

2015 Hall of Fame Inductees

Through the Halls

OF DELPHOS ST. JOHN'S



The 12th Class of the Delphos St. John's Hall of Fame was inducted on Sunday, November 29, 2015. The 2015 class consists of: Professional Achievement: Dick Scherg-er, Class of 1959; Arts/Athletic Achievement: Joe Bonifas, Class of 1971; Service to St. John's: Mary Beth Will; Service to Mankind: Brother Nick (Eugene) Rener, Class of 1961. See the stories of our inductees on the inside.

Delphos/Landeck Pastor Celebrates First Year



Father Dennis Walsh recently celebrated his first year as pastor at Delphos St. John's and Landeck St. John's.

Fr. Walsh is familiar with the area as he is a 1983 graduate of Elida High School and was a member of St. Gerards Parish in Lima. He was ordained in 1992 and, after a six month stint in Puerto Rico to learn Spanish, served in parishes in Baltimore and the South Bronx before returning to northwest Ohio where he served in Sandusky, Defiance and Toledo. On March

6, 2015 he was installed as the pastor in Delphos and Landeck by Bishop Daniel Thomas.

With more than 2,000 parishioners under 18, Fr. Walsh is eager to help them deepen their faith and become more involved in the church. He's also eager to help adults learn more about their faith. In his spare time he enjoys golf, history and movies.

Fr. Walsh is the son of Daniel and Marilyn (Honigford) Walsh. His mother is an Ottoville native.

INSIDE

Path to Priesthood for Tyler Koester



And the Emmy Goes To... Duane Pohlman



Plus...

- Blue & Gold Spotlight
- New Face at Delphos and Landeck
- Class Reunions
- & Much More

2015 Hall of Fame - Service to St. John's

MARY BETH WILL

My family on both sides, the Wills and the Reddingtons, shaped my growing up. On both sides of the family there was one person who went to daily Mass. My Mom went every day, even when we were kids and we went every day at school at St. John's. My brother Dan and I often went during the summer when we were in grade school. Church was just a part of my life.

The teachers in grade school who had the most influence on me were Sister Viventia and Sister Helen. They gave me a desire to teach and to give to others.

In college at Mary Manse I studied music, theology and did some work in liturgy. I became very interested in how liturgy developed through the centuries and did research on parts of the Missal of the time. It really inspired me to read as much as I could about it and to connect it with the music that I was also studying at the time.

When I came to St. John's I taught music two years and the 6th grade one year. I then went to Ottoville where I taught nine years. It was at the time that I became part of the liturgy committee here at St. John's. Fr. Henning had been working with the liturgy at St. John's under Fr. Sidner who was part of the Diocesan Liturgy Committee. When Fr. Henning was about to leave, he had Fr. Sidner hire in a liturgist who also did music. I applied and was hired. I began in 1985. In the first month I realized that this was a six day a week ministry. I was soon responsible for every part of it; music, wedding music, funerals, choir, ordering items for worship such as hosts, wine, candles, etc. In the beginning Ann Byrne accompanied many of the services but as time moved on I had more music responsibilities and many more helpers too numerous to mention.

Probably the most building of the liturgies here began when Sister Valerie started working with the High School Scholas for the Masses and Dorothy Fisher started the Youth Ministry Sundays. From these efforts we were able to incorporate students into the ministries of the Church on



"The number of students involved in the ministries here at St. John's and those who have gone on to take positions in their colleges has been a tangible reward for me."

weekends with their parents. We also started scholas which allowed us to have special music for all the Masses of Christmas and Easter as well as the Feasts of the Lord and Holidays.

Today there are many more ministry positions open to lay people. Students from the parish are studying to be catechists, teachers, choir directors, and social workers. Many of our students assume liturgical ministries when they go to college and or continue them other places and even here in the parish. Some come back and resume their ministries in the summer or years later.

The number of students involved in the ministries here at St. John's and those who have gone on to take positions in their colleges has been a tangible reward for me. Those continuing to bring their gifts, time and talents to the Body of Christ

are really carrying on the faith of the St. John's community.

As for my ministry, I have been to every Christmas and Easter Mass in the 30 years I have been here. I have played at least 1400 funerals and maybe 400 weddings. I have not kept track of Masses. I have celebrated many special events with the 150th Parish Anniversary celebrations and the Re-Dedication of the Church in 1998 plus many graduations and anniversaries. It is always with praise and thanksgiving.

GET PUBLISHED!

We're always looking for stories to feature in the newsletter.

If you have a story on an interesting alumnus or a good story on your years at St. John's, please share it with us. You can submit articles you've written or send us ideas and we'll follow up on them. And always include pictures!

www.dsjalumni.org



From The Principals Office....

A Letter from Principal Adam Lee

Dear Fellow Alumni:

On behalf of the faculty and staff at St. John's Junior High/High School, it is my pleasure to let you know that we have had an amazing 2015-16 School Year. We are thrilled to continue our tradition of excellence and graciously thank the parish, parents, community, and alumni for all of your support and dedication. It is through all of your selfless efforts, and the commitment of our faculty and staff, that we are able to achieve our goals of delivering a superior Catholic Education to our students each and every day.

