



An Exemplary Recognition School Community

Proud to Be St. Monica School: We Celebrate Some of our Recent School Community Successes!

St. Monica School Alumni

Jessie Bazan

Jessie Bazan, SMS Class of 2006 and current Senior at Dominican High School, has been awarded the Catholic Knights “Hometown Hero Award” for the state of Wisconsin. This prestigious award is given to a high school athlete who uses sports as a platform to promote the Catholic faith. A three-sport Varsity athlete, Jessie is also a semi-finalist for the All-Star Catholic High School Sports Faith Hall of Fame, awarded by Sports Faith International.

Jessie will be honored at a banquet sponsored by Sports Faith International on February 21st in Lake Forest, Illinois.

Ellie Christenson and Nicole Hangsterfer

Ellie Christenson and Nicole Hangsterfer, both members of the SMS Class of 2006, were recently named as National Merit Finalists for 2010. Ellie, a Senior at Divine Savior Holy Angels High School, and Nicole, a Senior at Nicolet High School, were among the over 1.5 million students from 22,000 high schools who were initially entered in the competition this Fall. Nationally, less than 1% of each state's high school seniors earn Semifinalist recognition! As Finalists, both young ladies are now eligible for over \$36 million in scholarship awards.

SMS Alumni at Dominican High School

On March 16th, seven St. Monica School alumni and current juniors at Dominican High School were presented as candidates for induction into the St. Dominic Chapter of the National Honor Society. These students – **Mary Alice Carroll, Katie O'Neil, Maggie O'Neil, Leigh Poellmann, Katy Schuele, Elle Topp, and Lily Vartanian** – were celebrated for their accomplishments and record of excellence in the areas of “Character, Scholarship, Leadership, and Service.”

St. Monica School Students

SMS Students Celebrate the Spirit of Giving!

Once again this school year, **SMS students** are fully embracing the mission of our **Exemplary Recognition** school community “to learn, live, and love through Jesus.” A major element of that mission and the faith we celebrate each day is engaging in a life of service and ministering to those in need. This service and ministry outreach takes many forms, and often involves traditional grade-level projects or multi-age activities. It can also be in response to a specific need or in connection to the multicultural diversity efforts of our school community.

Such was the case for several very successful recent school community fundraisers. Following the horrific earthquake in Haiti, **Ms. Mary Anne Mullaney's K-5 students** and **Mrs. Mary Kuhnmuensch's 2nd grade class** was moved to action. As part of the annual K-5 tradition of putting on the “SMS Circus,” Ms. Mullaney and her “cast of clowns and circus entertainers” asked those in attendance for a small donation in lieu of the normal “price of admission” (it is free of charge!). The result was nearly \$500 in donations for the people of Haiti. Mrs. Kuhnmuensch and her 2nd graders decided to sponsor a school-wide bake sale during the lunch hour. The response to the request of students for home-baked goodies was so significant the bake sale needed to run two days (not the one intended). As a result of their baking talents and enthusiastic sales efforts, the 2nd graders raised nearly \$1,400 for Haitian relief.

During Catholic Schools Week, the entire St. Monica School student body community got excited for the fun competition offered by a school-wide “Penny Drive.” All classes “competed” against one another to see who could raise the most money throughout the week, with the proceeds being earmarked for the school's Ugandan charity focus. The **St. Monica School Student Council Executive Board**, along with SMS Jr. High teachers **Mrs. Maribeth Naleid** and **Mrs. Jeannie Cameron**, spent their lunch hours each day counting the coins. The goal was \$1,000 – and St. Monica School students responded in full force, working to raise almost \$3,000! Additionally, during the week St. Monica School students were asked to bring into school gently used or new books for the Ugandan charity, with hundreds of books being collected for students in Ugandan schools.

These inspirational fundraising and supply-raising efforts illustrate how committed our student, staff and school families are to positively impacting others by leading a life of service, sacrifice, generosity, and selflessness. We are proud of them for their efforts!

Maggie Beck

St. Monica School 8th grade student **Maggie Beck** was recently selected as the First Place Winner in the Milwaukee Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution's “Historical Essay Contest.” The contest is open to students of all schools throughout the city and county of Milwaukee. Maggie submitted a cause-and-effect paper from the viewpoint of a Native American girl who sees her culture and lifestyle destroyed by the Transcontinental Railroad's development across the plains of the United States.

Maggie was honored at the February Milwaukee Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) luncheon meeting at the Wisconsin Club. She was joined by her parents, grandparents and SMS Jr. High teacher Dr. Anne Rice. After lunch, she was invited to read her paper and was then presented with a \$100 savings bond, a certificate of achievement, a medal, and a blank book to encourage more writing! Additionally, Maggie's award-winning paper will be entered in the Regional DAR Historical Essay Contest.

Carolyn Long

St. Monica School 6th grade student **Carolyn Long** participated in the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Spelling Bee at St. Robert School on Thursday, February 18th. She had earned the right to represent St. Monica School when she won our school's own Spelling Bee held during Catholic Schools Week. At the Regional contest, Carolyn competed against students from 18 other private elementary schools in Southeast Wisconsin. Despite the tough competition, Carolyn captured First Runner-Up honors!

