



NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2020

Spring Update



Spring is nearly upon us! The Garden Club is gearing up for the beautification of our parish grounds. School registration for next school year

is well underway. Sister Dianne and the Gala committee are making last minute preparations for our most important fundraiser. Our cantors, musicians, and handbell choir are preparing assiduously for the great festivities of Holy Week and Easter.

As you may have noticed, we've engaged in some extra marketing to increase school enrollment which has declined over recent years. We also foresee some pretty serious maintenance needs towards the rectory, church, and boulevard building. Your support toward these needs is not only appreciated but becoming more and more essential. We are certainly grateful and remember in our prayers our benefactors who continue to make our mission as the Parish of St. Ignatius of Antioch possible, as a beacon of the Gospel on Cleveland's West Side.

As the Lenten season ushers in the great season of Easter, please know of my personal prayers for all of you as we seek to live out our Christian faith—that Christ has died, Christ has risen, and Christ will come again. May the Joy of His Resurrection be known most eminently in your families and as you live out your faith in the world, for the glory of God and salvation of souls.

FR. ESTABROOK

Reflections on the eleventh annual Founders Day Gala

TERRY GRAVENS, '65

The very first Founders' Day Gala (March 20, 2010) was a direct response to the crisis of 2009 when it was decided and announced that St. Ignatius of Antioch Parish was to be closed. It was also an immediate and necessary follow up to the spontaneous, inspiring and successful appeal to the bishop to keep the parish open. The challenge was clear: not only did this parish community need to continue its mission as a Catholic Church in the inner city of Cleveland but it also needed to prove that it could be financially viable.

The undersigned was thankfully wrong when he cautioned Marcia Rocco Ciryak, '77, the first chairperson of the gala that an inner city parish would not be able to support a first-class fund-raising event. Marcia, a dedicated volunteer committee, generous donors, alumni and the parish community have demonstrated over the past 10 years that the gala is not only possible but this essential event is so worth the effort.

Each and every year has been a challenge. If you do not believe me, ask Sister Dianne. The preparations behind the scene begin months before and the dedicated volunteers spend hours and hours to make the event "happen". Every year generous underwriters and sponsors step up to the plate and make significant donations to make the event possible. Donations for the auction, ads for the program and raffle tickets are solicited by the committee and all add to the bottom line.

For an inner-city parish, the cost of tickets is high but compared to similar fund raisers across the diocese, it is modest. All must know that this gala event is worth every penny of the ticket price. This is a very enjoyable, mem-



Irene Szczepaniak, the 2020 Antioch Chalice Award recipient.

orable evening with delicious food and spirits and great company. It is an evening you will enjoy and remember.

One other fact remains after ten years: this inner-city parish must continue to prove that it is financially viable. This parish needs the proceeds from a successful gala to remain financially solvent. All parishioners, alumni, benefactors and anyone who believes in the mission of a vibrant catholic parish in the heart of the city of Cleveland needs to make that belief real by supporting

in every possible way the gala. A special plea is made to all parishioners and alumni to attend this parish community event.

One final reflection: each of the ten Antioch Chalice Award recipients who have been honored at this event have certain common traits. Each truly believed in the mission of this parish and each believed that someone else deserved this award more than they did. Yet, each "accepted" the award for the reason that they were told that their being the honoree would "fill the house".

This year's honoree Irene Szczepaniak is clearly a most worthy honoree. Her long-time service to this parish community and to the elementary school is beyond compare. She inspired the theme of this year's Gala: "A tradition of family that continues...faith, family, friends." Significant for this event, she has been one of the most dedicated volunteers who for the past ten years have made this event "happen".

Please join our entire parish community at the Gala and bring your family to honor Irene and to keep this parish open and vibrant and financially sound.

The St. Ignatius of Antioch Founders' Day Gala continue in its own circle of life.

Upcoming events, Clambash cancelled this year

ALUMNI NEWS LARRY STRAKA '68



The Lenten season is upon us, a time of fasting, self-sacrifice and alms giving. The promise of Easter makes all the sacrifice worthwhile. The challenge our faith presents us is a constant. In a way our season of Lent as a parish is twelve months long. The need knows no calendar, religious or secular. The rewards however are just as plentiful if you look for them.

The faces of the schoolchildren as they prepare for another day under the care of Ms. Ricksecker and all the teachers. The faces of the parents who drop their children off every morning knowing that their most precious treasure is well cared for and safe. The faces of people in church who take advantage of the opportunity to attend Mass. We are all blessed with a beautiful experience every time we enter our church to listen to the Word and sacred music.

