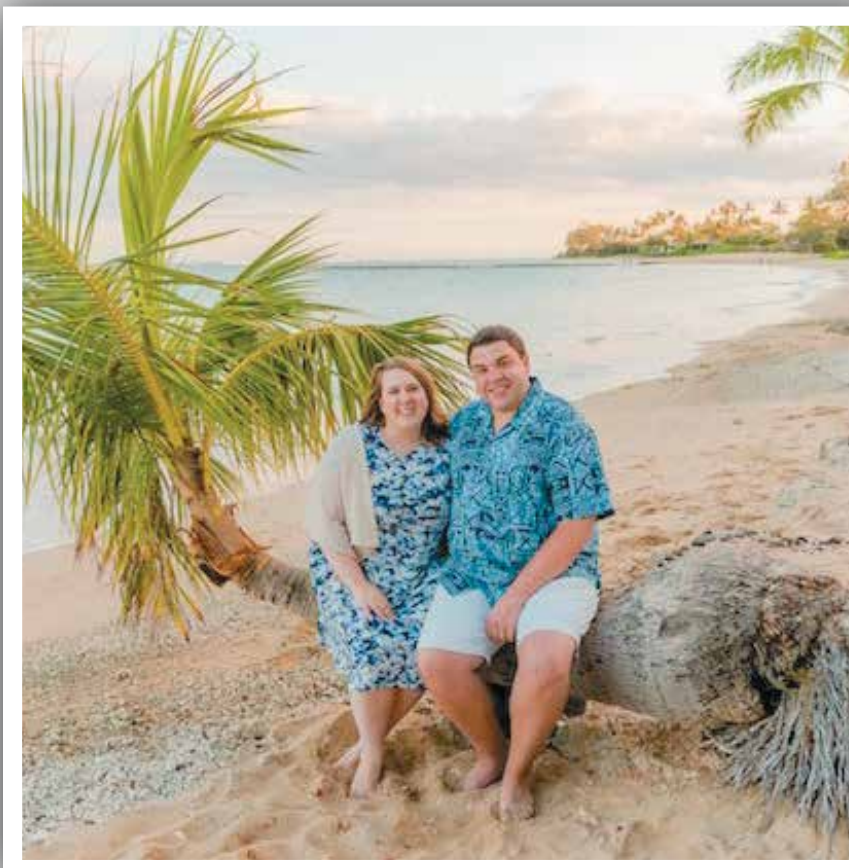
### Steve Lynch St. John Paul II Parish, Milwaukee

Steve Lynch has been a St. John Paul II parishioner his whole life. The parish, formerly known as St. Helen, was where his parents were married and his grandparents were members. On Aug. 1, Lynch continued his family's tradition when he and Bethany got married at the parish.

- Lynch is a 2007 graduate of St. Thomas More High School.
- He attended Marquette University and earned his degree in electrical and



- computer engineering in 2001.
- He returns to his high school alma mater frequently as the "Voice of the Cavaliers," and is the public address announcer for volleyball, basketball, and football games.



▲ Steve Lynch married his wife Bethany on Aug. 1. (Submitted photo)

give back. We all have our gifts and our talents that we're given in life, and people opened doors for me and helped me along the way. Even from the beginning, it was important for me to give back to others. I wanted to be involved to make my community better and found it very rewarding.

**Was there any teacher there that had a particularly profound impact on you?**

There were so many. It's one of the reasons I really enjoy the school. It's a small school but there really is an immense care for the individual. Everyone knew everyone; not just who you were as a student, but who you were individually. Having that personal relationship with so many people and them knowing what you were going through was very impactful. They really all lived those religious teachings of not just being an institution but caring about the students that are at their school.

**What was the most important lesson that you learned about your faith while at St. Thomas More?**

That there are no small actions, there are only actions that can be done with a tremendous amount of love. It's so important as we look at our day to day lives to realize that everything we do is in the details of life. It's easy to bypass a lot of the small things, but I learned that when you step back and realize that every one of those small actions is meaningful, that helps us realize what really matters.

**What has been the biggest blessing you've seen during this unprecedented COVID-19 crisis?**

I think for all of us, it's made us slow down. For my wife and I, our schedules are typically both very full. We're busy with work and always on the go. When this first started, our calendar was all of a sudden wide open and gave us the chance we'd never really had to just be together. We got a chocolate lab puppy during COVID, and that has been so fun and brought us closer together.



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# Social Determinants of Health Outcome Disparities and the Catholic Response

**FESSAHAYE MEBRAHTU**  
SPECIAL TO THE CATHOLIC HERALD

Public health professionals use “Social Determinants of Health Outcomes” to measure community health. Health outcomes reveal the social, economic and environmental structures of our society shaped by our political priorities. In spite of the advancement of modern medicine and healthcare systems, the aforementioned factors continue to reveal significant disparities in public health outcomes. These outcomes are interconnected to our social structures and public policies, affecting every facet of our life, including life expectancy. I am a health professional, but my work in the community has exposed me to look at such disparities closely. Serving at Minority Health Equity Advisory Council for Region V (includes Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio and Wisconsin), I realized that health disparities among ethnic minorities are similar in these states.

The social determinants of health outcomes reflect our national priorities on societal well-being, burdening the healthcare system. The powerful and vocal sectors of U.S. citizenry consider access to affordable healthcare a privilege, not a fundamental right to sustain life. Therefore, negative health outcomes are the results of federal and local policies, disproportionately affecting the poor and people of color. For decades, the Catholic Church has been an ardent advocate for health equities. In the history of healthcare in the United States, almost all our hospitals started as charitable entities for the poor by churches. The Catholic Church is part of this august legacy. Sadly, as the society became more affluent, the original mission of the healthcare system lost its purpose, marginalizing the poor. Though the Catholic Church is consistent on health equities to bridge health disparities, many Catholic public officials do not align with the Church’s vision.

The stratification of our socio-economic structures mirrors the successes and deficiencies in community health. Consequently, the U.S. social structure based on income, education, and geographic location plays a significant role in health outcomes and life expectancy. Poverty as a primary indicator is concentrated in African Americans, Native Americans, Asians and Latinos. Therefore, skin color highlights the health disparities and negative outcomes in ethnic minorities

because of systemic racism, depriving resources and affecting their qualities of life.

Advancing the dignity and welfare of the human person is at the core of the Social Teaching of the Church, hinging on two pillars: justice and charity. Social justice strives to address the root cause that undermines the dignity of the human person, while charity addresses the symptoms, as a temporary fix. Therefore, they complement each other. Unfortunately, some policy makers consider the Church’s advocacy for social justice as political interference. Yet uttering her prophetic voice for social justice is part of the Church’s identity.

In the last decades, we have witnessed the fall of life expectancy among white males in the rural areas due to lack of employment. Economic stressors led to despair, causing drug addictions and a lower quality of life. Unemployment and underemployment are primary factors for poor health outcomes in these communities. The systemic exclusion of African American communities from gainful employment created a generational cycle of poverty. Therefore, drug addiction, which ravaged African Americans for decades, was criminalized, causing mass incarceration in the name of law and order. When drugs started affecting rural whites, it became a public health issue, requiring treatments and mobilizing resources.

The War on Drugs resulted in creating a new money machine, the Prison Industrial Complex, further destroying generations of African Americans. The Wisconsin African American population is about 5 percent but makes up more than 50 percent of the state inmates. The majority of those in prison need treatment, not incarceration. Paradoxically, the prisons are built in rural areas as job opportunities to residents. The prison industrial complex is a new means of segregation and criminalization of a whole community. “Get tough on crime” became a code phrase for racial bias, leading to an unequal justice system.

The economic shifts caused by globalization have been going on for more than four decades, calling old industrial areas as the Rust Belt cities. African Americans are majority residents in these decaying



▲ *Fessahaye Mebrahtu.*  
(File photo)

cities. As the land of immigrants, demographic shifts in urban areas are not new to the U.S. In the 1950s, government incentivized suburbanization caused “White Flight.” African Americans, who were excluded from such opportunities, moved into old white neighborhoods. The houses were not only old, there were also health hazards due to decaying utilities, lead paints, asbestos and mercury residues, affecting thousands of children. Additionally, urban communities have to carry heavy tax burdens, sustaining old infrastructures with little return to improve their quality of life. Environmental injustices disproportionately affect urban poor residents. Flint, Michigan, is a recent example of environmental injustice.

Systemic racism is the root cause of health disparities, imbedded in government policies that still disenfranchise many of its citizens, namely African Americans and Native Americans. Pseudo-sciences and theology created to justify such exclusions continue to operate, ingrained in the psyche of the dominant culture, perpetuating debunked myths and stereotypes.

It was only in 1979 that the U.S. Catholic Church emphatically condemned racism as a sin. Prior to that, racism was treated as a lack of charity, not as a fundamental violation of human dignity; therefore, injustice. Recently, Milwaukee County called racism a public health problem, underscoring the negative health outcomes. For generations, systemic racism has compounded health disparities among African Americans and Native Americans. We can no longer give blind eyes and deaf ears to such injustices and sin.

The Church divides sin into individual and communal. Racism is a communal sin that needs a community atonement. People object to reparations for slavery without assessing the direct correlation of generational trauma, resulting in negative health outcomes. The Black-on-Black crime and other social ills in the African American communities is also linked to generational trauma from systemic racism.

African Americans developed a resigned attitude toward employment. “Last to hire, first to fire” is a reality. In a society where job defines ones identity, depriving African Americans from gainful employment is rendering them nobody. One cannot have a stable family without a stable job and access to resources.

# Seton School Fair Goes Virtual

KAREN MAHONEY  
SPECIAL TO THE CATHOLIC HERALD

Typically, the fall is a busy time for school fairs, but not this year.

Seton Catholic Schools canceled in-person high school fairs this semester to prevent spreading the coronavirus. In response, the school hosted a three-day virtual Catholic high school fair where 10 area Catholic high schools linked with potential students and their families via Zoom.

Students looking forward to high school were able to virtually meet with staff, view classrooms, hallways, cafeterias and gymnasiums, and learn about classes and extracurricular activities specific to each campus. Information was also provided on the School Choice program, scholarships and financial aid.

The free online fair began Monday, Sept. 28, through Wednesday, Sept. 30. Each evening consisted of three 45-minute sessions, one per high school. Schools represented over the three nights included Cristo Rey Jesuit High School, St. Thomas More, Pius XI, Divine Savior Holy Angels, Messmer, St. Joan Antida, St. Lawrence Seminary, Marquette, St. Anthony and Dominican.

Generally, 20-40 families attend each of the three to four area in-person high school fairs, said Paul Hohl, director of school engagement.

“Usually two things happen at the grade school level. We invite area Catholic high schools to visit with students, usually seventh- and eighth-graders, during a resource time,” he said. “We also sponsor area high school fairs across our network with usually eight to 10 high schools present for students and families to visit within a school cafeteria or gym. We also publicize Catholic high school open houses and shadowing days.”

Turnout for the virtual fair on Zoom brought 87 participants to the St. Thomas More Fair, with an average attendance of 50 for each of the other schools.

“Compared to the traditional in-person fair, we are probably over double the attendance,” said Hohl.