This year is significant in its own right, as it will mark the 101st Graduating Class from St. John's High School. This is truly a momentous occasion, for not only the Class of 2016, but for the supporters of St. John's, and all past, present, and future alumni. This milestone accumulates all that we have gone through as a school and parish, has brought out our pride and spirit, and has caused us to rally around one another. Over these 101 years, St. John's has seen many challenges, and through it all, we, as an alumni, parish, and community, have weathered the storm and celebrated the success. We will continue to do so,

thanks to the faith and dedication of supporters like yourselves.

To imagine a small, rural, Catholic High School enduring for over 100 years, producing top quality students in areas of faith, responsibility, academics, athletics, and arts, is evidence of all who make our parish and school possible. Words cannot describe how valuable our alumni are to the St. John's Family, whether living close by or in another state, your willingness to continue to help St. John's in any way possible, is a testament to our faith, tradition, and excellence.

A recent example of this comes from the generous donations that you made to our Science Equipment Fundraiser, this past school year. The donations totaled over \$20,000, and have come from Maine to California and everywhere in between. Students and teachers utilize the new science equipment, allowing our students to use innovative technology, and be better prepared for future education and employment opportunities.

As the landscape of education continues to change, know that we are diligently looking into ways to allow our students to be successful upon their graduation and entry into the community. Whether that be the workforce, college, or the military, St. John's students will continue to have the best faith based educa-



tion we can provide.

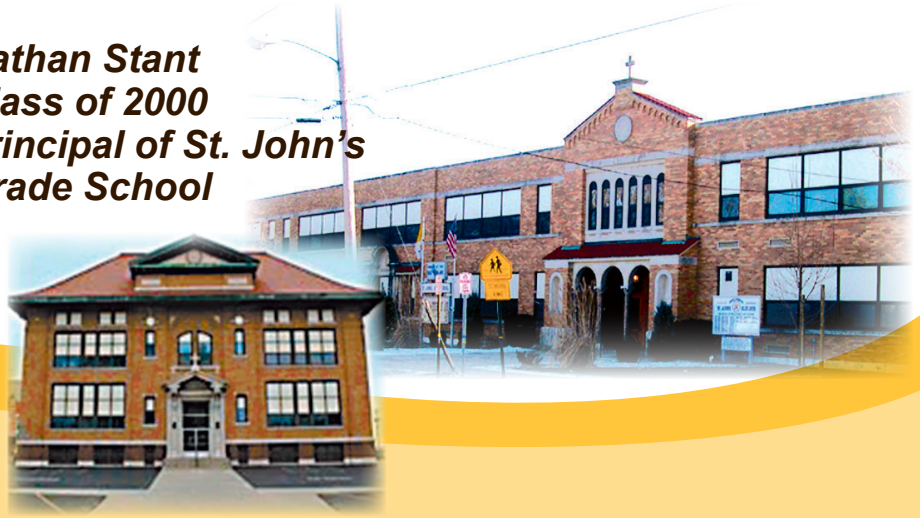
As this year concludes, I look forward to the opportunity in meeting and continuing to work with parents, alumni, and St. John's Family, to serve our students, in helping them reach their full potential. Please remember that my door is always open, my phone always on, and my email always checked, should you have any questions or concerns.

Go Jays and God Bless,

Adam Lee '99
 Junior High/High School Principal
 Phone - (419) 692-5371 Ext. 1140
 Email - lee@delphosstjohns.org



Nathan Stant
Class of 2000
Principal of St. John's
Grade School



2015 Hall of Fame - Service to Mankind

BROTHER NICK (EUGENE) RENNER - Class of 1961

Brother Nick (Eugene) Renner was born and raised in the peaceful quiet of a farm near Landeck. His parents, Mary and Virgil Renner, were good, hard-working people of faith who raised him and his siblings; Donald, Dorothy, Catherine, Norbert, Jerry and Carl to be the same.

His first inkling of a religious life was in 3rd or 4th grade when Brother Hotz of the Brothers of the Holy Cross visited his class at Landeck. Later Sr. Bernadette asked him in junior high if he had thought again about his interest in being a Brother. He also spent a week at St. Meinrad's Seminary but he found that was not the place he fit in. While the interest was still there, most of his time was spent just being a kid. He played basketball for Bob Arnzen and worked for Fischer Plumbing and Heating after graduating from St. John's in 1961. But he still wanted something more and decided to scratch that itch of religious life that he had long felt. He just wanted to give it a try and see if it worked for him.

In the fall of 1962 he left for the seminary of the Society of the Missionaries of the Precious Blood in his 1956 Chevy. He found his niche and in 2015 celebrated more than 50 years as a member of the Missionaries of the Precious Blood, living at St. Charles in Carthage, Ohio.

One of his duties at St. Charles, in Mercer County, was to farm the seminary's 1,100 acres. It was while farming that he came to realize that the earth was God's gift to mankind and that we were not taking adequate care of this valuable gift. Farming methods of the time were allowing, if not encouraging, erosion of



"Happiness is living for others."

the farm's soil and the loss of the vital topsoil. This interest in protecting God's gift for others and future generations led to a lifetime of research in soil and water conservation. Over forty years of research, much of it hands-on, he's accumulated a wealth of knowledge on the topic and has shared that knowledge in Ohio, across the United States and across the world. Brother Renner is the Chairman of the Mercer Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors and a consultant with The Ohio State University. He's also working in Tanzania, Haiti, Jamaica and Guatemala helping to feed the people as well as teaching them to use the resources they have to improve their lives. His research and advocacy in soil and water conservation has led to him receiving numerous awards among which is the 2013 Archbishop O'Hara Advocacy Award for Rural Ministry from the National Catholic Rural Life Conference for his dedication and passion toward rural conservation. He believes we should

learn how the earth works first, and then we'll learn to work with the earth, instead of knowing nothing or very little about the earth, and then trying to do it our way." Brother Renner continues his work in conservation still today.