The yearlong giving by our alumni, parishioners and friends makes all this possible. The collections in the basket are far from enough to keep our mission in the city alive. That is why it is more important now than ever to continue your support for our parish. No donation is too small and of course too large! However large or small your donation know that it is greatly appreciated by Father Estabrook and all the great people who continue with our

"Mission in the City."

The next alumni get together will be at P.J.Mc.Intyre's at Kamm's corner on Wednesday, April 29, 2020. The get together for February had to be cancelled due to a schedule conflict. The evening starts at 5 and ends at 8. There will be delicious appetizers served buffet style with your first drink on the alumni association. Mark the date on your calendar and bring your old friends and make some new ones.

The other news I want to share is not as happy. The annual Clambash has been cancelled this year. Attendance has continued to decline in recent years. It isn't feasible to ask Bruno to bring his clambake and all the staff and work for such a small group. We regret this decision but felt it was the correct one to make. We would appreciate any suggestions going forward to restart it in the future if it was worthwhile.

I hope to see many of you at our annual Gala, March 28, 2020. Our honoree this year is well known by most of you, Irene Szczepaniak. It will be a very special evening at Le Centre for a very special lady of the St. Ignatius parish family. Congratulations Irene!

I want to stress how important it is to keep our records current. Please let us know if you move. Please include your email address so we can keep up with everyone. It is very important if a member of your family passes to let us know so we can update our mailing lists. You all know postage is very expensive. Thanks again for your co-operation.



St. Ignatius of Antioch School students.



St. Ignatius of Antioch School students.

Donors for end of year wishlist

* Raymond '60 and Kathleen Albertini

Anonymous

William '49 and Irene Wick '52 Bostelman

Maureen Walsh '61 Brennan

Doris Vacha '48 Brosek

Mary Biggs '46 Clark

Theresa Gallagher '79

Clare Chelko '63 Galey

Daniel Gumeny '57

Noreen and Christopher Halley '83

Walter and Kathryn Suda '52 Hareneth

Jim and Madeline Muser-Hayes '65

Louise Hannan '54 Herrick

Kenneth and Kathleen O'Dea '61 Hignett

Dorothy Jacobson '53 Kemeny

Sister Alan Kenzig,

Sisters of Charity of St. Augustine

Brendan Mackin

Heather and Rick Maiers

Mark Matteo

Patricia and Rich Miller '73

Catherine Dugal '58 Mindek

Lillian Nawalanic

John O'Neill '54

Judy DeCore '56 Schlund

Janet and Harold Tesack '50

*denotes deceased

What is the best thing about St. Ignatius of Antioch School?

LYNNA SNYDER '66 METRISIN

According to random students in the second, fifth and eighth grades the answers included: learning about the Church, the education, lunch and recess, and friendships. Principal, Margaret Ricksecker, was not able to limit her response to only one item when asked what was the best thing about being principal of St. Ignatius School. Instead she listed the great kids and families and the "best staff in the world." Ms. Ricksecker also mentioned the technology which enhances the education, and she pointed with pride to the diversity of the student body.

So far, the 2019-2020 school year has been one of significant accomplishments. The school boasts an enrollment of about 250 students, with two classes of each grade from Kindergarten through eighth grade. Class sizes are limited to about 20 students, so the teachers are able to give individual attention to the students. There are specialized teachers for art, music, computer sciences, library, and physical education. Students in grades 5 through 8 also have Spanish language class. And every month teachers select students for the Monthly Effort Board Recognition.

The school also offers a number of opportunities for students beyond the classroom. There is a program for Before and After School Care for children whose parents work, and there is breakfast and hot lunch for all students. Extracurricular options include Mission Club, Chess Club, Altar Servers, Student Council, the Student Newspaper, the Science Fair, and Ski Club. St. Ignatius School also has a strong emphasis of the arts. Aside from regular Art and Music classes, students have the opportunity to participate in the Youth Choir, Young Authors, and Music and Drama Performances. This school year has seen all the students take part in The Nativity Play, and one significant highlight was when the Youth Choir was invited by the Harlem Globetrotters to sing The National Anthem at their appearance in Cleveland this past December.

Another highlight according to Ms. Ricksecker was Catholic Schools Week which ran from Jan. 27-31. Each day had its own theme with related activities. Monday was Share Our Faith Day, when students created cards or placemats with inspirational



St. Ignatius of Antioch School students taking part in The Nativity Play.



SIOA School Youth Chior [sic] sing The National Anthem with the Harlem Globetrotters in Cleveland.

prayers or messages for the Share A Meal program. Tuesday was Family Appreciation Day when parents and grandparents were invited to join students for a picnic lunch in the gym. Wednesday was Teacher Appreciation Day, and what better way to celebrate than to allow a "dress down day" for teachers while students and staff were encouraged to wear silly socks and slippers to school.