Hohl’s role involves working at strengthening partnerships with schools and families, schools and parishes, and schools and community partners.

“With COVID, I also work with implementing specials,



▲ Paul Hohl. (Submitted photo)

religion, and social-emotional learning across the network,” he said. “I also lead counseling efforts, which led to the Seton virtual High School Fair idea.”

With no expectations of attendance or acceptance of a Zoom fair, Hohl said the event went well, considering the limitations of the virtual platform.

“We are glad that families are still invested in the choosing-a-high-school process and most of us are getting used to participating in the new Zoom world,” he said. “We also have hopes to add more options for students through an equity lens. We hope students and families will learn of more opportunities through the Zoom fair experience and be more open to multiple Catholic high school options. Our hope is that a student can discover a great high school fit through learning about it on the Zoom high school fair, perhaps one that they would not have even considered before.”

While the virtual high school fair platform was successful, Hohl and other staff agreed that they missed the human touch of the in-person high school

visits. It is especially effective when the schools bring high school students to Seton Catholic Schools for the presentation.

“Our students and families really love seeing the grade school graduates come back as high school students and share their stories and experiences,” said Hohl. “However, attending a fair from home has been a great opportunity. No worries about transportation, childcare or other distractions for families. I think the high schools have loved the opportunity to reach out to 11 elementary schools in a short 45-minute block of time, without traveling across the city during evening hours.”

Prospective students were provided an overview of clubs, advanced placement and college credit courses, electives, fine arts programs and servant leadership programs. While it wasn’t the same as visiting the campus or shadowing a high school student, middle-schoolers did seem to get a full grasp of the high school offerings, said Hohl.

“I believe our virtual fair was successful in putting our students in the mindset of what their high school careers will look like and how to make a great choice for them,” he said. “I was very pleased with the Zoom etiquette shown by our students. They followed the request for staying muted and using the chat box for questions 100 percent of the time. In the future, I will have them sign in with their name and school so we can monitor interest at the local grade school level. We always worry about teenagers’ online appropriateness and have heard about the ‘Zoom Bombing’ stories.”

Next year, Seton Catholic Schools will offer school fair sessions in Spanish, as Hohl said the high schools have the capacity to again offer equitable opportunities for all families. Most of the eighth-grade students speak English, but many of their families do not.

While it is too soon for feedback, Seton will offer feedback opportunities to participants. Additionally, they will be monitoring what high schools their approximately 330 Class of 2021 eighth-graders attend and compare the numbers with data from the past four years to determine the effectiveness of the virtual fairs.

“We struggled with tracking the Class of 2020 high school choices with the shutdown in March and want to correct that experience this year,” said Hohl.



# Catholic High Schools are Enrolling for Next Year

Catholic high schools are adhering to safety protocols in light of the pandemic. Learn about various virtual or in-person enrollment events occurring this fall, or schedule an appointment for a personalized tour. Admissions staff are happy to answer any questions and look forward to connecting with you.



## Catholic Central High School

148 McHenry Street, Burlington  
Karen Schwenn  
Admissions Director  
kschwenn@cchsnet.org • 262-763-1510, ext. 225



## Divine Savior Holy Angels High School

4257 N. 100th Street, Milwaukee  
Ann Duffy  
Director of Admissions and Financial Aid  
duffy@dsaha.info • 414-616-2805



## Pius XI Catholic High School

135 N. 76th Street, Milwaukee  
Kelly Sparacino  
Admissions Operations Coordinator  
ksparacino@piusxi.org • 414-290-8157



## St. Joseph Catholic Academy

2401 69th Street, Kenosha  
Molly Ryan and Jen Santelli  
Directors of Admissions  
admissions@SJCAwi.org • 262-654-8651, ext. 104



## Catholic Memorial High School

601 E. College Avenue, Waukesha  
Sally Wozniak  
Associate Director of Enrollment  
swozniak@catholicmemorial.net • 262-542-7101



## Dominican High School

120 E. Silver Spring Drive, Whitefish Bay  
Michael Mueller, Admissions Director  
mmueller@dominicanhighschool.com  
414-332-1170, ext. 130



## St. Anthony High School

4807 S. 2nd Street, Milwaukee  
Norma Huerta  
Lead Admissions Representative  
huertan@stanthonymilwaukee.org • 414-559-0340



## St. Lawrence Seminary High School

301 Church Street, Mt. Calvary  
Francisco Saucedo  
Director of Admissions and Marketing  
fsauceda@stlawrence.edu • 920-753-7500, ext. 7518



## Chesterton Academy

N74 W13646 Appleton Avenue, Menomonee Falls  
Debbie Branecky  
Manager of Admissions & College Advising  
dbranecky@chestertonmke.org • 262-264-8660



## Marquette University High School

3401 W. Wisconsin Avenue, Milwaukee  
John Meuler  
Director of Admissions  
meulerj@muhs.edu • 414-933-7220, ext. 3046



## Racine St. Catherine's High School

1200 Park Avenue, Racine  
Kory Borek  
Director of Admissions & Financial Aid  
kborek@sienacatholicschools.org • 262-833-5517



## St. Mary's Springs Academy

255 County Road K, Fond du Lac  
Kelly Mueller  
Enrollment Director  
kmueller@smsacademy.org • 920-322-8012



## Cristo Rey Jesuit High School

1215 S. 45th Street, Milwaukee  
Betty Suárez, Director of Admissions  
bsuarez@crstoreymilwaukee.org  
414-436-4600, ext. 2117



## Messmer High School

742 W. Capitol Drive, Milwaukee  
Lisamarie Arnold  
Director of Admissions and Community Relations  
larnold@messmercatholicschools.org • 414-416-4931



## St. Joan Antida High School

1341 N. Cass Street, Milwaukee  
Denise Manjarrez-Renteria, Admissions Coordinator  
dmanjarrez-renteria@saintjoanantida.org  
414-274-4706



## St. Thomas More High School

2601 E. Morgan Avenue, Milwaukee  
Tony Mane  
Admissions Director  
manet@tmore.org • 414-481-8370, ext. 127

# Doctor's Career is a Twist of Fait

KAREN MAHONEY  
SPECIAL TO THE CATHOLIC HERALD

When Dr. Robert Fait attended St. Mary's High School (now Catholic Central High School in Burlington) he had high hopes of following in his grandfather's footsteps after graduation.

"My grandpa worked for the Sioux Line Railroad and ended up in Silver Lake. My dad (Lawrence) was an optometrist and I went with grandpa to the railroad," he said. "Everything went on the railroad: mail, food, passengers and gasoline. Trucks didn't start until '54, when the interstate started. I watched the trains come in — Silver Lake was a big metropolis that got about 20 railroad cars each day. I wanted to be a railroad engineer and it is still embedded in my fiber."

When Fait graduated in 1963, he opted to go to college, and there was an added incentive to do so since those who went to college were unlikely to be drafted into the Vietnam War. While he still had the infatuation with the railroad, he began looking more at his father's occupation and put the railroad desire to the side.

Fait graduated with a bachelor's degree in biological sciences from UW-Madison in just two years by taking 21 credits a semester and going to summer school. He graduated with his doctorate from the Illinois College of Optometry in just three years.

“I also ask my employees to give to the orphanage each year as a Christmas present to me, rather than giving me a gift, and I match the funds. We pay for the children's education and training to help them become independent citizens.”

— Dr. Robert Fait

"For one year, I was the youngest optometrist in the United States," he said. "I credit earning my doctorate in five years, at the age of 21, to the 'steel hand' of the nuns at St. Mary's High School and their high academic expectations. The nuns gave me so much homework that it gave me a great foundation — it



▲ Dr. Robert Fait. (Submitted photo)

also gave me the fortuitousness of being able to stick with my work, and not only have four eye clinics but my business as the largest independent distributor of ophthalmic drugs.

Fait sits on the board of trustees at the Illinois College of Optometry. He is the founding partner of Pentech and Genix Pharmaceuticals (they do research and produce new drugs) and is the founder and owner of WVA, the largest independent wholesale pharmaceutical distributor of the eye-care industry. He employs 425 individuals in multiple locations.

After starting in the basement of his home, Fait moved the distribution business to the old Firestone Bicycle Shop; then took over the former Bigelow's Appliance building. He grew out of those locations and then built a building on Highway 36, across from St. Charles Cemetery.

At age 75, Fait has no plans for retirement as he says the word is not in his vocabulary.

"I learned that to raise a child from zero to 18 costs about \$225,000 and I have 17 grandchildren and if you multiply that by \$225,000, my kids don't have the capability of providing all that; so I am working for them," he said.

Not only did Dr. Fait graduate from the now-Catholic Central High School, but so did he and his wife Judy's four children. Their 17 grandchildren are continuing the family tradition of Catholic education. He also employs children and grandchildren at his business, along with many others he considers as members of his family.

"Most of them have been with us for 20-30 years; we treat them equally and though they are not all the same religion, they have the same moral structure by virtue of the way we treat them," he said. "We have a lot of single mothers who work in a supervisory capacity and we support them by flexing their schedules to accommodate their children and, in many cases, we employ their children and provide them with extra resources for their education at CCHS. We also recruit CCHS students to work for us and they always do a great job. About 25 percent of them come back to us after they earn their degree."

Fait's Catholic values shine in his dedication to those in need. He travels yearly to Ecuador with the Franciscan Missions, where his work encompasses providing medical clinics, churches, schools and housing for the underprivileged. He also funded an orphanage in Ecuador and supports 24 children born with AIDS. He began his missionary work with the Franciscan Mission in Waterford, for many years helping with eye care and other medical supplies.

"I also ask my employees to give to the orphanage each year as a Christmas present to me, rather than giving me a gift, and I match the funds," he said. "We pay for the children's education and training to help them become independent citizens."

When Fait isn't working, or traveling to Ecuador, he enjoys spending time with his children and their growing families. He volunteers at his parish, Immaculate Conception, and is also an avid downhill skier, taking many trips to Colorado with his family.



# Dedication to Service Makes Impression on Kinateder

CALLIE GAY  
SPECIAL TO THE CATHOLIC HERALD

Meghan Kinateder saw the deep impact that service made in a community as she was growing up.

She was the oldest of six children, in a Catholic family where faith in God and love of his church was the most important part of life. With her siblings, she attended grade school at St. Mary's in Waukesha and watched as her parents stayed involved in every aspect of their school and parish life. Her mother ran the food pantry for the church and brought her children in to serve with her as they grew, helping to deliver food to needy families and actively participating in the thanksgiving and Christmas food drives.

On Sundays, the family sat together in their pew and she grew up helping her parents during their lector duties, reading and bringing up the gifts when she was old enough. "It brought that family aspect to the Church," she said.

When it was time for high school, Kinateder and all of her siblings went to Catholic Memorial High School.

"There was a big emphasis on Catholic education in our family," she said. "My parents wanted our faith to be nurtured in every possible way."

At Catholic Memorial, Kinateder played basketball her freshman and sophomore years, and ran on the varsity track and cross country teams. She was involved in student council, and the Pro-Life group on campus, and focused much of her time on service.