When asked what advice he would give to others seeking a course for their life, he replied, "Happiness is living for others."

Ohio State Men's Volleyball National Champs with DSJ Connection

The #2 ranked Buckeyes mens volleyball team finished a stellar 31-3 season by sweeping #1 ranked Brigham Young University in the NCAA finals, 3-0.

One of the Buckeyes senior leaders was Matt Pohlman, son of Tim and Susan Pohlman.

Tim is a 1976 DSJ grad. Congratulations to Matt and the rest of his Buckeye teammates.



Alumni Giving Back

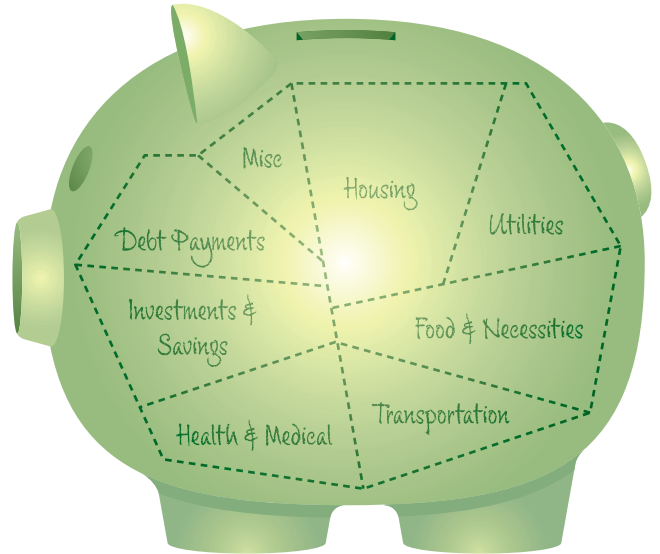
OSU Extension of Putnam and Allen County offer *Real Money Real World* for St. John's High School Students

*Written By: Jason A. Hedrick, DSJ Class of 1991
Associate Professor,
The Ohio State University
OSU Extension,
4-H Youth Development*

Many teens do not understand the correlation between educational attainments and earning power. In addition, many leave high school ill equipped to make responsible spending and saving choices or understand basic financial tools needed to manage their money successfully. OSU Extension, in collaboration with St. Johns High School, provided students the opportunity to make lifestyle and budget choices similar to those they will make as adults. The program consisted of four classroom lessons, a hands-on budget management and decision making simulation, and a post-session evaluation of spending choices made.

The overall objective was to help teens gain financial literacy and money management skills and to understand the relationship between achieved education level, available career choices and income earning potential.

During the simulation, each senior class student was given a career, an associated monthly income after taxes and family. They were then asked visit stations that represented the monthly bills they would



face in the real world.

Students had to make choices based on their income. They had to make payments for cars, housing, clothes, food, insurance, child care and so on.

Over 20 St Johns Alumni supported the event by volunteering their time and expertise at the stations during the simulation portion of RMRW. Thanks to all those that helped!

Medical Terminology Course brought to St. John's

Dr. Beth Kaskel, DNP, RN, CNE, a graduate of the 1983 class brought her health science and nursing knowledge to our school during the fall 2015 term.

Beginning in the spring of 2015, with the support and leadership of Mr. Adam Lee, she began the development of a college level medical terminology course in conjunction with James A. Rhodes State College. The course allows academic credits to be transferred through the Transfer Assurance Guides (TAG) of the Ohio Department of Higher Education.

As a professor of nursing at Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne, Dr. Kaskel knows the emerging needs for health care providers in Ohio and throughout the country. She wanted to offer a course that any health care professors major would need. Future plans include offering not only the medical terminology course next year, but to add a lifespan development course



2015 Hall of Fame - Arts/Athletic Achievement

JOE BONIFAS - Class of 1971

Joseph A. Bonifas graduated from Delphos St. John's in 1971, and from Bowling Green State University, he earned his Bachelor's degree in Art Education in 1975 and a Masters of Arts in 1981. He began his teaching career in the Lima Shawnee School System in 1975, and continued to teach art at Shawnee for thirty-five years.

An interest in jewelry design early in his college studies enabled Mr. Bonifas to utilize and develop a working vocabulary of precious and semi-precious materials. This in turn led him to explore the technique of blacksmithing as a means of creating works of art; as well as, "one of kind" functional items. Besides incorporating these techniques into his teaching, Joe maintained a working metal studio during his teaching career. He has continued working full time in the studio.

During his tenure at Shawnee, Mr. Bonifas started and taught (for twenty years) an Advanced Placement Art History Class where high school students were able to earn college credit by taking a national exam. He initiated and setup an annual Shawnee High School Art Exhibition, which has been a popular favorite for the past twenty-five years.