Thursday was Student Appreciation Day, also known as "No Homework Day." Students received a special treat at lunch and were encouraged this time to wear silly hats to school. The festivities extended into the evening with a Science Fair, an Art Show, a Young Authors Night, an All Students Exhibit, and a Bake Sale. The week culminated on Friday with School Spirit Day, when students and staff showed up for school in their finest St. Ignatius spirit clothing, and

each student wrote an essay explaining why they like St. Ignatius of Antioch School before enjoying Early Dismissal Day.

Other opportunities that offer both education as well as fun mentioned by students and Ms. Ricksecker as favorite things about the school are the field trips for students. These range from programs at the Metroparks to concerts at Severance Hall, and visits to the Science Center and the Art Museum, as well as an 8th grade trip on the Nautica, cruising the Cuyahoga River.

In talking about her school, the only time Ms. Ricksecker was stumped was when asked about any challenges the school has faced this year. After considering the question she finally had to say, no, it has all been "smooth sailing." With the continued support of the Alumni, St. Ignatius of Antioch School can continue to enjoy smooth sailing in the coming years.

Annual 'A Night at the Races' helps Athletics Association

TONY GREGO

And they're off!

Horses were charging out of the gate on Saturday, January 25th for the St. Ignatius Athletic Association's annual 'A Night at the Races' event.

Over \$10,000 was raised from the generosity and support received from the more than 250 who attended on Rich Wild Court, including coaches, alumni, past players, parents and friends of the Ignatius Basketball Association.

The event was as fun as always. There were 12 races, which are prerecorded past races from across the United States. Each race consisted of 10 horses, and were sponsored by either a group of friends or organization. Attendees go up to the betting windows to bet on the horse they think will win. There was also a Chinese raffle with gift baskets and other side games. The MC and race announcer helped make the evening more exciting.

Athletic Association Hall of Famer Steve Hanigosky '63 was grateful for how the



Above, St. Ignatius parishioners enjoying the evening at the 2020 Annual 'A Night at the Races'.

event turned out. "It was wonderful. Always great to see these supporters come together in a relaxed environment, where they're having a lot of fun and winning things."

The Basketball league is one of the longest-running ministries at St. Ignatius of Antioch, and 'A Night at the Races' is the Athletic Association's largest fundraiser. It helps keep the winter ministry going strong. This season, over 200 kids are participating in the winter league.

Some of the more creative horse names this year included: Pudgy McPat, Freddie Got Fired (in reference to the former Browns coach), May the Horse Be With You, Sticky Hoofs, Rambling Rhododendron and I Need \$\$\$.

A special thanks to Michelle Knowles '01 Dreamer, chair for the event and the support from the Night at the Races committee, including Donna Woods, Pat McDaniel '80 (Athletic Director), coaches and all the many other volunteers.

In Memoriam

We honor the memory of these Saint Ignatius of Antioch Alumni

Patricia Farrell Cozzens '62
William Grasmehr '43
Thomas Hoven '73
Judith Piskura Reilly '61
Ellen Kane Dunlay '51
Paul Yates '55
Ronald E. Miller '46

Katty Makkar Sine '85
Janet Gedeon Davidson '47
James Papenfoth '71
Catherine Fidler Kammerle '57
Frank Pletka '51
Donald Salasek '51

We honor the memory of these Saint Ignatius of Antioch parishioners

John Desmone
Michael Sutak
John Krall
Patrick Kelley '45
Deborah Dolan
Carol Dominick
Lawrence Rolince
James Cassidy

Anna Wisneski
Clara Link
Margaret Mulhall '65 Walters
Ronald Patrick
Brent Toeller
Dorothy Hancock
Nnaemeka Simon Igboaka



Passing of sisters that started their education at SIOA

Sister Mary Annfrancis

Sister Mary Annfrancis (Joan Demming '41)

Being the youngest, and only girl, of the three children born to Bernard and Frances (Bowman) Demming, Joan found her early years challenging. Her brothers



"were my masters until I was big enough (18) to stand up for myself." Their protectiveness was actually a gift, as strong family bonds were formed. Joan was always interested in and participated in sports, especially baseball. Her father was a sandlot baseball umpire for many years. After completing elementary grades at St. Ignatius School in Cleveland, Joan attended St. Stephen High School, Cleveland. These school years were filled with friends, wonderful classes and teachers, participation in many activities and a realization that God was calling her to religious life. After graduation in 1945, Joan entered the Sisters of Notre Dame on September 16 and, at investment, received the name Sister Mary Annfrancis, honoring her mother and her special friend, St. Francis.