"Catholic Memorial put a huge emphasis on service projects," Kinateder said. "When I was doing my application to Notre Dame, my top college choice, I remember in my essay talking about how my education at Catholic Memorial was so well-rounded with athletics, academics, and service."



▲ Meghan Kinateder. (Submitted photo)

Kinateder says that her time at Catholic Memorial and the way the school educated the whole student was instrumental in getting her into Notre Dame.

After graduating from Catholic Memorial in 1995, Kinateder began her freshman year at Notre Dame already knowing that her intention was to become a doctor.

"My mom was a teacher, and I thought about doing that for a while, but my main goal was to help other people," she said.

Helping others was a natural calling for Kinateder after the years she'd spent watching her family lead by example, and because of her education at Catholic Memorial. "Helping, being Christ to

others; it was a part of who I'd become in large part due to my time in high school."

After attending medical school at Georgetown University, she graduated in 2003 and began her pediatric residency at Children's Memorial Hospital in Chicago. When she finished in 2006, she decided to stay at the hospital for a year and worked in the neonatal ICU before moving back to Milwaukee.

She said that she was overjoyed at the idea of coming home, as she was preparing to get married to Fred, another graduate of Catholic Memorial High School. They knew Milwaukee was where they wanted to be, that they wanted their future children to have the Catholic education they had.

For the past 13 years, Kinateder has worked at Waukesha Pediatrics, an independent pediatric group, and loves her work as a pediatrician. She said, "95 percent of my job is dealing with healthy kids and families, and getting to know them and watching the kids grow. It's really rewarding."

When the COVID-19 pandemic descended in March, Kinateder found herself in murky waters, trying to navigate medicine and public health that changed every day. Her children's school (Waukesha Catholic) closed along with the rest, and she was faced with the insurmountable task of working, educating her children at home, and staying on top of the ever-changing outbreak.

"Our office never shut down," she said. "We were only seeing 18 month and younger; so we weren't too busy but the uncertainty of it was hard."

Kinateder said that she never felt scared, though this was something brand new that no one had any training for; she adjusted and held on to her faith. She's taken on the personal motto of "one day at a time," not letting her mind skip 10 steps ahead or wander too far from the present moment.

"When we lost church as part of our everyday life, that was hard," she said, but she reminded herself, her husband, and their four children, that just because they couldn't get into the building, Christ was present in their hearts. They said their daily prayers, thanked God for his blessings, and asked him to help those who were sick.

"That separation was so difficult but knowing who held us was a source of such comfort," Kinateder said. "It was a great reminder to lean on what I was taught, and trust in God."

# DSHA Set Up Rios For Success

COLLEEN JURKIEWICZ  
CATHOLIC HERALD STAFF

When Melissa Rios was a freshman at Divine Savior Holy Angels High School in 1999, her sights were set on college admission and fulfilling the dream of her parents, Maria and Fernando Melendez.

But, as the daughter of immigrants who hailed from Milwaukee's south side, Rios faced different challenges than many of her peers at DSHA. Just one of a handful of Latina students during that era, she didn't always see her own experiences reflected in those of the other Dashers.

"It was a culture shock," admitted Rios.

But the solid education provided at DSHA propelled Rios to success at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and later at the University of Notre Dame's Remick Leadership Program, through which she is currently completing an M.A. in educational leadership.

And now life has really come full circle for Rios, who works closely with her alma mater in her capacity as the director of Notre Dame's Graduate Support Program. In that role, Rios helps students who were once in her position access quality college preparatory education like the kind still offered at DSHA — and she said she is proud and heartened by how the school has been enriched by the contributions of a diverse generation of students that left their mark in the last 20 years.

“I’m always looking to see how I can better myself for my family, and now, for my children. A big part of that comes from DSHA.”

— Melissa Rios

"I always think of the phrase 'we're standing on the shoulders of giants' when I think of DSHA now," she said. "Every class that has graduated from Notre Dame School of Milwaukee or Bruce Guadalupe or some other south-side school has left an imprint on DSHA. It's been tremendous, from where it was when I graduated to where it is now."



▲ Melissa Rios. (Submitted photo)

Rios was herself a member of Notre Dame School of Milwaukee's first graduating class (at the time, it was Notre Dame Middle School). "One of the things that my mom had very clear in her head was that she wanted single-gender education for me and my siblings," said Rios. Her brother chose St. Lawrence Seminary, while Rios opted for DSHA after a positive shadow day experience.

During her time there, it was theology classes and retreat experiences that Rios enjoyed the most. "I always really enjoyed the retreats that we had — that was the time that I really got to open up to my peers," she said. The education she received there "was unlike any other" and helped her to develop an eye for self-improvement that endures to this day. "I'm always looking to see how I can better myself for my family, and now, for my children," said Rios. "A big part of that comes from DSHA."

After her 2003 graduation from DSHA, Rios attended the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. During her last year of college, she received a call from Notre Dame School of Milwaukee's Graduate Support

Program, checking in on how her studies were going. She met with the president of the school and, two months later, got a job offer. She has been at the school for 11 years now in different capacities.

Two years ago, Rios was accepted to the University of Notre Dame's Mary Ann Remick Leadership Program, motivated by the desire "to be a better Catholic school leader." In the program, which will result in a graduate degree when she finishes next year, she said she has experienced tremendous growth on both a professional and spiritual level.

"I've learned so much more about myself and my faith through the program, and I've really appreciated that their program does what its mission is, which is to build transformational Catholic school leaders," she said.

Married since 2009 to husband Tony, Rios is the mother of three children: Benjamin, 7; Olivia, 5; and Vivian, 3. The family attends St. Hyacinth Parish in Milwaukee.

In her work guiding soon-to-be high schoolers and their families, Rios emphasizes the importance of the kind of college preparedness she received at DSHA. "I always talk with parents about how high school is a really important goal, but ultimately our goal is to get our kids into college and graduate them," she said.

For her largely Hispanic student population, Rios is a tireless advocate for Catholic education, believing it to be "more than just the religion we practice — it's so ingrained in our life."

"When I think of Catholicism within the Mexican culture, I think of really strong roots," she said. "It's just something I value so much. Even just the unique Mexican traditions we have — like Las Presentaciones, when a child is 3 and we have a little celebration just like when Jesus was presented at the temple. I just have really great memories doing things with my family that revolve around our Catholicism. I think that the environment that I work in emphasizes the importance of keeping the traditions alive for them."



# Messmer High School Put Schmeling on Write Track

CALLIE GAY  
SPECIAL TO THE CATHOLIC HERALD

To Sharon Schmeling, Messmer High School was the firm foundation she built her life upon.

“When I look back,” she said, “I think I loved high school the most. It was a great experience.”

Her family lived in Ozaukee County; so every morning she climbed into her father’s car next to variations of her four siblings over the four years of her high school education, and drove 30 miles a day to get to her parents’ alma mater.

“(They) weren’t just committed to a Catholic education for their kids, but to that school in particular,” Schmeling said. “They knew it was someplace special.”

The magic of Messmer began for Sharon when she joined the school’s student run newspaper, Foursquare, and began to discover her lifelong passion for journalism. At the end of her sophomore year, she was nominated by students and teachers to take on the role of editor for the Foursquare, the first junior in Messmer history to do so. She spent the summer after her sophomore year being tutored in the fundamentals of journalism by a part-time teacher, former journalist, and advisor for the paper, Rosemarian Staudacher. Schmeling remembers her fondly as an inspiration who taught her everything she needed to know about good communication skills, proper writing, and clarity of thought.

“She changed my life,” Schmeling said. “That an adult would take the time with a young person in their formative years to help them develop a talent that they may have an interest in, it cemented my passion for journalism.”

For two years, Schmeling ran Messmer’s student newspaper. She remembers it fondly as the old-fashioned way of doing things: they typed each article on a typewriter, laid it out piece by piece and drove it to the printer themselves. A week later, they’d get the proofs and edit them, spending eight to 12 hours a week for the once-a-month publication.

“It was a lot of work,” she said, “but I loved it. We all did; we were like a little family in that room.”

Without realizing it, the students’ work was changing their lives.



▲ Sharon Schmeling. (Submitted photo)

Their class advisor was Sr. Margaret Mary, who Schmeling says helped guide them and temper their teenage zeal as they wanted to write stories that pushed the envelope and took on the administration.

“She never said we shouldn’t follow our passion, but she tried to drill into our heads the correct way to approach it,” she said.

When Schmeling told Sr. Margaret Mary that she wanted to go to Marquette University and major in journalism, no one was surprised. It seemed like Schmeling was meant to write.

She began college right away after graduating in 1981 and, because of the training she’d had at Messmer, felt immediately one step ahead of her peers. While in

school, she applied to the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel.

She said, “It was a long shot. I only had high school experience and, from what I understood, they didn’t hire college freshmen.”

But Schmeling got the job anyway and worked at the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel for a year before being promoted to reporter while she completed her degree at Marquette. Due to Messmer’s encouragement and facilitation, she didn’t have any doubt she could accomplish her dreams if she put in the work. She said the foundation was given to her in high school, that she had so much confidence and the ability to take risks and go apply for a job at the Journal Sentinel; she wasn’t afraid they would laugh at her. She was only afraid of not taking a chance and stepping closer to the life she wanted.

When she graduated from Marquette in 1987 with a degree in journalism and theology, she stepped out into the unknown again and applied for a job at the Madison Capitol Times, a publication that typically didn’t look at the applications of college graduates, but expected them to pay their dues in places like Appleton or Green Bay first. But Schmeling had what most did not: experience. They grabbed her up and put her in charge of religion and farm issues, and gave her general assignments.

She moved to Allentown, Pennsylvania, and worked for the Morning Call after she got married, and earned her master’s degree in theology and political philosophy from Villanova. Her experience and her degrees led to her work as a lobbyist on education issues for the Wisconsin Catholic Conference. She also worked as a project manager for Marquette University’s Institute for the Transformation of Learning and the American Education Reform Council, working closely with the White House on education policy issues. After moving back home to Wisconsin to raise her children, she became the first woman elected to serve as Chairman of the Jefferson County Board of Supervisors, where she had great success leading Jefferson County through the Great Recession.

Now, Sharon Schmeling works as the executive director of the Wisconsin Council of Religious and Independent Schools.

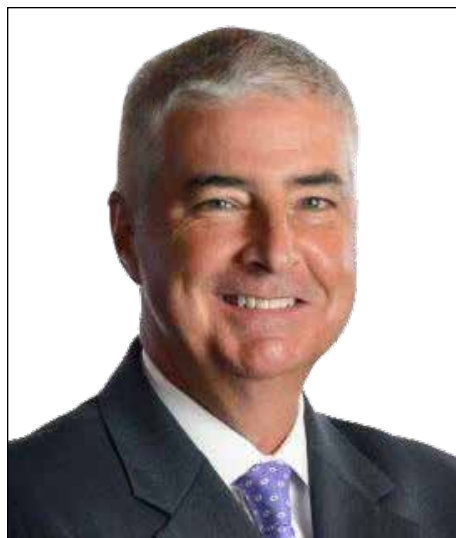
# Jesuits Taught Eberle Servant Leadership

COLLEEN JURKIEWICZ  
CATHOLIC HERALD STAFF

Paul Eberle is aware that most people look back on their high school experiences with rose-colored glasses. But he's pretty certain that he's right about the time he spent at Marquette University High School from 1979-83.