Mr. Bonifas contributions to education and the arts have been recognized on a variety of different levels. In 1982-83 he was chosen by the Shawnee's Superintendent as a "Martha Holden Jennings Scholar" for his excellence in teaching, sponsored by Bowling Green State University. The Shawnee Faculty and Staff selected Mr. Bonifas for the "Make Shawnee The Best It Can Be" Award in 2000-01. Members of the Ohio Art Education Association selected Mr. Bonifas as the "Outstanding Art Instructor of Northwest Ohio" in 2006. In 2013 Mr. Bonifas received a lifetime achievement award from The Arts Advocacy Collaborative of West Central Ohio for his creations of art locally and nationally.

"St. John's provided me with the opportunity to flourish personally because of the encouragement from teachers and fellow classmates, who were just GOOD friends."

In the past forty years Joe has been demonstrating his craft of blacksmithing throughout the United States at local and international blacksmithing conferences. The exposure at such conferences has given him the opportunity to create a market for his art, as far away as Harimacho, Japan. An article in the New York Times about his work led to a request to design and create two portals for the Knight Library at the University of Oregon, in Eugene Oregon. Locally you can see some of Joe's creations at; ArtSpace Lima, Bluffton University, Bowling Green State University, Faurot Park, Spencerville Schools, Elida High School and The Wassenberg Art Center in Van Wert.



Mr. Bonifas discovered early on his interest in art was a talent he could use to embellish spirit posters, reports, bulletin boards, and science projects. Joe stated: "The one constant I could depend on at St. John's was a high grade on anything related to art. In fact I often spent more time on my report covers than the actual reports". He also mentioned that he; "... believed St. John's provided him the opportunity to flourish personally because of the encouragement from his teachers and fellow classmates, who were just GOOD friends"

When in Delphos be sure to visit our city's two top-notch museums!

THE DELPHOS CANAL MUSEUM AND THE MUSEUM OF POSTAL HISTORY.

The Canal Museum chronicles the history of Delphos while the Postal Museum is one of only three museums in the United States dedicated solely to the history of the US Post Office.

*Visit their websites for more information:
www.delphoscanalcommission.com and
www.postalhistorymuseum.org.*



Shawnee State Hall Of Fame Inductee JIM ARNZEN - Class of 1976



Brian Williams, also a Shawnee State Hall of Fame member, presents Jim Arnzen with his HOF award.

Jim Arnzen, '76, Inducted Into Shawnee State Hall of Fame
Jim Arnzen was inducted into the Shawnee State University Hall of Fame in Portsmouth, Ohio, Feb. 5.

Arnzen entered the Hall of Fame as an administrator.

He spent 20 years in the school's Athletic Department, first as the first men's basketball coach when the program began in 1988 and held the position until 2001 and also becoming Athletics Director in 1992 and serving in that capacity until 2008, doing the work of both for seven years on an overlap.

He provided many key contributions in those 20 years, including renovations throughout the James A. Rhodes Athletic Center in both Frank and Janis Waller Gymnasium and Warsaw Natatorium.

Perhaps his biggest contribution came in the expansion of the Athletic Department from just two sports — men's and women's basketball — to 11 with the addition of baseball, men's and women's cross country, golf, men's and women's soccer, softball and volleyball.

Arnzen is just one of three Athletic Directors in Shawnee State history and joins his predecessor, Harry Weinbrecht, as the only administrator to be inducted in the Hall of Fame.

Arnzen was the Ohio AA Player of the Year in 1975-76 when he played for his dad, Robert Arnzen, at Delphos St. John's High School.

Congratulations!

How Time Flies.....



Class of 1986

Attention class of 1986! Save the date of September 10, 2016 for our 30th class reunion. Mass will be at 4:30 on Saturday evening. Reunion to follow at the home of Diane and Mark Wurst, further details will be mailed soon. For more info please contact LuAnn Gedeon at luannw@aol.com or Michelle Fischbach

Class of 1981

Class of 1981 Our 35th class reunion is set for Saturday, Sept. 3, 2016. It will be held at Jubilee Winery, 10744 Elida Rd., Delphos from 7:00-11:00. Cost will be \$10 a person with a cash bar. Plenty of finger foods will be available all night long. Please RSVP and send checks to Sandy Carder at 1221 Christina St., Delphos. More info will be posted at a later date.

Class of 1966

Class of 1966 50 Year Reunion October 8, 2016 at the Delphos Eagles. For more information contact Russ Suever, 260-414-8902 or rdsuever@gmail.com

2015 Hall of Fame - Professional Achievement

Dick Scherger - Class of 1959

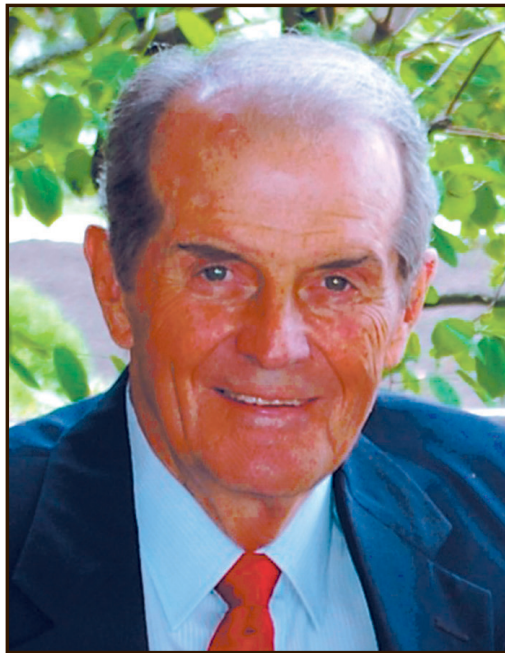
Richard Scherger, known as Dick to his friends, graduated from Delphos St. John's in 1959 as class valedictorian. During his time in high school he served as President of the Student Council, earned eight varsity letters: two in football and three each in basketball and baseball plus he had the lead role in the senior class play.