SMS Heads to the Padre Serra Tourney!

Congratulations to the St. Monica School 8th grade girls basketball teams upon receiving an invitation to play in the 52nd Annual Padre Serra basketball tournament! This prestigious tournament, an invite-only event, is held at the Mount Mary College Bloechl Rec Center (located at 2900 N. Menomonee River Pkwy. in Milwaukee). It involves the top 36 8th grade boys and girls Archdiocesan teams, a true pitting of the "best against the best."

First-round games in this year's tournament will be played March 4th – 12th. Our 8th grade girls will open the tournament matched up against St. Boniface (Germantown) in a 6:30 p.m. game on Thursday, March 11th. Should they be victorious, they would advance to play in a 4:45 p.m. game on Saturday, March 13th versus the winner of the Holy Family (Sheboygan) and St. Gregory the Great tussle. So, St. Monica School athletics fans, get ready to don your red and white and come cheer on our Lady Raiders team with pride! We're proud to have them as student-athletes representing our St. Monica School community!

To follow our 8th grade girls during the tournament, you can visit the Padre Serra website: <http://www.thepadreserra.org>.

Parents of St. Monica School Alum!

Jerry and Margo Haig

St. Monica School parents-of-alum (and St. Monica Parish members) **Jerry and Margo Haig** of Glendale were recently named recipients of the 2010 St. Sebastian School Distinguished Graduates Award. During a Mass at St. Sebastian on Sunday, January 31st, the Haigs were honored for their past and ongoing contributions to the St. Sebastian School community. They were presented with flowers before the Mass and afterward were the focus of a celebratory reception held in the school auditorium.

Jerry and Margo have also contributed in numerous ways throughout the many years they have belonged to St. Monica Parish and had children attending St. Monica School. In so doing, they have made a tremendous impact upon our St. Monica Parish and School communities. We are grateful for them and we celebrate them!

St. Monica School Staff

Anne Rice

SMS 7th grade religion teacher, **Dr. Anne Rice**, recently received a \$500 grant from the Wisconsin Alliance for Fire Safety based on the unit she developed entitled "Fire Safety: Service that Saves Lives." The grant was underwritten with the help of the Professional Fire Fighters of Wisconsin Charities, Inc., and State Farm Insurance.

The unit, rooted in Catholic Social teaching regarding the dignity of human life, focused on the 7th graders' responsibilities while babysitting and gathered inspiration from the burn unit at Columbia-St. Mary's Hospital. The students studied materials regarding fire safety, entered a fire safety poster contest, and spent time learning about specific fire safety concerns with guest speakers Carol Bork, R.N. from Columbia St. Mary's and North Shore Fire Department Lt. Don Cofta. "It was important that the students learn from Catholic role models who are involved in fire issues," Dr. Rice explained.

The grant will cover the expenses of continuing student learning through the collection of history books regarding fires such as Milwaukee's Third Ward fire, the Great Chicago fire and the Peshtigo fire. The books will be available for all to access in the school Library. "History raises awareness. As the great-granddaughter of a Milwaukee Fire Department Captain, I am delighted that the students will be able to tap into their sense of a shared history and make responsible choices to help others," Dr. Rice shared.

Carmen Bond

As many of her students know, **Carmen Bond**, SMS Jr. High Science teacher, is also an accomplished artist. Over the course of the past few months, she has participated in three major art shows. One was the "Zelli Porcelain Show" in London, England, for which she created two porcelain sculptures based upon Biblical Proverbs. She also participated in the "Big Idea Show" in Northbrook, Illinois, for which she presented an installation entitled "Stargazers," made up of 72 orbs most of which were on pedestals.

Currently, Mrs. Bond has submitted works for the "Mt. Mary Art & Design" Faculty Show, which opened this past Sunday. She has several small ceramic pieces in this show, which she sculpted "blindly" at first (without looking at them) and detailed at a later time. She also has a large installation-type piece entitled "Entropy" patterned after the Milky Way galaxy, which is really a composition of about 300 figures arranged in two major spirals from a central column.

When not creating amazing works of art, Mrs. Bond is very busy in her SMS classroom where she is a very gifted educator and proud member of our extraordinary SMS staff! High on her list of recent accomplishments – aside from helping to mold the minds of tomorrow, of course! – was her recent selection to participate in the Summer 2009 FDA (Food and Drug Administration) and NSTA (National Science Teachers Association) Food Science Professional Development Program. She was one of 40 teachers nationwide selected to attend the prestigious workshop, where she was celebrated as an outstanding science educator and instructed in how to implement the FDA food science curriculum during the current school year.

Congratulations to the members of our Exemplary Recognition school community featured above! We are proud of you!

If you know of a SMS student, alum, staff, or parent success we should be celebrating, please contact Tom Mlada, St. Monica School Development Director, at (414) 332-3660 ext. 123 or tmlada@st-monica.org.