"I really do feel that time was impactful in many, many ways. It was a really great high school experience," he said. "And I think it continues to be that for many kids today."

The youngest of seven children growing up in Wauwatosa, the process of selecting MUHS for Eberle's high school education wasn't a complicated one. His three older brothers had attended before him, and his father was a 1943



▲ Paul Eberle. (Submitted photo)

graduate. "That's where I was going, and I was happy to go," he said.

His first memory of the school was theology class with Fr. Ed Larkin, who

taught at the school for 22 years. "He was just the kindest, nicest man in the world, and I could give example after example of teachers from that time," he said. "They were really great Jesuits who were really smart and great teachers but also just showed how God works in the world in a way that was different than I had learned in grade school. For me, from a religious perspective, I always think of grade school as being where we learned a lot about the God of the Old Testament. At Marquette High, I was really learning and coming to understand more of the person of Jesus as the brother, companion and friend that God is as well."

Following his graduation from MUHS, Eberle attended the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, Massachusetts, where he majored in English and met his now-wife Paula, a pediatric nurse. He began his career working for EMC Corp., a startup tech company in Boston, but Eberle struck out on his own soon after, starting Capital Data Inc., a hardware, software, services and leasing firm in 1989. He took some time off after selling Capital Data in 2005, until 2009, when he became one of the first non-lawyers to be tapped for the position of CEO of law firm Whyte Hirschboeck Dudek.

"It was kind of a dramatic change of direction," said Eberle. In 2016, Whyte Hirschboeck Dudek combined with the national law firm of Husch Blackwell and, in 2018, Eberle was named that company's CEO. In that role, he is responsible for the overall direction, strategy and operations of the firm, which is the 100th largest law firm in the United States.

Pre-COVID, he spent a great deal of time traveling, keeping a pulse on the company's 22 nationwide offices — spread everywhere from Phoenix to Denver to Washington, D.C., Austin and Chicago.

He said through it all he has tried to embrace the "servant leadership" model the Jesuits taught him.

"When you are in a leadership position in a law firm, you need to be a good listener, you need to try to understand and put the needs of everybody else in front. I don't do that perfectly every day, and it's an ongoing effort," he said. "But that theme of putting your talents to serve others is certainly something that was very clearly taught and lived at Marquette High."

He and Paula have 10 children, many of whom have attended Catholic schools, including MUHS and DSHA. Currently, his youngest child is an eighth-grader at St. Mary's Visitation in Elm Grove, the same grade school that Eberle attended; his oldest grandchild is a kindergartener at the school. "This year I get to attend both the eighth-grade parent meeting and grandparents' day," he quipped.

Eberle said the foundation for his extensive involvement in service and volunteer work was laid during his time at MUHS. A former chair of the Guest House of Milwaukee and the initial chair of Cristo Rey Jesuit High School when the latter made its entrance to the Milwaukee scene, he said, "There is certainly an understanding that MUHS drilled in that your life is about service to others. I saw that example every day in the life of the lay and Jesuit teachers at Marquette High."



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# Debate Floor Starts Path to Courtroom

COLLEEN JURKIEWICZ  
CATHOLIC HERALD STAFF

Thinking of a Milwaukee County Circuit courtroom, the last commandment of Christ isn't necessarily the first thing that comes to most people's minds.

But it's different for Judge Audrey Skwierawski.

"If you can carry that commandment out every day, no matter what job you have, you're a lucky person," she said. "I get to live that every day in the courtroom, and what could be better?"

For Skwierawski, appointed to the Milwaukee County Circuit Court's Branch 41 in 2018, presiding over cases dealing with juvenile offenders is an opportunity that "ties all the things I love to do in one place, one job, one calling."

It's the culmination of a journey that started back at Pius XI High School in 1981. That's when Skwierawski was just a freshman and her father, the Hon. Michael Skwierawski (at the time himself a Milwaukee County Circuit Court judge) told her she needed to choose between the forensics club and debate team for extracurricular involvement.

"I picked debate, and it was just love at first sight," said Skwierawski. "Once I saw these students getting in there and researching a topic, speaking eloquently, arguing a topic — I can't describe it."

Though she was also involved in other extracurricular activities during her time at Pius, including running cross country and performing in the musicals, it was debate that really defined her time at the school. She even earned a debate scholarship to Northwestern University, where she studied after graduating from Pius in 1985. After



▲ Judge Audrey Skwierawski. (Submitted photo)

Northwestern, it was on to Georgetown Law School and, after that, practice in a private firm.

But just a few years into her career, Skwierawski felt drawn to the prosecutor's office. She had learned how to argue at Pius, certainly — but she had also learned about service, and now she wanted to combine the two.

"Everything at Pius was in this context of service," she said. "I got really intensive, high-level training on how to debate and think on my feet and

research, but the Catholic environment of Pius gave me the commitment to use that skill for change and to be of service to other people."

She went on to spend 14 years as a prosecutor in the Milwaukee County District Attorney's office, where she developed a passion for the tough cases involving domestic violence and sexual assault.

"A lot of people think, 'Isn't that depressing, to see the worst in people?'" she said. "But I also got to see the best

in people. I got to see people's resilience, I got to fight for justice for people who were not in a position to be able to fight for it themselves."

In 2008, she became the coordinator for the City of Milwaukee's Commission on Domestic Violence, a role she held for two years before being tapped to work at the state level in the attorney general's office.

"They had gotten a grant from the Violence Against Women Act and wanted to hire a prosecutor to train other prosecutors in how to do domestic violence and sexual assault cases," she said. "I got to do what I love and I got to do it all over the state, with wonderful people."

But when a vacancy came up on the Milwaukee County Circuit Court, she felt inspired to apply. Governor Scott Walker appointed Skwierawski to the judgeship in March 2018.

She and her husband, Frank, to whom she has been married for 22 years, are the parents of two children, including one Pius graduate. The family belongs to St. Sebastian Parish in Milwaukee, where Skwierawski grew up.

Skwierawski said that her devotion to the justice system doesn't blind her to its shortcomings — but the potential for healing both victims and defendants who enter a courtroom is what compels her to keep showing up.

"It's true that we have huge numbers, that we have huge challenges, that justice isn't always as on time as we would like," she said of the justice system. "There are these limitations to our system. But there is also tremendous potential for healing people who have been through something hurtful or something very difficult."

# Former Lt. Gov. Farrow Credits Catholic Education for Success

KAREN MAHONEY  
SPECIAL TO THE CATHOLIC HERALD

When former Wisconsin Lt. Gov. Margaret Farrow (Peggy Nemitz) attended St. Catherine's High School, she had to be bussed with 250 other students from her hometown of Kenosha to Racine, as Kenosha didn't have a Catholic school at the time.

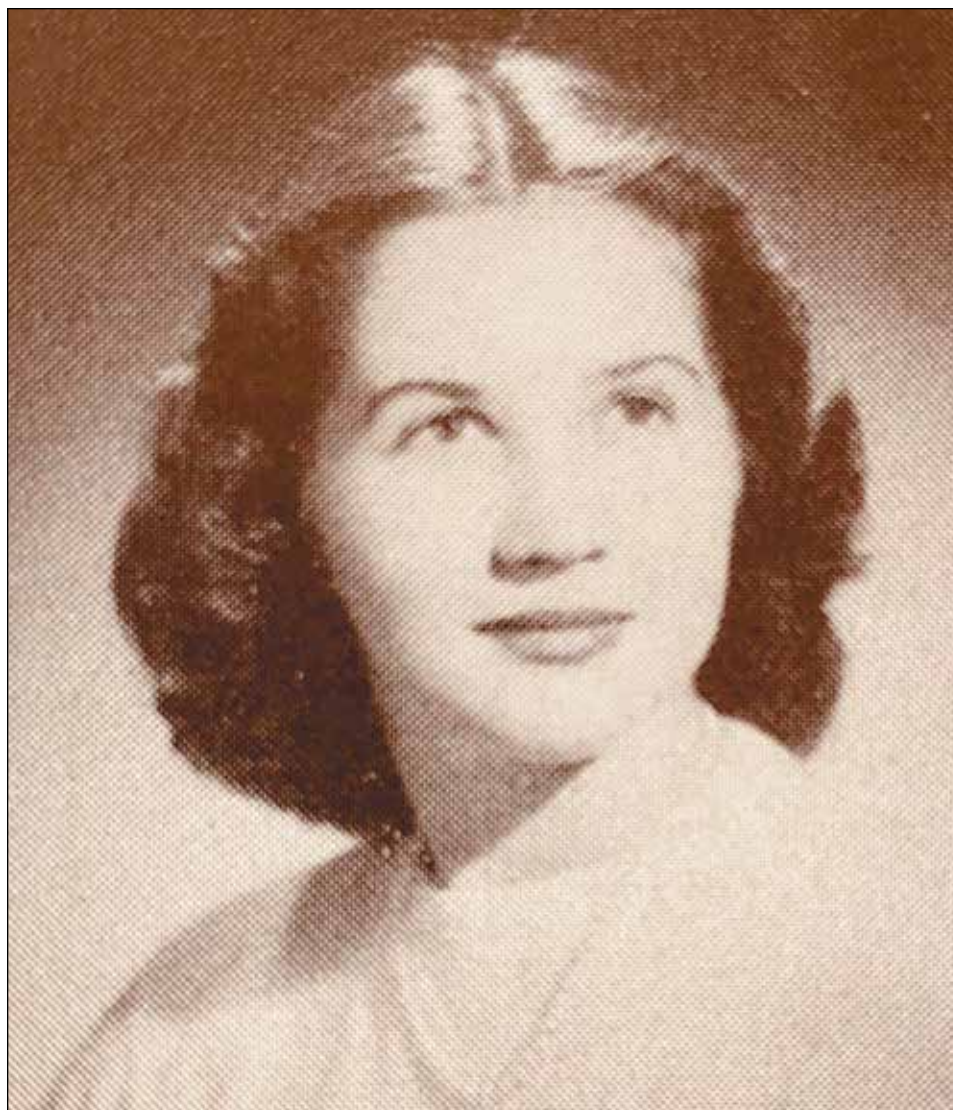
"I lived in the dark ages then," she said. "All of my extra-curricular school activities had to be worked around the bus schedule, but it was the best school experience anyone could have."

Farrow was taught by the Dominican Sisters and several priests at the time. She recalled that the sisters' Motherhouse was across the street from the school and she enjoyed having them as teachers.

"I loved my time at St. Catherine's and learned so much about morality from them," she said. "We had a priest named Fr. McCormick, who taught our marriage prep course for juniors and seniors. Many graduates did not go on to college and got married out of high school. We got such a great marriage focus from this course and he gave practical experience on what to rely on and what to hang onto. I carried this into my Marquette years and into my own marriage. In fact, nothing I learned at Marquette compared to his class."

Farrow, who graduated in 1952, became interested in politics from one of the Dominican sisters who taught her world history class.