Dick went on to attend Xavier University in Cincinnati, Ohio where he received his Bachelors degree in Psychology in 1963 and his Masters Degree in School and Clinical Psychology in 1966. Dick adds "At Xavier University, my classmates were from private schools around the country. I was very concerned that I might not be as well prepared for college as they were, but I was so wrong. My St. John's education allowed me to excel at Xavier. The teachers at St. John's trained me to compete successfully in the world outside our little community. I feel very fortunate to have had the opportunity to have grown up in Delphos and have my primary education at Delphos St. John's."

Following high school Dick married his high school sweetheart, Bobbi (Patthoff) – they have been married for over fifty years. The couple has three children, Steve, Jeanna (Stallkamp) and Jim - plus seven grandchildren.

After Xavier, Mr Scherger began his career as school psychologist with the Lima City Schools and stayed for thirty-six years. He also served as director of the system's Title One federal program for disadvantaged students. Early in his career, he served as the psychologist for the three Lima Catholic elementary schools, St. Charles, St. Gerard's and St. Rose and for the Delphos and Wapakoneta public schools, in the evenings and on Saturdays. Dick was

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on the medical staff of St. Rita's Hospital for twenty-five years and completed diagnostic, psychological evaluations on both the adult and adolescence psychiatric units. As a further commitment to St. Rita's, Dick served on the Development Council at St. Rita's Medical Center beginning in 1979 and was Chairman of that committee for ten years. In 2003, he received the St. Rita's Mercy Club Award for his Humanitarian service in the community.

Dick also served on the Board of Directors of the University of Northwestern Ohio (UNOH) for approximately twenty years and on the Lima Convalescent Home Board and the Northwest Community Mental Health Center Board for several years. Still active in sports Dick is an avid

golfer and was the director of the Lima City Men's Golf Championship for thirty years and both the Senior and Super Senior champion on one occasion each. Though he excelled at golf - he also won a singles tennis championship at the Westside Swim and Racquet Club in the early 70's



Pictured is a Mural to celebrate St. John's 150th anniversary in 1944 painted by Louise (Holdgreve) McRemond and Gladys (Ott) Rybicki, both Class of 1949.

And The Emmy Goes to.... (Part 2) **DUANE POHLMAN**

Our fourth and final Emmy winner from the TV Programming class at St. John's is 1982 graduate Duane Pohlman.

Duane's career has taken him from Delphos across the country and around the world. He started as an anchor/reporter at WPTA in nearby Fort Wayne in 1987 before moving to Roanoke, Virginia where he won his first award; 1990 Reporter of the Year by the Associated Press. His next stop was in Raleigh, North Carolina where, in addition to several high profile investigations, he served as a war correspondent in Iraq during Operation Desert Storm in 1991.

From there, stops in Milwaukee, Wisconsin; Seattle, Washington; Cleveland, Ohio; Austin, Texas and Louisville, Kentucky all resulted in more than 100 accolades and awards including 22 Emmy Awards. Included in his accolades are also numerous Edward R. Murrow



Awards, Society of Professional Journalists Awards, Press Club Awards and being named Reporter of the Year five times in three states.

Since February 2014 Duane has served as lead anchor and lead investigative reporter at WCMH in Columbus, Ohio.

In 2015 he was awarded Outstanding Journalist by the Ohio Association for Justice and was also awarded the Genesis Award by the United States Humane Society.

Duane also serves on numerous Boards concerning journalism and investigative journalism.

A New Face At St. John's in Delphos and Landeck

Sister Immacolata, SCC (Sisters of Christian Charity), arrived at Landeck St. John the Baptist on August 23, assigned to be the Parish Manager. But since St. John's, Delphos and Landeck, are twinned parishes she wanted to get involved in both. She, along with Kim Honigford, teaches freshman religion at St. John's. They have started a youth group that combines students from both parishes and they meet on the first and third Sundays of every month, alternating between Delphos and Landeck. Sister states how impressed she is with the students, how polite they are and how well they know their faith.

The Sisters of Notre Dame have made her feel welcome and she loves spending time with them. She says, "We have formed a great relationship and our charism is quite similar and we've all been called by God to love and serve." She's happy to be here and believes God had guided her to this place at this time in her life. She's already worked at her first Festival and has a job at this year's Benefit Auction.

(See NEW FACE on page 13)



Blue and Gold Spotlight

Curt Metzger - Class of 2009

What made you decide to teach in South Korea? What did you do in high school at DSJ and at college at Bluffton that helped you prepare for working overseas?

I've always known that I wanted to travel and teach. Teaching in the USA is not as easy as everyone says it is. With IEP's, lesson planning, summer workshops, my student debt, continuing my education to get a Masters, there would have been a lot on my plate and if I ever wanted to go abroad and teach this would be the time before I have any concrete home or other responsibilities. So I chose to go for a country in Asia, and South Korea welcomed me with open arms.