Sister received a bachelor's degree from St. John College in Cleveland, and a master's degree in business administration from the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, Indiana. After eleven years of teaching primary and intermediate grades, Sister Mary Annfrancis ministered to high school students. She taught business courses: typing, shorthand, office practice, accounting and bookkeeping. She maintained high standards, modeling precision and pride in the acquisition of skills

she recognized as important for life. Sister was patient, kind and interested in the progress of her students, both academically and personally.

In 1989, Sister

Mary Annfrancis moved from Middleburg, Virginia, to Chardon. As assistant in the Finance Office at Notre Dame-Cathedral Latin School, she was meticulous and conscientious in fulfilling her duties. Sister treasured her family and her many friends, colleagues and former students—and was very serious about her responsibility to hold them in prayer, saying countless rosaries every day.

Sister Mary Annfrancis was gifted with a keen wit, a huge heart and an understanding ear. For the past few years, she spent her days with needlework, watching sports, attending to correspondence and visiting with anyone who stopped to say hello. Her greatest work, however, remained her fidelity to prayer and to sorting many items—including greeting cards, letters, pictures—all of which held cherished memories. She valued her family history and her years of ministry and desired to pass on to her relatives and friends what would be most meaningful to each.

Sister's driving motivation was always a deep love for God and love for her community. Sister Mary Annfrancis was a woman of prayer whose life was dedicated to the service of others. We are grateful for her life, presence and witness. May she be gifted with the joy and peace of eternal life.

Sister Marie

Sister Marie Fihn '42

Anna Marie was the oldest of the four children born to John and Anna (Frey) Fihn. Called Marie at home, to distinguish her from her mother with the same name, she



had a quiet childhood until it was time for kindergarten. "My parents sent me off to kindergarten, despite a considerable amount of protest, mostly vocal. After the initial shock wore off, school became quite bearable and often enjoyable in the years that followed." Anna completed elementary grades at St. Ignatius School in Cleveland, and received a scholarship to attend Notre Dame Academy in Cleveland, a considerable distance from their home. She was a good student and appreciated her newly formed friendships, wonderful classes and teachers.

After graduation in 1946, Anna entered the work world, securing employment at a department store, library and the telephone company. Although she liked these varied occupations, the idea of hospital work intrigued her. She began summer studies to complete requirements as a lab technician. The exertion proved to be too great, both financially and personally, and so she re-entered the work world. During this time, Anna realized that God was calling her to religious life. She entered the Sisters of Notre Dame on October 27, 1957. At investment, she received the name Sister Mary Mercy. Later she returned to her baptismal name, Sister Marie.

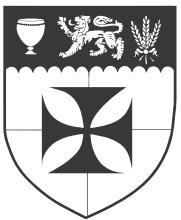
Sister received a bachelor's

degree from Notre Dame College in South Euclid, and for twenty-three years, taught intermediate grades in schools in Ohio, Virginia and North Carolina. After retiring from the

classroom, Sister Marie volunteered at Project Learn, an adult literacy based program in Cleveland. For the next twelve years, she tutored adults, helping them to acquire basic reading and writing skills, enabling them to be more successful in daily living. Sister valued this ministry and was greatly respected.

In 2000, Sister Marie moved to Chardon to assist with the prayer phone line and as driver for the sisters. She was a gifted artist. Her many paintings, in watercolor and pastels, reflect her gentle, simple spirit and her great love for the serenity found in nature. Being mostly self-taught, she was never quite satisfied with her art work, but all who were privileged to view it recognized her gift to bring to life the creative energy of God. Her portrait of St. Julie and picture of Hilligonde and Elisabeth with a young girl depict the beginnings of our Congregation. Arthritis, the onset of dementia and diminishing health affected her ability to paint and draw but not her interest in art and color.

Sister Marie was a deeply prayerful woman: unassuming, thoughtful and always grateful for those whose lives touched her own. We are grateful for her presence and witness. May she enjoy forever the vision of her Beloved Jesus.



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Mass Schedule

Saturday Evening Vigil:
5:00 PM

Sunday:
9:00 AM & 11:00 AM

*Monday, Tuesday,
Wednesday and Friday:*
8:00 AM

Holy Days:
As announced

visit our website

www.sioa.weconnect.com

Easter Schedule

Passion Sunday 5 April

5PM Vigil
9AM and 11AM solemn blessing and processions with Palms

Holy Thursday 9 April

9AM Morning Prayer
8PM Mass of the Lord's Supper

Good Friday 10 April

9AM Morning Prayer
3PM Celebration of the Lord's Passion

Holy Saturday 11 April

9AM Morning Prayer
2PM Blessing of Food
8PM The Easter Vigil

Easter Sunday 12 April

9AM and 11AM Mass and Renewal of Baptismal Promises