"She really got me excited about how people work together, and it grew from there. I began taking all possible history and social studies courses and, after graduation, went to Rosary College in Lake Forest, where I majored in comparative government," she said. "I took everything I could take along



▲ Former Wisconsin Lt. Gov. Margaret Farrow graduated from St. Catherine's High School in Racine in 1952. (Submitted photo)

those lines, too, and had a Sinsinawa Dominican nun who had been to all Seven Wonders of the World. It was a great education."

Following Rosary College, Farrow earned her bachelor's degree in political science and education from Marquette University. She began her career in government as the trustee (1976-81) and then the president (1981-87) of the village of Elm Grove. Farrow was elected to the Wisconsin State Assembly in 1986. Three years later, she was elected

to the Wisconsin State Senate from a district comprising most of Waukesha County. She was re-elected in 1990, 1994, and 1998.

In 2001, Farrow, a Republican, was appointed the 42nd lieutenant governor of Wisconsin after Scott McCallum, who had held that office, became governor upon the departure of Tommy Thompson. Farrow was the 42nd lieutenant governor and the first woman to hold the office, which is the first leadership position in the line

of succession after the governor. She organized two statewide commissions to advance reforms that reduce the cost of government, and she played a leadership role in reforming welfare and tax policy to encourage work, saving, investment, innovation, capital formation, labor force productivity, and economic growth. She chaired the Wisconsin Women's Council for several years and served as a member during her tenure as lieutenant governor. Farrow also chaired the governor's work-based learning board and co-chaired the governor's task force on invasive species. She has chaired the board of WisconsinEye, a public affairs television network, and from 2013 through 2017, she served on the University of Wisconsin System Board of Regents.

Farrow, 85, lives in Pewaukee with her husband, John; they belong to St. Charles Parish in Hartland. The couple has five sons and 11 grandchildren. She is a strong proponent of Catholic education.

"I especially think Catholic education is important in high school, as they do a great job in preparing kids for college," she said. "We have too many kids who have no idea in college as to why they are Catholic. We have to keep teaching them."

Farrow continues to work and recently attended a board meeting on Zoom for the WisconsinEye Public Affairs Network she helped found as a legislator. She is also involved and helped found the Waukesha County Business Alliance, which represents more than 1,100 businesses in southeastern Wisconsin.

"I am still very busy serving on a corporate board for Acuity (Insurance) in Sheboygan and I am on the Archdiocesan Priest Review Board," she said. "I don't believe in retirement. I want to go straight out, full-speed ahead."



# Hurley Didn't Have to Leave St. Joan Antida

CALLIE GAY  
SPECIAL TO THE CATHOLIC HERALD

When Judy Hurley graduated from St. Joan Antida in 1968, she didn't want to leave. For four years, she'd loved the life she built, nestled in between the freshly painted walls of the then brand-new girls school.

Many of her friends followed her from grade school to St. Joan Antida, and there their friendships flourished and grew along with many new ones.

"I can't tell you how I loved those years," Hurley said. "There was so much to get involved in, so many loving teachers; it was warm and welcoming and all these years later so dear to me."

After graduation, she went on to UW-Whitewater, but came home a few months later with the intention of enrolling at Mount Mary. She wasn't sure what she wanted to do; so her mother told her that until she decided, she'd better get a job and put her hands to work doing something. A neighbor worked at Northwestern Mutual and told Hurley they were always hiring. She got dressed up, filled out an application, was hired immediately and spent the next 38 and a half years in the career she hadn't known she wanted.

"It was a wonderful company," she said. Which is why her intention to go back to college was put off until after she got married to her husband Donald in 1972, and then again until after their first child Nicholas was born in 1979. Finally, in 1983, she enrolled in Alverno College to begin chipping away at the dream she'd held dear since graduating from St. Joan Antida. While she went to college, she continued her work at Northwestern Mutual and had her tuition paid for by the company.

"It was a dream come true, and they helped make it possible," she said.

In 1998, when her son graduated from Marquette High School, Judy was 10 years past graduating with her undergrad degree and began to toy with the idea of getting her master's. Northwestern Mutual helped to pay for Nicholas' tuition at Loyola and for her master's in instructional design and adult education at Alverno.

"I learned a lot there," Hurley said. "I think, though, that's where I realized how amazing nuns are."

Hurley, who'd gone to Catholic grade school and high school, had the benefit of being surrounded by nuns throughout her entire educational life.



▲ Judy Hurley. (Submitted photo)

"I was in awe of them at Alverno; the professors I had were so smart, at the PhD level," Hurley said, noting that seeing them as an adult made her reflect on all the nuns she'd been taught by, how they'd built the foundation of her faith that began at home and grew stronger over the years. She saw during her years at Alverno the delicate way the sisters educated her academically and spiritually with quiet grace. She saw how her faith grew with nearly every interaction with them, and she took that knowledge and her growing understanding of who Christ is with her when she left them.

"So much fruit came from my decision to go get my master's at Alverno," Hurley said. "I grew spiritually and ended up getting the best job I had at Northwestern Mutual because of it."

For eight years, she ran a usability lab for the company, testing design software and websites by observing the end user to see how the design worked. They set up a mock office with cameras and test subjects, and observed them working through scenarios to find certain information. Her role was to analyze the data

and help identify what needed to be changed, and what issues had to be addressed in training.

"It was the most interesting work I've ever done," Hurley remembered.

For almost the entirety of her career, Hurley worked beside one of her best friends from St. Joan Antida, Rose. In 2007, after watching her dear friend battle breast cancer for 11 years, Hurley decided to retire with her so that they could spend what time they had left together. She calls it one of the best decisions of her life. The pair spent the early days of their retirement vacationing together, remembering former days of glory. When Rose's health began to further decline, she was unable to drive or do household chores; so Hurley stepped in and offered her loving support. She took Rose to her doctor's appointments and treatments, she went over to Rose's house every week to cook for her and do her laundry.

Both devoted Catholics, they attended Blessed Sacrament Parish's once-a-month Mass to honor St. Peregrine, the patron saint of cancer patients, and held hands as they prayed for strength and healing.

"We had this great history together, a friendship that began when we were little and strengthened. I couldn't have gotten through losing her, (and) she couldn't have gotten through all that pain, without knowing exactly who had us in his hands."

They spent four great years together leaning on one another and their faith before Rose passed away in 2011.

Hurley mused how most of the deep spiritual learning in her life came from holy women, the nuns who educated her, and Rose. "We miss something from the faith when we aren't taught at least in part by women."

In many ways, the young girl who never wanted to leave St. Joan Antida hasn't. For 26 years, Hurley has been on the school's auction committee, and spent 16 on the development committee working to keep her beloved school open and educating. She works every spaghetti dinner, and goes to every fundraiser.

She said, "I want to see all of these young girls have as good of an experience there as I've had. I want this school to keep helping young girls build a solid ground that will help sustain them for the rest of their lives."

# St. Joseph Laid Groundwork for Successful Kenosha Attorney

KAREN MAHONEY  
SPECIAL TO THE CATHOLIC HERALD

Kenosha attorney Gino Alia credits his Catholic education for forming him into the husband, father and professional he is today. He attended Our Lady of Mount Carmel Grade School and graduated in 1988 from St. Joseph High School.

“The importance of character, the sense of responsibility beyond one’s self and the commitment to a life of faith, no matter what challenges may come, all stem in no small part to my Catholic education and St. Joe’s experience,” he said.

Alia attended Marquette University for his undergraduate and graduate degrees. Becoming an attorney was something that interested him as a child.

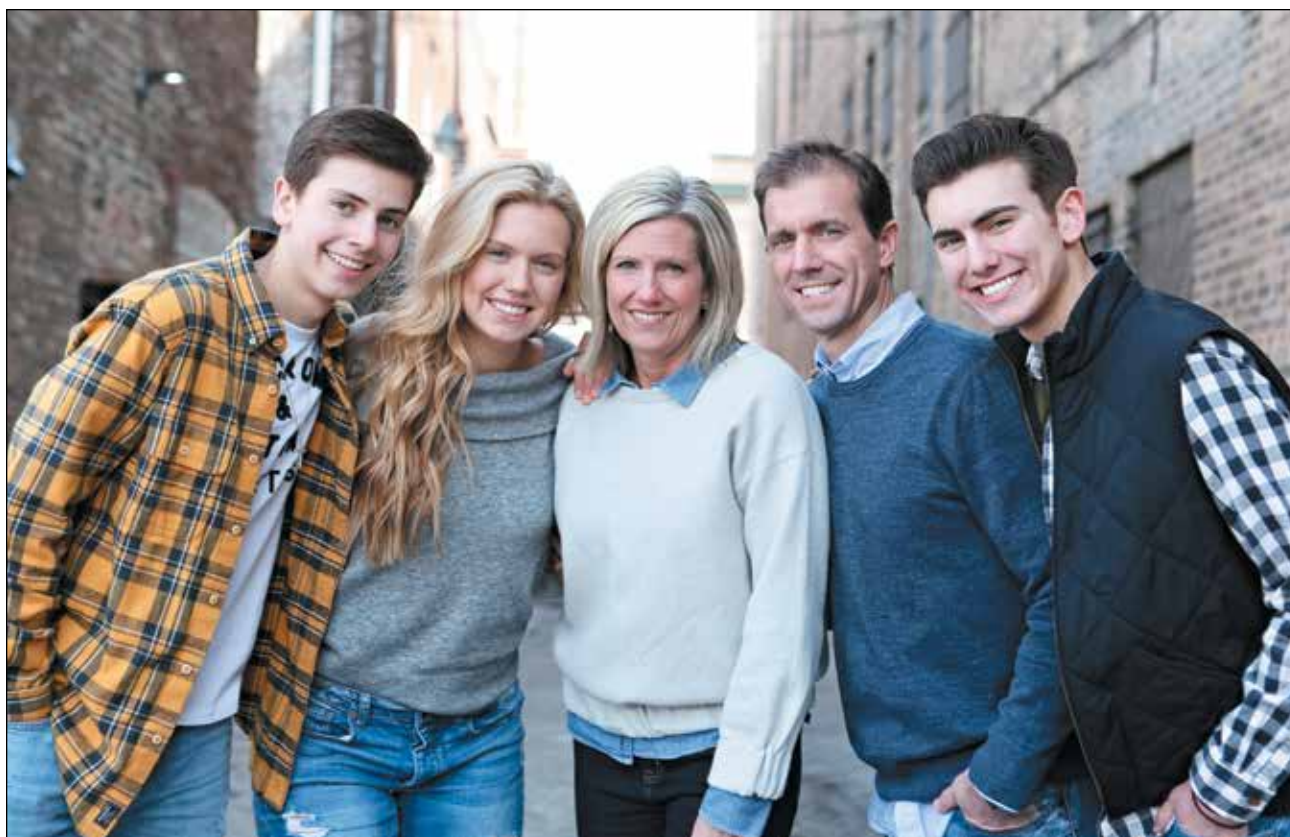
“I don’t know when the ‘plan’ or decision was firmly established, but I can say that growing up, I really enjoyed critical, detailed analysis and being an advocate for whatever cause was important to me at that moment,” he said. “Curfews come to mind.”