In high school I didn't experience much diversity, however the teachers at St. John's showed me how to be a good teacher in different ways. The teachers there were so easy to talk to and I knew if I ever needed help I could go to them and talk to them. I'll always remember my 7th grade English teacher Mr. Huysman. He was the real reason I always wanted to become a teacher. He made it so fun and cared so much for all of us. He made English class fun, which in my opinion is hard to do.

In university going to Northern Ireland really sparked me looking for more ways to get out of the USA and to get out of my comfort zone. I've always lived in white, middle class neighborhoods, high school, and then university. I wanted to get out, meet new people, see new things, but also teach. And Bluffton University really gave me that opportunity when I went to Northern Ireland and worked at the Derry Museum working with Irish Catholic, and Protestant students. Still one of the best half years of my life.

What subjects do you teach? What are your classes like? What are your students like and what grades? What is a typical day like in South Korea for you?

I am basically a Pronunciation English teacher here in Korea. I also work with writing, and grammar; but my main focus is to get kids using English in a practical situation. Koreans are very shy about their English (as are most people learning a new language), so I'm here to help them to use it and continue to develop confidence to use it correctly.

I work in the Public school system at 2 elementary schools (previous I worked in public middle schools before my job was cut). I work with kindergarten, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th with usually around 15-30 students per class. The students are not shy. They are your typical elementary students. Some love English class, and others see it as a class they are forced to go to and shut down.

A normal day for me... Wake up at 740am, shower, grab a quick snack and ride my bike to school by 8:30am. On a typical day I teach around 4 classes, usually 2 grade levels 3/4 or 5/6 and get off of work at 430. After school if I am finished with my lesson planning I study Korean for an hour or two and then eat dinner. Usually I cook my own dinner but Korean food is amazing and pretty cheap. Plus they have the best fried chicken I've ever had. After dinner I usu-



ally go for a run or a bike ride to stay in shape for Ultimate Frisbee . Then I relax and head to bed around 12am.

What were the biggest adjustments you had to make when you moved to South Korea? What were the biggest changes from the US to South Korea?

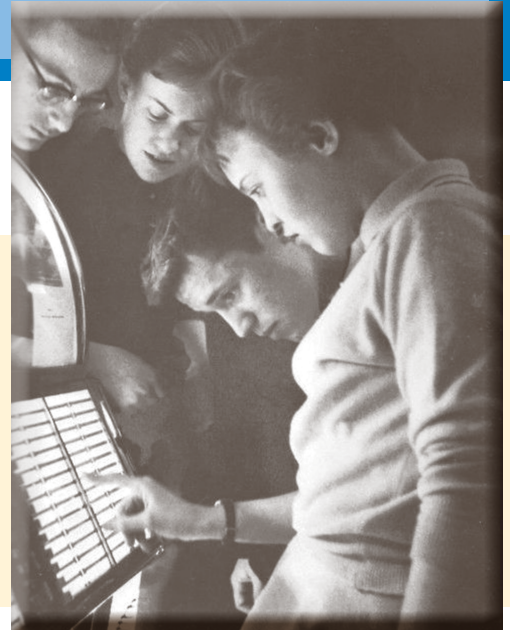
Biggest adjustment is easily the language and transportation. I have nowhere near a good grasp on the language, so everyday things you take for granted in the USA are made that much harder. From shopping, to buying clothes (they are so small here compared to the USA, sometimes hard to find clothes, and shoes for sure), but this isn't really a bad thing. I am constantly learning new things, and new

(Continued on page 11)

I Remember When.....

Hanging Out At The 'Stic...Or the Chew

Two of the most talked about hangouts in Delphos were/are the Chew Chew and the Rustic. Now, we know you have stories from both places, some of which you might need to change the names to protect the innocent. In any case, we'd like to hear them. We'd especially like to hear stories of couples who met at the Chew Chew or Rustic, got married and are still together today. Send your stories and your pictures of your best times at either place. We'll publish a few in a future newsletter and if we get more we'll put the rest on Facebook or on our website. You can send your stories to DSJ Alumni, PO Box 112, Delphos or email them to rebbeskotte@woh.rr.com.



Blue and Gold Spotlight

(Continued from page 11)

cultures that are different from mine.

Next is transportation. In the USA cars are the way to get around. It's the same here. However, buses, and taxis and subways are EVERYWHERE. Because Korea is the size of Illinois they have developed an amazing transportation system and to get anywhere is easy. Telling the drivers and looking at maps and bus routes in Korean however does make it a challenge.

Biggest change from the USA and Korea I would have to say is a more conformity style of people, and the respect that has to be given to everyone. What I mean by conformity is people don't mind dressing the same, couple clothes are very popular, at movies people love to sit close by each other, and being individualistic is seen as different or a little strange. Korea is becoming more and more individualistic as the younger generation takes over, but Korea still loves being part of the team rather than the one black sheep.

And next is the respect



given to elders, important figures, or generally everyone you meet. There are so many ways to show respect in Korea. People will not notice if you do everything correct, because well, it's the correct and proper way to do it. However, if you forget, or maybe do something a western way it could mean disrespect or it could hurt your character to that person. Bowing, using honorific Korean, waiting for elders to start eating first, holding your glass a certain way, pouring drinks a certain way, are just a few things I

keep in mind when I am at school.

What are your future plans? Do you want to continue to teach in South Korea?