An experienced trial attorney, Alia’s practice focuses in the areas of personal injury and business litigation. Through preparation and hard work, in conjunction with his established trial skills, he has become one of the few attorneys able to successfully represent both plaintiffs and defendants in complex injury and commercial cases.

Alia has maintained a “Distinguished Rating” by Martindale-Hubbell. Prior to joining Alia, DuMez, Dunn and McTernan, S.C., he worked for a large, national law firm. He also served as a Public Service Special Assistant District Attorney for Milwaukee County. His lectures include “Identifying Juror Attitudes During Voir Dire” (presented to Wisconsin Academy of Trial Lawyers) and “Anatomy of a Lawsuit” (corporate presentation).

Despite working with individuals and large corporations, Alia is always mindful of the Catholic moral teaching and values he learned at St. Joseph High School.

“I try to keep the big picture in mind with everything I do,” he said. “Simple things like respect and acceptance of others who oftentimes don’t agree with you or see



▲ Gino Alia (second from right) with his wife Vicki (center) and three children. (Submitted photo)

things the same way, are values I follow on a daily basis. St. Joe’s played a part in making me understand what really should matter at the end of each day, and it’s not winning every argument.”

Faith, and namely his St Joseph education, is part of Alia’s personal foundation.

“It kept my faith front and center, and not just an extracurricular activity,” he said. “My favorite high school memories include being part of the 1988 state basketball runner-up team and our senior retreat.”

Alia is a member of St. Anne Parish in Pleasant Prairie and has served on a number of St. Anne Catholic Church service ministries. He has also been active in numerous civic, community and charitable organizations in Kenosha County. He has served as president of the Pleasant Prairie Basketball Association, chairman and board of directors of St. Joseph Catholic Academy, board member and director of development/operations for Red Star Soccer Club,

member of United Way of Kenosha’s Community Caring Team, and as a youth basketball and soccer coach for many years.

He and his wife, Vicki, have three children, Nicholas, Elizabeth and Andrew, and all three are Catholic-school educated.

“Nick was in the class of 2018 (and) is now a junior at Northwestern University, Elizabeth was in the class of 2020 and is now a freshman at Marquette University, and Andrew is a junior at St. Joe’s and will graduate in 2022,” said Alia.

Alia is a huge proponent of Catholic education and feels it gives children an important foundation for the rest of their lives.

“It really is a worthy investment. It’s not the ‘end all, be all,’ but like anything else, you get out what you put in,” he said. “Faith, values and morals in action beyond the classroom is part of Catholic education, and for me that is invaluable.”



# SLS Grad Composed Music for Three Beatifications

KAREN MAHONEY  
SPECIAL TO THE CATHOLIC HERALD

Peter Kolar was always interested in music and, when he entered St. Lawrence Seminary High School as a freshman, he almost immediately became the de facto accompanist for most Masses and daily prayer services throughout his four years at the school.

“Doing so provided me valuable liturgical experience and allowed me to hone musical techniques, especially in the area of improvisation,” he said.

Currently a member of the editorial team at GIA Publications, a major publisher of Catholic music and hymnals, Kolar plays a direct role in shaping the music that is sung by U.S. Catholics. As editor for Spanish and bilingual resources, he serves an especially important and growing segment of the diverse American Church. Kolar is the founding editor of *Celebremos/Let Us Celebrate*, the bilingual English-Spanish missalette used by parish communities across the nation. Recently, he served as a consultant to the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops in creating the musical chants of the Spanish-language edition of the Roman Missal, Third Edition. His musical compositions can be found in various Catholic hymnals and missalettes

Attending SLS served as the backdrop for Kolar’s personal and professional life. He refers to his education as a pivotal moment in his life that set him on a trajectory that would not have been possible had he not lived and experienced his formative years there.

“The lifelong bonds with classmates, the plunged-into-the-deep-end of learning personal responsibility, the unparalleled spiritual mentorship and first-rate education received are all singularly



▲ Peter Kolar, a 1991 St. Lawrence Seminary graduate, works for a major publisher of Catholic music and hymnals. (Submitted photo)

responsible for much of who I am and have become in the years since,” he said. “I remain grateful for and indebted to those amazing four years at SLS.”

One of his fondest high school memories includes, of course, a piano. He was preparing a college audition tape and recorded several pieces in the dimly lit SLS Chapel using the school’s grand piano.

“The old piano was in very poor condition and routinely squeaked and creaked while I played. As I was finishing a very difficult piece, which required me to play quite forcefully on the keys, the support bar that was holding up the piano lid snapped off and the entire lid came crashing down in a thunderous boom that echoed throughout the cavernous chapel, all caught on my recording tape,” he said. “I did not submit that version, obviously, but I did have a good laugh, and admittedly, a heart-stopping scare.”

Sunday Masses were a highlight for students as their families often came to

visit. The seminary choir led the music and, according to Kolar, the fervent singing and resounding voices in the sacred space have yet to be matched in his life since.

“All-time favorite hymns were the spiritual ‘Now Let Us Sing’ and ‘Sow the Word’ by composer Steve Janco (now-colleague and friend who, by the way, leads a ministry degree program at Alverno College),” he said.

The 1991 graduate belongs to St. Mark Parish in El Paso, Texas, and his ministry is primarily at St. Patrick Cathedral in the Diocese of El Paso.

“The latter ‘keeps my feet wet’ in the trenches, as it were, putting into action the call to discipleship via personal relationships and interaction; not just from behind a desk. Though these constitute different facets of my professional life, both keep me grounded in a Christian spirit of service and love for the liturgy,” said Kolar. “As such, each day is an opportunity to put into practice the very values instilled in me

during my time at SLS: a sustaining relationship with God through prayer; living a life of honesty, goodness, and respect, especially for the benefit of my children; and always seeing Christ in neighbor and stranger.”

Kolar holds a bachelor’s and master’s degree in music composition from Northwestern University. A native of Detroit, he currently resides in El Paso with his wife, Mariana, and two daughters. He remains active in ministry as director of the El Paso Diocesan Choir, collaborating frequently with Bishop Mark J. Seitz.

In 2016, Kolar led musical performances for the Papal visit to the U.S. border and toured in El Salvador for the canonization of Oscar Romero. In August 2019, Kolar’s ministry included providing music for the many victims’ funerals in the aftermath of the Walmart shooting tragedy in El Paso.

“My music was selected to be sung at the Beatification Mass of Stanley Rother in September 2017; in November of that same year I worked with Fr. Ed Foley (Capuchin priest and fellow SLS alum) to provide the music for the Beatification Mass of Blessed Solanus Casey in my hometown of Detroit, Michigan, where the Capuchins are beloved,” he said. “Exactly one year later, I led a group of singers from El Paso to join with choirs in El Salvador, my mother’s native country, to take part in the national celebrations for the canonization of St. Oscar Romero, where we visited and performed by his graveside and at the place where he was martyred. Being so close to holiness was truly transformative. It was music that has always been a constant channel to faith and indeed that which led to these amazing opportunities.”

# Creative Funding Considerations for Education Can Help Even Before College

**RAZI HECHT AND BRION COLLINS,  
WEALTHSPIRE ADVISORS  
SPECIAL TO THE CATHOLIC HERALD**

Education funding is one of the largest expenditures most American families will undertake, and costs continue to grow, far outpacing inflation. Today, average costs for just tuition and fees, not including room and board, exceed \$36,880 per year for private schools, and \$10,440 for in-state residents (or \$26,820 for out-of-state residents) attending public schools.

Funding four years of college, or potentially more, requires forethought, and savvy families need to consider how they will pay for post-secondary education. The best chance we see for a successfully executed savings plan includes getting started well in advance and harmoniously incorporating the right mix of strategies.

Setting up college savings accounts to benefit a child can be done in several ways, the most common being 529 savings plans. Named for Internal Revenue Service Code 26 U.S.C. § 529, these tuition plans are sponsored by states or educational institutions. Custodial accounts, or Uniform Transfers to Minors Act (UTMA) accounts, are also common and offer different benefits.

■ **529 Plans:** Anyone can open a 529 plan — a parent, grandparent, guardian, aunt, neighbor or friend — but in some states, the account owner may not be entitled to the full tax benefits unless the beneficiary is a dependent. Whoever opens the 529 account is the owner and remains in control of the funds even after a beneficiary reaches the age of majority. The major benefit of a 529 plan is that growth on investments is tax free, with most states offering additional benefits in their plans. An owner can change beneficiaries to another family member of the beneficiary. Funds held in a 529 account may be withdrawn and used for qualified post-secondary education expenses and, with recent tax law changes, K-12 expenses (with limitations), otherwise taxes and penalties may be incurred. It is important to note that, when registered in a parent's name, 529 plan assets are considered parental assets from a FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) perspective.

■ **UTMA:** For UTMA, the child receives full ownership of the account upon reaching the age of majority. The gains realized within an UTMA may be subject to taxes, so; if not handled thoughtfully, accessing these funds can



▲ (Getty Images photo)

have the potential to be expensive. At the same time, one major benefit is that funds from UTMA accounts can be used more flexibly for non-educational expenses.

The total amount contributed to a 529 plan for each beneficiary is defined by the plan; each state has a set cap. In addition to the total allowable contribution, most states limit the state tax benefits. For example, an account owner who lives in the state of Wisconsin can take a state tax deduction of \$3,340 per beneficiary per year. Those who contribute more can carry forward the amount to future years. Some states allow significantly more or may allow a state tax deduction for contributions to another state's plan.

The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, passed in late 2017 and effective starting in 2018, includes a provision allowing families to use 529 plans for up to \$10,000 of K-12 expenses. It is important to understand how each state handles these types of withdrawals to ensure that distributions for these purposes do not cause adverse outcomes (such as a recapture of previous state tax deductions). Families considering using 529 plans for primary or secondary school should also reconsider the time horizon and investment profile of their 529 accounts.

Grandparents who plan to contribute to their grandchildren's education should keep a few things in mind. Money a child receives from a 529 account

registered to a grandparent (or anyone other than their parents) is considered income to the child from a FAFSA perspective and thus counts against financial aid formulas.

To avoid having the benefit of this generous gift offset by the FAFSA reduction, a grandparent can consider several other strategies:

■ **Encourage grandchildren to use funds from the 529 account in the later years of their education.** This will prevent the gift from interfering with factors on which the FAFSA is based.

■ **Deposit the funds into a Uniform Gifts to Minors (UGMA) account or other account owned by the parent for the benefit of the grandchild.**

■ **Gift the funds to the grandchild's parents and have the parents make a deposit into a 529 account.**

Thoughtful education planning can incorporate a combination of strategies, such as those mentioned here, and can ultimately establish education funding for multiple generations within a family. Successful strategies can also provide gifting and estate planning opportunities for parents and grandparents. Working with your financial advisor, attorney, and accountant is the best way to structure a successful education planning strategy that works best given your personal financial situation.



► **HERALD OF HOPE, FROM PAGE 3**

us to be ambassadors of his mercy and ministers of reconciliation in this world. How can we be signs of mercy in our suffering world today? Above all, we must learn to be compassionate. The root meaning of the word “compassion” is “to suffer together with” others. Our own suffering can have a transformative effect in our lives, making us more sensitive to the pain that others experience in life. Compassion motivates us to go beyond ourselves to help ease the suffering of others. As ambassadors of God’s mercy, we strive to bring about understanding where there is contention, to work for fairness and justice where there is discrimination, and to inspire hope where there is despair. Our own experience of suffering can put us in touch with the needs of those around us, and inspire us to be healers and reconcilers among our brothers and sisters in need.



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**Weekend Silent Preached Retreat for Women**  
*“Living in a Time of Plentiful Redemption”*  
Presenters: The Retreat Team
  - November 20 - 22, 2020 - Fr. Joe Hunt  
**41nd Annual Retreat for Members of Alcoholics Anonymous**  
This is not a silent retreat  
Contact: Roman 312-379-9858
  - February 5 - 7, 2021  
February 19 - 21, 2021  
February 26 - 28, 2021  
**Weekend Silent Preached Retreat for Men**  
*“Living in a Time of Plentiful Redemption”*  
Presenters: The Retreat Team
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# World Mission Sunday

## October 18, 2020

Our 2020 World Mission Sunday theme is “Here am I, send me” (6:8). This is only fitting as we celebrated the Extraordinary Month of Mission in October 2019, where we showcased our commitment to mission with a mix of parish twinning relationships and local mission organizations serving within the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. One year later, we find our world in the midst of COVID-19, but your generous support through finance and prayer continues to help us support those most in need.

During his 2020 World Mission Sunday address, Pope Francis acknowledges that this has been a year of challenge and suffering for many around the world. As a result, we are called to respond as the prophet Isaiah: “Here am I, send me” (6:8), as we face the challenges of the global pandemic. This is the ever new response to the Lord’s question: “Whom shall I send?” (ibid.).

Therefore, we say thank you for responding to God’s call through your prayers and financial support.

We thank you for the many ways in which you, as members of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, have shared your time, talent and treasure with the Global Church through:

- Your personal encounter with Jesus Christ alive in his Church.
- The witness of missionary saints from around the world.
- Formation for *missio ad gentes* – human, spiritual, biblical, theological and catechetical.
- Missionary charity supporting the annual Missionary Cooperation Plan; La Sagrada Familia, and individual parish global ministries.

In closing, we are guided once more by this excerpt from Pope Francis’s message: *“In the sacrifice of the cross, where the mission of Jesus is fully accomplished (cf. Jn 19:28-30), God shows us that his love is for each and every one of us (cf. Jn 19:26-27). He asks us to be personally willing to be sent, because he himself is Love, love that is always “on mission,” always reaching out in order to give life.”*



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◆ World Mission Sunday .....	\$194,582
◆ Missionary Cooperation Plan .....	464,858
(Mission Appeals for Mission groups serving around the world)	
◆ Propagation of the Faith General Fund .....	10,760
◆ Pontifical Mission Society Support .....	92,217
◆ Archdiocesan Sister Parish, La Sagrada Familia in the Dominican Republic	
- Priests and Parish Support .....	66,853
- Projects and Programs .....	93,947
◆ Designated Gifts (Restricted) .....	81,356
◆ GMVP Fund (Faith in our Future) .....	14,517
◆ Mission Grants .....	5,165
◆ Milwaukee Missionaries Serving Overseas .....	800
◆ Mass Stipends .....	5,400
◆ Catholic Near East Welfare Association .....	12,641
<b>Total Mission Support .....</b>	<b>\$1,043,096</b>

For information on our ministries, such as Mission Education, Parish Twinning, or Pilgrimage Opportunities, or to donate to support these projects, please visit: [www.archmil.org/offices/world-mission.htm](http://www.archmil.org/offices/world-mission.htm)



# World Mission Sunday – October 18, 2020

*Priests, Brothers, Sisters and Lay Missionaries from Our Archdiocese  
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## BRAZIL

Rev. Martin Laumann

## CANADA

Rev. Arthur Ockwood, MSF

## CHINA

Sister Susan Glass, MM

## COLOMBIA

Rev. Martí Colom, CSP

## DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

Barbara Brzeski, SLM

## DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Rev. Juan Manuel Camacho, CSP

Sister Bernadette Palma, SSM

Rev. Esteban Redolad, CSP

Rev. Michael Wolfe, CSP

## GUATEMALA

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# Fr. Guativa New Pastor at La Sagrada Familia

LARRY HANSON  
CATHOLIC HERALD STAFF

For Fr. Javier Guativa, his new assignment as pastor of La Sagrada Familia, the Archdiocese of Milwaukee's sister parish in the Dominican Republic, is a homecoming of sorts.

Fr. Guativa, who was the pastor at St. Lucy Parish in Racine and St. Sebastian Parish in Sturtevant before beginning his new role in the beginning of August, lived in the Dominican Republic from 2003-05 during his formation with the Community of St. Paul.

"I was happy to be assigned as pastor of the archdiocesan sister parish, La Sagrada Familia," Guativa said in an email interview. "One of the reasons why I decided to become a priest was because I wanted to be a missionary priest. I was extremely glad to be back here to serve as a priest. Of course, saying goodbye to the parishioners of St. Lucy and St. Sebastian was not easy. I had a joyful time there but felt called to return to a missionary setting."

His assignment is for six years.

Fr. Guativa replaces Fr. Michael D. Wolfe, a fellow member of the Community of St. Paul who lived with him for eight years at the CSP house in Racine. Wolfe will now be the associate pastor for Fr. Marti Colom in Colombia, serving one of the poorest neighborhoods in Bogota at Parroquia la Resurrecion (Parish of the Resurrection).

La Sagrada Familia serves a population of 30,000 people and 22 villages where the priests travel to on a regular basis to celebrate the sacraments.

"My role here is to serve the people of the parish," Fr. Guativa said. "I arrived here and I was asked to be in quarantine for 10 days. After that, I have spent a lot of my time in getting to know the leaders of the parish community and the different ministries of the parish. I also have gone to distribute grocery bags to the members of our parish who are most in need."

The Dominican Republic shares the island of Hispaniola with Haiti. Fr. Guativa said he was surprised with how well the parish does in reaching out to members who are from Haiti.

"This past Sunday I celebrated my first Mass in Creole," Fr. Guativa said. "I do not know Creole at all; so the leader of the community spent the whole Mass



▲ Fr. Javier Guativa, shown at a Rite of Committal, is the new pastor at La Sagrada Familia, the Archdiocese of Milwaukee's sister parish in the Dominican Republic. (Submitted photo)

whispering to my ear the right pronunciation as I was reading. It was a very humbling and beautiful experience. Now, I know that I must start learning Creole."

Fr. Guativa said during the week, he has been busy visiting various communities within the parish in the mornings. After lunch, he visits social ministries sponsored by the parish, and then there are two evening Masses.

"Even though there are a lot of restrictions due to COVID-19, we have been celebrating a good number of Sacraments during the weekend," Fr. Guativa said. "There is usually a couple of funerals every Saturday morning and then two evening Masses in the communities. On Sunday, we have six Masses — four in the morning and two in the evening. We never get bored for sure."

Fr. Guativa said the welcome he has received has been pleasant.

"General speaking, people here are very friendly and warm," he said. "They have welcomed me with great kindness and love. I already knew some of the parishioners, from the time that I was here."

In 2022, La Sagrada Familia will celebrate the 40th anniversary of its relationship with the Archdiocese of Milwaukee.

"I would like to invite people from the Archdiocese of Milwaukee to come and visit," Fr. Guativa said. "Many people would like to come and do projects, but I think that it is important to visit first and get to know the people and the parish. When we come and visit, we will discover what we are called to do next."



# Come in From the Streets to God's Eternal Banquet

The parable of the Wedding Feast is both a critique and an invitation. First, it is a critique of the religious leaders who keep pressing Jesus for proof that he is not a fraud. In the chapters preceding, Jesus is asked why his disciples do not keep the washing traditions of the elders. The religious leaders demand a sign from heaven to prove that Jesus is legitimately from God; this after they observed him feeding the multitudes. Bent toward preserving their religious traditions, they could not recognize the Kingdom of God unfolding in their midst.

But the parable is also an invitation. It is an invitation to take into consideration that one day our lives will end. Jesus presents a royal banquet feast filled with the finest food and drink. Here, we will rejoice as at a wedding feast, where all hostility is put aside and where love prevails. Isaiah gives us a glimpse of such a feast. God will set the table and God will invite us to come to the feast. The question is will we come?

So let the curtain go up on the parable. A king sends out an invitation to his guests to come to the wedding of his son. The bride is not mentioned, but she is there nonetheless. This is not just any wedding. It is a political wedding. Those invited must be loyal to the king and to his heir. Not coming to this wedding predicates political rebellion. It's not that their excuses are bad; they are off-putting. Tending the farm, taking care of business, all legitimate enough, but without regard for the importance of the invitation. The rejection dishonors the king and his son. It is a fatal rejection.

Now, let's go backstage on this drama and catch some of its significance. The feast is the eschatological feast of the end times. God is the king. Jesus is the bridegroom and yes, we are the bride. The ones who were invited, the people of the covenant of God, are those who have heard Jesus teach, watched him heal,



## SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

MARY MATESTIC

### 28TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Isaiah 25:6-10a

Psalm 23

Philippians 4:12-14; 19-20

Matthew 22: 1-14

and eaten at his table. However, they did not receive Christ

But the king will not be put off. Instead he fills the wedding hall with all the people whom his messengers brought in from the streets. We all become part of Isaiah's inclusive vision of the holy mountain, where there will be no more tears and no more death. There is rejoicing and frivolity. We get a sense of the wonderful feast, the fine wines, and

the fattened animals.

But when the king sees someone without a wedding garment, he asks: "Where is your wedding garment?" The person is silent. This line becomes problematic. Since the king invited everyone from the streets to come to the wedding, then why does he demand a wedding garment?

Some explanations emerge: if the bride of Christ is us, more universally, the bride is the Church. In Revelation 19:7-8 it reads: "The Lord has established his reign, our God the almighty. ... For the wedding day of the Lamb has come, his bride has made herself ready. She was allowed to wear a bright, clean linen garment. (The linen represents the righteous deeds of the holy ones.)" Marriage is often a biblical metaphor used to describe the covenant relationship between God and his people. Therefore, even the guests from the streets need to come prepared. Therefore, the garments are our righteous deeds.

John Shea looks at the wedding garment differently. He says that as the bride, we are not invited to witness the wedding but to marry the son. We are not there to observe, but to participate. The requirement of the wedding garment is an eagerness to be united to the son. And therefore the wedding garment symbolizes a readiness to understand and act on Jesus' teachings. (Shea, 298)

Shea continues: "Instead of being within the wedding feast of light, they (those without a garment) are thrown out into darkness. Instead of eating with their hands and dancing with their feet, they are bound hand and foot. Instead of laughing and singing, they weep and gnash their teeth. Thus they live in bitter regret." (Shea, 299)

We live in an interim time between the present and the vision of Isaiah. God gave to us through his son, the Eucharist offered in the sacred liturgy each day. An ancient prayer of the Catholic Church says: "O sacred banquet in which Christ is received as food, the memory of his Passion is renewed, the soul is filled with grace and a pledge of the life to come is given to us." The Eucharist is the memorial of the Passover of the Lord Jesus and therefore in communion we are filled with every heavenly blessing and grace. (CCC, 1402) It's a wedding feast.