My future plans... Wow big question, haha... Right now I just resigned for this year. My goal would be to get a job at an International school here in Korea. At the school I could teach World History, Economics, Government, US History, or even Humanities. So basi-

cally it is just like a school in the USA, UK, or even Canada depending on their school system. I would love to stay here in Korea. If not I am also looking into options in the UK or Europe. Because Korea has so many westerners who teach, my contacts with the UK, EU, S. Africa, and Middle East have grown vastly. Knowing that many people has opened doors for me I never knew about. However, if I do continue to stay and teach in Korea I am also looking at getting my masters online in Educational Administration.

Walking a path to priesthood...TYLER KOESTER - Class of 2011

Read below Tyler Koester's (Class of 2011) journey to respond to God's call, a word of thanks from him, and how you can help vocations in the Church.

Going way back to my childhood, my parents were loving people who very much supported good, old fashioned values. That said, as a teenager the Mass and anything to do with religion was boring to me and I really didn't practice the faith. Rather, my focus was on academic achievements, my own honor and earning my way into a prestigious college.

It was my sophomore year of high school that my life gradually started to change. One day I thought to myself, "I can't keep calling myself Catholic while not going to Mass. I'm being a hypocrite. I have to either stop referring to myself as Catholic or start going to Mass every Sunday." Thanks be to God I chose Mass! I know that sounds really simple but I consider that one of the greatest gifts God has ever given me. This was my first step putting my trust in God and not in myself.

I began to live my faith with zeal and served at the church as much as I could, especially as an altar server. Being so close to the Eucharistic Lord in service and in prayer, what an incredible gift. My parish priest, Fr. Jacob, along with several other saintly people from the parish started encouraging me to consider the priesthood. After some prayer, reflections, and making excuses for a while, I applied and was set to become a seminarian from my home diocese right after high school.

However, I still put great stock in earning achievements, still trusting myself. This came to a head during high school graduation day. All my awards were stacked on one table for the after-party. Still wearing my cap and gown, I placed my diploma on the table as the capstone of my high school "success." I felt very empty inside. Right then I realized that my awards were meaningless if achieved apart from God. Thus, I took another step in the trust of God rather than myself and this gave me the increased freedom to truly discern God's will for me in the seminary.

During my diocesan seminary studies the topic of religious orders came up for the first time. I still desired to give God my life through the priesthood, yet I also yearned to offer myself wholly to Him through the vows of poverty, chastity and obedience. After some time I stepped away from the diocesan seminary in order to directly consider religious orders.

During that time I learned about the Order of Preachers, also known as the Dominicans. I thought I could be called to their life but was a bit afraid. What if I didn't have what it takes to live their life? Preaching is scary and I didn't know if I could do it. Doubts ran through my mind.

In spite of my fears I went to a vocations weekend with them. It was a great time. I met the priests and brothers, heard some great talks, and was able to pray with them. Near the end of the weekend I had a chance to spend an hour in Eucharistic Adoration in the middle of the night. My mind was clear as I knelt before Jesus and the thought came to me, "Tyler, you have to just trust me. Do not depend on your own strength but on my strength". From that moment the weight of my anxieties melted away. I knew that if I wanted to do God's will completely I just had to trust Him completely. With trust in Jesus Christ I believe He is calling me to become a Dominican friar and priest.



A motto of the Dominican order is, "To contemplate and to hand on to others that which was contemplated." Dominicans strive to bring truth to the world, especially in the darkness and confusion of our own times.

Through these last years I have had great opportunities to teach, whether it's children from the parish school, my fellow college students, or in RCIA. I love to do my part in helping people reach the Truth. Furthermore, as a priest I would be a spiritual father to the flock, leading them through the Mass and the Sacraments to completely trust Jesus Christ.

Pastoral parishes, doing college campus ministry and teaching courses, doing missionary work at home and around the world, preaching wherever there are souls—those are just a few places you will find the Dominicans, and this is how I would love to offer my life to God.

As of around last Christmas, I was accepted to join the Dominicans (praise God!), and we were all excited for me to start formation with them. However, I had one big last barrier to overcome: I had to have my student loans mitigated first. Thus, I started raising money back in January with a group called the Laboure Society, which is a Catholic 501(c)(3) that helps people who cannot enter priestly or religious formation because of student loans. I had to fundraise \$45,000 before June 30th (less than six months) if I was to enter formation at the end of the summer; otherwise, I would have had to depart from priestly formation for a year to continue to raise money. I knew my goal was pretty bold and a little crazy, but I prayed about it and came to believe