We are invited. But we must come. We are called, but we must prepare. Donned in our wedding garment and eager to be united to the bridegroom, let us set aside our farms, our businesses, all our preoccupations and come to the feast.

\*Shea, John. *On Earth as it is in Heaven*. Liturgical Press, Collegeville, Minnesota. 2004.

## Saint of the Week

**St. Luke** (d. c. 84) wrote one of the major portions of the New Testament, a two-volume work comprising the third Gospel and Acts of the Apostles. In the two books, he shows the parallel between the life of Christ and that of the Church. He is the only Gentile Christian among the Gospel writers. Tradition holds him to be a native of Antioch, and Paul calls him "our beloved physician." His Gospel was probably written

between 70 and 85 A.D.

Luke appears in Acts during Paul's second journey, remains at Philippi for several years until Paul returns from his third journey, accompanies Paul to Jerusalem, and remains near him when he is imprisoned in Caesarea. During these two years, Luke had time to seek information and interview people who had known Jesus. He accompanied Paul on the dangerous journey to Rome.

St. Luke is the patron saint of artists/painters, brewers, butchers, notaries and physicians/surgeons.





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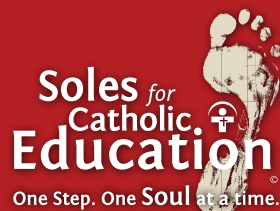
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# CATHOLIC HERALD



# Finding God in My Miscarriage

COLLEEN JURKIEWICZ  
CATHOLIC HERALD STAFF

*October is Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness Month. Throughout the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, there are several individuals and organizations who minister to parents grieving the loss of their child, born and unborn.*

Even though my midwife assured me that I was allowed to “feel it was a loss” when I experienced an early miscarriage this summer, I could tell that she was caught off-guard by my tears. The dissonance between the grief I was showing and the situation she was describing — the lack of heartbeat in these “products of conception” — was awkward. I think we were both relieved when I left her office.

By the grace of God, I had met Krys Crawley three years ago when I interviewed her for a Catholic Herald article. Somehow, our conversation that day turned to the amazing work her nonprofit organization, Life’s Connection, does with their miscarriage ministry, providing women with direction in recovering their child’s remains and arranging burial. Now in the midst of my own miscarriage, I immediately reached out to Krys and she emailed me back within five minutes offering her help.

My husband and I named our baby Julian, and buried him in a family plot where we will one day join him. A friend of ours who is a priest prayed the Rite of Committal, and with my own hands, I was able to place him in the earth and fill the grave with dirt.

*I cannot give you a birthday cake, I thought. I cannot dress you and bathe you and feed you and raise you. But I can do this for you.*

It was a month and a day since we found out he was gone. Seeing him safely tucked in to rest, I finally felt able to breathe for the first time in that whole month.

We do not know if Julian was, in fact, a he, but that was the intuition I had. His name is inspired by Julian of Norwich, an English mystic and anchoress of the 14th century. As an anchoress, she voluntarily walled herself into a cell



▲ *Julian of Norwich walled herself in a cell that was attached to a church so she could pray for her community. (WikiMedia Commons)*

that was attached to a church where she prayed for her community. In this cell, she led a life similar to the one we trust Julian leads now: hidden and unseen, in perpetual contemplation of the face of God.

I am proud of the ministries that exist in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee that seek to honor the dignity of children lost to miscarriage and stillbirth. I knew about many of them through my work for the Catholic Herald, but it was

not until I was in need of them myself that I realized how crucial they are. Though Life’s Connection serves women of all faiths and no faith at all, its mission is driven by Crawley’s deep Catholic faith. The Archdiocese of Milwaukee, during non-COVID times, has an annual Mass of Remembrance for babies lost by miscarriage and stillbirth. And though we opted to go the route of private burial, Catholic Cemeteries has a wonderful program whereby unborn children aged less than 20 weeks gestation can be interred free of cost in a communal grave.

Their website puts it beautifully: “In God’s sight, a human person is loved and cherished for being, not for doing; for simply existing, not for the number of days alive. Shortness of life and weakness of body mean nothing to our God who transcends these limitations.”

And that, really, was at the heart of why Julian’s burial meant so much to me. Julian was worth something, but not because his father and I loved him (though we do, very much). He didn’t deserve a burial because it helped us to heal (though it did, very much).

When I found out that I was pregnant with Julian, I had a strong intuition that by his life, this child would glorify the name of the Lord. When I found out he was gone, for a brief moment I felt duped. How can a person no larger than a grain of rice, unseen by the world, unknown to everyone but me, glorify God?

As I placed him in the ground on the day of his burial, I realized how arrogant I was to ever think such a thing of a God who once humbled himself to the very same form that Julian now took. A God who, throughout all of salvation history has favored the poor, the vulnerable, the downtrodden. In Julian’s short life, in his abrupt death, and especially in his merciful burial, God allowed his face to be seen and adored. How could I ask anything more?

For more information on Catholic Cemeteries’ preborn burial program, visit <http://www.cemeteries.org/Cemeteries-Services/Burial-of-the-Pre-Born.htm>.

For more information on Life’s Connection’s miscarriage ministry, visit <https://www.lcmmission.com/miscarriage-stillbirth-and-infant-loss.html>.



# Elementary School Winter Sports Postponed Until January

In a letter to Catholic elementary school presidents and principals, Associate Superintendent Buce Varick announced the upcoming winter athletic (basketball) season for elementary school and parish-based athletics has been postponed until Jan. 4. No games, practices, or organized team activities may occur prior to that date.

The letter also laid out several important factors:

■ The Jan. 4 start date is not a guarantee that the season will happen. Circumstances may dictate a further

delay or cancellation. However, parishes and schools may move forward with planning for the season.

■ Protocols and procedures to be strictly followed for practices and games are being developed and will be published by Nov. 1. These will be consistent with, and in alignment with, protocols and procedures currently used by parishes and schools.

■ Parishes and schools will be able to opt out of playing in the upcoming season. A final date to indicate whether

the parish and school will participate or not will be forthcoming.

■ Parishes and schools will be able to decline the use of their facilities for the season, even if they choose to allow their students to participate. A final date to indicate whether the parish and school will or will allow their facility to be used will be forthcoming.

The letter further stated that more information would be sent to schools and parishes the week of Oct. 4-8.

## ► HEALTH, FROM PAGE 9

Such an eco-system stunted the growth potential of African Americans and other minorities. The disproportionate health problems we witness in African Americans, such as hypertension, diabetes, obesity, coronary disease, substance abuse and alcoholism have direct correlations to systemic racism.

Consequently, the morbidity and mortality rates of African Americans and Latinos caused by COVID-19 cannot be isolated from issues of systemic racism. As Catholics, our silence or inactiveness make us participants in the sin of racism by omission. For many, such social ills seem insurmountable. However, our faith informs us, "Nothing is impossible for God." In the midst of our sinfulness,

grace abounds for atonement and redemption. In St. Paul's words, "Where sin increased, grace overflowed all the more." (Romans 5:20) We unequivocally are aware racism is a sin. Therefore, our Catholic faith compels us to eradicate this sin from our society. We have a moral and historical obligation to free ourselves from the sin of racism, and remove its curse from the next generation, too.



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# DCN. DON BORKOWSKI

**Dcn. Don Borkowski doesn't lack in life experience — he has served in the military, local government, healthcare management and, for the last 39 years, as a permanent deacon in four different parishes.**

**COLLEEN JURKIEWICZ  
CATHOLIC HERALD STAFF**

**You've done so many different things in your life and in your career. What has been the most memorable job or position you have had?**

Wherever I've been and whatever I've done it seems to be a step, so to speak, in learning. Everywhere I've been, I've learned something, and I can take that on to the next project. I think almost every day itself is somewhat memorable, because I know a lot of things are just routine, mundane, but there are many times somebody will stop and ask a question or something, or I get a phone call, and there I go.

**You're a veteran of the Korean War, serving in the Medical Corps. What was that like?**

We had a traumatic occurrence in our family when a cousin of mine was shot accidentally, and that put a healthy respect in me for firearms. So when I got into the service I said, "I'll do anything but shoot." So they said, "Well, how about shooting needles?" No. I'm only kidding, but I actually did do a lot of inoculations. I served in a medical detachment for two years.

**Did that spur your interest in healthcare?**

I actually thought that maybe I might want to go to medical school, but when I looked at my future — I had two years at Marquette under my belt and I looked and thought, "Oh, it'll only take me two years to finish, but it'll take me 10 years to finish medical training," I took the easier road.

**How did you begin to consider the permanent diaconate?**

I was the president of our Holy Name Society, and a Marquette professor came to talk to us about Vatican II. This must have been in about 1962. I had no idea about Vatican II at the time. I learned a lot, but it was overwhelming. He came with so many volumes. I thought "Oh my gosh, is this what's going on?" As I think back, I think that's probably the beginning. One of the offshoots of Vatican II was the reinstatement of



- **A lifelong Milwaukeean, he is a graduate of Marquette University and, following his military service, became the chief of staff to Milwaukee's first county executive, John Doyne.**
- **He held a management position at St. Joseph's Hospital for 17 years; he later became the first executive director of the Food Share Program and after that the executive director of the Fr. Gene Help Center.**
- **Since his ordination, he has served at Holy Cross Parish (now St. Vincent Pallotti), St. Rita Parish (now part of Three Holy Women) and St. Sebastian Parish, and currently serves at St. Jude in Wauwatosa.**



▲ *Dcn. Don Borkowski won a Vatican II award in 2019 for service to the diaconate. (Submitted photo)*

the diaconate program, and the pieces of my jumble started to come together at that time. Being so involved in our parish, I could see the segue into the diaconate. I became an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion and brought the Eucharist to Catholic patients at the hospital where I worked, and one day out of the clear blue sky, I got an interhospital mailer describing a meeting the archdiocese was having about the diaconate. I said, "well, let me experiment and see what this is all about."

**You've been retired for about a year now — what do you do in your free time?**

I love the daily word jumble in the paper. I'm getting pretty good at it. And I've been jogging longer than it was fashionable — since the 50s at least. I've even had parishioners stop me and comment on something I said in my homily.

**What is it like for your family, to have a deacon as a father or grandfather?**

A lot of times if people have a question about the Church, I'm the one they'll ask. And if I don't know the answer, I always want to look it up. That's what I love about the Church — you can find the answer to any question. You can pick up Scripture almost any time and put yourself into the situation at hand. When I read an epistle from Paul, I can see what problem he's in right away, and think — "Oh, yeah, we've had that here."

**You and Antoinette are in your 63rd year of marriage — how did you meet?**

It was a grade school classmate of mine who introduced me to her. It was at one of the neighborhood functions, and it was just one of those things. We've been together ever since.

**You have six grandkids. If you could give your grandkids one piece of advice, what would it be?**

Life has consequences. Every choice you make has consequences; so think first before you do anything.



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