Continued on page 13

New Face

Continued from page 9

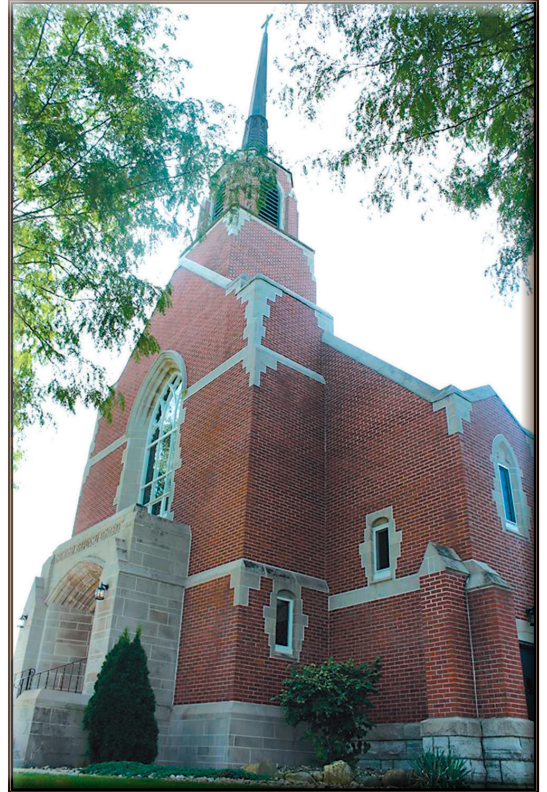
Prior to her position at Landeck and DSJ, she was appointed to St. Nicholas parish in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania. The decision to leave wasn't easy, she admits, but the Reverend Dennis Walsh, pastor at Delphos St. John's, who visits Landeck St. John the Baptist to celebrate two weekly Masses, worked with her years ago in New York and recommended her for the leadership role, which the Bishop urged her to accept. St. Nicholas pastor Monsignor Joseph G. Rausher said, "We're happy for her to have this opportunity but we hate to see her go. She's fun, filled with energy and very spiritual. She's too humble. She's so very talented, kind and generous. People love her."

But sometimes Sister Immacolata does turn serious, as when she speaks about her vocation. "I really knew in seventh

grade. My teacher was a SCC nun and she showed the movie Jesus of Nazareth. She started crying during the crucifixion and I thought, 'She really believes this!' That made such an impression on me."

While leaving one German-heritage parish for another, Sister Immacolata noted she is 100% Italian. She is the second youngest of Ercole and Assunta Scarogni's six children and the first to be born in America, in the Bronx, New York. And yes, Immacolata is her baptismal name!

With a first name like Immacolata, was she destined to enter religious life? "Well, God knows what each of us is going to do," she said, "and I knew in my heart I would become a sister." And if she hadn't been called to serve this way? She replied, "I might have been a marine biologist. I was always interested in that."



Path to Priesthood

Continued from page 12

it was the will of God that I reach it. Thus, I tried my best and trusted in God.

Praised be Jesus Christ, on the feast of the Immaculate Heart of Mary (June 4th) I reached my personal goal! All thanks be to God, for Whom "all things are possible" (Mt 19:26). What a gift: it is like a miracle! I would like to say "thank you" too to everyone connected to St. John's who has been so generous in supporting my vocation; I could not have done it without you.

Indeed, the problem of student loans preventing people from becoming priests, brothers, nuns, and sisters is only getting worse. In fact, about 42% of all people who want to be priests or religious are turned away because of student loans. That's why the Labouré Society was formed, and so far they have helped over 250 people, myself now included! Labouré is working to end the priest shortage; there are many out there who want to be priests and religious: they just need help affording it!

Right now, there are several in my group who have not yet reached their personal goals. How great would it be if even just a few more of us could enter formation! If anyone reading this would have been willing to help me, I encourage you to consider helping them too. Every dollar I raise now will go straight to helping them: donate online at labouresociety.org/tyler or send by mail to: The Labouré Society, Aspirant: Tyler Koester, 1365 Corporate Center Curve Suite #104, Eagan, Minnesota 55121 (make checks out to The Labouré Society). Also, feel free to contact me at my email address tyler@laboureaspirant.org or call 419-203-1071.

Finally, I would like to invite everyone reading this to offer a prayer for me, for my fellow aspirants, and for all vocations. May the Blessed Virgin and St. Joseph help us all answer God's call in our lives in ways big and small.

Thanks!

For Your Support ☺

Donations

**The Labouré Society,
Aspirant: Tyler Koester,
1365 Corporate Center
Curve Suite #104,
Eagan, Minnesota 55121.
Also, feel free to contact
Tyler at his email address
tyler@laboureaspirant.org
or call 419-203-1071.**

*Pax Christi,
Tyler Koester '11*

We Need Your Support

Delphos St. John's Alumni and friends,

The DSJ Alumni Association operates solely on the generosity of our Alumni. Periodically we'll include an envelope with the newsletter asking for donations to keep us going and you'll find one of those envelopes in this newsletter.

Your donation funds printing and mailing of the newsletter along with ads in the DSJ sports program for the Alumni Association and the Hall of Fame. The combined cost of the printing and initial mailing is close to \$900. There is also an additional cost from the Post Office.

We have "Return Service Requested" on our newsletters so if an alumnus has moved the newsletter will be returned to us telling us so. That service costs us \$2.42 for each returned newsletter. If the forwarding service is still in effect the newsletter is forwarded and we receive the new mailing address which costs us 55 cents each. All in all, a newsletter mailing of 5,200+ copies costs over \$1,200 to print and mail.

Previous envelopes have said "Dues". We've removed that word since it has caused great confusion in the past and we actually have no dues. All Alumni are included in our database and our mailings. Always and forever. Period. We don't keep track of who does or doesn't contribute. We've also been asked in the past the amount of the "dues". There is no amount suggested or requested but the most common amount we receive for donations is \$10.

We never ask for donations until we need them which is usually when we have enough in the account to cover two newsletters. We're close now so we're asking.

If you'd like to help, make your checks out to "St. John's Alumni Association" and mail them in the enclosed envelope.

Thank you and enjoy your newsletter and all the rest to come.



Thank you!

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